

DROP ALL CHARGES AGAINST ALISON BODINE ANTI-WAR ACTIVIST LEFT IN LEGAL LIMBO FOR 10 DAYS

By Kira Koshelanyk

Alison Bodine is an antiwar organizer with Vancouver's antiwar coalition Mobilization Against War & Occupation (MAWO), a social justice activist and US citizen. She was arrested by the Canada Border Services Agency at the Peace Arch border crossing when voluntarily leaving Canada for the US Thursday September 13th. She was released in less than 24 hours due to a huge outpouring of support, public pressure and widespread media coverage.

It was obvious from the beginning that this case was politically motivated, Alison explained. "In all my times crossing the border, I was never harassed until anti-war materials were found in my car when I was crossing in to Canada last Monday," she said.

On Tuesday, September 18th, in a strong showing of support for Alison, more than 50 people rallied in front of the Citizenship and Immigration Offices at 300 W. Georgia St. in downtown Vancouver demanding that all charges against Alison be dropped immediately. Alison's case has also received much coverage in the media, with reporters from more than 5 major TV and radio agencies in attendance at yesterday's rally.

Alison presented herself to the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) on the 18th at 10am, as per the conditions of her September 15th release. After yesterday's cancellation of her admissibility hearing without any official notification, Alison was finally told Tuesday morning by CBSA officials that her hearing would be rescheduled to Friday, September 28th at 9:00AM.

With public pressure for her charges to be dropped mounting, and with her picture and case already saturating the news wires and pages of the major newspapers across Canada, Alison confidently entered the building and presented herself to

the Canada Border Services Agency. Not knowing whether she would be arrested again, and having been given no information, she was told to go to a small room off of the main hall, and that no one was allowed to go with her.

Alison emerged from the room with papers stating the September 28th date of her next admissibility hearing, but still with no information about what the charges against her are.

"It is clear that they are trying to use psychological warfare on me by first canceling my hearing without informing me, then keeping me in a state of limbo for over 2 weeks," said Bodine. "The government and its agencies are trying to kill any momentum that has been built around my case – but we aren't going to let that happen."

Letters of support have come flooding in from across Canada as well as internationally for her case. As word of this case spreads, more and more people are voicing their outrage to the Government of Canada at such a blatant attack on basic democratic rights and on the rights of all non-status people and non-residents of Canada.

The Alison Bodine Defense Committee is calling on progressive people, organizations, MPs, MLAs, and prominent individuals to continue to send letters of support for her case to the Alison Bodine Defence Committee, to add to the dozens already received. The Alison Bodine Defence Committee has also called for daily rallies in front of the Citizenship & Immigration Canada Offices to continue their demand of: 'Drop All Charges Against Alison Bodine!'

For more information please contact: Alison Bodine Defence Committee (ABDC), <http://alisonbodine.blogspot.com>

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