



CANADA

House of Commons Debates

**THE HONOURABLE JOE VOLPE, P.C., M.P.
QUESTION PERIOD: QUESTION CONCERNING
THE CONSERVATIVE GOVERNMENT'S TREATMENT OF CITIZENS ABROAD
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2009**

Hon. Joseph Volpe (Eglinton—Lawrence, Lib.): Speaker, I think Canadians want the Prime Minister to be concerned about Canadians.

Access to information documents tell us that the Prime Minister knew on July 1, not August 18, about Suaad's problems.

The communications director for the Minister of Foreign Affairs, at 8:57 in the morning, in an email marked urgent, said: "I need lines for the PM right away." Seventeen minutes later she repeated, "Lines for the Prime Minister, please".

Is the Prime Minister telling us today that he did not receive this briefing, that he was not paying attention or that he just did not care about Canadians' safety?

Supplemental Question

Hon. Joseph Volpe (Eglinton—Lawrence, Lib.): Can you believe this, Mr. Speaker? We are talking about a Canadian who was brought to the attention of the Prime Minister but neither he nor the Minister of Foreign Affairs are interested in responding today.

Ms. Hagi spent more than two months at the mercy of the Kenyan courts and yet, according to ATIP documents, members of the Prime Minister's staff were vetting all media lines from as early as June 5. Those same documents confirm a meeting between the Minister of Foreign Affairs, his officials and his staff on July 14.

When they made the decision to let Suaad rot in Kenya, were they acting on their own or were they following the Prime Minister's directions?