

No One Is Illegal Fredericton
noiifredericton@gmail.com

January 5, 2018

Hon. Ahmed D. Hussen
Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship

Re: Stop the deportation of Abdoukader Abdi

Dear Hon. Ahmed D. Hussen,

No One is Illegal Fredericton urges you to intervene to stop the deportation of Abdoukader Abdi who came to Canada at the age of six, with his sister and two aunts, all as jointly-sponsored refugees fleeing Somalia.

Abdoul became a permanent ward of the state at the age of seven years old. The Department of Community Services (DCS), which is responsible for child protection in Nova Scotia, did not make a citizenship application for Abdoul and his sister. The Deputy Minister of that department recently stated that Canada has no policies for children in its care who are non-citizens. DCS does not expect to fix this policy gap until March 2019. Abdoul can't wait.

We are aware that Abdoul is facing deportation to either Somalia or Saudi Arabia. Abdoul has never lived in Somalia and only lived in Saudi Arabia for the first two years of his life. Abdoul faces significant risks if he is deported to either country. He does not speak the language of either country nor does he have any family connections in either Somalia or Saudi Arabia. He would also be separated from his family who are all in Canada, including his Canadian-born daughter as well as his sister, niece and two aunts.

We ask that you reconsider deporting Abdoul for all the reasons above. We also ask that you consider the fact that black children are more likely to be apprehended by Children's Services and are more likely to come into conflict with the law. Non-citizen children are especially vulnerable to apprehension, incarceration, and deportation.

Canada has an international human rights obligation to provide special protection to non-citizen children in care. Special protection was not provided to Abdoul, instead he was denied citizenship.

We ask that you stop the deportation of Abdoul and the deportations all other long-term permanent residents who came to Canada as young children and were denied citizenship by the inaction of Children's Services and Canada. We also demand that

all non-citizen children who are permanently in care are provided Canadian citizenship and special protections.

Sincerely,

Tracy Glynn, Erin Morton and Asaf Rashid
No One Is Illegal Fredericton

cc: Hon. Ralph Goodale, Minister of Public Safety;
Hon. Jody Wilson-Raybould, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada;
Hon. Matthew DeCoursey, Fredericton MP