



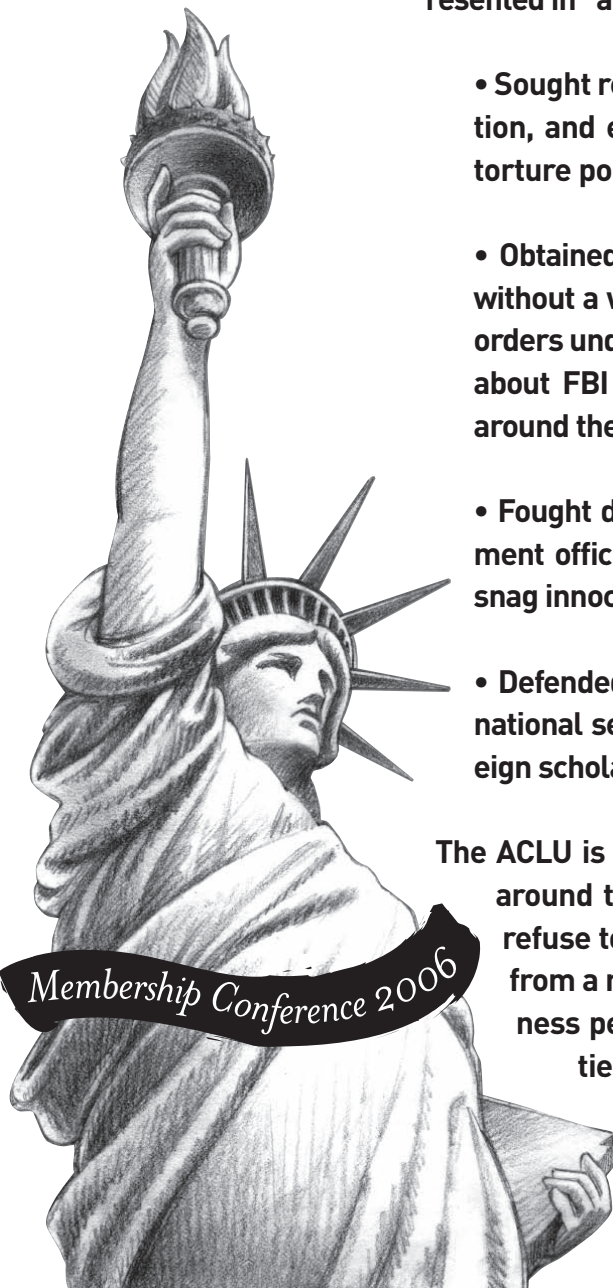
STAND UP FOR FREEDOM STOP THE ABUSE OF POWER

PROFILES IN COURAGE: ACLU Clients in Defense of Liberty

THE AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION is proud to welcome to our 2006 Membership Conference many of the brave men and women whom we have represented in “abuse of power” lawsuits around the country. Together, we have:

- Sought relief for victims of torture and rendition, opposed arbitrary detention, and exposed over 100,000 pages of documents on the government’s torture policies;
- Obtained a ruling to stop the National Security Agency from wiretapping without a warrant, fought unchecked demands for personal records and gag orders under the Patriot Act, and forced disclosure of hundreds of documents about FBI and Pentagon spying on peaceful political and religious groups around the country;
- Fought discrimination and racial, ethnic and religious profiling by government officials and businesses, and challenged government watch lists that snag innocent people;
- Defended the right to protest and criticize government policies, protected national security whistleblowers, and fought to prevent the exclusion of foreign scholars from the country because of their ideas.

The ACLU is honored to represent these individuals – and many others from around the country and the world – who believe in the Constitution and refuse to cave in to fear. Our clients come from diverse backgrounds and from a range of occupations – they are librarians, religious leaders, business people, students, pacifists. They represent many faiths, communities, cultures and political viewpoints. But they share one thing in common. Each has had the courage to stand up and fight for the core American values of freedom and fairness. Join us in paying tribute to these true American patriots.



