

“Save Regina”

Update – April 15, 2006

Happy Easter, Everybody!

The hearing date has finally been set – January 23, 2007.

Judge O. John Brahos has scheduled Regina and David’s combined asylum hearing for Tuesday, January 23, in his courtroom in the Chicago Immigration Court.

At the Master Calendar hearing on April 13, Holy Thursday morning, Judge Brahos gave a clear indication of how the hearing will proceed. Because David has already met the level of proof required for withholding of removal – greater than that needed for asylum – the judge will concentrate on the question of granting David asylum. Noting that the United States does not want to break up a family, he said he will then consider giving Regina asylum on a derivative basis.

The lawyer for the government made an objection for the record, without specifying cause. She is new to the case and the stack of David and Regina’s case records is about three feet high.

Both attorneys, Hal Block (for David) and Mary Sfasciotti (for Regina), are pleased with the judge’s direction and cautiously optimistic.

Regina and David thank you so much for your prayers! So far, so good.

When Regina woke at 2:30 a.m. the morning of the Master Calendar Hearing, she spent time in prayer. Her Monday night prayer group friends had taught her that after talking to God, she should be still and listen for God’s answer. It came in the form of a Scripture passage. She opened the Bible at random to Psalm 94. Go take a look at God’s Word.

Regina could not stop weeping at this year’s Good Friday Service, remembering the terror of her eleven-week ordeal that began last Holy Week. It’s always just under the surface. Current law is particularly hard on *new* asylum-seekers. Immigration officers either send them back to their persecutors with no judicial review (expedited removal) or put them, even parentless children, in mandatory detention, treating them as they did Regina – shackles, belly-chains, etc. Pending legislation expands both these practices and further limits access to federal judicial review if their asylum petition is denied. The U.S. Bishops and human rights organizations are adamantly opposed to such practices.

Though their hearing is still months away, David and Regina are moving ahead with their lives, trusting God. Regina is now looking for a nearby part-time job on weekends to supplement the family income. If you know of one, please call S. Josephe, 414-643-0552.

We are also sure that God will provide the finances they need to pay their good lawyers. Here’s an enjoyable way for you to help.....

*An Invitation to St. Mary's
Regina Bakala Fundraising Luncheon*

*May 17, 2006 11:30 A.M.
Tuckaway Country Club*

Please join us for an afternoon Luncheon dedicated to helping Regina Bakala. Her fight to remain in the United States is not over, and her legal fees are starting to mount. To help offset legal expenses, St. Mary's is holding a Luncheon fundraiser. As a Parish Community we are all looking for ways to make a difference in this life. Here is how you can help Regina and her family:

- *Join us for Lunch ~ Not only will you enjoy a wonderful lunch prepared by the Tuckaway Country Club Chefs but you will also have the opportunity to take your chances at winning several uniquely themed raffle baskets, such as a Brewer Baseball Package, Wine and Cheese Basket, Summer Party Basket, and a Spa Package~ just to name a few.*
- *B'lou will also be putting on a tearoom style show with a special surprise.*
- *Sponsor a Table~ what a wonderful way to contribute. For the amount of \$100.00, your Company, Business or Family will be recognized on a Table at the Luncheon.*
- *Make a general donation~ Many times we feel when we are only able to make a small contribution that it isn't going to help. Any amount builds fast and even a \$5.00 donation is greatly appreciated. You can send these donations to the Regina Bakala Fund at M&I Bank 7600 W. Layton Ave, Milwaukee, Wi. 53220*

*All questions can be directed to:
Dawn Olander 414-418-2141 or Holly Doro 414-241-4620*

Please send this portion with payment to Regina Bakala Luncheon,
St. Mary Parish Office, 9520 W. Forest Home Avenue, Hales Corners, WI 53130

Yes, I would like to attend the Regina Bakala Luncheon _____spaces @ \$35.00 each,
checks payable to: *The Regina Bakala Fund*.

Names of attendees_____

People I'd like to sit with_____

I would like to Sponsor a Table in the amount of \$100.00 ~ Please recognize my
donation in this way on a table:

There is another way I would like to help. Please contact me:
