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## Jamal Badawi and Alexandre Trudeau endorse CAIR-CAN

Original address: <http://www.caircan.ca/downloads/Newsletters/Summer2009Newsletter1.pdf>

Source: CAIR-CAN Outreach Report

Date: Summer 2009

Excerpts

Jamal Badawi:

CAIR-CAN's activism is professional, timely, and essential. I fully support CAIR-CAN and urge every Canadian Muslim to do the same.

Alexandre Trudeau:

CAIR-Canada is an excellent organization that helps Canadian Muslims be aware...  
CAIR-Canada is a terrific organization: it brings balance, knowledge, and those are the greatest defenders of our rights and freedoms.



**CAIR CAN**

Canadian Council on American-Islamic Relations

▶ ALEXANDRE TRUDEAU  
—DOCUMENTARY FILM  
MAKER AND JOURNALIST—  
ENCOURAGES CAIR-CAN  
SUPPORT



▶ CAIR-CAN HOSTS A  
PANEL DISCUSSION ON  
"CANADA'S ABANDONED  
CITIZENS" EXAMINING  
THE COMMON THEMES  
AND GOVERNMENT  
RESPONSE TO THE CASES  
OF CANADIAN MUSLIMS  
DETAINED ABROAD.



▶ CAIR-CAN SPEAKS AT  
A PRESS CONFERENCE  
ABOUT CANADIAN  
ABOUSFIAN ABDELRAZIK,  
WHO WAS SUBSEQUENTLY  
REPATRIATED FROM  
ALMOST SIX YEARS OF DE  
FACTO EXILE.



○ SUMMER

○ 2009

**CAIR CAN**

# Outreach

REPORT

## ALEXANDRE TRUDEAU

ENCOURAGES CAIR-CAN SUPPORT



*Question: Based on your experience as a journalist and documentary filmmaker, why do you support CAIR-CAN and how do you feel its work is relevant?*

Alexandre Trudeau: "... CAIR-Canada is an excellent organization that helps Canadian Muslims be aware, because that is the minimum we can do in this age, is be aware of the world we are inhabiting, and the challenges that its posing to our rights as individuals and communities, and unfortunately there are a lot of issues still necessarily begging our attention in Canada...

In recent years, I have personally in my work, been very concerned about the demonization of Muslims, often for strategic purposes, and I think CAIR-Canada is a terrific institution: it brings balance, knowledge, and those are the greatest defenders of our rights and freedoms." Oct. 25, 2008.

### "CANADA'S ABANDONED CITIZEN'S" PANEL AIRED ON CPAC

CAIR-CAN hosts a panel on "Canada's Abandoned Citizens", aired on CPAC, Canada's Cable Public Affairs Channel, an independent editorial voice on Parliament, politics and public affairs, available soon at [www.cpac.ca](http://www.cpac.ca), search for key words "abandoned" for the live recording of the panel held on June 25th, 2009. Watch it at <http://is.gd/1A8q0>

Featured speakers included lawyers for Abousfian Abdelrazik, Huseyin Cellil, Omar Khadr, and panelist Barbara Jackman who discussed government responses to cases of Canadian



Muslims abroad. Ms. Jackman, specializes in immigration and refugee law, and is a lecturer in Law at faculties in Queen's and Osgoode. Paul Champ, lawyer for Abousfian Abdelrazik team, discusses the treatment of their client by the Canadian government including issuance of the emergency passport needed to repatriate Abdelrazik. Also adding to the discussion is Chris McLeod, lawyer for Huseyin Cellil, speaking of the hardship Huseyin has endured, imprisoned in China. Finally, Dennis Edney, lawyer for Omar Khadr, asks the community for support, and more action from the Muslim community and its organizations.

This panel also provided insight as to the common themes experienced by these Canadian Muslims, in particular, the reasons why Abdelrazik, Cellil, Khadr and other cases deserve better, and the individual circumstances unique to each.





