



April 29, 2013
By Hand

H.E. Musa Abdelrahim Mohamed
Head of Mission, Embassy of the Republic of the Sudan
354 Stewart Street Ottawa, ON K1N 6K8

Right Honourable Stephen Harper
Prime Minister of Canada
80 Wellington Street Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Ambassador Mohamed,
Dear Prime Minister Harper,

Re: Abousfian Abdelrazik

I am writing on behalf of Project Fly Home, a community group based in Montreal, Canada. We oppose state repression and racism and have been working in support of justice for Mr. Abousfian Abdelrazik since his situation first came to our attention in 2008.

We are writing further to numerous appeals addressed to both of your governments, including but not limited to: a letter hand-delivered by Mr. Abdelrazik's legal counsel to the Embassy of the Republic of Sudan on 19 April 2012 and addressed to Ambassador Mohamed; and a letter hand-delivered by Mr. Abdelrazik to the Calgary riding office of the Right Honourable Stephen Harper, Prime Minister of Canada, on 22 November 2010.

As you know, Mr. Abdelrazik's case has been widely covered in Sudanese, Canadian and international media. It is well known to governments, non-governmental organizations and the public. We will nevertheless remind you, once again, of the main elements of this disturbing story.

Mr. Abdelrazik, who was born in Sudan, holds both Sudanese and Canadian citizenship. He is a single parent raising a son in Montreal.

In 2003, he travelled to Sudan to visit his ailing mother. In September of that year, he was detained by Sudanese officials in Khartoum. He was never charged with any offence but remained in detention for nearly a year. During his detention, he was subject to verbal and physical abuse. He was frequently interrogated, including, shortly after his arrest, by two Canadian CSIS agents.

Mr. Abdelrazik was released from prison in July 2004 but was required by the Sudanese government to remain in Khartoum and report to a half-way house on a regular basis.

Through documents obtained by Mr. Abdelrazik's lawyers from the Canadian government, it was discovered that Mr. Abdelrazik's arrest and detention took place on the request of Canadian officials.

In July 2005, the Chief Prosecutor at the Office of the Attorney for Crimes against the State in Sudan issued a decision which exonerated Mr. Abdelrazik from any involvement with criminal or terrorist activities. The Office's investigation concluded that there was no evidence to justify condemning or punishing Mr. Abdelrazik, that he did not belong to any political group or party, that the suspicions against him were based on profiling and association, that he did not represent a threat to society, any individuals or international interests, and that there was no evidence which would justify condemning or punishing him.

Despite this unambiguous statement, in October 2005, Mr. Abdelrazik was again arrested by Sudanese authorities in Khartoum and detained without charge. He was eventually released in July 2006.

In total, Mr. Abdelrazik spent nearly two years in Sudanese prisons. He was never charged or convicted of any offence. He suffered physical torture and verbal abuse with serious consequences for his physical and mental health.

Within days of his release from prison for the second time, Mr. Abdelrazik's name was added to the United Nations' Consolidated List of persons associated with Al Qaida, commonly known as the "1267 List". By virtue of being listed, Mr. Abdelrazik was immediately subject to a travel ban and an asset freeze. Mr. Abdelrazik was not given any advance notice that he was going to be listed nor any prior opportunity to challenge the decision to list him.

From 2004 to 2009, the Government of Canada repeatedly frustrated Mr. Abdelrazik's attempts to return to his family in Canada. A warning from Canadian consular staff in Sudan in March 2006 that the intelligence branch of the Sudanese government was considering a "permanent solution" to his case went unheeded by Ottawa. Finally, in June 2009, the Federal Court of Canada ordered the Canadian government to bring Mr. Abdelrazik back to his family in Montreal.

Mr. Abdelrazik's difficulties were not over after his return home. He remained under the oppressive extra-judicial sanctions imposed by the 1267 regime, which affected his entire family. Under the Canadian legislation implementing the UN sanctions, he was prohibited from earning an income or conducting routine financial transactions without permission from

the UN 1267 Committee.

With broad support from the Canadian public, Mr. Abdelrazik began challenging the validity of his listing as well as the legitimacy of the listing regime itself.

The Canadian government took the position that they had no position on whether or not Mr. Abdelrazik's name should remain on the list, despite statements in November 2007 by both of Canada's main security agencies – CSIS and the RCMP - that they had no information to suggest that Mr. Abdelrazik was involved in any criminal activities.

Finally, in November 2011, the UN 1267 Committee accepted Mr. Abdelrazik's request and removed his name from their international blacklist.

The ordeal that Mr. Abdelrazik endured – public accusations, imprisonment, physical abuse and torture, forced exile and sanctions – has caused him and his family to suffer irreparable damage and ongoing suffering, all on the basis of spurious and unfounded allegations. Although he has been formally delisted by the United Nations 1267 Committee, his labelling as a terrorist suspect has left an indelible mark on his reputation and on the lives of his children and will make it impossible for Mr. Abdelrazik to return to a normal life. He and his children continue to face very difficult challenges.

Today is the fifth anniversary of the day that Mr. Abdelrazik sought refuge in the Canadian Consulate in Sudan, and was granted 'temporary safe haven'. We are once again asking both of your governments to:

1. Issue an apology to Mr. Abdelrazik;
2. Disclose any and all documents that may be of assistance to Mr. Abdelrazik in his quest to understand the role that the Canadian government played in his ordeal; and
3. Provide financial compensation to help Mr. Abdelrazik and his family repair their lives to the extent possible.

We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Mary Foster
Project Fly Home

Return correspondence:
QPIRG Concordia – Project Fly Home,
c/o Concordia University
1455 de Maisonneuve W.
Montreal, Quebec H3G 1M8