PROTECTING THE RIGHT TO DISSENT



Barbara DeConcini (Atlanta, GA)

Barbara DeConcini is a former Executive Director of the American Academy of Religion (AAR). AAR, a scholarly group dedicated to the academic study of religion, promotes religious understanding through its conferences, publications, and meetings.

The ACLU represents AAR and others in challenging provisions in the Patriot Act used to deny visas to foreign scholars whose political views the government disfavors, including Tariq Ramadan, a Muslim academic and visiting scholar at the University of Oxford.



Sibel Edmonds (Alexandria, VA)

Hired by the FBI as a translator after September 11th, Sibel was fired for reporting serious security breaches and espionage within the Bureau. The ACLU represented Sibel in a lawsuit challenging her wrongful termination, and fought the government's use of the state secrets privilege to dismiss the case.

Sibel is the founder of the National Security Whistleblowers Coalition, an organization dedicated to addressing national security weaknesses and protecting whistleblowers against retaliation.



Robert O'Neil (Charlottesville, VA)

Robert O'Neil is a professor of law at the University of Virginia and the chair of the American Association of University Professors' (AAUP) Committee on Academic Freedom and National Security in Time of Crisis. The ACLU represents AAUP

and others in challenging provisions in the Patriot Act used to deny visas to foreign scholars whose political views the government disfavors, including Tariq Ramadan.



Jeff and Nicole Rank (Houston, TX)

Nicole and Jeff Rank were arrested at a Fourth of July Presidential appearance for wearing anti-Bush t-shirts. The couple peacefully displayed their homemade t-shirts until they were ordered to cover themselves. When Jeff and Nicole refused,

two men who appeared to be working for the secret service arrested them. "We wanted to see the president speak and express our disagreement in what little way we could," Nicole said. "We never imagined that we would end up in jail because of a homemade t-shirt." The Ranks have sued the White House Advance Team and the Secret Service seeking damages for violation of their First Amendment rights.



Dr. Tariq Ramadan (Oxford, England)

Tariq is unable to attend the conference because the government refuses to grant him a visa to visit the United States.

Tariq Ramadan is one of Europe's foremost Muslim intellectuals. In January 2004, Tariq was offered a tenured position as a profes-

sor at the University of Notre Dame, but his entry visa was revoked by the State Department. The State Department alleged that Tariq had "endorsed or espoused terrorism," a false allegation that was later retracted. Tariq is known for his vocal criticisms of terrorism and his encouragement of dialogue between the Islamic world and the West. The ACLU represents Tariq and others in challenging provisions in the Patriot Act used to deny visas to foreign scholars whose political views the government disfavors.

Larry Siems (New York, NY)

Larry Siems is the Freedom to Write and International Programs Director at the PEN American Center. PEN has long supported freedom of speech and international exchange among writers. The ACLU represents PEN and others in challenging provisions in the Patriot Act used to deny visas to foreign scholars whose political views the government disfavors. The provision has excluded writers and thinkers that PEN's audience is eager to meet and debate, including Tariq Ramadan.

Russ Tice (Maryland)

Russ Tice is a former senior intelligence analyst who worked for various government agencies, including the National Security Agency, for twenty years. The ACLU provided legal advice to Russ when his security clearance was revoked in retaliation for reporting suspicions of a coworker's loyalties. Russ remains active in urging for greater whistleblower protections.



Leslie Wiese and Alex Young (Boulder and Denver, CO)

Leslie Wiese and Alex Young were expelled from a public town hall conversation with President Bush simply for their political views. As they were escorted from the venue, Alex and Leslie were told by security

that it was because their car had a "No more blood for oil" bumper sticker. The ACLU filed a First Amendment challenge to their expulsion. "The White House has put the First Amendment rights of every American in jeopardy, and it's time for someone to fight back," Alex said.

FIGHTING DISCRIMINATION AND RACIAL PROFILING



Abdullah Al-Kidd (Valley Center, KS)

Abdullah Al-Kidd, a U.S. citizen and former college football star, was unlawfully arrested and detained as a material witness in 2003. For sixteen days, Abdullah was held in the heightened-security units of various jails. On behalf of Abdullah, the ACLU filed a lawsuit seeking an admission of wrongdoing from the government, damages, and expungement of his record. Recently, the district court ruled that former U.S. Attorney John Ashcroft could not claim immunity from personal responsibility for Abdullah's detention.

