

## FACT SHEET

- On February 24, Ms. Rania El-Alloul appeared in the Court of Quebec. She was there to request the early release of her car, which had been seized by Quebec's automobile insurance board.
- Quebec Court Justice Eliana Marengo told Ms. El-Alloul that she did not consider her suitably dressed according to her interpretation of courtroom rules because of her headscarf.
- Ms. El-Alloul would not remove her hijab as it is part of her religious belief.
- Ms. El-Alloul was unable to proceed with her case and was she told to return later with counsel. Ms. El-Alloul explained she did not have the funds necessary to do so.
- Quebecers and Canadians reacted to the audio recordings of the exchange and sent messages of support to Ms. El-Alloul, as well as took to social media to express their dismay with her treatment, as well as raised funds to purchase a car for the single mother of three.
- Ms. El-Alloul turned down the crowd funding campaign donations and asked that the funds be used to support human rights. Organizers of the campaign have said they are exploring options for the funds in consultation with the donors; they have already pledged that a portion of the funding will be used to pay for any legal expenses incurred as Ms. El-Alloul challenges the treatment she endured.
- The National Council of Canadian Muslims is supporting Ms. El-Alloul's case, and is accepting funds to help offset legal costs.
- Mr. Julius Grey, a renowned constitutional and human rights lawyer in Montreal, and Mr. Mathieu Bouchard of the law firm of Irving Mitchell Kalichman (IMK), filed a motion for declaratory judgement on Friday, March 27 – essentially seeking clarification about the rights of Quebecers to

access justice while wearing religious attire according to their religious beliefs.

- Legal counsel is also preparing a judicial complaint regarding Ms. El-Alloul's inability to access the justice system.