Keeping Our Promises

A Role for Community Legal Clinics in Human Rights Monitoring
What are international human rights?
Universal Declaration of Human Rights: December 10, 1948

From 1946 to 1948, Canadian John Peters Humphrey, worked on the text for the UDHR.

Eleanor Roosevelt, chaired the UN Human Rights Commission that got the UDHR accepted by the UN General Assembly on December 19, 1948, 60 years ago.
Legal clinics work on the frontline
Poverty law issues are human rights issues

- Access to justice
- Racism
- Disability
- Children’s rights
- Equality rights
- Refugee rights
- Housing rights
- Workers rights
- Income security
- Rights of First Nations peoples
- Healthcare rights
Canada is subject to monitoring by UN human rights bodies on compliance with international human rights conventions.
WHO DOES THE MONITORING?
Human Rights Council

Since June 2008: High Commissioner for Human Rights: Navi Pillay

Distinguished Canadian Jurist, Louise Arbour, UNHCHR: 2004 - 2008
Human rights monitoring process:

State Report

Committee Observations

Dialogue and improvement of human rights protection

State Response
Individual complaints


Indian Act amended 1985
Eight Human Rights Treaty Monitoring Bodies
1. Human Rights Committee

“18 independent experts who are persons of high moral character and recognized competence in the field of human rights...elected for 4 year terms by the States parties of the UN...”
Sir Nigel Rodley.....
Mr. Mohammed Ayat...
Ms. Christine Chanet.....
Mr. Yuji Iwasawa.....
Ms. Zonke Majodina.....
...among others
CCPR: International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966)

HRC meeting at UN in New York, Mar / Apr 2009 – examined Australia

NGO report on Australia’s compliance prepared by National Association of Community Legal Centres of Australia
NGO report to HRC on Australia’s compliance…

Prepared by National Association of Community Legal Centres…
2. Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

**CESCR**

*International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966)*

18 members -
States prepare reports every 5 years -

Canada was examined by CESCR in May 2006
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<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Report/Document Details</th>
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**Notes:**
- Canadian Council for Refugees
- Ligue des Droits et Libertés
- Low Income Families Together
- Canadian Pensioners
- Organic Agriculture Protection Fund
- Trade Union
PCLS helped to write the Canadian Council for Refugees “shadow” report to CESCR in 2006
3. Committee on Elimination of Racial Discrimination

CERD:
Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination (1965)

“18 independent experts…”
States report every 2 years
Canada’s next report to CERD is due in November of 2009
4. Committee for Elimination of Discrimination Against Women

CEDAW: Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (1979)

“23 independent experts on women’s rights from around the world...”
Canada was examined by CEDAW in October of 2008...

Did you hear anything about it?
5. Committee Against Torture

CAT: Convention Against Torture (1984)

10 independent experts – States report to CAT every 4 years – CAT also hears individual complaints
Canada was examined by CAT in May 2005...

...concern expressed on SCC decision in Suresh...
6. Committee on the Rights of the Child

CRC: Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989): 18 independent experts who review State reports every 5 years
Canada’s third report due in 2009

...CRC will examine Canada in 2010
7. Committee on Migrant Workers

Canada has not ratified the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers and their Families (1990)

“El Contrato” film by Min Sook Lee

Juana Tejada, LIC program
8. Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: CRPD

Canada has not yet ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006)
...appointed by Human Rights Council...
Rashida Manjoo —

Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women

Appointed June 2009
Professor James Anaya, Navajo

SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES
Dr. Vernor Munoz Villalobos

Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education

...appointed in July of 2004
Regional Human Rights Treaties and Monitoring Bodies

**European Convention of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms** (1950)  
European Court of Human Rights (Strasbourg)

**American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man** (1948) and **American Convention on Human Rights** (1969)  
Inter-American Commission and Court of Human Rights


