

To: U.S. Programs Staff
From: NSHR Campaign Staff – Nancy Chang, Sophia Conroy, Carol Schlitt, and Emma Greer
Date: August 29, 2011
Re: NSHR Campaign Grant Recommendations for the October 2011 Dockets

This memo describes 12 grants that the NSHR Campaign plans to recommend on its October 17, 2011 docket, as well as one recommended grant from NSHR that will be presented on the Democracy and Power Fund's third docket, and one grant that we will likely co-fund with D&P and that will be presented on the Democracy and Power Fund's final docket of the year. One \$50,000 and under grant that Diana approved in July is also described. These recommendations total \$3,440,000 in NSHR Campaign funds.

1. Grants Recommended in the NSHR Campaign's August 2011 Docket

American Civil Liberties Union Foundation

\$300,000 over two years (renewed grant; project support)

A grant to the ACLU Foundation will provide renewed project support for the *State Campaigns to Oppose Unchecked Government Spying Project*, which will expose and contest unwarranted government surveillance and halt the proliferation of a nationwide domestic intelligence system to monitor and control First Amendment-protected activities. This project is part of the ACLU's strategy to combat government surveillance across the U.S. through local advocacy. In 2009, the NSHR Campaign supported projects in five states (IL, MA, MD, NY, and WA). This renewal grant will support a deeper dive in three of those states (MA, NY, and WA). The ACLU-MA will engage in Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) litigation that will shed light on state and local biometric and other intrusive surveillance technologies, the actions of the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Forces, suspicious activity reporting by the Boston Police, and monitoring of social networking by the Commonwealth's two fusion centers, which are hubs for government surveillance and intelligence gathering. Using policy advocacy, litigation, scholarship, research, communications, and public education, ACLU-NY will work to counter expanding unwarranted police surveillance and intelligence-gathering through FOIA requests on the NYPD. The ACLU-WA will continue its work on the intersection of technology, privacy, civil liberties, and political/religious government surveillance, and its investigation into the Washington State Fusion Center. The ACLU national office will coordinate efforts and provide critical support to the three local affiliates.

Amnesty International USA, Inc.

\$300,000 over two years (renewed grant; project support)

A renewed grant to Amnesty International USA (AIUSA) will support the *Security with Human Rights Campaign* in its efforts to mobilize and increase the efficacy of grassroots advocates and activists. The *Security with Human Rights Campaign* will focus on the policy goals of: (1) ending unlawful detention at Guantanamo, Bagram, and other U.S. facilities; (2) ensuring accountability for the U.S. government's use of torture, including the full investigation and prosecution of those responsible; and (3) upholding the human rights of victims of U.S.-sponsored terrorism. As a constituency-based organization, AIUSA members will focus on bringing to national attention individual cases that highlight policy concerns, such as the case of Canadian/Syrian torture victim Maher Arar, whose appeal of the denial of his claim for restitution has been rejected by the U.S. Supreme Court. Amnesty also intends to launch the

“My America Initiative” to stimulate debate in the U.S. about security, American values, and human rights.

Bill of Rights Defense Committee

\$300,000 over 2 years (renewed grant; project support)

This grant will renew core operating support for the Bill of Rights Defense Committee, a national grassroots organization that engages in public education, grassroots mobilization, policy advocacy, research, and communications to defend the civil liberties and human rights that have been eroded through U.S. counterterrorism efforts. BORDC’s local campaigns currently focus on promoting ensuring that local law enforcement does not engage in unwarranted surveillance or profiling, and on promoting executive accountability for torture. BORDC also engages affinity groups of lawyers and teachers across the country.

Center for Investigative Reporting

Approximately \$250,000 over 2 years (renewed grant; project support)

This grant will renew project support for the Center’s investigation, *America’s War Within: Investigating the Legacy of Homeland Security*, which has been scrutinizing the expenditure of Department of Homeland Security funds and other streams of federal counterterrorism funds by state and local law enforcement agencies. The Project was launched with NSHR funds in 2008, and the Center now plans to expand its scope of investigative reporting to include the security, surveillance, and intelligence industries, and the role of information and surveillance technology in national security. An investigative news organization, the Center engages in in-depth, resource-intensive journalism and has produced hundreds of investigations for newspapers, magazines, television, radio and the Internet that have reached millions of people throughout the U.S.

Center for National Security Studies (fiscal sponsor: National Security Archive Fund)

Approximately \$400,000 over 2 years (renewed grant; project support)

This grant will renew core operating support for the Center for National Security Studies (CNSS). Founded in 1974 and based in Washington, D.C., CNSS is the oldest advocacy organization in the U.S. that is exclusively devoted to preventing claims of national security from eroding civil liberties and human rights. The organization serves as a critical source of analysis and is relied on by key members of the press, Hill staffers, and the administration for accurate information and informed advice – particularly on issues related to unconstitutional domestic surveillance, detention policy, and due process for terrorism suspects, discriminatory profiling in counterterrorism efforts; and maintaining a separation of powers.

