



Press Release

For immediate release

Commission of Inquiry receives a wide range of written submissions relative to its Policy Review mandate

Ottawa, March 3, 2005 – In response to a call for public submissions issued last December, Mr. Justice Dennis R. O'Connor who heads the Commission of Inquiry into the Actions of Canadian Officials in Relation to Maher Arar, announced today that he has received a wide range of written submissions by individuals and organizations to help him with the Policy Review side of his mandate. The submissions are in response to the Commissioner's Consultation Paper and Background Papers released last fall.

The list of organisations includes: The Canadian Arab Federation and Canadian Council on American-Islamic Relations, the Canadian Civil Liberties Association, the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS), The Commission for Public Complaints Against the RCMP, the Communications Security Establishment Commissioner (CSE), the International Civil Liberties Monitoring Group, the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), the Ottawa Police Services, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) and the Security Intelligence Review Committee (SIRC).

The Commissioner wishes to thank all those who have contributed their insights as well as their expertise to the Commission through their written submissions. The written submissions are part of the public consultation phase of the Policy Review. Further consultations including domestic and international expert roundtables and public hearings will be taking place in the coming months.

As part of his mandate the Commissioner has 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.

The complete list of submissions as well as additional information on the public consultation process can be found on the Commission's Web site: www.ararcommission.ca under Policy Review.

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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