

September 26, 2007
Edmonton, Alberta

Canada Border Services Agency

I am writing on behalf of the Edmonton Coalition Against War and Racism (ECAWAR) to demand that the Canada Border Services Agency drop all charges against Alison Bodine now.

We are outraged that Alison, who as a student at the University of British Columbia has taken a stand against war, for rights and social justice is being targeted and persecuted by the Canada Border Services Agency. Alison recently completed her BSc in Physics at UBC. While a student at UBC, Alison took up her social responsibility in an exemplary way. She actively participated in the anti-war movement, as an organizer of Mobilization Against War and Occupation (MAWA,) as President of the UBC Coalition Against War on the People of Iraq, as an executive committee member of the UBC Social Justice Centre and an activist in solidarity with Cuba. As such, she is making an important contribution to the defence of rights, against war and aggression, against occupation and for the right of all peoples to live in peace and determine their own affairs.

Alison has committed no illegal acts. She has crossed the Canada-U.S. border many times without incident. It was only when anti-war literature was found in Alison's possession that charges were laid against her.

For the Canada Border Services Agency to target and persecute those who stand for peace and justice and against war, aggression and U.S. dictate is a very grave situation and it must be immediately reversed. Canadians have made it very clear that it is George Bush and other war criminals who are not welcome in Canada. We cherish those like Alison who take their stand with courage and are an example to all in upholding their social responsibilities. The actions of the Canada Border Services Agency are in contempt of all democratic norms and of the law itself.

It is very clear that Alison's arrest and all charges against her are politically motivated. The attack on Alison is an attack not only on this fine young woman but an attempt to intimidate others and further the agenda where Canadian residents can be subject to arrest without charges, arbitrary detention and secret trials. Not only it is an attack on democratic rights and the right to conscience, but in particular targets immigrants, refugees, people without status and non-residents of Canada. It must not pass!

We demand that all charges against Alison be dropped at once and that the Canada Border Services Agency cease and desist from such outrageous acts.

Yours sincerely,

Peggy Morton
for the Edmonton Coalition Against War and Racism