

September 25, 2014

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

Dear Minister Alexander:

On behalf of the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE), we write to you to express our concern regarding the case of Deepan Budlakoti, a citizen of Canada and member of our community in Ottawa. It has been brought to our attention that Mr. Budlakoti has been rendered stateless by the Canadian Government and we urge you to restore his Canadian citizenship without delay.

We are aware that Mr. Budlakoti is an Ottawa born man who is facing deportation to India, a country where he has never lived, has no family and where he has never been a citizen. By revoking Mr. Budlakoti's citizenship when he got in trouble with the law as a young person, the Government of Canada unjustly punished him twice for crimes he has already completed a sentence for, and has in effect, rendered him stateless.

Canada has ratified the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness which obliges governments to act in a manner that avoids, rather than increases statelessness. Deepan's conflict with the law cannot become the motivation for failing to live up to our international obligations to avoid perpetuating a situation of statelessness.

CUPE is deeply concerned that the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration believes that Canadian citizenship to be something other than a right for those who possess it, and that it can be selectively used as a tool to punish and intimidate certain members of our society.

Despite the most recent ruling of the Federal Court, we urge in your capacity as Minister of Citizenship and Immigration Canada, to restore Mr. Budlakoti's Canadian citizenship without delay.

Yours truly,



PAUL MOIST  
National President



CHARLES FLEURY  
National Secretary-Treasurer

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c.c. : P. Beattie; M. Butler; D. Ivanochko; E. Dandy; K. Cameron; L. Royer; L. Blanchette-Lamothe

PAUL MOIST – National President / Président national CHARLES FLEURY – National Secretary-Treasurer / Secrétaire-trésorier national

FRED HAHN – DANIEL LÉGÈRE – LUCIE LEVASSEUR – KELLY MOIST – MARLE ROBERTS – General Vice-Presidents / Vice-présidences générales