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apparently enough for Canada

entities

border guards to detain Nawaya on suspicion of being a security threat.

According to transcripts of a previous detention hearing, the government successfully argued the man should remain detained while authorities investigate the ring's meaning and the source of the money.

Government lawyer Kamal Gill described the RCMP investigation into Nawaya as "a probable national security nexus."

Nawaya has not been charged with a crime. However, RCMP are recommending charges for the failed declaration under the Proceeds of Crime (Money Laundering) and Terrorist Financing Act, he said.

Nawaya's next detention review is Thursday. Meanwhile the RCMP said they are tracking down the source of the money.

"At this point in time, we're investigating the source of the money and also its intended use," said Insp. Paul Richards, who heads the Integrated National Security Enforcement team.

# Just a naive lie: lawyer

Nawaya's lawyer, Phil Rankin, said the Syrian is no security threat and the incident is the result of a naive attempt by his client to avoid paying taxes.

"I think he was very concerned about the idea they were going to tax him," said Rankin.

As for the other suspicious materials, Rankin said it is not illegal to have pro-Palestinian or anti-Israel beliefs in Canada.

According to Public Safety Canada:

"The listing of an entity is a very public means of identifying a group or individual as being associated with terrorism.

"The definition of an entity includes a person, group, trust, partnership or fund, or an unincorporated association or organization.

"It is not a crime to be listed. However, one of the consequences of being listed is that the entity's property can be the subject of seizure/restraint and/or forfeiture."

"In addition, institutions such as banks, brokerages, etc. are subject to reporting requirements with respect to an entity's property and must not allow those entities to access the property nor may these institutions deal or otherwise dispose of the property."

"It is an offence to knowingly participate in or contribute to, directly or indirectly, any activity of a terrorist group. This participation is only an offence if its purpose is to enhance the ability of any terrorist group to facilitate or carry out a terrorist activity."

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"They are significant in that they might show his sentiments or his political leanings, but there's nothing illegal about having political leanings — to being pro-Palestinian and anti-Israel," said Rankin.

"Those feelings are shared by hundreds of millions of people and in Canada by tens of thousands of people," said Rankin.

"If you really were a professional you would sanitize yourself. You wouldn't have anything that would remotely raise eyebrows. He didn't seem to be making attempts to hide it, so that's why I think there's quite a bit of naiveté in his approach to it," he said.

# Money from legitimate income

Rankin said the money isn't linked to terrorism and every penny can be accounted for. Some came from a civil lawsuit and some from Nawaya's own earnings, while the gold coins were bought on Nawaya's behalf by his brother in Texas, Rankin said.

Rankin is concerned that if Nawaya is deemed inadmissible, he's likely to be deported to Syria, where there is a prospect he'll face torture.

Rankin said Nawaya likely piqued the department's interest because he is a flight instructor and because he is of Middle Eastern descent.

Nawaya was born in Saudi Arabia but holds Syrian citizenship. Upon moving to the U.S. at the age of 17, he earned two degrees, in professional aeronautics and management.

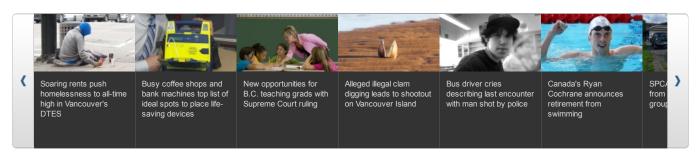
He's being held in a Vancouver-area detention centre, and his lawyer describes his mood as "depressed and anxious."

With files from The Canadian Press



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