



CCR Returns to Supreme Court over Guantánamo

On December 5, CCR will return to the Supreme Court on behalf of the men at Guantánamo with the cases *Al Odah v. U.S.* and *Boumediene v. Bush*. These cases are the first to directly challenge the constitutionality of the Military Commissions Act of 2006 and its stripping of *habeas corpus* jurisdiction from federal courts.

Al Odah v. United States, filed jointly by CCR and co-counsel law firms, consists of eleven *habeas* petitions, including many of the first ones filed after CCR’s 2004 victory in *Rasul v. Bush*. *Boumediene v. Bush* is on behalf of six Bosnian-Algerian humanitarian workers seized by the U.S. military
continued on page 4



Holding Private Security Contractors Accountable: The Case Against Blackwater

On October 11, the Center for Constitutional Rights filed a civil case against the notorious private security contractor Blackwater USA for the killing of innocent Iraqi civilians. The case was brought in cooperation with Burke O’Neil LLC and Akeel & Valentine, P.C.

Blackwater USA is a private military contractor whose heavily armed personnel opened fire on innocent Iraqi civilians in Baghdad’s crowded Nisoor Square on September 16, 2007, killing 17 civilians. Media coverage

of this incident has put an international spotlight on how private contractors in Iraq have operated outside of the law through the use of mercenaries who disregard all legal constraints. CCR is working to ensure that these companies are not shielded from accountability for their actions and to show that government contracts are not a license for impunity.

CCR’s lawsuit asserts that Blackwater violated U.S. law and “fostered a culture of lawlessness amongst its

employees, encouraging them to act in the company’s financial interests at the expense of innocent human life.” The case, *Estate of Himoud Saed Atban, et al. v. Blackwater USA, et al.*, was filed on behalf of an Iraqi citizen who was injured by Blackwater employees during the incident and the families of three deceased men.

In the lawsuit, CCR alleges that Blackwater violated the Alien Tort Statute (ATS) in committing extrajudicial
continued on page 2

Inside

- 2 From the Executive Director
- 2 Victory Against CACI
- 3 Filing Charges Against Rumsfeld
- 3 CCR Welcomes New Board Members
- 4 Guantánamo
- 6 Maher Arar
- 7 Pakistan and the U.S.
- 7 Victory for the LA 8
- 8 CCR’s New Website
- 9 New Orleans
- 10 New Board Members
- 11 Donor Spotlight

From the Executive Director

This is a crucial and exciting time in CCR's history and in the U.S. judicial system. The Supreme Court of the United States will be hearing oral arguments in CCR's landmark cases *Al Odah v. U.S.* and *Boumediene v. Bush*. This case will demand the detainees' right to know why they are being held. Our campaign, *Beyond Guantánamo: Rescue the Constitution* is issuing a call



to action to all Americans concerned about the drastic erosion of rights in our country. It's about more than one person, or one place, or one time. Moving Beyond Guantánamo means we must carry the fight to Guantánamo and beyond to all the areas where the government is taking the law into its own hands, and, as a people, we must move beyond the example of torture and dehumanization set by our government. We need to restore justice and once again become a nation whose values are a beacon to other nations, not an embarrassment.

The expansion of executive power and the limitation of rights to all people, especially people of color and the disempowered, had tragic consequences during and after Hurricane Katrina. CCR's recent hearing, "New Orleans Coming Home: A National Hearing on the Role of Law Enforcement in the Reconstruction," examined the ways that law enforcement has had a negative impact on the ability of residents to access housing, education, employment, and other public services post-Katrina. New Orleans has become a national and even international symbol of government neglect and racism, but we also know that these times of crisis offer us opportunities as a national community to create innovative new solutions to problems that plague so many of our neighborhoods.

Looking back on my first year at the Center for Constitutional Rights, I'm grateful to have worked with such dedicated and passionate colleagues and allies to fight against this government's unprecedented expansion of power. I'm glad to have had the opportunity to meet some of our many donors around the country who help make our work possible. I look forward to meeting more of our committed donors at our upcoming events.

