



Public Safety  
Canada

Sécurité publique  
Canada

s.19(1)



Dear 

Thank you for your correspondence of December 19, 2020, in which you inquired if Canada has conducted a cyber security audit, and whether the Government of Canada is engaging the private sector in cyber security. I am responding on behalf of the Honourable Bill Blair, Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness, in my capacity as Senior Assistant Deputy Minister of the National and Cyber Security Branch at Public Safety Canada.

The Government of Canada takes the issue of cyber security very seriously. Rest assured that the security of Canadians continues to be a priority for the Government of Canada.

As your question alludes to, on December 13, 2020, US-based software vendor SolarWinds was compromised by a sophisticated form of malware. Given that Canadian organizations use SolarWinds software, Shared Services Canada, The Canadian Centre for Cyber Security (The Cyber Center) and the RCMP were engaged from the onset to monitor, analyze, and provide advice to assess the impact on Canadian networks, while working with domestic and international partners.

As outlined in the Cyber Centre's National Cyber Threat Assessment 2020, supply chain vulnerabilities, like the SolarWinds incident, continue to be an ever-present threat. The Canadian public and all businesses are encouraged to follow the Cyber Centre's alerts and advisories on [cyber.gc.ca](https://www.cyber.gc.ca), and to contact the Cyber Centre or local law enforcement if they suspect they are a victim of a cyber incident.

In 2018 the Government of Canada introduced the National Cyber Security Strategy, funded through the 2018 Federal Budget. The Government made significant investments of \$507.7 million over five years, and \$108.8 million per year thereafter to fund the Strategy. To respond to incidents like these, the Strategy outlines how the Government of Canada actively collaborates with public and private partners to support Canada's cybersecurity and resiliency.

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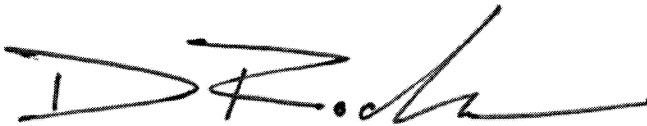
Among other initiatives, the Strategy led to the establishment of the Canadian Center for Cyber Security. The Cyber Center, a conglomerate of operational cyber security functions from three departments, provides a clear point of accountability and greater federal leadership on cyber security. The Cyber Center actively works with partners to resolve major cyber incidents impacting Canadians, create resiliency to potential cyber incidents, while building a stronger cyber security community.

I invite you to visit the following link for more information on Canada's National Cyber Security Strategy, which was released in direct response to the growing trend of cyber-related issues facing both Canada and the world:

**[www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/rsracs/pblctns/ntnl-cbr-scrt-strtg/ntnl-cbr-scrt-strtg-en.pdf](http://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/rsracs/pblctns/ntnl-cbr-scrt-strtg/ntnl-cbr-scrt-strtg-en.pdf)**

Thank you for taking the time to write on this important matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Rochon', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dominic Rochon  
Senior Assistant Deputy Minister  
National Security and Cyber Security Branch  
Public Safety Canada

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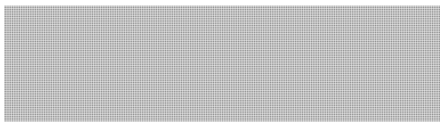
Minister of Public Safety and  
Emergency Preparedness



Ministre de la Sécurité publique  
et de la Protection civile

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0P8

SEP 07 2018



Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your correspondence of July 16, 2018, regarding the impacts of cybercrime on Canadians.

Your letter rightfully draws attention to the need for strengthening the cyber security in Canada; this echoes the input we received during our consultation on cyber security. In 2015, I was mandated with leading a national consultation with Canadians to determine the state of cyber security and to create a new approach for addressing cyber security in an increasingly digital economy.

In June 2018, a new National Cyber Security Strategy was released. The Government committed \$155.2M over five years to create the Canadian Centre for Cyber Security (the Cyber Centre). Starting this fall, the Cyber Centre will be Canada's authority on cyber security operations and, together with industry partners, will be best-placed to take on evolving, complex cyber security challenges. As you stated in your letter, more Canadians are being impacted by cybercrime. This is why the Government will enhance the means to investigate cybercriminals. The Government proposed \$116M over five years to the RCMP, to support the creation of the National Cybercrime Coordination Unit (the Unit). The Unit will act as a coordination hub for cybercrime investigations in Canada and work with partners internationally.

Implementation of the new Strategy will enhance our existing capabilities and in collaboration with partners, support federal efforts to better protect Canadians from cybercrime, respond to evolving threats, and help defend critical infrastructure and private sector systems.

