

Let Them Stay Week 2014
Sample letters to the editor

Dear editors,

This month marks 10 years since the first U.S. Iraq war resister came to Canada. Without status, the war resisters and their families have been living in limbo as our government refuses to allow these conscientious objectors to stay.

During the Vietnam era, Canada welcomed 50,000 draft resisters and deserters. It's shameful that 40 years later, rather than continuing this proud tradition, our government is using its resources to try to actively intervene in the cases of Iraq resisters to try to ensure they are forced out of Canada.

Ten years of uncertainty is too long - it's time for the Harper government to respect the will of Canadians and let them stay!

Dear editors,

In spite of 2 motions passed by Parliament calling on our government to allow U.S. Iraq war resisters to stay in Canada, and despite overwhelming support for the stand these young men and women of conscience have taken, the Harper government continues to try to deport them to the U.S. They face jail time and possible felony convictions for making the same decision we made to not participate in the war.

Our country is richer because of the contributions made by Vietnam draft resisters and deserters. We need to continue to be a refuge from militarism and let Iraq war resisters stay.

Dear editors,

Conscientious objector Kimberly Rivera has just finished serving a 10 month jail term in U.S. military prison because of her refusal to take part in the Iraq war. She has spent xx months separated from her husband and children and now faces rebuilding her life with a felony conviction on her record. This injustice only happened because our government chose to force her to leave Canada and return to the US, arguing that it was 'merely speculative' that she would be punished.

That decision was wrong. We cannot allow any more conscientious objectors to be returned to the US to face certain punishment for making the same decision we made - saying no to an illegal and immoral war.