

Minister Ralph Goodale
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada K1A 0A6

Feb 12, 2016

Dear Minister Goodale,

I write on behalf of the Canadian Friends Service Committee (CFSC) the peace and social justice arm of The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Canada. We are concerned for the wellbeing of refugee Mohamed Harkat, who faces deportation to Algeria. We request that you allow Mohamed Harkat to stay in Canada.

Under section 42.1 of the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act you as Minister may decide that allowing Mohamed to stay in Canada is not contrary to the national interest.

We are deeply concerned that Mohamed's deportation to Algeria would be a deportation to torture. We urge you not to allow this to happen.

Mohamed has spent most of his adult life in Canada, and has built a strong network of family and friends who value his contribution to this country.

Quakers have expressed deep concerns with the potential for the erosion of civil liberties and the rule of law in Canada following the attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001. Of particular concern has been the use of Security Certificates. Mohamed has been one of those detained without charge and without evidence. We believe that he poses no threat, and that there is nothing to disprove his innocence.

Since 2009, all of the assessments done by CBSA, CSIS and Federal Court Justice Noel state clearly that Mohamed is at the very low end of risk. In September 2009, the court dropped the conditions significantly after CSIS said that he was not the threat initially thought.

It is hard to imagine how difficult life has been for Mohamed and his wife Sophie, who have had to deal with secret allegations, separation and long-term solitary confinement, very invasive house arrest conditions, and the kinds of accusations that can ruin one's reputation and life. And yet from what we hear, they maintain a hopeful, positive attitude, believing in a sense of justice prevailing.

We urge you to use your unique position as Minister, and the discretion afforded to you under the law, to exempt Mohamed Harkat from deportation and let him stay and live a productive life in Canada.

Sincerely,



Lana Robinson
Clerk, Canadian Friends Service Committee (Quakers)