Vincent Warren
Executive Director

Blackwater (continued from cover)

killing and war crimes, and that Blackwater should be liable for torts such as assault and battery; wrongful death; intentional and negligent infliction of emotional distress; and negligent hiring, training and supervision. The suit seeks compensatory damages for death; physical, mental, and economic injuries; and punitive damages.

It was revealed in late October that the U.S. State Department had promised immunity to the Blackwater guards involved in the shooting in exchange for telling their stories to department investigators. The State Department's action demonstrates the importance of civil damages cases like ours for seeking justice when the government is protecting corporate interests at the expense of human life. •

Important Victory in Case Against CACI Corporation for Torture at Abu Ghraib

In a key victory in the fight to end torture, a federal court ruled on November 6 that CCR's lawsuit against a private military contractor in Iraq should be heard by a jury of Americans. The action was filed in 2004 against CACI and Titan, both of which were named in the military investigation of the Abu Ghraib scandal.

The court today ruled that the case could go forward against CACI, whose employees worked as interrogators in the prison. The court found that there was a dual chain of command where corporate employees were obliged to report abuse up the chain of command at CACI. The court dismissed the claims against Titan, whose employees worked as translators, reasoning that the military exercised exclusive control over translators.

The denial of summary judgment in the case means there will be a jury trial of a private military contractor for torture. We hope this decision will send a message to all contractors that they cannot act with impunity and outside the law.

"...No federal interest requires CACI be relieved of state law liability," wrote the judge. "...The task of sorting through the disputed facts regarding the military's command and control of CACI's employees will be for the jury."

The Center for Constitutional Rights, Burke O'Neil LLC, and Akeel Valentine PLC brought the suit as a class action on behalf of the hundreds of Iraqi torture victims at Abu Ghraib. •

No Place to Hide: Filing Charges in France Against Rumsfeld

While former Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld was visiting Paris on October 26 for a *Foreign Policy* magazine-sponsored talk, CCR, in conjunction with the European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights and the French League for Human Rights, filed a complaint with the Paris prosecutor, charging Rumsfeld with ordering and authorizing torture. As a result, Rumsfeld was forced to leave his meeting by a side door connected to the U.S. Embassy in order to avoid journalists and human rights attorneys waiting outside. CCR President Michael Ratner noted that the filing of this case “demonstrates that we will not rest until those U.S. officials involved in the torture program are brought to justice. Rumsfeld must understand that he has no place to hide.”

The criminal complaint brings charges under the 1984 Convention against Torture, which has been ratified by both the U.S. and France. The complaint argues that France is legally obligated to take up the case because authorities in the U.S. and Iraq have failed to do so, despite a well-documented paper trail implicating Rumsfeld and other high-level U.S. officials in direct as well as command responsibility for torture, and because the U.S. has refused to join the International Criminal Court. In addition, the complaint argues that French courts have an obligation under the Convention against Torture to

prosecute individuals responsible for acts of torture if they are present on French territory. Having resigned as Secretary of Defense a year ago, Rumsfeld can no longer try to claim immunity as a government official.

When the French prosecutor failed to act on the case, CCR formally requested the intervention of the U.N. Special Rapporteurs on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers, and on Torture or Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment who had co-authored a February 2006 U.N. Report on Guantánamo. Their report found that interrogation techniques authorized by Rumsfeld constituted torture and cruel treatment and were a direct violation of the Convention against Torture.

CCR will continue to work towards holding former Donald Rumsfeld accountable for his role in the Bush administration’s post-9/11 program of torture in Guantánamo, Abu Ghraib, and elsewhere. CCR had filed two previous criminal complaints in Germany under its universal jurisdiction statute, which allows Germany to prosecute serious international crimes regardless of where they occurred or the nationality of the perpetrators.

Visit our website at CCRjustice.org to view a video with Michael Ratner discussing this case. •

CCR is Grateful to our Foundation Funders for Their Support*

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*The foundations listed above provided leadership-level grants of \$5,000 or more between 6/1/07 and 11/15/07.

CCR Returns to Supreme Court over Guantánamo (continued from cover)

in Sarajevo and transferred to Guantánamo. Both cases were moving through the courts until February 2007, when the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that, as a result of the Military Commissions Act of 2006 (MCA), the Guantánamo detainees no longer had the right to *habeas corpus* review.

