

Senator CICCONE: I have one final question about the Canadian context, given that often our systems of government are very similar. Given that your foreign minister and their department have powers to be able to negotiate and deal with rogue states about trying to return citizens, do they need to go back to a committee or to the parliament for approval, or do they have full powers to be able to return citizens?

--//--

Ms Teich: Generally speaking, they have full power and no parliamentary approval is needed. Other departments may be involved as well. According to evidence provided in 2018 by David Drake before Canada's Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development, specifically in cases of terrorist hostage-taking, Global Affairs Canada coordinates the interdepartmental task force, the IDTF, which provides for a whole-of-government response. Interesting, testifying before that same 2018 committee was James Malizia, Assistant Commissioner of National Security and Protective Policing, Federal Policing, Royal Canadian Mounted Police. In that study, MP Erin O'Toole asked Malizia who the ultimate decision-maker would be within the Government of Canada to conduct a rescue mission to repatriate a Canadian hostage abroad, whether it would be the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Minister of National Defense, or the Prime Minister. Malizia answered that the senior decision maker would be the Prime Minister. He also reiterated that it was a whole-of-government approach. So putting all that together, it seems like Global Affairs generally has the power; coordinates a whole-of-government approach, at least in some instances; and then depending on the particular action that is to be undertaken, in some cases like perhaps when it comes to authorizing a rescue mission, the Prime Minister may be the ultimate decision-maker.