



Homeland  
Security

APR 16 2009

Susan N. Herman  
President  
American Civil Liberties Union  
125 Broad Street  
New York, New York 10004

Dear Ms. Herman:

Thank you for your March 18, 2009 letter requesting the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) re-examine the cases of foreign nationals who the ACLU and other organizations believe were denied admission into the United States based solely on their ideas or political views, rather than the appropriate application of the provisions of the *Immigration and Nationality Act*.

DHS takes seriously its responsibility to protect the security of our Nation while also ensuring that we fully comply with applicable laws and appropriately adjudicate each individual case on the merits of the information available. While we cannot discuss the individual cases that you have listed in your letter, my staff is willing to meet with you and representatives of the other organizations on the letter to hear your views on this issue. However, it is important to understand that the authority to issue visas is, by statute, within the purview of the Department of State.

I have asked the office of Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy Esther Olavarria to contact you to schedule this meeting. I have initiated a wide-ranging review of our immigration policies and believe that the Department would benefit from your perspective as we work to improve our immigration policies. Please be assured that DHS will continue to carefully consider the concerns you expressed. Should you need additional assistance, please contact my office at (202) 282-9708.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Richard C. Barth".

Richard C. Barth, Ph.D  
Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary  
for Policy

cc: The Advocates for Human Rights  
African Services Committee  
American Anthropological Association  
American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee  
American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee of Massachusetts  
American Association of University Professors  
American Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression  
American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California  
American Federation of Teachers  
American Friends Service Committee -Project Voice  
American Gateways  
American Immigration Lawyers Association  
American Library Association  
American Political Science Association  
American Sociological Association  
American Statistical Association  
American Studies Association  
The Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund  
The Asian Law Caucus  
Association of American Publishers  
Association of Research Libraries  
Bill of Rights Defense Committee  
Boston Coalition for Palestinian Rights  
California Scholars for Academic Freedom  
Center for Campus Free Speech  
Center for Financial Privacy and Human Rights  
The Center for Women's Health and Human Rights at Suffolk University  
Citizens for Health  
Chicago Branch, National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression  
Colombia Support Network  
Committees of Correspondence for Democracy and Socialism  
The Constitution Project  
Defending Dissent Foundation  
Equal Justice Society  
Feminists for Free Expression 4  
First Amendment Project  
Friends Committee on National Legislation  
General Commission on Religion and Race, The United Methodist Church  
Hitec Aztec Collaborations/FM Global  
Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project  
Immigration Justice Clinic at John Jay Legal Services, Inc.  
Jewish Alliance for Law and Social Action  
Just Foreign Policy  
Justice Now  
The Juvenile Justice Clinic at the University of North Carolina School of Law  
Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area

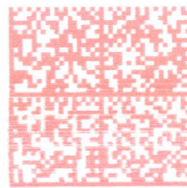
Liberty Coalition  
Linguistic Society of America  
Maria Baldini-Potermin & Associates, P.C.  
Masterman Institute on the First Amendment and the Fourth Estate at Suffolk  
University Law School  
Middle East Studies Association  
The Multiracial Activist  
Muslim American Society of Boston  
Muslim Bar Association of New York  
Muslim Public Affairs Council  
National Coalition Against Censorship  
National Council of Jewish Women  
National Economic and Social Rights Initiative  
National Education Association  
National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild  
New England First Amendment Center at Northeastern University  
New York Civil Liberties Union  
The Nieman Foundation for Journalism at Harvard University  
Oak Institute for Human Rights at Colby College  
Office of the Americas  
Open Society Policy Center  
PEN American Center  
The Rutherford Institute  
The Sikh Coalition  
Society of American Law Teachers  
South Asian Americans Leading Together  
United Methodist Church, General Board of Church and Society  
United Steel Workers AFL-CIO  
Washington Defender Association's Immigration Project

U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, DC 20528



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The Multiracial Activist  
P.O. Box 8208  
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