

## War Resisters Support Campaign

MEDIA RELEASE

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### **Federal Court Grants Stay of Deportation for U.S. War Resister Matt Lowell**

**TORONTO**—On Monday, the Federal Court of Canada stayed the deportation of U.S. Iraq War resister Matt Lowell. Lowell's deportation had been scheduled for Tuesday, October 28. The stay will give the Court time to consider whether Lowell's appeal of his negative Pre-Removal Risk Assessment will be heard. It follows similar delays granted to war resisters Corey Glass and Jeremy Hinzman.

"We are delighted that the Federal Court has again granted a stay of deportation for a war resister, said Lee Zaslofsky," Coordinator of the War Resisters Support Campaign. "Hopefully the Court will now hear Matt's appeal."

Matt Lowell came to Canada in 2005 after receiving false assurances that he would be discharged from the U.S. Army and enduring maltreatment by his superiors because of his opposition to the Iraq War. He now lives in London, Ontario where he has been employed steadily for the last two years and recently received a promotion. If returned to the U.S., it is likely that he will again face harsh treatment and be imprisoned, as was the case with war resister Robin Long who is now serving a 15-month prison sentence after being deported from Canada.

"The Court's decision highlights the errors made by Immigration Canada in considering these cases and puts more pressure on the Harper government to implement the motion that was adopted by the House of Commons," said Michelle Robidoux, Campaign Organizer. "It's time for Minister Finley to act on behalf of Parliament and the majority of Canadians who want to let war resisters stay."

The June 3, 2008 motion called on the federal government to create a program for conscientious objectors that could lead to permanent residency in Canada and demanded a halt to deportation proceedings against all U.S. war resisters.

"Parliament supports letting them stay, two-thirds of Canadians agree, and now a third Federal Court decision recognizes that U.S. war resisters face punishment when deported to the U.S.," said David Heap of the London War Resisters Support Group. "Even Prime Minister Harper admits the Iraq War was 'absolutely an error'. It's time for him to start acting like a strong leader for Canada and stop helping George Bush punish war resisters."

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