Regarding your concerns of fraud, the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre is the agency that supports law enforcement with dissemination of intelligence and provides Canadians with timely information and guidance materials:

**<http://www.antifraudcentre-centreantifraude.ca/index-eng.htm>**

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The Government strongly believes that all Canadians should play an active role in advancing our country's cyber resilience, so you may also consult the Government's Get Cyber Safe website, which promotes information and best practices to keep Canadians safe and secure online:

**<https://www.getcybersafe.gc.ca/index-en.aspx>**

Thank you again for writing on this important matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Goodale', written in a cursive style.

The Honourable Ralph Goodale, P.C., M.P.

s.19(1)

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Hon.Ralph.Goodale \(PS/SP\)](#)  
**Subject:** CANADIANS ARE UNDER ATTACK  
**Date:** Monday, July 16, 2018 4:17:28 PM

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## CANADIANS ARE UNDER ATTACK

There is a war going on every minute of every day and the victims are Canadians. The enemy are hackers and fraudsters using the Internet, social media and the telephone systems.

You would be hard pressed to find a Canadian who has not experienced attempted hacking, scamming, fraud over their phones, etc.

I would like to see Canada set up the best anti-hacker, anti-fraudster, anti-etc. organization whose mandate is to fight these criminals. That it be an organization that is feared by criminals to the point that they do not want to perpetrate their crimes on Canadians.

This fits the promotion of new-technology, security, defending Canadians, etc.

As far as I know this is not being done at the level where it is effective.

I would appreciate knowing what the Government is doing / will do on this topic.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

DOC. GDL-018916
OPI/BPR NCSB
D.D./D.E. Aug 16, 2018
ACTION Reply
FILE ### DOSSIER 6100-1

DOC	BLR-006657
OP/BPR	NCSB
D.D./D.E.	Feb 1, 2021
ACTION	Direct reply
FILE #/DOSSIER	6100-1

s.19(1)

**Fournier2, Benoît (PS/SP)**

**From:** Prime Minister/Premier Ministre <PM@pm.gc.ca>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 4, 2021 11:43 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Minister of Public Safety / Ministre de la Sécurité publique (PS/SP)  
**Subject:** Office of the Prime Minister / Cabinet du premier ministre

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear [REDACTED]

On behalf of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, I would like to acknowledge receipt of your correspondence.

Please be assured that your comments have been carefully reviewed. I have taken the liberty of forwarding your email to the Honourable Bill Blair, Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness, so that he may be made aware of your comments.

Thank you for taking the time to write.

M. Ibrahim  
Executive Correspondence Officer  
for the Prime Minister's Office  
Agent de correspondance  
de la haute direction pour le Cabinet du premier ministre

>>> From [REDACTED] Received : 19 Dec 2020 04:43:45 PM >>>

>>> Subject : Hacking >>>>

In light of the massive hacking of U.S. government and civil sites, has Canada conducted a security audit? Has the private sector been assisted to do the same? Some public assurance would be appropriate I think.

Sent from Rogers Yahoo Mail on Android  
<[https://go.onelink.me/107872968?pid=InProduct&c=Global\\_Internal\\_YGrowth\\_AndroidEmailSig\\_\\_AndroidUsers&af\\_wl=ym&af\\_sub1=Internal&af\\_sub2=Global\\_YGrowth&af\\_sub3=EmailSignature](https://go.onelink.me/107872968?pid=InProduct&c=Global_Internal_YGrowth_AndroidEmailSig__AndroidUsers&af_wl=ym&af_sub1=Internal&af_sub2=Global_YGrowth&af_sub3=EmailSignature)>

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**Couture2, Mathieu (PS/SP)**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 8, 2018 8:04 PM  
**To:** Warmington, Tim (PS/SP); [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Media Relations / Relations avec les médias (PS/SP); Tomlinson, Jamie (PS/SP); Wilson, Ashleigh (PS/SP)  
**Subject:** Re: FOR MO APPROVAL - MEDIA CALL - Rudlaw regarding ISIS Fighters Detained in Syria

That looks good, approved. Thanks Tim.

[REDACTED]

----- Original message -----

From: "Warmington, Tim (PS/SP)"  
Date: 2018-10-08 6:33 PM (GMT-05:00)  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: "Media Relations / Relations avec les médias (PS/SP)" , "Tomlinson, Jamie (PS/SP)" , "Wilson, Ashleigh (PS/SP)"  
Subject: FOR MO APPROVAL - MEDIA CALL - Rudlaw regarding ISIS Fighters Detained in Syria

Good Evening,  
Please see the attached media call, for your approval.

Thanks,

Tim

**MEDIA**

[REDACTED]  
Rudlaw  
[REDACTED]

**CONTEXT**

The reporter is based in Erbil, Kurdistan Region, northern Iraq.

In her correspondence, she noted that Kurdish media in northern Syria today published an interview with an ISIS fighter who identifies himself as Mohammed Ali, from Mississauga:

<http://www.hawarnews.com/en/haber/isis-mercenary-i-recognize-isis-in-turkey-h4196.html>.

