

## Ottawa denies passport to man stuck in Sudan

**Despite court victory, travel document refused even though Abousfian Abdelrazik had a paid flight**

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OTTAWA – A Montreal man stranded at the Canadian embassy in Sudan for more than a year was unable to board a flight home yesterday that had been paid for by his supporters.

The Canadian government did not issue the emergency passport needed by Abousfian Abdelrazik, 46, to catch yesterday morning's flight to Montreal with a stopover in Abu Dhabi.

"It was booked. It was confirmed. It was paid. Everything was a go, but he needs that travel document," Ottawa lawyer Yavar Hameed said.

On June 4, a Federal Court ruling ordered the federal government to repatriate the Sudanese-born Canadian within 30 days because he has a Charter right to re-enter his "country of citizenship by choice."

The government has until next Friday to issue Abdelrazik an emergency passport and arrange transportation from Khartoum if he cannot afford to do so himself.

The government was also ordered to pay for a diplomatic escort to ensure Abdelrazik is not detained in transit or on an airport layover.

A spokesperson for Foreign Affairs Minister Lawrence Cannon said the government would not comment until it has finished reviewing the decision.

Abdelrazik alleges Sudanese authorities tortured him after he was arrested in 2003 when he returned to visit his ill mother. The Sudanese government has released him, twice, and both the RCMP and the Canadian Security Intelligence Service have said they have no current or substantive information linking him to criminal activity.

His passport has expired. He has slept on a cot in the embassy weight room since he went public with his story in April 2008.

Ottawa said repeatedly it would give him an emergency passport if he obtained a flight itinerary, but a few hours before he was supposed to board an April 3 flight paid for by his supporters, the government refused to issue one because he is on a UN no-fly list.

Hameed said this time around there was nothing but silence from the government, even though the judge had said that letting Abdelrazik obtain his own airline ticket would be the "least intrusive" way to repatriate him.

His other lawyer, Audrey Brousseau, said Abdelrazik does not fully trust the government to obey the court order.

"He still has that hope that the government will bring him back – will obey by the court's order – but at the same time he is skeptical," Brousseau said.

Abdelrazik has been ordered to appear before the Federal Court on July 7.