

To Whom it May Concern:

It has come to our attention that Ms. Allison Bodine was challenged at the Canadian - US border for attempting to bring into Canada some materials the CBSA apparently found objectionable. Among these items were printed materials having to do with social justice issues and calls for the withdrawal of Canadian troops from Afghanistan. Ms Bodine was detained and imprisoned on an unsubstantiated warrant for her arrest and immigration charges which were not (until very recently) disclosed to her.

Ms. Bodine is a highly respected human rights and peace activist volunteering her time and considerable intelligence to the service of the greater common good. It is alarming that our government would seek to persecute individuals who may not agree with our domestic and foreign policies. We would hope that it would be a celebratory mark of a true democratic nation to embrace dissent in the free market of ideas but alas, it seems we are not in such heyday of perfect freedom of speech or freedom of association. A shame. A veritable shame on all of us.

If Ms. Bodine is guilty of any crime that is extent in the criminal code of Canada, it should be made clear that it is our Government's intention to prosecute that particular crime. Yet we still await the charges against Ms. Bodine and attend the charges of her sister and brother activists who are supportive of refugee claimants. If it is the intent of this Government and its agencies to intimidate activists and human rights advocates from engaging in political activity, then this example should surely demonstrate that we shall not be moved.

We will not forget. We will not go away. We seek only peace, love and justice. For these things we will persist.

With the greatest respect,
Lisa Barrett
Code Pink, Women for Peace local co-ordinator