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Edgardo Cureg (Seminole, FL)

Edgardo Cureg, a professor in the Mathematics department of the University of South Florida, was thrown off of a Continental Airlines flight after a passenger claimed that "brown-skinned men are behaving suspiciously." The ACLU represents Edgardo and others in a lawsuit against the airline for racial profiling.

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Michael Dasrath (Elmont, NY)

Michael Dasrath, a Validation and Risk Management associate at JP Morgan Chase, was thrown off of a Continental Airlines flight after a passenger claimed that "brown-skinned men are behaving suspiciously." The ACLU represents Michael and others in a lawsuit against the airline for racial profiling.

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Abdul Habeeb (Seattle, WA)

Abdulameer Yousef Habeeb is a refugee from Iraq where he suffered persecution at the hands of Saddam Hussein's government. In April 2003 he was traveling by train when he was stopped in Montana by uniformed Customs and Border Patrol agents. The agents questioned him about his immigration status and then arrested him for failing to comply with a "special registration" program. As a refugee, Abdul was not subject to the special registration requirements. Nonetheless, he was imprisoned for eight days before the government recognized its mistake and released him. The ACLU represents Abdul in a lawsuit challenging his unlawful detention and the Border Patrol's unlawful policy of targeting people for questioning based on their race or ethnicity.

Dr. Elie Ramzi Khoury (Detroit, MI)

Dr. Elie Ramzi Khoury and his wife have been detained at length at airports on seven occasions since May 2002. They have been separated, searched, and questioned extensively. The ACLU is representing the Khourys and others in a lawsuit against the Department of Homeland Security to force the adoption of policies that ensure expeditious reentry into the U.S. for U.S. citizens whose names are similar to those on watch lists, and to institute training to stop harassment and improper detention at the border.



Akif Rahman (Chicago, Illinois)

Akif Rahman, the founder of a computer consulting business, has been the victim of the FBI's flawed Terrorist Screening Center (TSC). Despite his innocence and U.S. citizenship, Akif has been detained by Customs and Border Patrol officials on numerous occasions. In May 2005, Akif was detained at the Canadian border, interrogated, shackled to a chair, and searched before being released nearly six hours later. The ACLU represents Akif in a challenge to protect thousands of individuals who are stopped, questioned, and harassed at points of entry to the country each year as a result of flaws in the TSC.

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Dr. Sawsan Tabbaa and Hassan Shibley (Amherst, NY)

Dr. Tabbaa is an orthodontist in the Buffalo area, and her son, Hassan Shibly, is a student at the University of Buffalo. Returning from a religious conference, "Reviving the Islamic Spirit," in Toronto, Sawsan, Hassan, and dozens of other attendees were detained at the U.S.-Canadian border. They were unlawfully interrogated, fingerprinted, and photographed simply for attending the conference. The ACLU has sued the Department of Homeland Security for violating the constitutional rights of the conference attendees.



ENDING UNLAWFUL SURVEILLANCE

Nusrath Ainapore (Pittsburgh, PA)

As a Board Member of the Thomas Merton Center and Outreach Director of the Islamic Center of Pittsburgh, Nusrath works with local mosques to prevent arbitrary detention and profiling of Arabs and Muslims in the greater Pittsburgh area. Along with many others around the country, Nusrath has obtained documents under the Freedom of Information Act that expose FBI spying on peaceful political and religious groups. These documents show that counterterrorism agents at the FBI were maintaining files on peace rallies sponsored by the Merton Center.



Jim Bamford (Washington, DC)

Jim Bamford is an award-winning author and journalist, and an expert on U.S. intelligence and the National Security Agency. He is the author of *A Pretext for War: 9/11, Iraq, and the Abuse of America's Intelligence Agencies* (2004); *Body of Secrets* (2001); and

The Puzzle Palace (1979). Discussing his fear of the NSA's unchecked abilities, he says, "The key danger right now ... is the fact that you have an agency that is enormously powerful, yet has no restraints on it." Jim, along with the ACLU and others, is challenging warrantless wiretapping by the NSA. A district court recently held that the program violates the First and Fourth Amendments to the Constitution, the separation of powers doctrine, and the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act.



