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## To: The Public Order Emergency Commission

I did not attend any of the Freedom Convoy protests but I made a financial donation in support. I was shocked to learn upon invocation of the *Emergencies Act* that in so doing I was at risk of having my bank accounts frozen. I was able to set aside contingency funds in case of the worst, but I was very disturbed that as a law-abiding Canadian citizen I should find myself having to do such a thing, merely for having supported a lawful protest against the government.

The suspension of civil liberties and imposition of the *Emergencies Act* is a very grave matter. If the government acted on false pretexts to shut down a legitimate public protest for political or ideological reasons then it abused its power against the citizenry. The word tyranny becomes relevant and the Prime Minister should be called upon to resign. To that end I suggest there are five questions needing to be answered to determine if this was an abuse of power.

1. Did the Government act without a supporting request from law enforcement?
2. Did the Government act without support from the Official Opposition?
3. Did the Government act against a group that had clear and demonstrated public support?
4. Did the Government act against a group to which it was opposed on political grounds unrelated to allegations of illegal conduct?
5. Did the Government promulgate misinformation or false statements concerning the protesters which had the effect of exaggerating the perceived threat to public order?

If the answer to every question is Yes, invocation of the *Emergencies Act* was an abuse of power and the Prime Minister should resign. My answers are as follows.

**1. Yes.** Not only did the Government act without a request from law enforcement but it repeatedly lied about it. Please see "More Police Contradict Feds", at Blacklock's Reporter.  
<https://www.blacklocks.ca/more-police-contradict-feds/>

Excerpts:

*Public Safety Minister Marco Mendicino claimed February 28, "We had to invoke the Emergencies Act and we did so on the basis of non-partisan professional advice from law enforcement."*

*Testifying at the House affairs committee, [former Ottawa Police Chief Peter] Sloly said he never recommended use of the Act. Sloly resigned February 15, one day after cabinet declared a national emergency.*

*"Did yourself or anyone in the Ottawa Police Service request the invocation of the Emergencies Act?" asked Conservative MP Kelly McCauley (Edmonton West). "I did not make that request," replied Sloly. "I am not aware of anybody else in the Ottawa Police Service who did."*

*Interim Ottawa Chief Steve Bell testified May 17 he never advised cabinet to invoke the Emergencies Act. "We did not," said Bell.*

*RCMP Commissioner Brenda Lucki on May 10 also denied making any request. "No, there was never question of requesting the Emergencies Act," said Commissioner Lucki.*

*Public Safety Minister Mendicino to date has not explained the contradictions. Cabinet has not produced any police officer who asked for the Act to be invoked though Mendicino repeatedly claimed he acted on police advice.*

**2. Yes.** The vote in Parliament was strictly along party lines. The Official Opposition opposed the motion.

**3. Yes.** The convoy began in a disorganized, spontaneous fashion but quickly gained national public support, including financial support on a scale Canadians rarely see. In bitter sub-zero temperatures thousands of Canadians lined roads and bridges across the country to cheer it on. In the Appendix I have included some photos from that time.

We now know, according to Blacklock's Reporter, that the cabinet was informed in February that "many Canadians supported the Freedom Convoy with a majority opposed to use of extraordinary police powers to end the protest."

See "Feds told they went too far", <https://www.blacklocks.ca/feds-told-they-went-too-far/>

Excerpts:

*Findings were based on federal focus groups held nationwide from February 2nd to 28th as cabinet invoked the Act to end a truckers' blockade outside Parliament. Researchers found support for the Freedom Convoy from British Columbia to Prince Edward Island.*

*"A significant number identified with the frustration expressed by the protesters regarding ongoing public health measures even if they disagreed with some of the methods," said Canadians' Views. "Among participants who were supportive of the protests and their aims it was felt the protests had been mostly peaceful and that these individuals had the right to express their opinion."*

*"While some were hesitant to condone the disruption caused by the protests most of these participants felt the aim of the protest of ending Covid-19 mandates was justified and something they too supported," said the report.*

**4. Yes.** The convoy was a protest against the government's vaccine policy. On January 26, while the convoy was still en route to Ottawa, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau vilified the truckers as follows: "The small fringe minority of people who are on their way to Ottawa, who are holding unacceptable views that they are expressing, do not represent the views of Canadians."

<https://globalnews.ca/news/8539610/trucker-convoy-covid-vaccine-mandates-ottawa/>

The PM was clearly antagonistic to the protesters and considered their views "unacceptable". This was not due to any allegations of illegal activity since he made his statement before they had even reached Ottawa.

**5. Yes.** In addition to falsely claiming that police requested the *Emergencies Act*, federal Liberal government members made many false allegations against the Convoy and its supporters.

