

The Honourable Monte Solberg, P.C. M.P.
Minister of Citizenship and Immigration
107 Confederation Building
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A6

March 23, 2006

Re: Abdelkader Belaouni
File number 5265-1093

Dear Mr. Solberg,

We are writing to you today to call your attention to the case of Abdelkader Belaouni, who is currently in sanctuary at Saint Gabriel's Church in Montreal.

Mr. Belaouni is a blind man from Algeria who also suffers from diabetes. He has been living in Montreal for the past three years. During this time, Mr. Belaouni has successfully integrated himself in his community, and has been active in various neighbourhood associations. He has become fluent in French.

He has worked hard to establish an independent life for himself. Even though Abdelkader faced the difficulty of finding work as a blind man, he attempted to secure employment and, upon failing to find paid employment, he volunteered his services to a community organization for almost a year.

Mr. Belaouni has the support of over forty organizations such as Amnesty International and Comité d'aide aux réfugiés. He has a strong community of friends and activists that support him. The unjust return of Mr. Belaouni to Algeria would undoubtedly jeopardize his health and safety.

Mr. Belaouni has demonstrated a great desire to be a contributing member of Quebec society. He has shown himself to be a dedicated individual who deserves to have his case revisited. We therefore urge you to intervene on Mr. Belaouni's behalf and grant him a second chance at establishing himself in Canada.

We look forward to your earliest response on this important matter.

Sincerely yours,

Original signed by

Bill Siksay, MP
Burnaby Douglas
NDP Critic for Citizenship and Immigration

Original signed by

Alexa McDonough, MP
Halifax
NDP Critic for Foreign Affairs