



## **Muslims for Peace & Justice**

P.O. Box 28044 ~ Regina, Saskatchewan ~ S4N 7L1

Tel: (306) 535-0155 ~ [info@mpjsask.org](mailto:info@mpjsask.org) ~ [www.mpjsask.org](http://www.mpjsask.org)

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# **Press Release #2**

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Muslims for Peace & Justice calls on the government to investigate Canadian citizens' detention and deportation**

(Regina, SK 10/16/02) The Saskatchewan-based Muslims for Peace & Justice [MPJ] organization demanded today that the Canadian government not only pressure the United States into giving them answers, but also pursue a thorough independent investigation into the unlawful detention and deportation of a Canadian citizen, Mr. Maher Arar.

Mr. Maher Arar was traveling from Zurich to Montreal via the United States, where he was detained by U.S. authorities and then illegally deported to Syria on October 10, 2002.

MPJ wrote, "The unlawful detention and deportation of Mr. Maher Arar is a serious violation of his human rights. The fact that the United States did not inform the Canadian government that it had detained one of its citizens is a flagrant attack against Canada's sovereignty and this situation must not be resolved with only a formal protest."

MPJ also calls on the Canadian government to secure the safe return of its citizen to Canada.

Finally, MPJ recommends that the government plan an appropriate strategy to deal with such matters on a permanent basis. As the situation with Iraq and the United States escalates, we expect more such problems to occur in the future. All Canadians must join together, maintain our identity as a nation, and deal with any external and internal threats that our nation may face.