interreligious foundation for community organization, inc.

Pastors for Peace

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Canada Border Services Agency,

This letter is written on behalf of Alison Bodine. It is our agency's understanding that Ms. Bodine was detained on Thursday, September 13, by the Canada Border Services

Agency and charged with the offense of having "misrepresented herself."

Since Ms. Bodine, who is a US citizen, has lived, worked, and studied in Canada for four years, crossing the border between the U.S. and Canada on numerous occasions, it seems most unlikely that she would now knowingly violate this rather oblique regulation of "misrepresenting herself" at this particular time in history.

In any case, our agency knows her well. She has participated in the humanitarian work of our agency delivering humanitarian aid to Central America and the Caribbean and we have found her to be a person of excellent character and utmost integrity.

Since Canada is a democratic country whose citizens enjoy freedom of conscience and freedom of speech, we find it extremely disturbing that anti-war materials would draw such a strong negative response from the Canadian border authorities. Therefore the Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization (IFCO) urges the dropping of any and all charges against Alison Bodine, and implores you to restore her right to travel between our two countries.

Sincerely,

(Rev.) Thomas E Smith President

(Rev.) Lucius Walker Jr. Executive Director