

Resolution on support for Deepan Budlakoti's struggle to regain his Canadian Citizenship

WHERE AS: Canada is the only home Deepan Budlakoti has known, but now the Canadian-born man is facing deportation from his homeland;

WHERE AS: Deepan was born on Oct. 17, 1989, and issued an Ontario birth certificate and, twice, a Canadian passport;

WHERE AS: In 1997, Deepan was added to his mother's Canadian passport as a Canadian-born child; and, in 2003, a Canadian passport is issued for 14-year-old Deepan following his parents' application on his behalf, the passport stating Deepan's nationality as Canadian;

WHERE AS: The Indian government does not consider Deepan to be an Indian citizen and refused to issue him the travel document requested by the Canadian Government;

WHERE AS: Former high commissioner of India to Canada Mr. Chhatwal issued a statement verifying that the man's father & Mother stopped working for him in June 1989, four months before Deepan was born;

WHERE AS: An obscure provision in the citizenship act stipulates exceptions to automatic citizenship to those born to parents working in Canada for foreign governments or diplomatic officers;

WHERE AS: The Indian government has confirmed that Deepan is not an Indian citizen and can't be under Indian law and refused to issue him the travel document requested by the Canadian Government;

WHERE AS: Deepan is essentially stateless with three options to reclaim his citizenship: asking Immigration Minister Chris Alexander to intervene, demanding the Immigration and Refugee Board to reopen Budlakoti's inadmissibility hearing, or filing a Charter challenge with the federal court;

WHERE AS: The legal costs Deepan is incurring in his struggle to regain his Canadian citizenship are mounting as the Harper Government persists in its determination to have him deported;

WHERE AS: This unfortunate precedent places all Canadians at risk and must be stopped

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that [YOUR UNION] call on the Canadian government:

1. Reinstate Deepan's citizenship with all rights accruing therefrom;
2. Apologize to Deepan for years of cruel bureaucratic harassment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that [YOUR UNION] provide sustaining financial support to help defray Deepan's ongoing, onerous legal battle with the Canadian government;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that [YOUR UNION] inform the Canadian Labour Congress of this resolution and call on other affiliates to publicize this case.