

February 9, 2007

The Honourable Stockwell Day
Minister for Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0P8

BY FAX: 613-952-2240

Dear Minister Day:

RE: Mahmoud Jaballah, Mohammad Mahjoub, Hassan Almrei

I am writing on behalf of the B.C. Civil Liberties Association (BCCLA) to urge you to appoint the Correctional Investigator of Canada to undertake a review and make recommendations regarding the concerns expressed by Mr. Jaballah, Mr. Mahjoub and Mr. Almrei that has prompted their hunger strikes at the Kingston Immigration Holding Centre. We also ask that an independent medical team undertake an immediate assessment of these men.

We understand that their concerns include access to appropriate medical care, outdoor access and regular exercise, the nature of family visits and access to prison programs, all standard features of those held in custody in Canadian prisons.

These men have all been in custody in Canada under security certificate provisions for over five years. The Canadian government's treatment of them while in prison is inhumane. Indeed, it is patently unacceptable that Canada treats individuals convicted of gravely serious crimes better than we do these men who have been convicted of no crime at all.

The BCCLA opposes the current security certificate provisions. We were intervenors before the Supreme Court of Canada in the Charkaoui, Almrei and Harkat appeals. While Canada awaits the decision of the Court in

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these appeals, we believe that the Canadian government has a solemn obligation to treat these men with the utmost respect and dignity. In failing these prisoners, Canada is failing to uphold the standard of respect for human rights the world has come to expect from us as a nation.

We urge you to act immediately.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. Gratl', written in a cursive style.

Jason Gratl,
President