

Vancouver CBSA Egyptian Refugee Cases

Background

- After the 2013 Egyptian military coup, thousands of Egyptians sought refugee status abroad. This includes human rights advocates, journalists, and political activists seek asylum, many of whom are members of the Freedom and Justice Party and Muslim Brotherhood (MB).
- Since the 2013 Egyptian military coup, over 4,000 Egyptians have claimed refugee status in Canada. There are many known cases of refugees who have based their refugee claim on their affiliation to the Muslim Brotherhood and the Freedom and Justice Party. Some of these individuals served as elected members of Parliament and others served in President Morsi's presidential office or Ministries. **Some of these individuals have been granted permanent residency, and others have become Canadian citizens.**

Vancouver Cases

- Despite the fact that the majority of CBSA officers across Canada recognize the legitimate refugee claims of Egyptians who fought for democracy in their country, a group of CBSA officers in Vancouver have used their biased opinion to argue that Egyptians who were members of the Freedom and Justice Party and the Muslim Brotherhood should not be allowed to be refugees in Canada - and are seeking to make the inadmissible.
- There is **ABSOLUTELY NO SPECIFIC** allegation of personal wrongdoing against any of these claimants as individuals. This is an allegation of affiliation.

Why is this Happening:

- There is wide **discretionary power given to CBSA officers without any oversight. It has led to abuse by individual CBSA officers due to their own biases, opinions, and prejudices.**
- This unchecked authority has allowed an inconsistent application of law, as some officers perceive security threats where the majority of the CBSA has not.
- With the 'reasonable standard to believe' framework, Immigration Refugee Board Members only need to be assured that the CBSA officer has provided evidence to corroborate his allegation. In this case the **CBSA has relied upon Islamophobic and biased evidence.**
- **The CBSA officer's arguments and evidence are underpinned in Islamophobia, Egyptian government propaganda, and right-wing sources.**

Impact on Families

- These Egyptian refugees have been subjected to an injustice by Canada. This situation has placed them in limbo and at risk of deportation to Egypt.
- They could have chosen any other country to find protection and start a new life. Instead they are now persecuted by the Government of Canada after escaping persecution in Egypt.

The Community Response

- **Discrimination, bigotry, and prejudice should not be tolerated especially when done underneath the excuse of the powers given to them by the immigration act.**
- The community across Canada has held protests, written letters to the Prime Minister and the Minister. Thousands of emails have been sent to the PMO. There has been widespread media about this.

Ask

- The Minister of Public Safety has chosen not to intervene despite ongoing calls for a resolution.
- **The community's confidence and support for the government has been impacted due to the lack of action on this matter.**
- **The Minister needs to intervene and call for the CBSA officer to withdraw his inadmissibility allegations against these refugees and allow them to submit refugee claims.**
- The refugees deserve a fair opportunity to present their refugee claims.