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# SECURITY Calgary detainee avoids terror charges Man, 24, could be freed in days after Afghan authorities cite lack of evidence he was involved in insurgency

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GRAEME SMITH KABUL A Calgary man has avoided terrorism charges in Afghanistan, local authorities said yesterday, because after detaining him for almost two months in Kabul they still lack evidence of his alleged involvement with the insurgency.

The case of Sohail Qureshi, 24, was formally closed on Tuesday and his paperwork has been transferred to the National Security Court, where he faces only the minor charge of entering Afghanistan without a valid visa.

A verdict could be reached as early as next week, justice officials say, and he will likely be released for time served. Mr. Qureshi is expected to return to Canada.

Afghans officials say they are not satisfied with the conclusion of his case, but they were left with no alternative because they can't hold suspects indefinitely.

"It's frustrating," said Naim Dawari, a senior prosecutor for the National Directorate for Security, the internal intelligence agency. "It's a source of great concern to us." Court records viewed by The Globe and Mail indicate Mr. Qureshi was arrested April 28 on the east side of Kabul city, in the ninth police district. A summary of his statements to police indicates he said he was visiting Pakistan to learn Arabic, then accompanied a friend on a visit to Afghanistan. He acknowledged visiting the northeastern city of Mazar-e-Sharif, but Mr. Dawari said police never found sufficient evidence to support their theory that the young man's eastern tour was intended as a surveillance mission to prepare for an attack on a German military base.

"There were questions about spying on a base, this was mentioned, but we had no answers," Mr. Dawari said.

Police also remained puzzled about the reason for Mr. Qureshi's visit, the prosecutor said: "Why does a Canadian citizen come to a war-torn country like Afghanistan if he has no work here?" Mohammed Tayub, chief of the National Security Court, said he will expedite Mr. Qureshi's case, arranging a hearing within days rather than the usual delay of months, because of his status as a foreigner.

No article in the country's criminal law covers entering without a visa, he said, although the punishment can sometimes range from three months to a year in jail, "or less, if the person is visiting our country with good

SECURITY Calgary detainee avoids terror charges Man, 24, could be freed in days after Afghan authorities

intentions." Mr. Qureshi was born in Manchester, England, to a father of Pakistani origins and a mother of Iranian descent, according to court records.

He moved to Canada at the age of "four or five," the records show, and graduated from the University of Calgary with a computer science degree in April, 2006.

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Canada; Afghanistan

SUBJECT TERM:terrorism; suspects; canadians; biography

PERSONAL NAME: Sohail Qureshi

# Afghanistan may release suspected Canadian terrorist

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**DATE:** 2007.06.20  
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**PAGE:** C4  
**DATELINE:** KABUL, Afghanistan  
**BYLINE:** Don Martin  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
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KABUL, Afghanistan — The murky, mysterious case of an alleged Calgary suicide bomber could become even more twisted after Sohail Qureshi is released from jail here in the Afghan capital.

Reliable sources close to the Afghan authorities say the 24-year-old University of Calgary computer science graduate could be released as early as this week on what qualifies as a form of bail in this war-ravaged country.

But there are hints he may not be allowed to return to Canada immediately because authorities have apparently not yet ruled out the possibility he could be charged in the future if fresh evidence is unearthed. Qureshi was apprehended on terrorist suspicions in May and held in custody on the outskirts of the city, but was never charged with any crime.

Arrested while sitting in a taxi in a remote and dangerous section of the capital, he was accused of terrorist training in Pakistan and plotting to follow his suicide bomber brother's footsteps into the afterlife. His notebooks had details about a German military base and a list of contacts in Pakistan.

The Canadian Embassy here, which has maintained regular diplomatic contact with Qureshi since his incarceration, refused to confirm the imminent release, citing the need to respect his right to personal privacy.

# Calgary terror suspect may be freed; U of C grad could still face Afghan charges

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**DATE:** 2007.06.20  
**EDITION:** Early  
**SECTION:** News  
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**COLUMN:** Don Martin  
**KEYWORDS:** POLITICIANS; POLITICAL PARTIES  
**DATELINE:** KABUL  
**BYLINE:** Don Martin In Afghanistan, with files from Joel Kom  
**SOURCE:** Calgary Herald  
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The Canadian Embassy here, which has maintained regular diplomatic contact with Qureshi since his incarceration, refused to confirm the imminent release, citing the need to respect his right to personal privacy.

But he might not be totally vindicated yet, others warn. "Here in Afghanistan we sometimes convict on the basis of no evidence and release them when there is evidence," one official noted wryly.

Those who have visited Qureshi in a Kabul detention centre found him painfully quiet about his experience and describe him as closely resembling the stereotypical "computer geek."

His bizarre trek from the Calgary suburbs started when a local imam was asked by Qureshi's father, a physician, to counsel the troubled man.

Sheik Alaa Elsayed contacted police after Qureshi disappeared overseas, worried about the ominous implications of the man's use of the word "jihad" during their discussion.

"He did mention something that, 'It's an obligation upon me to defend my brothers and sisters, which pretty much is putting me shoulder to shoulder . . . maybe fighting back,' " he recalled.

But Elsayed added: "Nothing in the connotation or indication of anything to do with suicide bombing."

A recent Maclean's magazine article quoted unnamed government sources in Kabul insisting Qureshi was "part of a larger network in Canada that is supporting the Afghan insurgency."

His release would be unexpected in light of those allegations, along with signs that a case was being built during his prolonged incarceration.

The release would also come at a time of heightened tension in the Afghan capital, as Taliban terrorists attempt to shake up civilians here with random bombings in what used to be the most peaceful part of this violent country.

On Sunday, the city was placed on yellow alert for the first time this year after a suicide bomber, disguised as an officer, boarded a police bus and detonated a bomb, killing 35 police and civilians. Diplomatic and United Nations staff immediately had their movements limited in the aftermath.

Paradoxically, the bombing occurred within a stone's throw of Kabul's law-enforcement headquarters, whose aim is to prevent suicide bombings. It's also where the detained Qureshi was interrogated.

Sources could not explain why it could take so long to free Qureshi after reports that he had confessed to a planned suicide bombing were retracted.

Calgary East Conservative MP Deepak Obhrai, the parliamentary secretary for foreign affairs, would not say whether Canada had any warning of an impending release, only noting the government was "aware of the case."

It would be up to Qureshi to decide if he wanted to maintain contact with Canadian authorities after his release, Obhrai said.

Canadian officials have had consular access to the imprisoned Canadian since his arrest, Obhrai added, but they would likely not seek him out if he were allowed to leave the prison.

"If he's released, then there's no problem with (maintaining) consular access anymore," Obhrai said from his Ottawa office. "It's not an issue."

A Foreign Affairs spokeswoman, who said Canada has had "regular access" to Qureshi, would not comment on whether consular officials were aware of a potential release or on what the next step would be.

Qureshi's incarceration triggered a brouhaha in Calgary's backlash-fearing Muslim community.

The issue was still too hot to touch for many people on Tuesday.

Several people contacted by the Herald who knew Qureshi or his family declined to comment on his release, saying they did not want to get publicly involved in the case.

Qureshi's situation was also raised in the House of Commons.

Foreign Affairs Minister Peter MacKay refused to comment on the case and Prime Minister Stephen Harper decided not to raise the matter during this month's meetings with the Afghan president, Hamid Karsai.

The diplomatic silence was a particularly unusual, given the hue and cry raised by the Conservative government with Chinese officials following Huseyin Celil's arrest and conviction on terrorism charges.

During his visit to China last year, an impatient Harper signalled he was willing to gamble on trade consequences to protect the rights of an individual he felt was wrongly detained.

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# Canadian terrorism suspect may be released

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**BYLINE:** Don Martin  
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# Officials pore over Taliban 'grads' video; Minister calls footage 'PR move,' but expert calls it 'worrisome'

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**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: ABC News / Images taken from a purported Taliban 'graduation' ceremony show, from left: the face of one graduate who appears to be 10 or 12 years old, Mansoor Dadullah, brother of former Taliban commander Mullah Dadullah, giving his congratulations, and a group of recruits allegedly assigned suicide missions. ;

**BYLINE:** Ian MacLeod

**SOURCE:** The Ottawa Citizen; With files from Reuters

**WORD COUNT:** 1227

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Though the Canadian and U.S. governments publicly downplay the threat, intelligence officials today are working to authenticate a purported Taliban video showing hundreds of celebrating trainees "graduating" prior to departing on suicide bombing missions in Canada, the U.S. and Europe.

If confirmed, security analysts will be tasked with advising governments on what the video represents:

A legitimate warning of coming attacks, which jihadists are required to issue under Islamic law? A strategic deception to draw away western security resources from genuine terror plots? Or propaganda to stoke public fear and boost the morale of supporters?

Already clear is that the Taliban recently merged its propaganda and field operations with the global al-Qaeda terror network and wants to move its war outside Afghanistan and onto a global scale.

"As we have a counter-terrorism coalition, they have a jihadist coalition," said Martin Rudner, director of the Canadian Centre of Intelligence and Security Studies at Carleton University. "That's worrisome because we know they're sharing tradecraft. We know they're sharing networking." He said the video should "be taken very seriously."

What's more, recent arrests, including that of a Canadian, and news reports from Pakistan, suggest increased militant training for suspected suicide bombing missions, possibly involving westerners striking targets in North America and Europe.

Shot by an invited Pakistani journalist June 9 somewhere in the Afghan-Pakistan border region and broadcast late Monday by ABC News, the footage shows a large group of about 300 masked men, including some boys appearing as young as 12, attending a "graduation ceremony" before apparently being dispatched by al-Qaeda and Afghanistan's Taliban movement on suicide missions to Canada, the United States, Britain and Germany.

Mansoor Dadullah, brother of the former Taliban commander Mullah Dadullah, who was killed last month, is seen attending the ceremony. He addresses the seated recruits as guards with rocket launchers stand by.

Officials pore over Taliban 'grads' video; Minister calls footage 'PR move,' but expert calls it 'worrisome'

"These Americans, Canadians, British and Germans come here to Afghanistan from faraway places. Why shouldn't we go after them?" he said, referring to countries with forces patrolling Afghanistan since the Taliban were ousted in 2001.

"Praise be to God that the enthusiasm of these people is so strong that the people are going by crowds to martyrdom and to sacrifice themselves."

One photo taken from the video and posted on the ABC News website shows a group of more than a dozen masked figures purportedly assigned to attack Canadian targets. Other photos show "brigades" tasked with assaults against the United States, Britain and Germany.

Newsweek magazine in December reported al-Qaeda was operating training camps in Pakistan's North Waziristan border region with Afghanistan with the help of foreign militants and schooling recruits, including westerners, in suicide bombing and for missions in Britain or the United States.

ABC News also reports that Pakistani officials picked up three foreign militants last week — two of whom held German passports.

In May, Afghan police detained Sohail Qureshi, a 24-year-old Calgarian of Pakistani descent, on suspicion he attended a suicide bomber training camp in the Waziristan region, where the Taliban and foreign al-Qaeda fighters have taken refuge since U.S.-led forces entered Afghanistan in 2001.

CanWest News columnist Don Martin, reporting from Kabul, said Mr. Qureshi was arrested with a notebook containing details about a German military base. He has not been charged with any crime and could be released from custody this week, though he may not be allowed to leave the country, pending further investigation.

Public Safety Minister Stockwell Day yesterday characterized the video as a "PR move on behalf of a terror organization.

"While we're not immune from threats and no system is 100-per-cent perfect, we feel confident that people coming from a group like that would be detected," he said. "Their capability is limited, because there is a lot of internal intelligence that points out who certain individuals are and they do have a limited ability to travel and get through our border systems."

His comments appear to dismiss the possibility some of the trainee bombers in the video could, if genuine, be Canadians who could easily return home.

The Canadian Security Intelligence Service said yesterday it is taking the threat seriously. "This is single source information at this point," cautioned CSIS spokeswoman Barbara Campion. "Everyone's going to ask, 'Is it disinformation, is it real?' So we're making every effort to corroborate or discount it using independent information. Our job is to advise government and they want to know."

Jack Williams, a law professor and expert in Islamic law at Georgia State University and special adviser to the U.S. government on intelligence and security issues, agrees "that this is something that's worth consideration, but there should not be an exaggerated response to it. You have to take steps to authenticate it."

Western intelligence experts are now poring over the video. Some will examine the way the figures are dressed, their mannerisms and accents.

"Ultimately, if you're able to identify some of the people that are present by a score of different metrics and then happen to be able to cross reference those with folks on known (terrorist) lists that are being maintained

Officials pore over Taliban 'grads' video; Minister calls footage 'PR move,' but expert calls it 'worrisome'

by the West, then you start to get a little more concerned and a little more interested," Mr. Williams said in an interview.

Other specialists will study the topography, flora and other geographic features on the video in an attempt to narrow the location. That it was shot in the open suggests the group was in a haven, very possibly North Waziristan, Pakistan and not concerned about being seen or attacked, said Mr Rudner.

"They know that there's constant surveillance by drones and satellites and they clearly didn't mind because they knew they weren't going to be (attacked) from the air. Do this on the Afghan side of the border and you get a Hellfire missile for your efforts."

However, regions around the Pakistani–Afghan border may be fair game. A missile attack, possibly launched by U.S. forces in Afghanistan, killed at least 32 pro–Taliban militants in a Pakistani tribal region near the border yesterday, Pakistani officials said.

The missiles targeted a suspected training base in a village near the mountainous Datta Khel district, 60 kilometres west of Miranshah, the main town in North Waziristan, said the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they are not authorized to brief the media.

Intelligence officials said some foreigners were among those killed, raising the possibility that al–Qaeda fighters might have also been present. North Waziristan is a known refuge for remnants of Osama bin Laden's network.

A U.S. military spokesman said there had been an explosion in the area, but denied it was caused by missiles and added that the army had not carried out any operations there.

If the training video is deemed authentic, what then?

There is a long history of deception in Islamic warfare, a doctrine called taqiyya or religiously sanctioned dissimulation to protect one's faith or its adherents, said Mr. Williams. The video could, he suggested, be an act of deception designed to induce the West to chase ghosts and waste assets while planning for real attacks goes undetected.

"Even if you know you can't effectuate a particular attack, you can take preliminary steps that might not constitute a crime under Canadian law, but, notwithstanding, would have enough indicators that your intelligence services and the RCMP would get interested and, as soon as they get interested, they have to dedicate resources and assets," from other operations.

"You can start to drain considerably away from your intelligence service and your law enforcement and that increases the likelihood of the actual attack taking place. This could very well be that case."

Officials pore over Taliban 'grads' video; Minister calls footage 'PR move,' but expert calls it 'worrisome'

# Envoy closely monitoring probe into treatment of detainees

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**BYLINE:** Stephanie Levitz Canadian Press  
**COPYRIGHT:** © 2007 Telegraph–Journal (New Brunswick)  
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Canada's top diplomat in Afghanistan said Monday he will keep a close watch on the progress of an Afghan investigation into new allegations that detainees captured by Canadians and handed over to Afghan authorities have been tortured.

Canadian Ambassador Arif Lalani said a credible investigation will take time but he will be speaking with the Afghan government regularly to check on progress.

"We've moved very quickly. I expect the Afghan government to move equally quickly," Lalani said during a briefing with Canadian reporters in Kandahar.

The fresh allegations surfaced during a visit by Canadian authorities to Afghan prisons as part of a new agreement signed May 3.

Coming in the wake of reports that as many as 30 people captured by Canadians were being abused by their Afghan captors, the agreement allows Canadian officials and international human rights workers to check regularly on the well-being of prisoners.

