

# DEAR CANADA: IMPLEMENT THE HOUSE OF COMMONS RESOLUTIONS LET U.S. WAR RESISTERS STAY!

[www.couragetoresist.org/canada](http://www.couragetoresist.org/canada)

## SAMPLE LETTER

Rt. Hon. Prime Minister Stephen Harper  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A2, CANADA

Hon. Minister of Citizenship &  
Immigration Jason Kenney  
Citizenship & Immigration Canada  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 1L1, CANADA



Please act immediately to stop the deportation of Kimberly Rivera, her husband and their three children by implementing the Canadian Parliament's resolutions to allow U.S. war resisters to stay in Canada.

I am writing from the United States to ask that you abide by the House of Commons resolution—reaffirmed February 12, 2009—to create a program to allow war objectors, including U.S. resisters, to apply for permanent resident status in Canada and to cease all deportation and removal proceedings against them.

The recent flurry of deportation orders to war resisters, including Kimberly Rivera, and the forcing out of Robin Long, Cliff Cornell and Chris Teske, flaunted Canada's longstanding tradition of providing sanctuary to war objectors. Upon their forced return from Canada to the U.S. military, Robin and Cliff were sentenced to 15 and 12 months imprisonment respectively. Future resisters face even stiffer sentences.

When more than 50,000 Americans refused to fight in Vietnam and emigrated 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."

On June 3, 2008, the House of Commons first voted to uphold this rich tradition by passing a historic resolution to allow war resisters to apply for permanent residence status in Canada and to halt the deportation of conscientious objectors. In addition to this parliamentary motion, according to a recent poll, nearly two of three Canadians also favor allowing U.S. war resisters to stay. Furthermore, many wonderful Canadians have opened their homes and hearts to U.S. war resisters.

I ask that the Canadian government respect the democratic decision of Parliament, the demonstrated opinion of the Canadian citizenry, the view of the United Nations, and millions of Americans by immediately implementing the motion and cease deportation proceedings against Kimberly Rivera, Jeremy Hinzman, Patrick Hart, Dean Walcott and other current and future war resisters.

In June 2008 the Canadian Parliament passed an historic motion to officially welcome our war resisters. This motion was reaffirmed in February 2009. The Conservative government is making it clear that they will disregard the democratic decision of the House of Commons, the demonstrated opinion of the Canadian citizenry, the view of the United Nations, and millions of Americans. Please add your voice for peace and justice today.

## TAKE ACTION

### 1. SIGN THE LETTER ONLINE

Courage to Resist volunteers will print and post via international first class mail two letters (text left) on your behalf. Each will be separately addressed to a Canadian official and will feature your return name and address. Please encourage friends to sign the letter online as well at the address above!

OR use the letter as an outline for a more personalized appeal on behalf of yourself, church, union, or organization.

### 2. HELP COLLECT SIGNATURES

Download and print PDF letters and 11" x 14" petitions. Collect signatures and simply send the completed forms back to us. We'll mail the letters to Canada, and we'll send signers a thank you.



### 3. DONATE

Consider a donation to **Courage to Resist** so that we can continue sending these letters regardless of signers ability to contribute. Each set costs us about \$2.50 to produce and mail, so we're counting on you.

ALSO, please consider donating to **War Resisters Support Campaign (Canada)** to directly "help U.S. war resisters in need and to continue to build a national campaign to ensure that the Canadian government will make a provision for US war resisters to stay in Canada." For more information, and to donate: [www.resisters.ca](http://www.resisters.ca)

### 4. HOLD A HOUSE PARTY

Help get out the word. Invite friends over to watch and discuss the "Breaking Ranks" 60 min. DVD documentary about war resisters in Canada (available from Courage to Resist).



## COURAGE TO RESIST

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