Columbia Law School Human Rights Institute

\$210,000 over 18 months (renewed grant; project support)

A renewed project grant to the Columbia Law School Human Rights Institute (HRI) will support a project to foster *Network Building and Development of the National Security and Human Rights Litigation Community*. The aim of this work is to promote broad coalitions of litigators and their allies, generate new ideas, and develop international legal arguments and tools in response to counterterrorism policies and practices that negatively impact human rights. Working in consultation with key litigators and organizations that reflect diverse perspectives on post-9/11 counterterrorism issues, HRI plans to convene a series of three major conferences focused on: (1) detention and transfer of terrorism suspects; (2) domestic counterterrorism practices, including surveillance, terrorism-related prosecutions, and profiling; and (3) use of drones and the expanding role of the CIA and other actors that elude public and democratic

accountability. Founded in 1998 and based in New York City, HRI fosters human rights norms and strategies in the United States, promotes human rights in the global economy, and advocates for rights-respecting counterterrorism practices at the domestic and international levels.

Constitution Project

\$100,000 from NSHR and \$50,000 from OSI-DC (a total of \$150,000) over 16 months for the Task Force on Detainee Treatment (renewed grant; project support)

The Constitution Project (TCP) is a bipartisan, independent think tank based in Washington, D.C. that forges consensus reform recommendations to safeguard the U.S. Constitution and provides critical political and public support for those reforms. This grant will provide a second NSHR renewal grant for TCP's Task Force on Detainee Treatment, which—following the 2012 election—will release a comprehensive report on what is known and what remains classified but should be made known about the U.S. government's past and current treatment of detainees in connection with counterterrorism policies. The NSHR Campaign received approval for a \$250,000 first renewal grant to support this project on the second docket of 2011, but TCP is requesting additional support at this time after the loss of a crucial grant renewal. A grant of \$150,000 from the NSHR Campaign and OSI-DC will permit TCP to continue its robust investigation of terrorism suspects in U.S. custody until such time as pending grant requests are awarded. In the event that TCP fails to raise additional funds, it will produce a report with a scaled back project staff, a narrowed focus, and a trimmed budget for interviewing witnesses.

Focus Project, Inc. (operating as OMB Watch)

\$200,000 over two years (renewed grant; project support)

A grant to OMB Watch will provide renewed project support for its Charity and Security Network (CSN), a collaboration of civil liberties organizations, civil rights groups, grantmakers, charities, and foundations based in Washington, D.C., which was launched with OSF support in 2008. CSN works to reform national security policies and practices that create a chilling effect on U.S.-based humanitarian aid and development organizations, charities, and nonprofits that engage in international activities. Specifically, CSN educates the public and policymakers on the executive branch's designation of groups as "terrorist organizations" and freezing of their U.S. property and financial assets without notice. CSN also works to address concerns raised by the law prohibiting "material support" and which imposes severe criminal sanctions on any nonprofit organization that provides such support to designated terrorist organizations--even in the form of humanitarian aid directed to first responders in natural disasters or those working to reduce violence in conflict zones.

National Security Initiative

Approximately \$150,000 over 12 months (new grant; project support)

The Washington D.C.-based National Security Initiative (NSI) and its 501(c)(4) sister organization, the National Security Network (NSN), coordinate a network of progressive national security experts from across the U.S. that seeks to promote innovative, pragmatic, and principled national security solutions that draw on the best traditions of American foreign policy: a strong and flexible military combined with shrewd diplomacy, the effective use of alliances, and an unwavering commitment to America's basic values. NSI will develop and lead a one-year project to advance opportunities opened up by the Arab Spring to question and reform American counterterrorism policies that are eroding civil liberties and human rights at home and abroad. The project will aim to undercut stereotypes of Muslims as freedom-hating extremists, which have been implicitly or explicitly used to justify problematic policies, while it aims to put to rest "war on terror" metaphors and measures that not only are not needed but are counter-productive

to America's long-term foreign policy interests. The project will center on four regional dialogues (Iowa; Detroit, Michigan; Tallahassee, Florida; Research Triangle, North Carolina) that will be organized over the 12 months from November 2011 to October 2012 in conjunction with a university partner, a think tank partner, and human rights and affected community groups. The project will combine work with local media that reaches back to D.C. decision-makers with direct impact on D.C. decision-makers through briefings and reports, and will aim to empower human rights and affected community groups to be more effective long-term advocates for policy change at the state and national levels .