Lalani said he raised the new allegations with Afghan President Hamid Karzai's government immediately.

"The process is working; the process is supposed to allow us to monitor and deal with the results," he said.

"We have monitored and now we are dealing with the results."

He said charges could be laid if the allegations are substantiated.

Lalani acknowledged he's also keeping an eye on a Canadian detained by the Afghans.

University of Calgary student Sohail Qureshi was arrested in Kabul last month, suspected of being a suicide bomber.

"I've personally been watching that file," he said, adding consular officials have had access to Qureshi, who remains in custody.

He said he couldn't reveal anything more due to privacy concerns.

Lalani's signature on the prisoner–detainee agreement marked one of his first tasks as Canada's ambassador since he was appointed to the post in late April. He met with local and Canadian reporters on Monday to give his assessment of Canada's work on the ground after 30 days in his job.

# Detainees' torture probe scrutinized

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**DATE:** 2007.06.12  
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**DATELINE:** KANDAHAR, AFGHANISTAN  
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Canada's top diplomat in Afghanistan said yesterday he will keep a close watch on the progress of an Afghan investigation into new allegations that detainees captured by Canadians and handed over to Afghan authorities have been tortured.

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# Diplomat promises to monitor detainee situation

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Canada's current commitment to the NATO mission in Afghanistan is scheduled to end in February 2009. Lalani said whether Canada will pull out is going to depend on politics and progress.

In the meantime, he said, Canada should keep focused on making as much of a difference as it can.

# Envoy vows to keep eye on torture investigation

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**PUBLICATION:** The  
Chronicle–Herald  
**DATE:** 2007.06.12  
**SECTION:** World  
**PAGE:** A3  
**SOURCE:** The Canadian Press  
**BYLINE:** Stephanie Levitz  
**WORD COUNT:** 350

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KANDAHAR, Afghanistan – Canada's top diplomat in Afghanistan said Monday he will keep a close watch on the progress of an Afghan investigation into new allegations that detainees captured by Canadians and handed over to Afghan authorities have been tortured.

Canadian Ambassador Arif Lalani said a credible investigation will take time but he will be speaking with the Afghan government regularly to check on progress.

"We've moved very quickly. I expect the Afghan government to move equally quickly," Lalani said during a briefing with Canadian reporters in Kandahar.

The fresh allegations surfaced during a visit by Canadian authorities to Afghan prisons as part of a new agreement signed May 3.

Coming in the wake of reports that as many as 30 people captured by Canadians were being abused by their Afghan captors, the agreement allows Canadian officials and international human rights workers to check regularly on the well-being of prisoners.

Lalani said he raised the new allegations with Afghan President Hamid Karzai's government immediately.

"The process is working; the process is supposed to allow us to monitor and deal with the results," he said.

"We have monitored and now we are dealing with the results."

He said charges could be laid if the allegations are substantiated. Lalani acknowledged he's also keeping an eye on a Canadian detained by the Afghans.

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# Canada's Afghanistan envoy monitors probe into detainees treatment

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**PUBLICATION:** The Telegram (St. John's)

**DATE:** 2007.06.12

**SECTION:** National/World News

**PAGE:** A7

**COLUMN:** Politics/Defence

**SOURCE:** The Canadian Press

**BYLINE:** Stephanie Levitz

**DATELINE:** Kandahar, Afghanistan

**WORD COUNT:** 344

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# Canada's envoy in Afghanistan closely monitors probe into detainees treatment

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**DATE:** 2007.06.11  
**KEYWORDS:** DEFENCE INTERNATIONAL POLITICS  
**PUBLICATION:** cpw  
**WORD COUNT:** 459

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In the meantime, he said, Canada should keep focused on making as much of a difference as it can.

He said he was in Afghanistan a year ago, before his appointment as ambassador, and could see clear examples of progress.

“There is more Afghan army, more Afghan police, more Afghans at work, more Afghan children at school here than there was a year ago,” he said.

Lalani also said Kandahar province, which is Canada's responsibility in the international effort to secure and reconstruct Afghanistan, is safer than it was one year ago. He pointed to more national security forces at work and continued economic growth as evidence.

Violence, however, has flared in the southern part of the country in recent weeks, with insurgents targeting both local and international security forces.

One Canadian was killed earlier this month when a helicopter he was riding in was reportedly shot down by the Taliban.

# Harper quiet on Qureshi case

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**IDNUMBER** 200706020028  
**PUBLICATION:** The Leader-Post (Regina)  
**DATE:** 2007.06.02  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** D12  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Colour Photo: Reuters / Prime Minister Stephen Harper gave a speech in front of delegates at the Federation of Canadian Municipalities annual conference in Calgary on Friday. ;  
**DATELINE:** CALGARY  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 242

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CALGARY -- During a brief stop in Calgary Friday, Prime Minister Stephen Harper refused to give details on the status of Sohail Qureshi, a 24-year-old University of Calgary computer science grad who is being detained in Afghanistan.

"I'm really not in a position to give you any comment other than we certainly are aware of it and he has had consular contact, as we would normally with any Canadian detained," Harper said at the Federation of Canadian Municipalities conference.

Asked if Qureshi has been charged with any crime, Harper answered, "I can't comment on the particulars of the situation."

Qureshi was detained in Kabul last month for alleged ties to the insurgency in Afghanistan. Since then, diplomats and Canadian politicians -- amid charges of detainees being mistreated after Canadian Forces handed them over to Afghan authorities -- have said very little about the case. Qureshi has not been charged with any crime.

Closer to home, Harper refused to commit federal dollars to either a high-speed rail link between Calgary and Edmonton, or to Calgary's infrastructure backlog.

Instead, he told the national conference that a "huge infusion" of cash -- \$33 million for infrastructure over the next seven years -- will flow to towns and cities across Canada.

But he failed to mention any Alberta projects while listing off others from Atlantic Canada to the West Coast.

"I'm not trying to dismiss the infrastructure and other problems of Calgary," Harper told reporters after his speech. "They do exist. But our problems are really the problems of prosperity. There are some struggles, particularly with the cost of affordable housing."

# Thanks, Alaa

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**IDNUMBER** 200705280097  
**PUBLICATION:** Calgary Herald  
**DATE:** 2007.05.28  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Q: Queries – Quibbles – Quirks  
**PAGE:** A17  
**COLUMN:** Inbox: Your Space – Your Time  
**BYLINE:** Michael Hons  
**SOURCE:** Calgary Herald  
**WORD COUNT:** 150

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Passports – Re: "Ottawa displaying double standard over two alleged terrorists," Don Martin, Opinion, May 24.

I agree with Don Martin that granting a passport imbues the federal government with the responsibility to defend the rights of that individual abroad. Sohail Qureshi is entitled to a day in a proper court up to Canadian standards of justice, the same as Huseyin Celil.

Where I disagree with Martin is the need to sideswipe a good Samaritan with an eye to protecting the safety of all Canadian citizens. The fact there has not been a terrorist attack on Canadian soil is largely due to individuals of character who place public safety first and recognize potential threats before they coalesce into imminent threats.

I would like to thank Alaa Elsayed for his commitment to safeguarding his fellow Canadians, and apologize for Martin, who would apparently prefer a strategy of wait and hope.

Michael Hons,

Calgary

# stick up for all canadians

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**IDNUMBER** 200705260174  
**PUBLICATION:** The Ottawa Citizen  
**DATE:** 2007.05.26  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** B7  
**PNAME:** Arguments  
**COLUMN:** Don Martin  
**BYLINE:** Don Martin  
**SOURCE:** The Calgary Herald  
**WORD COUNT:** 727

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This is the tale of two alleged Canadian terrorists, young Muslims in similarly dire straits afforded wildly different treatment by the federal government.

One has not been charged with anything, yet languishes in a Kabul jail while his case is studiously avoided by the prime minister in talks with the president of Afghanistan.

The other has been tried, convicted and imprisoned for life in Beijing as a terrorist, yet his treatment has destabilized trade relations with an economic superpower. Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Foreign Affairs Minister Peter Mac-Kay have repeatedly argued his case with unimpressed Chinese leaders.

Such is the stark contrast between Afghan-alleged suicide bomber Sohail Qureshi of Calgary and China-convicted terrorist Huseyin Celil of Burlington, Ont. Foreign Affairs won't even utter Qureshi's name, citing privacy issues, but the minister regularly screeches in protest to denounce the shabby treatment and unfair conviction confronting Celil. Confused? Ditto.

Clear answers are not forthcoming from Foreign Affairs types. They parrot the line that a man is in custody in Kabul and receiving consular assistance. Period. No further comment. Apparently this is because Qureshi's family has not given the government permission to publicly rally to his defence, a contention I find difficult to believe.

Now lest this sound like a bleeding-heart defence for a Calgarian who may have been a suicide bomber waiting to explode, so to speak, a bit of innocent-until-proven-guilty empathy for Qureshi is called for. Granted, the University of Calgary computer science graduate appeared to be hardening his religious views to the point where violence may have been an option under consideration. But hard evidence to back allegations he was about to join an alleged brother in the dead-end job of successful suicide bomber is mighty sketchy.

Police in Calgary were red-flagged by a local imam after counselling sessions with Qureshi before his departure for Pakistan three months ago. He did not reveal any violent intentions or terrorist connections to the imam nor did he behave irrationally. He merely mentioned "an obligation to defend my brothers and sisters" and "maybe fighting back" against the West, Alaa Elsayed says now. The only clue anything sinister was afoot was "a look on his face," which apparently qualifies as grounds to notify police.

When he got off a bus in Kabul two weeks ago, authorities apprehended him because, in the view of one official, he acted nervous and had trouble talking. If Afghan police waving guns grabbed me off a bus in Kabul, I'd be nervous and tongue-tied, too.

What's of concern is that Qureshi's apprehension may have been triggered by a trumped-up Canadian police tip.

If so, alarm bells should be ringing in this government, unless it has lost any shred of short-term political memory.

Lest they forget, the RCMP was nailed in a public inquiry for sharing bogus intelligence with American authorities before they deported Maher Arar to a year of torture in Syria. Arar was labelled a terrorist with al-Qaeda links by Conservative MPs in the House of Commons before he was ultimately cleared of wrongdoing and heavily compensated for his suffering.

If police end up being implicated in Qureshi's arrest, detention and possible abuse on bad information while our government sits on its hands with a gag order in place, it's a guarantee an exonerated Qureshi would return home with his palms outstretched for some serious coin. That's why our government must rally behind any Canadian citizen until guilt is established in a credible court.

MacKay and indeed the prime minister cannot convict Qureshi through their inaction while backing their obvious belief in Celil's innocence through an aggressive defence of his file. So far, Foreign Affairs has been unable to confirm if Harper has raised Qureshi's case with Afghan President Hamid Karzai.

If so, Harper certainly didn't promote the intervention in a news conference, in sharp contrast to the Celil situation, which he raised with reporters even before his plane touched down for a meeting with Chinese officials last fall.

Until there's evidence Qureshi was actually plotting his violent demise along with as many innocent victims as possible, he's a Canadian citizen incarcerated on the basis of hearsay evidence.

Actually, being innocent might not mean much in some countries. But a Canadian passport entitles all bearers to the presumption of innocence. The government is supposed to be our white knight for rescues abroad, not a hanging judge in the court of public opinion.

Don Martin is a columnist for the Calgary Herald.

# Ottawa displaying double standard over two alleged terrorists

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**IDNUMBER** 200705240216  
**PUBLICATION:** Calgary Herald  
**DATE:** 2007.05.24  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A5  
**COLUMN:** Calgary's Eye on National Politics  
**KEYWORDS:** INQUIRIES; DEPORTATION; CANADA  
**DATELINE:** OTTAWA  
**BYLINE:** Don Martin  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 689

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[dmartin@cns.canwest.com](mailto:dmartin@cns.canwest.com)

# Canada's double standard on terrorism; Government should be a white knight, not an accomplice in a show trial

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**IDNUMBER** 200705240108  
**PUBLICATION:** Times Colonist (Victoria)  
**DATE:** 2007.05.24  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Comment  
**PAGE:** A14  
**COLUMN:** Don Martin  
**BYLINE:** Don Martin  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 689

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Canada's double standard on terrorism; Government should be a white knight, not an accomplice ~~80~~a show

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Canada's double standard on terrorism; Government should be a white knight, not an accomplice ~~81~~ a show

# A tale of two alleged terrorists; Their widely different treatment by Ottawa suggests an unusual double standard

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**IDNUMBER** 200705240118  
**PUBLICATION:** Edmonton Journal  
**DATE:** 2007.05.24  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Opinion  
**PAGE:** A16  
**COLUMN:** Don Martin  
**KEYWORDS:** INQUIRIES; DEPORTATION; CANADA  
**DATELINE:** OTTAWA  
**BYLINE:** Don Martin  
**SOURCE:** Calgary Herald  
**WORD COUNT:** 637

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Don Martin writes for the Calgary Herald

# This is not Canadian justice; Ottawa ignores plight of man jailed in Kabul

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**IDNUMBER** 200705240146  
**PUBLICATION:** National Post  
**DATE:** 2007.05.24  
**EDITION:** National  
**SECTION:** Canada  
**PAGE:** A10  
**COLUMN:** Don Martin  
**DATELINE:** OTTAWA  
**BYLINE:** Don Martin  
**SOURCE:** National Post  
**WORD COUNT:** 675

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One has not been charged with anything, yet languishes in an Kabul jail while his case is studiously avoided by the Prime Minister in talks with the President of Afghanistan.

The other has been tried, convicted and imprisoned for life in Beijing as a terrorist, yet his treatment has destabilized trade relations with an economic superpower. Both Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Foreign Affairs Minister Peter MacKay have repeatedly argued his case with unimpressed Chinese leaders.

Such is the stark contrast between Afghan–alleged suicide bomber Sohail Qureshi of Calgary and China–convicted terrorist Huseyin Celil of Burlington, Ont.

Foreign Affairs won't even utter Mr. Qureshi's name, citing privacy issues, but the Minister regularly denounces the shabby treatment and unfair conviction confronting Mr. Celil. Confused? Ditto.

Clear answers are not forthcoming from Foreign Affairs. They parrot the line that a man is in custody in Kabul and receiving consular assistance. Period. No further comment.

Apparently this is because Mr. Qureshi's family has not given the government permission to publicly rally to his defence — a contention I find difficult to believe.

Now, lest this sound like a bleeding–heart defence for a Calgarian who may have been a suicide bomber waiting to explode, so to speak, a bit of innocent–until–proven– guilty empathy for Mr. Qureshi is called for here.

Granted, the University of Calgary computer science graduate appeared to be hardening his religious views to the point that violence may have been an option under consideration.

But hard evidence to back allegations that he was about to join an alleged brother in the dead–end job of successful suicide bomber is mighty sketchy.

Police in Calgary were redflagged by a local Imam after counselling sessions with Mr. Qureshi before his departure for Pakistan three months ago.

He did not reveal any violent intentions or terrorist connections to the imam, nor did he behave irrationally. He did mention "an obligation to defend my brothers and sisters" and "maybe fighting back" against the West, imam Alaa Elsayed says now.

The only clue anything sinister was afoot was "a look on his face," which apparently qualifies as sufficient grounds to notify police.

When he got off a bus in Kabul two weeks ago, authorities apprehended him because, in the view of one official, he acted nervous and had trouble talking. If Afghanistan police waving guns grabbed me off a bus in Kabul, I'd be nervous and tongue-tied too.

What's of concern is that Mr. Qureshi's apprehension may have been triggered by a trumped-up Canadian police tip. If so, alarm bells should be ringing in this government, unless it has lost any shred of short-term political memory.