John Doe

John Doe is unable to attend the conference because of an FBI-imposed gag order that prevents Doe from being identified as an ACLU client and a recipient of a National Security Letter.

John Doe is the President of an Internet Service Provider. Relying on its expanded powers under the Patriot Act, the FBI used a "National Security Letter" (NSL) to demand, without any court approval, that Doe turn over sensitive records about one of the company's clients. The NSL law allows the FBI to gag NSL recipients from disclosing that the FBI has demanded or obtained information from them. The ACLU is representing Doe in a legal challenge to the constitutionality of the National Security Letter and the gag provision.



Michelle Burton Brown (Pittsburgh, PA)

Michelle Burton Brown is the Development Director of the Thomas Merton Center, a Pittsburgh-based organization that brings together people from diverse philosophies and faiths in organizing non-violent resistance to war, racial and economic justice.

Along with many others around the country, Michelle has obtained documents under the Freedom of Information Act that expose FBI spying on peaceful political and religious groups.



Nazih Hassan (Ypsilanti, MI)

Nazih Hassan is a member of the ACLU and the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR). Nazih, who is politically active in Michigan, ceased having certain conversations on the phone with family and friends abroad because of warrantless eavesdropping by the National Security Agency. Nazih, along with the ACLU and others, is challenging the legality of the wiretapping program.

Christopher Hitchens (Washington, DC)

Christopher Hitchens is a prominent reporter and author of numerous articles and books on U.S. policy in the Middle East. He was a supporter of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Because he frequently calls sources in Middle Eastern countries, Christopher feared he might be the target of the NSA's warrantless wiretapping program. Christopher, along with the ACLU and others, is challenging the legality of warrantless wiretapping by the NSA.



Nancy Hollander (Albuquerque, NM)

Nancy Hollander is a criminal defense lawyer and past president of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (NACDL). NACDL joined the ACLU's challenge to warrantless wiretapping by the National Security Agency because the program is harming her ability to effectively represent clients who have been accused of terrorism-related crimes. Nancy warns, "We, as citizens of this country, have no protection from the abuses of government when the government assumes the power to define and redefine what constitutes an abuse of power or an illegal act."

Konstanty (Kot) Hordynski (Santa Cruz, CA)

Kot Hordynski is a member of the University of California Santa Cruz Students Against War, a non-violent, student-run anti-war group. After learning that the Pentagon was maintaining a secret database on peaceful protest groups, the ACLU filed a lawsuit on behalf of Kot's group and others for more records under the Freedom of Information Act. "Our right to criticize what we believe are misguided government policies must always be protected, especially in a time of national crisis or war," Kot said.



Arsalan Iftikhar (Washington, DC)

Arsalan Iftikhar is the National Legal Director for the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR). CAIR, a civil liberties organization, joined the ACLU in its lawsuit challenging the NSA's warrantless wiretapping program. Explaining his decision to file the lawsuit, Arsalan said, "We believe that the President has overstepped his bounds, and that is something that is not only unlawful, but un-American."



Janet Nocek (Portland, CT)

Janet Nocek is the director of the Portland Public Library, and secretary of Library Connection, a consortium of libraries in Connecticut. In August 2005, Library Connection received a National Security Letter (NSL) under the Patriot Act demanding library records. The NSL contained a gag order that prevented Library Connection from identifying itself as the recipient of the NSL. In the ACLU's lawsuit on behalf of the librarians, a federal judge ruled that the gag order was unconstitutional. While that ruling was on appeal, the government insisted on continuing to gag the librarians – even after *The New York Times* correctly identified Library Connection. The librarians were unable to participate in the national debate over reauthorization of the Patriot Act. Just weeks after Congress reauthorized the law, the FBI withdrew the NSL.



