

Board of Governors of the Society of American Law Teachers—June 25, 2007

Statement on the Full Restoration of Constitutional Rights, Including Habeas Corpus

Habeas corpus has long been regarded as a critical human right because those denied the ability to appear before a judge cannot effectively challenge any violations of their rights, even arbitrary and unlawful detention, or torture. Simply stated, the rule of law is eviscerated when legislation such as the Military Commissions Act of 2006 prevent courts from fulfilling their primary responsibility to ensure that those entrusted with state power comply with the Constitution.

Since the hasty passage of the USA PATRIOT Act in October 2001, we have seen a constant erosion of our most basic constitutional rights in the name of "our security." As many have pointed out, however, we are all less secure when the rights of any individual can be arbitrarily revoked.

We join with Amnesty International, the American Civil Liberties Union, the National Lawyers Guild, the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, the National Religious Campaign Against Torture, and thousands of other organizations and individuals in calling on our representatives in the House and the Senate to begin to reverse this process, and to work for the full restoration of constitutional rights, by supporting the Habeas Corpus Restoration Act, S. 185 and H.R. 1416.

We also encourage all who are able to join the "Day of Action to Restore Law and Justice" rally in Washington, D.C. on Tuesday June 26, 2007, when the House Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties will be holding a hearing on this matter.

The Society of American Law Teachers (SALT) is the largest membership-based organization of law professors in the United States.

Best regards,

Eileen Kaufman and Tayyab Mahmud
Co-Presidents SALT