

Filipino-Canadian Youth Alliance
Statement

September 17, 2007

Stop the political harassment of progressive activists like Alison Bodine!

The Filipino-Canadian Youth Alliance condemns the recent arrest of Alison Bodine - a progressive student political organizer, anti-war activist and US citizen. While we applaud her release, we warn of further harassment and calls for a stop to the harassment of political activists. Alison was arrested by the Canadian Border Agency at the Peace Arch border crossing when leaving Canada for the US on Thursday September 13th.

On Thursday September 13, 2007 Alison was arrested by RCMP and Citizenship & Immigration Canada. Alison was arrested when she attempted to cross the border at Peace-Arch border crossing, traveling from Canada into the United States. She was handcuffed, detained, and her passport taken away from her, with no information given about the basis for her arrest, or the charges that she was facing.

The unjust arrest of Bodine is a clear attack on progressive activists. According to their own laws, the RCMP and Immigration Canada had no legal basis for preventing her entry into Canada. Only when she had been labeled as a political organizer did the harassment and legal process begin.

The imprisonment was met with a huge. After the news of her arrest 80 people came together at the Citizenship and Immigrations Offices, in Vancouver demanding the immediate release of Bodine, a vocal anti-war organizer with Mobilization Against War and Occupation (MAWO).

The attack on progressive youth activists like Bodine inside imperialist countries like Canada, parallels the persecution of political youth and student activists in the Philippines. Since 2001, over 880 people have fallen victim to extra-judicial killings and over 200 people forcibly disappeared. Many of those killed and disappeared were youth activists of people's organizations such as *Anakbayan* (Youth of the Nation). As the global crisis of imperialism worsens and it attacks against oppressed peoples heighten, we must take a stand in solidarity with ordinary working people in our struggle against the outright violation of our human and political rights.

The arrest of Alison Bodine is another example of the bullying and harassment perpetrated by imperialist countries in an effort to quell movements of social justice.

"The intimidation and blacklisting of progressive political individuals by the US and their allies are a direct attack on our basic human and political rights," says Rainiel De Guzman of the Filipino Canadian Youth Alliance. "They are clearly trying to marginalize and oppress anyone who stands against them."

The unlawful arrest and intimidation perpetrated against Bodine is another case of the stripping away of our basic rights as humans. Under the slogan of "the War on Terror" the US ruling class and its allies will continue to use intimidation and harassment tactics in order to stop any grassroots movements at home, while they continue their wars of aggression and plunder in the rest of the world.

Stop the political persecution and harassment of political activists!
Long live international solidarity!

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