

## Kathleen O'Brien

11/26/2010

[Kathleen@e-me.ca](mailto:Kathleen@e-me.ca) 416-836-2497

Kathleen O'Brien  
106-3110 Yonge Street  
Toronto M4N2K6

Mr. Chisanga Puta-Chekwe  
Deputy Minister - Deputy Minister's Office  
Citizenship And Immigration  
6th Flr -- 400 University Ave  
Toronto ON M7A2R9  
Fax: 416-325-6196  
Phone: 416-325-6220

November 25, 2010

Dear Chisanga Puta-Chekwe,

I write to you as a woman who has faced a plethora of challenges in Ontario and the USA under the categories of Woman's issues and Citizenship and Immigration status.

Throughout my Opus Dei childhood in Chevy Chase, a suburb of Washington DC, I endured various oppressive and cult-like religious practices such as those I have documented in my many articles about North American victims of FGM. (<http://kathleen.themismusic.com/rss/>)

Owing to this oppressive and abusive background, I fled to Canada and sought help from a friend I had met during a University debate series at George Mason University.

For a number of reasons my departure from the Opus Dei fold in Washington DC Center seemed calamitous and possibly controversial to the elders. After attempts were made by zealots from the DC Opus Dei Center to kidnap me in Canada, officials I met including York Regional Police suggested I apply for protected status in Canada instead of simply remaining a visitor. I completed all of the paperwork and made all the attendances and was even imprisoned to become a refugee claimant on September 1, 2007.

My claim was eventually rejected, but by that time I was happily married in Canada to my husband, Micheal O'Brien who is yours and Bill Whittaker's friend. We submitted the application for sponsorship in December of 2009 and still await a decision in what is really an expected slow process..

My claim for refugee status was rejected (the elderly gentleman who heard my matter did not believe

that FGM happened in North America to 'anyone'). Apparently after filing a refugee claim and then failing to have it ruled upon successfully (no one I have encountered since actually has ever heard of such a claim from a U.S. citizen being successful) one must be removed from the country under a removal order as punishment for not being in the country with proper documentation.

I was handed off to two CBSA officers, one who was insisting I leave the country and that I could elect to seek a Pre-Removal Risk Assessment which I did. The second officer of the CBSA handling my case, Daniel Lombardo, was surprised that I had been forced to jump through so many hoops given that I had already filed a Family-Class Permanent Residency Application before all this transpired and hence he agreed to stay my removal order pending the outcome of my sponsorship application. This pertains to an amendment to the Immigrations Act inspired by Joe Volpe in 2005 wherein removal is stayed while an application is under consideration. I have consulted with Mr. Volpe's office in recent past and he concurs that this is correct.

On November 24, 2010 I received a letter from J. Martin of the CBSA stating that my removal from Canada has been scheduled for December 9, 2010 in Niagara Falls. I do not know what has happened, as my permanent residence application remains in process, now advanced to Scarborough from Vegreville. I am extremely concerned and confused as to what has transpired.

I do not want to leave my family and friends in Canada, the only true home I have ever known. My husband and I have been trying to start a family and are devastated this is happening.

I would deeply appreciate any help that you could give me.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kathleen O'Brien (nee Sheridan)  
CIC Client ID Number: 5896-0815  
(416) 836-2497