



Press Release

Arar Commission discloses more information to the public

Ottawa, August 9, 2007 - The Commission of Inquiry into the actions of Canadian Officials in Relation to Maher Arar is releasing today further information to the public from Commissioner Dennis O'Connor's Report of the Events Relating to Maher Arar. "In our view, some important information relating to human rights and torture issues will now be disclosed to the public. As a result, there is more transparency in the process which will lead to more accountability for government officials" said Commission Lead Counsel Paul Cavalluzzo on the new information being made public.

The release of this new information has now been authorized by the recent judgment of Mr. Justice Simon Noël of the Federal Court of Canada. The judgment resolved a dispute between the Arar Commission and the Government of Canada concerning the disclosure of information which the government asserted should be kept confidential for national security reasons. Commission Counsel Paul Cavalluzzo was pleased with the judgment in that it justified the Commission's longstanding efforts to get more information disclosed.

About the government's decision not to appeal the Federal Court judgement, Mr. Cavalluzzo said: "The Federal Court has authorized the release of the majority of the information in dispute. He further added: "The judgment is the culmination of a long process in which the government has released a great deal of information which it initially resisted and which the Commission felt should be disclosed. The government should be commended for its decision not to appeal this judgment. The public interest is served by finally closing the book on the Arar Report."

An addendum to the Commission's Report of the Events Relating to Maher Arar, released on September 18, 2006, will soon be available on the Commission's website at www.ararcommission.ca under "Addendum". The newly unredacted pages of the Report appear in bold.

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