



## Le Centre communautaire des femmes sud-asiatiques

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### Qu',9en pensez-vous?

#### What do you think?

- Let us know your thoughts about the bulletin.
- Que pensez-vous de notre journal?
- We encourage you to send in your stories and articles for upcoming newsletters in any language by the 25th of every month to: [adisun3@gmail.com](mailto:adisun3@gmail.com)
- Écrivez - nous à [adisun3@gmail.com](mailto:adisun3@gmail.com)

### STOP PRESS!

On 4 February, at Montreal's Federal Court, Judge Harrington granted a temporary stay of deportation to Ivonne Hernandez. Effectively, that means Ivonne will not be removed from Canada and her community imminently. The judge cited the "irreparable harm" that would be caused if Ivonne was to be deported now and permanently separated from her 13-month son. The struggle is not over, however. Ivonne could face another deportation date in the future (after matters at Federal Court are settled). Moreover, Ivonne is facing a continued struggle at Family Court to regain custody of her child. The Family Court must be made to understand that the immigration status of a loving parent cannot be used against them in any custody matter.

The "Friends of Ivonne" still encourage letters to the Minister of Immigration demanding that Ivonne's status be regularized immediately; we also encourage organizational letters of support for Ivonne (visit [www.solidarityacrossborders.org/en/support-letters-for-ivonne-hernandez](http://www.solidarityacrossborders.org/en/support-letters-for-ivonne-hernandez) for a compilation of the close to 50 letters received so far); and we encourage donations to Ivonne's support fund, to help pay legal costs related to the immigration and family court matters. Information about how you can help is available here: [www.solidarityacrossborders.org/en/support-work/justice-for-ivonne-hernandez](http://www.solidarityacrossborders.org/en/support-work/justice-for-ivonne-hernandez)

**Solidarity with Ivonne!**

**Status for All!**

(from: Solidarity Across Borders)

### "Towards Equality – remembering Lotika Sarkar, Vina Mazumdar and Sharmila Rege" presentation By Dolores Chew

2013 saw the deaths of three eminent Indian feminist activist-scholars. Lotika Sarkar and Vina Mazumdar were pioneers and trailblazers in India, instrumental in establishing Women's Studies in the country. They made many contributions and were models and mentors for successive generations of feminist activists and scholars. Much younger, Sharmila Rege, was also a women's studies scholar and activist, mentor and teacher, who did pioneering work on caste, patriarchy and sexuality. This presentation is an introduction to their contributions and a homage to them.

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> February, 2:30pm  
The lounge, Simone de Beauvoir Institute,  
Concordia University  
2170 Bishop Street, Montreal

## CENTRE UPDATE



### Centre Hours

Monday & Thursday 9am—9pm

Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday 9am—5pm

The Centre is wheelchair accessible

Le centre est accessible aux fauteuils roulants.

### Membership

Have you renewed your membership this year? If not, you can do so by sending the fees to SAWCC.

### Volunteers

If you are interested in helping out at the Centre, please contact Homa (Ext. 102 or [homa@bellnet.ca](mailto:homa@bellnet.ca)) to coordinate a meeting!

## 8<sup>TH</sup> MARCH – INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

SAWCC and the 8<sup>th</sup> March Committee of Women of Diverse Origins invite you

**Theme:** “Solidarity against Precarity -- Breaking the glass cage!”

**PUBLIC MEETING** – 1pm

Dawson College , room 4C.1

4001 de Maisonneuve ouest, (Metro Atwater)

*Demonstration 3:30pm*

*starting from Cabot Square ( Atwater metro, corner Ste- Catherine)*

**Spread the word!**

**Be there!**

Join SAWCC there to celebrate women & to protest the lack of equality!

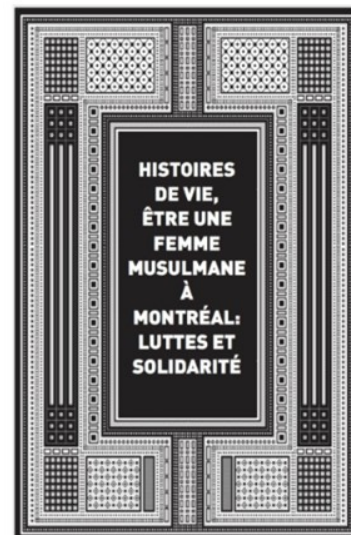
## ***Life Stories: On Being a Muslim Woman in Montreal: Struggles and Solidarity!***

Join the Zine launch and discussion with Sarah Mostafa Kamel, the South Asian Youth Collective, and Humera Jabir, with an art exhibition from **Art Contre La Charte**.

