

Table of Contents

<u>Le ministre Cannon accusé de racisme (La Voix de l'Est, 27)</u>	1
<u>Canada won't let citizen leave Sudan (Waterloo Region Record, A8)</u>	3
<u>Stranded Canadian refused passport; Protests Foreign affairs minister faces growing criticism, accusations of racism (New Brunswick Telegraph-Journal, A6)</u>	4
<u>Man stranded in Sudan refused passport (The Daily Gleaner (Fredericton), A10)</u>	6
<u>Cannon accusé de racisme (Le Droit, 28)</u>	7
<u>Le ministre Cannon est accusé de racisme (Le Soleil, 20)</u>	8
<u>Version longue; Le ressortissant canadien, réfugié dans l'ambassade au Soudan, constitue une menace à la sécurité nationale, dit le ministre. Pourtant, la GRC et le SCRS n'ont aucun dossier à son sujet. (Le Devoir, a2)</u>	10
<u>Un Canadien toujours bloqué au Soudan (La Presse, A25)</u>	13
<u>Man denied emergency passport; Canadian living in embassy in Khartoum considered security threat (The Chronicle-Herald, A6)</u>	14
<u>Canadian stranded in Sudan, refused passport (The Guardian (Charlottetown), A13)</u>	16
<u>Return from Sudan rejected; Stranded Canadian refused emergency passport after Ottawa cites national security concerns (The Toronto Star, A06)</u>	17
<u>No passport for terror suspect (Times Colonist (Victoria), A9)</u>	19
<u>Canadian in Sudan denied passport; Man accused of having al-Qaida ties (Edmonton Journal, A6)</u>	20
<u>Canuck in Sudan denied passport (The Toronto Sun, 14)</u>	21
<u>Canadian remains stranded in Sudan SECURITY: Abousfian Abdelrazik was to fly home to Montreal today on a flight paid for by Canadian supporters (The London Free Press, B4)</u>	22
<u>No help for Canadian stranded in sudan since 2002; Denied passport as security risk (Calgary Herald, A5)</u>	23
<u>No passport for stranded Canadian (The Edmonton Sun, 35)</u>	24
<u>Canadian stuck in Sudan (Vancouver Sun, B2)</u>	25
<u>No passport for stranded Canadian (The Windsor Star, A16)</u>	26
<u>Tories deny passport to man stranded in Sudan; Request rejected 'on the basis of national security' (The Ottawa Citizen, A13)</u>	27

Table of Contents

<u>Ex-Montrealer in Sudan denied passport; Issue of 'national security,' Cannon says of man who has been accused of having ties to Al-Qa'ida (Montreal Gazette, A12)</u>	28
<u>Canadian man stranded in Sudan denied passport (The Hamilton Spectator, A10)</u>	30
<u>THE CASE OF ABOUSFIAN ABDELRAZIK Canadian can't come home, Cannon says In last-minute reversal, Ottawa says citizen stranded in Sudan poses too great a national security risk (GLOBE AND MAIL, A15 (ILLUS))</u>	31
<u>First, Abdelrazik: Who's next? (GLOBE AND MAIL, A18)</u>	34

Le ministre Cannon accusé de racisme (La Voix de l'Est, 27)

PUBLICATION: La Voix de l'Est

DATE: 2009.04.04

SECTION: Actualité

PAGE: 27

SOURCE: Presse Canadienne

BYLINE: Dib, Lina

PHOTO: Photo La Presse

DATELINE: Ottawa

Lawrence Cannon a suscité la controverse en refusant un passeport canadien à Abousfian

ILLUSTRATION: Abdelrazik, et ce, même si celui-ci a été déclaré non dangereux par la GRC et le Service canadien du renseignement de sécurité.

WORD COUNT: 658

Le ministre des Affaires étrangères, Lawrence Cannon, a carrément été accusé de racisme, hier, parce qu'il refuse maintenant de délivrer un passeport à un Canadien coincé au Soudan. Abousfian Abdelrazik, dont la famille réside à Montréal, avait réussi à abattre le dernier obstacle qui l'empêchait de rentrer au Canada, après avoir été retenu six ans au Soudan. Comme l'exigeait le gouvernement canadien, il avait obtenu un billet d'avion; son vol était prévu hier.

Pourtant, le matin même, son avocat canadien recevait un message du ministère canadien des Affaires étrangères l'informant que, contrairement aux promesses des derniers jours, on ne délivrerait pas un document de voyage à M. Abdelrazik. La raison invoquée: il représenterait un risque de sécurité.

Son avocat, Yavar Hameed, entouré de députés de l'opposition, a tenu un point de presse à Ottawa pour dénoncer les derniers développements.

C'est à cette occasion que le député néo-démocrate Paul Dewar a déclaré que le ministre Cannon était raciste et que le sort de M. Abdelrazik serait différent s'il s'était appelé "Martin", faisant référence à une Canadienne emprisonnée au Mexique que le gouvernement Harper a réussi à rapatrier.

"Il (le ministre) a agi contre les recommandations de son propre ministère et ils sont revenus sur leur parole", a lancé le député Dewar.

Lorsqu'on lui a demandé si c'est le ministre Cannon, personnellement, qu'il accuse de racisme, il n'a pas hésité à acquiescer. "Il n'a pas donné à cet homme qui, comme par hasard, a une autre couleur de peau que d'autres citoyens qui ont eu de l'aide de ce gouvernement, un document de voyage", a fait valoir le néo-démocrate.

Peur de voyager

Amir Attaran, professeur de droit qui s'est joint à la cause de M. Abdelrazik, a renchéri en affirmant que tout Canadien qui a un nom hors du commun et une couleur autre que blanche devrait avoir peur dorénavant de voyager avec son passeport canadien. Brandissant son propre passeport, M. Attaran a dit qu'il n'osait plus l'utiliser.

"Le gouvernement a décidé que parmi nous, Canadiens, il y en a quelques-uns qui sont de vrais Canadiens et

d'autres qui ne le sont pas, comme M. Abdelrazik. Ils n'ont pas les mêmes droits que les autres. Voilà du racisme!", s'est exclamé M. Attaran.

Le ministre Cannon, qui participe au Sommet de l'Otan, à Strasbourg, en France, a confirmé en conférence de presse qu'il a refusé un passeport à M. Abdelrazik "pour des raisons de sécurité". Il n'a pas voulu en dire plus. A son bureau, à Ottawa, on a fait savoir qu'il ne réagirait pas aux accusations de racisme.

M. Abdelrazik a été arrêté au Soudan en 2003, alors qu'il y visitait sa mère. On le soupçonnait à l'époque de terrorisme. Il a été emprisonné, puis relâché. Les autorités soudanaises ont assuré, après enquête, qu'il n'appartenait à aucune organisation terroriste. La Gendarmerie royale du Canada et le Service canadien du renseignement de sécurité ont, en novembre 2007, déclaré, eux aussi, qu'il ne représentait pas un risque pour la sécurité.

Il vit depuis 11 mois à l'ambassade canadienne, à Khartoum. Son avocat n'a pas pu l'y rejoindre hier matin et il s'inquiète maintenant qu'il en soit évincé.

Le prochain épisode de cette saga se jouera en cour fédérale le 7 mai. Une requête pour le rapatriement de M. Abdelrazik y sera entendue. Me Hameed dit qu'il a présenté sa requête en vertu de l'article six de la Charte canadienne des droits et libertés, article qui assure à tout citoyen canadien le droit de retour au Canada.

En attendant, Me Hameed et les députés de l'opposition espèrent que les Canadiens multiplieront les pressions sur le gouvernement Harper. C'est grâce à l'appui financier de 170 Canadiens que M. Abdelrazik avait pu acheter son billet d'avion, billet qu'il n'a pas pu utiliser.

Ses sympathisants ne semblent pas prêts à se laisser décourager, cependant.

A Montréal, hier, une vingtaine de personnes ont participé à l'une des 10 manifestations qui se tenaient à travers le Canada. La porte-parole des manifestants qui chahutaient devant les bureaux montréalais de Passeport Canada, Émilie Breton, a promis: "On n'arrêtera pas tant que M. Abdelrazik ne sera pas ici."

