



**CONTACT: Jen Nessel, 212.614-6449**

**CCR CONDEMNS GROWING TREND TOWARD INDEFINITE DETENTION  
WITHOUT CHARGE OR TRIAL AND THREATS OF RENDITION TO TORTURE**

**DETAINEE ON 77<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF HUNGER STRIKE PROTESTING  
INHUMANE CONDITIONS OF CANADIAN DETENTION**

***Detainee Demands Access to Medical Care***

*New York, September 21, 2005* - The **Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR)** joins many other international human rights organizations in condemning the inhumane conditions to which Mohammad Mahjoub is subject in a Canadian prison in Toronto. Mr. Mahjoub, who has been seized and detained without charge, is on day 77 of a hunger strike to protest his inhumane detention. Mr. Mahjoub fled to Canada as a refugee seeking political asylum there after having been tortured in Egypt and has been detained in Canada without charge or trial since June 2000. Similar to the U.S. Government's widespread practice of indefinite detention of "enemy combatants," Canadian law provides for the issuance of "security certificates," an immigration measure that permits the government to undertake the preventive arrest and detention of non-citizens without charge, based on secret evidence.

Mr. Mahjoub is striking to demand minimally decent conditions of detention:

- \* Access to proper medical attention including a doctor-prescribed liver biopsy (to determine a course of treatment for Hepatitis C, with which he was diagnosed in prison), care for a leg injury sustained at the jail, and a pair of eyeglasses prescribed eight months ago
- \* Monthly contact visits with his two young children.

Mr. Mahjoub is reportedly very weak and in constant pain. Although Mr. Mahjoub was finally hospitalized today, Dr. Jane Pritchard, a doctor who examined him on Sunday, September 18th, warned of "risk of life-threatening arrhythmia if strike continues more than 3 days." Because of the long delay in providing appropriate treatment, his spouse, Mona Elfouli, said, "*I am holding the government of Canada responsible if anything happens to my husband.*"

Canada is also trying to deport Mr. Mahjoub to Egypt, despite the government's acknowledgement that he would be at risk of torture in a country with a record of state-sponsored torture. CCR condemns Canada's unlawful practice of sending a detainee to a

country where they would be at risk of being tortured, a practice the U.S. Government also engages in. CCR also demands that detainees be given access to courts to be able to challenge their detentions.

After 5 years of detention, with no end in sight, under constant stress, with his life hanging in the balance while he waits for justice, Mr. Mahjoub does not wish to end his hunger strike, believing that it is the only way left for him to fight for his dignity and that of his family.

*"Mr. Mahjoub, like many detainees held indefinitely by the United States, has been left no choice but to starve himself to demand basic humane treatment from a government that is detaining him on secret evidence without charges, and threatening to deport him to torture,"* **CCR Staff Attorney Maria LaHood** stated.