

MEMORANDUM

To: US Programs Staff
From: National Security and Human Rights Campaign Staff – Nancy Chang, Sophia Conroy, and Hyon Seo Kwon
Date: June 8, 2010
Re: NSHR Campaign July 2010 Docket Grant Recommendations

This memo describes eight grant recommendations that the NSHR Campaign plans to present on the July 2010 Docket and a rapid response grant that the Campaign plans to present to Ann Beeson in the next week. These recommendations total approximately \$2,805,000.

NSHR CAMPAIGN JULY 2010 DOCKET GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS

1/ Center for International Policy

\$100,000 over nine months (renewal grant; project support)

To renew support for the Center for International Policy's National Campaign to Close Guantanamo and Defend American Values, which aims to build the political environment necessary to close the prison at Guantanamo Bay, try terrorism suspects in Article III courts rather than hold them indefinitely or try them in military commissions, and build support for a progressive human rights and national security agenda. Launched with OSI support last July under the leadership of former Representative Tom Andrews of Maine, the nonpartisan campaign will continue its efforts to counter fear-mongering and target key jurisdictions for grassroots activism. Located in Washington, D.C., the Center for International Policy was founded in 1975 by former diplomats and peace activists in the wake of the Vietnam War, and promotes a U.S. foreign policy based on international cooperation, demilitarization, and respect for human rights.

2/ Center for National Policy

\$250,000 over 18 months (new grant; project support)

To support the Center for National Policy's Building a Resilient America: Informing and Advancing Resilience as a National Security Imperative Project. In coordination with other NSHR Campaign grantees, including the New America Foundation, Human Rights First, and the National Security Initiative, the Center will form a Resilience Working Group to promote national resilience and adherence to American values in the face of terrorist threats instead of overreaction, and to explore ways for the communities to collaborate to their mutual advantage. The Center will develop a strategic communications agenda to promote resilience that will include an online journal and a dedicated new media outreach project that will feature articles by, and interviews with, leading scholars, NGOs, and grassroots communities that highlight best practices and lessons learned. Founded in 1981, the Center is an independent think tank located in Washington, D.C. that works to understand emerging global threats and promote civil dialogue around innovative and practical solutions that demonstrate anew America's resilient spirit and capacity for renewal.

3/ Federation of American Scientists

\$225,000 over three years (\$175,000 from the NSHR Campaign and \$50,000 from TIF) (renewal grant; project support)

To renew support for the Federation of American Scientists' Project on Government Secrecy, which challenges excessive government secrecy and promotes public access to government information, particularly in the areas of intelligence, national security, and foreign policy. Led by Steve Aftergood, the Project undertakes policy advocacy, provides original reporting on developments in government secrecy policy via a blog and an email newsletter, *Secrecy News*, publishes suppressed or hard-to-find government records of public significance, and supports journalists reporting on secrecy, information policy, and intelligence policy. The Federation of American Scientists was formed in 1945 by atomic scientists who had worked on the Manhattan Project, and is founded on the belief that scientists have a unique responsibility to both warn the public and policy leaders of potential dangers from technological advances and to show how good policy can increase the benefits of new scientific knowledge.

4/ Human Rights First

\$700,000 over two years (\$450,000 from the NSHR Campaign and \$250,000 from 2010 JEHT Emergency Fund) (renewal grant; project support)

To renew support for Human Rights First's Law and Security Program as it works to restore respect for human rights to U.S. national security policy, and to provide renewed rapid response support for expanded and timely efforts to restore human rights to U.S. detention and interrogation policies. Through policy advocacy, litigation, public education, popular culture, the Law and Security Program will continue to promote credible spokespersons such as retired military officers and interrogators and former prosecutors and judges in supporting an end to the torture and arbitrary detention of terrorism suspects, securing accountability for the torture and abuse of terrorism suspects, and ensuring the utilization of the federal courts to prosecute terrorism cases. Human Rights First will also expand its work bridging national security experts and human rights advocates by participating in a Resilience Working Group composed of representatives from both groups, and will expand its engagement and placement of national security validators in the media and on speaking tours in targeted jurisdictions to persuade policy makers and the American public that national security policy must comply with human rights principles. Human Rights First was founded in 1978 and engages in public education, advocacy, and litigation to close the gap between global legal standards and their enforcement and to promote concrete measures for making human rights standards relevant, enforceable, and permanent.