Barnett Rubin (New York, NY)

Barnett Rubin is Director of Studies and Senior Fellow at the New York University Center on International Cooperation (CIC), and the author of numerous books and articles about Afghanistan, including *The Fragmentation of Afghanistan* (2002) and *The Search for Peace in Afghanistan* (1995). Barney is currently collaborating with Afghan government officials who are drafting the Afghan National Development Strategy. Along with the ACLU and others, he is challenging the NSA's warrantless wiretapping program because it is harming his ability to communicate by phone and email with people abroad.

Nicholas Schmader (Rhode Island)

Nick Schmader is a member of the Rhode Island Community Coalition for Peace, a group of antiwar activists that have been subject to surveillance by the Pentagon. Nick's peace group, along with other groups around the country, filed a lawsuit under the Freedom of Information Act to obtain records about Pentagon spying.



Kareem Shora (Washington, DC)

Kareem Shora was recently appointed Executive Director of the American-Arab Anti Discrimination Committee (ADC), a membership organization in the U.S. dedicated to protecting the civil rights of Arab Americans. ADC joined the ACLU in its lawsuit against the National Security Agency, in which a district court recently held that the warrantless wiretapping program violates the law and the Constitution.

Scott Silber (Boulder, CO)

Scott Silber has worked as an organizer for the Service International Employees Union and also with 180-11, an activist organization at the Colorado University Boulder campus. In July 2004, the FBI aggressively questioned Scott and other Colorado activists about their plans to attend the upcoming Democratic and Republican conventions. Along with many others around the country, Scott has obtained documents under the Freedom of Information Act that expose FBI spying on peaceful political and religious groups.

CHALLENGING TORTURE, ILLEGAL RENDITION, AND ARBITRARY DETENTION



Rae Alafyouny (Mesquite, TX)

Rae Alafyouny's husband, Mahmoud (Mo), was detained by immigration authorities for two years and recently deported to Jordan. When Mo applied for lawful permanent residence based on his marriage to Rae, a U.S. citizen, his application was denied on the grounds that he had "engaged in a terrorist activity" – based solely on donations Mo had collected as a college student twenty years ago for the Palestine Liberation Organization. Although the government had never previously viewed him as a threat to national security, in May 2004 he was imprisoned in an immigration jail. With the support of the ACLU, Rae fought Mo's detention and removal. Although Rae was able to win Mo's release for two months, his appeal was dismissed and Mo was removed to Jordan this past August.



Khaled El-Masri (Germany)

Khaled is not attending the conference because the government has only recently granted him a visa to travel to the United States. In late November, Khaled will visit the U.S. for the first time to attend the appellate court hearing in his case.

Khaled El-Masri is a German citizen who was abducted, tortured and imprisoned for several months by the CIA in a secret prison in Afghanistan, where he remained even after the government knew he was innocent. Khaled was subsequently released and left on an isolated road in Albania without apology. The ACLU represents Khaled in a legal challenge to the CIA's illegal rendition.

Michael T. McPhearson (St Louis, MO)

Michael T. McPhearson is a member of Veterans for Peace, a group of veterans who use their own experiences at war to advocate for peaceful resolutions to conflicts. The ACLU represents Veterans for Peace and others in a lawsuit under the Freedom of Information Act that has so far resulted in the release of over 100,000 pages of government documents related to torture practices. In addition, Veterans for Peace is a client in the ACLU's lawsuit under the Freedom of Information Act to obtain records about Pentagon spying on peaceful protest groups.



Leonard Rubenstein (Washington, DC)

Len Rubenstein is the Executive Director of Physicians for Human Rights, and has engaged in extensive fieldwork in human rights in Bosnia, Israel, Chechnya, the West Bank and Gaza, Kosovo and South Africa. The ACLU represents Physicians for Human

Rights and others in a lawsuit under the Freedom of Information Act that has so far resulted in the release of over 100,000 pages of government documents related to torture practices.

In addition to the clients profiled above who are attending the conference, the ACLU represents the following men who were tortured and abused while in U.S. custody in Iraq and Afghanistan. The ACLU lawsuit charges that Donald Rumsfeld and other government officials are directly responsible for the torture and abuse of these men. Due to safety issues and other practical obstacles, these clients are unable to attend the conference.

