

the gleaner

THE GLEANER PUBLICATIONS SOCIETY

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Membership entitles you to vote at the Annual General meeting, at Special General meetings and when electing Society representatives to the Gleaner's Board of Directors. Thus, although you may not be involved in the Gleaner's editorial decisions (unless you also become a member of the collective), you can ex-

letters

Drop all charges against antiwar activist—letter

Call to Action: Defend Our Democratic Rights – Join the Campaign to Drop All Charges Against Antiwar Activist Alison Bodine!

Near midnight on Thursday September 13, 2007 Alison Bodine 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. Alison Bodine is an antiwar activist and social justice organizer with the Vancouver antiwar coalition Mobilization Against War & Occupation (MAWO), has been the President of the UBC AMS Coalition Against War on the People of Iraq & Internationally, an executive with the UBC AMS Social Justice Center and just graduated from UBC last May with a Bsc in Physics.

Alison has traveled between the US and Canada on dozens of occasions, without problem. This time, her vehicle was searched revealing many political materials against the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq and in solidarity with Cuba. It was at this point that she began to have difficulty with the border guards and when Alison returned to the

border from a short two day visit to Vancouver Thursday September 13th, she was handcuffed and told she was under arrest.

Media was quick to pick up this important case, which was covered locally and nationally by TV, radio, and newspapers (you probably saw her face on the cover of the 24hrs newspaper last Tuesday). Because of this media coverage and outpouring of community support and mobilization, the CBSA was pressured into releasing Alison on Friday evening, September 14th.

Although, Alison herself was never officially notified by CBSA, they cancelled her Monday September 17th hearing, a maneuver to delay because of the huge and public awareness of the campaign and the widespread support. They have now delayed the hearing until Friday September 28th at 9am in an attempt to wait out the media blitz and community support before going ahead with their flimsy case that Alison 'misrepresented' herself, that they know won't stand up in a hearing.

Two hundred support letters and petition signatures have been collected so far including

from MPs Libby Davies and Bill Siksay and labour unions like the BC HEU and the Federation of Post Secondary Educators. The Alison Bodine Defence Committee is calling on all students, all progressive, humanity loving people to take this attack on Alison as an attack on all of us. This is an attack on the democratic rights of all progressive people, students, social justice activists, immigrants, refugees, all non-status people and non-residents in Canada.

What you can do to help:

-Send a letter of support for Alison to Stockwell Day, Minister of Public Safety & the Canada Border Services Agency (and send a copy to defendalisonbodine@hotmail.com)

-Come to the free public forum Saturday September 22 – 6:30pm at the Chilean Housing Co-op (390 School Ave) to hear Alison speak about the case alongside a panel of Vancouver and US antiwar, social justice and immigrant rights activists.

For more information, Alison has also launched a blog for people to follow updates in the case at: <http://alisonbodine.blogspot.com>.

– Kira Koshelanyk-Daley