**False Claim: Convoy protestors attempted to burn down an Ottawa apartment building**

See <https://www.blacklocks.ca/false-convoy-claim-repeated/>

Excerpts:

*Public Safety Minister Marco Mendicino last night repeated false claims Freedom Convoy protestors attempted to burn down an Ottawa apartment building. Mendicino made the remarks in committee testimony as MPs and senators puzzled over why cabinet declared a national emergency to end the protest.*

*“Those of us who were here were generally aware of the boisterous atmosphere but it was far worse and criminal,” testified Mendicino. There was “a high degree of anxiety, concern, frustration and anger which was regrettably justified,” he added.*

*Mendicino continued: “When seniors can’t get around because public transportation can’t get to them, when people who live in apartment buildings find their front doors are locked and that fires are set in the hallways and corridors – ”*

*“Point of order,” interjected Conservative MP Glen Motz (Medicine Hat-Cardston, Alta.). “That statement right there was proven false by the Ottawa Police Service. There was no connection to the protestors whatsoever. For this Minister to suggest that, that is absolutely unacceptable.”*

*Media and legislators had falsely claimed protestors on February 6 attempted to burn down an apartment building on Lisgar Street in Ottawa five blocks from the Freedom Convoy blockade. Ottawa police on April 6 confirmed two men charged with arson in the case were both Ottawans who had no connection to the convoy.*

**False claim: Convoy protestors were armed**

See <https://www.blacklocks.ca/convoy-claims-contradicted/>

Excerpts:

*Authorities yesterday contradicted a Toronto Star story claiming Ottawa police recovered loaded shotguns from Freedom Convoy truckers. There are no charges regarding loaded shotguns, said the police chief.*

*“This is misinformation,” said Conservative MP Dane Lloyd (Sturgeon River-Parkland, Alta.). The MP raised the allegation at a hearing of the Commons public safety committee.*

*The Star on March 19 published the story headlined “Inside The Convoy” by freelancer Justin Ling. The story claimed truckers protesting outside Parliament had concealed weapons in their vehicles.*

*“Fears that there were weapons inside some of the trucks proved prescient,” wrote Ling. “A police source said loaded shotguns were found.” The story quoted Public Safety Minister Marco Mendicino as remarking “it was ‘nothing short of miraculous’ that nobody was seriously injured.”*

*The story was misleading. Police did not recover any loaded shotguns at the Freedom Convoy, Interim Chief Steve Bell of the Ottawa Police Service testified yesterday.*

*"Were loaded firearms found, yes or no?" asked MP Lloyd. "No, not relating to any charges to this point," replied Chief Bell.*

*"Can you clarify, speaking on the record not off the record, that loaded shotguns were not found in the vehicles during the protest? Can you confirm that?" asked MP Lloyd. "Yes I can confirm," replied Chief Bell.*

*"We had a cabinet minister, the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations Marc Miller, retweet this article from Justin Ling from the Toronto Star claiming there were loaded shotguns found in trucks," said MP Lloyd. "This is misinformation, Chief, and I would submit to the committee, misinformation being spread by a journalist and misinformation being spread by a member of this government."*

**False Claim: The protests were largely funded by foreign extremist groups**

See <https://www.blacklocks.ca/fed-convoy-allegations-false/>

**Excerpts:**

*Cabinet claims that Freedom Convoy political protesters were largely foreign funded were false, MPs learned yesterday. Executives with crowdfunding sites that attracted millions for truckers said individual donations were small and overwhelmingly Canadian.*

*"Our records show 88 percent of donated funds originated in Canada and 86 percent of donors were from Canada," Juan Benitez, president of GoFundMe of Redwood City, California, testified at the Commons public safety committee. Donors contributed \$10.1 million to the Freedom Convoy by the time GoFundMe suspended the account February 4 at the request of Ottawa's mayor.*

*Foreign funding was insignificant, said Benitez. "A large amount of that determination is based on credit card information," he said.*

*Cabinet on February 16 repeatedly claimed foreign extremists were using Freedom Convoy protesters to threaten Canadian democracy. "It is important that we follow the money because for a number of weeks there have been alarm bells going off about the rate at which the leaders have been able to raise significant funds much of which has been raised from abroad," Public Safety Minister Marco Mendicino said at the time.*

*"We have seen strong evidence that it was the intention of those who blockaded our ports of entry in a largely foreign funded, targeted and coordinated attack which was clearly criminally intended to harm Canada, to harm Canadians," said Emergency Preparedness Minister Bill Blair.*

**False Claim: Russian agents were secretly behind the Convoy**

See <https://www.blacklocks.ca/no-big-convoy-donor-found/>

**Excerpts:**

*No mysterious foreign millionaires bankrolled the Freedom Convoy, crowdfunding executives yesterday told the Commons finance committee. Evidence disproving cabinet claims of six-*

