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## **Documents show Reform-Conservatives incompetence, cover-up and malice on Suaad Mohamud file**

OTTAWA - Documents obtained by the media point to incompetence, cover-up and malice of behaviour on the part of the Reform-Conservative government in its handling of the Suaad Mohamud case. Senior Conservatives, up to and including the Prime Minister's Office, knew about the case at least six weeks before Stephen Harper claimed to have learned about Ms. Mohamud's plight.

"What did Stephen Harper know and when did he know it?" asked Joe Volpe, Ms. Mohamud's MP. "The government position from the start was that Suaad was an imposter and no amount of evidence to the contrary was going to dissuade the Ministers and their staff. The fact that DNA testing proved beyond doubt that Suaad was who she was did not stop the Conservatives from engaging in character assassination to cover up their incompetence."

The documents, obtained through an access to information request, show that little effort was made to match Ms. Mohamud's fingerprints, while every avenue to discredit her was explored. She was stranded in Kenya for three months and imprisoned in a Kenyan jail after Canadian officials declared her an impostor and handed her passport over to Kenyan officials to prosecute her.

"Stephen Harper's office bears responsibility for casting a Canadian citizen aside – and now he's personally implicated," said Dan McTeague, Liberal Consular Affairs Critic. "Instead of innocent until proven guilty, government officials treated Ms. Mohamud as guilty and made no effort to prove her innocence. Canadian citizens deserve better."

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