



## Press Release

**For immediate release**

### **The Arar Inquiry releases PCO documents relative to Maher Arar**

**Ottawa, May 5, 2005** -- The Commission of Inquiry into the Actions of Canadian Officials in Relation to Maher Arar, headed by Mr. Justice Dennis O'Connor, is releasing today two volumes of redacted documents dealing with the actions of officials in the Office of the Privy Council (PCO) relative to Maher Arar. The documents have been tabled as exhibits in the course of the Commission's *in camera* hearings.

The redacted – blacked out - documents chronicle events dated from October 18, 2002, shortly after M. Arar's arrest in New-York, until the end of 2003. In the course of *in camera* hearings, the Commission has received factual evidence, on which the government claims National Security Confidentiality (NSC) on PCO's role in connection with the case of M. Arar. Also, some portions of the documents have been redacted in order to respect the privacy of individuals and their families.

The Commission will not comment on the contents of the documents released today as they are part of the evidence before the Inquiry. These documents will be used at the Commission's public hearings that are being held in May and June.

*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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