



## Press Release

For immediate release

### **Stephen J. Toope appointed “Fact Finder” in the case of Maher Arar’s treatment**

**Ottawa, July 29, 2005** – Commissioner Dennis O’Connor, who heads the Commission of Inquiry into the Actions of Canadian Officials in Relation to Maher Arar, announced today the appointment of Prof. Stephen J. Toope as fact finder to investigate and report to him on Mr. Arar’s treatment during his detention in Jordan and Syria and the effect of that detention on him and his family.

Prof. Toope is currently the President of the Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation which is based in Montreal. He is a former Dean of McGill’s Faculty of Law, and a scholar specializing in public international law, human rights and legal theory. He is a graduate of Harvard, McGill and Cambridge. He served as law clerk to the Right Honourable Brian Dickson, Chief Justice of Canada, and has been a member and chair of the board of directors of several civil society organizations devoted to the promotion of human rights and international development.

Prof. Toope also serves as Chair and Rapporteur of the United Nations Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, and recently concluded a fact finding mission to Nepal. He has previously undertaken human rights investigations in Kenya and Sri Lanka, and has worked on legal reform initiatives in many developing countries.

*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 Royal Canadian Mounted Police with respect to national security.*

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