

Media Advisory

## **28 April 2010: Sanctions-Busting Telethon in solidarity with Abdelrazik**

*Abdelrazik's supporters aim to send a clear message to the government by calling on people to donate generously to Mr. Abdelrazik in violation of the United Nations 1267 Sanctions Regime.*

What: Telethon in support of Abousfian Abdelrazik

When: Wednesday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2010 from 7pm to 9pm

Where: Georges-Vanier Cultural Centre, 2450 Workman St. (Lionel-Groulx metro), Montreal

**\*\*Please contact us in advance if you would like to organize live coverage of the telethon.**

April 28th marks an anniversary for Abousfian Abdelrazik. It is the date on which, in 2008, he took refuge in the Canadian Embassy in Sudan - after having been imprisoned at the request of CSIS, tortured during his detention, and interrogated by CSIS agents - and went public with his story. Two years later, Mr. Abdelrazik was finally able to return to Canada, but he remains in a "prison without walls".

Because his name appears on the United Nations 1267 list, Mr. Abdelrazik is subject to financial sanctions imposed by Canada. Although Canada has taken the position that his name should be removed from the list – and its own security agencies have stated that they have nothing against him – he remains a prisoner of these sanctions. This means that it is effectively illegal to hire him or provide him with any financial assistance. Recently, the Caisse Desjardins froze Mr. Abdelrazik's bank account, representing his sole savings, because of the sanctions.

On April 28th, Project Fly Home is organizing a telethon in protest of the sanctions. During an evening of artistic performances, the public will be invited to call a toll free number to donate to Mr. Abdelrazik, in violation of the sanctions regime. While the government of Canada considers it illegal to provide funds to or collect funds for a listed person, Mr. Abdelrazik's supporters believe that the government of Canada's abuse of Mr. Abdelrazik must be denounced and that they have a responsibility to support Mr. Abdelrazik in opposition to this policy.

The telethon is part of a six month campaign launched by Project Fly Home to call on the government to do what is in its power: immediately lift the sanctions on Mr. Abdelrazik in Canada (either by modifying the 1267 regulations in Canada so that it no longer applies to Mr. Abdelrazik, or by simply revoking the regulations entirely); and inform members of the Security Council that delisting Mr. Abdelrazik is a priority for the Canadian government.

-30-

Contact: 514-222-0205 (English) 514-276-1639 (français)

Background information: [www.peoplescommission.org/en/abdelrazik](http://www.peoplescommission.org/en/abdelrazik)

Source: Project Fly Home – People's Commission Network

[www.peoplescommission.org/en/abdelrazik](http://www.peoplescommission.org/en/abdelrazik)

[projectflyhome@gmail.com](mailto:projectflyhome@gmail.com)