

Happy Fourth of July for Joshua Key!

## **Canada's peace and humanitarian organizations celebrate federal court decision on Iraq War resister Joshua Key**

TORONTO/CNW – The Federal Court has today ordered Canada's Immigration and Refugee Board to take another look at U.S. Iraq Conscientious Objector Joshua Key's refugee claim. The court noted the refugee board had decided the case on too narrow a basis.

Jeffrey House, the lawyer representing Iraq War resisters summarized the decision saying that the court found that Key was required to systematically violate the Geneva Conventions as part of his military service in Iraq and that he was justified in doing so.

In addition, the court sent the matter back for consideration of the penalty, if any, that Mr. Key faces should he be forced to return to the U.S., saying that any punishment is persecution.

“ I'm surprised, grateful and happy to be moving forward and not backward,” says Joshua Key. “It seems like we've had our hands tied behind our backs for so long and I feel like now we have reason for hope. It's been a long haul for me and my family.”

The ruling may have substantial implications for other war resisters.

Lee Zaslofsky, spokesperson for the War Resisters Support Campaign called the decision “wonderful news for Josh and his family and one that gives hope to Corey Glass and the other U.S. Iraq War resisters who are currently subject to deportation by the Canadian government. It's a great Fourth of July gift.”

The War Resisters Support Campaign is calling on the Prime Minister and Immigration Minister Diane Findley to act immediately to implement the June 3 parliamentary motion. It calls on the government to allow U.S. Iraq War resisters and immediate family members the opportunity to apply to remain in Canada as permanent residents; it also calls for an end to deportation orders against them.

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