



Press Release

For immediate release

The Commission will hold a special *in camera* hearing on November 18

Ottawa, November 16, 2004 - The Commission of Inquiry into the Actions of Canadian Officials in Relation to Maher Arar, which is headed by Mr. Justice Dennis O'Connor, will be holding an *in camera* hearing on Thursday November 18 in order to receive oral submissions about whether unredacted portions of certain RCMP documents will be released to the public. The documents have been filed as exhibits at the Inquiry. The redactions were made by the government as part of its claims on National Security Confidentiality (NSC). The Commissioner has not, as yet, ruled on these NSC claims.

Maher Arar's lawyers have requested that the unredacted portions of the RCMP documents be released to the public forthwith. At the hearing, the Commissioner must decide either to allow the release of the unredacted portions of these documents or, if necessary, to hold a public hearing to hear the parties' arguments as to whether the documents should be released at this time. The Commissioner's decision will be made public shortly after.

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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Media contact: Francine Bastien,
(613) 996-4741, Cellular: (613) 299-6554, fbastien@bellnet.ca

PO Box / CP 507, Station B / Succursale B
Ottawa, Canada K1P 5P6

613 996-4741 Fax / télécopieur 613 992-2366

www.ararcommission.ca / www.commissionarar.ca