Lest they forget, the RCMP was nailed in a public inquiry for sharing bogus intelligence with U.S. authorities before they deported Maher Arar to a year of torture in Syria.

Mr. Arar was labelled a terrorist with al-Qaeda links by Conservative MPs in the House of Commons before he was ultimately cleared of wrongdoing and heavily compensated for his suffering.

If police end up being implicated in Mr. Qureshi's arrest, detention and possible abuse on bad information while our government sits on its hands with a gag order in place, it's a guarantee an exonerated Mr. Qureshi would return home with his palms outstretched for some serious coin.

That's why our government must rally behind any Canadian citizen until guilt is established in a credible court of law.

Peter MacKay and indeed the Prime Minister cannot convict Mr. Qureshi through their inaction while backing their obvious belief in Mr. Celil's innocence through an aggressive defence of his file.

Foreign Affairs was unable to confirm yesterday if Prime Minister Harper had raised Mr. Qureshi with Hamid Karsai, the Afghan President.

If so, Mr. Harper certainly didn't promote the intervention in a news conference, in sharp contrast to the Celil situation, which he raised with reporters even before his plane touched down for a meeting with Chinese officials last fall.

Until there's evidence Mr. Qureshi was actually plotting his violent demise along with as many innocent victims as possible, he's a Canadian citizen incarcerated only on the basis of hearsay evidence.

Actually being innocent might not mean much in some countries, where convictions are the rubber stamp that accompanies any police charge.

But a Canadian passport entitles all bearers to the presumption of innocence until a proven conviction.

The government is supposed to be our white knight for rescues abroad, not a hanging judge in the court of public opinion.

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**KEYWORDS:** INQUIRIES; DEPORTATION; CANADA

# RELIGION Amid cowboys and Tory blue, Muslims thrive Calgary's Islamic community, in the spotlight as the home of a Canadian detained in Afghanistan, is a surprisingly large and united group

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**IDN:** 071420143

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**PAGE:** A10 (ILLUS)

**BYLINE:** COLIN FREEZE

**SECTION:** National News

**EDITION:** Metro

**DATELINE:** Calgary AB

**WORDS:** 1791

**WORD COUNT:** 1613

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COLIN FREEZE CALGARY The Muslim youth conference held in Calgary was a big hit. Scores turned out this month to hear the keynote speaker talk about the 11 days she was held captive by the Taliban.

Not only did Yvonne Ridley live to tell her tale, but it turned out to have a twist: The former journalist from the U.K. found her captors to be so courteous that she decided to convert to Islam and spread the word.

"People actually really liked everything she said," said organizer Dana Dabash. The hijab-wearing 21-year-old estimates more than 250 young Muslims attended the event.

In many Western cities, Ms. Ridley has been described as an apparent victim of Stockholm Syndrome. Yet her message about the Taliban went over way better – in Calgary – than one might suspect.

The city remains a haven for oilmen and cowboys, and is the political heartland of Prime Minister Stephen Harper's Conservatism. But Muslims here say their community now comprises about 65,000 Calgarians, most arriving within the span of two generations.

As they've grown, Calgary Muslims have prided themselves on their unity. Other Islamic communities cleave by race, language and sect, but here, people from all corners of the globe pray together at a Sunni mosque in the city's southwest.

The city's main mosque was surrounded by farmland when built 30 years ago.

Today, its minaret looks out over a residential neighbourhood that has built up around it.

Most Muslims actually live in the opposite corner of Calgary, in the northeast. Like most immigrants, they have been drawn to newly built subdivisions on cheaper land. To pray at the established mosque in the southwest, they make a lengthy commute, forgoing the relatively sparse prayer centres in the northeast.

There are some signs of a generation gap emerging. Several young Muslims say they are growing their beards and wearing Islamic dress, fighting the wishes of parents who urge them to conform.

One outspoken imam complains a hard-line influence is spreading outward from mosques and student groups. He says he once consoled a despondent mother whose son called her a kafir (infidel) and left home.

Meanwhile, a Karachi-educated medical doctor in Calgary is keeping his pain a private matter, after trying and failing to dissuade his son, a 24-year-old computer whiz, from going abroad. For the past two weeks, Sohail Qureshi has been awaiting charges in a Kabul jail, arrested on suspicion of plotting a suicide bombing. For reasons that are still best known only to himself, he was bent on making a journey from Alberta to Afghanistan, just months after he graduated from the University of Calgary.

UNITED WE STAND Ali Nasser, 21, puts pen to paper inside the southwestern mosque, working on a khutba (sermon) he is to deliver to schoolchildren.

His topic is solidarity. "United we stand, divided we fall," he says.

Like most young Muslims in Calgary, he says he had only a passing acquaintance with Mr. Qureshi, and no real insight into his mindset.

The facts are not in, the allegations remain unproved. "We don't know," said Mr. Nasser. "And if we don't know, we shouldn't judge." Still, he said, the news – as it is being reported – "just hurts, know what I mean? Because that's not the way it is. Islam is not spread by the sword." A beaming beanpole of energy, wearing a white kameez that his mother frowns upon, Mr. Nasser is incredibly passionate about the Koran. Prayers and fasting used to grate on him, but now he's at the mosque every day. His faith reawakened at 19.

"When you accept it, it's an epiphany, it's like a new lease on life," he said.

In July, dawn prayers begin at 4 a.m. Nighttime prayers start after 11 p.m.

Ramadan, a month of fasting based on the lunar calendar, is especially tough when it lands in the summer. The devout go 19 hours without food or water.

Elders recall that in the 1960s, there weren't even 40 people to get together for Friday prayers.

The first proper mosque wasn't completed until 1978. Now it's controlled by the Muslim Council of Calgary, an organization with about \$20-million in assets, including mosques, schools and a graveyard.

Calgary remains a place where you could paint a two-by-four Tory blue and it would win a seat if put up for election, quips Nagah Hage, the chairman of the MCC. But the Lebanese grocer, a former Liberal candidate, says consensus among Muslims is much tougher to build.

He works at it on a daily basis. He's been at it for more than 25 years.

And that, not Mr. Qureshi, is the real story about the Calgary Islamic community, the grocer says. Muslims from all corners of the world pray together, he says, just as he sells his halal meat to everyone from pakool-capped Afghans to the snazzily dressed sons of Pakistani diplomats.

His council guides much of what's said and what's taught in the city. In other cities, each imam can be an island inside his own mosque. Yet the MCC has hired five full-time imams, and vets applicants for suitable education and disposition. One, Sheik Alaa Elsayed, a young preacher was recently brought in from Ontario, partly for his knack of working with the youth.

Last year, after the arrests of 18 young Muslims in Toronto, the plainspoken Mr. Elsayed said Muslims must address the problem of extremism. "We have no choice," he told a reporter. "We must put forward a game

RELIGION Amid cowboys and Tory blue, Muslims thrive Calgary's Islamic community, in the spotlight as the

plan and educate our youth, so they do not fall into brainwashing." But months after saying that he found out just how hard it can be. A few months ago, a man called him, beseeching him for help in turning around a son who was announcing plans to fight the jihad in Afghanistan.

Mr. Elsayed arranged a meeting with the family, counselling the young man that the Koran prohibited the plan – and even phoned the police. Yet today, he fears, none of this dissuaded a youth "brainwashed" by the Internet.

The imam has never named names, but there is no longer any doubt he is talking about Mr. Qureshi. The shadow cast by the detainee made many headlines last week, at least until the MCC asked Muslims to stop talking about Mr. Qureshi to the press.

Inside the southwestern mosque, life has moved on. There are khutbas to prepare, marriages to facilitate, funerals to arrange.

This week, a Lebanese imam led a dozen Pakistanis in funeral prayers for a stillborn baby. The service was short because in Islam, babies go straight to heaven. Another imam said that God doesn't start counting sins until a Muslim turns 13 years old – when young people must take responsibility for themselves.

A BREAKAWAY MOSQUE Syed Soharwardy, who says he is a descendant of the Prophet Mohammed, has broken with other Muslim leaders. He says that just as he hated seeing an intolerant form of Islam invade his native Pakistan, he now hates to see it spreading in Calgary.

In an interview, he recalled a conversation he had a couple of years ago, in Urdu. A crying woman "told me, 'I need your help.

My own son has left me and he calls me kafir ,' " he recalled. "I said, 'Wow, why did he call you kafir ?' "She said, 'We are Shia and my son converted. He said I cannot live with kafir parents.' " Mr. Soharwardy's issues with other Muslim leaders started years before he heard that one. A decade ago, he said, he wanted to celebrate the Prophet Mohammed's birthday, but was told he couldn't.

"These people are saying this is haram [forbidden], this is bida [innovation], if you celebrate the Prophet's birthday this is the biggest sin," he recalled. And ever since, he says, he has been hearing about more and more things that are supposedly bida .

Innovation is anathema to many fundamentalists. To them, it causes disunity, and it is best to keep Islam austere, literal.

Mr. Soharwardy has formed a breakaway mosque in the city's northeast, where he has tried out some different things. He once brought in a Jewish woman to talk to the congregation about Hanukkah.

More liberal than most, the outspoken imam does share in his community's widespread cynicism about U.S. policies.

"Mr. Bush, in my opinion, is as big a terrorist as Osama bin Laden," he said. Today, he worries about the impact of events such as the war in Iraq and the ongoing prison dispute on Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

"It creates a feeling in the minds of our kids," he said. "Why is the blood of a Muslim so cheap?" THE DEALERS OF ISLAM Sitting in Starbucks sipping on a smoothie, Muslim student activist Dana Dabash says that all the talk of youth extremism must be taken with a huge grain of salt. While the state of the world may be "upsetting," she said, "it's not something you would take into your own hands." Ms. Dabash argues that a lot of good is done by Muslim Students Associations, like the one she presides over at college. The MSAs

RELIGION Amid cowboys and Tory blue, Muslims thrive Calgary's Islamic community, in the spotlight as the

keep students out of the bars. Members can compare notes on how they're dealing with their parents.

The posters she made for the recent weekend conference had a radical chic quality to them – showing a silhouetted youth in hip-hop clothes, under the banner "Muslim Youth: Dealers of Islam." They created some buzz about the event.

"We're sort of the dealers of Islam, right? We're the ones that spread the message, talk about it. It puts the idea in people's heads," said Ms. Dabash.

The conference had some glitches. There was one guest she had to un-invite.

Upon reflection, she found it prudent to ask writer Yamin Zakaria, who lives in Mumbai, not to come to Calgary. His tracts – with titles like Seven Good Reasons to Nuke the United States – are controversial.

Critics argue the writer treads too closely to endorsing terrorism.

Ms. Dabash says the provocative writings amount to satirical takes on issues like the folly of U.S.-led pre-emptive war. Still, she concedes, the writer's arrival in Canada could have caused "a big fuss" if border guards read the titles of the essays too literally.

Before Ms. Dabash moved to Calgary three years ago, she lived in Texas. She says the Lone Star State actually has a lot more going on, compared with Calgary.

The home state of George W. Bush, she said, "has an amazing Islamic community."

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Calgary

SUBJECT TERM: religion; islam; muslims; lifestyles; culture

PERSONAL NAME: Yvonne Ridley

ORGANIZATION NAME: Taliban

RELIGION Amid cowboys and Tory blue, Muslims thrive Calgary's Islamic community, in the spotlight as the

# Muslims await word on Afghan detainee

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**IDNUMBER** 200705200081  
**PUBLICATION:** Times Colonist (Victoria)  
**DATE:** 2007.05.20  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A7  
**DATELINE:** CALGARY  
**BYLINE:** Joel Kom and Deborah Tetley  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 368

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CALGARY -- Members of Calgary's Muslim community are questioning Ottawa's silence surrounding the case of a Canadian man being held in Afghanistan.

It was a little more than a week ago that Sohail Qureshi, a 24-year-old University of Calgary computer science grad, stepped off a bus in Kabul and, within hours, became the first Canadian in almost five years to be detained for alleged ties to the insurgency in Afghanistan.

Since then, diplomats and Canadian politicians -- amid charges of detainees being mistreated after Canadian Forces handed them over to Afghan authorities -- have said little about the case.

Qureshi has not been charged with any crime.

"He's sitting in a jail and he hasn't been charged," said Nagah Hage, of the Muslim Council of Calgary. "Put pressure on the Afghan government to release him to the Canadian government. Let him come back home."

Hage said his community was stunned by the arrest, but many are still waiting for more details. Qureshi's family are strong community members, he said.

"He's one of ours, he's a Canadian," he said. "Unless he's charged, he's got no business sitting in a cell."

Qureshi's fate could take months, even years, to be determined, say experts.

Meanwhile, the matter has yet to garner much mention in the House of Commons.

Foreign Affairs Minister Peter MacKay did bring up the case of two other imprisoned Canadians in the House on Friday, saying he was "very concerned" about allegations of mistreatment in Saudi Arabia, where the two are being held on murder charges.

MacKay was the only politician to comment after the arrest.

"At this point in time, for privacy reasons, we're not at liberty to say a lot about this case, but it is somewhat unusual," he said last week in Halifax.

He was alluding to the fact that it's a Canadian citizen suspected of forging links to terrorism, allegedly travelling abroad to do so.

According to reports, Qureshi was acting strangely after getting off a bus in Kabul.

He was then arrested on suspicions of plotting to support the insurgency, reports said, though details on what was allegedly planned have varied.

One report said Qureshi wanted to follow in the footsteps of a brother who committed a suicide bombing last year, but community sources said Qureshi does not have a brother.

The last time a Canadian was detained for fighting with the insurgency, it took close to five years for charges to be formally laid.

Omar Khadr, now 20 years old, was charged in March with murdering a U.S. army medic in Afghanistan, an act alleged to have been committed when he was 15. When he was arrested, then-prime minister Jean Chretien weighed in, saying Canada would demand fair treatment for the teenager.

# Send detained Canadian home: leader; Government silent as community seeks answers

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**IDNUMBER** 200705200074  
**PUBLICATION:** The Ottawa Citizen  
**DATE:** 2007.05.20  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A5  
**DATELINE:** CALGARY  
**BYLINE:** Joel Kom and Deborah Tetley  
**SOURCE:** The Calgary Herald  
**WORD COUNT:** 331

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CALGARY – Members of Calgary's Muslim community are questioning the federal government's silence surrounding the case of a Canadian man being held in Afghanistan.

It was a little more than a week ago that Sohail Qureshi, a 24-year-old University of Calgary computer science grad, stepped off a bus in Kabul. Within hours, he became the first Canadian in almost five years to be detained for alleged ties to the insurgency in Afghanistan.

Since then, diplomats and Canadian politicians — amid charges of detainees being mistreated after Canadian Forces handed them over to Afghan authorities — have said very little about the case. Mr. Qureshi has not been charged with any crime.

Nagah Hage, of the Muslim Council of Calgary, said his community was stunned by the arrest, but many are still waiting for more details.

"He's one of ours, he's a Canadian," he said. "Unless he's charged, he's got no business sitting in a cell."

Mr. Qureshi's fate could take months, even years, to be determined, say experts.

The matter has yet to garner much mention in the House of Commons.

Foreign Affairs Minister Peter MacKay was the only politician to comment after Mr. Qureshi's arrest.

"At this point in time, for privacy reasons, we're not at liberty to say a lot about this case, but it is somewhat unusual," he said last week in Halifax.

He was alluding to the fact that it's a Canadian citizen suspected of forging links to terrorism, allegedly travelling abroad to do so.

Canada has already gained consular access to Mr. Qureshi, who also has Pakistani citizenship. But government officials have stressed the case is an Afghan matter and Canada's only job is to ensure Mr. Qureshi's well-being.

