

**FROM WASHINGTON, DC,
TO VANCOUVER, BC:**

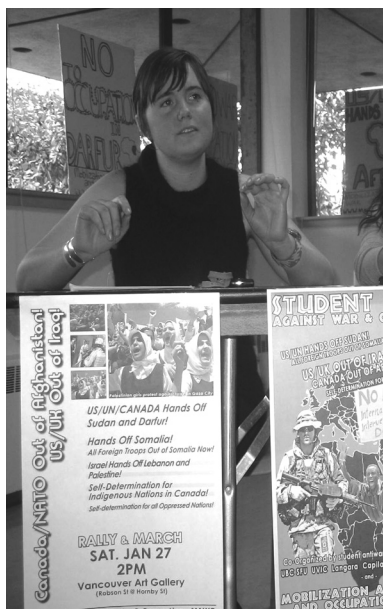
**SOCIAL JUSTICE, CUBA
SOLIDARITY, ANTIWAR
& PEACE ACTIVISTS
UNDER ATTACK!**



**LIFT THE
2-YEAR BAN ON
ALISON BODINE!**

[HTTP://ALISONBODINE.BLOGSPOT.COM](http://alisonbodine.blogspot.com)

WHO IS ALISON BODINE?



Alison Bodine, originally from Broomfield Colorado, is a co-chair, spokesperson and executive committee member of Vancouver antiwar coalition Mobilization Against War & Occupation (MAWO), has been the president of University of British Columbia's Coalition Against War on the People of Iraq and Internationally (CAWOPI), was a long-time executive committee member of the University of British Columbia Social Justice Center, is a prominent activist in solidarity with Cuba and the Pastors for Peace Caravan to Cuba, and a supporter of immigrant and refugee rights in Canada and the US.

Alison studied at UBC for four years as an international student, graduating with a bachelor of Physics in June 2007.

HISTORY OF HER CASE

● **HARRASSMENT AND DETENTION**

Near midnight on Thursday September 13, 2007 Alison Bodine, political organizer and social justice activist was arrested by the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA). Alison, a US-citizen, was arrested when she attempted to legally cross the border at Peace-Arch border crossing, traveling from Canada into the United States.

Three days prior Alison was harassed by Canadian Border Guards while traveling from the US into Canada. The ordeal began after border officials searched her vehicle, identifying her as a political organizer upon finding various political materials and progressive newspapers.

After facing questioning, Alison was asked to voluntarily return to the US and she complied. Alison has traveled between the US and Canada on dozens of occasions, she had never been denied or asked to return to US. When she returned the next day she was legally allowed into Canada. To minimize harassment by border guards, she asked a close friend from Vancouver to come pick up political materials and other items that were in her vehicle. He legally returned to Canada, but the political materials and items were seized and a receipt issued stating Alison would be allowed to pick them up within 40 days.

Alison returned to claim these items Thursday Sept 13th as she was returning to the US. Upon presenting her receipt to claim the materials, she was handcuffed and told she was under arrest, and that a warrant had been issued for her arrest in Canada. She was then taken into detention.

This unjust imprisonment was met with a huge protest and organizing drive by the newly-formed Committee to Free Alison Bodine. Friday Sept 14, on only 5 hours notice, 80 people came together at the Citizenship and Immigration Offices, in Vancouver demanding the immediate release of Alison Bodine. Media was also quick to pick up this important case, which was covered locally and nationally by TV, radio, and newspapers.

Following all of this, Alison's status took a major turn. She was told all day that there was no way to release her from detention until at least Monday. However, at 8:00pm Friday evening Alison was given notice by Immigration officials that she would be released from custody immediately until her Admissibility Hearing on Monday Sept 17th. Alison then joined the over 65 enthusiastic activists who had met for an emergency meeting to organize for her release. The focus now became on winning the Admissibility Hearing, and having all charges against her dropped immediately.

● **DECEPTION AND FRAME-UP**

However, on Monday, September 17, in the early afternoon Alison learned from a CBC reporter that the CBSA had cancelled her Admissibility Hearing scheduled for 2pm. Alison herself was never officially notified by CBSA. The next day, she was told that her hearing had been rescheduled for September 28th.

The CBSA cancellation of Alison's hearing was a maneuver to delay and attempt to take momentum away from the case because they knew they wouldn't be able to prove the vague and false charge of "misrepresentation" that they leveled against her. Throughout the ten days leading up to her hearing, the support for her case continued to grow. Up until today, letters of support have come from the Green Party USA, NDP MPs Libby Davies, Bill Siksay, Nathan Cullen and Alex Atamanenko, MLAs Raj Chouhan and David Chudnovsky, the Canadian Union of Postal Workers, the Hospital Employees' Union, and from the US-based Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization - which organizes the Pastors for Peace Caravan - among many others.