Canada is part of the American human rights region through OAS.
Canada and U.S. have not ratified the American Declaration of Human Rights
However, both are subject to the “Declaration on the Rights and Duties of Man” of 1948
Legal Clinics in the United States are using IACHR.
Law students from University of Texas Immigration Legal Clinic

...they helped Canadian boy and his Iranian parents get out of detention and return to Canada

...assist migrants detained at Don Hutto “family” detention centre
Dear Mr. Prime Minister Harper,

I don't like to stay in this jail. I'm only nine years old. I want to go to my school in Canada. I'm sleeping beside the wall. Please Mr. Prime Minister Harper give visa for my family. This place is not good for me. I want to get out of the cell. Just please give visa for my family. My home land is in Canada. My life is over there. I'm also sleeping in the room. Mr. Prime Minister Harper, please bring me and my family to Canada. Thank you so much.

...and a former PCLS law student helped from Canada
…UT Austin Legal Clinic was involved in film about the Hutto Family Detention Centre, “the least of these”
IACHR is now investigating Don Hutto Detention Facility
Jessica Gonzales v. U.S.

- [Link to video](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sw58d7xLnus)
Columbia Legal Clinic goes to the Inter American Commission of Human Rights

Jessica Gonzalez v. The United States, Oct 22, 2008

The Human Rights Clinic team and Jessica Lenahan at the Inter-American Commission in 2007.
Canada and the IACHR


7. BACKGROUND

1. This report examines a series of issues relating to the situation of human rights of persons subject to the refugee determination system in Canada. This system has been recognized by many sources, including the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, as protection. Overall, the system is extremely generous in terms of accepting and retaining the right to be a refugee. The present report studies the system in the context of a number of very specific issues concerning the three main questions, which are: (i) the ability of refugees to obtain access to the refugee determination system, (ii) the availability of administrative review and judicial protection for persons seeking asylum who have applied for asylum, and (iii) the ability of persons in detention. The report concludes that the Canadian asylum system is not providing adequate protection for the rights of Canadian-born children directly affected by procedures to remove non-citizen parents or persons from Canada.

2. Pursuant to its competence as the principal organ of the Organization of American States (OAS), charged with promoting and protecting human rights in the Americas, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (hereafter “Commission” or “IACHR”) has been monitoring the human rights situation in Canada since the country became an OAS member State in 1980. In accordance with its mandate, which is further defined in its Statute and Regulations, the Commission monitors human rights developments in each member State of the OAS. The Commission periodically reports the results of its study of a particular country, formulating the corresponding recommendations designed to assist States in ensuring the fullest enjoyment of protected rights and liberties by all persons subject to its jurisdiction.

3. This report was prepared on the basis of material gathered by the Commission in particular during an on-site visit to Canada in October of 1997 to observe the refugee determination process and the administrative procedures available to refugees. The report refers to information gathered in preparation for, during, and following the visit. It also includes relevant data provided by governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental sources collected through the Commission’s normal monitoring procedures, as well as media reports and other information gathered from the processing of individual petitions. The Commission has taken full account of the observations formulated by the government of Canada in response to the draft version of the present report.

The On-Site Visit Carried Out in October of 1997
Refugee groups, detainees rap Canada

Immigrants held for years by system that violates human rights, OAS agency told

BY LILA SARICK

Toronto Star and Mail

Canada's highly regarded refugee-protection system violates basic human rights by arbitrarily detaining some immigrants for years and providing unsatisfactory reasons for arrest, members of an international agency have told by refugees and refugee groups yesterday.

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, in its first fact-finding mission to Canada yesterday, after meeting with government officials and refugee advocates, groups in Ottawa, Vancouver and Montreal and touring detention centres.

The commission, an agency of the Organization of American States, will make recommendations to the federal government. The commission also examined individual cases and reported that non-binding recommendations, and elimination of visa requirement, Robert Goldberg, executive vice-president, Human Rights and Immigration Commission.

