

By Michelle Shepherd

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A former Guantanamo detainee, whose story of detention and torture was featured in a best-selling memoir and Hollywood film, is going to court to try to force the Canadian government to reveal its role in his ordeal.

Mohamedou Ould Slahi, a Mauritanian who lived briefly in Montreal, has launched a \$30-million lawsuit against the federal government. He alleges Canadian officials made false claims about him that were then relied upon by his Mauritanian, Jordanian and American interrogators during his more than 14 years of imprisonment without charge.

“Canada’s sharing of flawed intelligence sparked a vicious echo chamber,” reads Slahi’s statement of claim, which was filed in Federal Court on Friday.

Slahi claims that Canadian agents were eager to share information with their American counterparts to atone for past failures, and then continued to co-operate with the U.S. government using flawed intelligence, even when it was clear that captives at the CIA’s “black sites” — secret detention facilities — and in Guantanamo Bay were being tortured.

“Canadian authorities took statements made by Slahi out of context, then presented them to American authorities as definitive proof of wrongdoing, despite their knowledge (or reckless disregard or wilful blindness) that Slahi risked being mistreated as a result,” the court filing states.