New America Foundation

Approximately \$180,000 over 12 months (new grant; project support)

The New America Foundation (NAF), a Washington, D.C.-based think tank, will develop and lead a one-year project in which it will serve as a bridge between AMEMSA community representatives and progressive national security experts within the Obama administration who are receptive to the research and ideas that NAF has to offer. The project will aim to incubate innovative approaches to domestic counterterrorism that reject intrusive surveillance and monitoring of AMEMSA individuals and communities through rights-focused national security policy papers and facilitated dialogues. The project is being planned, and if launched will be implemented, with input from AMEMSA thought leaders who are both eager to participate in the national security conversation with government officials and bring expertise to such conversations.

Physicians for Human Rights

\$300,000 over 2 years (renewed grant; project support)

This grant will renew project support for Physicians for Human Rights' (PHR) Anti-Torture Program, which mobilizes the skills and voices of medical and health professionals in order to restore human rights values to the treatment of terrorism suspects in U.S. custody. Over the next two years, the project will engage in research and advocacy to ensure that interrogation policies and practices prohibit and prevent abuse and that national and state professional ethics codes clearly prohibit health professionals from participating or observing the torture or abuse of national security detainees. The program will also seek accountability for torture and develop a pilot program aimed at securing redress for torture survivors who were detained by the U.S. government. PHR uses medical, scientific, and public health expertise to investigate, document, and oppose mass atrocities and gross violations of human rights. It has worked in over 40 countries, exposing human rights violations that impair health, and advocating for meaningful interventions and sound policies that would end and prevent such violations.

University of Southern California (American Muslim Civic Leadership Institute)

\$100,000 over 2 years (new grant; project support)

This grant will provide core support for the American Muslim Civic Leadership Institute (AMCLI) in its work to strengthen the capacity, impact, and collective voice of American Muslim leaders and organizations as they fight to resist discrimination and restore national security policies that protect human and civil rights. Since its launch at the University of Southern California's Center for Religion and Civic Culture in 2008, AMCLI's fellowship program has hosted leaders of diverse organizations that represent and serve Arab, Middle Eastern, Muslim and South Asian (AMEMSA) communities. AMCLI fellows learn about national security policies and laws that target members of AMEMSA communities and meet with key actors in the national security space. Fellows are trained in community organizing and alliance building and are empowered to push back against profiling and bigotry directed toward

American Muslims. A grant from the NSHR campaign will support AMCLI's national security and human rights programming for approximately 40 fellows over two nine-month terms.

2. NSHR Grants Presented by the Democracy and Power Fund

Arab American Institute Foundation

Approximately \$200,000 over two years (new NSHR grant; most likely general support but possibly project support)

A new grant to the Washington D.C.-based Arab American Institute Foundation (AAIF) from the NSHR Campaign will add this organization to a cohort of promising Campaign-supported Arab, Middle Eastern, Muslim, and South Asian (AMEMSA) organizations that are gaining a place at national security tables. Established in 1985, AAIF engages in research about Arab Americans, educational outreach, policy development and advocacy, coalition building, leadership development, and heritage programs to promote the Arab American experience. AAIF furthers the Campaign's goals by building civic engagement in a critical sector of America's AMEMSA population, fighting anti-Muslim bigotry, and utilizing opportunities opened up by the Arab Spring to build support for progressive national security policies that respect human rights.

Center for American Progress

\$350,000 over 18 months (renewed grant; project support)

A renewed grant to the Center for American Progress (CAP) will support *Re-shaping the Islamophobia Debate*, which aims to expose the networks and individuals that perpetuate anti-Muslim bigotry, correct misinformation about American Muslims before it can gain ground, and elevate an alternative narrative. This project will build upon the findings of CAP's new report, *Fear, Inc., The Roots of the Islamophobia Network in America*, which uncovered a small and closely coordinated network of donors, media outlets, activists, scholars, and political and religious leaders who share research and resources and disseminate false facts as they coordinate attacks on Muslims and Islam. CAP will continue its influential work over the course of this project using two complementary strategies, rapid reporting on its blog and in-depth investigative research and reporting to counter attacks on American Muslims as they arise, and providing advocates, policymakers, and allies with valuable tools they can use to shift the public's perceptions of American Muslims in the long-term.

3. \$50,000 And Under Grant Approved in July 2011

John Jay College Foundation

\$50,000 over one year (new grant; project support)

A grant to the John Jay College Foundation will provide project support for the *Art of Justice: 9/11 Performance Project* at the Gerald W. Lynch Theatre in New York City. This project will commemorate the tenth anniversary of 9/11 by using performances, documentary film and public dialogue to counter anti-Muslim bigotry, raise awareness about the U.S. government's torture program and garner support for accountability, and promote civic engagement. A grant from the NSHR Campaign will support outreach, education and panel discussions related to two plays in a series of three that the theatre will stage from September 8-11, 2011. To extend the reach of the project to a large national audience, the grant will also support production and distribution of short videos and podcasts based on the 9/11 Performance series to create awareness about the issues explored in the panels and plays.