



December 3, 2007

The Honorable Diane Finley, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration
Department of Citizenship and Immigration Canada
365 Laurier Avenue West
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 1L1

Re: Alison Bodine

Dear Minister,

The Canadian Federation of Students is Canada's national students' organization representing more than one half million students across Canada. At our November annual general meeting, students' unions passed a resolution calling on the Government of Canada to lift the exclusion order on Alison Bodine.

Ms. Bodine is a U.S. citizen, co-chair and spokesperson of Vancouver anti-war coalition Mobilization Against War and Occupation, for three years was the president of the University of British Columbia's Coalition Against War on the People of Iraq and was a long-time executive committee member of the UBC Social Justice Center.

Near midnight on September 13, Ms. Bodine was arrested by the Canada Border Services Agency and detained by the RCMP. We have been informed that Ms. Bodine has not done anything illegal, and has no criminal record to warrant such treatment.

On October 31, the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada upheld the Canada Border Services Agency's charge of misrepresentation against Ms. Bodine. This resulted in an exclusion order banning her from Canada for two years. The Federal Court of Canada subsequently denied her application for a stay in Canada during a review of the decision. On November 17 the exclusion order took effect and Ms. Bodine was forced to leave Canada.

Ms. Bodine's arrest and removal from Canada is a violation of the right to organize and express political views peacefully. The Canada Border Services Agency's targeting of Ms. Bodine is politically motivated and unjust, and we urge you to act immediately to lift the ban against Ms. Bodine.

Sincerely,

Amanda Aziz
National Chairperson

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