



Don Heights Unitarian Congregation

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March 21, 2014

The Honourable Chris Alexander, P.C., M.P.
Citizenship and Immigration Canada
365 Laurier Avenue West
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 1L1

Dear Minister Alexander,

Re: Possible Deportation of Mrs. Khurshid Begum Awan

We at Don Heights Unitarian Congregation in Toronto recently became aware of Mrs. Khurshid Awan's deportation order from Canada to Pakistan.

Studying her case and considering the advice of the medical professionals in Montreal who have been treating her cardiac condition, we are very concerned that she will face a grim reality if she's forced to go back to Pakistan. We are also concerned for the safety of her husband who was deported and is facing harassment and an uncertain situation living in hiding outside of Lahore.

Mrs. Awan accepted the protection of a church in Montreal several months ago. Her heart failure has gotten significantly worse since July 2013 as attested to by her treating doctor at the Montreal General Hospital in September 2013. Obviously she is suffering both mentally and physically by not being able to freely interact with her daughter and grandson who obtained refugee status in Canada in 2000.

We can only imagine the negative consequences for her if she is forced to return to Pakistan. Due to her ethnic and religious background and a lack of proper health care, plus being separated from her daughter and grandson, we believe her life would be shortened and she would exist under great hardship. We think it is time for Canada to exercise compassion and allow this family to live together without fear.

Mrs. Awan has a lot of support from her community in Montreal and they believe firmly that the family are good people and deserve to have a normal life. We ask you to end the suffering for this family and to reconsider her case and grant her permanent residency immediately.

Sincerely,

Lorna Weigand, President
On Behalf of Don Heights Unitarian Congregation