

MEMORANDUM

To: Aryeh Neier
From: Ann Beeson, Nancy Chang, Sophia Conroy, and Hyon Seo Kwon
Date: June 19, 2009
Subject: National Security & Human Rights Campaign's Grant Recommendations for Docket II of 2009

The National Security & Human Rights Campaign recommends eleven grants on its second docket of 2009.

The Campaign is recommending a set of six grants totaling \$1.12 million to support its goal of building the capacity of Arab, Middle Eastern, Muslim, and South Asian (AMEMSA) organizations to fight abusive national security policies that are disproportionately directed at their communities and to promote the acceptance of AMEMSA communities in American society. Collectively the AMEMSA groups recommended on this docket represent a wide swath of the communities that have become targets of national, state, and local law enforcement profiling since the 9/11 attacks.

The six AMEMSA groups share much in common. Each is fairly young; in fact three were formed specifically to address the backlash against the AMEMSA community in the wake of the 9/11 attacks. Each embraces progressive values and grounds its work in direct engagement with local communities while, at the same time, striving for policy reforms with national reach. In addition, each organization understands that all AMEMSA communities face a set of shared challenges that are best met by working collaboratively across ethnic, religious, racial, and regional divides. With the Campaign's strong encouragement, these groups are collaborating with one another, as well as with traditional civil rights, civil liberties, and human rights groups, on how to leverage the opportunities opened up by the change in administration to end the surveillance and profiling of AMEMSA communities and amplify the voice of AMEMSA communities at policy tables. These groups are headquartered in five cities across the U.S. – Washington, DC, New York City, San Francisco, Seattle, and Dearborn, Michigan.

Three of the six AMEMSA organizations recommended on this docket are currently OSI grantees. The **Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services (ACCESS)** requests renewed support for its National Network for Arab American Communities, a national network of 19 independent community-based organizations located in 10 states. ACCESS works directly with grassroots institutions to meet the needs, and represent the concerns, of Arab-Americans, and to advocate for policy reform. **Muslim Advocates**, a 501(c)(3) organization formed by the National Association of Muslim Lawyers, brings legal and political expertise to national policy debates on the discrimination faced by Muslim Americans and Muslim American charities. Renewed support to **OneAmerica** (formerly Hate Free Zone Washington) will allow it to continue making significant

strides in its civic engagement work in AMEMSA and immigrant communities in Washington State.

The three other AMEMSA organizations recommended on this docket would be new OSI grantees. The **Asian Law Caucus** aims to deepen its work to bring an end to intrusive stops and questioning of AMEMSA travelers at the U.S. border by the U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and to combat FBI and local law enforcement profiling of AMEMSA and immigrant communities in northern and central California. **South Asian Americans Leading Together** (SAALT) seeks to expand its work against profiling and discrimination against South Asians and in support of immigration reform through policy analysis and advocacy, collaborating with civil and immigrants' rights groups on national campaigns, increasing media advocacy on the part of the South Asian American community, engaging in community education, and collecting and documenting discrimination against South Asians. The **Sikh Coalition** requests funding to continue its advocacy and grassroots mobilization in the Sikh community to combat profiling by national security agencies, including the Transportation Safety Administration, and to embark on a project that will prepare New York City officials to protect the rights and liberties of the AMEMSA community in the event of a future terrorist attack on the U.S. The Equality and Opportunity Fund joins the NSHR Campaign in recommending grants to ACCESS, SAALT, and OneAmerica for their work on immigrants' rights.

The Campaign is recommending five additional grants to the following organizations:

A grant to the **American Civil Liberties Union Foundation** will advance the Campaign's priority of restoring broad privacy protections and limitations on domestic spying by supporting the national ACLU-F and five state affiliates in jointly launching the Exposing and Opposing Government Surveillance Initiative.

To advance the Campaign's priority of building a broad constituency of credible messengers to oppose and seek accountability for torture, we are recommending two grants. The **National Religious Campaign Against Torture** and its project, Evangelicals for Human Rights, will focus on galvanizing faith-based communities across the nation to advocate for a permanent end to U.S.-sponsored torture and the creation of a nonpartisan Commission of Inquiry to investigate the authorization and use of torture in the "war on terror." A renewal grant to the **New York University School of Medicine's Bellevue/NYU Program for Survivors of Torture** will allow Dr. Allen Keller and his colleagues from the health care profession to continue the Advocating Against Torture: The Clinician's Voice Project.

In support of the Campaign's priority of ending arbitrary and indefinite detention domestically and internationally, a grant to the **Center for Strategic and International Studies** will allow it to monitor the Obama administration's efforts to close Guantanamo and advance policy recommendations for reforming U.S. policy on the detention of terrorism suspects to comply with human rights and constitutional values.

To advance the Campaign's goal of building credible voices in the movement for a progressive national security policy and shifting the paradigm away from the "war on terror," the Campaign recommends a renewal grant to the **Eisenhower Project** to continue to open channels of communication between civilians and the military, and to expand its high school, university, and public education on the exponential growth of the military-industrial complex and how America's foreign and military priorities are being misdirected.

Lastly, the Campaign recently made three out of docket grants to fund time-sensitive projects. The first grant was provided to **Physicians for Human Rights** to support a multi-media campaign to leverage an investigative report by James Risen of the *New York Times* about the massacre of around 2,000 detainees by the Northern Alliance in Dasht-e-Leilil, Afghanistan in November 2001. The second grant was provided to **Link Media, Inc.**, to support the production and broadcast of a video recording of a public forum that was organized by the Culture Project on May 1, 2009 in New York City on seeking accountability for violations of human rights in the "war on terror." The third grant was provided to the **National Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT)** to support the Religious Witness Calling on President Obama to Create a Presidential Commission of Inquiry Project, through which faith-based communities from across the country commemorated Torture Awareness Month. To build public demand for accountability for torture, on June 11, NRCAT held a press conference at the National Press Club that was followed by a public procession to the White House of national faith leaders and 350 supporters, and a private meeting between faith leaders and White House staff.

The total grant amount for the eleven grants on the National Security and Human Rights Campaign's second docket of 2009 is \$2,165,000. Our grant write ups and financial summary are attached.