In April, the Supreme Court had declined to review these cases. However, in a highly unusual move, the Court reversed itself on its final day in session and announced in June that it would in fact hear them in the coming court term.

CCR brought the first Guantánamo case more than five years ago, leading to our 2004 Supreme Court victory in *Rasul*, which established U.S. courts' jurisdiction over Guantánamo detainees and affirmed their right to *habeas corpus* review of their detention and treatment in custody. Ever since, the administration has been trying to evade that decision, most significantly by introducing the Military



Commissions Act, which was passed in the final days of the previous Congress.

At stake in *Al Odah* are the essential building blocks of our democracy and our system of constitutional rights. Enshrined in Article I of the United States Constitution, *habeas corpus* is one of the most fundamental democratic rights, guaranteeing that no one can be arrested or detained without being brought before a judge, charged with a crime and having evidence

brought forward establishing probable cause.

Over twenty supporting *amicus* briefs were filed simultaneously, demonstrating support from, retired military officers; retired federal judges; former U.S. diplomats; a sitting Republican U.S. Senator; Canadian, British and European Parliamentarians; the American Bar Association; the Commonwealth Lawyers Association; law professors and legal historians; the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCR); and domestic and international non-governmental organizations.

Despite growing demands for closing the prison at Guantánamo Bay, the Bush administration continues to deny Guantánamo detainees the most fundamental legal protections afforded by U.S. law and the Geneva Conventions. We hope the Supreme Court will end this travesty once and for all and provide full, fair and prompt hearings, which are the very foundation of a free society. •

Update on Guantánamo Transfers

In November the Department of Defense transferred fourteen Saudi, eight Afghani, and three Jordanian detainees to their home countries. Approximately 75 detainees have been transferred out of Guantánamo this year. An additional 50 have been cleared for release, but fear torture or persecution in their home countries and remain at Guantánamo because no other countries have offered them resettlement. CCR is working to find safe third countries willing to accept these detainees so they will not remain indefinitely in isolation cells simply awaiting release.

Most detainees who are transferred to the custody of their home governments are released within a few days or months of their return. At the time of publication, CCR received word that the three recently transferred Jordanians have been released and are home safe with

their families. Not all detainees are so lucky, and CCR works closely with human rights organizations to monitor and advocate on behalf of detainees who trade one prison for another.

Two Tunisian detainees who were returned to Tunisia this year have been sentenced to three and seven years of imprisonment. Meanwhile, since the opening of the newly constructed "security wing" of Pul-e-Charkhi prison in Afghanistan, Afghan detainees from Guantánamo are no longer being released after their repatriation. Reports indicate that they are all being transferred to further detention in Pul-e-Charkhi, a prison notorious for torture and abuse. This national security wing of the prison was built by the U.S. government and is staffed by U.S. interrogators and guards. •

Bringing Guantánamo Cases to International Courts

In November, CCR filed an *amicus* brief in a Guantánamo case before the European Court of Human Rights. The petitioners in this case are some of the same petitioners in the case which will be heard by the U.S. Supreme Court in *Al Odah v. United States* and *Boumediene v. Bush*.

Boumediene and others v. Bosnia and Herzegovina is the first case on behalf of Guantánamo prisoners before an international tribunal. It is also the first case to address the issue of what responsibility other countries that assisted the U.S. in transferring men to Guantánamo have for the violations that occur there.

The petitioners are Bosnian Algerians who were detained in October 2001 in Bosnia on the basis of a diplomatic note delivered by the U.S. Embassy in Sarajevo to the Bosnian government. Though the note did not allege any supporting evidence, it asked the Bosnian government to arrest the men because of fears that they were involved in a plan to attack the Embassy. After an extensive investigation yielded no evidence to justify the arrests, the investigative judge of the Supreme Court of Bosnia ordered the men released for lack of evidence. However, immediately upon their release, the men were transferred to Guantánamo where they have been detained without charge since January 2002.

One of the issues the court will rule on is whether Bosnia has an obligation to do more diplomatically to try to get its citizens and residents out of Guantánamo, given that it helped put them there in the first place when it delivered the six men to U.S. authorities immediately after they had been cleared of any wrongdoing by a Bosnian court.

