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Building Nunavut Together
Nunavut liuqatigiingniq
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Office of Premier Joe Savikataaq
Hivuliqtip Joe Savikataaq Havakvingani
Bureau du Premier ministre Joe Savikataaq

February 28, 2019

The Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
Parliament of Canada
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau,

I write on behalf of Nunavummiut, to express my concern about a distressing issue that remains unresolved, after nearly 50 years- the extradition of Fr. Joannes Rivoire from France.

It has come to my attention that the federal government has decided not to pursue the extradition of Fr. Rivoire. In January 2018, former Premier Paul Quassa wrote to you, expressing his support for this extradition. I have included his original letter in this package. From what I understand, a reply was never provided, and we have since learned that this extradition process has been abandoned from a recent media report.

The alleged crimes of Fr. Rivoire have created a devastating legacy in Nunavut, one that continues to impact our families, and cultivate lingering trauma. I am dismayed that we were never extended the courtesy of notice about this decision, and I re-iterate the urgency of exploring the extradition of Fr. Rivoire as soon as possible. His alleged victims in Nunavut deserve justice, and to begin to heal from this dark chapter.

I thank you in advance for your understanding of the gravity of this issue, and to the fair resolution to this situation. I look forward to hearing from you on updates about this issue.

Sincerely,

Joe Savikataaq
Premier of Nunavut

cc: The Honourable Jeannie Ehaloak, Nunavut Minister of Justice
The Honourable David Lametti, federal Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada
Kathy Okpik, Nunavut Deputy Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs
Bill MacKay, Nunavut Deputy Minister of Justice



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Office of the Premier Paul Quassa
Hivuliqti Paul Quassa
Bureau du premier ministre Paul Quassa

The Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
Parliament of Canada
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A2

January 22, 2018

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau,

Re: Support for the Extradition of Joannes Rivoire from France

I am writing to join my voice to those of my fellow Nunavummiut and Inuit Canadians on a matter of great concern.

Fr. Joannes Rivoire worked as a Catholic missionary in the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s in communities that are now part of Nunavut. In 1997 the RCMP laid charges against him related to sexual abuse that he is alleged to have committed against children in communities in the Kivalliq region of Nunavut between 1968 and 1970. He has now been the subject of an active RCMP arrest warrant for 20 years.

Fr. Rivoire is a French national and fled there in 1993 five years prior to the warrant being issued. As a result, he has never faced trial in Canada for his alleged crimes. This fact weighs heavily on the minds of those who have accused him, as well as their friends and families, who wish to see Fr. Rivoire brought to trial.

Led by the determined efforts of Piita Irniq, former Commissioner of Nunavut, repeated calls have been made by Inuit organizations and Nunavut politicians for the Government of Canada to pursue the extradition of Fr. Rivoire from France.

On behalf of concerned Nunavummiut, I too urge you to explore the extradition of Fr. Rivoire, who is now in his late 80s, in a timely fashion.

Should such a request be made and the French authorities refuse to extradite on account of Fr. Rivoire's French nationality, as is their right under Article 3 of the *Extradition Treaty Between the Government of Canada and the Government of the Republic of France E101343 - CTS 1989 No. 38*. I would ask that your government secure assurances from the French authorities that Fr. Rivoire will be prosecuted in France, as is their obligation upon refusal.



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Bureau du Premier ministre Joe Savikataaq

February 28, 2019

The Rt. Nanngarijaujuq Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minista Kanadamun
Kanadaup Kavamanga
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A2

Haluu Prime Minista Trudeau,

Titiraqtunga pidjutigiplugin Nunavunmiutat, uqarumaplugu ihumaalutigijara uumani ihumaalungnaqtumi ihumagidjutimi huli ihuarhaqtauhimaittuq, qaangiqhimagaluaqtillugit tikidjuqittugu 50nik ukiunik - aullaqtipkaininganik kitumun nunagijaujumu uumani Fr. Joannes Rivoire France-min.