Although case reviews are held monthly, they are few and many are held without notice or knowledge of legal advice or ability to present new evidence. Margaret, director of the African Canadian Legal Clinic told commissioners, "Detention is arbitrary and indefinite — an immigration hold that is supposed to last weeks can last years."

"While I was in detention, I was refused legal aid..." Three people refused to be interviewed by the commission.

Other circumstances of alleged allied men's rights violations that the commission heard:
- Removal and Asylum requests who do not have identification may wait up to 18 months before results can be received in Canada.
- Board of Special appeals who determine refugee status (prior to or during hearing).
- Gander available to appeal usually except for refusals, claims are expensive, limited and arbitrary.

"Detention is arbitrary and indefinite — an immigration hold that is supposed to last weeks can last years."

The cases of non-Canadian citizens who are being held in jails and detention centres, sometimes for years, dominated much of the discussion in Toronto. Some of those detained have completed their sentences and are awaiting deportation; others are being held because immigration authorities fear they will not return for hearings.

An Iranian man who was released last month after spending 16 months in the Metro West Centre explained how he fell through the cracks of the detention system. Mohammad Ghareb, who was sponsored as a refugee by the federal government in 1983, became addicted to heroin after an accident and was convicted on drug charges a year after his arrival here.

After serving 16 months of his sentence, he was eligible for early parole but was never considered for release. He was deported after a further 16 months in detention and was released last month only after a church raised $10,000 bail and found him legal advice. This case is being reviewed by immigration authorities.

"While I was in detention, I was refused legal aid..." Three people refused to be interviewed by the commission.

Other circumstances of alleged allied men's rights violations that the commission heard:
- Removal and Asylum requests who do not have identification may wait up to 18 months before results can be received in Canada.
- Board of Special appeals who determine refugee status (prior to or during hearing).
- Gander available to appeal usually except for refusals, claims are expensive, limited and arbitrary.
How can legal clinics help?
Check Canada’s record

UN Website:
Google...

“HUMAN RIGHTS BODIES”
COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS SUBMITTED BY STATES PARTIES
UNDER ARTICLE 44 OF THE CONVENTION

Thirty-fourth session

Concluding observations: Canada

1. The Committee considered the second periodic report of Canada (CRC/C/83/Add.6) at its 894th and 895th meetings (see CRC/C/894 and 895), held on 17 September 2003, and adopted at the 918th meeting, held on 3 October 2003 (see CRC/C/894/10), the following concluding observations.

2. The Committee welcomes the submission of the State party’s second periodic report and information on the situation of children in the State party. However, the submission of a synthesis report based on both federal and provincial reports would have provided the Committee with a more comprehensive analysis of the implementation of the Convention and a more coordinated and comprehensive picture of the valuable measures adopted by Canada to implement the Convention. It notes with appreciation the high-level delegation sent by the State party and welcomes the positive reactions to the suggestions and recommendations made during the discussion.

A. Introduction
“...the CRC expressed grave concerns about the treatment of aboriginal children, child poverty and minority children, including refugees and immigrants....
The Committee recommends that the State party...

...ensure that family reunification is dealt with in an expeditious manner.”
Dear Mama,
Hope the almighty is still protecting you. Mama
This is among the last letters that you are receiving from me. Mama how could you lose your dear life to that extent?
Mama you must have known about your children. Mama remember what you promised after we survived the Genocide. You said you will never leave us alone but now you are gone. We are however still fighting on. We will never win. You promised that we shall be a family again in the shortest time, but now years have gone. I am beginning to lose hope and thinking otherwise. I have a feeling that we shall never meet again. We shall miss you Mum.
Mama I know this is not the best letter, but we have no one else to tell our pain. You will have to trust us. Me and Kirabo have graduated but we are not
*... why? My sisters are
Dear Mama,

Hope the almighty is still protecting you. Mama

This is among the last letters that you are receiving from me. Mama how could you love your dear life to that extent and forget about your children? Mama remember what you promised after we survived the genocide. You said you will never live us alone but now you are gone. We are still fighting on may be we shall win. You promised that we shall be a family again in the shortest time, but now years have gone. I am beginning to loose hope and thinking otherwise. I have a feeling that we shall never meet again. We shall miss you Mum.

