YOUR NAME
12345 FIRST ST
GALENA MO 65656 USA

November 2, 2007

I am writing from the United States to ask you to make a provision for sanctuary for the scores of U.S. military servicemembers currently in Canada, most of whom have traveled to your country in order to resist fighting in the Iraq War.

Please let them stay in Canada.

PRIME MINISTER STEPHEN HARPER
80 WELLINGTON STREET
OTTAWA, ONTARIO K1A 0A2
CANADA

Dear Hon. Prime Minister Stephen Harper,

When more than 50,000 Americans refused to fight in Vietnam by immigrating to Canada, Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau declared, "[They] have my complete sympathy, and indeed our political approach has been to give them access to Canada. Canada should be a refuge from militarism."

Today Canada again faces the moral choice of whether to give refuge to resisters of an unjust war. Immigrating to Canada is much harder now, so war resisters are seeking refugee status in accord with United Nations guidelines, "Soldiers who refuse to fight in wars that are widely condemned by the international community as contrary to standards of human conduct should be considered as refugees."

The Canadian Refugee Board, however, has refused to hear arguments that the war in Iraq is illegal, and it continues to reject these claims.

Jeremy Hinzman and Brandon Hughey, the first two U.S. objectors to apply, are now appealing to the Supreme Court of Canada.

Robin Long nearly became the first war resister to be deported. We are thankful that Canadian immigration officials have put his deportation on hold. However, he and other U.S. war resisters still face deportation—even before a decision by the Supreme Court of Canada.

Regardless of the decisions of the Refugee Board or the courts, the Canadian government should not become party to the persecution of war resisters. If forced back to the U.S., soldiers of conscience face years of incarceration and stigmatizing discharges. Although unlikely, even the death penalty remains as a possible penalty for desertion in wartime under the U.S. military's Uniform Code of Military Justice!

Nearly two of three Canadians are in favor of U.S. war resisters being allowed to stay according to a recent poll, and of course many wonderful Canadians have opened their homes and their hearts to our war resisters. Please continue Canada's rich tradition of being a refuge from militarism.

I ask that the Canadian government demonstrate its commitment to international law—despite my own government's shortcomings. I seek your assurance that U.S. war resisters not be forced to leave Canada.

Sincerely,
Your Name

This letter was verified and mailed on behalf of Your Name by Courage to Resist, a program of the International Humanities Center.