

Sign the Petition!

Demand Refuge for American War Resisters in Canada!

Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin, Canadian Minister of Citizenship and Immigration Judy Sgro and Chairperson of the Refugee Board of Canada Jean-Guy Fleury:

The presence of War Resisters in Canada traces back to the Vietnam War era when more than 30,000 draft eligible Americans made their way to Canada. They were seeking refuge from persecution by the American Government for their refusal to fight in a war that they felt to be unjust. Canada gave these soldiers refuge. Today the number of soldiers refusing to participate in the unjustified and illegal occupation of Iraq is growing. Some are choosing to come to Canada, seeking sanctuary from the Canadian Government, just like that given to their predecessors.

These War Resisters include Jeremy Hinzman, Brandon Hughey, David Sanders, and Darrell Anderson, all of whom are applying for refugee status in Canada and await their day in court in front of the immigration and refugee judges.

Canada must grant full refugee status to American War Resisters who seek it. They must not be punished by the Canadian Government for following their conscience and refusing to fight. We demand that War Resisters be given sanctuary in Canada. We demand that Canada demonstrate its commitment to international law and the treaties that it has signed, by allowing War Resisters to stay in Canada as refugees.

Name	Address	Signature

Please send completed petitions to:
P.O. Box 21607
Vancouver BC V5L-5G3

Support American War Resisters in Canada!

Defend the U.S. Military Heroes not fighting
in the War on the people of Iraq!

"I cannot say that I [went to war] to help the Iraqi people. I cannot say that it was to make America and the world safer. I cannot say that it was for democracy. I cannot say that it was to prevent terrorism. I could not find a single good reason for having been there and having shot at people and having been shot at." *Camilo Mejia, a U.S. War Resister who served time in prison for refusing to fight.*



"I had promised myself that under no circumstances would I allow myself to become complicit in the illegal occupation of Iraq. No contract or enlistment oath can be used as an excuse to participate in acts of aggression or crimes against humanity." *Brandon Hughey, a U.S. War Resister seeking refuge in Canada.*

The quagmire of the U.S. occupation of Iraq

The U.S. is facing a deepening crisis in Iraq. The powerful resistance of the Iraqi people to the imperialist occupation of Iraq is constantly growing and challenging the US forces.

There are up to 100 attacks a day on the US by the resistance. Over 1300 soldiers have died in Iraq, and over 16,000 wounded. Many are unable to return to combat after battling serious injury and severe mental conditions, such as post-traumatic stress disorder.

Constant pressure on the US military by the resistance in Iraq, and the millions who object to the occupation internationally, has sent troop morale in a downward spiral.

War resisters are condemning everything from the initial reasons for invading Iraq to the completely brutal occupation that exists today. They are refusing to take part in the continued oppression of the people of Iraq under the occupation.

warresister@mawovancouver.org
www.mawovancouver.org

MAWO War Resisters Defense Campaign

THEIR STORIES



Jeremy Hinzman

After enlisting in the US Army, Jeremy Hinzman was assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. After basic training, Jeremy submitted an application for Conscientious Objector (C.O.) status, which the army never processed. His division was deployed into Afghanistan as part of Operation "Enduring Freedom." His application was finally given some attention, and after a short hearing, he was denied C.O. status and given the position of his unit's armorer. Jeremy returned from Afghanistan, and vowed to himself and his wife to never be part of the war on Iraq. Jeremy, his wife, and their young son came to Canada, filing an application for refuge in January 2004. The first of a string of War Resisters to come to Canada, Jeremy's refugee hearing took place in early December 2004. A decision on whether Jeremy can remain in Canada is expected in February.

www.jeremyhinzman.net



Brandon Hughey

While still in high school, Brandon Hughey pre-enlisted in the Army to pay for his college education. During his basic training, the war on Iraq began and Brandon immediately began to question the objectives of the US for going to war. At Ft. Hood, Texas, Brandon repeatedly asked his supervisors for a way out of being complicit in a war he felt was unjust and illegal. He was never told about C.O. status. Brandon refused his order to deploy to Iraq, and came to Canada instead. He is now living in Ontario awaiting the decision of Jeremy's case.

www.brandonhughey.org

David Sanders

Like Brandon Hughey, Dave Sanders also joined the military to pay for a college education, after his applications for financial aid had been denied. While training as a cryptologist, Dave spent some time searching the web and reading up on the war on Iraq. He soon found that what he had been told about Iraq and the reasons for going to war were false, and that the war on Iraq was illegal and unjustified. Dave bought a one-way bus ticket to Ontario and is living in Toronto, also depending on the outcome of Jeremy's case.

Darrell Anderson

After receiving the purple heart while serving in Iraq, Darrell Anderson came home for Christmas and made the decision to come to Canada. Like his fellow war resisters, Darrell joined the military as a way to pay for a college education. Upon arrival in Iraq the veil of mystery surrounding why the US was in Iraq fell, and he became completely opposed to the war, particularly the frequent killing of civilians. Darrell is also living in Toronto, waiting for his own hearing to begin.

A war cannot be fought without an army: American War Resisters seeking refuge in Canada must be Welcomed, Supported and Defended.

Soldiers refusing to fight in the war on Iraq are an integral part of the anti-war movement, not only because they stand against imperialist aggression and occupation, but also because they represent a growing number of soldiers condemning the war on Iraq. Soldiers who refuse to fight weaken the occupation in favor of the people of Iraq.

According to the Pentagon, 5,500 soldiers have deserted the Army since the war began. It is important that Jeremy Hinzman, Brandon Hughey, Dave Sanders and any other soldier who seeks it, be given sanctuary in Canada. Canada must become a place where they freely can join and strengthen the fight against imperialism. Soldiers who refuse to fight and come to Canada seeking refuge, directly challenge and expose Canadian imperialism, an important task of the Canadian anti-war movement. Their words and action contribute to the momentum of the anti-war movement and to the fight for an end to the slaughter of the Iraqi people. The case of Jeremy Hinzman will pave the way for other soldiers to come to Canada and participate in the anti-war movement.

Although there is no formal draft in place at this time, the army has had to implement other measures in order to keep fighting in Iraq. The signing bonus for the military has increased from 5,000 to 16,000 dollars, attracting more and more poor and working people to join. The economic crisis in the US has created a situation where young people have the military as an only option for funding a college education. A stop-loss policy has been put in effect, extending the tour of duty for reservists and soldiers in Iraq beyond original contract limits. Because of the overwhelming and united resistance of Iraqis to the occupation, the US military is in desperate situation, and needs more and more soldiers in order to maintain the occupation.

The defense of American War Resisters in Canada, is the defense of the basic right of a soldier to refuse to fight in something they feel to be illegal and unjust. It is the defense of poor and working people all around the world. It is an important part of struggle to end the occupation of Iraq.

A war can not be fought without an army.

How you can help !!!!!

- Sign the petition! (available at www.mawovancouver.org)
- Get involved in organizing and Mobilization Against War and Occupations War Resisters support campaign (e-mail us at warresister@mawovancouver.org, or visit www.mawovancouver.org).
- Phone, fax or email the Prime Minister, Paul Martin and the Minister of Citizenship & Immigration Judy Sgro demanding that War Resisters be given refuge in Canada
- Pass a resolution at your union local or student union. (a template also available at www.mawovancouver.org)