When: Sunday, February 9th, at 7pm

Where: Galerie La Centrale Powerhouse. (4296 St Laurent).

The Zine tells on being a Muslim Woman in Montreal as a collection of different life stories (in English and French ) on themes such as identity feminism, Islamophobia, racism and homophobia, in the hopes of inspiring young Muslim women, creating dialogue around important and controversial themes in Montreal's vibrant and diverse Muslim communities, and challenging dominant discourse about Muslim women.



## **RESPONSES TO SAWCC BREIF TO NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ON CHARTER**

We have been receiving a lot of very positive feedback to the Brief we presented to the National Assembly concerning the Charter of Values from other women's groups in Québec. We are looking forward to presenting our Brief before the Commission in Québec. We have not yet been given the date for this.

### **Come to a SAWCC Executive Council MEETING!**

All Executive Council (EC) meetings of SAWCC are open to all members. Members are encouraged to attend and participate in SAWCC discussions and decision-making. It's a great way to learn of new initiatives and make a tangible contribution to the organization. The next EC meeting will be on *Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2014*. We arrive at 6pm, share some food and the meeting starts at 6:30pm.

## **SPEECH ON BEHALF OF SAWCC IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE AWAN FAMILY**

Picket in front of CIC offices Montreal, January 31 2014

I hate this.

I shouldn't have to do this.

I don't want to do this.

I hate being scared and frustrated all the time.

I hate that I have to defend my love for and desire to be with the people I call my family. I hate that I have to tell you my story over and over again hoping that this time you'll listen.

But wait. This isn't my story.

This is Mrs. Awan's story, and she couldn't be here today. In August 2013 Mrs. Awan rejected her deportation and has since been living in sanctuary. She has limited access to health care and lives under constant stress and fear.

Mrs Awan is the courageous woman whose incredible love, rage and strength keep her fighting for the bond she has with her family every single day. Today we stand here as supporters. We recognize that no one has the right to speak for her, especially not the government of Canada.

We're here to send a message to Minister Chris Alexander. Take advantage of the new year - make a resolution to stand up against the racist and violent immigration policies you have supported in the past. No one should have to experience the stress and trauma Mrs Awan and her family go through. The injustice must stop. Grant Mrs Awan status.

## CANADA'S INHUMAN RIGHTS ENFORCERS -- IVONNE HERNANDEZ

(Thursday, January 23, 2014, Montreal)

**Ivonne Angelina Hernandez Segura, a survivor of conjugal violence who has been living without immigration status in Canada for a year and a half, was arrested in a pre-planned public ambush involving police and border authorities at Berri-UQAM metro station at approximately 4pm yesterday (January 22). Ivonne was arrested while she was picking up her one-year old son from her ex-partner.**

Ivonne is at risk of imminent deportation. If she is deported, her son will be separated from her, perhaps for life. She is currently being held at Laval Immigration Detention Centre. She will appear at a Detention Review hearing tomorrow before the Immigration and Refugee Board, at Complexe Guy-Favreau.

On 11 December 2013, Ivonne fled to a women's shelter with her son to escape a situation of conjugal violence. Her ex-partner promptly denounced her to authorities. In a shocking ruling on 10 January 2014, a family court judge awarded custody of the child to the father because of Ivonne's vulnerable immigration status. Ivonne and her son were allowed to see each other six hours a week.

Ivonne came to Canada to seek asylum in 2009 but was refused in 2011 and ordered deported. Rather than return to the very real danger she faced in Mexico, Ms. Hernandez Segura joined the estimated half a million people living without papers in Canada, among the most vulnerable and exploited members of our society.

***A mother has had her child removed from her custody, perhaps permanently, due to her immigration status. Every aspect of this case is disgusting and shocking. Ivonne should not be in detention. Ivonne should have status in Canada. Ivonne should have protection from conjugal violence. And, most importantly, Ivonne, a loving mother, should not be separated from her son.***

Canada has made it very difficult for people in Ivonne's situation to regularize their status. Although Mexico has one of the highest rates of domestic violence in the world, and has an extremely high homicide rate, Canada has placed Mexico on a list of "safe countries"; countries that Canada claims can protect its citizens from violence. A request to re-open Ivonne's immigration file was made in November, because immigration officials failed to take all of the evidence into account, but there has not yet been a response. However, the Minister of Immigration has the discretionary power - and the obligation under international law - to intervene in the file and regularize Ms. Hernandez Segura's status.

