

Alison Bodine Defence Committee

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LIFT THE 2-YEAR BAN!

Alison Bodine Lift the Ban 10,000 Petition Drive

Petition to the Honorable Diane Finley, Minister of Citizenship & Immigration Canada

We, the undersigned, draw your attention to the following:

THAT Alison Bodine, a US citizen, is a Co-chair, spokesperson and central organizer with Vancouver antiwar coalition Mobilization Against War & Occupation (MAWO), was for three years the president of the 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 UBC Social Justice Center, a prominent activist in solidarity with Cuba and a participant in the Pastors for Peace Caravan to Cuba, and is a supporter of immigrant and refugee rights in Canada and the US;

THAT near midnight on Thursday September 13, 2007 Alison Bodine was unjustly arrested by the Canada Border Services Agency and detained by the RCMP when she went voluntarily to the US-Canada border to return to the US and retrieve political materials that were previously seized;

THAT on Oct. 31st, the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada upheld the CBSA charge of misrepresentation against Alison Bodine, and she was banned from Canada for 2 years, as of Nov.17th 2007;

THAT Alison's arrest, the charges against her and removal from Canada are a violation of the democratic and human rights of all individuals to organize and express their political views peacefully, a violation of the right to free speech, and a denial of the rights of immigrants, refugees, people without status, and non-residents in Canada;

THEREFORE we are appealing to you, the Honorable Diane Finley, Minister of Citizenship & Immigration, to lift the 2-year ban that has been ordered against Alison Bodine by the October 31st Immigration & Refugee Board decision and restore her right to freely travel between the US and Canada.

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