

Comité de soutien de
Abdelkader Belaoui

Support Committee for
Abdelkader Belaoui

Email: soutienkader@gmail.com
Tel.: 514-859-9023
www.soutienpourkader.net

DIGNITÉ POUR ABDELKADER



MEDIA RELEASE

BLOCK in support of Abdelkader Belaoui in the STATUS FOR ALL march

Saturday, 5 May, 12:30pm

March starts at Jean Talon & Châteaubriand

“KADER BLOCK”: *Look for the Kader banners, on the northwest corner of Jean Talon and Châteaubriand*

Solidarity Across Borders is organizing an "Immigrant rights are worker's rights: Status for All!" march on the first Saturday after Mayday, followed by a community festival. The march and community festival commemorate immigrant worker traditions of Mayday and coincide with Mayday immigrant rights demonstrations in the United States (www.solidarityacrossborders.org/en/node/216).

The supporters and friends of Abdelkader Belaoui will be walking as a block in the march, which takes place on Mr. Belaoui's 490th day in church sanctuary. One of the major reasons Mr. Belaoui was refused permanent resident status on "humanitarian and compassionate" grounds was that he had no paid work. And because he had no status, Mr. Belaoui was not allowed to take part in programmes aimed at making it more possible for the blind to find work in Quebec. It was a vicious circle: no status, no job; no job, no status. Mr. Belaoui's volunteer work and other contributions to the community were not taken into consideration.

When Mr. Belaoui sought support from a member of Parliament, an aide told him that, as a blind man, he would never be accepted by Canada. The message was two-fold: as a blind man he was considered incapable; and his value would be assessed according to market worth, not human dignity.

Like many facing deportation from Canada, Mr. Belaoui felt that he had no other choice but to defy the deportation order from Immigration Canada. Unlike others, Mr. Belaoui, as a blind person, did not have the option of living underground. Instead, he took the courageous step of going public, taking a stand for human dignity and becoming a symbol of the struggle of migrant workers in Canada.

On Saturday, we walk in support of Abdelkader Belaoui and all other non-status people who are struggling against exploitation in their jobs, the threat of deportation, and imprisonment in order to be treated with justice and dignity.

-30-

More information: 514 222 0205