

The Baha Mousa Public Inquiry

Inquiry Chairman: The Right Honourable Sir William Gage

Wednesday 7 January 2009

Press notice

Inquiry Chairman issues rulings

The Chairman of the Baha Mousa Inquiry, the Rt Hon Sir William Gage, has today published his rulings following the first Directions Hearing on 3 December 2008.

The rulings relate to applications made to the Chairman which sought:

- (i) an extension of the undertaking already given by the Attorney General to provide further protection to a witness against self-incrimination;
- (ii) undertakings to be given by the Director of Public Prosecutions replicating those given by the Attorney General;
- (iii) undertakings to be given by the Permanent Under-Secretary at the Ministry of Defence and by the Chiefs of Staff of the armed forces not to use evidence given by a witness to the Inquiry in disciplinary proceedings;
- (iv) undertakings providing protection in respect of possible proceedings in foreign courts.

The rulings and undertakings relate to the status of evidence and information provided to the Inquiry; they do not provide any form of immunity against prosecution.

The rulings are available on the Inquiry's website at www.bahamousainquiry.org, where you can also sign up to the Inquiry's news feed service to be alerted every time we update our website.

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. 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.
3. Directions Hearings are open to the public. Journalists wishing to attend the second Directions 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.

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, requiring the media not to publish certain features and information relating to those defendants. Details of this order are available on the Inquiry's 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.