

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau,

As you know, there are currently at least 40 Canadian citizens waiting to be repatriated from Syria. Amongst them is Jack Letts who is currently being kept in appalling conditions in Qamishli detention facility. He has been held there arbitrarily without charge or any legal or consular assistance since 2017. The conditions in which he is being kept are inhumane and degrading and he has been subjected to long periods of solitary confinement and torture.

As Canadian citizens we believe it is time Jack, along with all the other Canadians currently being held in camps or detention centres, should be immediately brought back to Canada. Once he is repatriated, he should face a fair trial. Your government has shown that it has the ability to repatriate Canadians from the region. In fact, according to Amnesty International, "while providing consular assistance in Syria is undoubtedly challenging, it can be done." It is therefore time for your government to "act urgently to put an end to the arbitrary detention of these citizens."

Once home, we wholly believe that should the courts find him guilty, Jack should be held accountable and serve the appropriate punishment and rehabilitation proportionate to the crime.

We are not the only people who think this should happen. As stated by Human Rights Watch, "the government of Canada is flouting its international human rights obligations to Canadians who are arbitrarily detained in northeast Syria". Canada is breaching its duties including "taking necessary and reasonable steps to assist nationals abroad facing serious abuses including risks to life, torture, and inhuman and degrading treatment."

Indeed our very own parliament [released a report](#) in June 2021 which calls on the government to "pursue all options possible to repatriate the Canadian children detained in al-Hol and Roj camps in northeast Syria." As well as recommending that "the Government of Canada make every effort to provide consular services to all Canadians detained in northeast Syria."

The inaction of your government so far, which has prolonged the unlawful and harsh detention of Canadian citizens, goes against all Canadian values of democracy and justice. It goes against Canada's commitment to its citizens.

In your own words, 'A Canadian is a Canadian, is a Canadian' and no one's citizenship should be valued higher than someone else's.

Please use your position to do the right thing and repatriate your fellow citizen, the time to act is now.

Yours sincerely

...