Many countries are guilty of unlawfully assisting the U.S. in its “war on terror” by illegally handing people over to U.S. authorities, letting the U.S. use their territory or airspace to conduct renditions to torture or as sites for secret CIA prisons, and committing other violations of national and international law. This is the first case that addresses the responsibility of a country for redressing these violations. •

CCR Attorneys Visit Former CIA “Ghost” Detainee

After a year of fighting to gain access to our client, Majid Khan, CCR attorneys were finally able to meet with him at Guantánamo in October. He is the first of 14 former CIA “ghost” detainees being held there to meet with a lawyer.

While visiting his brother’s home in Pakistan, Majid and other relatives were kidnapped by Pakistani intelligence personnel in the middle of the night in March 2003. He then disappeared for 3-and-a-half years, until he was transferred from a CIA secret detention facility to military custody at Guantánamo Bay in September 2006. CCR immediately filed a *habeas* petition on his behalf, but was denied access to our client because the government considers the CIA program and its interrogation techniques to be “top secret.”

According to President Bush, detainees in CIA custody were subjected to “an alternative set of procedures” during interrogations.

While the contents of their client interview are still classified and cannot be released publicly, CCR attorneys have written to members of the U.S. Senate requesting a classified briefing to discuss our client’s experience in CIA secret detention. •

Send Bush an early holiday gift, courtesy of CCR

The President needs to be reminded that he swore an oath to uphold the Constitution of the United States—his administration has been systematically destroying the Constitution since he took office.

With your help, CCR will flood the Oval Office with copies of the Constitution this holiday season. Visit our website to sign a letter to Bush, and CCR will send it along with a copy of the Constitution to the White House as a seasonal reminder that the Constitution needs to be upheld, not destroyed.



Seeking Justice on Behalf of Maher Arar

In the most renowned case of the Bush administration's practice of "extraordinary rendition," Syrian-born Canadian citizen Maher Arar was detained at JFK Airport in 2002 while changing planes on his way home to Canada. The Bush administration labeled him a member of al Qaeda and detained him for nearly two weeks, interfering with his access to counsel, and preventing his access to the courts. Rather than sending him home to Canada, they delivered him to Syrian intelligence authorities renowned for torture. He was tortured, interrogated and detained in a tiny underground cell for nearly a year before the Syrian government released him, stating they had found no connection to any criminal or terrorist organization or activity.

Just three months after he returned home to Canada, CCR filed suit on Mr. Arar's behalf against John Ashcroft and other U.S. officials, the first legal challenge to an "extraordinary rendition." In 2006 the District Court dismissed the case, *Arar v. Ashcroft*, citing national security and foreign policy considerations. CCR immediately appealed. In November, CCR board member David Cole argued the case before the Second Circuit.

Meanwhile, more information about the circumstances of Mr. Arar's rendition continues to come to light. After an exhaustive public inquiry, the Canadian government found that Mr. Arar had no connection to terrorism and, in early 2007, apologized to Mr. Arar for Canada's role in his ordeal and awarded him a multi-million-dollar settlement.

This past August, previously secret sections of the Canadian Commission's report that had been redacted on purported national security grounds were released pursuant to a Canadian court order. The newly



"In sharing my experiences with you, I hope that the effects of torturing a human being will be better understood. I also hope to convey how fragile our human rights have become, and how easily they can be taken from us by the same

governments that have sworn to protect them."
- Maher Arar in his testimony to Congress

released information revealed that the CIA was involved in Mr. Arar's detention starting when he was detained in New York, despite U.S. officials' arguments that Mr. Arar was merely "deported." Two weeks after Mr. Arar was detained at JFK, a Canadian Security Intelligence Service official wrote, "I think the U.S. would like to get Arar to Jordan where they can have their way with him."

On October 18, Mr. Arar testified before a House Joint Committee Hearing convened to investigate his rendition to Syria. Because the Bush administration continues to bar his entry to the United States, his testimony had to be given via video-link from Ottawa. During the hearing, individual members of Congress publicly apologized to him. The following

week, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice admitted to Congress that the government mishandled Mr. Arar's case. CCR is calling on the U.S. government to issue a full admission and formal apology to Maher Arar.