She indicated that the man appears to be Abu Turaab, reported on in Canadian media including the National Post: <https://nationalpost.com> The issue of extremist travellers is one that we are dealing with along with our allies, and was part of the discussions at the G7 meeting of security ministers in Toronto. We committed to working together, and with our partners in the region, to ensure that information collected in conflict zones can be used for the prosecution of terrorism-related offences. [./features/canadian-isis-fighter-abu-turaab-identified-as-mohammed-ali](https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/isis-fighter-abu-turaab-identified-as-mohammed-ali).

In his interview, Ali said that when he decided to leave ISIS, his father-in-law contacted the Canadian government and CSIS and Ali was advised to make his way to Turkey or surrender to the Kurdish forces, and from there the government would help him.

Finally, the reporter contends that most foreign governments are resisting taking responsibility for their nationals fighting for ISIS in Iraq and Syria, despite warnings from Kurds that they cannot hold an estimated 900 foreign fighters indefinitely and will not undertake to prosecute them.

## **QUESTIONS**

Q1. Are you able to confirm that you have been in contact with his family, or Ali himself, and have given this advice?

Q2. More generally, what is your advice for Canadian members of ISIS who want to come home? What is the government's policy with respect to them?

Q3. Will Canada take their nationals home?

Q4. What prosecution will these fighters face if they do return to Canada?

## **PROPOSED RESPONSE (Previously provided to the Canadian Press)**

For questions regarding consular services for Canadian citizens abroad, we would refer you to Global Affairs Canada (they have been cc'd on this message).

Canadians can be assured that their security and intelligence and police organizations are doing everything that can possibly be done to keep Canadians safe.

Canadian law enforcement actively pursues investigations, and they lay charges when there is evidence to support them. Two returned foreign fighters have been charged in the last three years.

When there are challenges in converting intelligence to evidence usable in court, a full range of counter-terrorism tools are used. They include investigations, surveillance and monitoring; intelligence gathering and lawful information sharing; peace bonds; no-fly lists; revocation of passports; and legally authorized threat reduction measures.

The suite of measures that will be used in response to any particular individual or situation is determined by the RCMP, CSIS and our other expert authorities.



s.19(1)

## Couture2, Mathieu (PS/SP)

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**From:** Tomlinson, Jamie (PS/SP)  
**Sent:** Monday, October 8, 2018 6:47 PM  
**To:** Warmington, Tim (PS/SP); Wilson, Ashleigh (PS/SP); Duval, Jean Paul (PS/SP)  
**Cc:** Media Relations / Relations avec les médias (PS/SP)  
**Subject:** Re: Media Call - Rudlaw regarding ISIS Fighters Detained in Syria

Many thanks, Tim.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Rogers network.

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**From:** Warmington, Tim (PS/SP)  
**Sent:** Monday, October 8, 2018 6:28 PM  
**To:** Tomlinson, Jamie (PS/SP); Wilson, Ashleigh (PS/SP); Duval, Jean Paul (PS/SP)  
**Cc:** Media Relations / Relations avec les médias (PS/SP)  
**Subject:** Media Call - Rudlaw regarding ISIS Fighters Detained in Syria

Good Evening,

Please see the attached media call, for your information. The response has been provided by MO and I have checked it with our side of the centre (they have no issues with the response). I will go to MO for approval and then will send the response.

Thanks,

Tim

**MEDIA**

[REDACTED]  
Rudlaw  
[REDACTED]

### CONTEXT

The reporter is based in Erbil, Kurdistan Region, northern Iraq.

In her correspondence, she noted that Kurdish media in northern Syria today published an interview with an ISIS fighter who identifies himself as Mohammed Ali, from Mississauga:

<http://www.hawarnews.com/en/haber/isis-mercenary-i-recognize-isis-in-turkey-h4196.html>.

She indicated that the man appears to be Abu Turaab, reported on in Canadian media including the National Post: <https://nationalpost.com> The issue of extremist travellers is one that we are dealing with along with our allies, and was part of the discussions at the G7 meeting of security ministers in Toronto. We committed to working together, and with our partners in the region, to ensure that information collected in conflict zones can be used for the prosecution of terrorism-related offences. [/features/canadian-isis-fighter-abu-turaab-identified-as-mohammed-ali](https://nationalpost.com/features/canadian-isis-fighter-abu-turaab-identified-as-mohammed-ali).

In his interview, Ali said that when he decided to leave ISIS, his father-in-law contacted the Canadian government and CSIS and Ali was advised to make his way to Turkey or surrender to the Kurdish forces, and from there the government would help him.

Finally, the reporter contends that most foreign governments are resisting taking responsibility for their nationals fighting for ISIS in Iraq and Syria, despite warnings from Kurds that they cannot hold an estimated 900 foreign fighters indefinitely and will not undertake to prosecute them.

