

For Immediate Release
Veterans For Peace: www.veteransforpeace.org

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**U.S. VETERANS GROUP SENDS THANKSGIVING
MESSAGE TO CANADIANS**

Veterans For Peace Calls for End to Deportation of War Resisters

A group of U.S. military veterans, disturbed by the Conservative government's plans to deport two more Iraq War resisters, is sending an open letter to the Canadian people.

"This is a Thanksgiving message," said Elliott Adams, President of Veterans For Peace, who will deliver the letter to the Canadian Embassy in Washington this afternoon.

"We want to thank the Canadian people for opening their hearts and their homes to young Americans of conscience. As veterans who served our country, we are proud of the war resisters," continued Adams. "What they are doing is not easy. It takes a lot of courage."

Patrick Hart, a former sergeant, was told on Wednesday to leave Canada by October 30th or face deportation. On Thursday, Matt Lowell was told to depart from Canada by October 28.

"What happened?" asked Elliott Adams, who was in Ottawa on June 3 when the House of Commons passed a motion supporting the war resisters. "The Parliament said to stop these deportations and to let the war resisters stay. Why is the Conservative government defying the will of the Parliament?"

"Last week Stephen Harper admitted he was wrong to support the Iraq War in 2003. But what is he doing about it? Is he mending his ways? No. He is punishing young men and women who obeyed international law and refused to kill innocent Iraqis," said Adams.

Patrick Hart served for nine years in the U.S. military, including a tour in the Middle East as part of "Operation Iraqi Freedom." When ordered to Iraq in 2005, he moved to Toronto with his wife Jill and their young son, who suffers from epilepsy. Hart is requesting that his departure date be moved back to January 1st so his son, Rian, now in first grade, can complete his first semester. See video of Harts at

http://therealnews.com/t/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=31&Itemid=74&jumival=2552&updaterx=2008-10-10+08:36:04

Jeremy Hinzman and Kimberly Rivera, facing possible deportation, are also parents of young children.

"Does Stephen Harper have a heart?" asked Elliott Adams. "What does he think will happen to these young children when their fathers and mothers are sent to prison? As Mr. Harper celebrates Thanksgiving with his family this weekend, we hope he will reconsider his position."

Robin Long, the first Iraq War resister to be deported from Canada (in July), is now serving a 15-month sentence in a U.S. military prison. In an interview published in the U.S. yesterday, Long said he was assaulted and threatened with death in British Columbia jails after being unlawfully arrested by the Canada Border Services Agency. See this article at www.soldiersayno.blogspot.com.

“Soldiers who speak out against the Iraq War are being persecuted in the United States,” said Adams, who served as a paratrooper in the Vietnam War. “We hope they won’t be persecuted in Canada too. We know the Canadian people don’t want that.

“We thank Canadians from the bottom of our hearts for the love you have shown our brave sons and daughters. We wish you and your families a very peaceful Thanksgiving. We hope you will choose a government next Tuesday that will respect the wishes of the Canadian people and Parliament.”

The complete letter can be viewed on the Veterans For Peace website, www.veteransforpeace.org.

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Founded in 1985, Veterans For Peace is a national organization of men and women veterans of all eras and duty stations spanning the Spanish Civil War (1936-39), World War II, the Korean, Vietnam, Gulf and current Iraq wars as well as other conflicts cold or hot. It has chapters in nearly every state in the union and is headquartered in St. Louis, MO. Our collective experience tells us wars are easy to start and hard to stop and that those hurt are often the innocent. Thus, other means of problem solving are necessary. Veterans For Peace is an official Non- Governmental Organization (NGO) represented at the U.N.