### PLEASE SHOW YOUR SOLIDARITY

1. Email/call Minister of Immigration, Chris Alexander. Ask him to urgently intervene to regularize Ivonne's status and ensure she is not separated from her child.

Telephone: 613-995-8042 Fax: 613-996-1289

Telephone: 905-426-6808 Fax: 905-426-9564

[Chris.Alexander@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Chris.Alexander@parl.gc.ca)

[Minister@cic.gc.ca](mailto:Minister@cic.gc.ca).

@MinChrisA

2. E-mail [solidaritesansfrontieres@gmail.com](mailto:solidaritesansfrontieres@gmail.com) to stay in touch about developments in this case and for updates; we need your active support!

## AIDWA STATEMENT ON GANG-RAPE OF ADIVASI GIRL

23 January, 2013

IN BIRBHUM, WEST BENGAL, India

It is shocking that not a day passes in West Bengal without one or the other incident of violence against women. The latest incident has taken place in Labhpur, Birbhum on 21<sup>st</sup> January, when a 20 year-old adivasi girl from the village of Rajrampur was abducted and gang-raped by 12 persons from the same village as she had dared to have a relationship with a non-tribal boy. This was done after a kangaroo-court called apparently by some village elders sought to extract a fine of Rs.50,000 from the girl's family for this supposed offence, and the family pleaded their inability to pay the same. The couple were reportedly brought before the kangaroo-court bound hand and foot and even after the boy pleaded that he wanted to marry the girl, the perpetrators ignored him and gave the verdict for the girl to be raped as a punishment by those present. She was dragged to an adjoining room and attacked by a number of persons from her own village, and left severely injured in front of her house. The next day she went with her mother and lodged an FIR at Labhpur Thana, after which she was admitted to the PHC and then shifted to Siuri District Hospital. The police have so far arrested 11 persons on the basis of the FIR. An AIDWA led a deputation to the SP and several protest rallies have been conducted against the growing atmosphere of insecurity, especially for women in West Bengal. Although some arrests have been made in this particular case, it is necessary that the administration makes immediate arrangements for the full security of the survivor and her family. All the perpetrators and instigators must be arrested and a proper investigation conducted. It is increasingly the case in several districts of West Bengal including Birbhum that there is a growing atmosphere of violence has been increasing, with gangs of armed anti-socials taking the law in their own hands. This is because many of them enjoy the political patronage of the ruling party, as a result of which the police and the administration turn a blind eye to them. Consequently, lawlessness has been increasing at all levels, since there is now a feeling that such crimes can go unpunished. AIDWA expresses its grave concern about the situation, and stands by all those who are victims of the growing crimes against women in the state. **Sd/- (Malini Bhattacharya) (Jagmati Sangwan) , President General Secretary , AIDWA**

**ALL INDIA DEMOCRATIC WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION**  
**NO. 2253- E, SHADI KHAMPUR, NEW RANJIT NAGAR,**  
**NEW DELHI-110008**  
**PH: 011-25700476, 25709565**  
**Email : [aidwacec@gmail.com](mailto:aidwacec@gmail.com), [aidwa@rediffmail.com](mailto:aidwa@rediffmail.com)**

### SUSHILA AMBIKE

***On January 10th, we received this note from Shree:***

"My aunt Susheela Mausi passed away in Delhi on the tenth morning. She died peacefully at home. She had not been well for some time and ...was in and out of the hospital so it was a release for her. SAWCC had a special place in her heart and she always inquired about her students in the language class."

**We remember 'Mausi' as we all called her, with much love and cherish the days she spent with us at SAWCC. She was so generous with her caring and friendship.**



## **RACIAL PROFILING OF WOMEN IN DELHI By Kavita Krishnan**

### **Protest Against Delhi Law Minister Somnath Bharti's Racist Vigilantism in Delhi**

Many of us have felt disturbed by the implications of the incident involving the Delhi Law Minister's attempted raid on African nationals in Khidki village.

