



PRESS RELEASE

The report is available online at:

http://www.charityandsecurity.org/system/files/CharityandSecurityNetwork_How_the_Work_of_Charity_Can_Counter_Terror.pdf

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December 10, 2009— In honor of Human Rights Day, the Charity and Security Network (CSN) has published *How the Work of Charities Can Counter Terror and How U.S. Laws Get in the Way*. The report presents representatives from the U.S. and international nonprofit sector discussing how U.S. policies restrict nonprofit operations beyond what is necessary to protect national security. It is based on a March 20, 2009, panel discussion sponsored by the Charity and Security Network and Cordaid, a Dutch aid and development organization.

CSN Program Manager Kay Guinane said, "On this day we urge the President and Congress to protect the rights of the hungry, sick, displaced and others in need of the programs and services U.S. nonprofits provide. We don't have to choose between our security and our humanity."

Summaries of speaker presentations illustrate how U.S. policies create barriers for legitimate operations by U.S. organizations. Nonprofit leaders from Colombia, the Palestinian States, and the Philippines share their first-hand accounts of how oppressive counterterrorism measures in their countries violate human rights in the name of national security.

The report recommends a comprehensive strategy such as the United Nations' *2006 Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy* to combat violent extremism. The UN's strategy respects all peaceful people, regardless of politics or cultures, and promotes fundamental fairness while protecting our safety and diminishing the factors that drive people to violence.

On this day in 1948, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which has become a universal standard for defending and promoting human rights.

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Charity and Security Network coordinates the strategies of charities, grantmakers and advocacy groups working to eliminate unnecessary counterterrorism measures that impede legitimate humanitarian aid efforts. http://twitter.com/CS_Network