

Media Advisory

GET LISTED! : Fundraiser and Speak-out for Abousfian Abdelrazik

Parc Émilie Gamelin / Berri Square, Montreal

Tuesday, 28 April 2009, 5 to 7 pm

Speak-out, rap, poetry, theatre, shoe throw

Project Fly Home will mark the one-year anniversary of Abousfian Abdelrazik's entry into the Canadian embassy in Sudan by inviting other Montrealers to "Get listed!".

Abousfian Abdelrazik was arrested, apparently at the request of CSIS, while on a visit to Sudan in 2003. Never charged, he was tortured and beaten. In this context, he was interrogated by CSIS officers. Eventually released, Mr. Abdelrazik was placed on UN list 1267 without explanation and by unknown authorities in 2006. Although the 1267 travel ban exempts travel home, Mr. Abdelrazik's many attempts to come home have been blocked, most recently on 3 April 2009 when Foreign Affairs Minister Lawrence Cannon refused to issue the passport he needed to board a flight home purchased for him by over 100 Canadians. Mr. Abdelrazik has been living in "temporary safe haven" in the Canadian embassy since 28 April 2008; for one year.

On 28 April, a number of contributors to Mr. Abdelrazik's plane ticket, poets and musicians will speak out about Mr. Abdelrazik's case in downtown Montreal. Passers-by will be invited to make a donation and be added to a growing list of contributors. They will do so in open defiance of the government's position that anyone who donates to Mr. Abdelrazik could be charged under section 3 of the Al Qaida and Taliban Regulations, which states that no Canadian shall "provide or collect by any means, directly or indirectly, funds with the intention that the funds be used" by a person on UN list 1267. The solidarity fund will pay for Mr. Abdelrazik's travel back to Canada and any remainder handed over to him when he returns home.

The Montreal action is one of a number of public events and actions that are taking place across the country in support of Abousfian Abdelrazik between 28 April and 7 May. (Full list: www.peoplescommission.org/abdelrazik.php)

On 7 May, Mr. Abdelrazik's lawyers will present a motion in Ottawa to ask the court to order the government to bring home Abousfian Abdelrazik immediately, by "any safe means at its disposal".

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For more information: projectflyhome@gmail.com; 514 222 0205.

Background: www.peoplescommission.org/abdelrazik.php

Source: Project Fly Home (an initiative of the People's Commission Network)

The campaign to bring Abousfian Abdelrazik home is endorsed by: People's Commission Network; Toronto Action for Social Change; Rights Action; Ontario Committee for Human Rights in the Philippines (OCHRP); Apatrides Anonymes; No One Is Illegal Toronto; Canadian Labour Congress; No one is illegal Ottawa; International Civil Liberties Monitoring Group; PeaceWorks, Sarnia, Ontario; Peaceworks, Midland, Ontario; People for Peace, London; Council of Canadians | London; Educators for Justice - Waterloo Region Catholic School Board; Camp Micah; Leadership for Peace and Justice; Polaris Institute; Hamilton Coalition to Stop the War; Boundary Peace Initiative; Peace Alliance Winnipeg; Canadian Peace Alliance; Bengali Students Association of the University of Waterloo; Fredericton Peace Coalition; Canadian Union of Postal Workers; Advocacy Collective, Fredericton; Rassemblement Outaouais contre la guerre (ROCG); Tikkun Toronto; NOWAR-PAIX; Bathurst United Church, Toronto; The Justice for Mohamed Harkat Committee; OPIRG-Carleton; Windsor Peace Coalition; Paradigm Shift Environmental Alliance; Exile Infoshop; The Voice of Women (Ontario), Letter Writing Group; Student Coalition Against War, Ottawa University; Solidarity Across Borders; No One Is Illegal-Montreal; Ottawa Raging Grannies; CAIR-CAN; Group for Research and Initiative for the Liberation of Africa; Ligue des droits et libertés; Tadamon! Montreal; Anti-War@Laurier (AW@L); Unitarian Universalists Windsor Region; Muslim Students Association of the University of Victoria; Canadian Council of Muslims Women (CCMW); Canadian Islamic Congress; South Asian Women's Community Centre (SAWCC); Immigrant Workers Center; Hamilton Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers); Le DIRA; Ici la Otra campaña - Montreal; La Pointe Libertaire; No one is illegal Vancouver; Windsor District Labour Council; OPIRG-Ottawa; Council of Canadians - Peterborough and Kawarthas chapter; Muslim Council of Montreal; Conseil Central de Montréal Métropolitain - CSN; Palestinian and Jewish Unity (PAJU); Comité Justice sociale des Soeurs Auxiliatrices; PINAY; Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT); Collectif Échec à la guerre