That position should be expected, said Darryl Robinson, an international war crimes law expert and acting director of the University of Toronto's International Human Rights Clinic.

"In Afghanistan, they're trying to build a system, so it makes sense for them to take the case," he said.

But, he added, "it'll probably take months for the next step" -- formal charges -- to come. There are provisions for bringing Mr. Qureshi to Canada, he said, but it's unlikely.

The last time a Canadian was detained for fighting with the insurgency, it took close to five years for charges to be formally laid.

Omar Khadr, now 20, was charged in March with murdering a U.S. army medic in Afghanistan, an act alleged to have been committed when he was 15.

# 'Let him come back home'; Local Muslims call for return of detainee

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**IDNUMBER** 200705200126  
**PUBLICATION:** Calgary Herald  
**DATE:** 2007.05.20  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** City & Observer  
**PAGE:** B1 / FRONT  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: Nagah Hage;  
**BYLINE:** Joel Kom and Deborah Tetley  
**SOURCE:** Calgary Herald  
**WORD COUNT:** 761

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Members of Calgary's Muslim community are questioning Ottawa's silence surrounding the case of a Canadian man being held in Afghanistan.

It was a little more than a week ago that Sohail Qureshi, a 24-year-old University of Calgary computer science grad, stepped off a bus in Kabul and, within hours, became the first Canadian in almost five years to be detained for alleged ties to the insurgency in Afghanistan.

Since then, diplomats and Canadian politicians — amid charges of detainees being mistreated after Canadian forces handed them over to Afghan authorities — have said very little about the case, even though Qureshi has not been charged with any crime.

"He's sitting in a jail and he hasn't been charged," said Nagah Hage, chair of the Muslim Council of Calgary. "Put pressure on the Afghan government to release him to the Canadian government. Let him come back home."

Hage said his community was stunned by the arrest, but many are still waiting for more details to come out. Qureshi's family are strong community members, he added.

"He's one of ours, he's a Canadian," he said. "Unless he's charged, he's got no business sitting in a cell."

Qureshi's fate could take months, even years, to be determined, say experts.

Meanwhile, the matter has yet to garner a mention in the House of Commons and government MPs declined to return calls from the Herald this week.

Foreign Affairs Minister Peter MacKay did bring up the case of two other imprisoned Canadians in the House on Friday, saying he was "very concerned" about allegations of mistreatment in Saudi Arabia, where the two brothers from Quebec are being held on murder charges.

MacKay was the only politician to comment after Qureshi's arrest.

"At this point in time, for privacy reasons, we're not at liberty to say a lot about this case, but it is somewhat unusual," he said last week in Halifax.

He was alluding to the fact that it's a Canadian citizen suspected of forging links to terrorism, allegedly travelling abroad to do so. According to reports, Qureshi was acting strangely after getting off a bus in Kabul. He was then arrested on suspicions of plotting to support the insurgency, reports said, though details on what was planned have varied.

One report said Qureshi wanted to follow in the footsteps of a brother who is said to have committed a suicide bombing last year. But community sources said Qureshi does not have a brother.

The last time a Canadian was detained for fighting with the insurgency, it took close to five years for charges to be formally laid.

Omar Khadr, now 20, was charged in March in the death of a U.S. army medic in Afghanistan, an act alleged to have been committed when he was 15.

When he was arrested, then-prime minister Jean Chretien weighed in, saying Canada would demand fair treatment for the teenager.

Canada has gained consular access to Qureshi, who also has Pakistani citizenship. But government officials have stressed the case is an Afghan matter and Canada's only job is to ensure Qureshi's well-being.

That position should be expected, considering Canada wants Afghanistan to eventually stand on its own two legs, said Darryl Robinson, an international war crimes law expert and acting director of the University of Toronto's International Human Rights Clinic.

"In Afghanistan they're trying to build a system, so it makes sense for them to take the case," Robinson said.

But, he added, "it'll probably take months for the next step" -- formal charges -- to come. There are provisions for bringing Qureshi to Canada, he said, but it's unlikely.

Gavin Cameron, a terrorism expert at the University of Calgary, said holding a terror suspect without charges is within the law.

"Rightly or wrongly, the emphasis has shifted from maintaining individual rights to maintaining collective rights and protecting society as a whole," he said. "Keeping them detained is the only way to ensure they aren't going to do any damage."

Cameron said it's concerning that government officials have remained tight-lipped on the matter, given the eventual charges are often much less serious than the initial accusations.

He also questions why it has not been made public where Qureshi is being held.

"It is troubling that individuals can essentially disappear into the system," Cameron said.

Requests to speak with MacKay and Calgary MPs Art Hanger, Jim Prentice and Deepak Obhrai -- who briefly commented on Qureshi's case last week -- were declined.

Federal Liberal consular affairs critic Dan McTeague said Canada's response so far has been "appropriate," adding it was a good sign Qureshi got a consular visit within a week of being detained.

"I don't believe there's more that can be done that has already been done," he said. "We have to let justice take its course."

Meanwhile, the silence on Qureshi's case has extended from the government to professors and students who interacted with him at the University of Calgary, where he graduated with a computer science degree last year.

Many told the Herald they have been asked by university administration not to speak with the media.

Several members of the Muslim community have also declined comment, saying they've been told to let select leaders do the talking.

Attempts to reach Qureshi's family were unsuccessful.

Nagah Hage said his community's lack of public reaction is simply a symptom of not knowing the details of where one of their own is being held.

"We shouldn't pass judgment so quickly on this kid," he said. "God only knows what he's done."

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# AFGHAN TERROR PROBE Calgary Muslims want action on detainee Ottawa should move to bring home Canadian computer-science student being held in Afghan jail, group says

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**IDN:** 071390088

**DATE:** 2007.05.19

**PAGE:** A13

**BYLINE:** COLIN FREEZE

**SECTION:** National News

**EDITION:** National

**DATELINE:** Calgary AB

**WORDS:** 575

**WORD COUNT:** 544

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COLIN FREEZE CALGARY The leader of Calgary's biggest Muslim group is urging Ottawa to get a 24-year-old Canadian out of an Afghan jail, where he is being held on suspicion of plotting a suicide bombing.

Sohail Qureshi should be brought back to Canada, possibly to face trial here, said Nagah Hage, who chairs the Muslim Council of Calgary.

"We think the government should take a stand," Mr. Hage said in an interview. "Bring him home. Let's do what you have to bring him home, Let's deal with him here, so that if he did something, then he can get a fair trial." Mr. Hage later added, "I think they're making a big deal out of it because he's a Muslim. It's all speculation." Calgary Muslims generally describe Mr. Qureshi as a "quiet" loner and say they do not want to prejudge the case or speculate as to why he was in Afghanistan. A local imam has said that months ago he tried to dissuade a young computer-science student from a self-appointed mission to fight jihad – holy war – in Afghanistan.

Mr. Qureshi, who last year graduated from the University of Calgary, was pulled off a bus that arrived in Kabul last week. Afghan authorities allege he attended a paramilitary training camp in Pakistan and that he was in the process of plotting a suicide bombing.

Last weekend, the top counterterrorism investigator in Afghanistan said that no bomb materials were found on the suspect and that he would need several more days to determine charges. None have been formally laid.

Canada's Foreign Affairs Department has said its diplomats have visited the Canadian prisoner. "We have verified his well-being," said Ambra Dickie, a spokeswoman for the department.

Members of Calgary's 60,000-strong Muslim community say they are growing impatient with the investigation.

"We're sitting back here and we're saying 'Let's wait, let's wait, let's wait,' " said Mr. Hage of the MCC, which runs mosques, schools and prayer centres. "Let's wait for what?" He argued that "Canada has a good relationship with the Afghan government. If you're not going to charge him, let him go. Or release him to

Canadian authorities and let us deal with him." The suspect's family has not made any public remarks since the arrest.

Mr. Hage said this is a painful time for them. The father is a respected doctor who immigrated from Pakistan and moved to Calgary in the mid-1990s after living in several Canadian cities. The leader of the local Muslim council added that the suspect "never had a brother," which is significant.

Afghan authorities have said they are looking into an alleged confession in which the detainee is to have said that he wanted to emulate a "brother" who perpetrated a suicide bombing last fall.

An attack against the Afghan Interior Ministry by an unknown suicide bomber killed a dozen people in Kabul last Sept. 30 Canadian consular officials have visited Mr. Qureshi in jail, but members of his community fear his jailers might be torturing him .

"God knows what's happening to him, God knows what they're doing to him," Mr. Hage said.

He bristles at the fact that the arrest of an individual overseas has cast a shadow on Calgary's Muslim community.

"It happened, so big deal . . . it doesn't mean the faith has to be hijacked. . . ."

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Calgary; Canada; Afghanistan

SUBJECT TERM:justice; terrorism; suspects; canadians; statements

PERSONAL NAME: Sohail Qureshi; Nagah Hage

ORGANIZATION NAME: Muslim Council of Calgary

# City imam hopes for justice

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**IDNUMBER** 200705150142  
**PUBLICATION:** Calgary Herald  
**DATE:** 2007.05.15  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** City & Region  
**PAGE:** B4  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: Imam Alaa Elsayed.;  
**KEYWORDS:** RELIGION; WAR  
**BYLINE:** Joel Kom, With files from Jamie Komarnicki  
**SOURCE:** Calgary Herald  
**WORD COUNT:** 191

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The imam who tried to dissuade a Calgary man from going to Afghanistan to fight western forces said Monday he still doesn't know for sure if it's the same man who was recently arrested in Afghanistan.

Imam Alaa Elsayed said he hasn't received any confirmation on the man's identity, either from the man's family or Calgary's Muslim community.

"This person could be in the Bahamas for all I know," he said Monday.

If it was indeed him, he added, he emphasized his desire for justice to take its course.

"I seriously wish that people deal with it as an allegation," he said.

A young Calgarian of Pakistani background was arrested in Kabul last week on suspicions of plotting a suicide attack.

The arrested man has been identified as Sohail Qureshi, who graduated from the University of Calgary last year with a computer science degree.

Staff at the computer science department declined comment Monday, but acquaintances at the university have described him as a quiet man who would show up at Muslim Students Association events but generally kept to himself.

Qureshi left Canada to travel about three months ago, but did not return as planned in April.

Elsayed met Qureshi several months ago to counsel him against going to Afghanistan. He then called police, asking them to dissuade Qureshi.

Elsayed said Monday police did all they could.

He also said the local Muslim community hasn't received any threats due to the arrest, a sign he said of Calgary's tolerance.

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# Suicide bombers open about plans, police say; And more are arriving in Afghanistan, Kabul's top criminal investigator says

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**PUBLICATION:** Vancouver Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.05.15  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A7  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Colour Photo: Tom Blackwell, CanWest News Service / Gen.Alishah Paktiawal heads criminal investigations in Kabul. ;  
**KEYWORDS:** SUICIDE; WAR; BOMBINGS; TERRORISM  
**DATELINE:** KABUL  
**BYLINE:** Tom Blackwell  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 499

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KABUL — If the Canadian man arrested in Afghanistan last week was, as alleged, planning a suicide bombing, he would not be alone in having his bloody mission aborted by authorities.

While media coverage tends to focus on successful detonations, close to 50 would-be suicide bombers have been arrested alive in Kabul in the last few years, and the number arriving in the city is growing, local police say.

Most talk freely about their plans and background, and provide videos they recorded beforehand, helping build a vivid profile of the terrorists, said Gen. Alishah Paktiawal, head of criminal investigations for Kabul police.

Most are foreigners, of Arab, Pakistani or central Asian background, trained in the tribal regions of Pakistan near the Afghan border, Paktiawal told CanWest News Service recently.

The bombers are coached to believe they are holy warriors with a calling to destroy infidels, he said. "They brainwash the people," said Paktiawal. "They say 'You are the honest, you are the clean guys. You are going forever to paradise.' "

The officer said prospective suicide bombers behave strangely in the first few days in custody, then seem to become more rational. This leads him to suspect some are given drugs.

Their stories are surprisingly similar. Most suggest they "are here for paradise" and "to kill the foreigners." What's more, Paktiawal said, it is clear "the numbers are increasing."

After a period of relative peace, Kabul has seen some successfully completed suicide bombings in recent months. So far, however, this year has not been as bloody as 2006. A 15-year-old Afghan bystander was killed in March when a bomber blew himself up near a U.S. Embassy convoy. Last September, a bombing outside the Ministry of the Interior killed 12 and, in the same month, another suicide blast close to the American mission left 16 dead, including two U.S. soldiers.

Across Afghanistan, suicide attacks rose from six in 2004 to 136 in 2006, according to a Human Rights Watch report.

Interviews with those captured alive suggest a variety of motives and forces are at play, said the top detective. Their families may be paid as much as \$50,000, a small fortune in this region, while some are driven by religious or political ideologies, said Paktiawal.

He also suspects the heroin lords in Afghanistan are backing suicide bombers.

Most of the bombers have been foreigners with a group called Islamic Movement Unit. Others have come from the Kashmir area of Pakistan, Yemen and elsewhere in the Arab world, the officer said. He added that they are trained by al-Qaida at camps inside Pakistan.

Other reports, however, have suggested many of the suicide bombers in Afghanistan are dispatched by the Taliban, and often are Afghans.

Paktiawal said the bombers' methods are changing and improving but, for security reasons, refused to elaborate. However, he insisted that police are making inroads with their intelligence gathering.

"Whenever a suicide bomber comes into Afghanistan, we get the news," the officer said. "Now, it's much better. We are getting quick information."

An Afghan government source said the Canadian, identified as Sohail Qureshi, aroused police suspicions when he appeared nervous and could not answer simple questions during a routine sweep of passengers exiting a bus from Pakistan.

# Suicide bombers open about plans, police say; And more are arriving in Afghanistan, Kabul's top criminal investigator says

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**IDNUMBER** 200705150023  
**PUBLICATION:** Vancouver Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.05.15  
**EDITION:** Final C  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A7  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Colour Photo: Tom Blackwell, Canwest News Service / Gen.Alishah Paktiawal heads criminal investigations in Kabul. ;  
**KEYWORDS:** SUICIDE; WAR; BOMBINGS; TERRORISM  
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# 'You are going forever to paradise': How to sign up a suicide bomber; Afghanistan mission

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**IDNUMBER** 200705150139  
**PUBLICATION:** National Post  
**DATE:** 2007.05.15  
**EDITION:** National  
**SECTION:** World  
**PAGE:** A13  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Black & White Photo: Tom Blackwell, National Post / General Alishah Paktiawal, head of criminal investigations in Kabul. ;  
**DATELINE:** KABUL  
**BYLINE:** Tom Blackwell  
**SOURCE:** National Post  
**WORD COUNT:** 537

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Their families may be paid as much as US\$50,000, a small fortune in this region, while some are driven by religious or political ideologies, said Gen. Paktiawal.

He also suspects the heroin lords in Afghanistan are backing suicide bombers, believing that by seeding instability in the country they can keep the ground fertile for their activities.

Most of the bombers have been foreigners, some from Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, with a group called Islamic Movement Unit. Others have come from the Kashmir area of Pakistan, Yemen and elsewhere in the Arab world, the officer said. He added that they are trained by al-Qaeda at camps inside Pakistan.

Other reports, however, have suggested many of the suicide bombers in Afghanistan are dispatched by the Taliban, and often are Afghans.

Gen. Paktiawal said the bombers' methods are changing and improving but, for security reasons, refused to elaborate. However, he insisted that police are making inroads with their intelligence gathering, although he declined again to say how, exactly, police track down potential terrorists.