In his testimony, Mr. Arar told members of Congress, "In sharing my experiences with you, I hope that the effects of torturing a human being will be better understood. I also hope to convey how fragile our human rights have become, and how easily they can be taken from us by the same governments that have sworn to protect them."

CCR continues its work to clear Mr. Arar's name in the United States and to demand an end to the practice of outsourcing torture. •

Consider a Stock Gift to CCR

If you have appreciated stocks, donating them directly to CCR may be tax-wise, allowing you to avoid capital gains tax. You are also eligible to receive a charitable contribution deduction equal to the mean value of the stock the day it is transferred.

If you plan on making a gift of stock, please contact us at 212-614-6489 or at development@CCRjustice.org. We will need some information about the transfer in order to be able to properly acknowledge receipt of your generous gift.

To transfer stock, contact our broker, Michael Moffitt at 800-272-1370 c/o Smith Barney, 120 Albany Street, 4th Floor, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 DTC #: 418 (Please contact CCR for the account number)

Pakistan and the United States: All in the Name of Security

by Bipasha Ray

A horrific terrorist attack kills and maims scores of people. An ensuing crackdown results in illegal detentions, suspension of *habeas corpus*, appointment of judicial cronies, warrant-less spying on citizens, and endless extensions of executive power – all justified in the name of national security. Musharraf's Pakistan or Bush's America?

A presidential declaration of emergency and a constitution in "abeyance" – effective martial law – as seen in Pakistan cannot be imagined in the U.S. today. But the gradual degradation of civil liberties, continued illegal and extrajudicial detentions, and inching erosion of legal checks and balances has started the U.S. down a path that could lead to where Pakistan is today.

In his televised speech declaring emergency, Musharraf borrowed rhetorical themes from the Bush administration, couching his actions as unavoidable in the face of terrorists who threaten national security and activist judges who "overstep the limits of judicial

authority." Framing Pakistan as a country "on the verge of destabilization," he claimed that "inaction at this moment is suicide for Pakistan." He urged Pakistanis to trust him as their war-time leader and asked for patience – all very similar to Bush's exhortations in his "war on terror."

Perhaps, most indicative of his borrowing from Bush's line, was Musharraf evoking U.S. history to defend his emergency declaration. Switching to English for Western observers, Musharraf recalled Abraham Lincoln's suspension of *habeas corpus* during the Civil War: "[Lincoln] broke laws, he violated the Constitution, he usurped arbitrary power, he trampled individual liberties. His justification was necessity."

By eroding freedom in the name of preserving it, and shredding the constitution in the name of democracy, dictators ossify their reign. Almost 75 percent of Americans think the U.S. is on the wrong track (*Washington Post-ABC* poll). The events in Pakistan need to serve as a wakeup call to get the U.S. back on the right track. •

Victory for the LA 8



From left: Marc Van Der Hout, David Cole, Phyllis Bennis, Michel Shehadeh, Anjad Obeid

The federal government has finally agreed to drop its attempts to deport the final two members of the "Los Angeles 8." On October 30, the Board of Immigration Appeals dismissed all charges against Khader M. Hamide and Michel I. Shehadeh and approved a settlement in the case.

The settlement follows a January decision by the immigration judge to end the deportation proceedings because of the government's refusal to disclose evidence favorable to the immigrants in compliance with his orders, calling the government's actions in the twenty-year-long case "an embarrassment to the rule of law."

The government had been seeking to deport Hamide and Shehadeh since January 1987 based on their alleged support for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), a group within the Palestinian Liberation Organization. The 'support' consisted entirely of lawful First Amendment activities, including distributing newspapers, participating in demonstrations and organizing humanitarian aid fundraisers. CCR has doggedly worked on this case, along with our cooperating attorneys and the National Lawyers Guild, for over 20 years! •

Quiz: Identify Presidents A and B

"The year ahead will demand more patience, sacrifice, and resolve. It can be tempting to think that (Country A) can put aside the burdens of freedom. Yet times of testing reveal the character of a nation... Now (Country A) is engaged in a new struggle that will set the course for a new century. We can, and we will, prevail."
— President A