The Minister, Somnath Bharti, (a member of the Aam Aadmi Party) insisted that the police conduct a raid minus a search warrant. Two African women have said, on record, that they were subjected to racist abuse ('black people break laws') and beaten by a mob of people (the Minister's supporters), and that it was the Delhi police who protected them from the mob violence.

...

There are also reports that one of the women was forced to give a urine sample in public. The women were also subjected to cavity searches and tests – none of which yielded any sign of drugs. The violence against the women was defended in the name of anger against 'prostitution' and 'drug peddling', while no proof of the same has been presented as yet. In any case, the treatment meted out to the women cannot be justified even if they were indeed prostitutes!

According to news reports, the Minister, Somnath Bharti, asked locals to draw up a list of African nationals' residences – 'jahan aise log rehte hain/where such people live', vowing to raid and search each of these homes. He also told media, "I have received a lot of complaints from women in this locality against foreign nationals, yeh hum aur aap jaise nahin hain (They are not like you or me)."

If indeed the Minister has any intelligence input, or proof, of illegal activity, he must pursue action in a way that responsibly avoids fanning up racist prejudices. When Delhi police fails to uphold its legal, constitutional duty, we all protest, and we will be glad to have the Delhi Govt and its Ministers also join us. But for a Minister to instigate Police to violate the law and people's liberties and rights; to ask the police to approve of and bless mob violence against African people, is totally unacceptable.

The Delhi CM should have met the African women who complained of racism, violence and humiliation. He should have accepted that in this particular instance, the Delhi Police were perfectly right not to raid without a warrant, and to protect the African nationals from mob violence. He should have initiated a proper impartial probe and awaited its results before rushing to defend his Minister's actions.

Instead, the Delhi CM defended the actions with the bizarre claim that 'Rape tendencies start with drug and sex rackets.

...

Kejriwal and his Cabinet have also announced that they will hold a sit-in demanding suspension of the Delhi Police officers who refused to do the Minister's bidding.

Continued....

Continued....

It is ironic that the rape of a Danish woman in Delhi is recognised as violence against a woman – a foreign guest in our country. But the violence and appalling violation of rights to which African woman were subjected isn't recognised by the Delhi Government as the same – and is even defended in the name of fighting 'rape tendencies'!

We cannot forget that an African student, Yannick Nihangaza from Burundi, was brutally attacked in 2012 in Jalandhar, Punjab, going into a coma from which he emerged after nine months. There have been growing instances of xenophobia, racism and violence against Africans in Goa and other parts of the country too. People from the North East states also experience racist prejudice and violence regularly in Delhi and elsewhere. We urgently feel the need to counter the spread of the racist virus in the capital city.

Please join a peaceful sit-in at Jantar Mantar, on Sunday (19 January):

- To ask that the judicial probe ordered by the Lieutenant Governor identify those responsible for instigating and perpetrating mob violence against African nationals, including African women in Khidki village. To demand that those guilty of such violence be punished.
- To strongly counter racist hate-speech of the Law Minister
- To strongly resist the racist propaganda that 'all Africans are drug peddlers'
- To tell the Delhi Govt that the Delhi Police cops who protected Africans from mob violence and refused to raid without search warrant, must not be suspended. Delhi Police should be held accountable to the law and to the Constitution, not to the bidding of political leaders
- To strongly say 'Not in our name': to assert that profiling of and violence against African women will not make Indian women any safer from rape; to tell the Delhi CM to stop using rape as a pretext to defend racism
- To create a space for African nationals in Delhi to share their experiences. To tell the people of Delhi that Africans 'bilkul hum aur aap jaise hi hain' (are just like you and me).

Please take time out on Sunday 12 noon Jantar Mantar to join in large numbers, come with friends and family, with banners and placards, to dispel the clouds of racism that hang over Delhi...Do endorse this call and circulate it widely.

Organised by AIPWA, JNUSU, AISA, RYA and other organisations and individuals.

[from Kafil]

## CANADIAN BORN- BUT STATELESS By Sima Sahar Zerehi (29 Jan 2014)

### Timeline of Deepan Budlakoti's story

**1985** Budlakoti's parents arrive in Canada as private household help – gardening, cleaning and cooking – for the Indian ambassador.

**June 1989** Both parents stop working for the embassy in the months before Budlakoti's birth.

**October 1989** Budlakoti is born in Ottawa; he is issued an Ontario birth certificate.

**1992** Budlakoti's parents apply for permanent residence for themselves and Deepan; permanent residence is granted to all three later that year.

