

# The Baha Mousa Public Inquiry

Inquiry Chairman: The Right Honourable Sir William Gage

Wednesday 3 December 2008

## Press notice

### Inquiry holds first Directions Hearing

Today, the Baha Mousa Inquiry held its first Directions Hearing. The hearing was a procedural one at which the Chairman, the Rt Hon Sir William Gage, heard submissions from lawyers representing the Inquiry's core participants. The core participants had been invited to make representations about matters such as reporting restrictions and legal representation arrangements.

As with all the Inquiry's open hearings, the transcript will be available on its website soon afterwards. The transcript and copies of the submissions received by the Inquiry will go live from 1800 today and can be viewed by following the links [http://www.bahamousainquiry.org/hearings/directions\\_hearing/index.htm](http://www.bahamousainquiry.org/hearings/directions_hearing/index.htm) at

The Chairman has indicated that a second Directions Hearing will be held on Monday 19 January 2009, continuing on Tuesday 20 January if necessary.

### Note to Editors

1. All Hearings are held at the Inquiry's premises in the City of London: Finlaison House, 15-17 Furnival Street, London EC1A 1AB. ([View location map](#)).
2. Today's hearing had the following agenda:
  - Representation issues
  - Undertakings re domestic courts and proceedings
  - Undertakings/actions re international/foreign courts
  - Anonymity and other protection measures
  - Timetabling considerations
3. An issues list is available on the Inquiry's website at [www.bahamousainquiry.org/key\\_documents/index.htm](http://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.

4. Directions hearings are open to the public. Journalists wishing to attend the hearing should contact the Inquiry press office (details below) and will need to arrive by 09:45 on the hearing day(s) 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. Anybody was invited to make submissions in relation to this order, or any related matter affecting other service personnel, by contacting the Chairman in writing by 14 November 2008. If necessary he shall consider them and any further argument at the first Directions Hearing.

**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](http://www.bahamousainquiry.org).**