5/ National Security Initiative

\$300,000 over 21 months (renewal grant; project support)

To support the National Security Initiative as it continues its rapid response, messaging, and state and local outreach efforts to press for closing Guantanamo, ending preventive detention, and trying terrorism suspects in Article III courts that it started in 2009 with OSI funding. With increased support, NSI will also assume a facilitation role in a new effort to build strategic alliances between national security experts and human rights advocates through a Resilience Working Group. The National Security Initiative and its (c)(4) sister organization, the National Security Network, were founded in 2006 to revitalize America's national security policy by bringing cohesion and strategic focus to the progressive national security community through the development of innovative, pragmatic, and principled national security solutions.

6/ New America Foundation

\$300,000 over 13 months (new grant; project support)

To support the New America Foundation as it coordinates a dedicated effort to strengthen trust and coordination between the national security and human rights communities through a Resilience Working Group, and to pursue a multi-pronged effort to work with the current administration on issues central to maintaining civil liberties. The New America Foundation will identify a set of domestic counterterrorism policy areas in which it can be established that acting contrary to established American constitutional principles is less effective in protecting national security and sends the wrong signal to our adversaries overseas. After a period of research, the New America Foundation will publish its findings and seek to build high-level buy-in from domestic law enforcement and counterterrorism experts, and then craft a dissemination strategy to push the findings to federal agencies, states, and major metropolitan areas. This grant allows NAF to regrant funds to conduct research, retain national security experts, and coordinate meetings. The New America Foundation is a D.C.-based nonprofit, nonpartisan public policy institute that invests in new thinkers and new ideas to address the next generation of challenges facing the United States.

7/ OMB Watch (dba Focus Project)

\$150,000 over 14 months (renewal grant; project support)

To renew support for OMB Watch's Charity and Security Network, a collaboration launched with OSI support in May 2008 between civil liberties organizations, civil rights organizations, grantmakers, charities, and foundations that seeks the overhaul of a set of draconian U.S. counterterrorism measures that are creating a chilling effect on U.S.-based humanitarian aid and development organizations, charities, and nonprofits that engage in international activities. The Network will advocate for a platform of recommendations it adopted in January 2010 to reform counterterrorism measures that place U.S.-based organizations at risk of criminal prosecution for providing "material support" when providing humanitarian aid and peacemaking support in regions under the *de facto* control of designated terrorist groups. OMB Watch, founded in 1983 and based in Washington, D.C., is a research and advocacy organization dedicated to promoting government accountability and citizen participation in public policy.

8/ Proteus Fund

\$750,000 over one year (renewal grant; project support)

To renew support for the National Security and Human Rights Pooled Fund (to be renamed this summer as the Security & Rights Collaborative), a collaborative fund established with support from OSI and Atlantic Philanthropies in 2008. The Pooled Fund seeks to leverage new funds for the NSHR field and support Campaign strategies that are particularly suited for collaborative grantmaking, including: (1) building the field, with a particular focus on building the capacity of Arab, Middle Eastern, Muslim, and South Asian organizations; (2) building and supporting the implementation of collaborative communications capacity for the field; and (3) providing rapid response grants to support communications work. The Proteus Fund, founded in 1994 and based in Massachusetts, administers a number of donor collaborative structures.

NSHR CAMPAIGN RAPID RESPONSE GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS

1/ University of San Francisco School of Law

\$30,000 over one year (new grant; project support)

To support the University of San Francisco School of Law's Witness to Guantanamo Project (W2G), which aims to document acts of torture and abuse of detainees held at Guantanamo and the failure of the U.S. government to provide them with due process, and educate the public, the media, policy makers, and academics about these grave legal and human rights violations. W2G

conducts in-depth interviews with former Guantanamo detainees and witnesses, and these interviews are available on its website, <http://www.witnesstoguantanamo.com>, to reveal and preserve the truth of what occurred at Guantanamo to help prevent such breaches from being repeated in the future by the U.S. government. W2G is led by Professor Peter Honigsberg of the University of San Francisco School of Law, the author of *Our Nation Unhinged; the Human Consequences of the War on Terror* (University of California Press 2009), and its advisory board includes U.C. Irvine School of Law Dean Erwin Chemerinsky, Boalt Hall Law Professor Laurel Fletcher, U.C. Davis Professor Almerindo Ojeda, Reprieve Director Clive Stafford Smith, and Center for Constitutional Rights President Michael Ratner.