

Free-Makhtal Working coalition Town Hall Meeting

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact information

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Free Makhtal-Working Coalition, a coalition of citizens, Human right, Civic Organization and residents of Canada, holding a town hall meeting to raise awareness about the plight of Bashir Makhtal, a Canadian Citizen who has been held in an Ethiopian prison for almost three years.

Under the guise of the war on terror, Mr. Bashir Makhtal of Toronto, was illegally detained by the Kenyan Government in 2006 and without any court proceeding, was transferred to a military prison in Ethiopia. Much of that time, Mr. Makhtal has not had access to legal representation nor have the charges against him ever been placed in front of a judge until early 2009. Canadian citizens and government must come to the aid of their fellow Canadian.

As Honourable Minister John Baird has noted, "the government of Prime Minister Stephen Harper has been very involved in Bashir's case. Three consecutive Foreign Ministers, Peter Mackay, David Emerson, and Lawrence Cannon, have pressured Ethiopian officials on this matter", however unfortunately, Bashir is still behind bars, and the Ethiopian governments process is dragging on. It is evident that the Canadian government needs to exert more pressure and find new avenues to help bring Bashir home.

This type of extraordinary renditions where any country can imprison anyone at anytime with out any legal protection is against the laws and conventions of the international community. During his imprisonment in Ethiopia, Mr. Makhtal has informed us that he was repeatedly subjected to torture and cruel treatment from Ethiopian security personnel.

Please support this great cause and join the Free-Makhtal Working Coalition, in Edmonton, on Sunday May 10, 2009, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Stanley A. Milner Library, regarding Mr. Makhtal's plight and to get more information on how you can help. Distinguished Members of Parliament, human rights practitioners, noted professor, and other experts will lead the discussions and plan of implementation.

For questions or press information, please contact Yassin Kassim at (780) 914-2226 and jawaabo@yahoo.com.