Anti-War Rally, October 27th, 2007

***THE HISTORY OF ALISON'S CASE
CONTINUES AFTER SPECIAL CUBA
SOLIDARITY SECTION...***

SPECIAL SECTION: PORTRAIT OF A YOUNG

CUBA SOLIDARITY ACTIVIST

Alison's social justice work has included a long involvement in the Cuba solidarity movement on campus at the University of British Columbia, in Vancouver, and in her participation in Pastors for Peace Caravan to Cuba. Some of the materials initially seized by the [CBSA] were directly related to this ongoing work, including Free the Cuban 5 materials.

Pastors for Peace campus speaking tour, 2006



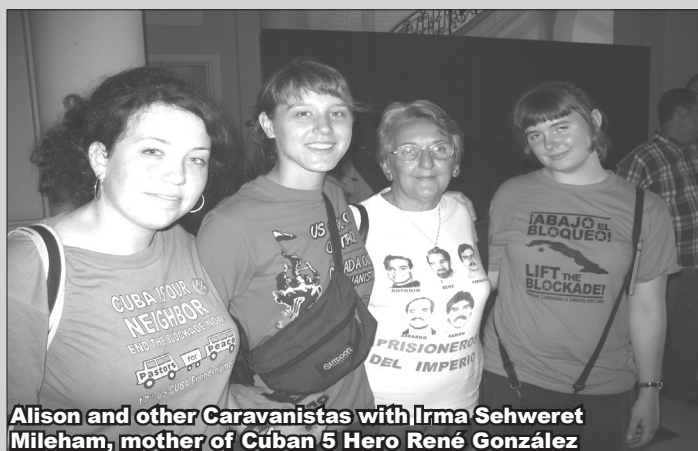
In her four years as an executive of the UBC Social Justice Committee she was involved in organizing the first events related to the case of the Cuban 5 heroes on campus. The campaign became a regular component of organizing on campus for the next four years with regular petitioning, forums and movie showings.

The AMS Coalition Against War on the People of Iraq and Internationally (CAWOPI), of which Alison was the President, co-sponsored many events with the Free the Cuban Five Committee – Vancouver and Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba (VCSC), with forums against the US blockade of Cuba and on the case of anti-Cuba terrorist Luis Posada Carriles.

Most recently, she was invited to speak on a panel at UBC with Laureano Cordoso, Cuban Consul General from Toronto.

In Vancouver, Alison has organized with VCSC since its formation in 2004. As an American citizen living in Canada, she has brought a unique perspective to discussions of US attacks on Cuba, and the anti-Cuban campaign waged by successive US administrations with the country itself.

In the summer of 2006, Alison joined 98 others members of the Pastors for Peace Caravan to Cuba as she helped bring over 60 tons of humanitarian aid destined for Cuba across both the Canada-U.S border and the Canada-Mexico border in open defiance of the US blockade.



Alison and other Caravanistas with Irma Schweret Mileham, mother of Cuban 5 Hero René González

Upon her return, she and other Caravanistas received threatening letters from the US Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) demanding detailed information about her trip, and threatening fines of up to \$6,750 individually. Despite OFAC claims that it had collected more than \$1.5 million in fines for what it deems illegal to travel to Cuba, Alison and all other Caravanistas defied their attempted intimidation. This no doubt resulted in her name being added to US Border Service lists.

She shared these experiences and Cuba's fight against the blockade on a Lower-Mainland campus speaking tour with John Waller, the National Coordinator of Pastors for Peace

In the past two months as her defence campaign has grown, Alison has continued to speak out in solidarity with the people of Cuba, and fight for a better world they have

represented for over 48 years. She has spoken at monthly pickets demanding freedom for the Cuban 5 heroes, and continued to denounce the Canadian and US governments for targeting those fighting in defense of human and democratic rights.



Cuban 5 Picket, October 18, 2007

● ***CBSA ESCALATES ATTACKS, THE CAMPAIGN GROWS***

When Alison entered her hearing on September 28th, however, she and her lawyer still had not received full disclosure of the CBSA's evidence in their case against her. Her lawyer requested this evidence, and it was ruled that the CBSA had to give Alison and her lawyer this disclosure – another partial victory in Alison's case! As a result of the introduction of new evidence, the hearing was adjourned until Oct 11, 2007.

On Oct 11th Alison achieved another partial victory. At the hearing the prosecution tried to introduce new evidence, not included in the full disclosure of the case given to Alison and her lawyer. This attempt to sneak in secret evidence against Alison was denied by the adjudicator. In admissibility hearings such as these, often if the adjudicator is not convinced by the defence an immediate removal order will be issued and defendant will have only a few hours to leave the country. The weakness of the prosecutions case was exposed when the adjudicator announced that the final decision would not be released until October 31st. For the ABDC activists it was also clear that the Canadian government needed more time to make sure that they would win the case.



