

Wally
202 E Riverside
Williamston, MI 48895

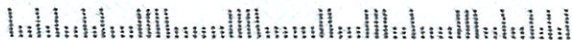
LANSING MI 489

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Lanley Hill Friends Meeting
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202 E. Riverside St.
Williamston, MI 48895
March 16, 2005

Dear Friends --

Red Cedar Friends in Lansing, Michigan, held your meeting in the Light during our regular meeting for worship this past First Day. We share the terrible pain of Tom Fox's loss, and can only imagine what it means to your meeting.

Like many others, I have followed the story of the CPT abductions since late November, and in the early days I sent appeals to many friends scattered across the Middle East. Today I received this message from a friend in Tunisia, who I know from my association with Amnesty International:

Ma chère Susan,

C'est avec beaucoup de peine et une immense tristesse que Habiba et moi venons d'apprendre l'assassinat de Tom. Nous sommes restés sans nouvelles de lui et puis, brusquement, la semaine dernière, il nous était montré à la télévision. On espérait bien qu'il serait libéré. Surtout qu'un très bon travail d'approche a été accompli auprès des journalistes arabes et des personnes influentes auprès des groupes islamistes.

Ses assassins se prévalent de la religion musulmane, à laquelle ma famille et ma communauté appartiennent. Je ressens une terrible honte. A mes yeux, Tom est un saint, un amoureux de l'humanité au péril de sa vie. Que sa famille, que vous tous, que tous les Quakers, acceptiez l'expression de notre profonde sympathie et soyez assurés que nous ne l'oublierons jamais. Nous l'avons aimé, nous avons admiré son exemple. Notre exemple, il le restera à jamais.

Tendrement

Mahmoud et Habiba Ben Romdhane

Roughly translated:

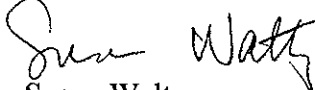
It is with much pain and an immense sadness that Habiba and I have just learned of Tom's murder. We have been without news of him and then, abruptly, last week, he was [they were?--sw] shown on television. We hoped that he would be liberated. Especially as very good lobbying work had been carried out by Arab journalists and people who were influential with the Islamist groups.

His assassins have roots in the Muslim religion, to which my family and my community belong. I feel a terrible shame. In my eyes, Tom is a saint, a lover of humanity at the risk of his own life. I hope that his family, that you all, that all Quakers, will accept our profound condolences and know that we will not forget him ever. We loved him, and we admired his example. For us, he will always remain an example.

In coming weeks and months I hope you are able to take solace in the words of William Penn:

*For this is the comfort of the good, that the grave cannot hold them.
Death cannot kill what never dies.*

With tender affection to you all,


Susan Waltz