## QUESTIONS

Q1. Are you able to confirm that you have been in contact with his family, or Ali himself, and have given this advice?

Q2. More generally, what is your advice for Canadian members of ISIS who want to come home? What is the government's policy with respect to them?

Q3. Will Canada take their nationals home?

Q4. What prosecution will these fighters face if they do return to Canada?

## PROPOSED RESPONSE (Provided to the Canadian Press)

From GAC

- We are aware that Canadian citizens are being detained in Syria.
- The Government of Canada is engaged in these cases and is providing assistance, to the extent possible in the circumstances.
- Given the security situation, the Government of Canada's ability to provide consular assistance in all parts of Syria is extremely limited.
- Due to privacy considerations, we will not comment further at this time.

From PS

Canadians can be assured that their security and intelligence and police organizations are doing everything that can possibly be done to keep Canadians safe.

Canadian law enforcement actively pursues investigations, and they lay charges when there is evidence to support them. Two returned foreign fighters have been charged in the last three years.

When there are challenges in converting intelligence to evidence usable in court, a full range of counter-terrorism tools are used. They include investigations, surveillance and monitoring; intelligence gathering and lawful information sharing; peace bonds; no-fly lists; revocation of passports; and legally authorized threat reduction measures.

The suite of measures that will be used in response to any particular individual or situation is determined by the RCMP, CSIS and our other expert authorities.

s.19(1)

## Couture2, Mathieu (PS/SP)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 8, 2018 10:21 AM  
**To:** Media Relations / Relations avec les médias (PS/SP)  
**Subject:** Canadian ISIS fighter detained in northern Syria

Hello,

I am a reporter based in Erbil, Kurdistan Region, northern Iraq.

Kurdish media in northern Syria today published this interview with an ISIS fighter who identifies himself as Mohammed Ali, from Mississauga: <http://www.hawarnews.com/en/haber/isis-mercenary-i-recognize-isis-in-turkey-h4196.html>.

The man appears to be Abu Turaab, reported on in Canadian media including the National Post: <https://nationalpost.com/features/canadian-isis-fighter-abu-turaab-identified-as-mohammed-ali>.

In his interview, Ali said that when he decided to leave ISIS, his father-in-law contacted the Canadian government and CSIS and Ali was advised to make his way to Turkey or surrender to the Kurdish forces, and from there the government would help him.

Are you able to confirm that you have been in contact with his family, or Ali himself, and have given this advice?

More generally, what is your advice for Canadian members of ISIS who want to come home? What is the government's policy with respect to them?

Most foreign governments are resisting taking responsibility for their nationals fighting for ISIS in Iraq and Syria, despite warnings from Kurds that they cannot hold an estimated 900 foreign fighters indefinitely and will not undertake to prosecute them. Will Canada take their nationals home?

What prosecution will these fighters face if they do return to Canada?

Thank you very much for your time.

[REDACTED]

--

[REDACTED]

Editor/Reporter at Rudaw

[REDACTED]

<http://www.rudaw.net/english>

s.19(1)

## Couture2, Mathieu (PS/SP)

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**From:** Media Relations / Relations avec les médias (PS/SP)  
**Sent:** Monday, October 8, 2018 9:06 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** 'media@international.gc.ca'; Media Relations / Relations avec les médias (PS/SP)  
**Subject:** Media Call - ISIS Fighters Detained in Syria

Good Morning [REDACTED]

For questions regarding consular services for Canadian citizens abroad, we refer you to Global Affairs Canada. They can be reached via email at [media@international.gc.ca](mailto:media@international.gc.ca) (they have been cc'd on this message).

Canadians can be assured that their security and intelligence and police organizations are doing everything that can possibly be done to keep Canadians safe.

Canadian law enforcement actively pursues investigations, and they lay charges when there is evidence to support them. Two returned foreign fighters have been charged in the last three years.

When there are challenges in converting intelligence to evidence usable in court, a full range of counter-terrorism tools are used. They include investigations, surveillance and monitoring; intelligence gathering and lawful information sharing; peace bonds; no-fly lists; revocation of passports; and legally authorized threat reduction measures.

The suite of measures that will be used in response to any particular individual or situation is determined by the RCMP, CSIS and our other expert authorities.

The issue of extremist travellers is one that we are dealing with along with our allies, and was part of the discussions at the G7 meeting of security ministers in Toronto. We committed to working together, and with our partners in the region, to ensure that information collected in conflict zones can be used for the prosecution of terrorism-related offences.

Thanks,  
Tim

### Tim Warmington

Senior Communications Advisor | Conseiller principal en communications  
Media Relations Team, Public Affairs Division | Relations avec les médias, Affaires publiques  
Public Safety Canada | Sécurité publique Canada  
T : 613-991-1689  
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