"Whenever a suicide bomber comes into Afghanistan, we get the news," the officer said. "Now, it's much better. We are getting quick information."

An Afghan government source said the Canadian, identified as Sohail Qureshi, aroused police suspicions when he appeared nervous and could not answer simple questions during a routine sweep of passengers exiting a bus from Pakistan.

NATIONALPOST.COM

Please see Tom Blackwell's blog on [www.nationalpost.com/](http://www.nationalpost.com/)

**KEYWORDS:** SUICIDE; BOMBINGS; WAR; TERRORISM; CRIME; AFGHANISTAN; PAKISTAN

# Editorial – Terror's reach

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**PUBLICATION:** WINNIPEG FREE PRESS

**DATE:** 2007.05.15

**PAGE:** A12

**SECTION:** Editorial Leaders

**WORD COUNT:** 433

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Editorial Staff The arrest last week of an Alberta man by police in Kabul on the suspicion that he was planning a suicide bombing should make the nature of the war on terror a bit clearer to Canadians. Although the allegations against Sohail Qureshi, who was travelling on a Canadian passport, are unproven, the situation is a reminder that the threat today is not purely international — it has a domestic face as well.

However Mr. Qureshi's case works out — Canadian consular officials quickly sought access to him to ensure that he is treated fairly — the incidence of "home-grown" terrorism in Western countries, including Canada, is rising. Canadian Muslims were charged in a terrorist attack on the Toronto subway and in a Montreal truck bombing.

Several Canadians served as ranking members of the al-Qaida Islamist government of Somalia before its overthrow this year.

The recruitment of foreign Muslims as suicide bombers is a deliberate strategy by al-Qaida and Taliban terrorist leaders. Dozens of aspiring suicide bombers have been arrested in Afghanistan this year alone, and a majority of them are foreigners. Most of the suicide bombers who succeeded in blowing up at least themselves last year were also foreign Muslims, lured by the promise of paradise through martyrdom, posthumous notoriety or the substantial rewards the Taliban pay to their families. Al-Qaida in Iraq uses similar appeals in Islamic communities abroad.

The man responsible for offering foreigners preferential placement on the list of would-be martyrs in Afghanistan was Mullah Dadullah Lang, who was killed recently in a clash with Afghan-NATO forces.

Dadullah was the Taliban's second in command, a bloodthirsty fanatic with a penchant for atrocities. Dadullah was also the Taliban's military commander, responsible for its war strategy that has claimed the lives of 53 Canadian soldiers and countless Afghan civilians, and the architect of the plan to recruit foreign Muslims as suicide bombers.

Dadullah himself was the victim of a coalition plan to target Taliban leaders — three members of its supreme council have been killed or captured recently. The idea is to thwart the terrorists by leaving them leaderless. It is a useful one, and in the case of recruiting foreign suicide bombers, may help, depending on whom the Taliban finds to replace Dadullah. The candidates for that increasingly dangerous position will almost certainly be Afghans themselves — recruits eager to do their bidding, however, may come from anywhere in the world.

# Canadian arrested in Afghanistan allegedly plotted suicide bombing

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**IDNUMBER** 200705140125  
**PUBLICATION:** Edmonton Journal  
**DATE:** 2007.05.14  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A4  
**KEYWORDS:** WAR  
**DATELINE:** KANDAHAR AIRFIELD  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 197

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KANDAHAR AIRFIELD – The young Canadian arrested in Afghanistan as a possible terrorist first roused suspicions when he appeared nervous and unable to answer simple questions during a routine police sweep, an Afghan government source says.

The man, of Pakistani background with a Canadian passport, had just got off a bus in Kabul from Pakistan. After that first interview, he was handed over to intelligence officers for more questioning, the source said.

Authorities suspect he was planning to hook up with a terrorist cell in Kabul, but have no solid proof yet, said the official.

"He didn't have anything suspicious on himself, no explosives," the source said.

"It was just a regular check of passengers. Then he got worried. He was shaking. He couldn't answer simple questions. He was stumbling."

Another report, however, offered a slightly different version of events, alleging the 24-year-old was planning to commit a suicide bombing in central Kabul and claimed that his brother had blown himself up in a bloody bombing there last fall.

The arrested man has been identified as Sohail Qureshi, who graduated from the University of Calgary last year with a computer science degree.

Acquaintances at the university described him as a quiet man who would show up at Muslim Students Association events but generally kept to himself.

The Foreign Affairs Department has said it is offering consular services to the suspect.

# Muslims keep distance from local terror suspect

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**IDNUMBER** 200705140149  
**PUBLICATION:** Calgary Herald  
**DATE:** 2007.05.14  
**EDITION:** Early  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A1 / FRONT  
**KEYWORDS:** WAR  
**BYLINE:** Jamie Komarnicki, Tom Blackwell  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 511

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Local Muslim leaders distanced themselves from a Calgarian arrested in Afghanistan for possible ties to terrorism, but pledged support for the young man's family should they come forward.

After seeing their mosque splashed across national news following the allegations, some members are worried about a knee-jerk reaction connecting religion and violence, said Nagah Hage, chairman of the Muslim Council of Calgary.

"Calgary's reputation has been plastered all over the country and all over the world. The community doesn't need this," Hage said. "It's shocking, having your mosque shown across the country. It's something close to home."

Officials were to meet Sunday to deal with the community's concerns, he said.

"Just basically to reassure the community that they have nothing to do with this and to reassure the city itself, the city of Calgary, we know nothing about it and we have nothing to do with it," Hage said.

"They're pretty serious allegations. But that's all they are -- they're still allegations. We have to go back to the principle of law, he's innocent until proven guilty."

The young Calgarian arrested in Kabul first aroused suspicions when he appeared nervous and unable to answer simple questions during a routine police sweep, an Afghan government source says.

The man, of Pakistani background with a Canadian passport, had just got off a bus in Kabul from Pakistan. After that first interview, he was handed over to intelligence officers for more questioning, the source said.

Authorities suspect he was planning to hook up with a terrorist cell in Kabul, but have no solid proof yet, said the official.

"He didn't have anything suspicious on himself, no explosives," the source said. "It was just a regular check of passengers. Then he got worried. He was shaking. He couldn't answer simple questions. He was stumbling."

Another report, however, offered a slightly different version of events, alleging the 24-year-old was planning to commit a suicide bombing in central Kabul and claimed that his brother had blown himself up in a bloody bombing there last fall.

The arrested man has been identified as Sohail Qureshi, who graduated from the University of Calgary last year with a computer science degree.

Acquaintances at the university described him as a quiet man who would show up at Muslim Students Association events but generally kept to himself. Qureshi left Canada to travel about three months ago, but did not return as planned in April.

The Foreign Affairs Department has said it is offering consular services to the suspect.

The man is alleged to have arrived in Kabul with "terrorist intentions," and was attempting to "contact some people in Kabul to organize something," the Afghan official said.

But the allegations are still being investigated.

"It is not proved that this guy is working with a group of terrorists in Kabul," said the official.

CTV, however, quoted the Interior Ministry as suggesting an unnamed 24-year-old foreigner was arrested and admitted that his brother had been the suicide bomber who detonated explosives outside the ministry's main gate last fall. The letter also alleges that the suspect was planning to carry out a suicide bombing himself, CTV said.

In the September incident, a pedestrian walked up to the gate of the ministry and detonated a bomb, killing 12 — including two children — and wounding more than 40.

A Kabul police officer told CanWest News Service recently that dozens of would-be suicide bombers have been arrested alive in the city.

With files from Stewart Bell, National Post

[jkomarnicki@theherald.canwest.com](mailto:jkomarnicki@theherald.canwest.com)

# Detained Canadian may have advocated jihad; Muslim leader spoke with a man thought to be the one charged in Afghanistan

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**IDNUMBER** 200705140072  
**PUBLICATION:** The Record (Kitchener, Cambridge And Waterloo)  
**DATE:** 2007.05.14  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Front  
**PAGE:** A6  
**DATELINE:** TORONTO  
**SOURCE:** Canadian Press  
**COPYRIGHT:** © 2007 Torstar Corporation  
**WORD COUNT:** 406

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An Alberta imam says he spoke several months ago with a Calgary man he believes is the Canadian detained in Afghanistan and says the man talked about "helping his brothers and sisters in Afghanistan" by fighting the jihad but didn't mention a suicide bombing.

In a report from Kandahar, CTV quoted a written statement from Afghan authorities that alleged the Canadian admitted to planning to carry out a suicide bombing in Kabul. The statement also allegedly claimed the man's brother was the suicide bomber behind a Sept. 30, 2006, attack near the security gate of the Interior Ministry in Kabul that killed 12 people and injured at least 42.

In Ottawa, Foreign Affairs spokesperson Rejean Beaulieu said Saturday he could not confirm any Canadian had been involved in the 2006 bombing in Kabul and added he was "not aware of this."

Sheikh Alaa Elsayed said in Toronto on Saturday he met with the man six months ago, but he wouldn't name him out of respect for the family and the fact authorities haven't identified him officially.

"I presume it would be him. I still cannot confirm that nor deny it, but it is a very good chance it is him," he said.

Elsayed, who is with the Muslim Council of Calgary, said the man's worried father had phoned him and asked for an immediate meeting last November.

"I received a basically frantic phone call regarding his son. And what happened is he said I need your help with my son."

Elsayed said when he met with the son, the young man didn't mention anything specific and didn't show irrational behaviour but did mention the word "jihad," which he had read on the Internet.

"He did mention something that 'it's an obligation upon me to defend my brothers and sisters, which pretty much is putting me shoulder to shoulder . . . maybe fighting back.' Nothing into the connotation or indication of anything to do with suicide bombing," Elsayed said.

The Canadian citizen, reportedly of Pakistani origin, was detained by Afghan police at a Kabul bus station on Tuesday. He was accused of attending a militant training camp in Pakistan along the border with Afghanistan.

Detained Canadian may have advocated jihad; Muslim leader spoke with a man thought to be the one charged

Canadian officials have visited the man, who is being held for investigation in Kabul.

"He has had contact now with consular officials in Afghanistan. We had people at the embassy that have access to him.

"For privacy concerns and reasons expressed previously we can't say much more than that," Foreign Affairs Minister Peter MacKay said Saturday in Pictou, Nova Scotia where he and federal Environment Minister John Baird made the latest in a series of green funding announcements.

The National Post has identified the man detained in Kabul as Sohail Qureshi, 24.

# Canadian's demeanour aroused suspicion, official says

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**IDNUMBER** 200705140073  
**PUBLICATION:** Times Colonist (Victoria)  
**DATE:** 2007.05.14  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A7  
**DATELINE:** KANDAHAR AIRFIELD  
**BYLINE:** Tom Blackwell  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 344

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KANDAHAR AIRFIELD — The young Canadian arrested in Afghanistan as a possible terrorist first roused suspicions when he appeared nervous and unable to answer simple questions during a routine police sweep, an Afghan government source says.

The man, of Pakistani background with a Canadian passport, had just got off a bus in Kabul from Pakistan. After that first interview, he was handed over to intelligence officers for more questioning, the source said.

Authorities suspect he was planning to hook up with a terrorist cell in Kabul, but have no solid proof yet, said the official.

"He didn't have anything suspicious on himself, no explosives," the source said.

"It was just a regular check of passengers. Then he got worried. He was shaking. He couldn't answer simple questions. He was stumbling."

Another report, however, offered a slightly different version of events, alleging the 24-year-old was planning a suicide bombing in central Kabul and claimed that his brother had blown himself up in a bloody bombing there last fall.

The arrested man has been identified as Sohail Qureshi, who graduated from the University of Calgary last year with a computer science degree.

Acquaintances at the university described him as a quiet man who would show up at Muslim Students Association events but generally kept to himself.

Qureshi left Canada to travel about three months ago, but did not return as planned in April.

The Foreign Affairs Department has said it is offering consular services to the suspect. The man is alleged to have arrived in Kabul with "terrorist intentions," and was attempting to "contact some people in Kabul to organize something," the Afghan official said.

The allegations are being investigated.

"It is not proved that this guy is working with a group of terrorists in Kabul," said the official.

CTV, however, quoted the Interior Ministry as suggesting an unnamed 24-year-old foreigner was arrested and admitted that his brother had been the suicide bomber who detonated explosives outside the ministry's main gate last fall.

The letter also alleges that the suspect was planning to carry out a suicide bombing himself, CTV said. In the September incident, a pedestrian walked up to the gate of the ministry and detonated a bomb, killing 12 — including two children — and wounding more than 40.

A Kabul police officer told CanWest News Service recently that dozens of would-be suicide bombers have been arrested alive in the city.

# Canadian held in Afghanistan was 'shaking' during sweep Nervousness sparked arrest, not explosives, Afghan official says

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**IDNUMBER:** 200705140064  
**PUBLICATION:** The Ottawa Citizen  
**DATE:** 2007.05.14  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A12  
**DATELINE:** KANDAHAR, Afghanistan  
**BYLINE:** Tom Blackwell with files from Stewart Bell  
**SOURCE:** National Post  
**WORD COUNT:** 300

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# Canadian arrested

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**IDNUMBER** 200705140044  
**PUBLICATION:** The Windsor Star  
**DATE:** 2007.05.14  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** B2  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 145

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# Key Taliban commander slain; Mullah Dadullah Lang notorious for beheadings

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**IDNUMBER** 200705140043  
**PUBLICATION:** The Windsor Star  
**DATE:** 2007.05.14  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** B2

**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: Associated Press photo courtesy of SkyTG24 / THREATNO MORE: This video frame of an interview broadcast and released by SkyTG24 on March 29, 2007 shows the man who SkyTG24 identified as Taliban commander Mullah Dadullah. ;

**DATELINE:** KANDAHAR, AFGHANISTAN

**BYLINE:** Tom Blackwell

**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service

**WORD COUNT:** 566

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KANDAHAR, AFGHANISTAN -- Striking a powerful blow against the Taliban insurgency, Afghan authorities and international forces announced Sunday they had killed Mullah Dadullah Lang, the group's second-in-command with a gruesome penchant for decapitation.

The coalition had reported one-legged Dadullah's death, prematurely, in the past.

But to erase any doubt this time, the governor of Kandahar showed journalists his blackened corpse, making a point of indicating the amputee limb.

The mullah was a "brutal butcher," responsible for countless beheadings and other killings of Afghans and Western soldiers, said Gov. Assadullah Khalid.

Analysts and military officials said the death could be a significant setback for the movement, which has killed dozens of Canadian troops since early 2006.

As the Taliban's military commander, Dadullah was the main force behind the so-called asymmetrical warfare increasingly being waged by the insurgents: roadside bombs, suicide explosions and, more recently, kidnappings of foreigners and locals.

His reputation for brutality would appear well deserved, too, said Dr. Najeeb ur Rahman Manalai of the Kabul-based Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies.

"Most of the beheadings were either done by himself or were ordered by him," Manalai told CanWest News Service.

"He was a very violent person."

That violent nature may have developed after he lost his leg in a mine accident, he said.

The exact nature of Dadullah's death, which occurred in the volatile Sangin district of Helmand province, was unclear Sunday.

Khalid indicated he died in an air strike, while other reports suggested he perished during a clash with the Afghan National Army.

NATO said he was slain in a U.S.-led coalition operation, supported by ISAF, the NATO mission here.

"It is a serious blow and a real setback to the insurgency and quite a boost to the people who believe in a peaceful and stable Afghanistan," Maj. John Thomas, an ISAF spokesman, said in an interview.

Years of experience

He acknowledged that the mullah, part of the Taliban's 10-member leadership council, will eventually be replaced, but suggested doing so would not be easy, given his years of military experience.

