

QUEBEC RULING

RIGHTS GROUP URGES
BAN ON RANDOM STOPS
IN OTHER PROVINCES

The Canadian Civil Liberties Association is hailing a Quebec Superior Court decision banning random police stops and is calling on other provinces to end the practice without waiting to be taken to court. Noa Mendelsohn Aviv, the group's executive director and general counsel, says individual police departments could also create policies ending random stops. Justice Michel Yergeau ruled Tuesday that random traffic stops are unconstitutional on the grounds that they allow racial profiling — particularly of Black motorists. The decision,

which overturns rules established in a 1990 Supreme Court ruling, applies only in Quebec. The province's association of police chiefs association says in a statement Wednesday that the article of Quebec's Highway Safety Code that was struck down is needed to ensure motorists respect the rules of the road. The CCLA had intervenor status in the lawsuit brought by Joseph-Christopher Luamba, a 22-year-old Black Montrealer who said he had been stopped by police nearly a dozen times without reason. *The Canadian Press*

Canadian returning from Syria
faces terrorism charges, RCMP saysQuebec woman
repatriated,
appears in court

SIDHARTHA BANERJEE

MONTREAL • A Quebec woman who allegedly travelled to Syria to join the Islamic State terrorist group has been repatriated from Syria and will face terrorism charges, the RCMP said Wednesday.

Oumaima Chouay faces four charges of leaving Canada to participate in the activity of a terrorist group, participation in the activity of a terrorist group, providing property or services for terrorism purposes and conspiracy to participate in the activity of a terrorist group.

The RCMP said in a statement that Chouay, 27, had been under investigation by the police force's Integrated National Security Enforcement Team since November 2014.

Insp. David Beaudoin says the arrest is the culmination of that investigation after Chouay left Canada in 2014. The repatriation was organized by the Canadian government.

"According to the investigation, Ms. Chouay allegedly travelled to Syria and Iraq to join the Islamic State ter-

rorist group," Beaudoin said outside RCMP headquarters in Montreal. "In Syria, it is alleged she participated in terrorist activities in the name of the Islamic State."

In November 2017, the RCMP says, Chouay was taken prisoner by the Syrian Democratic Forces and held at the Roj Camp until her return to Canada, along with her two children who were born while she was overseas.

Beaudoin said the children have been an area of concern for investigators since the beginning of the probe.

"We have taken extensive measures to ensure they receive the proper support, at this point they are in the care of the CIUSSS (regional health board) and also the family has been solicited to take part in the response to ensure they get the best support possible," Beaudoin said.

Chouay was arrested by the Mounties at about 2 a.m. Wednesday after landing at Montreal's Trudeau International Airport. She was expected to appear in court Wednesday afternoon via video conference from RCMP headquarters.

Beaudoin said he could not comment on the case of Kimberly Polman, a British Columbia woman who was repatriated with Chouay, referring questions to federal authorities in that province.

Polman's lawyer, Lawrence Greenspon, said he spoke to her after she landed in Montreal and his understanding is that federal authorities will be seeking a peace bond imposing conditions on her release. He said she is en route to Vancouver.

"At that point, I expect she will be brought before a justice of the peace and will enter into a recognizance," Greenspon said.

Global Affairs Canada said in a statement that four Canadians — two women and two children — were transferred from the camp in northeastern Syria. The department thanked the Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria for "its co-operation and recognizes its efforts in providing care for the detained individuals under an extremely difficult security situation and adverse circumstances."

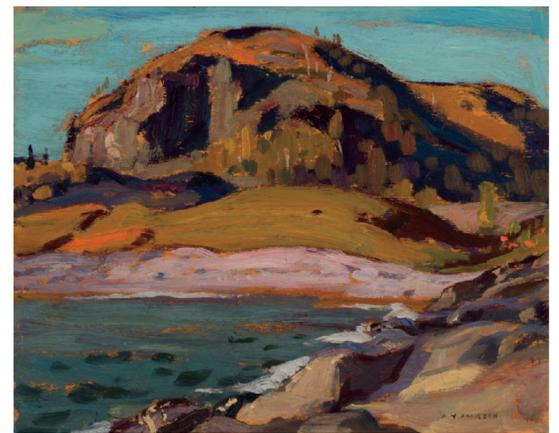
Canada also thanked the U.S. for its assistance with the operation.

Speaking before the Liberal caucus meeting in Ottawa, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau was asked about the repatriation effort and charges.

"Fundamentally, travelling for the purpose of supporting terrorism is a crime in Canada. And anyone who travelled for the purpose of supporting terrorism should face criminal charges," he said.

The Canadian Press

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