

October 11, 2007

Mr. Alain Jolicoeur, President,
Canadian Border Services Agency
Ottawa, Canada
K1A 0L8

BY EMAIL: CBSA_ASFC@canada.gc.ca

On behalf of the 55,000 members of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW), I am writing to you to urgently call upon the CBSA to immediately drop all charges against Alison Bodine and reinstate her right to travel between the U.S. and Canada.

As you are aware, Alison Bodine is a US citizen and a central organizer with Vancouver antiwar coalition Mobilization Against War and Occupation (MAWO). For three years she was the president of the University of British Columbia's Coalition Against War on the People of Iraq and Internationally (CAWOPI), and is a long-time executive committee member of the UBC Social Justice Center. She is also a prominent activist in solidarity with Cuba, and is a supporter of immigrant and refugee rights in Canada and in the US.

Near midnight, Thursday September 13, 2007 Alison Bodine was unjustifiably arrested by the Canada Border Services Agency and detained by the RCMP when she went voluntarily to the US-Canada border to pick up her belongings.

Alison has not done anything illegal, and has crossed the border many times with no incident. It was not until her belonging were searched and antiwar literature found that the charges of were laid. CUPW finds it utterly unacceptable that peace activists should be arrested and charged due to possessing anti-war literature.

Alison's arrest and all charges against her are an attack on the democratic rights of individuals to organize and express their political views. This is an attack on the right to free speech, and an attack on immigrants, refugees, people without status and non-residents of Canada. Currently she is being charged with "Misrepresentation", however the basis for this allegation is vague and the CBSA's argument will not be fully known until her hearing on Oct 11, 2007. This is clearly a politically motivated case against Alison Bodine.

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It is essential that the Canada Border Services Agency act now to drop any and all charges against Alison Bodine and immediately restore her right to travel between Canada and the United States.

Sincerely,



Deborah Bourque,
National President, CUPW

cc: NEC, NURs Specialists
The Alison Bodine Defence Committee (defendalisonbodine@hotmail.com)

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