**1996 and 1997** Parents receive Canadian citizenship for themselves. They do not apply for Budlakoti because their understanding at this point, based on what they have been told, is that Deepan is already a citizen because he was born in Canada.

**1997** Budlakoti is added to his mother's Canadian passport as Canadian-born, confirming the family's understanding that he is a citizen.

**2003** Budlakoti's parents apply for a Canadian passport for him and the passport is issued, stating his nationality is Canadian.

**2003** Due to family issues Budlakoti runs away, gets into trouble with the law and comes under the protection of the Children's Aid Society. He becomes a ward of the state.

**December 2009** Budlakoti is convicted of break and enter and sentenced to four months in jail, in addition to one-month pre-trial detention, and a year on probation.

**May 2010** Government officials inform Budlakoti he is not a citizen and may be considered "inadmissible" to Canada under immigration law. Budlakoti faces removal.

**October and December 2010** Government officials decide Budlakoti is not a citizen and that his passport was issued in error.

**December 2010** Budlakoti is convicted of illegal transfer of a firearm and trafficking drugs. He is given a total of three years in jail on top of eight months pre-trial detention.

**2011** The government reports Budlakoti for inadmissibility; the inadmissibility hearings take place in June and December and two deportation orders are issued.

**January 2012** Budlakoti's appeal of the first deportation order is rejected on the grounds that the Immigration Appeal Division does not have jurisdiction.

**May 2012** The Federal Court of Canada refuses to review the second deportation order.

**November 2012** The response on Budlakoti's Pre-removal Risk Assessment is negative, determining that he can be deported.

**December 2012** Budlakoti is due to be released from prison on parole. During his prison sentence, he has worked part-time, finished high school and applied to a university program. Instead of being released, he is detained under immigration law.

**March 2013** Indian authorities inform the CBSA that India will not give Budlakoti a travel document.

**April 2013** Budlakoti is finally released from prison. He remains in limbo.

**September 2013** The former Indian high commissioner releases a letter stating that Budlakoti's parents did not work for him in any capacity after June 12, 1989.

**October 2013** Budlakoti's legal team files a federal court application to help him get a work permit.

**January 2014** Budlakoti waits for his federal court date and for a response on his UN human rights complaint.

A Canadian-born man stripped of his citizenship is facing deportation from the only home he's ever known.

Deepan Budlakoti, 24, was born in Ottawa at the former Grace Hospital and issued an Ontario birth certificate. When he was eight he was added to his mom's Canadian passport as Canadian-born.

At 14 he was issued his own passport, proving his nationality. As a teenager he was taken under the protection of Children's Aid Society and became a ward of the state.

Budlakoti never had any reason to doubt his Canadian citizenship.

"I was born here, this is the only country I've ever called home," says Budlakoti.

"I never imagined that the Canadian government would try to take that away from me."

Budlakoti spoke at Dalhousie University last Thursday as part of a Canada-wide speaking tour to raise awareness about his case and collect funds for his legal defense.

Lee Cohen, a Halifax lawyer who specializes in immigration and human rights, joined him on the panel.

Questions about Budlakoti's citizenship surfaced in 2010, while he was in custody at the Ottawa-Carleton Detention Centre on drug and weapons charges. While he was in jail, government officials told Budlakoti he was not a Canadian citizen and began removal proceedings against him.

"Even though Mr. Budlakoti was born in Canada, he did not automatically become a citizen," says Alexis Pavlich, a spokesperson for Citizenship and Immigration Canada.

Although almost every person born in Canada is granted citizenship, an obscure measure in the citizenship act specifies exceptions for those born to parents working in Canada for foreign government or diplomatic officers.

Budlakoti's parents came to Ottawa in 1985 as domestic help for the then-ambassador of India. However, they stopped working for the ambassador shortly before Budlakoti's birth.

This past September, S.J.S. Chhatwal, the former high commissioner of India in Canada, issued a statement affirming that Budlakoti's father stopped working for him in June 1989, four months before he was born.

"This government is legally obliged to restore his citizenship and remove all conditions against him," says Peter Stieda, Budlakoti's immigration lawyer.

Regardless of these findings, Budlakoti faces removal.

“He should not have chosen a life of crime if he did not want to be deported from Canada,” says Pavlich.

Cohen says Budlakoti’s criminal past is irrelevant.

