**9 April 2018**

Dear

We are here today to ask you to do your utmost to make sure that Lucy Francineth Granados’s basic rights are respected and that a humanitarian solution be found to address her immigration situation.

Specifically, we are asking you to speak to the federal Immigration and Public Safety Ministers to stop Lucy’s deportation – scheduled for 13 April - until her application for permanent residence on humanitarian grounds is determined and release her from detention.

Lucy Francineth Granados is a single mother, the sole supporter of her three children, who also contributes to community groups working for the rights of undocumented women and workers. She has made Montreal her home for the last nine years and is dear to many.

Lucy left Guatemala in 2009. At risk to her life, she traveled alone through Mexico on the infamous *La Bestia* or “death train” - a freight train - to the US and later to Canada. Her goal was to arrive at a place where she and her children would be safe and she could provide for them. Canada’s refugee system failed Lucy. She was refused in 2012 and faced the choice of deportation to Guatemala or remaining in Canada undocumented. She stayed, joining the ranks of Canada’s tens of thousands of undocumented migrants.

Desperate to regularize her status in Canada, Lucy submitted an application for Permanent Residence on Humanitarian and Compassionate Grounds (H&C) in September 2017. According to Immigration Law, the Federal Minister of Immigration has the obligation to study all H&C applications made within Canada. **All we are asking Minister Ahmed Hussen to do is make a decision on her file before deporting her.**

Furthermore, Canada is a signatory of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. This means that Canada has an obligation to take into account the best interest of the child in any decision that will affect them. However, Canada has never assessed the best interests of Lucy’s children. The only place in which the interests of Lucy's children would be considered by Canada is in her humanitarian application. **Canada should not deport Lucy without taking her children’s interests into account by considering her humanitarian file.**

There are serious allegations that CBSA acted abusively in Lucy’s case. Her supporters are looking into the possibility of making a human rights complaint at the Canadian Human Rights *Commission*. **We are concerned that, for this reason, CBSA will not fairly consider her application for a stay of deportation (first filed on 23 March, and as of 8 April, her lawyer had still received no response).**

Lucy’s health was already compromised because of past traumas and years of living without regular status in Canada, without access to healthcare and other basic services. The brutal arrest, the conditions of detention, and the threat of deportation have contributed to a marked deterioration of her health. She has been hospitalized twice and a third time brought to the detention center infirmary since her detention. It is not only inhumane to keep Lucy in detention and under threat of deportation, it is contributing to a serious and possibly enduring deterioration in her health.

For all of these reasons, we are asking you as members of your riding to do your utmost to ensure that Minister Hussen and Minister Goodale use their discretionary power to ensure that Lucy’s rights are respected, that her children’s rights are respected, and that a humanitarian solution be found to her predicament.

Sincerely,