



Press Release

For immediate release

Arar Commission adopts new procedure to ease inquiry process

Ottawa, April 7, 2005 - In a ruling rendered today, Justice Dennis R. O'Connor who heads the Commission of Inquiry into the Actions of Canadian Officials in Relation to Maher Arar, detailed a new procedure designed to develop a more efficient, expeditious and workable process for the Inquiry. These changes have been agreed to by all the parties.

In his ruling, Justice O'Connor explains that : "The Rules of Practice and Procedure will be amended so that I may prepare summaries of the evidence heard *in camera*, but will no longer be committed to do so. At the present time I do not intend to prepare any further summaries. The new procedure (...) provides an approach in which disagreements about what should be disclosed publicly, if they arise, can be addressed at one time and in the context of a report containing findings of fact, rather than on the basis of summaries of the evidence heard *in camera*."

The complete text of the ruling can be found on the Commission's Web site:
www.ararcommission.ca

Established under Part I of the Inquiries Act, the Arar Inquiry was set up on the recommendation of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness to investigate and report on the actions of Canadian officials in relation to Maher Arar. The Commissioner is also mandated to make recommendations that he considers advisable on an arm's length review mechanism for the activities of the RCMP with respect to national security.

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Media contact: Francine Bastien,
(613) 996-4741, Cellular: (613) 299-6554, fbastien@bellnet.ca

PO Box / CP 507, Station B / Succursale B
Ottawa, Canada K1P 5P6

613 996-4741 Fax / télécopieur 613 992-2366

www.ararcommission.ca / www.commissionarar.ca