



VETERANS FOR PEACE

NATIONAL OFFICE: 216 S. Meramec Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63105
PHONE: (314) 725-6005 **FAX:** (314) 725-7103 **E-MAIL:** vfp@veteransforpeace.net

Open Letter to the Canadian People and their Government from Veterans For Peace

June 26, 2008

Dear Canada,

We are writing you on behalf of the 7,000 U.S. veterans who are members of Veterans For Peace. We are veterans of World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War and many other U.S. interventions, including the current war in Iraq.

NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Elliott Adams
President

Sharon Kufeldt
Vice-President

Kenneth Mayers
Treasurer

Gary May
Secretary

Ellen Barfield

Thomas Brinson

William Collins

Mike Ferner

Anita Foster

Patrick McCann

Eli PaintedCrow

Michael Uhl

John Varone

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Michael T.
McPhearson

We are writing to thank you and to encourage you.

Thank you, Canada, for providing a safe haven for young American men and women who, although they were in the military, decided they could not in good conscience participate in the illegal and immoral U.S. war and occupation of Iraq.

This war was not sanctioned by the United Nations, one reason why Canada decided not to join George Bush's "coalition of the willing". It is now widely known that this tragic war was unnecessary, that it is based on lies, and has more to do with oil and global domination than with "eliminating weapons of mass destruction" or "establishing democracy in the Middle East."

The U.S. military has committed many war crimes against the Iraqi people. The systematic use of torture and the widespread killing of civilians are well documented. As a direct result of this war, over one million Iraqis are dead and millions more are now refugees.

U.S. soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen who have refused to participate in this war have shown great moral courage. Unlike many governments around the world, these war resisters are respecting international law and following their own consciences.

Many of these conscientious objectors have already been to Iraq, where they witnessed war crimes with their own eyes. They were sickened by the racist attitudes that the U.S. military fostered toward the Iraqi people. Some are struggling with the psychological wounds of war, commonly known as Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome.

So it is from the bottom of our hearts that we thank the many Canadians who have sheltered our war resisters. You have provided them with homes, with food, with friendship, and with legal and political support. We especially thank the many Canadian unions, churches, artists and activists who make up the *War Resisters Support Campaign*, which has worked so hard for over four years to convince the Canadian government to do the right thing.

We in *Veterans For Peace* were delighted when we heard the news that your House of Commons had voted Yes on a motion to allow war resisters to immigrate to Canada and to halt all deportation proceedings against these young people of conscience.

We thank the Canadian Parliament for this historic vote for peace and solidarity between the peoples of our two nations, the vast majority of whom are opposed to the U.S. occupation of Iraq.

Working Together For Peace and Justice since 1985

www.veteransforpeace.org



VETERANS FOR PEACE

NATIONAL OFFICE: 216 S. Meramec Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63105
PHONE: (314) 725-6005 **FAX:** (314) 725-7103 **E-MAIL:** vfp@veteransforpeace.net

To Prime Minister Stephen Harper and his Conservative government, we say:

The Canadian people have spoken and their Parliament has listened. Now you also have the opportunity to be on the right side of history. We urge you to respect the will of Parliament and implement a program allowing U.S. war resisters to remain in Canada.

We are greatly concerned that your government is on the verge of deporting a U.S. war resister, Corey Glass, who is a veteran of the war in Iraq. He has been given until July 10 to leave Canada or face deportation. We understand that at least eight other war resisters are also threatened with deportation in the near future. We implore you to immediately halt deportation proceedings against Corey Glass and any other war resisters. If they are forced to return to the United States, they will be imprisoned only because they refuse to fight in an immoral war.

Mr. Harper, you have nothing to lose by embracing these young war resisters, you have everything to gain. During the Vietnam War, over 50,000 U.S. war resisters immigrated to Canada. Thousands of them are now Canadian citizens who are making real contributions in all aspects of Canadian life and culture. The war resisters of today are prepared to make their own contributions to Canadian society.

Pierre Trudeau, Canada's prime minister during the Vietnam War, welcomed U.S. war resisters, famously saying, "Canada should be a refuge from militarism." Many people in both our countries remember Mr. Trudeau fondly for having the courage to distance Canada from the U.S. war on Vietnam, which killed 58,000 U.S. soldiers and over two million Vietnamese.

We would like to remember you in the same way, Mr. Harper. You can move forward with the majority of Canadians into a future based on peace, justice and human rights for all. Or you can be left behind with George Bush and those who cling to an order based on militarization, erosion of civil liberties, and abrogation of the humane moral standards enshrined in international law.

On behalf of thousands of military veterans in the United States, we implore you to do the right thing, Mr. Harper. Listen to the wisdom of the Canadian people. Join them in extending Canada's history as a peace-loving nation. Allow U.S. war resisters to make their home in Canada.

Most immediately, in the name of justice and international law, we must urge that your government put a halt to deportation proceedings against Corey Glass and any other war resisters.

We thank the Canadian people and Parliament for the courage and compassion you have shown our young veterans and war resisters. We will be forever grateful to you. We sincerely hope your government will follow your lead, not just for political reasons, but because it is the right thing to do.

With Gratitude and Hope,

Elliott Adams
Veterans For Peace
National President

Michael T. McPhearson
Veterans For Peace
Executive Director

Working Together For Peace and Justice since 1985