"Often in history, there comes a time for difficult decisions. For (Country B) also, this time has come, for important and difficult decisions. And if this is not done now, (Country B)'s wellbeing is in danger... Whatever I do, whatever I decide, it's in (Country B)'s best interests and this is my guiding principle – above all (Country B)."
— President B

(President A is George W. Bush, quote from his "2007 Address to the Nation."
President B is Gen. Pervez Musharraf, quote from his address declaring emergency on Nov. 10, 2007. Translation from Urdu by Bipasha Ray)

Visit our completely redesigned website at www.CCRjustice.org

Tell us what you think of our redesigned website at CCRjustice.org.

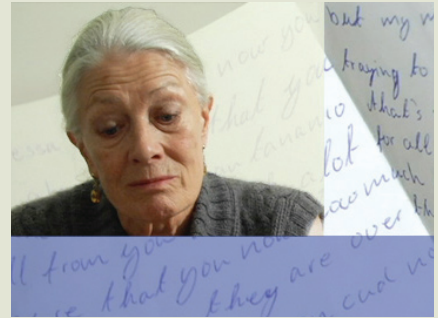
You'll find an updated and expanded case index; issue area pages; a much improved search function; as well as new features like video clips, audio clips from historic cases and podcasts with our attorneys speaking about our issues, clients and cases.

We now have dozens of videos posted. Our newest are, *What I Fear Most* with Eve Ensler, author of *The Vagina Monologues*, and *Stress Test*, about a U.S. soldier returning from Iraq, both speak about Guantánamo

and the current constitutional crisis.

Please take some time today to go to our new website, explore all it has to offer, and read about our new campaign, Beyond Guantánamo. Check back regularly as we will continue to add updates on actions you can take on the issues you care about.

If you have any suggestions or feedback on the website, please send them to info@CCRjustice.org. You can also donate online (one-time or recurring monthly donations). Given the holiday season and upcoming new year, we



Vanessa Redgrave reading a letter from a former Guantánamo detainee. See the video at CCRjustice.org

have added gift categories of "In memory of..." and "In honor of..." so you can make a gift in the name of someone you care about. •

CCR Celebrates Forty Years on the Frontlines for Social Justice

This year, the Center for Constitutional Rights celebrated our 40th Anniversary. In May, we kicked off the year-long celebration at our President's Reception, honoring the work and the people who make the Center what it is: our staff, board members, supporters, clients and allies.

Clips from our 40th anniversary video highlighting the four decades including historical footage and commentary by CCR staff and clients, can be viewed on our new website at CCRjustice.org/videos.

Thank you again, to all of you who have made special gifts in honor of the Center's four decades of fearless fighting for social justice. We couldn't do the work without you!



New Orleans Coming Home: Law Enforcement in the Reconstruction

On October 27, the Center for Constitutional Rights, in partnership with the New Orleans-based community organization Safe Streets, Safe Communities, sponsored a national hearing entitled, *New Orleans Coming Home: Law Enforcement in the Reconstruction*.

Representatives of national organizations and the House Judiciary Committee came together to hear compelling testimony from advocates and members of the community on how the role of policing has had an enormously negative impact on poor communities of color as they attempt to resettle in the storm-ravaged city of New Orleans. Aggressive law enforcement tactics and partnerships with private interests combined with an absence of sound public policy and community economic development were recurrent themes heard throughout the proceedings.

Panel members were visibly moved as witness after witness recounted harrowing accounts of harassment, brutality and police killings; consistent targeting of youth of color for minor infractions and school incidents; law enforcement collusion in the exploitation of day laborers by employers; and the use of police to intimidate and otherwise mistreat residents of so-called “mixed income” housing developments in an effort to drive low-income residents out.

Among the most moving testimony came from Yvette Thierry, a nurse whose brother-in-law was killed in 2006 when police arrived at his mother’s home while he was in a crisis brought about by a lack of medication. Police later claimed to have been fired upon, but the coroner’s report found no evidence of gunpowder residue on the victim.