Mama I know this is not the best letter, but we have no one else to tell our pain. You will know why. My sisters and I have graduated but we are know why. My sisters and Kirabo have graduated but we are
“Dear Mama,
Hope the Almighty is still protecting you. Mama, this is among the last letters that you are receiving from me. Mama how could you love your dear life to that extent and forget about your children? Mama remember what you promised after we survived the genocide...”
Hardship of long separation

"...it took five years"
Shadow reporting with NGOs

Wish you were here!

Family Reunification Campaign
State report
NGOs reports
The whole story
Involve our clients in process:
Official human rights websites

- United Nations Human Rights Bodies: [www.ohchr.org/EN/HRbodies](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRbodies)

- OAS Human Rights: [www.oas.org/oaspage/humanrights.htm](http://www.oas.org/oaspage/humanrights.htm)

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) works to offer the best expertise and support to the different human rights monitoring mechanisms in the United Nations system: UN Charter-based bodies, including the Human Rights Council, and bodies created under the international human rights treaties and made up of independent experts mandated to monitor State parties' compliance with their treaty obligations. Most of these bodies receive secretariat support from the Human Rights Council and Treaties Division of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

**Charter-based bodies**

- Human Rights Council
- Universal Periodic Review
- Commission on Human Rights (replaced by the Human Rights Council)
- Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council

**Treaty-based bodies**

There are eight human rights treaty bodies that monitor implementation of the core international human rights treaties:

- Human Rights Committee (CCPR)
- Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR)
- Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD)
- Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
- Committee Against Torture (CAT) & Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (OPCAT) - Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture
- Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC)
- Committee on Migrant Workers (CMW)
- Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)
Human Rights Program

What we do:

The mission of the Human Rights Program is to promote the development, understanding, respect for and enjoyment of human rights in Canada.

To accomplish this, the program undertakes educational and promotional activities involving the public, educators, non-governmental organizations, government departments and others. This includes providing a selected number of grants and contributions to eligible organizations and distributing human rights publications upon request.

The program is also responsible for coordinating, with provincial and territorial governments, the domestic implementation of international human rights instruments and the preparation of Canada’s reports to the United Nations.

Important Notice:

The Human Rights Program cannot consider complaints concerning individual cases of alleged human rights violations, and cannot give legal advice concerning such cases.

For questions concerning specific instances of possible cases of discriminatory or unequal treatment as defined in the Canadian Human Rights Act, please consult the Canadian Human Rights Commission. For cases arising under provincial or territorial human rights legislation, please consult your provincial or territorial human rights commission.

Date Modified: 2008-11-12
Senate Committee on Human Rights
Websites of relevant NGOs

- **Canadian Council for Refugees**
  - [www.ccrweb.ca](http://www.ccrweb.ca)

- **Feminist Alliance For International Action:**
  - [www.fafia-afai.org/en](http://www.fafia-afai.org/en)

- **Canadian Coalition for the Rights of Children:**
  - [www.rightsofchildren.ca](http://www.rightsofchildren.ca)

- **Social Rights Advocacy Centre:**
  - [www.socialrights.ca](http://www.socialrights.ca)
National Anti-Poverty Organization reports "Canada failing to uphold human rights of women, UN committee observes"

– Mon, 2008 – 11 – 24 05:00

“This new report is a wake-up call for our governments, but in particular the federal government which is primarily responsible for ensuring Canada abides by this Convention,” says Elaine Garland, President of the National Anti-Poverty Organization (NAPO). “The UN is urging Canada to ensure that, as a matter of human rights, anyone on social assistance receives sufficient income to attain an adequate standard of living. To do otherwise is to ensure grinding, debilitating poverty, in particular for women who are disproportionately susceptible to deprivation.”

