

# What Can You Do To Help? *Lots!*

**Telephone/Fax/Email Canada's Minister of Immigration Joe Volpe.** Demand that Maxwell be granted permanent residency on Humanitarian and Compassionate grounds:

telephone: 416-781-5583

613-992-6361

fax: 416-781-5586

613-992-9791

email: Minister@cic.gc.ca

Let the Minister know that we know that, as a queer Black working class woman, Maxwell faces the risk of violence and persecution from numerous quarters in Costa Rica. According to the Toronto Rape Crisis Centre she is still suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder as a result of being sexually assaulted by the cops there before she first came to Canada. Canada is Wendy Maxwell's home now, and this is where she belongs.

Even if you are not a Canadian or do not live in Canada, please contact Joe Volpe at the above phone and/or fax numbers. It doesn't matter if you are in Canada, the United States, or anywhere else. Pressure, both national and international, can make a difference.

Sign the Online Petition at  
<http://users.resist.ca/~gidget/petition.shtml>

Join the Support Wendy Maxwell mailing list by going here: <https://nefac.net/cgi-bin/mailman/listinfo/stop-deportation>

**Money.** Nobody has any and everybody always needs some, but if there is any chance of people forking over a little cash, or hitting up any organizations you may be involved with, or quickly organizing a house party with a donation can, money is desperately needed. Depending on how things go, Wendy may even be billed by the Canadian government for the costs associated with her deportation, and this even if she is granted permanent residency!

Donations, of whatever size, can be sent to:

No One Is Illegal  
POB 1102  
50 Charles St.  
Toronto, ON  
M4Y 1T1

Please make checks or money orders payable to "No One Is Illegal" and write on them that they should go to the "Support Wendy Maxwell" campaign.

For more information, visit these websites:

<http://www.supportwendy.com>

<http://ocap.ca/wendy>

<http://www.kersplebedeb.com/nzinga>

<http://www.geocities.com/wendypme>

## The Police Celebrate International Women's Day...



**by arresting  
and deporting  
a feminist  
activist!**

**You can download a low-resolution (69K) PDF flyer with these phone numbers by clicking here: [http://www.kersplebedeb.com/nzinga/nzinga\\_leaflet.pdf](http://www.kersplebedeb.com/nzinga/nzinga_leaflet.pdf)**

# **BRING WENDY MAXWELL BACK HOME! STOP RACIST DEPORTATIONS!**

On March 5th community activist Wendy Maxwell, aka Nzinga, was arrested by Toronto cops while selling cookies at an International Women's Day event.

What was her crime? Being a queer Black "non-status" immigrant from Costa Rica; being a woman who could and would stand up for herself and others...

Maxwell originally came to Canada in 1997, thinking she had made arrangements to work as a bartender. When she arrived she found she was in fact expected to work as an exotic dancer. Until 1997 "exotic dancer" was a special category under which Immigration Canada allowed women to work in Canada. This arrangement made it particularly difficult for immigrant women to leave the industry, or defend their rights.

Nevertheless, after 18 months Maxwell managed to leave her job, and applied for refugee status. As a Black queer woman who had previously had run-ins with a gang in her native Costa Rica, Maxwell feared for her safety were she to return to her country of birth. This was not a decision she took lightly, as she has children in Costa Rica, and staying in Canada meant being separated from them.

In December 2003 Maxwell's claim for refugee status was denied, and an order was issued for her deportation. Although she applied for leave to stay in Canada under humanitarian

and compassionate grounds in January 2004, she also decided to go underground rather than return to Costa Rica while awaiting the government's decision.

During this time Maxwell also organized with others to fight against the oppression Canadian society rains down on queers, women, sex trade workers and people of colour. She worked at CKLN 88.1 FM Community Radio, the Latin American Coalition to end Violence Against Women, the Barbara Schlifer Commemorative Clinic, the Ralph Thornton Community Centre as a network administrator's assistant, the Global African Congress, and as an outreach worker with the Black Coalition for Aids Prevention (BlackCAP). Her work is also being published in "A New Look at Heterosexism and Homophobia" being put out in collaboration with the McGill University for the Canadian Aids Society.

She also took on the name Nzinga, after the seventeenth century Queen of Angola who waged war against the Portuguese invaders. Two of Queen Nzinga's war leaders were her sisters, and any women were active in her army and in her council of advisors. It is not difficult to imagine why a woman like Maxwell, persecuted by the Canadian settler state, would take the name of a woman like Nzinga...

On March 14th, at 9 am, less than two weeks after her arrest at the International Women's Day event, Wendy was deported. Authorities refused to disclose flight details, keeping Wendy, her counsel and friends in the dark until the last moment. However, Wendy was able to place a brief call out from the airplane to

her lawyer. A vigil took place at Pearson Airport, at which friends and supporters read Wendy's poetry and spoke out, leafleting passengers and standing together in this difficult time.

Wendy Maxwell, aka Nzinga, is now back in Costa Rica, *but the fight has only begun*. Supporters are rallying throughout Canada to pressure the government to ensure that her case be assessed quickly and that she be granted permanent residency on humanitarian and compassionate grounds. It is also imperative that the racist Canadian State that had the gall to deport be held accountable and responsible for her safe and speedy return.

*To find out what you can do to help,  
turn the page!*

