



Don't Deport Mohamed Harkat to Torture  
Open Letter to Minister Ralph Goodale and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau

May 15, 2019

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau and Minister Goodale,

We are writing to you today to ask that you immediately end deportation proceedings against UN Convention refugee Mohamed Harkat, and allow him to remain in Canada.

We are deeply concerned that Immigration Canada is making a concerted effort to deport Mohamed Harkat. If deported to Algeria under a controversial Security Certificate, Mr. Harkat will likely be subjected to torture and his life will be at risk.

A Security Certificate unjustly permits the government to detain people indefinitely and eventually to deport them on the basis of secret information. The use of Security Certificates is a violation of fundamental human rights.

Mr. Harkat has spent most of his adult life in Canada, and has built a strong and supportive network of family and friends who value his contribution to this country, to the community, and to their lives. He is no threat to Canada.

For many years, the Council has supported efforts to end this injustice and to let Mr. Harkat stay in Canada, including through speaking at press conferences and rallies, as well as written statements. Mr. Harkat's wife Sophie spoke at our 2011 Annual Conference. We believe it's time to uphold the findings of the Arar and Iacobucci inquiries and to end this deeply undemocratic process and human rights violation.

As Prime Minister Trudeau noted on October 26, 2017, "I hope people remember to demand of governments, this one and all future governments, that nobody ever has their fundamental rights violated either through inaction or deliberate action by Canadian governments. Nobody ever deserves to be tortured. And when a Canadian government is either complicit in that or was not active enough in preventing it, there needs to be a responsibility taken."



You have the power under the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act to stop deportation proceedings. And you have a responsibility to prevent an irreversible injustice from taking place.

We at the Council of Canadians are unequivocally opposed to the secret trials, deportation to torture, and a two-tiered justice system, which Security Certificates represent. That Security Certificates are allowed to continue sends a very worrying message to the rest of world about where Canada stands on human rights and international law. This must come to an end.

Stop the deportation of Mohamed Harkat. Abolish Security Certificates. Let Mohamed Harkat stay.

Sincerely,

Leo Broderick  
Chairperson

Maude Barlow  
Honorary Chairperson