“It’s a question of what are his rights and his rights are clear and the government is going out of its way to muddy the clarity of these laws.”

Yavar Hameed, the lawyer fighting to restore Budlakoti’s citizenship on constitutional grounds, says his client is stuck in a legal limbo.

“He faces removal but the removal is theoretical because there’s no country to remove him to.”

In March 2013, Indian authorities informed the Canada Border Service Agency they will not issue Budlakoti travel documents.

“Deepan has no other citizenship in any country in the world – he has become stateless – that rendering of an individual as stateless is a violation of international law,” says Hameed, citing the 1961 UN Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, to which Canada is a signatory.

“He is treated as a non-citizen and subject to those kind of restrictions indefinitely,” adds Hameed.

“Being in my shoes means you have no health care, if I get sick I can’t go see a doctor. It’s been stressful and expensive. To get a job I have to apply for a work permit in my own country,” says Budlakoti.

The Canadian Civil Liberties Association is championing Budlakoti’s case. It has filed a complaint on his behalf to the UN Human Rights Committee under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, says Sukanya Pillay, acting executive director.

Pillay says that the committee’s finding will be significant, as Canada has adhered to many of its rulings in the past.

Meanwhile, Budlakoti is waiting for a federal court date to be set for his case and for a response from the UN.

(<http://halifaxcommoner.kingsjournalism.com/?p=2196>)

More + ways to get involved: [justicefordeepan.org](http://justicefordeepan.org)



## **Justice for Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women**

**Missing and Murdered Women on**

**February 14th — 6pm — Place Emilie-**

**Gamelin (Berri metro; corner Berri & Ste-Catherine)**

23 years after its beginning, the Women’s Memorial March continues to honour the lives of all missing and murdered indigenous women. This

year, Montreal holds its Fifth Annual Memorial March with Buffalo Hat Singers, Bridget Tolley (Families of Sisters in the Spirit), Anik Sioui, Sophia Starosta (ASSTT[e]Q), and many others.

## A LETTER OF LOVE, RAGE AND COMMITMENT

Spoken at Picket in solidarity with the Awan family, CIC offices

Montreal, January 31, 2014

This is a love letter, it is a letter to tenacious human beings who occupy our hearts, it is a letter expressing deep respect for Khurshid Begum Awan, for Tahira Malek, for Ali. These are words attempting to meticulously stitch each moment of injustice confined within the walls of a church, these are sentiments attempting to channel collective fury...in thinking about the indignity faced by this family. This is a love letter for all the moments we share amidst the violence you live, moments of care, moments narrating stories, Khurshid, and of feelings so boldly shared, Tahira. This is a letter of herstories, of intricately chosen words to depict the survival that is you. Living through past wars, the trauma of living at the hands of ethnic violence and that of an abusive son-in-law, or an abusive ex-husband. This is a love letter attempting to reciprocate all that it is you bring to us, Awan family. Phonemes can only reverberate so much of what is in us. How do we collectively channel our rage?

And so, this letter also becomes a letter of outrage. This is a letter of anger, of unrestrained anger, against a system that wreaks havoc in the lives of Khurshid, of Tahira, of Ali, of Mohamad Khalil Awan. This is a letter of rage against this building, of all that it has come to represent for those who have been criminalised, criminalised for migrating. This is a letter denouncing the Immigration Minister. A letter denouncing his callousness in failing, failing to grant status with a stroke of a pen. This is a letter against a system based on power. A system that incites violence in the lives of hundreds of thousands of migrants. This is a letter of us choosing to never forget. To stop and take a breath. This is a letter attempting to understand the heart-break, the news about the treatment and death-suicide of Lucia Vega Jimenez at the hands of CBSA. This letter is that of lexicon fragmented. Of hearts-broken, Of crossed borders, Of stress, Of fears, Of tears. This letter is one of encapsulating moments of sorrow, of honouring a human being, moments of rage and anger.

And so, this letter of love and rage, becomes a letter of ongoing commitment. One to the Awan Family and migrants simply desiring to live a life of freedom. As the Awan Family Support Committee we will continue to scream, to shout, to denounce, we will be with you, hum aap keh saath hein. With each fibre, we see you, struggling, we feel you fighting. We will continue to fight alongside you. We acknowledge your defiance, Khurshid, in resisting your deportation. Brave Woman. We will chant alongside you, Tahira, strong and beautiful as you rebel against a system that is inhuman, and unjust. Resilient Woman. Until status is gained, until the family is reunited, we will continue.

