Tories relent on return of Canadian stuck in Sudan ^{Presented by}

Canwest News Service

The federal government will comply with a court decision ordering it to return Abousfian Abdelrazik to Canada, Justice Minister Rob Nicholson said Thursday.

Abdelrazik is a Montreal man who has been stranded for more than a year at the Canadian Embassy in Sudan.

A Federal Court ruling on June 4 ordered the Conservative government to repatriate the man within 30 days.

Foreign Affairs Minister Lawrence Cannon denied Abdelrazik's scheduled April 3 trip home on the grounds of national security.

Abdelrazik says he was tortured after he was arrested in 2003 when he returned to Sudan to visit his sick mother. Sudanese authorities have since released him, and his passport has expired.

The RCMP and CSIS, Canada's spy agency, say they have no information linking him to criminal activity. Abdelrazik is on a United Nations no-fly list.

Nicholson's comment in the House of Commons caught Abdelrazik's legal team off guard.

"We've heard nothing (from the government)," Ottawa lawyer Yavar Hameed told the Canwest News Service.

"Obviously, we're happy they've taken that position."

Under the terms of the Federal Court ruling, the government was obliged to tell Hameed of its travel plans for Abdelrazik by Friday.

The government had another 15 days after Friday to appeal.