

COMITÉ D'AIDE AUX RÉFUGIÉS
COMMITTEE TO AID REFUGEES
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December 20, 2005

Re : Abdelkader Belaoui
I.D.5265-1093

To : Immigration Canada

The Committee to Aid Refugees is a church-based charitable organization which advocates on behalf of refugee claimants in Québec. We coordinate the refugee protection work of the Table de concertation des organismes au service des personnes réfugiées et immigrantes (TCRI) and are active members of the Canadian Council for Refugees (CCR).

We are familiar with the situation of Mr. Abdelkader Belaoui, a person with a total visual impairment, whose application for Permanent Residence on Humanitarian and Compassionate (H & C) grounds was recently refused. He is facing removal from Canada on January 5, 2006.

Mr. Belaoui, a citizen of Algeria, has been residing in Montreal since 2003. As is clear from the number of letters of support provided by different organizations, he enjoys a great deal of support from his surrounding community, attesting to his successful integration. He is currently doing volunteer work at the Multi-Ethnic Association for the Integration of the Handicapped in Québec, where he serves as a telephone receptionist. According to the Director of the Association, he is a dedicated and responsible worker. As the other support letter indicate, Mr. Belouani has done other volunteer work and made persistent efforts to become economically self-sufficient.

Persons without status in Canada are ineligible for training programmes to which disabled Canadians have access. This has limited Mr. Belouani's ability to become economically self-sufficient. However, once granted access to such training, he is clearly someone who will quickly become economically self-sufficient.

Mr. Belaoui is someone who would suffer "unusual and excessive" hardship if obliged to leave Canada and, for this reason, we call upon you to allow him to remain in Canada. We trust you will understand the importance of this matter and thank you in advance for your attention.

Yours truly,

Richard Goldman, lawyer
Coordinator,
Committee to Aid Refugees