Canada won't let citizen leave Sudan (Waterloo Region Record, A8)

IDNUMBER 200904040027

PUBLICATION: Waterloo Region Record

DATE: 2009.04.04

EDITION: Final

SECTION: Front

PAGE: A8

DATELINE: OTTAWA

BYLINE: Steve Rennie

SOURCE: The Canadian Press

COPYRIGHT: © 2009 Torstar Corporation

WORD COUNT: 266

A Canadian man remains stranded in Sudan after the federal government refused to grant him travel documents on the grounds he is a national security threat.

Abousfian Abdelrazik was set to fly home to Montreal yesterday on a flight paid for by his supporters, after living inside the lobby of the Canadian embassy in Khartoum for the last year.

But two hours before Abdelrazik, 47, was supposed to board his flight, the Justice Department faxed his Ottawa-based lawyer, Yavar Hameed, a terse letter denying him an emergency passport. "The minister of foreign affairs has decided to refuse your client's request for an emergency passport," it says.

The department cited a section of the Canada Passport Order that allows the foreign affairs minister to "refuse or revoke a passport if the minister is of the opinion that such action is necessary for the national security of Canada or another country."

Foreign Affairs refused to elaborate on the decision, as did the minister, Lawrence Cannon.

"As this file unfolds — and it will certainly be unfolding under a judicial cover — I don't want to go any further in terms of my comments on this issue," Cannon told a news conference at the NATO meetings in Strasbourg, France.

Abdelrazik's lawyers are set to appear in Federal Court next month, where they will argue his Charter rights have been violated, and that he should be repatriated immediately.

NDP foreign affairs critic Paul Dewar, who has been actively working on Abdelrazik's behalf, accused the Conservative government of using the lawsuit as cover.

"There is a lawsuit right now that the government hides behind. You know what the lawsuit is about? It's about bringing him home and giving him a travel document," Dewar said.

Abdelrazik was arrested in August 2003 on a trip to Khartoum to visit his ailing mother.

Stranded Canadian refused passport; Protests Foreign affairs minister faces growing criticism, accusations of racism (New Brunswick Telegraph–Journal, A6)

IDNUMBER 200904040111

PUBLICATION: New Brunswick Telegraph–Journal

DATE: 2009.04.04

SECTION: News;News

PAGE: A6

BYLINE: Steve Rennie THE CANADIAN PRESS

COPYRIGHT: © 2009 Telegraph–Journal (New Brunswick)

WORD COUNT: 526

A Canadian man remains stranded in Sudan after the federal government refused to grant him travel documents on the grounds he is a national security threat.

Abousfian Abdelrazik was set to fly home to Montreal on Friday on a flight paid for by his supporters, after living inside the lobby of the Canadian embassy in Khartoum for the last year.

But two hours before Abdelrazik, 47, was supposed to board his flight, the Justice Department faxed his Ottawa-based lawyer, Yavar Hameed, a terse letter denying him an emergency passport.

"The minister of foreign affairs has decided to refuse your client's request for an emergency passport," it says.

The department cited a section of the Canada Passport Order that allows the foreign affairs minister to "refuse or revoke a passport if the minister is of the opinion that such action is necessary for the national security of Canada or another country."

Foreign Affairs refused to elaborate on the decision, as did the minister, Lawrence Cannon.

"As this file unfolds – and it will certainly be unfolding under a judicial cover – I don't want to go any further in terms of my comments on this issue," Cannon told a news conference at the NATO meetings in Strasbourg, France.

Abdelrazik's lawyers are set to appear in Federal Court next month, where they will argue his Charter rights have been violated.

NDP foreign affairs critic Paul Dewar, who has been actively working on Abdelrazik's behalf, accused the Conservative government of using the lawsuit as cover.

"There is a lawsuit right now that the government hides behind. You know what the lawsuit is about? It's about bringing him home and giving him a travel document," Dewar said.

Abdelrazik was arrested in August 2003 on a trip to Khartoum to visit his ailing mother.

A recently published report suggests Canadian Security Intelligence Service operatives initially asked

Sudanese authorities to arrest and detain him.

But investigators found no evidence to support alleged terrorist links and he was released without charge, only to be arrested and jailed a second time in October 2005.

Sudanese authorities have since released him. The RCMP and CSIS have acknowledged there is no information linking him to any crime.

Abdelrazik has been allowed to live inside the Canadian embassy in Khartoum for the last year, where he sleeps on a cot in the foyer.

His passport has expired and Canadian authorities previously told his lawyer that Abdelrazik must pay for a plane ticket before he is issued travel documents.

A group of 170 Canadians has since chipped in to buy his ticket and he was set to leave Sudan on Friday.

Ottawa had long said it would hand over his travel documents if he had a ticket, but Cannon announced last week Abdelrazik would first have to get his name off a UN no-fly list.

"We now have a government that says it's okay "basically, to go against its word," Dewar said.

"The government stated that if a ticket was purchased, they would provide the travel documents. They broke their word."

The government would act differently, Dewar charged, were Abdelrazik's last name "Martin—" a reference to Brenda Martin, a Canada woman who spent more than two years in a Mexican jail before a vocal campaign compelled the Harper government to press for her release.

Dewar didn't mince words when asked if he was accusing Cannon of racism.

"At the end, what else do you say? Yes!" he said.

"I mean, he has not given this gentleman, who happens to be a different colour of skin than other citizens who have gotten help from this government, a travel document."

A spokeswoman for Cannon wouldn't comment on Dewar's allegation.

Meanwhile, protests were scheduled for at least 10 cities across the country Friday.

About 20 people protested in front of the Passport Canada offices in downtown Montreal, demanding to speak to an official from the office about Abdelrazik's case.

"We will continue the battle until he is home and we will continue to expose this government for what it has done," said Montreal artist and activist Freda Guttmann.

Man stranded in Sudan refused passport (The Daily Gleaner (Fredericton), A10)

IDNUMBER 200904040089

PUBLICATION: The Daily Gleaner (Fredericton)

DATE: 2009.04.04

SECTION: News

PAGE: A10

BYLINE: STEVE RENNIE The Canadian Press

COPYRIGHT: © 2009 The Daily Gleaner (Fredericton)

WORD COUNT: 251

A Canadian man remains stranded in Sudan after the federal government refused to grant him travel documents on the grounds he's a national security threat.

Abousfian Abdelrazik was set to fly home to Montreal on Friday on a flight paid for by his supporters, after living inside the lobby of the Canadian embassy in Khartoum for the last year.

But two hours before Abdelrazik, 47, was supposed to board his flight, the Justice Department faxed his Ottawa-based lawyer, Yavar Hameed, a terse letter denying him an emergency passport.

"The minister of foreign affairs has decided to refuse your client's request for an emergency passport," it said.

The department cited a section of the Canada Passport Order that allows the foreign affairs minister to "refuse or revoke a passport if the minister is of the opinion that such action is necessary for the national security of Canada or another country."

Foreign Affairs refused to elaborate on the decision, as did the minister, Lawrence Cannon.

"As this file unfolds – and it will certainly be unfolding under a judicial cover – I don't want to go any further in terms of my comments on this issue," Cannon told a news conference at the NATO meetings in Strasbourg, France.

Abdelrazik's lawyers are set to appear in Federal Court next month, where they will argue his Charter rights have been violated, and that he should be repatriated immediately.

Abdelrazik was arrested in August 2003 on a trip to Khartoum to visit his ailing mother.

A recently published report suggests Canadian Security Intelligence Service operatives initially asked Sudanese authorities to arrest and detain him.

But investigators found no evidence to support alleged terrorist links and he was released without charge, only to be arrested and jailed a second time in October 2005.

Cannon accusé de racisme (Le Droit, 28)

PUBLICATION: Le Droit

DATE: 2009.04.04

SECTION: Actualités

PAGE: 28

SOURCE: La Presse Canadienne

BYLINE: Dib, Lina

WORD COUNT: 264

Le ministre des Affaires étrangères, Lawrence Cannon, a carrément été accusé de racisme, hier, parce qu'il refuse maintenant de délivrer un passeport à un Canadien coincé au Soudan. Abousfian Abdelrazik, dont la famille réside à Montréal, avait réussi à abattre le dernier obstacle qui l'empêchait de rentrer au Canada, après avoir été retenu six ans au Soudan. Comme l'exigeait le gouvernement canadien, il avait obtenu un billet d'avion; son vol était prévu hier.

