

The Baha Mousa Public Inquiry

Inquiry Chairman: The Right Honourable Sir William Gage

NOT FOR BROADCAST OR PUBLICATION

Attention Defence and Home Affairs Correspondents / Accredited Media

BAHA MOUSA INQUIRY REPORT LAUNCH

The Chairman of the Baha Mousa Public Inquiry, Sir William Gage, will publish his Inquiry Report and make a public statement at 11am on Thursday 8 September 2011. The report will be made available on the Inquiry website, and the statement will be transmitted live through a pool facility.

Before the formal launch of the report and the Chairman's broadcast statement, representatives of the media and other interested parties will have an opportunity to view a printed summary and full on-line copy in a "lock-in" under embargo conditions.

Date:	Thursday 8 September 2011
Location:	Finlaison House, 15-17 Furnival Street, London, EC4A 1AB (map on Inquiry website).
Timings:	<p>8.00am – Doors open – This is a media lock-in, and mobile devices will be collected before entry, securely stored and returned on exit. Laptops without internet/ wi-fi will be permitted. No admittance after 9.15am.</p> <p>8.15am – Inquiry Report lock-in begins – Copies of the Baha Mousa Inquiry Report summary and its recommendations will be supplied. Background information and press office support will also be available.</p> <p>11.00am – Journalists may leave the lock-in with a summary of the report. The full interactive report with links to evidence will be available on the Inquiry website.</p> <p>11.03am – The Chairman of the Baha Mousa Public Inquiry, Sir William Gage, will read a short statement to camera in the hearing room, transmitted as pool image / audio via the BBC (details below).</p> <p>Approximately 11.30am to 12.30pm – The Baha Mousa Inquiry Report will be laid before Parliament.</p>

Attendance at the Media Lock-in – If you wish to attend the embargoed media lock-in, you must contact the Baha Mousa Inquiry press office in advance. Please present a valid press card / ID on arrival. Arrival is from 8.00am, with no admittance after 9.15am or exit before 11.00am. The lock-in will start in the Inquiry hearing room, and then move to the dedicated media centre at 10.45am, prior to the Chairman's statement.

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Media Pool for Coverage of Statement – Sir William Gage’s statement will be available for live broadcast on TV and radio via a pool broadcaster – BBC TV.

Pictures – will be available for media use from the media centre area of the Baha Mousa website.

Please contact the Baha Mousa Inquiry press office on 020 7261 8327 / 8342 to confirm your attendance and for further details.

Notes to Editors

1. Opening statements started on 13 July 2009, and ran until 14 October 2010. During this time the Inquiry obtained statements from 388 potential witnesses, of whom 277 were called to give oral evidence, occupying 115 sitting days. The remaining 111 witness statements were read into the transcript. All evidence and transcripts can be found at: http://www.bahamousainquiry.org/baha_mousa_inquiry_evidence/evidencev1.htm
2. Early in the Inquiry process, to assist the Chairman in his search for the truth, undertakings were given by the Attorney General, the Permanent Under-Secretary of the MoD, the Commander in Chief Fleet, the Army’s Chief of General Staff and the Chief of the Air Staff. These undertakings provide, in summary, that evidence given by an individual witness cannot be used against the same witness in any criminal or disciplinary proceedings. It is factually incorrect to describe these undertakings as an “immunity from prosecution”, as they have no bearing on the use of the evidence of one inquiry witness against another in subsequent proceedings. Further information is available at http://www.bahamousainquiry.org/linkedfiles/baha_mousa/key_documents/rulings1.pdf .
3. The Chairman has no power to determine any witness’ criminal or civil liability – see Section 2 of the Inquiries Act 2005. Whether any such liabilities will result from the Inquiry Report are matters entirely for the relevant parties / prosecuting authorities and any subsequent court process.
4. 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 relating to the Detainees and other witnesses are available on the website at: http://www.bahamousainquiry.org/linkedfiles/baha_mousa/key_documents/rulings/rptrestr ict171110.pdf
5. The Inquiry will publish the report at 11am, on 8 September 2011. It will be available on the website with direct links to referenced evidence. Redactions have been applied to these source documents only where it has been necessary to exclude information from the public domain as a result of harm or damage to individuals, national security and/or international relations that might result if it were published. All such redactions are being ordered by way of a Restriction Notice and media should only publish those versions of any document covered by the Notice that appear on the Inquiry’s website. Further information will be available from our website on 31 August.

3. A list of Core Participants can be found at:
http://www.bahamousainquiry.org/about/background/core_participants.htm
4. An issues list is available on the Inquiry's website at:
http://www.bahamousainquiry.org/linkedfiles/baha_mousa/key_documents/issues_list.pdf
5. All attendees (including accredited reporters) will be required to undergo security checks in line with normal court procedures before being admitted to the building.
6. Please note that space at the Inquiry is limited and is not guaranteed without prior notice.
7. The Inquiry has a purpose-built media area as an extension to the Inquiry hearing room, served by live audio, video link and Livenote instantaneous transcript. Those attending the Inquiry should note that both the hearing room and the media centre are subject to the following restrictions:
 - Cameras and recording equipment are strictly prohibited.
 - Phone calls in the hearing room are not permitted at any time. In the media centre they are not permitted when the Inquiry is in session, with all mobile phone/blackberry devices switched off or put on silent.
 - Phone calls in the media centre may be made during breaks in proceedings but must conclude before the Inquiry resumes. To make calls during proceedings, reporters must leave Finlaison House.
 - Laptops may be used in the media centre if they do not disturb others, but they may not be used to make live recordings of proceedings. Only limited numbers of power sockets will be available: laptops should be battery powered where possible.
 - Personal entertainment devices such as MP3 players and iPods may not be used at the Inquiry when in session.
 - The Inquiry reserves the right to eject (and if necessary to review the accreditation of) individuals who fail to comply with these conditions.
8. Please also note that space outside Finlaison House is extremely limited, with NO PARKING in, or near, the building.
9. The media centre has a small kitchen in which tea and coffee making facilities are provided, along with a water cooler. Attendees are welcome to bring their own food, but eating and drinking in the hearing room are prohibited. The Inquiry cannot take responsibility for any items stored in this area.

**Contact the Baha Mousa Press Office
on 020 7261 8327/ 8342.
Please visit www.bahamousainquiry.org**