

Crown reveals suspected smuggler is a Tanzanian refugee already ordered out of Canada

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Court room, Calgary Courts Centre

The suspect in a massive heroin smuggling case is a Tanzanian refugee who has already been ordered deported from Canada, a prosecutor said Monday.

But Crown lawyer Gregory Harlow said [REDACTED] expulsion from Canada is currently under a stay order because of his refugee status.

Harlow said a Jan. 9, 2007 deportation order was later stayed until Dec. 17, 2017 because [REDACTED] “claimed protected person status under refugee law.”

Harlow wants provincial court Judge Gary Cioni to detain [REDACTED] pending trial, noting the Ontario man is facing a lengthy prison term if convicted.

He was arrested April 24, at Calgary International Airport after arriving on a flight from Amsterdam which originated in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Harlow said Canadian Border Services Agency official found nearly 12 kg of heroin inside a secret luggage compartment.

The haul, said to be the biggest in Alberta history is “worth approximately \$1.68 million to \$3 million, depending on how it’s sold,” Harlow said.

He said case-law suggests [REDACTED] is looking at a prison term of between 12 and 17 years in prison if convicted.

“The Crown has a very strong case,” he said.

But defence counsel Kaysi Fagan said [REDACTED], 37, can be released on strict conditions, including that he live with family here in Calgary instead of returning to his Toronto home.

Cioni will hand down a ruling on the bail application on Tuesday.

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