Pourtant, le matin même, son avocat canadien recevait une télécopie du ministère canadien des Affaires étrangères l'informant que, contrairement aux promesses ultérieures, on ne délivrera pas un document de voyage à M. Abdelrazik. La raison invoquée: il représenterait un risque de sécurité.

Paul Dewar

Son avocat, Yavar Hameed, entouré de députés de l'opposition, a tenu un point de presse à Ottawa pour dénoncer les derniers développements.

C'est à cette occasion que le député néo-démocrate Paul Dewar a déclaré que le ministre Cannon était raciste et que le sort de M. Abdelrazik serait différent s'il s'était appelé "Martin", faisant référence à une Canadienne emprisonnée au Mexique que le gouvernement Harper a réussi à rapatrier.

"Il (le ministre) a agi contre les recommandations de son propre ministère et ils sont revenus sur leur parole", a lancé M. Dewar.

Lorsqu'on lui a demandé si c'est le ministre Cannon, personnellement, qu'il accuse de racisme, il n'a pas hésité à acquiescer. "Il n'a pas donné à cet homme qui, comme par hasard, a une autre couleur de peau que d'autres citoyens qui ont eu de l'aide de ce gouvernement, un document de voyage", a fait valoir le néo-démocrate.

Le ministre Cannon est accusé de racisme (Le Soleil, 20)

PUBLICATION: Le Soleil

DATE: 2009.04.04

SECTION: La semaine politique

PAGE: 20

SOURCE: La Presse Canadienne

BYLINE: Dib, Lina

DATELINE: Ottawa

WORD COUNT: 524

Le ministre des Affaires étrangères, Lawrence Cannon, a carrément été accusé de racisme, hier, parce qu'il refuse maintenant de délivrer un passeport à un Canadien coincé au Soudan. Abousfian Abdelrazik, dont la famille réside à Montréal, avait réussi à abattre le dernier obstacle qui l'empêchait de rentrer au Canada, après avoir été retenu six ans au Soudan. Comme l'exigeait le gouvernement canadien, il avait obtenu un billet d'avion; son vol était prévu hier.

Pourtant, le matin même, son avocat canadien recevait un fac-similé du ministère canadien des Affaires étrangères l'informant que, contrairement aux promesses ultérieures, on ne délivrera pas un document de voyage à M. Abdelrazik. La raison invoquée : il représenterait un risque de sécurité.

Son avocat, Yavar Hameed, entouré de députés de l'opposition, a tenu un point de presse à Ottawa pour dénoncer les derniers développements. C'est à cette occasion que le député néo-démocrate Paul Dewar a déclaré que le ministre Cannon était raciste et que le sort de M. Abdelrazik serait différent s'il s'était appelé "Martin", faisant référence à une Canadienne emprisonnée au Mexique que le gouvernement Harper a réussi à rapatrier.

"Il [le ministre] a agi contre les recommandations de son propre ministère et ils sont revenus sur leur parole", a lancé le député Dewar.

Lorsqu'on lui a demandé si c'est le ministre Cannon, personnellement, qu'il accuse de racisme, il n'a pas hésité à acquiescer. "Il n'a pas donné à cet homme qui, comme par hasard, a une autre couleur de peau que d'autres citoyens qui ont eu de l'aide de ce gouvernement, un document de voyage", a fait valoir le néo-démocrate.

Amir Attaran, professeur de droit qui s'est joint à la cause de M. Abdelrazik, a renchéri en affirmant que tout Canadien qui a un nom hors du commun et une couleur autre que blanche devrait avoir peur de voyager avec son passeport canadien. Brandissant son propre passeport, M. Attaran a dit qu'il n'osait plus l'utiliser. "Le gouvernement a décidé que parmi nous, Canadiens, il y en a quelques-uns qui sont de vrais Canadiens et d'autres qui ne le sont pas, comme M. Abdelrazik. Ils n'ont pas les mêmes droits que les autres. Voilà du racisme!" s'est exclamé M. Attaran.

Le ministre Cannon, qui participe au Sommet de l'OTAN en France, a confirmé en conférence de presse qu'il a refusé un passeport à M. Abdelrazik "pour des raisons de sécurité". Il n'a pas voulu en dire plus. A son bureau, on a fait savoir qu'il ne réagirait pas aux accusations de racisme.

M. Abdelrazik a été arrêté au Soudan en 2003, alors qu'il y visitait sa mère. On le soupçonnait à l'époque de terrorisme. Il a été emprisonné, puis relâché. Les autorités soudanaises ont assuré, après enquête, qu'il n'appartenait à aucune organisation terroriste. La GRC et le Service canadien du renseignement de sécurité

ont, en novembre 2007, déclaré, eux aussi, qu'il ne représentait pas un risque pour la sécurité. Il vit depuis 11 mois à l'ambassade canadienne, à Khartoum. Son avocat n'a pas pu l'y joindre hier et il s'inquiète maintenant qu'il en soit évincé.

Version longue; Le ressortissant canadien, réfugié dans l'ambassade au Soudan, constitue une menace à la sécurité nationale, dit le ministre. Pourtant, la GRC et le SCRS n'ont aucun dossier à son sujet. (Le Devoir, a2)

PUBLICATION: Le Devoir

DATE: 2009.04.04

SECTION: LES ACTUALITÉS

PAGE: a2

BYLINE: Buzzetti, Hélène

PHOTO: jacques grenier le devoir, Jacques

ILLUSTRATION: Lawrence Cannon

WORD COUNT: 1317

Abousfian Abdelrazik ne reviendra pas au pays de sitôt. Le vol pour lequel il avait réussi à obtenir un billet – à grand-peine – a décollé sans lui hier. Faisant fi de l'avis de ses agences de renseignement, le Canada le considère désormais comme un terroriste.

Ottawa – Le Canada héberge dans son ambassade au Soudan un terroriste depuis un an. Du moins, cette conclusion s'impose à la suite de la décision d'Ottawa hier de ne pas permettre le retour au pays d'Abousfian Abdelrazik, coincé à Khartoum depuis six ans. Le ministre conservateur des Affaires étrangères, Lawrence Cannon, a en effet refusé à la dernière minute de fournir au Canadien un passeport d'urgence sous prétexte qu'il représente une menace à la sécurité nationale. Mais le Canada n'expulsera pas pour autant l'homme qui loge dans ses locaux diplomatiques.

«On a refusé l'émission d'un passeport sur la base de la sécurité nationale», a déclaré le ministre Cannon hier de manière laconique, alors qu'il se trouvait à Strasbourg pour le sommet de l'OTAN. Son ministère a ensuite précisé que M. Abdelrazik figure depuis juillet 2006 sur la liste des Nations unies «en tant que personne ayant des liens avec al-Qaïda» et qu'il lui incombe de demander à ce que son nom en soit retiré.

Doit-on conclure que le Canada est d'accord avec le jugement international et considère lui aussi son citoyen comme un terroriste? Il a été impossible d'obtenir une clarification à ce sujet hier. Autant la GRC que le Service canadien du renseignement de sécurité (SCRS) ont assuré le ministère des Affaires étrangères dès 2007 qu'ils n'avaient aucun dossier sur ce citoyen pouvant le relier à des activités criminelles. Le grand patron du SCRS a répété cette affirmation jeudi en comité parlementaire. Tout indique que c'est à la demande des États-Unis que M. Abdelrazik s'est retrouvé sur cette liste.

Le NPD n'a pas hésité à accuser le ministre de racisme hier. «Si tout cela était arrivé à quelqu'un qui a une couleur de peau différente et un nom de famille différent, le résultat serait-il différent? Oui, je le crois», a déclaré le député Paul Dewar en conférence de presse. M. Dewar a fait plusieurs fois référence à Brenda Martin, une Canadienne condamnée au Mexique à cinq ans de prison pour fraude et pour qui le gouvernement conservateur a remué ciel et terre. Elle a été rapatriée le 1er mai 2008 et libérée huit jours plus tard par les autorités canadiennes parce qu'elle plaide son innocence. M. Abdelrazik n'a jamais été accusé, et encore moins condamné.

