

Minister of Public Safety



Ministre de la Sécurité publique

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0P8

MAR 02 2016

Mr. Joseph Hickey
Executive Director
Ontario Civil Liberties Association
joseph.hickey@ocla.ca

Dear Mr. Hickey:

Thank you for your correspondence of January 29, 2016, concerning Mr. Mohamed Harkat.

The *Privacy Act* prohibits me from commenting on this case or acknowledging whether information exists without the written authorization of Mr. Harkat. However, I can provide you with the following general information.

The Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) has an obligation to remove as soon as possible persons who are not entitled to remain in Canada. Everyone ordered removed is entitled to due process before the law, and all removal orders are subject to various levels of appeal.

Prior to removal, persons may seek leave for judicial review as well as administrative review that assesses the potential risk to the person returning to the country of origin. Pre-removal risk assessment is one of the safeguards in place to ensure that those in need of protection are not removed. This assessment is conducted by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada.

The decision to remove someone is not taken lightly, and persons are dealt with on a case-by-case basis. It is imperative for the integrity of the system that once all legal avenues of review are exhausted, a person subject to a removal order respects the law and leaves Canada or is removed.

I assure you that the Government and the CBSA are committed to the equitable application of Canada's immigration laws.

Thank you again for writing.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ralph Goodale'.

The Honourable Ralph Goodale, P.C., M.P.

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