

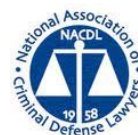
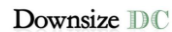
Statement Supporting Reform of Security Laws that Hinder Charity

We come together in support of American security by seeking elimination of counterproductive barriers to legitimate charitable work found in outdated U.S. counterterrorism measures. These laws and policies have hindered the transformative power of the American charitable community's work in conflict zones and trench on precious First Amendment freedoms of speech and association, and Fifth Amendment guarantees of due process.

Laws governing “material support” to designated terrorist organizations sweep too broadly, criminalizing life saving humanitarian aid to civilians, efforts at peacebuilding and speech advocating only lawful, nonviolent activity, even where it furthers no terrorist acts whatsoever. In addition, the laws give the executive branch broad discretion to place groups on terrorist lists without affording them adequate notice and a meaningful opportunity to defend themselves.

It is imperative that constitutional and human rights principles guide the U.S. government's approach to national security rules and policies. We oppose terrorism and are committed to upholding our values. We call on the U.S. government to work with us to update U.S. law by:

1. Reforming the prohibition on material support to respect charitable access in order to provide basic humanitarian aid to civilians, and to protect free speech, association and peacebuilding.
2. Reforming the process for placing groups and individuals on terrorist lists to ensure that they have sufficient notice and a meaningful opportunity to respond to the charges against them, and to ensure that the system includes sufficient checks and balances on executive discretion.



(over)

Organizations who have endorsed the **Statement Supporting Reform of Security Laws that Hinder Charity (June 21, 2011):**

3D Security Initiative
ACLU- DC
Alliance for Peacebuilding
American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee
American Friends Service Committee
American Association of University Professors
Appleton Foundation
Asian Law Caucus
Bill of Rights Defense Committee
Center for Constitutional Rights
Center for International Policy
The Constitution Project

Cordaid
Defending Dissent Foundation
DownsizeDC.org
Electronic Frontier Foundation
Fourth Freedom Forum
Freedom and Justice Foundation
Fund for Constitutional Government
The Fund for Global Human Rights
Grantmakers Without Borders
Grassroots International
International Center for Not for Profit Law

International Center for Religion & Diplomacy
International Justice Network
Islamic Relief USA
KinderUSA
Life for Relief & Development
Mennonite Central Committee
Muslim Public Affairs Council
Muslim Legal Fund of America
National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers
The Rutherford Institute
Tikva Grassroots Empowerment Fund

To find out more about why these groups have signed on the Statement Supporting Reform of Security Laws that Hinder Charity or to learn how the Administration or Congress can implement these reforms, please contact:

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