

# The Baha Mousa Public Inquiry

Inquiry Chairman: The Right Honourable Sir William Gage

Thursday 5 February 2009

## Press notice

### Inquiry issues anonymity order

The Chairman of the Baha Mousa Inquiry, the Rt Hon Sir William Gage, has today published his ruling on an application by seven of those detained with Baha Mousa for a restriction order to prevent publication of their identities.

Submissions were made at the second Directions Hearing, held on 19 January 2009, and the Chairman issued an interim order on the same day. He has now confirmed that order, stating that “if no restriction order is made it will make it more likely that they would be subjected to an increased risk of death and mistreatment.”

Sir William made clear, that whilst the detainees will give evidence to the Inquiry in public, without the protection of a restriction order they may feel inhibited by fears for the safety of themselves and their families.

The ruling that is published today is an “open ruling”. A fuller version of the ruling, setting out the reasoning in full, has been sent to the Inquiry’s core participants but it is not being made public. The open ruling contains as much of the Chairman’s reasoning as possible without giving rise to the very risks that the ruling guards against.

Wednesday 18 February 2009 has been set as the provisional date for the Inquiry’s next Directions Hearing.

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## 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 EC4A 1AB. ([View location map](#)).
2. The Chairman's rulings, including the interim order that today's ruling confirms, can be viewed at: [http://www.bahamousainquiry.org/key\\_documents/rulings.htm](http://www.bahamousainquiry.org/key_documents/rulings.htm)
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. A note on these restrictions is available on the website and today's order complements those restrictions.

**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).**