The death will hurt the Taliban until a successor is found, said Manalai. However, "they may not be able to find anyone to replace him," he said.

At the news conference in the governor's palace, Dadullah's body, covered in a pink sheet, was wheeled out for media.

Officials lifted up the cover to reveal the mullah's head and his amputated leg. Wounds were visible on his torso and head.

"This brutal person, this famous killer was killed in a joint operation," said the governor. "He was a famous commander and I can say he was the backbone of the Taliban and al-Qaida in Afghanistan."

Dadullah, a Pashtun of the Kakar tribe, has been a central figure with the Taliban since it first emerged in 1994, and before that fought in the war against the Soviet occupiers. When the Islamist group first formed a government, he was made minister of reconstruction, but Mullah Omar, the Taliban leader, fired him after a notorious massacre of Hazara people, when he personally decapitated one of the victims, said Manalai.

## CANADIAN ARRESTED

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# Canadian in Afghanistan arrested as possible terrorist

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**IDNUMBER** 200705140014  
**PUBLICATION:** Vancouver Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.05.14  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A7  
**KEYWORDS:** WAR; CRIME; AFGHANISTAN; CANADA  
**DATELINE:** KANDAHAR AIRFIELD  
**BYLINE:** Tom Blackwell  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 281

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KANDAHAR AIRFIELD — The young Canadian arrested in Afghanistan as a possible terrorist first roused suspicions when he appeared nervous and unable to answer simple questions during a routine police sweep, an Afghan government source says.

The man, of Pakistani background with a Canadian passport, had just got off a bus in Kabul from Pakistan. After that first interview, he was handed over to intelligence officers for more questioning, the source said.

Authorities suspect he was planning to hook up with a terrorist cell in Kabul, but have no solid proof yet, said the official.

"He didn't have anything suspicious on himself, no explosives," the source said.

"It was just a regular check of passengers. Then he got worried. He was shaking. He couldn't answer simple questions. He was stumbling."

Another report, however, offered a slightly different version of events, alleging the 24-year-old was planning to commit a suicide bombing in central Kabul and claimed that his brother had blown himself up in a bloody bombing there last fall.

The arrested man has been identified as Sohail Qureshi, who graduated from the University of Calgary last year with a computer science degree.

Acquaintances at the university described him as a quiet man who would show up at Muslim Students Association events but generally kept to himself.

Qureshi left Canada to travel about three months ago, but did not return as planned in April.

The Foreign Affairs Department has said it is offering consular services to the suspect.

The man is alleged to have arrived in Kabul with "terrorist intentions," and was attempting to "contact some people in Kabul to organize something," the Afghan official said.

"It is not proved that this guy is working with a group of terrorists in Kabul," said the official.

CTV, however, quoted the Interior Ministry as suggesting an unnamed 24-year-old foreigner was arrested and admitted that his brother had been the suicide bomber who detonated explosives outside the ministry's main gate last fall.

The letter also alleges that the suspect was planning to carry out a suicide bombing himself, CTV said.

# Canadian arrested on suspicion of terrorism; Man may have been planning suicide attack in Kabul, report says

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**IDNUMBER** 200705140041  
**PUBLICATION:** The StarPhoenix (Saskatoon)  
**DATE:** 2007.05.14  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** World  
**PAGE:** B5  
**DATELINE:** KANDAHAR AIRFIELD  
**BYLINE:** Tom Blackwell  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 327

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The Foreign Affairs Department has said it is offering consular services to the suspect.

The man is alleged to have arrived in Kabul with "terrorist intentions," and was attempting to "contact some people in Kabul to organize something," the Afghan official said.

But the allegations are still being investigated.

Canadian arrested on suspicion of terrorism; Man may have been planning suicide attack in Kabul, report says

"It is not proved that this guy is working with a group of terrorists in Kabul," said the official.

CTV, however, quoted the Interior Ministry as suggesting an unnamed 24-year-old foreigner was arrested and admitted that his brother had been the suicide bomber who detonated explosives outside the ministry's main gate last fall.

The letter also alleges that the suspect was planning to carry out a suicide bombing himself, CTV said.

In the September incident, a pedestrian walked up to the gate of the ministry and detonated a bomb, killing 12 — including two children — and wounding more than 40.

A Kabul police officer told CanWest News Service recently that dozens of would-be suicide bombers have been arrested alive in the city.

(National Post)

# Canadian had bomb plan: Afghan report; Calgary imam speaks; Suspect nervous before arrest: Afghans

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**IDNUMBER** 200705140101  
**PUBLICATION:** National Post  
**DATE:** 2007.05.14  
**EDITION:** National  
**SECTION:** World  
**PAGE:** A12  
**DATELINE:** KANDAHAR AIRFIELD  
**BYLINE:** Tom Blackwell  
**SOURCE:** National Post, with files from Stewart Bell and JamieKomarnicki  
**WORD COUNT:** 452

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KANDAHAR AIRFIELD – The young Canadian arrested in Afghanistan as a possible terrorist first roused suspicions when he appeared nervous and unable to answer simple questions during a routine police sweep, an Afghan government source says.

The man, of Pakistani background with a Canadian passport, had just gotten off a bus in Kabul from Pakistan.

After that first interview, he was handed over to intelligence officers for more questioning, the source said.

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Acquaintances at the university described him as a quiet person who would show up at Muslim Students Association events but generally kept to himself.

Mr. Qureshi left Canada to travel about three months ago, but did not return as planned in April.

The Foreign Affairs Department has said it is offering consular services to the suspect.

The man is alleged to have arrived in Kabul with "terrorist intentions," and was attempting to "contact some people in Kabul to organize something," the Afghan official said.

But the allegations are still being investigated.

"It is not proved that this guy is working with a group of terrorists in Kabul," said the official.

A Calgary imam said on the weekend he recently counselled a young man not to fight in Afghanistan and instead advised him to "return to the correct path."

But Imam Alaa Elsayed said he feared the young man, whom he did not name, went ahead with his plans when their weekly talks "fizzled" after two months.

Mr. Elsayed said he received a frantic phone call from young man's father in November. After that, the three men met in person, at which time, Mr. Elsayed said, the young man insisted he wanted to help his "brothers and sisters in Afghanistan."

The three of them spoke for about two hours.

"We talked about what his train of thought was, what he believed in and what he was willing to do, and it was obviously out of line," Mr. Elsayed said. "We tried as much as we could to get him on track.

"I asked if he was still adamant about what he was going to do. He had a look on his face and he nodded."

Mr. Elsayed said he contacted police, asking them to dissuade the young man from his plans in Afghanistan.

CTV quoted the Interior Ministry as suggesting an unnamed 24-year-old foreigner was arrested and admitted that his brother had been the suicide bomber who detonated explosives outside the ministry's main gate last fall.

That report also alleged that the suspect was planning to carry out a suicide bombing himself.

In the September incident, a pedestrian walked up to the gate of the ministry and detonated a bomb, killing 12 — including two children — and wounding more than 40.

A Kabul police officer said recently that dozens of would-be suicide bombers have been arrested alive in the city.

**KEYWORDS:** WAR; CRIME; AFGHANISTAN; CANADA; ALBERTA

# Terror fostered at home: Expert

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**SOURCETAG** 0705140735

**PUBLICATION:** The Calgary Sun

**DATE:** 2007.05.14

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** 3

**BYLINE:** TODD SAELHOF AND PABLO FERNANDEZ, SUN MEDIA

**WORD COUNT:** 281

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An Alberta political science expert said yesterday the unwillingness of some parents to embrace Canadian culture can contribute to young Muslims' desire to take up arms against the West.

Dr. Saleem Qureshi, a University of Alberta professor of Middle East and Islam politics, said some parents' efforts to foster Islamic identity in their kids can unwittingly lead to some young Muslims' susceptibility to jihadist propaganda.

"They do not realize that by infiltrating these kind of ideas they are in some ways telling the children they actually do not belong here in the West and that they actually belong somewhere else," said Dr. Qureshi, who is not related to Sohail Qureshi, a 24-year-old University of Calgary graduate arrested in Afghanistan on suspicion of attending a militant training camp in Pakistan.

Qureshi said he is certain some young Muslims in Alberta — especially children of immigrants — feel a sense of alienation.

He added he thinks it's because some parents do not immerse themselves and their kids in Canadian culture.

"It is essentially the parents, who from the infancy of these children, instil the ideas that we are Muslim, that Islam is our religion and that Islam is our identity," he said.

"Then somebody comes along and says Islam is under attack ... and that it's the duty of every Muslim to fight the jihad and that you should go there and fight."

Meanwhile, Nagah Hage, the leader of the Muslim Council of Calgary, cautioned against convicting the U of C student too quickly.

"You have to go back to the principles of laws in this country and the concept that you're innocent until proven guilty," he said.

"A lot has been said in the last couple of days, the media has already implicated this guy — they've labelled him, the stigma has already been given."

It's in everyone's best interest to wait for the facts, said Hage, who warned convicting Qureshi in the court of public opinion not only stains the image of Islam but that of Calgary, as a whole. **KEYWORDS=ALBERTA**

# Calgary imam says Canadian held overseas spoke of jihad

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**IDNUMBER** 200705140092  
**PUBLICATION:** The Hamilton Spectator  
**DATE:** 2007.05.14  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Canada/World  
**PAGE:** A6  
**DATELINE:** TORONTO  
**BYLINE:** Pat Hewitt  
**SOURCE:** The Canadian Press  
**COPYRIGHT:** © 2007 Torstar Corporation  
**WORD COUNT:** 375

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An Alberta imam says he spoke six months ago with a Calgary man he believes is the Canadian detained in Afghanistan as a possible terrorist. He says the man talked about "helping his brothers and sisters in Afghanistan" by fighting the jihad but didn't mention a suicide bombing.

In a report from Kandahar, CTV Newsnet quoted a written statement from Afghan authorities that alleged the Canadian admitted to planning to carry out a suicide bombing in Kabul. The statement also allegedly claimed the man's brother was the suicide bomber behind an attack in Kabul last September that killed 12 people.

In Ottawa, Department of Foreign Affairs spokesman Rejean Beaulieu said he is not aware that any Canadian had been involved in that bombing.

Sheikh Alaa Elsayed said in Toronto Saturday he wouldn't name the man out of respect for the family and the fact authorities haven't identified him officially.

"I presume it would be him. I still cannot confirm that nor deny it but it is a very good chance it is him," he said.

Elsayed, who is with the Muslim Council of Calgary, said the man's father had phoned him in November.

"I received a basically frantic phone call regarding his son. ... He said, 'I need your help with my son.'"

Elsayed said when he met with the son, the young man didn't mention anything specific and didn't show irrational behaviour but did mention the word "jihad," which he had read on the Internet.

"He did mention something that 'It's an obligation upon me to defend my brothers and sisters, which pretty much is putting me shoulder to shoulder ... maybe fighting back.' Nothing into the connotation or indication of anything to do with suicide bombing," Elsayed said.

Elsayed said at the end of the two-hour meeting, he asked the man if he was going to do what he wanted anyway, and the man nodded his head and was adamant about his obligation. The imam said he gave the man an ultimatum and said he would go to the authorities if he didn't relent.

The man appeared to back down, but Elsayed said he may have been trying to buy himself time.

The Canadian citizen, reportedly of Pakistani origin, was detained by Afghan police at a Kabul bus station on Tuesday and accused of attending a militant training camp in Pakistan along the border with Afghanistan.

The National Post has identified the man as Sohail Qureshi, 24.

A University of Calgary spokesperson said Qureshi graduated from the university in June 2006 with a bachelor of science degree in computer science.

# DETAINEE Afghans tracked Canadian for weeks

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**PUBLICATION:** GLOBE AND MAIL  
**IDN:** 071340052  
**DATE:** 2007.05.14  
**PAGE:** A4  
**BYLINE:** STEVE CHAO  
**SECTION:** National News  
**EDITION:** Metro  
**DATELINE:** KANDAHAR, AFGHANISTAN  
**WORDS:** 446  
**WORD COUNT:** 432

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STEVE CHAO With reports from Colin Freeze and Dawn Walton KANDAHAR, AFGHANISTAN  
Afghanistan's head counterterrorism investigator said in an interview yesterday that his government spent months trying to keep tabs on a 24-year-old Canadian who had crossed the Afghanistan-Pakistan border several times before being arrested in Kabul last week.

But as Abdul Manan Farahi, chief of Afghanistan's anti-terrorism unit, announced that his officials have taken over the investigation, he also said more time is needed to determine whether the "suspicious" young man in their custody is the aspiring suicide bomber he has been accused of being.

"We are also not sure that this man in jail is a terrorist, but he is suspicious," Mr. Farahi said in an interview in Afghanistan.

He added: "Let me clarify that we haven't arrested him with bomb or any other things that show he has been trying to carry out a suicide attack." The official, who said the investigation could be completed as early as this week, appeared to be distancing himself from allegations made earlier by Afghanistan's Ministry of Interior and police that the Canadian had already "confessed" to planning to become a suicide bomber.

Mr. Farahi said Afghan authorities had been on the lookout for the suspect for months, noticing him in South Afghanistan long before he was arrested and looking nervous while arriving in Kabul by bus on May 8.

According to several published accounts and sources, the Canadian prisoner is Sohail Qureshi, a 2006 graduate in computer sciences at the University of Calgary. No relatives have come forward.

Those who knew the suspect in Canada describe him as an introvert, who quickly adopted extreme religious views from the Internet. They say he announced plans to become a jihadist in Afghanistan, refusing to heed entreaties from his father, friends, and his imam not to go.

Some of those concerned about the young man talked to police in Canada, who in turn may have tipped Afghan authorities to watch out for him. "After he confirmed this was his intention, I told him he had to stand down," said Imam Alaa Elsayed, of Calgary, who says he counselled the young man to stay in Canada months ago.

"I told him I had an obligation to notify the authorities, because I don't want to be an accomplice, nor did I want it to go further than this," said Mr. Elsayed.

Mr. Farahi said yesterday that the 24-year-old suspect spent more than 20 days in Southern Afghanistan, then returned to Pakistan, where he allegedly trained in Taliban or al-Qaeda camps.

On May 8, Afghan police were notified the suspect had crossed back into the country.

Steve Chao is a CTV reporter.

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Afghanistan; Canada

SUBJECT TERM:terrorism; suspects; canadians

PERSONAL NAME: Sohail Qureshi

ORGANIZATION NAME: Taliban; al-Qaeda

# Man arrested in Kabul told not to fight, imam says

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**IDNUMBER** 200705130092  
**PUBLICATION:** Times Colonist (Victoria)  
**DATE:** 2007.05.13  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A6  
**DATELINE:** CALGARY  
**BYLINE:** Jamie Komarnicki  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 158

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CALGARY— A Calgary imam says he recently counselled a young man not to fight in Afghanistan, advising him to "return to the correct path."

But Imam Alaa Elsayed said he feared the young man, whom he did not name, went ahead with his plans when their weekly talks "fizzled" after two months.

Sohail Qureshi, 24, a University of Calgary computer science graduate, was arrested in Kabul last week and is under investigation for possible ties to terrorism.

He was taken into custody because of suspicions he had attended terrorist training camps in Pakistan, said Omar Samad, Afghanistan's ambassador to Canada.

Authorities haven't confirmed Qureshi's identity, though Elsayed said the description matches that of the man he counselled.

Elsayed said he received a frantic phone call from the young man's father in November.

After that, the three men met in person, at which time, Elsayed said, the young man insisted he wanted to help his "brothers and sisters in Afghanistan."

The three spoke for about two hours.

