

Strict bail conditions approved for man charged in massive heroin bust at Calgary International Airport

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FIRST POSTED: TUESDAY, JUNE 11, 2013 07:17 PM MDT | UPDATED: TUESDAY, JUNE 11, 2013 07:23 PM MDT



Bags of heroin intercepted at the Calgary International Airport on April 27, 2012. (Handout photo)

The alleged smuggler in Alberta's largest heroin bust has been freed on bail on strict conditions.

Provincial court Judge Gary Cioni on Tuesday agreed with Crown prosecutor Gregory Harlow there was a risk in releasing [REDACTED], but it was manageable.

Cioni made the ruling after enquiring about [REDACTED] past life in Tanzania, where he has fled, claiming refugee status.

Defence lawyer Kaysi Fagan, after consulting with her client, said [REDACTED] is the son of a Tanzanian justice and has some family money.

As a result, Cioni agreed to release the Ontario resident on \$50,000 cash bail as well as a separate \$8,000 surety who must be approved by court clerks.

[REDACTED], 37, will remain under 24-hour house arrest at the home of Calgary relatives and must report daily to a probation officer.

He's also barred from leaving Calgary without court permission and was made to surrender all travel documents in his possession.

Harlow, who opposed [REDACTED] release, said Monday the accused was arrested April 24 at Calgary International Airport after border officials found nearly 12 kg of heroin in the secret compartment of a suitcase.

The drug had an estimated street value \$3 million, he said.

Harlow argued [REDACTED] should be held pending trial noting he is already the subject of a deportation order.

That expulsion has been stayed until Dec. 17, 2017 after [REDACTED] "claimed protected person status under refugee law," the prosecutor said.

[REDACTED] case is due back in court on July 3.

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