The campaign also took a major step forward when the BC Civil Liberties Association announced they had officially decided to support Alison's case, and would be writing an editorial to major newspapers supporting her.

● ***THE FIGHT TO WIN CONTINUES***

After 7 weeks of campaigning and with 3000 petition signatures demanding all CBSA charges against her be dropped, Alison received the Immigration & Refugee Board (IRB) decision on her case October 31st. After reviewing the case, the adjudicator from the IRB announced that despite finding the CBSA's initial actions against Alison during her first attempted border crossing "bewildering", that he would uphold the CBSA charge of misrepresentation against her. He then issued an exclusion order, deciding that she must leave Canada by Saturday November 17, 2007 and cannot return for two years.

Alison emerged from the hearing to join over 100 supporters, declaring that the unjust decision does not mean the end of her fight for human and democratic rights. By the end of the day, the story of the antiwar activist banned from entering Canada for two years by Canada border officials had already been published by the Canadian Press news agency and the West Island Chronicle, a Montreal-based newspaper.

On Thursday November 1st, the story went worldwide and was run by the AP-Associated Press, a newswire serving 121 countries around the world and the MSNBC newswire,

one of the largest online news providers in the US. The story was also featured nationally in the Globe & Mail, and many local newspapers.

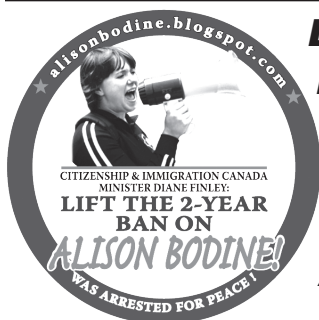


This unjust ruling is clearly the CBSA's next step in the escalation of the attack on Alison and the campaign of attacks on the democratic and human rights of antiwar and social justice activists and all non-status people in Canada. All progressive, humanity loving people must see that this is an attack on all of us. The unjust arrest, detention and exclusion of Alison

Bodine means the Government of Canada and its agencies want to continue and escalate the silencing of free speech, freedom of political expression and targeting people who oppose their policies at home and abroad and their new era of war and occupation. They are also testing and evaluating our response to defend ourselves against their attacks against us. The degree, seriousness, effectiveness and consistency of our defence impacts their decision on how to further their repressive measures.

The Alison Bodine Defence Committee (ABDC) is exploring and pursuing all possible legal avenues including the steps to secure a federal appeal, while continuing the political campaign against this attack. The Federal Citizenship and Immigration Minister, Diane Finley, has the power to overturn the ban at any point. The ABDC has launched a new drive for 10,000 signatures on a petition demanding that the 2-year ban against Alison be lifted. See the back of this brochure to find out how you can support this struggle for human and democratic rights!

***Lift the 2-Year Ban
on Alison Bodine!!***



**DEMAND THAT
MINISTER DIANE
FINLEY LIFT
THE 2-YEAR
BAN AGAINST
ALISON BODINE!**

**FAX OR E-MAIL MINISTER FOR CITIZENSHIP
& IMMIGRATION, DIANE FINLEY
FINLEY.D@PARL.GC.CA / FAX 613-996-9749**

*Alison Bodine is available to speak to your class,
union, organization, or other group! Please contact the
Alison Bodine Defense Committee.*

**SEND SUPPORT LETTERS TO:
*defendalisonbodine@hotmail.com***

Join those who have already sent their support:

Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW) | Hospital
Employees Union | Federation of Post Secondary
Educators | Peggy Askin, President of the Calgary
and District Labour Council | Education and Training
Employees' Association Green Party USA | North
American Baptist Peace Fellowship | US-Based Inter-
religious Foundation for Community Organizing (IFCO)/
Pastors for Peace | MP Libby Davies | MP Bill Siksay
| MLA David Chudnovsky | MP Alex Atamanenko | MP
Nathan Cullen | Richmond NDP | CODE PINK:Women for
Peace | No One Is Illegal Toronto | Iglesia San Romero de
Las Américas Church-UCC in New York City | Seattle Act
Now to Stop War and End Racism (ANSWER) | President,
Ottawa Local, Canadian Union of Postal Workers CUPW
| Edmonton Coalition Against War and Racism | Sudbury
Against War & Occupation | Capilano College Students
Union | Industrial Workers of the World (Vancouver) |
Filipino Canadian Youth Alliance | Former Vancouver
City Councilor, Tim Louis | Battered Women's Support
Services | Jews For a Just Peace | Socialist Viewpoint

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**SIGN THE SAMPLE LETTER & PETITION:
*<http://alisonbodine.blogspot.com>***

**ALISON BODINE
DEFENSE COMMITTEE! (ABDC)**
For Meetings Contact:
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778 882 5223 | 604 780 4029