"We talked about what his train of thought was, what he believed in and what he was willing to do, and it was obviously out of line," Elsayed said.

"We tried as much as we could to get him on track.

# Imam says Calgary man spoke of jihad

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**IDNUMBER** 200705130125  
**PUBLICATION:** Edmonton  
Journal  
**DATE:** 2007.05.13  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A5  
**KEYWORDS:** WAR  
**DATELINE:** TORONTO  
**BYLINE:** Pat Hewitt  
**SOURCE:** The Canadian  
Press  
**WORD COUNT:** 424

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TORONTO – An Alberta imam says he spoke several months ago with a Calgary man he believes is the Canadian detained in Afghanistan, and says the man talked about "helping his brothers and sisters in Afghanistan" by fighting the jihad, but didn't mention a suicide bombing.

In a report from Kandahar, CTV Newsnet quoted a written statement from Afghan authorities that alleged the Canadian admitted to planning to carry out a suicide bombing in Kabul. The statement also allegedly claimed the man's brother was the suicide bomber behind a Sept. 30, 2006, attack near the security gate of the Interior Ministry in Kabul that killed 12 people and injured at least 42. Foreign Affairs spokesman Rejean Beaulieu said Saturday he could not confirm any Canadian had been involved in the 2006 bombing in Kabul and added he was "not aware of this."

Sheikh Alaa Elsayed said in Toronto on Saturday he met with the man six months ago but he wouldn't name him out of respect for the family and the fact authorities haven't identified him officially. Elsayed, who is with the Muslim Council of Calgary, said the man's

worried father had phoned him and asked for an immediate meeting last November.

"I received a basically frantic phone call regarding his son. And what happened is he said, 'I need your help with my son.' " Elsayed said when he met with the son, the young man didn't mention anything specific and didn't show irrational behaviour but did mention the word "jihad," which he had read on the Internet.

Elsayed said at the end of the two-hour meeting, he asked the man if he was going to do what he wanted anyway, and the man nodded his head and was adamant about his obligation. The imam said he gave the man an ultimatum and said he would go to the authorities if he didn't relent, "because we will not tolerate it, nor do we accept anything for one person to put 65,000 Muslims in Calgary in a tight spot, or Canada at large," Elsayed said.

The man appeared to back down, but Elsayed said he may have been trying to buy himself time.

The Canadian citizen, reportedly of Pakistani origin, was detained by Afghan police at a Kabul bus station on Tuesday and accused of attending a militant training camp in Pakistan along the border with Afghanistan. Canadian officials have visited the man, who is being held for investigation in Kabul. The National Post has identified the man detained in Kabul as Sohail Qureshi, 24.

# Imam tried to dissuade city man

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**IDNUMBER** 200705130156  
**PUBLICATION:** Calgary Herald  
**DATE:** 2007.05.13  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A1 / FRONT  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Colour Photo: Alaa Elsayed;  
**KEYWORDS:** WAR; CRIME; AFGHANISTAN  
**BYLINE:** Jamie Komarnicki  
**SOURCE:** Calgary Herald; With files from The Canadian Press  
**WORD COUNT:** 529

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A Calgary imam says he fears his efforts to counsel a Calgarian to "return to the correct path" — and not fight in Afghanistan — failed.

Sohail Qureshi, a University of Calgary computer science graduate, was arrested in Kabul and is under investigation for possible ties to terrorism.

The 24-year-old Calgarian of Pakistani heritage was taken into custody this week.

Imam Alaa Elsayed began counselling a young Calgarian, whom he would not name, about six months ago after receiving a frantic phone call from the man's father.

Authorities haven't confirmed Qureshi's identity, though Elsayed has said the man's description matches that of the person he counselled.

"I presume it would be him. I still cannot confirm that nor deny it but it is a very good chance it is him," he said.

Elsayed said when he met with the son, the young man didn't mention anything specific and didn't show irrational behaviour, but did mention the word "jihad," which he had read on the Internet.

"He did mention something that 'it's an obligation upon me to defend my brothers and sisters, which pretty much is putting me shoulder to shoulder . . . maybe fighting back.' Nothing in the connotation or indication of anything to do with suicide bombing," Elsayed said.

The imam said the man didn't talk about any connections, anybody he had listened to specifically, with whom he was dealing or any network or organization to which he wanted to belong.

"There was a red flag, but it wasn't a red flag that was a 9/11 right away," said Elsayed. "We talked about what his train of thought was, what he believed in and what he was willing to do and it was obviously out of line. We tried as much as we could to get him on track.

"I asked if he was still adamant about what he was going to do. He had a look on his face and he nodded."

Elsayed contacted police, asking them to try and dissuade the young man from his plans in Afghanistan. He talked with the young man weekly before their meetings "fizzled," about two months later.

In a report from Kandahar, CTV Newsnet quoted a written statement from Afghan authorities that alleged the Canadian, who was detained because of suspicions he had attended terrorist training camps in Pakistan, admitted to planning to carry out a suicide bombing in Kabul.

The statement also allegedly claimed the man's brother was the suicide bomber behind a Sept. 30, 2006, attack near the security gate of the Interior Ministry in Kabul that killed 12 people and injured at least 42.

In Ottawa, Foreign Affairs spokesman Rejean Beaulieu said Saturday he could not confirm any Canadian had been involved in the 2006 bombing in Kabul.

Elsayed also could not confirm the CTV report that the detained man's brother had been a suicide bomber. He said the man and the man's father didn't tell him anything about that.

Greg Harris, a media relations adviser at the U of C, said Saturday that Qureshi graduated with a bachelor of science degree majoring in computer science in June 2006. But citing privacy concerns, he said the university is not commenting on the case.

The man was carrying a Canadian passport at the time of his arrest.

Calgary East MP Deepak Obhrai confirmed that the young man being held in Kabul is receiving consular services in Afghanistan, ensuring he gets help from the Canadian Embassy while he's in custody.

"He has received a consular visit, as is normal when a Canadian overseas is arrested; we ensure, first, access for consular service," said Obhrai, who is the parliamentary secretary for foreign affairs.

[jkomarnicki@theherald.canwest.com](mailto:jkomarnicki@theherald.canwest.com)

# Imam says Calgary man arrested in Kabul spoke of jihad, not suicide bombing

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**DATE:** 2007.05.12  
**KEYWORDS:** DEFENCE INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE  
**PUBLICATION:** cpw  
**WORD COUNT:** 734

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TORONTO (CP) \_ An Alberta imam says he spoke several months ago with a Calgary man he believes is the Canadian detained in Afghanistan and says the man talked about "helping his brothers and sisters in Afghanistan" by fighting the jihad but didn't mention a suicide bombing.

In a report from Kandahar, CTV Newsnet quoted a written statement from Afghan authorities that alleged the Canadian admitted to planning to carry out a suicide bombing in Kabul. The statement also allegedly claimed the man's brother was the suicide bomber behind a Sept. 30, 2006 attack near the security gate of the Interior Ministry in Kabul that killed 12 people and injured at least 42.

In Ottawa, Foreign Affairs spokesman Rejean Beaulieu said Saturday he could not confirm any Canadian had been involved in the 2006 bombing in Kabul and added he was "not aware of this."

Sheikh Alaa Elsayed said in Toronto on Saturday he met with the man six months ago but he wouldn't name him out of respect for the family and the fact authorities haven't identified him officially.

Elsayed, who is with the Muslim Council of Calgary, said the man's worried father had phoned him and asked for an immediate meeting last November.

"I received a basically frantic phone call regarding his son. And what happened is he said I need your help with my son."

Elsayed said when he met with the son, the young man didn't mention anything specific and didn't show irrational behaviour but did mention the word "jihad," which he had read on the Internet.

"He did mention something that 'it's an obligation upon me to defend my brothers and sisters, which pretty much is putting me shoulder to shoulder ...maybe fighting back.' Nothing into the connotation or indication of anything to do with suicide bombing," Elsayed said.

The imam said the man didn't talk about any connections, anybody he had listened to specifically, with whom he was dealing or any network or organization to which he wanted to belong.

"There was a red flag, but it wasn't a red flag that was a 9-1-1 right away," said Elsayed.

Elsayed said at the end of the two-hour meeting, he asked the man if he was going to do what he wanted anyway, and the man nodded his head and was adamant about his obligation. The imam said he gave the man an ultimatum and said he would go to the authorities if he didn't relent.

"...because we will not tolerate it, nor do we accept anything for one person to put 65,000 Muslims in Calgary in a tight spot or Canada at large," Elsayed said.

The man appeared to back down, but Elsayed said he may have been trying to buy himself time.

The Canadian citizen, reportedly of Pakistani origin, was detained by Afghan police at a Kabul bus station on Tuesday and accused of attending a militant training camp in Pakistan along the border with Afghanistan.

“The last information I received that he did get caught going to Afghanistan but he did not commit anything or do anything. So obviously he is innocent until proven guilty,” said Elsayed.

Elsayed also could not confirm the CTV report that the detained man's brother had been a suicide bomber. He said the man and the man's father didn't tell him anything about that.

At the time of last September's bombing, Afghan President Hamid Karzai had condemned the blast and said that “suicide attackers come from outside Afghanistan and target the most devoted and the poorest Muslim people of the world.”

Karzai also vowed he and Pakistan's president would lead a series of tribal gatherings along their countries' shared border to quell attacks on Afghanistan by Pakistan-based Taliban rebels.

Canadian officials have visited the man, who is being held for investigation in Kabul.

“He has had contact now with consular officials in Afghanistan. We had people at the embassy that have access to him. For privacy concerns and reasons expressed previously we can't say much more than that,” Foreign Affairs Minister Peter MacKay said Saturday in Pictou, Nova Scotia where he and federal Environment Minister John Baird made the latest in a series of green funding announcements.

The National Post has identified the man detained in Kabul as Sohail Qureshi, 24.

Despite the published report, MacKay also declined to confirm the man's name, saying “that doesn't change anything.”

Beaulieu also would not release the man's name on Saturday, citing the Privacy Act.

Greg Harris, a media relations adviser at the University of Calgary, said Saturday that Qureshi graduated with a bachelor of science degree majoring in computer science from the university in June 2006. But citing privacy concerns, he said the university is not commenting on the case.

The man was carrying a Canadian passport at the time of his arrest.

Canadian officials say they are expecting to have access to the man as long as he remains in custody.

“Afghan authorities have indicated that regular consular access will be granted,” said department spokeswoman Ambra Dickie on Friday.

# Imam says Calgary man arrested in Kabul spoke of jihad, not suicide bombing

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**KEYWORDS:** DEFENCE INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE  
**PUBLICATION:** cpw  
**WORD COUNT:** 734

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The man appeared to back down, but Elsayed said he may have been trying to buy himself time.

The Canadian citizen, reportedly of Pakistani origin, was detained by Afghan police at a Kabul bus station on Tuesday and accused of attending a militant training camp in Pakistan along the border with Afghanistan.

“The last information I received that he did get caught going to Afghanistan but he did not commit anything or do anything. So obviously he is innocent until proven guilty,” said Elsayed.

Elsayed also could not confirm the CTV report that the detained man's brother had been a suicide bomber. He said the man and the man's father didn't tell him anything about that.

At the time of last September's bombing, Afghan President Hamid Karzai had condemned the blast and said that “suicide attackers come from outside Afghanistan and target the most devoted and the poorest Muslim people of the world.”

Karzai also vowed he and Pakistan's president would lead a series of tribal gatherings along their countries' shared border to quell attacks on Afghanistan by Pakistan-based Taliban rebels.

Canadian officials have visited the man, who is being held for investigation in Kabul.

“He has had contact now with consular officials in Afghanistan. We had people at the embassy that have access to him. For privacy concerns and reasons expressed previously we can't say much more than that,” Foreign Affairs Minister Peter MacKay said Saturday in Pictou, Nova Scotia where he and federal Environment Minister John Baird made the latest in a series of green funding announcements.

The National Post has identified the man detained in Kabul as Sohail Qureshi, 24.

Despite the published report, MacKay also declined to confirm the man's name, saying “that doesn't change anything.”

Beaulieu also would not release the man's name on Saturday, citing the Privacy Act.

Greg Harris, a media relations adviser at the University of Calgary, said Saturday that Qureshi graduated with a bachelor of science degree majoring in computer science from the university in June 2006. But citing privacy concerns, he said the university is not commenting on the case.

The man was carrying a Canadian passport at the time of his arrest.

Canadian officials say they are expecting to have access to the man as long as he remains in custody.

“Afghan authorities have indicated that regular consular access will be granted,” said department spokeswoman Ambra Dickie on Friday.

# Imam's work 'in vain' Muslim leader seemingly unable to convince Calgarian not to join Afghan terrorists

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**SOURCETAG:** 0705130477  
**PUBLICATION:** The Edmonton Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.05.13  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** 7  
**ILLUSTRATION:** photo of ALAA ELSAYED 'CONCERNED'  
**BYLINE:** TODD SAELHOF AND SARAH KENNEDY, SUN MEDIA  
**DATELINE:** CALGARY  
**WORD COUNT:** 395

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Efforts to counsel a Calgary man against allegedly joining terrorist forces in Afghanistan seem to have failed, said a local cleric.

Sohail Qureshi, a 24-year-old graduate of the University of Calgary, was reportedly taken into custody earlier this week and detained in Afghanistan on suspicion of attending a militant training camp in Pakistan.

According to media reports, Afghan officials allege Qureshi wanted to emulate the actions of his brother, who is suspected of carrying out a suicide bombing in Kabul on Sept. 30.

Although he would not confirm the identity of Qureshi out of respect for the family, Calgary imam Sheikh Alaa Elsayed says he met with a University of Calgary computer sciences grad in November to try and talk him out of joining the fight with insurgents in Afghanistan.

"I was deeply concerned because the train of thought and the determination on his face was very evident that he was going to go through with it," Elsayed said.

"Unfortunately ..."

The imam said he was contacted by the Calgarian's father, who was frantic at his son's behaviour and wanted an intervention to help him.

"We talked for two hours trying to convince his son the ideology he has may not be the proper one, but apparently it was in vain," Elsayed said.

"I will not doubt one single second his intention was pure and sincere because according to him, it was the right thing to do to go and defend his brothers --- basically going to stand shoulder to shoulder and fight defending them."

Elsayed added he tried to work with the young man to get him working or teaching in his field of computer science.

"We said, 'Yes, I understand you may want to get martyrdom status ... but you can do more good if you live for the sake of Allah or the God almighty.' "

The imam believes the Calgarian, who he said grew up a quiet, polite well-mannered boy, was "brainwashed" or "manipulated by emotion" by ideas he found on the Internet.

Sources say Qureshi came to Canada in the 1990s with his family, became a Canadian citizen and then was reported missing by loved ones earlier this year.

The federal government has since been checking into his activities by contacting family and friends, said a source.

A U of C student, who is a fellow Muslim, said Qureshi was a typical student who liked to go to clubs and drink but then suddenly became deeply committed to his religion and become an introvert.

"It was a total 180-degree flip," said the student.

"The reports I was getting was that everybody tried to talk him out of it and tell him this was not what the religion is.

"It's unfortunate because it's going to bring disgrace to the community here."

Another university student, who knows Qureshi from prayer groups, said the Calgarian took his religion seriously but didn't peg the computer sciences grad as an extremist.

"He used to talk to imams about defending his brothers and sisters, and he kept talking about it and talking about it," said the student.

"But none of the people around him seemed to agree with his views."

The university had no comment on the arrest, said U of C spokesman Colleen Turner.

