

Press Release

Abdelrazik's supporters hail court decision, call on government to comply with court order

Montreal/Ottawa/Toronto, 4 June 2009 -- Family members, lawyers and supporters of Abousfian Abdelrazik are delighted with today's Federal Court order directing the Federal government to issue Mr. Abdelrazik an emergency passport and to arrange transportation for his return to Montreal within thirty days. The ruling found that Mr. Abdelrazik's Charter right to enter Canada had been breached.

To underscore this strict timeline, Judge Zinn is requiring that Mr. Abdelrazik appear before the Federal Court in Montreal on Tuesday, July 7, 2009. Mr. Abdelrazik has also been invited to appear before the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs on Monday, 15 June.

Project Fly Home calls on the government to act immediately and comply with the court order without further delay or excuse.

"We already have a plane ticket for him," stated Dolores Chew of Project Fly Home. "When Minister Cannon refused to give Mr. Abdelrazik an emergency passport for the first ticket we got for him on April 3rd, we re-booked the ticket. His flight is now set for 12 June."

"Of course, if the government chooses to bring Mr. Abdelrazik home more quickly than that, we would be delighted," she added.

The ticket was bought from a fund to which over 250 people from across Canada and from all walks of life have contributed, in open defiance of the government's warning that they could be criminally charged for offering financial assistance to someone on a UN "black list".

A civil society delegation slated to leave Montreal for Khartoum on Monday to escort Mr. Abdelrazik home on June 12th has been put on hold, but remains on standby. However, a Kite Rally demanding that the government fly Abousfian home will go forward as planned on 10 June in downtown Montreal. Project Fly Home has also launched a national appeal to all supporters to take action to ensure that the government complies with the court order.

Mr. Abdelrazik's quest to return to Canada enjoys a remarkable degree of public support. Almost 80 organizations from across Canada have endorsed his campaign, with high profile Canadians such as Warren Allmand, Flora MacDonald, Stephen Lewis, David Orchard, Maher Arar and David Suzuki joining hundreds of others from Newfoundland to Victoria to Iqaluit in diverse expressions of support.

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