read more

UN Asks Canada to Report Back on Poverty and Murdered Aboriginal Women

Resource Database on Women’s Economic Security
Click here for listings
...share the expertise of other legal clinics already doing this work such as the Hamilton Legal Clinics and the ACLC...
Learn about International NGOs

**December 18. net** for migrant workers

**Huridocs**: collecting human rights documentation and teaching NGOs how to use new media techniques
Websites of International NGOs

- **December 18 (Migrant Workers Rights)**
  - [www.december18.net](http://www.december18.net)

- **International Work Group on Indigenous Affairs**
  - [www.iwgia.org/sw10299.asp](http://www.iwgia.org/sw10299.asp)

- **Amnesty International**
  - [www.amnesty.org](http://www.amnesty.org)

- **US Human Rights on Line**
  - [www.ushumanrightsonline.net](http://www.ushumanrightsonline.net)

- **Witness: For Human Rights**
  - [www.witness.org](http://www.witness.org)
“Yes we can!”
Experienced NGOs

Bruce Porter  Gwen Brodsky Leilani Farha Shelagh Day Bonnie Morton Vince Calderhead Alain Roy Josephine Grey Aimee Clark Craig Foye Marie Chen Chantal Tie Sharry Aiken Margot Young ....

NAWL, CERA, NAPO, LIFT, AMNESTY, etc.
Inaction and Non-compliance:

BRITISH COLUMBIA'S APPROACH TO WOMEN'S INEQUALITY

SUBMISSION OF THE B.C. CEDAW GROUP TO THE UNITED NATIONS COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN on the occasion of the Committee's review of Canada's 6th & 7th Reports

SEPTEMBER 2008

The BC CEDAW Group is a coalition of women's non-governmental and non-profit British Columbia organizations that are committed to advancing the equality interests of women and girls. The coalition first came together in 2002 to prepare a submission on the province of British Columbia to the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, on the occasion of the Committee's review of Canada's Fifth Report under the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

The BC CEDAW Group re-formed in 2008 to prepare this submission for the review of Canada's Sixth and Seventh Reports under the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

The 2008 BC CEDAW Group includes:
The Poverty and Human Rights Centre (www.povertyandhumanrights.org);
Aboriginal Women's Action Network;
Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC (www.cccabc.bc.ca);
Hospital Employees' Union (www.heu.org);
Justice for Girls (www.justiceforgirls.org);
Women's Housing Equality Network (Canada) (www.equalityrights.org/NWG/index.html);
North Shore Women's Centre (www.northshorewomen.ca);
Vancouver Committee for Domestic Workers and Caregivers Rights;
Vancouver Rape Relief and Shelter (www.rapereliefshelter.bc.ca);
Vancouver Women's Health Collective (www.womenshealthcollective.ca);
West Coast LEAF (www.westcoastleaf.org).
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TO THE COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF
DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN

On the Review of Canada's Seventh Periodic Report
under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of
Discrimination against Women

42nd Session, Geneva
20 October – 7 November 2008

amnesty international

Canada
Unequal Rights: Ongoing concerns about Discrimination against Women in Canada

Submission to the United Nations Committee on the
Elimination of Discrimination against Women

"You CAN do it!! Stand tall ... That's all you gotta' do!!"

