



PRESS RELEASE

Further inexplicable delay from Kuwait Courts in Marsha Lazareva's case continues to raise concerns after next hearing is postponed

Kuwait, 24 June, 2019 – On Sunday, June 23rd, the Kuwait Court of Appeal finally heard evidence from the defence in the case of Marsha Lazareva and Saeed Dashti. This was the first time since their arrest in November 2017 that the defence has been allowed to present evidence.

However, in a U-turn, the Court unexpectedly postponed the next hearing in the case by nearly 3 months from 30 June to 15 September 2019. Commenting on the latest twist, Cherie Blair CBE, QC said:

Quite simply justice delayed is justice denied. This is as flagrant an example as you will find. Marsha and Saeed are being prevented from clearing their names and find themselves in limbo. It is not good for them but it is also not good for Kuwait to allow the matter to fester unresolved.

During the hearing, the Court heard from expert witnesses former FBI Director Louis Freeh and former FBI forensic accountant Daniel Gill who both challenged the evidence behind the prosecution. Freeh and Gill testified that key evidence was forged, a fact that has been affirmed by Court of Appeal in the case of Hamad Al Allayan.

To the confusion of those present, having heard from Freeh, the Court interrupted proceedings to ask him which actor had played him in the popular American TV Series 'Homeland'.

The Court again failed to address the issue of bail despite acknowledging the unresolved issue. As a result, Saeed Dashti remains in jail even though his conviction has been quashed. Meanwhile Marsha Lazareva is subjected to intrusive 24-hour close surveillance from shadowy members of the security services despite being released and in the absence of any Court order providing for monitoring.

Judgment on Lazareva's case is expected at the next hearing on 15 September 2019.