Le professeur de l'Université d'Ottawa, Amir Attaran, partage ce constat de racisme. Brandissant en conférence de presse son passeport canadien, il a déclaré que «tout immigrant avec un drôle de nom ou une peau un peu moins blanche que les autres devrait être inquiet. Le gouvernement agit de manière arbitraire en faisant une différence entre les vrais Canadiens et les autres, qui n'ont pas tous les mêmes droits». Il dit avoir maintenant moins peur de voyager avec son passeport canadien.

Le ministre Cannon n'a pas voulu répondre à ces accusations de racisme hier.

Le Bloc québécois et le Parti libéral participaient également à cette conférence de presse. Le libéral Irwin Cotler a même déclaré la guerre au gouvernement, disant qu'il allait utiliser tous les moyens à sa disposition pour permettre le retour de ce citoyen canadien. Notons toutefois que, malgré ces grands cris d'indignation, aucun des trois partis n'a jugé bon de soulever le sujet lors de la période quotidienne de questions à la Chambre des communes hier. L'occasion ne se représentera plus pour encore deux semaines, le Parlement faisant relâche.

C'est hier que le vol devant ramener M. Abdelrazik au pays partait. A 6h36 du matin, le ministère des Affaires étrangères a envoyé une télécopie à son avocat lui annonçant que «le ministre a décidé de refuser à [son] client un passeport d'urgence». Avec cette décision de dernière minute, M. Abdelrazik n'a pas pu prendre son vol.

Pris dans un imbroglio

Abousfian Abdelrazik est pris dans une situation surréaliste. D'origine soudanaise, il a fui son pays en 1990 et a été reçu citoyen canadien en 1995. En 2003, il est retourné au Soudan voir sa mère malade, et ses problèmes ont commencé. Il fut arrêté et emprisonné (même torturé, allègue-t-il), relâché, puis arrêté et relâché encore en 2006. Il prétend avoir été interrogé par des représentants canadiens. Même le Soudan a fini par reconnaître qu'il n'a rien à retenir contre lui.

M. Abdelrazik est hébergé par l'ambassade canadienne depuis maintenant 11 mois. Il veut revenir au pays, où son enfant l'attend, mais son passeport a expiré dans l'intermédiaire. Dans une lettre envoyée à son avocat en décembre 2008, Passeport Canada s'engage à lui fournir les documents nécessaires seulement s'il arrive à convaincre une compagnie aérienne de le prendre malgré son inscription sur la liste des terroristes de l'ONU. Il réussit. Les règles du jeu ont maintenant changé. L'avocat de M. Abdelrazik a laissé entendre hier que, si jamais son client décidait de poursuivre Ottawa pour le traitement infligé, l'indemnité pourrait atteindre plusieurs millions de dollars.

Accusé de rien au Canada

Pour les défenseurs de M. Abdelrazik – députés, professeurs et membres de la société civile –, sa situation «kafkaïenne» n'est attribuable qu'à un manque de volonté d'Ottawa de le défendre.

Certes, il est inscrit sur une liste noire, mais la résolution 1390 de l'ONU prévoit que, malgré une telle inscription, «rien ne doit obliger un État à refuser l'entrée de ses ressortissants ou en exiger l'expulsion». Le contraire, évidemment, aurait pour effet de créer des apatrides.

D'ailleurs, en décembre dernier, Passeport Canada s'est engagé à offrir les documents de voyage même si le bureau enquête sur lui. «Nonobstant tout cela, de manière à faciliter le retour au Canada de M. Abdelrazik, Passeport Canada délivrera un passeport d'urgence à M. Abdelrazik lorsqu'il présentera un itinéraire confirmé et payé», écrivait le directeur général du bureau de sécurité de Passeport Canada L. Fernandes. Cette promesse s'est envolée d'un coup de crayon du ministre.

En outre, les agences de sécurité du Canada n'ont rien trouvé contre cet homme. En novembre 2007, la GRC

fait parvenir une lettre au ministère des Affaires étrangères affirmant qu'elle «a passé en revue ses dossiers et a été incapable de trouver de quelconques informations substantielles actuelles qui indiquerait que M. Abdelrazik est impliqué dans des activités criminelles». La lettre est signée par Mike McDonnell, le commissaire adjoint responsable des enquêtes de sécurité nationale.

Au même moment, le grand patron des services secrets, Jim Judd, signe une lettre déclarant que le SCRS «n'a pas d'informations substantielles actuelles concernant M. Abdelrazik». Jeudi, M. Judd a répété ces propos en comité parlementaire. «On nous a demandé une opinion sur Abdelrazik et nous n'avons aucune information substantielle concernant ses activités parce qu'il est en dehors du pays depuis plusieurs années.»

Rôle des États-Unis

Dans sa décision, le ministre Lawrence Cannon a évoqué hier l'article 10.1 du décret sur les passeports canadiens. Cet article mentionne que le ministre peut refuser de délivrer les documents de voyage s'il est d'avis que cela est nécessaire «pour la sécurité nationale du Canada ou d'un autre pays». Est-ce à dire que c'est à la demande d'un autre pays que le Canada a pris sa décision? Encore une fois, aucune réponse à Ottawa hier.

A l'ambassade américaine, on ne cache pas qu'on considère M. Abdelrazik comme une menace, mais on refuse de dire si Washington a fait des représentations auprès d'Ottawa. Une porte-parole a toutefois dit qu'il lui apparaît improbable «que les États-Unis disent au Canada comment gérer la situation consulaire d'un citoyen canadien».

Un Canadien toujours bloqué au Soudan (La Presse, A25)

PUBLICATION: La Presse

DATE: 2009.04.04

SECTION: Actualités

PAGE: A25

COLUMN: En Bref

SOURCE: PC; AFP

WORD COUNT: 250

Le ministre des Affaires étrangères, Lawrence Cannon, a été accusé de racisme, hier, parce qu'il refuse de délivrer un passeport à un Canadien coincé au Soudan. Abousfian Abdelrazik, dont la famille réside à Montréal, avait réussi à abattre le dernier obstacle qui l'empêchait de rentrer au Canada, après avoir été retenu six ans au Soudan: il avait obtenu un billet d'avion; son vol était prévu hier. Le ministère des Affaires étrangères est toutefois revenu sur des promesses faites antérieurement et a décidé de ne pas lui délivrer de document de voyage, car il représenterait un risque de sécurité. Lors d'un point de presse tenu à Ottawa par l'avocat de M. Abdelrazik, le député néo-démocrate Paul Dewar a déclaré que le ministre Cannon "était raciste" et que le sort de M. Abdelrazik serait différent s'il s'était appelé Martin. M. Abdelrazik a été arrêté en 2003 au Soudan alors qu'il y visitait sa mère, et emprisonné sur la base d'informations fournies par les services de renseignement canadiens qui le soupçonnaient alors de liens avec Al-Qaeda. Il a, depuis, été relâché. Réfugié depuis un an à l'ambassade du Canada à Khartoum, il y vit dans le hall d'entrée. La GRC et le SCRS ont par le passé déclaré qu'il ne représentait pas un risque pour la sécurité.

Man denied emergency passport; Canadian living in embassy in Khartoum considered security threat (The Chronicle-Herald, A6)

PUBLICATION: The Chronicle-Herald

DATE: 2009.04.04

SECTION: Canada

PAGE: A6

SOURCE: The Canadian Press

BYLINE: Steve Rennie

Abousfian Abdelrazik, a Canadian who has been detained in Sudan, remains stranded in

ILLUSTRATION: that country after Ottawa refused to grant him travel documents two hours before his flight was to take off. (Graham Hughes / CP)

WORD COUNT: 535

OTTAWA – A Canadian man remains stranded in Sudan after the federal government refused to grant him travel documents on the grounds he is a national security threat.

