

URGENT ACTION

WAR OBJECTOR REQUESTS SENTENCE REDUCTION

Pregnant USA prisoner of conscience, Kimberly Rivera, is requesting a reduction of her prison sentence. She received a prison sentence for deserting the US army while deployed in Iraq because she felt morally unable to take part in the conflict.

Former Private First Class **Kimberly Rivera** is asking the military authorities to grant a 45-day reduction of her 10 month prison sentence, based on humanitarian reasons due to her pregnancy. According to information received, if clemency is not granted Kimberly Rivera will be forced to give birth in prison and then immediately relinquish custody of her baby while she continues to serve the remainder of her sentence. Military regulations reportedly include no provision for her to breastfeed her baby while she is in prison. Fort Carson Senior Commander Brigadier General Michael A. Bills will decide on Kimberly Rivera's application for clemency in the coming weeks.

Kimberly Rivera has been detained by the US military authorities since 20 September 2012, when she was arrested for desertion from the army. Kimberly Rivera left the army without authorization while on leave from deployment to Iraq in early 2007, and went to Canada after deciding that morally she could no longer participate in the war in Iraq or any other conflict. In Canada she applied for protection as a refugee, but was deported in September 2012 after her application was rejected on appeal.

In April Kimberly Rivera was sentenced to 14 months' imprisonment, reduced to 10 months under the terms of a plea agreement. She was also given a bad conduct discharge from the army. Kimberly Rivera is the mother of four children, ages 11, 9, 4 and 2, and is due to give birth to her fifth child in December.

Kimberly Rivera's attorney has thanked Amnesty International members amongst other supporters for their "outpouring of support" on her behalf in previous appeals.

Please write immediately in English or your own language:

- Urging the authorities to release Kimberly Rivera immediately and unconditionally, as she is a prisoner of conscience, jailed for her conscientious objection to participation in the armed conflict in Iraq;
- Urging Brigadier General Michael A Bills to grant early release to Kimberly Rivera on humanitarian grounds due to her pregnancy.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 18 DECEMBER 2013 TO:

Senior Commander
 Brigadier General Michael A Bills
 c/o Fort Carson Public Affairs Office
 1626 Ellis Street
 Suite 200, Building 1118
 Fort Carson, CO 80913, USA
 Fax: +1 719 526 1021
Salutation: Dear Brigadier General

And copies to:
Kimberly Rivera's attorney
 James M Branum
 PO Box 721016
 Oklahoma City, OK 73172, USA
 Email: girightslawyer@gmail.com
 Web action:
<http://www.thepetitionsite.com/752/756/678/free-a-pregnant-war-resister-from-us-military-prison>

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country.

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the fifth update of UA 263/12. Further information:
<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AMR20/007/2012/en>

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Amnesty International believes the right to perform military service for reasons of conscience is part of freedom of thought, conscience and religion, as recognised in Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Amnesty International considers a conscientious objector to be any person who, for reasons of conscience or profound conviction, refuses to perform service in the armed forces. This can include refusal to participate in a particular war because one disagrees with its aims or the manner in which it is being waged, even if one does not oppose taking part in all wars.

Wherever such a person is detained or imprisoned for actions taken in consequence of these beliefs, Amnesty International considers that person to be a prisoner of conscience. Amnesty International also considers conscientious objectors to be prisoners of conscience if they are imprisoned for leaving the armed forces without authorization for reasons of conscience, if they have first taken reasonable steps to secure release from military obligations, or if it was in practice impossible for them to do so.

Name: Kimberly Rivera

Gender m/f: f

Further information on UA: 263/12 Index: AMR 51/075/2013 Issue Date: 6 November 2013