Azaadi Azaadi Azaadi.

With much love, full of rage, and conscious commitment to you dearest family.

--spoken by Awan Family Support Committee member

## SPAIN PROTESTERS RALLY AGAINST TOUGHER ABORTION LAW

Thousands of Spaniards have protested in Madrid against a draft law backed by the government that would restrict the right to abortion.

Activists carried banners saying "Allow mothers to decide" and "Deciding makes us free".

The law would limit abortion to cases of rape, and instances where the health of the mother was at serious risk.

Under current legislation, any woman can have an abortion within the first 14 weeks of becoming pregnant.



### 'Risking women's lives'

Correspondents say Saturday's demonstration was one of the largest since Spain's centre-right government backed the new legislation in December.

Supported by several Spanish opposition parties, protesters called on Justice Minister Alberto Ruiz-Gallardon, who drafted the law, to resign.

"I came because I think this takes our country back many years regarding women's rights, criminalising something that shouldn't be a crime," said demonstrator Ana Alonso.

"We overcame this a long time ago and we have a right to have abortion performed under proper conditions without risking women's lives and their health."

Demonstrators carried a figure of the justice minister dressed up as a vampire

Women's groups travelled from across Spain and other countries to take part

Correspondents say this was one of the biggest demonstrations against the proposals

The new law says early termination is no longer a right, and would only be allowed in cases of rape or when two doctors judge the mother's health to be at serious risk.

Currently women have the right to abort up to the 14th week of pregnancy, rising to 22 weeks in case of foetal deformities.

The current law, brought in by Spain's previous Socialist government in 2010, was opposed by the Catholic Church and conservative groups.

They say abortion law should not be based on a woman's right to decide, but the right to life of the unborn child.

The ruling Popular Party made changing the law one of its main promises in its 2011 election campaign. The opposition Socialist Party has warned that the measure would send women into dangerous back-street clinics for abortions.

The law still needs approval of parliament but is expected to pass because the Popular Party has a large majority. (BBC News 1 Feb 2014)

## "Equality and the Indian Supreme Court: The *Naz Foundation* Case"

Madhav Khosla, PhD Candidate, Harvard University

**DATE:** Friday, February 14, 12:30-1:30 PM

**PLACE:** New Chancellor Day Hall room 609, 3644 Peel St.

Madhav Khosla is currently a PhD candidate in political theory at the Department of Government at Harvard University, prior to which he studied law at Yale Law School and the National Law School of India University, Bangalore. Mr. Khosla's research interests are spread across Indian and comparative constitutional theory, and modern Indian political thought and intellectual history. He is the author of *The Indian Constitution* (Oxford University Press, 2012) and is co-editing (with Sujit Choudhry and Pratap Bhanu Mehta) *The Oxford Handbook of the Indian Constitution*. Organized as part of The Annie MacDonald Langstaff Lecture Serie. For more information: [chrp.law@mcgill.ca](mailto:chrp.law@mcgill.ca)

**Centre Communautaire des femmes sud-asiatiques**

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32 years of sisterhood, strength, struggle and success 1981-2014







[www.sawcc-ccfsa.ca](http://www.sawcc-ccfsa.ca)

Feb 11—Information session to be determined (10:30am– 12:00 pm)  
Feb 14—March for Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women  
Feb 18—Information session on STM (10:30am– 12:00pm)  
Feb 20— Executive Council Meeting at 6 00 PM  
Feb 25— Recipe Exchange(10:30am– 12:00pm)  
Feb 28— Pot Luck and information session on  
“Women’s security “  
(12:00pm– 2:00pm)  
March 8 International Women’s Day events

11 Fév— Session d’information sujet indéterminé (10h30—12h)  
14 Fév— démo pour les femmes autochtones disparues et assassinées  
18 Fév—Session d’information sur le STM (10h30—12h)  
20 Fév- Réunion du conseil administratif à 18h00  
25 Fév—L’échange de recettes(10h30—12h)  
28 Fév- Potluck et session d’information sur sécurité des femmes (12h - 2h)  
8 mars—journée international des femmes

# February 2014

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 	12	13	14 March for Murdered & Missing Aboriginal Women	15
16	17	18 	19	20 	21	22
23	24	25 	26	27	28  	8th March — International Women’s Day