Ilitturihimaliqtara kavamatuqatkut ihumaliuqhimaqut pingillutik aullaqtipkaiquninganik hamunga nunamun uumani Fr. Rivoire. January 2018mi, Hivuliqtiugaluaq Paul Quassa titiqqijaatin, uqaqhugu naammaiginia uumani aullaqtipkaiquninganik hamunga nunamun. Ilaliutihimajara titiraqqaahimajaa umunga titiraqhimajumu. Kangiqhimajamnin, kiujauhimagittuq, ilihimaliqtugullu una aullaqtipkaiquninganik hamunga nunamun taimaaqtauhimaliqtuq qangannaq tuhaqtipkaidjutini uqaqtauhimajunin.

Pinahugijaujun ihuinaarutit uumani Fr. Rivoire pipkaqtihimajuq quvianaitpiaqtumik qanuriliurutimik qanga taimaninmin Nunavunmi, taamna aularaanginnaqtuq huli hulaqutiplugin ilagijavun, pipkaijuqlu aularaanginnaqtunik aannirutinik. Quviahungittunga pidjaringnikkut illittripkaqtitauhimanginnapta uumani ihumaliurutimi, uqaffaaqtungalulu amirarninganik naunaijattiarutinganik uumani aullaqtipkaiquninganik hamunga nunamun uumani Fr. Rivoire qilaminuaq. Pinahugijaujun aanniqtiqhimajungnarhijait Nunavunmi piqariaqtun maligakkuurutittiarutikhanik, mamihalirlutiklu uumanga quvianaittumin pivangnirmin.

Qujagivagin hivuagun kangiqhihimanirnik anginiqaqpiarutaanik uumani ihumagijaujumi, uvungalu nakuujumik ihuaqhaidjutaani uumani taimaidjutimi. Niriuktunga tuhaamaamnin ilingnin nutaanguqturnutitik uumani ihumagijaujumi.

Pittiarnikkut,

Joe Savikataaq
Nunavutiup Hivuliqtia

cc: Nanngarijaujuq Jeannie Ehloak, Nunavunmi Minista Maligaliqjikkut
Nanngarijaujuq David Lametti, kavamatuqatkunni Minista Maligaliqjikkunni Maligalirijirjuaq Kanadami
Kathy Okpik, Nunavunmi Tukliq Minista Kavamaliqjikkunni
Bill MacKay, Nunavunmi Tukliq Minista Maligaliqjikkut



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Office of Premier Joe Savikataaq
Hivuliqtip Joe Savikataaq Havakvingani
Bureau du Premier ministre Joe Savikataaq

Le 28 février 2019

Le très hon. Justin Trudeau, c.p., député
Premier ministre du Canada
Parlement du Canada
Ottawa (Ontario) K1A 0A2

Monsieur le Premier Ministre,

Je vous écris au nom des Nunavummiutes et des Nunavummiuts pour vous faire part de ma préoccupation au sujet d'une situation qui, près de 50 ans après les faits, n'est toujours pas résolue : l'extradition du père Joannes Rivoire de la France.

J'ai pris connaissance de la décision du gouvernement fédéral de ne pas réclamer l'extradition du père Rivoire. En janvier 2018, mon prédécesseur Paul Quassa vous avait écrit pour vous signifier son appui à cette extradition. Je joins d'ailleurs sa lettre à mon message. J'ai cru comprendre que cette lettre était restée sans réponse, et un reportage récent m'a appris que le processus d'extradition avait été abandonné.

Les crimes reprochés au père Rivoire ont laissé au Nunavut de lourdes séquelles qui continuent de faire souffrir les familles et qui sont à l'origine de traumatismes persistants. Je suis consterné que nous n'ayons jamais été avisés de cette décision et tiens à réitérer l'importance de demander l'extradition du père Rivoire dans les plus brefs délais. Ses présumées victimes du Nunavut méritent d'obtenir justice pour pouvoir enfin commencer à clore ce sombre chapitre.

Je vous remercie d'avance de saisir la gravité de la situation et de veiller à ce qu'elle se résolve équitablement. J'espère que vous me tiendrez au fait de l'avancement de ce dossier.

Veillez agréer, Monsieur le Premier Ministre, mes sincères salutations.

Joe Savikataaq
Premier ministre du Nunavut

c. c. : L'honorable Jeannie Ehaloak, ministre de la Justice du Nunavut
L'honorable David Lametti, ministre fédéral de la Justice et procureur général du Canada
Kathy Okpik, sous-ministre de l'Exécutif et des Affaires intergouvernementales du Nunavut
Bill MacKay, sous-ministre de la Justice du Nunavut