

WAR RESISTERS SUPPORT CAMPAIGN

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MEDIA RELEASE

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War Resister Cliff Cornell Told to Leave Canada by Christmas Eve Rivera Family to Get Decision on January 7

Toronto—In the latest of a series of deportation orders, Citizenship and Immigration Canada has told war resister Cliff Cornell, of Nanaimo, BC, that he must leave Canada by December 24, or face removal by force. Cliff, originally from Arkansas, arrived in Canada in January 2005. He currently works as an Assistant Manager of a retail store near Nanaimo, where he has an excellent work record.

Cliff's deportation order comes after similar orders for war resisters Corey Glass, Jeremy Hinzman and his family, Patrick Hart and his family, Matt Lowell and Dean Walcott. Like them, Cliff has begun to build a peaceful and productive life in Canada and hopes to stay in his new country.

War resister Kim Rivera will receive a decision on January 7. Kim served in the US Army in Iraq. She came to Canada with her husband, Mario, and their two children, Christian (6) and Rebecca (4) in early 2007. Kim had a new Canadian-born baby, Katie, on November 23, 2008.

The War Resisters Support Campaign continues to call upon the Harper government to implement the will of Parliament, as expressed in a House of Commons motion adopted on June 3, 2008. The motion recommended that "...conscientious objectors to wars not sanctioned by the Security Council of the United Nations," such as the Iraq War, be allowed to remain in Canada and apply for permanent resident status. It was adopted by a vote of 137-110 and also directed the Government of Canada to stop deportation proceedings against all of the war resisters here.

A poll conducted last June by Angus Reid showed that 63% of Canadians agree that the war resisters should be allowed to stay in Canada. The Federal Court will hear an appeal by Jeremy Hinzman against his deportation order on February 10, 2009.

"Minister Jason Kenney should stop all deportations, at least until the Federal Court has completed the Hinzman appeal," said Lee Zaslofsky, Coordinator of the War Resisters Support Campaign. "It would be a travesty if war resisters were deported, especially over the holidays, only to have the Court find that they should be given another chance to apply to stay in Canada."

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For further information, please contact: Lee Zaslofsky, Coordinator, War Resisters Support Campaign, 416-598-1222; or Steve Waters, BC Contact, 250-247-0125.