

The Baha Mousa Public Inquiry

Inquiry Chairman: The Right Honourable Sir William Gage

Tuesday 21 April 2009

Press notice

Inquiry's Directions Hearing is cancelled

The Inquiry has announced today that the date provisionally set aside for the third Directions Hearing, 29th April, will not be needed. There are presently no outstanding matters to be resolved by means of an oral hearing and no core participant has raised any issue for this hearing following the Inquiry's invitation to them to do so, where appropriate.

Accordingly, and in line with its obligation to avoid wasted costs, the Inquiry has determined that this Directions Hearing is unnecessary. The original plan for further Directions Hearings to be held as we approach the Opening of the Inquiry remains and 3 days will be set aside, **8th, 9th & 10th June 2009**, for the resolution of any outstanding preliminary matters. The Inquiry stands ready, however, to hear any matter which requires more urgent attention.

The Chairman has received from potential witnesses a number of anonymity and related applications which he had expected to have dealt with by this time but in the light of the time taken to receive material and information from various interested parties, this process has had to be put back.

The distribution of documentation to core participants and the witness statement taking process continues apace but the Inquiry remains dependent upon the progress of the Ministry of Defence in processing these documents for it to meet its targets and deadlines.

Last week the Inquiry published its expenditure for the financial year 2008/09. Whilst the set-up and running costs of the Inquiry to date are within budget, the Chairman points out that the meeting of deadlines, the keeping to time schedules and ultimately the

timely delivery of the final Report are crucial factors in keeping costs to an appropriate minimum. He has reiterated his determination to ensure that its progress is not unnecessarily delayed.

Note to Editors

1. An issues list is available on the Inquiry's website at www.bahamousainquiry.org/key_documents/index.htm. This is designed as a guide to the issues that the Inquiry is likely to cover and it may be subject to revision from time to time.
2. The Inquiry's costs for the financial year 2008/09 were published on Friday 17 April and are available at <http://www.bahamousainquiry.org/administration/costs.htm>. These will be updated periodically as the inquiry progresses. Regular newsfeeds update interested parties and you can subscribe to these on our website.
3. The inquiry has already announced its intention to begin hearing Opening Statements on 13 July 2009.
4. Directions hearings and the Opening Statement are open to the public. Journalists wishing to attend the hearing should contact the Inquiry press office (details below) and will need to arrive at least fifteen minutes before the start of proceedings to ensure entry. All attendees will be required to undergo security checks in line with normal court procedures before being admitted to the building, and photography and the use of mobile phones in the hearing room is prohibited.
5. Court Reporting Rules: Sir William Gage highlighted at the Preliminary Hearing that at the Court Martial of seven servicemen arising out of these events, the presiding Judge Advocate made an order, which remains in force for this Inquiry, requiring the media not to publish certain features and information in relation to the Defendants. A note on these restrictions and subsequent orders made by the Chairman are available on the website.

For more information please contact Suzanne Halls or Mark Fenwick in the Baha Mousa Inquiry Press Office on 020 7261 8327 / 07971 186710, or visit the website at www.bahamousainquiry.org.