- Voice of three-year-old Kaniehkéhaka
  (Mohawk Nation – People of the First girl
  Savannah Rennet Matt-Silversmith, great-
  niece of Donna Silversmith

African Canadian Legal Clinic

Six Nations Traditional Women's Council Fire
And
Haudenosaunee (The People) FORWARD (For Women
Autonomy, Rights and Dignity)

Report to the United Nations Committee to End All
Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)

Canada's Flagrant and Scurrilous Human Rights V
Against Qgewheqew Agowhe (First Nations V

111 Richmond Street West, Suite 303, Toronto, Ontario M5H 2P4 Tel: (416) 214

Index: AMR 2009/2008
TORTURE OF CANADIAN WOMEN BY NON-STATE ACTORS
IN THE PRIVATE SPHERE: A SHADOW REPORT

March, 2008

IN RESPONSE TO CANADA’S SUBMISSIONS:

1. THE SIXTH AND SEVENTH REPORTS ON THE
CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF
DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN Covering the period
April 1999 – March 2006

2. FIFTH REPORT OF CANADA ON THE CONVENTION
AGAINST TORTURE AND OTHER CRUEL, INHUMAN OR
DEGRADING TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT Covering the
period May 2000 – July 2004

Submitted by

Jeanne Sarson, MEd, BScN, RN

&

Linda MacDonald, MEd, BN, RN © 2008

Members of NGO Canadian Voice of Women for Peace (VOW):
Kenya Section: Chair – Dr. Tatura; Section – Dr. Tatura
Contact information:
Jeanne Sarson at 902-894-0606 or Linda MacDonald at 902-695-2355
Med. 304 Prince Street, Truro, NS, BON 1J4
Email: nita@redearth.com

Torture of Canadian Women by Non-State Actors

March 2008

eyes, Lyane explained her husband would contemptuously utter, “Look at me bitch, I like to see the terror in your eyes.” Called bitch, slut, and whore, Lyane was labeled “piece of Lyane” “disappeared” in Canada for four and one-half years before “escaping” and returning home she thought about suicide for about six months.

Sara’s Testimony

25. Sara described being electric shocked, beaten, cut, and burned with cigarettes and candles, and having her light bulbs forced into her vagina for more than twice that she was recorded. Always terrified, she reported being forced to swallow drugs that left her paralyzed, family/grope raped, and tortured. Caged, suspended by her limbs with a looped cord around her neck and stretched on a torture rack in the little room in her family’s basement, Sara also speaks of being forced to cut herself and forced pregnant women she herself was forced to do so. Pregnant women who were forced to have abortions – “she aborted” – were burned in extremely shameful and brutal ways. She “never told” forced into having sex with the torturer’s son, who would give her a cigarette and a drink, and forced into having sex with him while he watched. Sara says she was forced to swallow some pieces of glass to make her feel less valuable, and was also forced to see her son and daughter without clothes. She was forced to sit in the dark for days without food or water, and was forced to stand on her hands and knees for hours. Sara says she was forced to have sex with other women, and was forced to watch her husband have sex with other women.

AC’s Testimony

26. AC wrote in 2007, “I have been a victim of sexual abuse. My whole life (as long as I can remember until a few months ago), I have been through all kinds of sexual abuse and torture, including rape, being forced to participate in sexual abuse and torture, and forced to participate in sexual abuse. This has been ongoing and continues to be done by my, brutally, including being beaten, whipped, cut and tortured. I have been tortured in the dark, in a room or a cage, for days at a time, with no food, water, or bathroom facilities. I have been forced to witness the abuse, and even kill some of my own animals. I have been tortured physically and sexually at home. My father and mother both brought me to...”

25 Sara’s (pseudonym)’s story depicting her abuse, shared with consent.
26 AC’s (pseudonym)’s testimony given to the committee on March 12, 2008, shared with consent.
AC’s Testimony

26. AC wrote in 2007: I have been a victim of ritual abuse-torture (RAT) almost my entire life (for as long as I can remember until a few months ago). I have been through all kinds of sexual abuse and torture, including rape, being forced to participate in child pornography, being forced into child prostitution, forcibly impregnated and the baby forcibly and secretly delivered. I have been physically abused and tortured, including being beaten, whipped, cut and endured many other types of horrific things. I have been neglected and isolated by being locked in a room or a cage for days at a time with no food, water, or bathroom facilities. I have been forced to witness the abuse, torture, and even killing of other animals and people (including children). My father and mother abused me physically and sexually at home. My father also would bring me to