*figure foreign interference came as one Liberal MP theorized Russia may have secretly funded the protest.*

*"We stepped up our donation reviews and proactively did that review of foreign sources," testified Juan Benitez, president of GoFundMe of Redwood City, California. "We feel comfortable."*

*Donors contributed \$10.1 million before GoFundMe suspended the account February 4 at the request of Ottawa's mayor. President Benitez in his first appearance at the finance committee March 3 said 88 percent of donations originated in Canada and 86 percent of donors were Canadian. Findings were based on checks of bank account and credit card records, he said.*

*Benitez yesterday repeated his testimony that foreign donations to the Freedom Convoy were insignificant. "There just was not a significant foreign contribution," he said.*

*Kim Wilford, general counsel for GoFundMe, testified the largest donation overall did not run to six figures and was not foreign sourced. "Actually the largest donation in this campaign was from a Canadian and it was in the amount of \$30,000," said Wilford.*

*Liberal MPs on the finance committee yesterday repeatedly questioned the evidence, suggesting GoFundMe failed to consider whether Russian agents may have posed as Canadian bank account holders. "We know Russia and all other money launderers are holding bank accounts in every country under several shell companies," said MP Sophie Chatel (Pontiac, Que.).*

*"Look, disinformation warfare is absolutely real," said Chatel. "There is no doubt in our minds it incites people to donate for causes that are harmful to our democracy." It would be "very naïve to think misinformation to undermine democracy does not exist and especially from people now noticeably repeating Russian propaganda," said Chatel.*

*GoFundMe's Benitez repeated the Freedom Convoy was typically funded by small Canadian donors. "We did review the source of donations extensively given the size and impact of this campaign," said Benitez.*

*"Twelve percent of the donations came from outside of Canada," said Benitez. "There was virtually no, perhaps a handful at most, of donations from Russia. In our opinion and the evidence we see there was just no coordinated effort there to have any kind of contribution or impact."*

**False claim: A Convoy protestor desecrated the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier**

See: <https://www.blacklocks.ca/convoy-allegation-disproven/>

Excerpts:

*The Ottawa Police Service yesterday said it identified a mystery woman who jumped on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier during Freedom Convoy protests but dismissed the case as insignificant. The woman was not from Western Canada and had nothing to do with the convoy, police said.*

*“The woman is from Québec,” said Carole Macpherson, spokesperson for the police department. “There was no admitted association to the Freedom Convoy truckers.”*

*Veterans Affairs Minister Lawrence MacAulay led MPs and commentators in blaming the Freedom Convoy. “Everyone has a right to protest in this country but this disrespect shown to the National War Memorial, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the National Aboriginal Veterans Monument was completely disgusting,” MacAulay testified February 1 at the veterans affairs committee.*

*Liberal MPs in the Commons also blamed the Freedom Convoy for the incident they called “disturbing,” “disgraceful,” “jarring” and “very, very difficult to watch.”*

*The Tomb woman was among 15,000 people near Parliament Hill that day. Of people arrested that weekend in Ottawa none were Freedom Convoy members, according to police records.*

I note also that the Government claimed that downtown Ottawa businesses suffered massive financial damages due to dangerous and unruly protesters. Yet the few eyewitness reports available at the time reported that the protesters were quite peaceful and the atmosphere was friendly and carnival-like. See, for instance, [here](#) and [here](#). The Government created a [\\$20 million](#) compensation fund for downtown Ottawa businesses. Yet it was recently [reported](#) not only that 36 percent of the funds were never claimed, but that so few initial claims were received that the responsible agency extended the deadline from April 30 to May 15 and dispatched organizers to go from door to door trying to drum up more applications.

### **Conclusion**

1. The Government acted without a supporting request from law enforcement and lied about it.
2. The Government acted against the advice of the Official Opposition.
3. The Government acted against a group which had clear, demonstrated public support.
4. The Government acted against a group to which it was opposed on political grounds unrelated to allegations of illegal conduct.
5. The Government repeatedly promulgated misinformation and falsehoods about the Convoy all of which served to exaggerate the perceived threat to public order.

On this basis I consider the use of the *Emergencies Act* to have been an abuse of power for political purposes and the Prime Minister should be called upon to resign over it.

Sincerely

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# Appendix: Images demonstrating widespread public support for the Convoy

Toronto & GTA

## WARMINGTON: 'Freedom' truckers may form world's longest convoy

Joe Warmington  
Jan 26, 2022 · January 29, 2022 · 3 minute read · 418 Comments



Supporters of the "Freedom Convoy" of truckers recently gathered on the edge of the Trans-Canada Hwy., east of Calgary PHOTO BY GAVIN YOUNG /Postmedia Network