Abousfian Abdelrazik was set to fly home to Montreal on Friday on a flight paid for by his supporters, after living inside the lobby of the Canadian Embassy in Khartoum for the last year.

But two hours before Abdelrazik, 47, was supposed to board his flight, the Justice Department faxed his Ottawa-based lawyer, Yavar Hameed, a terse letter denying him an emergency passport.

"The minister of foreign affairs has decided to refuse your client's request for an emergency passport," it says.

The department cited a section of the Canada Passport Order that allows the foreign affairs minister to "refuse or revoke a passport if the minister is of the opinion that such action is necessary for the national security of Canada or another country."

Foreign Affairs refused to elaborate on the decision, as did the minister, Lawrence Cannon.

"As this file unfolds – and it will certainly be unfolding under a judicial cover – I don't want to go any further in terms of my comments on this issue," Cannon told a news conference at the NATO meetings in Strasbourg, France.

Abdelrazik's lawyers are set to appear in Federal Court next month, where they will argue his charter rights have been violated, and that he should be repatriated immediately.

NDP foreign affairs critic Paul Dewar, who has been actively working on Abdelrazik's behalf, accused the Conservative government of using the lawsuit as cover.

"There is a lawsuit right now that the government hides behind. You know what the lawsuit is about? It's about bringing him home and giving him a travel document," Dewar said.

Abdelrazik was arrested in August 2003 on a trip to Khartoum to visit his ailing mother.

A recently published report suggests Canadian Security Intelligence Service operatives initially asked Sudanese authorities to arrest and detain him.

But investigators found no evidence to support alleged terrorist links and he was released without charge, only to be arrested and jailed a second time in October 2005.

Sudanese authorities have since released him. The RCMP and CSIS have acknowledged there is no information linking him to any crime.

Abdelrazik has been allowed to live inside the Canadian embassy in Khartoum for the last year, where he sleeps on a cot in the foyer.

His passport has expired and Canadian authorities previously told his lawyer that Abdelrazik must pay for a plane ticket before he is issued travel documents.

A group of 170 Canadians chipped in to buy his ticket and he was set to leave Sudan on Friday.

Ottawa had long said it would hand over his travel documents if he had a ticket, but Cannon announced last week Abdelrazik would first have to get his name off a UN no-fly list.

"We now have a government that says it's OK . . . basically, to go against its word," Dewar said.

"The government stated that if a ticket was purchased, they would provide the travel documents. They broke their word."

The government would act differently, Dewar charged, were Abdelrazik's last name "Martin" – a reference to Brenda Martin, a Canada woman who spent more than two years in a Mexican jail before a vocal campaign compelled the Harper government to press for her release.

Dewar didn't mince words when asked if he was accusing Cannon of racism.

"At the end, what else do you say? Yes!" he said.

"I mean, he has not given this gentleman, who happens to be a different colour of skin than other citizens who have gotten help from this government, a travel document."

A spokeswoman for Cannon wouldn't comment on Dewar's allegation.

Meanwhile, protests were scheduled for at least 10 cities across the country Friday.

About 20 people protested in front of the Passport Canada offices in downtown Montreal, demanding to speak to an official from the office about Abdelrazik's case.

The small-but-noisy protest drew the ire of dozens of people forced to stand in line for their own passports while security kept the doors locked.

Canadian stranded in Sudan, refused passport (The Guardian (Charlottetown), A13)

PUBLICATION: The Guardian (Charlottetown)

DATE: 2009.04.04

SECTION: Canada

PAGE: A13

SOURCE: The Canadian Press

DATELINE: OTTAWA

WORD COUNT: 169

A Canadian man remains stranded in Sudan after the federal government refused to grant him travel documents on the grounds he is a national security threat.

Abousfian Abdelrazik was set to fly home to Montreal on Friday on a flight paid for by his supporters, after living inside the lobby of the Canadian embassy in Khartoum for the last year.

But two hours before Abdelrazik, 47, was supposed to board his flight, the Justice Department faxed his Ottawa-based lawyer, Yavar Hameed, a terse letter denying him an emergency passport.

"The minister of foreign affairs has decided to refuse your client's request for an emergency passport," it says.

The department cited a section of the Canada Passport Order that allows the foreign affairs minister to "refuse or revoke a passport if the minister is of the opinion that such action is necessary for the national security of Canada or another country."

Foreign Affairs refused to elaborate on the decision, as did the minister, Lawrence Cannon.

"As this file unfolds – and it will certainly be unfolding under a judicial cover – I don't want to go any further in terms of my comments on this issue," Cannon said.

Return from Sudan rejected; Stranded Canadian refused emergency passport after Ottawa cites national security concerns (The Toronto Star, A06)

IDNUMBER 200904040164

PUBLICATION: The Toronto Star

DATE: 2009.04.04

EDITION: Met

SECTION: News

PAGE: A06

ILLUSTRATION: Abousfian Abdelrazik saw his hope of flying home yesterday dashed when he was denied a passport. ;

BYLINE: Joanna Smith

SOURCE: Toronto Star

COPYRIGHT: © 2009 Torstar Corporation

WORD COUNT: 566

A Montreal man stuck inside a Canadian embassy in Sudan for almost a year was devastated to learn he had been refused the emergency passport that would have allowed him to fly home yesterday, his lawyer said.

In a move that enraged the supporters who had fundraised to pay for Abousfian Abdelrazik's flights, the Department of Justice faxed Ottawa lawyer Yavar Hameed a short note yesterday to say the passport had been denied on grounds of national security.

"The Minister of Foreign Affairs has decided to refuse your client's request for an emergency passport," the department wrote yesterday.

It cited a section of the Canadian Passport Order that allows the foreign affairs minister to "refuse or revoke a passport if the Minister is of the opinion that such action is necessary for the national security of Canada or another country."

Abdelrazik, 47, was ready to step outside the lobby of the embassy in Khartoum, where he has been granted asylum for nearly a year, and board a flight to Abu Dhabi, the first leg of a journey to Montreal yesterday afternoon, Hameed said.

Abdelrazik figured something was wrong when no one came to deliver the passport that the Canadian government said last December it would give him, so long as he could pay his own way back home.

Foreign Affairs Minister Lawrence Cannon had little to add when reporters asked him about Abdelrazik at the NATO summit in Strasbourg, France yesterday.

"I denied Mr. Abdelrazik an emergency passport on the basis of national security," Cannon said.

"So, therefore, as this file unfolds, and it will certainly be unfolding under a judicial cover, I don't want to go any further in terms of my comments on this issue."

New Democrat MP and foreign affairs critic Paul Dewar angrily accused Cannon of denying entry to Abdelrazik based on the colour of his skin.

"What else do you say? Yes!" Dewar replied to reporters when asked if he was alleging racism after he pointed out the government had paid to fly Canadian woman Brenda Martin home from Mexico, where she spent more than two years behind bars.

"He has not given this gentleman, who happens to be a different colour of skin than other citizens who have gotten help from this government, a travel document," said Dewar (Ottawa Centre.)

Abdelrazik, a Canadian citizen born in Sudan, 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.

Both the RCMP and CSIS have said they have no current and substantive information linking Abdelrazik to criminal activity.

Abdelrazik's passport has expired. He is on a no-fly list under a UN Security Council resolution that imposes sanctions on individuals associated with terrorist groups and the Taliban. Another resolution says this does not prevent countries from allowing their own nationals on the list to come home.

Cannon announced last week Abdelrazik would have to be removed from the list before he could return to Canada, even though the government had originally said he just needed to be able to pay his own way.

Supporters who chipped in to pay for Abdelrazik's ticket did so despite the threat of prosecution under federal anti-terror laws.

Hameed said Abdelrazik was "beside himself" yesterday when the lawyer reached him at the embassy and told him the government said he was a threat to national security.

"He's been living there for 11 months, so he's really perplexed by that," Hameed said.

"He can't really fathom that decision because it's never been the formal position that he is a national security risk or national security threat. It's really just been about this UN no-fly list."

Abdelrazik's lawyers are to challenge the decision in Federal Court on the grounds that it violates his Charter rights.

Hameed accused the government of acting in bad faith because officials waited until the day Abdelrazik was expected to fly home even though he requested the passport March 15.