KEYWORDS=ALBERTA

# 'Brainwashed' by dark ideas

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**SOURCETAG** 0705130343

**PUBLICATION:** The Calgary Sun

**DATE:** 2007.05.13

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** 3

**ILLUSTRATION:** sun file photo A British soldier stands guard next to the site where a suicide bomber blew himself up in Kabul on Sept. 30, 2006, next to the Afghan Interior Ministry. The bomber is alleged to have been the brother of Sohail Qureshi, a former Calgarian suspected of being a terrorist.

**BYLINE:** TODD SAELHOF AND SARAH KENNEDY, SUN MEDIA

**WORD COUNT:** 411

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Efforts to counsel a Calgary man against allegedly joining terrorist forces in Afghanistan seem to have failed, says a local cleric.

Sohail Qureshi, a 24-year-old graduate of the University of Calgary, was reportedly taken into custody earlier this week and detained in Afghanistan on suspicion of attending a militant training camp in Pakistan.

According to media reports, Afghan officials allege Qureshi wanted to emulate the actions of his brother, who is suspected of carrying out a suicide bombing in Kabul on Sept. 30, 2006.

Although he would not confirm the identity of Qureshi out of respect for the family, Calgary imam Sheikh Alaa Elsayed says he met with a U of C computer sciences grad in November to try and talk him out of joining the fight with insurgents in Afghanistan.

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"It's unfortunate because it's going to bring disgrace to the community here."

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"He used to talk to imams about defending his brothers and sisters, and he kept talking about it and talking about it," said the student.

"But none of the people around him seemed to agree with his views."

The university had no comment on the arrest, said U of C spokeswoman Colleen Turner.

KEYWORDS=ALBERTA

# Arrested man allegedly influenced by suicide-bombing brother

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**SOURCETAG** 0705130342  
**PUBLICATION:** The Calgary Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.05.13  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** 3  
**BYLINE:** TODD SAELHOF  
**WORD COUNT:** 214

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Following in the footsteps of his brother prompted a Calgarian to want to become a suicide bomber, say media reports.

On suspicion of terrorism, officials in Afghanistan earlier this week arrested 24-year-old University of Calgary graduate Sohail Qureshi, who allegedly confessed his older sibling was responsible for a Sept. 30 attack in Kabul last year, CTV reported yesterday.

"(Afghan authorities) say in a written statement that the Canadian has admitted to planning to carry out a suicide bomb attack in the city," CTV said.

"It also goes on to say that he confessed that his brother was the suicide bomber behind a September 30 attack last year in Kabul that happened in the main gate of the government office."

Reports from the war-torn country allege Qureshi's brother blew himself up outside Afghanistan's Interior Ministry office, killing 12 people and wounding 40 others.

Qureshi, a U of C computer sciences grad, is being detained in Afghanistan on suspicion of attending a terrorist training camp in Pakistan.

A Calgary imam, Sheikh Alaa Elsayed, says he tried to counsel a U of C computer sciences grad in November to keep him from joining the fight with insurgents in Afghanistan.

"I will defend him of doing anything irrational -- doing suicide bombing because he knows better than that -- however, he thought he was doing the honourable thing," Elsayed said.

"I would think his family is under stress, so I'll give them the respect and time they need for now, but if they wish to contact me, I'll be there for them." **KEYWORDS=ALBERTA**

# Albertan held in Afghan terror probe

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**IDNUMBER** 200705120059  
**PUBLICATION:** The StarPhoenix (Saskatoon)  
**DATE:** 2007.05.12  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** B7  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 288

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An Alberta man arrested in Kabul and under investigation for possible ties to terrorism could face trial in Afghanistan depending on the outcome of the police probe, Afghanistan's ambassador to Canada said yesterday.

Sohail Qureshi, 24, who graduated with a degree in computer science from the University of Calgary last year, was taken into custody in the Afghan capital this week because of suspicions he had attended militant training camps in Pakistan.

In Halifax, Foreign Affairs Minister Peter MacKay said the man was getting help from the Canadian embassy in Kabul. "At this point in time, for privacy reasons, we're not at liberty to say a lot about this case, but it is somewhat unusual." A Canadian citizen of Pakistani heritage, Qureshi left the country three months ago and did not return as planned in April. Omar Samad, Afghanistan's ambassador to Canada, cautioned that his government was still trying to confirm the identity of the man arrested by Afghan police.

"It seems that he may have left Canada prior to going to Pakistan and is of South Asian origin, who may have immigrated from another country to Canada," the ambassador said.

"This is not the first time that we see individuals that may have citizenship of a Western country, or any country, but also sympathies to radicalism and sympathies with terrorist organizations," Samad said.

"We've had all kinds of people in the past with this type of involvement. That's why it's so important for all of us, and for all countries to be very careful in not being too lax." He said the investigation was still in the early stages, but that if police forward the case to the attorney general for prosecution, the Canadian will be given a defence lawyer.

# Albertan held in terror probe

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**IDNUMBER** 200705120044  
**PUBLICATION:** The Leader-Post (Regina)  
**DATE:** 2007.05.12  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** C11  
**BYLINE:** Stewart Bell  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 243

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An Alberta man arrested in Kabul and under investigation for possible ties to terrorism could face trial in Afghanistan depending on the outcome of the police probe, Afghanistan's ambassador to Canada said yesterday.

Sohail Qureshi, 24, who graduated with a degree in computer science from the University of Calgary last year, was taken into custody in the Afghan capital this week because of suspicions he had attended militant training camps in Pakistan.

In Halifax, Foreign Affairs Minister Peter MacKay said the man was getting help from the Canadian embassy in Kabul. "At this point in time, for privacy reasons, we're not at liberty to say a lot about this case, but it is somewhat unusual."

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"It seems that he may have left Canada prior to going to Pakistan and is of South Asian origin, who may have immigrated from another country to Canada," the ambassador said.

"This is not the first time that we see individuals that may have citizenship of a Western country, or any country, but also sympathies to radicalism and sympathies with terrorist organizations," Samad said.

"We've had all kinds of people in the past with this type of involvement. That's why it's so important for all of us, and for all countries to be very careful in not being too lax."

# Canadian held in Afghan terror probe

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**IDNUMBER** 200705120125  
**PUBLICATION:** Times Colonist (Victoria)  
**DATE:** 2007.05.12  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A17  
**BYLINE:** Stewart Bell  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 320

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An Alberta man arrested in Kabul and under investigation for possible ties to terrorism could face trial in Afghanistan depending on the outcome of the police probe, Afghanistan's ambassador to Canada said yesterday.

Sohail Qureshi, 24, who graduated with a degree in computer science from the University of Calgary last year, was taken into custody in the Afghan capital this week because of suspicions he had attended militant training camps in Pakistan.

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A Canadian citizen of Pakistani heritage, Qureshi left the country three months ago and did not return as planned in April. Omar Samad, Afghanistan's ambassador to Canada, cautioned that his government was still trying to confirm the identity of the man arrested by Afghan police.

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"This is not the first time that we see individuals that may have citizenship of a Western country, or any country, but also sympathies to radicalism and sympathies with terrorist organizations," Samad said.

"We've had all kinds of people in the past with this type of involvement. That's why it's so important for all of us, and for all countries to be very careful in not being too lax."

He said the investigation was still in the early stages, but that if police forward the case to the attorney general for prosecution, the Canadian will be given a defence lawyer. Afghanistan has already assured the Canadian Embassy in Kabul it will have full consular rights to visit the man, he said.

Canada's intelligence service has been warning the government about what it calls the growing number of Canadians adopting extremist beliefs that advocate violence in the name of the Islamic faith.

# Albertan in Afghan jail may face trial; 24-year-old terror suspect a computer science graduate

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**IDNUMBER** 200705120259  
**PUBLICATION:** National Post  
**DATE:** 2007.05.12  
**EDITION:** National  
**SECTION:** Canada  
**PAGE:** A6  
**BYLINE:** Stewart Bell  
**SOURCE:** National Post, with files from CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 779

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An Alberta man arrested in Kabul and under investigation for possible ties to terrorism could face trial in Afghanistan depending on the outcome of the police probe, Afghanistan's ambassador to Canada said yesterday.

Sohail Qureshi, 24, who graduated with a degree in computer science from the University of Calgary last year, was taken into custody in the Afghan capital this week because of suspicions he had attended militant training camps in Pakistan.

"I knew him as an acquaintance," said Shiraz Khan, president of the Muslim Students Association (MSA) at the Calgary campus. "I'd see him in the hall, say 'Hi,' talk to him now and then.

"I didn't know him that well. He wasn't that involved in MSA. He would just help out in events, that was pretty much it. He was a quiet guy, mostly, kept to himself ... He wasn't too talkative or anything like that."

In Halifax, Foreign Affairs Minister Peter MacKay said the man was getting help from the Canadian embassy in Kabul. "At this point in time, for privacy reasons, we're not at liberty to say a lot about this case, but it is somewhat unusual."

A Canadian citizen of Pakistani heritage, Mr. Qureshi left the country three months ago and did not return as planned in April. Omar Samad, Afghanistan's ambassador to Canada, cautioned that his government was still trying to confirm the identity of the man arrested by Afghan police.

"It seems that he may have left Canada prior to going to Pakistan and is of South Asian origin, who may have immigrated from another country to Canada," the ambassador said.

Throughout the 1990s, thousands of foreigners made their way to Afghanistan to train at the network of paramilitary and terrorist camps run by Osama bin Laden and affiliated anti-Western terrorists.

Since the collapse of the Taliban in 2001, the training camps have shifted across the border to the lawless tribal areas of Pakistan and to Kashmir. Several Canadians are believed to have trained in recent years at camps run by Pakistani-based Islamist groups such as Lashkar-e-Tayyiba.

"This is not the first time that we see individuals that may have citizenship of a Western country, or any country, but also sympathies to radicalism and sympathies with terrorist organizations," Amb. Samad said.

"We've had all kinds of people in the past with this type of involvement. That's why it's so important for all of us, and for all countries to be very careful in not being too lax."

He said the investigation was still in the early stages but that if the police forward the case to the attorney general for prosecution, the Canadian will be given a defence lawyer. Afghanistan has already assured the Canadian embassy in Kabul it will have full consular rights to visit the man, he said.

Alberta was home to one of Canada's most notorious terror suspects, Kassem Daher, a former cinema owner who is wanted in Florida for his alleged role as a terrorist financier and recruiter in the 1990s. He now lives in Lebanon.

Canada's intelligence service has been warning the government about what it calls the growing number of Canadian adopting extremist beliefs that advocate violence in the name of the Islamic faith.

The dangers of so-called homegrown terrorism were highlighted following last summer's arrest of 17 suspects charged with belonging to an "al-Qaeda-inspired" terrorist group that was allegedly planning truck bombings in downtown Toronto.

"The threat to Canada from homegrown Islamist extremism has been on the rise," says a "secret" report prepared for Prime Minister Stephen Harper last year. The report said those undergoing radicalization often display physical and psychological changes such as criticizing anyone who does not share their views and withdrawing from the larger community.

Imam Reda Bedeir of the Calgary Islamic Center said yesterday he recalled a father coming to him last year to ask for help with his son.

"I think I saw the man," the imam said. "He said 'my son has some strange ideas,' because in the mosque where I am leading, we never get the kids to think in such a way.

"We're always trying to tell them Islam means peace and what's going on in the world is not going to be stopped with more violence. Our message is very clear to them but unfortunately some young people, they become desperate and they have bad company and then they end up, they have certain beliefs in their minds and it's very hard for you to argue with them."

He said he had agreed to help the man and his son but that it never went any further. "I talked to him. I said, 'What happened, are you serious about the appointment?' He said, 'Yes but I am trying with my son,' and nothing happened after that. He never came back to me again. Maybe by that time he had already gone or something."

Foreign Affairs said consular officials had already visited the man. A Defence Department spokesman said Kabul police arrested the man.

**KEYWORDS:**

WAR; TERRORISM; CANADIANS; PRISONERS OF WAR;  
CRIME; AFGHANISTAN; CANADA; ALBERTA

# Alberta man may be tried in Afghanistan; Former U of C student suspected militant

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**IDNUMBER** 200705120183  
**PUBLICATION:** Edmonton Journal  
**DATE:** 2007.05.12  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A5  
**KEYWORDS:** TERRORISM; WAR; FOREIGN AID; CANADIANS; PRISONERS OF WAR; AFGHANISTAN; CANADA; PAKISTAN; ALBERTA  
**BYLINE:** Stewart Bell  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 257

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An Alberta man arrested in Kabul and under investigation for possible ties to terrorism could face trial in Afghanistan depending on the outcome of a police probe, Afghanistan's ambassador to Canada said Friday.

Sohail Qureshi, 24, who graduated with a degree in computer science from the University of Calgary last year, was taken into custody in the Afghan capital this week because of suspicions he had attended militant training camps in Pakistan.

Foreign Affairs Minister Peter MacKay said the man was getting help from the Canadian embassy in Kabul. "At this point in time, for privacy reasons, we're not at liberty to say a lot about this case, but it is somewhat unusual."

A Canadian citizen of Pakistani heritage, Qureshi left the country three months ago and did not return as planned in April. Omar Samad, Afghanistan's ambassador to Canada, cautioned that his government was still trying to confirm the identity of the man arrested by Afghan police.

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Throughout the 1990s, thousands of foreigners made their way to Afghanistan to train at the network of paramilitary and terrorist camps run by Osama bin Laden and affiliated anti-Western terrorists.

Several Canadians are believed to have trained in recent years at camps run by Pakistani-based Islamist groups such as Lashkar-e-Tayyiba.

The dangers of so-called homegrown terrorism were highlighted following last summer's arrest of 17 suspects charged with belonging to an "al-Qaida-inspired" terrorist group that was allegedly planning truck bombings in downtown Toronto.

# U of C grad terror suspect; Afghanistan police probe man's ties to terrorist camp

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**IDNUMBER** 200705120278  
**PUBLICATION:** Calgary Herald  
**DATE:** 2007.05.12  
**EDITION:** Early  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A1 / FRONT  
**KEYWORDS:** WAR; TERRORISM; CANADIANS; PRISONERS OF WAR; FOREIGN AID; CRIME; AFGHANISTAN; CANADA; PAKISTAN  
**BYLINE:** Stewart Bell  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 404

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A Calgary man arrested in Kabul and under investigation for possible ties to terrorism could face trial in Afghanistan depending on the outcome of the police probe, Afghanistan's ambassador to Canada said Friday.

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"This is not the first time that we see individuals that may have citizenship of a western country, or any country, but also sympathies to radicalism and sympathies with terrorist organizations," Samad said.

"We've had all kinds of people in the past with this type of involvement. That's why it's so important for all of us, and for all countries, to be very careful in not being too lax," Samad said.

He said the investigation was still in the early stages, but that if police forward the case to the attorney general for prosecution, the Canadian will be given a defence lawyer.

Afghanistan has assured the Canadian Embassy in Kabul it will have full consular rights to visit the man, he said.

Throughout the 1990s, thousands of foreigners made their way to Afghanistan to train at the network of paramilitary and terrorist camps run by Osama bin Laden and affiliated anti-western terrorists. Since the collapse of the Taliban in 2001, the training camps have shifted across the border to the lawless tribal areas of Pakistan and to Kashmir.

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The Department of Foreign Affairs said consular officials had already visited the man.

A Defence Department spokesman said Kabul police arrested the man.

# Alberta man held in Afghan terror probe; Suspect getting help from embassy in Kabul

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**IDNUMBER** 200705120228  
**PUBLICATION:** The Ottawa Citizen  
**DATE:** 2007.05.12  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A5  
**BYLINE:** Stewart Bell  
**SOURCE:** National Post, with files from CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 290

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