

Media Advisory

LIVING IN A "PRISON WITHOUT WALLS"

Abousfian Abdelrazik to testify before an informal session of the Foreign Affairs Parliamentary Committee examining the United Nations 1267 List

**Wednesday, February 3rd, 2:00-4:00 pm
West Block, room 371, Parliament Hill, Ottawa**

Speaking:

Abousfian Abdelrazik

Amir Attaran, University of Ottawa

Yavar Hameed, counsel for Mr. Abdelrazik

A special informal session of the Foreign Affairs Parliamentary Committee will take place on Wednesday to examine the implications of the United Nations Security Council's "1267 list", which imposes an asset freeze, travel ban, and arms embargo on listed individuals.

Domestic legislation implementing the sanctions in the UK was recently struck down by the British Supreme Court as contrary to principles of justice, but remains in place in Canada, despite the Federal Court of Canada's view of the UN 1267 regime as, "a denial of basic legal remedies and as untenable under the principles of international human rights."

As a Canadian living in this "1267 prison", Abousfian Abdelrazik has been asked to testify about life under these sanctions. Abdelrazik is back in Canada after spending six years in Sudan, where, according to the Federal Court of Canada, he was arrested at the request of CSIS and tortured. For six years, he was blocked from returning to Canada by successive governments until a groundswell of public support and a Federal Court order forced the government to repatriate him in June, 2009.

Abdelrazik is now home, but not free: legislation implementing the 1267 list in Canada states that it is illegal for any individual to provide him with any financial aid or service. Listed in 2006, Abdelrazik was not given any prior opportunity to respond to allegations against him. The allegations are vague and general and no evidence is provided. Any member of the Security Council can block a delisting request, including the state that had the person placed on the list in the first place: the accuser and judge are thus the same. Abdelrazik remains on the list even though he was cleared by both Canadian intelligence agencies in 2007.

The hearing is open to members of the press.

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Project Fly Home

abolissons@gmail.com

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