



THE ALFIE ROBERTS INSTITUTE – L'INSTITUT ALFIE ROBERTS

April 10, 2006

Re : Abdelkader Belaoui

Dear Minister Solberg,

The Alfie Roberts Institute is an independent non-governmental organization and education and research centre based in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. One of our chief objectives is to encourage study and research on the history and social development of communities of African and Caribbean descent. In addition to maintaining a library and documentation centre, the Institute produces publications, organizes forums, expositions, and offers courses and workshops.

We are familiar with the situation of Mr. Abdelkader Belaoui, a person who is visually impaired and whose application for Permanent Residence on Humanitarian and Compassionate (H & C) grounds was refused. We write this letter to draw attention to the case, in response to a call for support from the Committee to Support Abdelkader Belaoui.

Mr. Belaoui has worked hard to achieve a life of dignity, autonomy and security for himself. It would be detrimental to our Montreal community to have Mr. Belaoui leave Canada. His significant contributions and the strong connections he has made are invaluable and demonstrate the active participation esteemed in our community. It is for these reasons we write to express support for Abdelkader Belaoui's demand that the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration Canada:

- 1) Immediately regularize his status.
- 2) Make meeting with him and his support committee a priority.

As is the case of many thousands of other non-status people living in Canada, Citizenship and Immigration Canada left Abdelkader with no choice but to defy his deportation order, and, in his case, to take sanctuary. As the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, you have the power to bring him out of sanctuary by granting him Permanent Resident status on humanitarian grounds. We therefore urge you to exercise your power and grant Mr. Abdelkader Belaoui permanent resident status in Canada immediately.

Sincerely,

The Alfie Roberts Institute

Per: Amarkai Laryea
Trustee
5871 Victoria Avenue, Suite 220
Montreal, Quebec, Canada H3W 3H8
info@ari-iar.org