

Please include this letter of protest on behalf of Alison Bodine from Socialist Viewpoint magazine:

To: Canadian Border Service Agency (CBSA) in protest of the detention of Alison Bodine:

We are writing this letter to demand that you drop all of the charges against Alison Bodine and that her rights and freedom to cross the border between Canada and the U.S. be reinstated immediately.

Clearly, her arrest and detention by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) was politically motivated since she has broken no laws and was simply picking up some previously detained political material and other items wrongly being held by the CBSA.

Her ordeal began three days before her arrest near midnight on Thursday, September 13, 2007. On September 10, 2007, three days earlier before her arrest, CBSA border officials searched Alison's vehicle and identified her as a political organizer after they found various political materials and progressive newspapers in her car when she crossed the border into Canada that day. When she returned to pick up the material September 13, she was arrested by the RCMP and detained. There is a real crime being committed here but it is not by Alison Bodine, it's by the CBSA and the RCMP! It is a crime against the basic human right to move freely about the planet!

Political dissention is not a crime! Organizing to protest war, and to support human justice, immigrant and refugee rights and solidarity with the Cuban revolution are not crimes either. They are political thoughts and views that people are allowed to express and organize for in a free, open and democratic society. That includes the right of free speech and to read and distribute material and newspapers that promote those political views.

It is unconscionable that this should happen to any human being of any country that claims to be a free and open and democratic society which both the U.S. and Canada claim to be.

The news of Alison's arrest, detention, harassment and the curtailment of her right to free travel across the border, and the confiscation of her political literature, has already spread far and wide around the world.

Immediately dropping all the charges and reinstating her right to move freely between the U.S. and Canada, and resolving to refrain from such harassment of others in the future, is the only way the CBSA and the RCMP can redeem themselves and the Canadian government and avoid further embarrassment over a clear violation of a persons basic human rights.

It is also, the only way that will end our continued protest of Alison Bodine's ordeal or the ordeal of others treated in the same manner!

The world is watching what you do! So do the right thing and drop all the charges against Alison Bodine and publicly resolve not to infringe on the rights of anyone else from here on.

Sincerely,

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