



## Press release

### For immediate Release

### Commission of Inquiry releases RCMP report on Arar case

**Ottawa, September 24, 2004** - The Commission of Inquiry into the Actions of Canadian Officials in Relation to Maher Arar tabled today, as an exhibit at the *in camera* hearings currently under way, a partially redacted version of the report prepared by Chief Superintendent Brian Garvie concerning the role of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) with respect to the detention and deportation of Maher Arar to Syria.

The 76 page report, - about 25% of which has been redacted or blacked out by the RCMP - , is the result of an investigation ordered on October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2003 by Ms. Shirley Heafey, Chair of the Commission of Public Complaints against the RCMP.

The document released today reviews the manner in which the RCMP carried out its overall mandate in the post 9/11 national security environment. It says: "At that time, both at headquarters and in the field, the RCMP did not have sufficient investigative expertise, nor did they have the capacity to efficiently and effectively deal with national security investigations overall." The document also identifies some flaws in the way information was exchanged between the RCMP, U.S and Syrian authorities: "The manner in which the information was provided was not in accordance with RCMP policy ( ...) the reliability assessment of that information was inaccurate."

Upon making the document public, lead Commission counsel Paul Cavalluzzo indicated: "in accordance with its mandate as a public inquiry, the Commission releases the Garvie Report today as an exhibit after RCMP Assistant Commissioner Ghyslaine Clements's letter was made public earlier this summer. Also, on September 13<sup>th</sup>, the Commission tabled as an exhibit the Security Intelligence Review Committee (SIRC) report on the role of Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) relative to Maher Arar."

The Commission of inquiry expects to start the next series of *in camera* hearings in October. These hearings will be examining evidence dealing with the role of the RCMP in connection with the detention and deportation of Maher Arar.

*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 Commission is also mandated*

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*to recommend an arm's length review mechanism for the activities of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police with respect to national security. [www.ararcommission.ca](http://www.ararcommission.ca).*

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