

# PRESS RELEASE

**Thursday 12/01/2017**



**Demand for the immediate release of French citizen Christophe Naudin, arbitrarily held in the Dominican Republic for almost a year for political reasons.**

Senator for French Citizens Living Abroad Olivier Cadic took part last night in the press conference organised at the Palais du Luxembourg by the support association for Christophe Naudin and his lawyers, Eric Dupond-Moretti and Antoine Vey.

The senator stated that in the case of Christophe Naudin, the 'consular protection' must necessarily be supplemented by a 'diplomatic protection', under which the French state can denounce any failure to respect individual rights or any obvious circumvention of international agreements.

Thus the senator reminded the audience that at the time of Christophe Naudin's arrest in Cairo, diplomatic pressure from the Dominican Republic was quickly brought to bear on Egyptian justice, without eliciting any reaction from France.

In fact, Christophe Naudin's carefully staged extradition, and his arrival at the St Domingue court under a military guard usually reserved for the worst of drug dealers, were accompanied by declarations of a Dominican diplomatic victory over France in Egypt.

The charges laid – imaginary, constantly evolving and never quite finalised – were insufficient to validate the reasons for Christophe Naudin’s incarceration, despite almost a dozen hearings by the Dominican court.

Pointing out that the press conference was taking place inside the very seat of the French Senate, a key location in the defence of public liberties, Senator Olivier Cadic demanded ‘the immediate release of Christophe Naudin, arbitrarily held in the Dominican Republic for almost a year for political reasons.’

He also expressed the necessity of improving international legislation with two concrete measures :

1 – Organising the systematic transfer of individuals arrested on the basis of an international arrest warrant to a third party country that would offer all the guarantees towards a serene exercising of the defence’s rights.

2 – Organising a legal cover similar to medical repatriation insurance offered to travellers before they go to a foreign country.



**Press Conference – Palais du Luxembourg – Wednesday 11/01/2017**