The closing of the city’s only public hospital, Charity Hospital, and with it a total absence of medical care, has resulted in the incarceration of people with psychiatric disabilities with no opportunity for assessment and treatment. Criminal Court Judge Calvin Johnson tearfully testified that he is forced to advise families with mentally ill loved ones in crisis to call the police. To help deal with this unacceptable “diversion” program, Judge Johnson now presides over an innovative Mental Health Court intended to intercept people with mental health issues as they enter the criminal justice system, but he was emphatic about the injustice and inadequacy of funneling individuals into the prisons and jails due solely to a lack of medical services.

As New Orleans’ school-aged youth continue to wait for a fully functional public school system, the city has paid \$20 million to a private security firm to install metal detectors and maintain a



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heavy security presence in schools, including elementary schools. This massive investment in security comes at the expense of devoting resources to the “educational” part of the educational system and further puts young people at risk of harassment and abuse by police. Incredibly, the school administrator’s authority is usurped by these firms, leaving them powerless to intervene and prevent arrests of young people and children of color.

Public housing projects that were destroyed by Katrina have been replaced with “mixed-income” developments that landlords and police appear intent on ridding of their low-income tenants. Under

the guise of “police protection,” residents of these federally funded housing projects are being threatened with eviction for minor or perceived incidents and face daily police harassment.

CCR is now working towards creating specific recommendations based on these hearings, directed to local, state and national officials with benchmarks that can be evaluated and measured. Each organization represented on the hearing panel is committed to continuing to work closely with CCR and Safe Streets, Strong Communities—as well as with the authorities responsible for instituting the reforms—to ensure that the recommendations are brought to fruition. •

In Memorium Alfred Knobler

The Center for Constitutional Rights is saddened by the recent passing of our longtime friend and supporter Alfred Knobler at the age of 92. Over the course of his 20 year relationship with CCR, Alf hosted many parties for us at his home on Fire Island and was instrumental in introducing our work to many of his friends. His lifelong passion for social and racial justice was evident in his every act, and we are grateful that he chose to leave a legacy gift for CCR in his will.

CCR President Michael Ratner Awarded Puffin/Nation Prize for Creative Citizenship

Each year, The Puffin Foundation and The Nation Institute recognize an individual who has challenged the status quo through distinctive, courageous, imaginative, and socially responsible work of significance. This year, the prize will be awarded to CCR board President Michael Ratner.

CCR Receives Frederick Douglass Human Rights Award

On November 1, 2007, the CCR was honored to receive the Frederick Douglass Human Rights Award, given annually by the Southern Center for Human Rights to those who have made outstanding contributions to the protection of human rights. CCR was chosen for having "chosen principle over popularity to stand by those detained at Guantánamo Bay."

CCR Welcomes New Board Members

As of July 2007

Radhika Balakrishnan is a Professor of Economics and International Studies at Marymount Manhattan College, where she coordinates the International Studies Program. Having earned her Ph.D. in economics from Rutgers University, she also has worked as a program officer at the Ford Foundation. Her fields of research include gender and economic development, global inequality and labor issues. She is interested in the connection between global economic institutions and cross border organizing; the relationship among changing conditions of work, gender dynamics, and the global economy; in addition to theology and ethics.



Ajamu S. Baraka is Executive Director of the U.S. Human Rights Network, which serves more than 250 U.S.-based member organizations working on the full spectrum of human rights issues, and is a veteran grassroots organizer with roots in the Black Liberation Movement, anti-apartheid, and Central American solidarity struggles. Previously, he was Amnesty International's (USA) Southern Regional Director. In 1998, Baraka was honored by UN Secretary General Kofi Annan as one of 300 human rights defenders from around the world. He has received the "Abolitionist of the Year" award from the National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, and the "Human Rights Guardian" award from the National Center for Human Rights Education. Baraka has taught political science at various universities, including Clark Atlanta University and Spelman College.



