

'Freedom Convoy' Did Not Pose Threat to the Security of Canada: CSIS Director

By [Laura Osman](#), [Jim Bronskill](#), and [Marie-Danielle Smith](#)

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The advisory by Canada's intelligence and security agency (CSIS) suggests that Prime Minister Trudeau's declaration of the Emergency Act was unfounded and illegal. The question is WHY was this assessment by CSIS not made public in February 2022.

The evidence amply confirms that the Prime Minister's accusations directed against the Convoy tagging them as Nazis, racists and terrorists, not to mention his refusal to enter into dialogue with the leaders of the convoy, were based on outright lies and fabrications.

There was no threat to national security as contended by the Prime Minister.

The Global Research Video produced at the height of the Ottawa Protest Movement confirms that Prime Minister Trudeau was "lying through his teeth".

On the 31st of January, the prime minister of Canada, Justin Trudeau addressed the nation regarding the Freedom Convoy protest movement at a Press Conference from an undisclosed location which was broadcast live.

He portrayed the protesters as violent people, racists and more. On the 2nd of February, he added another layer with a tweet. (Below, See [this](#))



Justin Trudeau ✓

@JustinTrudeau

🇨🇦 Officiel du gouvernement - Canada

...

Today in the House, Members of Parliament unanimously condemned the antisemitism, Islamophobia, anti-Black racism, homophobia, and transphobia that we've seen on display in Ottawa over the past number of days. Together, let's keep working to make Canada more inclusive.

12:47 AM · Feb 2, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone

This statement by the PM of Canada is an outright lie. There was no unanimous condemnation by Members of Parliament of the Convoy's "antisemitism, islamophobia, anti-Black racism, ... [etc]"

"I was there for four days with my camera", said Jean-François Girard. "I never saw or witnessed anything close to what he described".

See below Global Research's Video Production by Jean François Girard

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Michel Chossudovsky, Global Research, November 15, 2022

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CP, November 14, 2022

Liberal cabinet ministers deemed last winter's "Freedom Convoy" protests a threat to national security, despite warnings from the federal intelligence agency that threshold was not met, an inquiry into the use of the Emergencies Act learned Monday.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau invoked the act on Feb. 14, arguing its temporary and extraordinary powers were needed to end blockades in Ottawa and at border crossings.

The legislation says a public order emergency is one that comes from a “serious threat to the security of Canada, as defined by the Canadian Security Intelligence Service Act.”

The definition includes espionage or sabotage of Canada’s interests, foreign-influenced activities, or the violent overthrow of the government.

The Public Order Emergency Commission, which is holding hearings in Ottawa until Nov. 25, is tasked with determining whether the government was justified in triggering the legislation.

A document summarizing the evidence from David Vigneault, director of CSIS, shows he believed the protest “at no time” posed a threat to Canada’s security and that there were no signs of foreign interference.

“He felt an obligation to clearly convey the service’s position that there did not exist a threat to the security of Canada as defined by the service’s legal mandate,” said the document, which was released on Monday through the public inquiry.

CSIS was, however, monitoring subjects of intelligence investigations who were taking part in the protests.

Vigneault, who is expected to testify before the commission next week, advised cabinet that invoking the Emergencies Act could further inflame extreme anti-government rhetoric.

Rob Stewart, who was deputy minister of public safety at the time of the protests, told the commission on Monday that the government would have a more broad interpretation of what constitutes a national security threat.

“The cabinet is making that decision and their interpretation of the law is what governs here,” Stewart told the commission. “And their decision was evidently that the threshold was met.”

Brendan Miller, a lawyer for the Ottawa “Freedom Convoy” protesters, suggested that no federal agency advised cabinet that the protest posed a national threat, as defined in the legislation.

“You have the RCMP, you have CSIS, you have the entire intelligence apparatus in the federal government and none of them said that this threshold was met, did they?” Miller asked Stewart during cross-examination Monday.

“They weren’t asked,” Stewart said.

The government worried that the longer the protest went on, the more likely it was that ideologically motivated violent extremists would take advantage of the situation, said Dominic Rochon, the senior assistant deputy minister of the national and cybersecurity branch of the government.

“That was a significant concern for the security intelligence community,” Rochon said during his testimony Monday.

By the time the act was invoked on Feb. 14, Ottawa streets had been barricaded by large idling trucks and huge groups of protesters calling for an end to COVID-19 public health

restrictions for weeks, forcing the closure of many businesses in the downtown area.

Two major international border crossings in Alberta and Ontario had recently been cleared, but other smaller demonstrations continued across the country.

In a letter to premiers on Feb. 15, Trudeau said the federal government believed the situation reached a point “where there is a national emergency arising from threats to Canada’s security.”

“We are facing significant economic disruptions, with the breakdown of supply chains. This is costing Canadians their jobs and undermining our economic and national security, with potentially significant impacts on the health and safety of Canadians,” he wrote.

“It is affecting Canada’s reputation internationally, hurting trade and commerce, and undermining confidence and trust in our institutions.”

The testimony Monday provided the commission with its first look behind the curtain at cabinet discussions before they invoked the act for the first time since it replaced the War Measures Act in 1988.

As early as Feb. 7, John Ossowski, who was then-president of the Canada Border Services Agency, suggested to federal, provincial and territorial officials that the Emergencies Act could be used to compel tow truck drivers to help remove large rigs, the commission has learned.

On Feb. 10, cabinet formally discussed the idea of invoking the act. A summary of notes from an emergency cabinet committee meeting that day says Trudeau raised the notion of two tracks forward: actions that could be undertaken under existing authorities, and the process of invoking the Emergencies Act.

Most of the details from the ensuing discussion have been blacked out.

Cabinet ministers did consider plans to engage with the organizers of the “Freedom Convoy” in Ottawa in an effort to shrink the protest.

Stewart told a cabinet committee on Feb. 8 that 80 per cent of protesters in Ottawa had a “weak” connection to the protest.

An Ontario Provincial Police negotiator suggested protest leaders might be encouraged to leave and denounce the blockade in exchange for being able to register their complaints with the federal government.

It was hoped many demonstrators would then leave before police moved in to clear the protest, but the idea was abandoned after a discussion among ministers.

Stewart says the effort was not co-ordinated with other attempts by the provincial and municipal governments to engage with the protest organizers.

When preparing to brief the public on the government’s decision to invoke the act, Stewart encouraged staff to come up with examples of ways police could use the new powers to quash the protests and stop new ones from cropping up, according to an email released by

the public inquiry.

"I'm afraid I don't have a lot of great ideas because there aren't a lot of significant benefits, but we have to try to tout (public safety) portfolio specifics as much as we can," Stewart wrote on Feb. 14.

Stewart told the commission Monday that he underestimated the benefits of the Emergencies Act, which proved useful in clearing the demonstrations.

"There was, within two weeks, very little manifestation of those kinds of protests around the country," he said.

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Featured image: Rob Stewart, Deputy Minister of Public Safety, appears at the Public Order Emergency Commission, in Ottawa, on Monday, Nov. 14, 2022. THE CANADIAN PRESS/Justin Tang

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