No passport for terror suspect (Times Colonist (Victoria), A9)

IDNUMBER 200904040028

PUBLICATION: Times Colonist (Victoria)

DATE: 2009.04.04

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: A9

DATELINE: OTTAWA

SOURCE: Canwest News Service

WORD COUNT: 83

The federal government yesterday refused to supply an emergency passport to a Canadian citizen who has been stranded in Sudan since he travelled there to visit his ailing mother in 2002. In a letter to Abousfian Abdelrazik's lawyer, a Justice Department official said his request for an emergency passport was rejected. Abdelrazik has been trapped in the African country after his name appeared on a United Nations no-fly list.

Canadian in Sudan denied passport; Man accused of having al-Qaida ties (Edmonton Journal, A6)

IDNUMBER 200904040019

PUBLICATION: Edmonton Journal

DATE: 2009.04.04

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: A6

KEYWORDS: PASSPORTS; CANADIANS; PRISONERS OF WAR

SOURCE: Canwest News Service

WORD COUNT: 311

The federal government on Friday refused to supply an emergency passport to a Canadian citizen who has been stranded in Sudan since he travelled there to visit his ailing mother in 2002.

In a letter to Abousfian Abdelrazik's lawyer, a Justice Department official said his request for an emergency passport was rejected.

"Well, I denied Mr. Abdelrazik an emergency passport on the basis of national security, and so ... I don't want to go any further in terms of comments on this issue," Foreign Affairs Minister Lawrence Cannon told journalists in Strasbourg, France, where he is attending the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's annual leaders' summit.

Abdelrazik has been trapped in the African country after his name appeared on a United Nations no-fly list. There have also been allegations, which Abdelrazik has always denied, that he belonged to al-Qaida and had gone to a terrorist training camp in Afghanistan.

He has been cleared of terror ties by both Canadian and Sudanese authorities.

In a move designed to force Ottawa to get Abdelrazik out of Sudan, New Democrat MP Paul Dewar submitted a motion on Friday to the foreign affairs and international development committee summoning Abdelrazik to appear.

"It's time to end six years of misery for this Canadian citizen and bring him home," said Dewar, who said federal officials, as recently as Dec. 23, recognized Canada's obligation to issue travel documents for the former Montrealer, who has an ex-wife and three children in Canada.

Dewar said Passport Canada stated it would issue a passport for Abdelrazik if a ticket was purchased for him. That airline ticket -- purchased for Abdelrazik with donations from almost 200 Canadians -- expired Friday.

"The only obstacle standing between Mr. Abdelrazik and his flight home to Canada is this Conservative government," Dewar said in a statement.

Liberal MP Irwin Cotler said every day Abdelrazik spends in Sudan is another denial of his rights.

"This is a case where the Canadian government is alone directly responsible for the violation of the rights of a Canadian citizen that it is obliged to protect," Cotler said in a statement.

Canuck in Sudan denied passport (The Toronto Sun, 14)

SOURCETAG 09040463111876

PUBLICATION: The Toronto Sun

DATE: 2009.04.04

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: 14

BYLINE: THE CANADIAN PRESS

DATELINE: OTTAWA

WORD COUNT: 125

The federal government has denied an emergency passport to a Canadian man stranded in Sudan for the last six years.

Abousfian Abdelrazik was set to fly home to Canada today on a flight paid for by supporters after living inside the lobby of the Canadian embassy in Khartoum for the last year. But the Justice Department denied Abdelrazik travel documents hours before he boarded his flight on grounds he is a threat to national security. Abdelrazik was arrested in 2003 while visiting his ailing mother. Authorities have alleged he has ties to Osama bin Laden but investigators found no evidence to support criminal activity and he was released without charge. KEYWORDS=CANADA

Canadian remains stranded in Sudan SECURITY: Abousfian Abdelrazik was to fly home to Montreal today on a flight paid for by Canadian supporters (The London Free Press, B4)

SOURCETAG 09040463111943

PUBLICATION: The London Free Press

DATE: 2009.04.04

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: B4

ILLUSTRATION: photo of ABOUSFIAN ABDELRAZIK

BYLINE: STEVE RENNIE, THE CP

DATELINE: OTTAWA

WORD COUNT: 253

A Canadian man remains stranded in Sudan after the federal government refused to grant him travel documents on the grounds he is a national security threat.

Abousfian Abdelrazik was set to fly home to Montreal yesterday on a flight paid for by his supporters after living inside the lobby of the Canadian embassy in Khartoum for the last year. But two hours before Abdelrazik, 47, was supposed to board his flight, the Justice Department faxed his Ottawa-based lawyer, Yavar Hameed, a terse letter denying him an emergency passport.

"The minister of foreign affairs has decided to refuse your client's request for an emergency passport," it says.

The department cited a section of the Canada Passport Order that allows the foreign affairs minister to "refuse or revoke a passport if the minister is of the opinion such action is necessary for the national security of Canada or another country."

Foreign Affairs refused to elaborate on the decision, as did the minister, Lawrence Cannon.

"As this file unfolds --- and it will certainly be unfolding under a judicial cover --- I don't want to go any further in terms of my comments on this issue," Cannon told a news conference at the NATO meetings in Strasbourg, France.

Abdelrazik's lawyers are set to appear in Federal Court next month, where they will argue his Charter rights have been violated and that he should be repatriated immediately.

Abdelrazik was arrested in August 2003 on a trip to Khartoum to visit his ailing mother.

A recently published report suggests Canadian Security Intelligence Service operatives initially asked Sudanese authorities to arrest and detain him.

But investigators found no evidence to support alleged terrorist links and he was released without charge, only to be arrested and jailed a second time in October 2005. KEYWORDS=NATIONAL

No help for Canadian stranded in Sudan since 2002; Denied passport as security risk (Calgary Herald, A5)

IDNUMBER 200904040168

PUBLICATION: Calgary Herald

DATE: 2009.04.04

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: A5

KEYWORDS: PASSPORTS; CANADIANS; PRISONERS OF WAR; IDENTIFICATION METHODS

SOURCE: Canwest News Service

WORD COUNT: 281

The federal government on Friday refused to supply an emergency passport to a Canadian citizen who has been stranded in Sudan since he travelled there to visit his ailing mother in 2002.

In a letter to Abousfian Abdelrazik's lawyer, a Justice Department official said his request for an emergency passport was rejected.

"Well, I denied Mr. Abdelrazik an emergency passport on the basis of national security, and so therefore as this file unfolds, and it will certainly be unfolding under a judicial cover, I don't want to go any further in terms of comments on this issue," Foreign Affairs Minister Lawrence told journalists in Strasbourg, France, where he is attending the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's annual leaders' summit.

Abdelrazik was trapped in the African country after his name appeared on a United Nations no-fly list.

There have also been allegations, which Abdelrazik has always denied, that he belonged to al-Qaeda and had gone to a terrorist training camp in Afghanistan. He has been cleared of terror ties by Canadian and Sudanese authorities.

In a move designed to force Ottawa to get Abdelrazik out of Sudan, New Democrat MP Paul Dewar submitted a motion Friday to the foreign affairs and international development committee summoning Abdelrazik to appear.

"It's time to end six years of misery for this Canadian citizen and bring him home," said Dewar, who said federal officials, as recently as Dec. 23, recognized Canada's obligation to issue travel documents for the former Montrealer, who has an ex-wife and three children in Canada.

Dewar said Passport Canada said it would issue a passport for Abdelrazik if a ticket was purchased for him. That airline ticket--purchased for Abdelrazik with donations from almost 200 Canadians--expired Friday.

"The only obstacle standing between Mr. Abdelrazik and his flight home to Canada is this Conservative government," Dewar said.

No passport for stranded Canadian (The Edmonton Sun, 35)

SOURCETAG 09040463112229

PUBLICATION: The Edmonton Sun

DATE: 2009.04.04

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: 35

ILLUSTRATION: photo of ABOUSFIAN ABDELRAZIK Security threat

BYLINE: STEVE RENNIE, CP

DATELINE: OTTAWA

WORD COUNT: 152

A Canadian man remains stranded in Sudan after the federal government refused to grant him travel documents on the grounds he is a national security threat.

