

Protection, Advice and Assistance

i. Detainee/Prisoner

The emotional stress and practical problems arising from arrest and imprisonment in a foreign country can be daunting. The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade can provide you with advice and assistance.

If you break the laws of another country, you are subject to the judicial system of that country. Being a foreigner, or not knowing the local laws, are not excuses any more than they would be in Canada. The Department can neither protect you from the consequences of your actions, nor override the decisions of local authorities.

If you are detained or arrested in a foreign country and you choose to talk to Canadian consular officials, any information you give them will remain completely confidential and is protected under the Privacy Act of Canada. It will not be passed on to anyone, other than consular officials concerned with your case, without your permission. You have the right, for example, to determine who will be notified of your situation, and who may act as your representative. Your family and friends will not have access to any information without your consent.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) and other police agencies have their own international contacts, however, and may know of your circumstances through those sources.