



## Condemn TD

### Save our Canada from Human-Rights Abuses

#### Public Demonstration

The TD Bank adheres to discriminatory practices that target Canadian citizens of Iranian heritage, rather than comply with the letter and spirit of the new SEMA sanctions. The institution's arbitrary actions have consisted of terminating bank accounts, calling back mortgages, and closing the lines of credit of many customers with an Iranian background.

The actions of TD can neither be justified by the SEMA regulations, nor be excused by any pretext of promoting national security. Rather, the Bank's approach systematically institutionalizes prejudice against individuals of Iranian heritage.

To demonstrate our solidarity, we stand shoulder to shoulder with innocent Iranians unfairly tarred and feathered by TD Bank.

#### Background

Recently Iranian-Canadians have been targeted by TD Canada Trust. Many clients of the Bank sharing an Iranian background received "Termination notice" letters informing them that they would no longer be permitted to maintain accounts at TD bank. Many of the affected clients are first generation Canadians who have never engaged in any type of illegal activity or prohibited financial transaction. Nonetheless, TD bank forced many of its loyal clients to terminate their accounts, refinance existing mortgages, and pay off credit cards and lines of credit without offering such individuals any opportunity to rectify the error or demonstrate that they have fully complied with all Canadian laws and regulations.

Although TD bank has belatedly claimed it will endeavor to "improve communications" with affected clients, it has refused to provide any

affected customer a bona fide opportunity to present evidence as to why they have not engaged in any unlawful activity or to apologize to such individuals for the Bank's rash conduct.

It appears Canadians originally hailing from a country identified in the SEMA regulations are being used as escape goats by TD to cover up for its cozy relationship with the governments of sanctioned countries in the past.

We wish to condemn the arbitrary actions of TD Canada Trust which are disruptive to the lives of ordinary citizens. These actions are unfair, and inherently un-Canadian, discriminatory and humiliating. TD Canada Trust should accept responsibility and provide full accountability and precise justification to any client of Iranian background affected by its arbitrary conduct.

#### We propose the following actions:

- TD Canada Trust to stop issuing "Termination Notices" unless they first provide affected individuals an opportunity to properly establish the facts.
- A letter of apology be sent to clients subjected to rash decision making by the Bank.
- TD Canada Trust to promote transparency by providing full & precise justification to all the affected clients.
- TD Canada Trust to devise a process to interview clients whose accounts are under investigation so as to allow the bank to properly assess pending banking risks in the future.
- The Canadian government is under a constitutional and international obligation to take all necessary measures to protect the human dignity and basic human rights of all its citizens and to avoid and prevent discrimination based on "national or ethnic origin."

## SAY NO TO "TD CANADA TRUST"'S BULLYING BANKING ACTIONS.

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