



Canadian Friends Service Committee E-Newsletter

April, 2016

Urgent action to support conscientious objectors

CFSC partner the War Resisters Support Campaign, has released a new eight minute video introducing the situation faced by conscientious objectors to the Iraq war (COs) and calling for Canadians to contact MPs in support of finally letting them stay in Canada. Watch it at: <http://bit.ly/21UEudd>

Several COs have court dates in early April and there is an urgent need to contact Minister of Immigration John McCallum, at minister@cic.gc.ca and john.mccallum@parl.gc.ca (model

message below). Please cc Prime Minister Justin Trudeau: justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca

Please also bcc the War Resisters Support Campaign at wrsctoronto@gmail.com



Members of Toronto Monthly Meeting march in support of COs.
Photo credit: War Resisters Support Campaign

Here is a model email message you can copy and paste into your message (or feel free to personalize it) - thank you for your support

SUBJECT: U.S. Iraq War resisters – Stop litigation

John McCallum,
Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship

Dear Minister McCallum,

I am writing to ask that you immediately cease the litigation initiated by the former government against U.S. Iraq War resisters.

Our new government should not re-litigate matters the Court has already found on in favour of these conscientious objectors. As you know, Canadians overwhelmingly opposed the Iraq War and the Liberal government under Jean Chrétien made a decision not to participate in it.

The cases to be heard by the Federal Court on April 5 and 6 should be settled, and the matters sent back to be re-determined by new immigration officers.

I thank you for your consideration and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

cc: Prime Minister Justin Trudeau

For more possible content for your message including information about the legal status of conscientious objection to military service visit <http://quakerservice.ca/CO>

Upcoming CFSC workshops

CFSC is offering multiple workshops on the West Coast. At Island Gathering on April 17th, and at Western Half Yearly Meeting on May 21st, CFSC we will be discussing punishment - its roots and its deeper effects on all involved (not only those that society punishes). More information on this topic is available at <http://www.quakerservice.ca/PenalAbolition>

Also at Western Half Yearly on May 22nd CFSC will lead an interactive workshop to help Friends explore peaceful options for Canada's involvement in international conflict, and to see the connections these have with peace within ourselves and our communities.

For those not able to attend these sessions, we encourage your Meeting or group to request a visit from CFSC to offer program on an area of particular concern to you!

Time to reform Canada's national security system

"By every possible measure Canada's current national security accountability mechanisms are woefully inadequate" notes a letter sent by multiple organizations with expertise in security, including the International Civil Liberties Monitoring Group of which Friends are members. The letter to Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale calls for significant reforms and was accompanied by another letter with suggestions about the nature of inquiries into improving last year's deeply flawed *Anti-Terrorism Act*, Bill C-51. Readers of the E-News may recall the many concerns CFSC has with this legislation (<http://www.quakerservice.ca/C51>).

Canada must study existing laws and identify gaps which require anti-terrorism legislation, rather than rushing forward unnecessary legislation in the wake of any particular terrorist attack. Further, Canada must consider its human rights obligations when making laws, and not approach security and human rights as if the two are in opposition. Read more at <http://bit.ly/1M3dW7U>

"Veto" and "consent" - significant differences

A new resource on the CFSC website, written by long-time CFSC partner Paul Joffe, examines the differences between "veto" and "consent" in the context of the rights of Indigenous Peoples. The piece outlines in detail how the government of Canada has incorrectly described consent as a "veto" power. This distinction is important as misinformation about what the right to free, prior, and informed consent means is often used to deny this essential right of Indigenous Peoples. Learn more: <http://www.quakerservice.ca/vetoconsent>



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