## BRING HUSEYIN CELIL HOME

Postcards campaigns have been underway the past year or more, with our goal to send 10, 000 signed postcards to Prime Minister Stephen Harper as a demonstration of our support to repatriate Huseyin Celil. Huseyin Celil, a Uyghur-Canadian, was sentenced to life in prison in China on terrorism charges in 2006 and remains in jail overseas despite years of lobbying by the federal government to secure his freedom. His wife and children in Toronto have received much support from Canadians including churches, and mosques. To pick up or have delivered 50 or more postcards to your address, please email us at [infoATcaircanDOTca](mailto:infoATcaircanDOTca).



these efforts include our weekly Media Watch emails, and addressing pertinent issues that arise within Canada through opinion editorials, and letters to the editor when appropriate. With volunteers, staff, and Board Members ensuring the success of CAIR-CAN's mandate, there is still much work to be done. We're always looking for enthusiastic and committed volunteers to help us out across Canada from coast to coast to coast including Vancouver, Halifax, Regina, Calgary, Waterloo, and Hamilton. If you or someone you know would be interested in volunteering with us to make this happen, please send resume and areas of interest to [infoATcaircanDOTca](mailto:infoATcaircanDOTca). We look forward to hearing from you soon, and look forward to speaking with suitable candidates.

### CONTRIBUTING TO CIVIC ENGAGEMENT OF CANADIAN MUSLIMS

Recently, CAIR-CAN Executive Director, Ihsaan Gardee, speaks at a Press Conference about Canadian Abovsfian Abdelrazik; specifically, the responsibility to ensure the rights of Abdelrazik who has been in de facto exile for six years.

Such efforts are part of CAIR-CAN's work in the fields of human rights, civil liberties, education and outreach, media relations and advocacy. When receiving calls, emails, and inquiries regarding human rights, cases are reviewed and referred as necessary to ensure Canadian Muslims have the support and advice they need when faced with issues of discrimination, racism and hate crime due to their Muslim faith.

In addition, CAIR-CAN recognizes the need to remain vigilant in how Islam and Canadian Muslims are portrayed in the media. Some of



### FEATURED CAIR-CAN NEWS RELEASE

#### CAIR-CAN welcomes Federal court decision on Omar Khadr

Calls on Government to respect Khadr's right to repatriation (Ottawa, Canada – 24/04/2009) – The Canadian Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-CAN) welcomes the decision of Justice O'Reilly of the Federal Court of Canada which concludes that the Government of Canada must request Omar Khadr's repatriation from the Guantanamo Bay detention facility.

In its April 23rd decision, the Federal Court stated that Canada has "the duty to protect

persons in Mr. Khadr's circumstances by taking steps to ensure that their fundamental rights, recognized in widely-accepted international instruments... are respected." Justice O'Reilly characterized this duty as a "principle of fundamental justice" under the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.

"Given this important decision, we once again call upon the Prime Minister and the federal government to respect Omar's *Charter* rights and repatriate this young citizen, the last remaining Western national, from Guantanamo," said CAIR-CAN Executive Director Ihsaan Gardee.

"By repeatedly citing the seriousness of the charges against Mr. Khadr and that he should face military proceedings in the United States as the reason not to act, the Canadian government continues its complicity in violating Omar's basic *Charter* rights and, in doing so, further prolongs his ordeal," Gardee added.

On February 3rd, 2009 CAIR-CAN was joined by 185 organizations, lawyers, civil liberties' advocates, and public personalities in an open letter urging Prime Minister Stephen Harper to repatriate Omar Khadr.

### CAIR-CAN CONTESTS

#### Name this Newsletter!

Parents and kids! Because CAIR-CAN is your organization, we would like your help in naming our newsletter! Please submit your idea for consideration to [infoATcaircanDOTca](mailto:infoATcaircanDOTca)

#### Design our Cover!

We have various publications, including our annual review that we send to hundreds of donors, and friends of CAIR-CAN at various events. Submit your artwork for consideration at [infoATcaircanDOTca](mailto:infoATcaircanDOTca). For past themes, please see the PDF of our Annual Reports at [www.caircan.ca](http://www.caircan.ca), click 'Online Publications'.

We appreciate all entries, and look forward to updating you soon. Contest closes Aug 15, 2009. For full contest rules, please visit [www.caircan.ca](http://www.caircan.ca)



*"CAIR-CAN's activism is professional, timely, and essential. I fully support CAIR-CAN and urge every Canadian Muslim to do the same" - Jamal Badawi*

**CALL TO DONATE TODAY AT 1-866-524-0004 OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR DETAILS AT [WWW.CAIRCAN.CA](http://WWW.CAIRCAN.CA), CLICK "SUPPORT US".**  
**LOOK FOR US ON  &  !**