



Canadian Association of University Teachers
Association canadienne des professeures et professeurs d'université

www.caut.ca
acppu@caut.ca

2705, promenade Queensview Drive
Ottawa (Ontario) K2B 8K2

Tel\Tél. 613-820-2270
Fax\Télé. 613-820-7244

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By fax: +442079250918

Right Honourable Gordon Brown
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London, UK
SW1A 2AA

Dear Prime Minister:

We are writing on behalf of the Canadian Association of University Teachers representing more than 60,000 academic and general staff at 123 universities and colleges across Canada. Our association is extremely concerned about the treatment of Hicham Yezza and Rizwaan Sabir of Nottingham University.

It is our understanding that Hicham Yezza, an employee, and Rizwaan Sabir, a graduate student, were arrested under the *Terrorism Act* two weeks ago for possessing a copy of an al-Qaida training manual that is freely available on a U.S. government web site. Mr. Sabir, who is researching al-Qaida as part of his M.A. studies, had forwarded an electronic copy of the manual to Mr. Yezza to print. The two were held for six days before being released without charge. However, Mr. Yezza, who has lived, worked and studied in Nottingham for the past 13 years, was subsequently re-arrested and is now threatened with deportation.

CAUT joins its sister organization, the University and College Union, in protesting the treatment of Mr. Yezza and Mr. Sabir. We are deeply concerned about the actions taken by the authorities and the disturbing signal it sends to the academic community in the United Kingdom. Anti-terror laws must not be used to stifle debate, free speech, or academic inquiry. Advances in knowledge cannot be made when members of the academic community live in a climate of fear and self-censorship, and without the respect of their academic freedom.

We urge your government to immediately halt all deportation proceedings against Mr. Yezza and to respect basic civil liberties and academic freedom.

Sincerely,

Penni Stewart
President

James L. Turk
Executive Director

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cc: Sally Hunt, General Secretary, University and College Union