Julie F. Kay is a Staff Attorney at Legal Momentum in the Sexuality and Family Rights Program. She works to expose the federal government's promotion of a harmful, right-wing agenda about women's autonomy, sexuality, and role in society and the family. In particular, Ms. Kay challenges gender bias and sex discrimination promoted by federal "abstinence-only" programs. Before joining Legal Momentum, Ms. Kay was a Legal Consultant to the Irish Family Planning Association where she designed and filed a lawsuit at the European Court of Human Rights on behalf of women deprived of their human rights by Ireland's abortion ban. Prior to that, Ms. Kay's experience included work as a Staff Attorney at the Center for Reproductive Rights and as a law clerk for United States District Judge Mark L. Wolf in Boston, Massachusetts. She graduated with a B.A. in Women's Studies and Social Studies from Harvard University and earned her law degree from Brooklyn Law School.



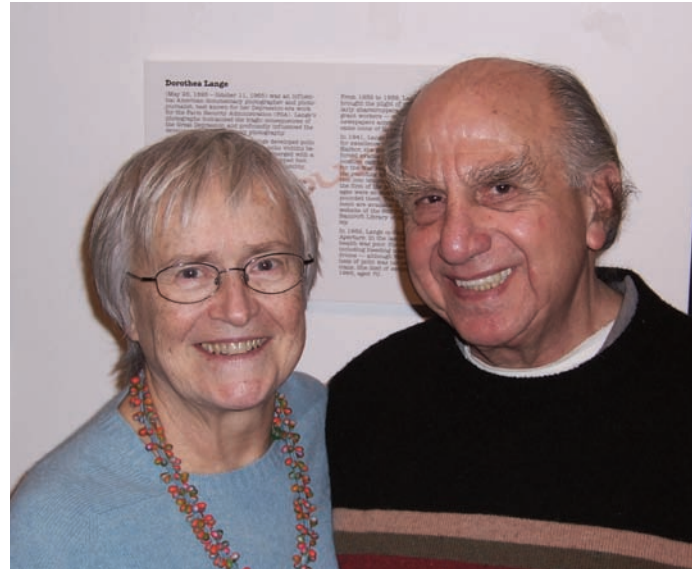
Donor Spotlight: Barbara and Bert Aubrey

Barbara and Bert Aubrey are staunch CCR supporters who recently increased their support by making a Leadership-level gift and joining CCR's Founders Circle. They did so by making a gift from Barbara's IRA.

Both native New Yorkers, Barbara attended CUNY and worked at Time Inc. (now Time Warner) for 20 years where her last position was Assistant Business Manager in charge of the Domestic and Foreign bureaus. Bert holds a bachelor's degree in engineering from NYU and a doctorate in physics from MIT, with a specialty in atomic physics. He worked for the NYC Environmental Protection Agency for 25 years. Barbara and Bert met 42 years ago at the Corner Bistro in New York's City's West Village and were married three years later.

Since retirement, the Aubreys have had more time to become politically involved, and in 2003 they joined CCR as donors. They see supporting CCR's litigation as an effective way to combat the Bush administration's human rights abuses. In particular, they appreciate the Center's efforts to hold Donald Rumsfeld and other high ranking U.S. officials accountable for war crimes, through our cases in Germany and France which seek to prosecute these individuals for their complicity in torture.

Says Barbara, "If I had known that I could make a gift directly from my IRA last year, I would have done it



sooner! It's a great way to avoid taxes that would otherwise be used to fund the war and Bush's torture policies, as well as a way for me and Bert to further support CCR's fight for justice."

For more information about IRA gifts, CCR's Founders Circle, or the Thelma Newman Society (CCR's planned giving program), contact Sara Beinert at 212-614-6448 or write: Sara Beinert, CCR, 666 Broadway, 7th Floor, New York, NY 10012 •

Special Opportunity in 2007—Donate from your IRA

If you're looking for the most tax-effective gift to make, your IRA may very well be the best choice.

The Pension Protection Act of 2006 presents a new giving opportunity. The law now allows individuals aged 70 1/2 and older to make gifts to qualified charitable organizations like ours, using funds transferred directly from their IRAs. You can donate any amount up to \$100,000 on or before Dec. 31, 2007 and will not have to pay taxes on the amount transferred.

Your Benefits

- The transfer counts toward your minimum required distribution as long as you have not yet received your 2007 distribution.
- The transfer generates neither taxable income nor a tax deduction, so you will receive the benefit even if you do not itemize your tax deductions.
- You can witness the difference your philanthropic dollars make.

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