---

29. Sara’s (a pseudonym) drawing depicting her tears, shared with consent.
30. AC’s Self-portrait drawing and when giving her consent on March 12, 2008, she wrote, “I would be honoured for you to use this painting and whatever else you think would help.”
Free On-Line Resources

NGO in a Box

- [www.audiovideo.ngoinabox.org](http://www.audiovideo.ngoinabox.org)

Video for change;

- [http://www.witness.org](http://www.witness.org)

Human Rights Documentation and Information Systems, International

- [www.huridocs.org](http://www.huridocs.org)

Independent Media Center

Example of dynamic website:

War Resisters Support Campaign

Canadian Parliament Reaffirms Support for US Iraq War Resisters

The Canadian House of Commons has reaffirmed its support for US Iraq War Resisters, passing the same motion which was passed on June 3, 2006, calling on the minority Conservative government to stop removal proceedings against war resisters and allow them to stay in Canada.

It is time Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Immigration Minister Jason Kenney to listen to Canadians and act on the will of the Canadian people as expressed through polls and through Parliament and implement the motion.

US Iraq War Resister Kimberly Rivera granted emergency stay of removal

Kimberly Rivera received word late on March 25th that the Federal Court granted her a stay pending a decision on whether or not they will review a decision by immigration officials rejecting her Pre-Removal Risk Assessment.

The decision means that Kimberly, her husband Mario and their three children will not be facing a deportation on March 26th. It is a very important decision that recognizes that US war resisters who speak publicly against the war in Iraq face differential treatment by the US military.

It is urgent that Canadians send a very strong message to Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Minister of Citizenship & Immigration Jason Kenney to say that this family and other Iraq war resisters must be allowed to stay. It is the will of Canadians and the will of our Parliament that we welcome war resisters into our country. The Conservative government must respect this view and implement the motion passed by Parliament in June 2008 calling for an end to all removal proceedings against US war resisters and for them to be allowed to apply for permanent resident status in Canada.

Emotional Community Meeting:

Wednesday March 25, 7 pm
United Steelworkers Hall, 25 Cecil Street
(1 block south of College, between Huron and Beverley)

Kimberly Rivera, originally from Texas, is a former US soldier who sought asylum in Canada after refusing to redeploy to Iraq.

Kim, her husband and three children – including a newborn Canadian daughter – face deportation from Canada on March 26th.

This is happening despite Parliament voting to stop the deportations, and to let these conscientious objectors stay in Canada.

During the last federal election campaign Prime Minister Stephen Harper acknowledged that the Iraq War was "absolutely an error". Yet he and his government are sending soldiers back to face punishment – including court-martial, prison time, and felony convictions – for having refused to participate in the war.

Please join us for this community meeting to discuss what can be done to ensure that Canada does not deport US Iraq war resisters. Canadians have spoken, the Canadian Parliament has spoken. The time is now to stand up in support of Iraq war resisters and to stop these deportations.

Open Letter to Prime Minister Stephen Harper from the Faith Community

March 19: The United Church of Canada, Canadian Friends Service Committee (Quakers) and Mennonite Central Committee Canada issued an open letter to Prime Minister Stephen Harper calling on him to allow war resister Kimberly Rivera and her family to stay in Canada.

http://www.resisters.ca/index_en.html

12/04/2009
“Suspected Illegal Entry Vessel X” (SIEVX)

http://www.sievx.com
ART - POETRY - MUSIC
FACE BOOK
blogs

EMAIL

WEBSITES

YouTube

podcasts
MEDIA PEOPLE

....including students
law students can make movies
…”Happy Refugee Rights Day!”
YouTube

PCLS

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xElrMuQe7sE
CONCLUSION

Let's bring human rights home to Canada!

Geri Sadoway,
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