

Celebrate July 4 by taking a stand for human rights

On July 4 we celebrate the American ideal of freedom.

But in Guantanamo, Iraq, and secret prisons around the world, our government is:

- holding thousands of people in prison for years without charges
- torturing and abusing prisoners in violation of US and international laws
- secretly sending some prisoners to countries where we know they will be tortured (“extraordinary rendition”)

Many of these “terrorism suspects” were picked up in sweeps or turned in for rewards--the government has never shown any evidence against most of them.

And last year Congress passed the Military Commissions Act, taking away these prisoners’ right to challenge their imprisonment in court (“habeas corpus”), along with many other guarantees of human rights. (over for more on the MCA).

***Don't let our government throw out the freedoms and rights
that so many people have fought for.***

It's only a democracy if we hold our government accountable!

***Tell Congress to: Shut down Guantanamo
Repeal the Military Commissions Act***

For more on torture, indefinite detention, and the Military Commissions Act and to find out how you can help stop torture and indefinite detention, go to www.actagainsttorture



- Locking up people indefinitely without charges or access to court
- Imprisoning people secretly
- Ignoring international law
- Using evidence obtained through torture

The Military Commissions Act makes it all legal

This law, passed by Congress and signed by George Bush last year, allows the government to classify anyone--citizen or non-citizen--an "enemy combatant"--the definition is extremely broad.

The Military Commissions Act:

- Strips anyone held as an "enemy combatant" of the right to appeal their detention in court (the "habeas corpus" right guaranteed in the Constitution).
- Prohibits courts from considering international law when making decisions under the War Crimes Act
- Gives the president dictatorial authority to decide what the Geneva Convention means and how to apply it
- Prohibits people from using the Geneva Convention as a source of rights in US courts
- Permits the use of evidence obtained through cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment (in other words, torture)
- Permits the use of classified evidence without the defendant being able to challenge how the evidence was obtained
- Gives military commissions the power to impose death sentences without trials that protect defendants' rights.

**Stand up for human rights and the rule of law!
Tell Congress to repeal the Military Commissions Act.**

To find out more: Center for Constitutional Rights, www.ccr-ny.org
Amnesty International, www.amnesty.org

To join the campaign to repeal the Military Commissions Act,
go to www.actagainsttorture.org