Abousfian Abdelrazik was set to fly home to Montreal yesterday on a flight paid for by his supporters, after living inside the lobby of the Canadian embassy in Khartoum for the last year. But two hours before Abdelrazik, 47, was supposed to board his flight, the Justice Department faxed his Ottawa-based lawyer, Yavar Hameed, a terse letter denying him an emergency passport.

"The minister of foreign affairs has decided to refuse your client's request for an emergency passport," it says.

The department cited a section of the Canada Passport Order that allows the foreign affairs minister to "refuse or revoke a passport if the minister is of the opinion that such action is necessary for the national security of Canada or another country."

No further details were available. KEYWORDS=CANADA

Canadian stuck in Sudan (Vancouver Sun, B2)

IDNUMBER 200904040028

PUBLICATION: Vancouver Sun

DATE: 2009.04.04

EDITION: Final

SECTION: Canada &World

PAGE: B2

KEYWORDS: OIL INDUSTRY; HUMAN RIGHTS; FOOD SUPPLY; FOREIGN RELATIONS

DATELINE: OTTAWA

SOURCE: Canwest News Service

WORD COUNT: 104

The federal government on Friday refused to issue an emergency passport to a Canadian citizen who has been stranded in Sudan since he travelled there to visit his ailing mother in 2002. In a letter to Abousfian Abdelrazik's lawyer, a justice department official said his request for an emergency passport was rejected on the basis of national security, although he has been cleared of terror ties by both Canadian and Sudanese authorities. Abdelrazik has been trapped since his name appeared on a United Nations no-fly list.

No passport for stranded Canadian (The Windsor Star, A16)

IDNUMBER 200904040053

PUBLICATION: The Windsor Star

DATE: 2009.04.04

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: A16

SOURCE: Canwest News Service

WORD COUNT: 279

The federal government on Friday refused to supply an emergency passport to a Canadian citizen who has been stranded in Sudan since he travelled there to visit his ailing mother in 2002.

In a letter to Abousfian Abdelrazik's lawyer, a Justice Department official said his request for an emergency passport was rejected.

"Well, I denied Mr. Abdelrazik an emergency passport on the basis of national security, and so therefore as this file unfolds, and it will certainly be unfolding under a judicial cover, I don't want to go any further in terms of comments on this issue," Foreign Affairs Minister Lawrence told journalists in Strasbourg, France, where he is attending the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's annual leaders' summit.

Abdelrazik has been trapped in the African country after his name appeared on a United Nations no-fly list. There have also been allegations, which Abdelrazik has always denied, that he belonged to al-Qaida and had gone to a terrorist training camp in Afghanistan.

He has been cleared of terror ties by both Canadian and Sudanese authorities.

In a move designed to force Ottawa to get Abdelrazik out of Sudan, New Democrat MP Paul Dewar submitted a motion Friday to the foreign affairs and international development committee summoning Abdelrazik to appear.

"It's time to end six years of misery for this Canadian citizen and bring him home," said Dewar, who said federal officials, as recently as Dec. 23, recognized Canada's obligation to issue travel documents for the former Montrealer, who has an ex-wife and three children in Canada.

Dewar said Passport Canada stated it would issue a passport for Abdelrazik if a ticket was purchased for him.

That airline ticket -- purchased for Abdelrazik with donations from almost 200 Canadians -- expired Friday.

"The only obstacle standing between Mr. Abdelrazik and his flight home to Canada is this Conservative government," Dewar said in a statement.

Tories deny passport to man stranded in Sudan; Request rejected 'on the basis of national security' (The Ottawa Citizen, A13)

IDNUMBER 200904040040

PUBLICATION: The Ottawa Citizen

DATE: 2009.04.04

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: A13

SOURCE: Canwest News Service

WORD COUNT: 292

The federal government on Friday refused to supply an emergency passport to a Canadian citizen who has been stranded in Sudan since he travelled there to visit his ailing mother in 2002.

In a letter to Abousfian Abdelrazik's lawyer, a Justice Department official said his request for an emergency passport was rejected.

"Well, I denied Mr. Abdelrazik an emergency passport on the basis of national security, and so therefore as this file unfolds, and it will certainly be unfolding under a judicial cover, I don't want to go any further in terms of comments on this issue," Foreign Affairs Minister Lawrence Cannon told journalists in Strasbourg, France, where he is attending the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's annual leaders' summit.

Abdelrazik has been trapped in the African country after his name appeared on a United Nations no-fly list.

There have also been allegations, which Abdelrazik has always denied, that he belonged to al-Qaeda and had gone to a terrorist training camp in Afghanistan. He has been cleared of terror ties by Canadian and Sudanese authorities.

In a move designed to force the federal government to get Abdelrazik out of Sudan, New Democratic MP Paul Dewar submitted a motion Friday to summon Abdelrazik to appear before the foreign affairs and international development committee.

"It's time to end six years of misery for this Canadian citizen and bring him home," said Dewar, who said federal officials, as recently as Dec. 23, recognized Canada's obligation to issue travel documents for the former Montrealer, who has an ex-wife and three children in Canada.

Dewar said Passport Canada stated it would issue a passport for Abdelrazik if a ticket was purchased for him. That airline ticket -- purchased for Abdelrazik with donations from almost 200 Canadians -- expired Friday.

"The only obstacle standing between Mr. Abdelrazik and his flight home to Canada is this Conservative government," Dewar said.

Ex-Montrealer in Sudan denied passport; Issue of 'national security,' Cannon says of man who has been accused of having ties to Al-Qa'ida (Montreal Gazette, A12)

IDNUMBER 200904040045

PUBLICATION: Montreal Gazette

DATE: 2009.04.04

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: A12

KEYWORDS: PASSPORTS; CANADIANS; PRISONERS OF WAR

SOURCE: Canwest News Service

WORD COUNT: 301

The federal government refused to supply an emergency passport yesterday to a Canadian citizen who has been stranded in Sudan since he travelled there to visit his ailing mother in 2002.

In a letter to Abousfian Abdelrazik's lawyer, a Justice Department official said his request for an emergency passport was rejected

"Well, I denied Mr. Abdelrazik an emergency passport on the basis of national security, and so therefore as this file unfolds, and it will certainly be unfolding under a judicial cover, I don't want to go any further in terms of comments on this issue," Foreign Minister Lawrence Cannon told reporters at the NATO summit in Strasbourg, France.

Abdelrazik has been trapped in the African country after his name appeared on a United Nations no-fly list.

There have also been allegations, which Abdelrazik has always denied, that he belonged to Al-Qa'ida and had gone to a terrorist training camp in Afghanistan.

He has been cleared of terror ties by both Canadian and Sudanese authorities.

In a move designed to force Ottawa to get Abdelrazik out of Sudan, New Democrat MP Paul Dewar submitted a motion yesterday to the foreign affairs and international development committee summoning Abdelrazik to appear.

"It's time to end six years of misery for this Canadian citizen and bring him home," said Dewar, who said federal officials, as recently as Dec. 23, recognized Canada's obligation to issue travel documents for the former Montrealer, who has an ex-wife and three children in Canada.

Dewar said Passport Canada stated it would issue a passport for Abdelrazik if a ticket was purchased for him. That airline ticket – purchased for Abdelrazik with donations from almost 200 Canadians – expired yesterday.

"The only obstacle standing between Mr. Abdelrazik and his flight home to Canada is this Conservative government," Dewar said.

Liberal MP Irwin Cotler said every day Abdelrazik spends in Sudan is another denial of his rights.

"This is a case where the Canadian government is alone directly responsible for the violation of the rights of a Canadian citizen that it is obliged to protect," Cotler said.

Canadian man stranded in Sudan denied passport (The Hamilton Spectator, A10)

IDNUMBER 200904040034

PUBLICATION: The Hamilton Spectator

DATE: 2009.04.04

EDITION: Final

SECTION: Canada/World

PAGE: A10

DATELINE: OTTAWA

SOURCE: The Canadian Press

COPYRIGHT: © 2009 Torstar Corporation

WORD COUNT: 136

A Canadian man remains stranded in Sudan after the federal government refused to grant him travel documents on the grounds he is a national security threat.