Arkan Mohammed Ali (Iraq)

Arkan Mohammed Ali is a 26-year-old Iraqi citizen who was detained by the U.S. military at various locations in Iraq, including Abu Ghraib prison. Arkan was detained for almost one year, from July 2003 to June 2004. While in custody, Arkan was tortured and subjected to cruel and inhuman treatment, including severe beatings to the point of unconsciousness, stabbing and mutilation, isolation while naked and hooded in a coffin-like box, mock execution and death threats. Upon Arkan's release, an American official threatened him by telling him that if he ever reported or discussed the abuse he and others suffered in detention, the United States government would find him and he would never see his family again. Arkan continues to suffer the lasting effects of injuries incurred while in United States custody.

Thahe Mohammed Sabbar (Iraq)

Thahe Mohammed Sabbar is a 36-year-old Iraqi who was detained by the United States military for approximately six months from July 2003 to January 2004. Thahe was detained at various locations in Iraq, including Camp Bucca and Abu Ghraib prison. While in American custody, Thahe was subjected to aggressive physical and sexual assault as well as extreme psychological abuse.

Ali H. (Iraq)

Because of concerns about his physical safety, Ali H. has asked that the media and others refrain from using his full name.

Iraqi high school student Ali H. was only 17 years old when he was detained by the U.S. military in August 2003. He was held in detention for four weeks at Abu Ghraib prison and other locations throughout Iraq. Soldiers shot Ali in the neck and back and threw him to the ground before arresting him. Military personnel refused to provide medical care for Ali for hours after the arrest, even though he was bleeding profusely from two gunshot wounds. The bullets were eventually removed from Ali's neck and back in a brutal fashion and without anesthetic. He was then denied food, water and pain medication for almost two days after he was shot. Ali suffered further injuries and was again denied medical attention. Now 19, Ali still feels the effects of the debilitating physical and psychological injuries he sustained while in detention.

Sherzad Kamal Khalid (Iraq)

Sherzad Kamal Khalid is a 34-year-old Iraqi citizen who was detained by the United States military for approximately two months from July 2003 through September 2003. Sherzad was held at various locations in Iraq where he was subjected to frequent and severe beatings, sexual assault and other cruel treatment. More than a year after his release, Sherzad continues to suffer from stomach ulcers as a result of an untreated stomach infection

incurred while in detention. He also suffers from severe depression and nightmares.

Said Nabi Siddiqi (Afghanistan)

Said Nabi Siddiqi is a 48-year-old citizen of Afghanistan. Said was detained by the United States military for nearly two months from July to August 2003 at various locations, including detention facilities in Kandahar and Bagram. During his detention, Said was subjected to torture or other cruel and degrading treatment, including physical and sexual assault. As a result of his treatment while in United States custody, Said suffered severe psychological and physical injuries. He continues to suffer the lasting effects of those injuries. Among other things, he has suicidal thoughts and nightmares, is quick to anger, and suffers from memory loss.

Mohammed Karim Shirullah (Afghanistan)

Mohammed Karim Shirullah, who is 45, was detained by United States military at various locations in Afghanistan, including the Bagram air base. He was detained for approximately six months, from December 2003 to June 2004. During his detention, Mohammed was tortured and subjected to otherwise cruel and degrading treatment, including physical, psychological, and sexual abuse. Mohammed continues to suffer from the injuries incurred while in detention. In addition to the deafness in his right ear, Mohammed experiences painful swelling in his legs. He is also unable to sleep through the night without medication.

Haji Abdul Rahman (Afghanistan)

Haji Abdul Rahman is a 48-year-old who was detained by the United States military for approximately five months, from December 2003 to May 2004. He was held at various locations in Afghanistan, including the Gardez firebase and the Bagram air base. Haji suffered severe physical and psychological injuries as a result of torture or other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment, including physical and sexual assault. Haji continues to feel the effects of the injuries he incurred while detained by the United States. Among other things, he has nerve damage in his leg and back, which causes great pain and occasional near-paralysis; has vision problems; and suffers from memory lapses. Haji also has emotional problems and is quick to anger, which has caused difficulties with his family and work.

