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Hon. Chrystia Freeland  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Global Affairs Canada

December 8, 2017

*Re: Hassan Diab*

Dear Minister Freeland,

I write to you today about the urgent consular case of Hassan Diab, Canadian citizen held in custody without trial in France since 2014. Since I last wrote to you about Mr. Diab's case in June of 2017, Mr. Diab's situation has changed for the worse, and it is essential that Canada improve its efforts on his behalf.

Mr. Diab has been held in solitary confinement in a French prison without charge since his extradition from Canada in 2014. Four French judges have ordered his release eight times. However, in November an appeals court overturned the most recent decision and rejected his release order. French lawyers have described this as unprecedented.

Minister, I am sure you have read the letter from Amnesty International dated June 15, 2017 which notes that "Mr. Diab's continuing detention in these circumstances contravenes France's obligations under European and international human rights norms. ... We specifically urge that the Canadian government advocate for Hassan Diab's release on bail without any further delay."

I am sure you have also read the recent public letter on Mr. Diab's situation, sent to the Prime Minister this November and signed by over 800 Canadians, including prominent members of past Liberal governments. This letter urges your government to escalate its efforts to ensure Mr. Diab's rights are no longer denied.

The delays in this case are unacceptable. It is clear that justice has not been served in this case. Mr. Diab has a right to due process. It is time for Canada to intervene in this case at the highest level.

Sincerely,

**Hélène Laverdière, MP**  
NDP Foreign Affairs Critic

CC: Rania Tfaily; Omar Alghabra, Parliamentary Secretary for Consular Affairs; Alex Neve, Amnesty International Canada