Abousfian Abdelrazik was set to fly home to Montreal yesterday on a flight paid for by his supporters in Canada.

He had been living inside the lobby of the Canadian embassy in Khartoum for the last year.

But two hours before Abdelrazik, 47, was supposed to board his flight, the Justice Department faxed his Ottawa-based lawyer, Yavar Hameed, a terse letter denying him an emergency passport.

"The minister of foreign affairs has decided to refuse your client's request for an emergency passport," it says.

The department cited a section of the Canada Passport Order that allows the foreign affairs minister to "refuse or revoke a passport if the minister is of the opinion that such action is necessary for the national security of Canada or another country."

Foreign Affairs refused to elaborate on the decision, as did the minister, Lawrence Cannon.

THE CASE OF ABOUSFIAN ABDELRAZIK Canadian can't come home, Cannon says In last-minute reversal, Ottawa says citizen stranded in Sudan poses too great a national security risk (GLOBE AND MAIL, A15 (ILLUS))

PUBLICATION: GLOBE AND MAIL

IDN: 090940242

DATE: 2009.04.04

PAGE: A15 (ILLUS)

BYLINE: PAUL KORING

SECTION: International News

EDITION: Metro

DATELINE:

WORDS: 965

WORD COUNT: 913

PAUL KORING Abousfian Abdelrazik, a Canadian citizen, poses so grave a threat to Canada that he can't come back, Foreign Minister Lawrence Cannon said yesterday, abruptly reversing the government's written promise of an emergency one-way travel document less than two hours before his flight home was to depart from Khartoum.

"I denied Mr. Abdelrazik an emergency passport on the basis of national security," Mr. Cannon said at the NATO summit in Strasbourg.

"He was crushed by the decision, he is incredulous; . . . he thinks it is surreal," said Yavar Hameed, the Ottawa lawyer representing Mr. Abdelrazik, who spent nearly two years in Sudanese prisons.

Canadian government documents, marked secret, implicate Canadian security agencies in Mr. Abdelrazik's original arrest. Canada's antiterrorism agency and the RCMP have both subsequently cleared Mr. Abdelrazik.

"The only plausible explanation is that the decision was taken at the highest political levels," Mr. Hameed said. "They will do anything to keep him from coming home and telling his story." Mr. Abdelrazik was to reach Canada today, after more than six years of imprisonment and forced exile in Sudan, on a ticket purchased by hundreds of supporters who defied the government's threat to charge anyone with helping him because he was put on a United Nations terrorist blacklist by the Bush administration.

Instead, two hours before his flight was to depart, government lawyers faxed a one-sentence letter to his lawyers in Ottawa, saying he had been deemed a national security risk and refused travel documents.

The reversal by the government – which previously promised, in writing, to issue Mr. Abdelrazik a one-way, emergency passport to return home if he had a fully paid ticket – adds yet another dimension to the long-running and increasingly Kafkaesque labyrinth that Mr.

Abdelrazik must walk.

"For this guy they are making it up as they go along. . . . Parliament did not give the minister the right to do this," said law professor and human-rights advocate Amir Attaran.

In fact, the passport order seems intended to allow the government to deny a citizen a passport – and therefore the government's blessing to travel abroad if he is deemed a security threat – rather than as a means to deny a citizen the right, enshrined in the Charter, to return to Canada.

"The government is now in violation of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms," Liberal MP Irwin Cotler said.

"For six years I have tried to go back home to my children, but the Canadian government took my old passport and will not give me another one," Mr. Abdelrazik said in a statement released as the hours ticked down to his flight home.

Government documents, marked secret, implicate Canadian security agencies in the original arrest of Mr. Abdelrazik in 2003. In prison, he says, he was beaten and tortured. He was also interrogated by a team of CSIS agents and U.S. counterterrorism agents.

"The Harper government says I am an Islamic extremist. This is a lie. I am a Muslim and I pray to my God but this does not make me a terrorist or a criminal," Mr. Abdelrazik said.

Designating Mr. Abdelrazik a national security risk – which, in effect, maroons him in exile – represents a striking change in government policy. Only 15 months ago, Mr. Cannon's predecessor formally applied to the UN Security Council to remove Mr. Abdelrazik from its terrorist blacklist.

That formal delisting request, in December of 2007, was made only after both the RCMP and the Canadian Security Intelligence Service, informed the minister – in writing – that there was no reason to oppose Mr. Abdelrazik's removal from the so-called 1267 list. He had been added to the list by the Bush administration in 2006.

Mr. Abdelrazik has been living inside the Canadian embassy for the past 11 months – granted "temporary safe haven" by the government, which accepted that he was at risk of re-imprisonment.

"He's literally stuck in limbo," Mr. Hameed said.

Government officials rejected suggestions that Mr. Abdelrazik was under de facto house arrest.

"Mr. Abdelrazik has always been free to leave the embassy," said Daniel Barbarie, a Foreign Affairs spokesman, adding that it was Mr. Abdelrazik's choice to seek haven there.

NDP MP Paul Dewar said the "government can't have it both ways, they can't say he is a threat to national security and still harbour him in the embassy." Less than four months ago, the government promised Mr. Abdelrazik a one-way travel document if he could get a fully paid flight home on an airline willing to defy the U.S. no-fly ban.

"In order to facilitate Mr. Abdelrazik's return to Canada, Passport Canada will issue an emergency passport to Mr. Abdelrazik upon his submission of a confirmed and paid travel itinerary," Lu Fernandes, director general of the passport agency's security bureau, promised in a Dec. 23, 2008, letter. But last week, Mr. Cannon added a new – and seemingly impossible – condition.

When more than 160 Canadians chipped in to buy the ticket and Etihad Airlines agreed to fly him, Mr. Cannon raised the bar last week, saying Mr. Abdelrazik needed to get himself off the 1267 blacklist, even though the government itself had tried and failed.

"It's up to him, it's incumbent on him to make sure he gets off that list," Mr. Cannon said, referring to the UN Security Council terrorist blacklist, notwithstanding the specific UN exemption that permits those on the list to return home.

"What has changed now is that [Mr. Cannon] can't blame this on anyone else – not the United States nor the United Nations. Now the Harper government has to explain to all of us the basis for denying Mr. Abdelrazik the right to return home," Mr. Dewar said.

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Sudan; Canada

SUBJECT TERM:internal security; terrorism; suspects; human rights; civil rights; canadians; political; statements

PERSONAL NAME: Abousfian Abdelrazik; Lawrence Cannon

First, Abdelrazik: Who's next? (GLOBE AND MAIL, A18)

PUBLICATION: GLOBE AND MAIL

IDN: 090940170

DATE: 2009.04.04

PAGE: A18

BYLINE: JOHN HARRIS

SECTION: Letter to the Edit

EDITION: Metro

DATELINE: Vancouver BC

WORDS: 213

WORD COUNT: 242

John Harris Vancouver Earlier this week, I went to work in an office building, had dinner in a government-inspected restaurant with my wife, drove to the suburbs for a meeting with friends and closed the evening with a glass of wine and a peek at the hockey game on TV. My team lost.

All ordinary, mundane Canadian events.

Abousfian Abdelrazik, another Canadian, is sitting in an embassy in Africa waiting for the privilege of enjoying some of these same, ordinary Canadian events that I'm taking for granted (CSIS Disowns The Plain Truth – April 3; PM Failing Abdelrazik, Opposition Parties Charge – April 1). No Canadian security agency has a problem with Mr. Abdelrazik. In fact, CSIS and the RCMP have made it clear he's not a security risk. It makes me wonder: Who's next? Who else is going to find their name in a letter from a government official declaring them unwelcome to return home? The federal government's behaviour is not violent, it's not dramatic, it's just a mundane act (there's that word again), but evil often is mundane and ordinary. As Edmund Burke said, the only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.

And I don't want to be "next."

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Sudan; Canada

SUBJECT TERM:terrorism; suspects; canadians; prisoners; human rights

PERSONAL NAME: Abousfian Abdelrazik