

Mr. Ron Brenneman
Chief Executive Officer
PetroCanada
P.O. Box 2844
Calgary, Alberta
T2P 3E3

By fax: 403 296 8333

September 18, 2003

Dear Mr. Brenneman,

You have quite likely seen media coverage over the past year regarding the case of Maher Arar, a Canadian citizen of Syrian origin who has languished in detention without charge or trial in Syria for close to eleven months. I am writing to urge that PetroCanada urge Syrian authorities to take immediate steps to restore to Mr. Arar his basic human rights.

U.S. authorities arrested Mr. Arar on September 26, 2002 while he was in transit through JFK Airport on his way home to Ottawa. Within approximately two weeks he had been summarily deported from the United States first to Jordan and then two weeks later to Syria. There have been vague and unspecified allegations made that Mr. Arar may have links to terrorist organizations, allegations which Mr. Arar's family unequivocally denies. No evidence backing up such allegations has ever been made public by any law enforcement or security agency. Mr. Arar has been provided with no opportunity to clear his name. There are rumours that proceedings may soon be launched in front of Syria's Supreme State Security Court. However, as the attached backgrounder highlights, Amnesty International does not believe that a fair trial would be possible in front of that tribunal.

Meanwhile Mr. Arar is allowed no access to legal counsel or his family and Canadian consular officials are only occasionally allowed to visit him, never in private. Credible reports have emerged that he has been tortured, something Amnesty International knows to be commonplace in Syrian jails. There has been no impartial investigation of those allegations, and no access to independent medical attention.

PetroCanada has a longstanding presence in Syria. It is our understanding that your company is responsible for approximately 20% of Syria's annual oil production and has recently signed an agreement to expand production. Amnesty International considers that all companies have clear responsibilities to operate in ways that not only avoid contributing to human rights violations but also actively promote the protection of human rights in countries where they are present. It is to that responsibility that we are directing this appeal.

Amnesty International has not taken any position with respect to the guilt or innocence of any allegations that have been made against Mr. Arar. Nor are we asking PetroCanada to do so. However we feel it appropriate and incumbent upon PetroCanada to make it clear to Syrian authorities that the company expects internationally-secured fundamental rights, such as the right not to be tortured or arbitrarily arrested and the right to a fair trial, to be observed at all times. As PetroCanada is a Canadian company and Mr. Arar is a Canadian citizen it is particularly appropriate for a specific request be made on Mr. Arar's behalf. We would ask that you press Syrian authorities to take immediate steps to ensure that legal proceedings, which meet international fair trial standards, are launched against Mr. Arar without any further delay or that he be promptly allowed to return to Canada.

Thank you for your attention to this pressing matter. I would be pleased to discuss this further and can be reached directly at 613 744 7667, ext 234. I look forward to hearing of the action you are able to take.

Sincerely,

Alex Neve
Secretary General

Mr. Lukas Lundin
President
Tanganyika Oil Company
#2101 – 885 West Georgia Street
Vancouver, B.C.
V6C 3E8

By fax: 604 689 4250

September 18, 2003

Dear Mr. Lundin,

You have quite likely seen media coverage over the past year regarding the case of Maher Arar, a Canadian citizen of Syrian origin who has languished in detention without charge or trial in Syria for close to eleven months. I am writing to urge that Tanganyika Oil urge Syrian authorities to take immediate steps to restore to Mr. Arar his basic human rights.

U.S. authorities arrested Mr. Arar on September 26, 2002 while he was in transit through JFK Airport on his way home to Ottawa. Within approximately two weeks he had been summarily deported from the United States first to Jordan and then two weeks later to Syria. There have been vague and unspecified allegations made that Mr. Arar may have links to terrorist organizations, allegations which Mr. Arar's family unequivocally denies. No evidence backing up such allegations has ever been made public by any law enforcement or security agency. Mr. Arar has been provided with no opportunity to clear his name. There are rumours that proceedings may soon be launched in front of Syria's Supreme State Security Court. However, as the attached backgrounder highlights, Amnesty International does not believe that a fair trial would be possible in front of that tribunal.

Meanwhile Mr. Arar is allowed no access to legal counsel or his family and Canadian consular officials are only occasionally allowed to visit him, never in private. Credible reports have emerged that he has been tortured, something Amnesty International knows to be commonplace in Syrian jails. There has been no impartial investigation of those allegations, and no access to independent medical attention.

Tanganyika Oil has just announced a new Production Sharing Agreement with the Syrian Petroleum Company, which we understand to be worth approximately \$162 million. Amnesty International considers that all companies have clear responsibilities to operate in ways that not only avoid contributing to human rights violations but also actively promote the protection of human rights in countries where they are present. It is to that responsibility that we are directing this appeal.

Amnesty International has not taken any position with respect to the guilt or innocence of any allegations that have been made against Mr. Arar. Nor are we asking Tanganyika Oil to do so. However we feel it appropriate and incumbent upon Tanganyika Oil to make it clear to Syrian authorities that the company expects internationally-secured fundamental rights, such as the right not to be tortured or arbitrarily arrested and the right to a fair trial, to be observed at all times. As Tanganyika Oil is a Canadian company and Mr. Arar is a Canadian citizen it is particularly appropriate for a specific request to be made on Mr. Arar's behalf. We would ask that you press Syrian authorities to take immediate steps to ensure that legal proceedings, which meet international fair trial standards, are launched against Mr. Arar without any further delay or that he be promptly allowed to return to Canada.

Thank you for your attention to this pressing matter. I would be pleased to discuss this further and can be reached directly at 613 744 7667, ext 234. I look forward to hearing of the action you are able to take.

Sincerely,

Alex Neve
Secretary General