

**US PROGRAMS**  
**National Security and Human Rights Campaign**


**2009 Docket II - Financial Summary**

**National Security and Human Rights Campaign**

2008 Total Grantmaking (T1:21095)	\$	8,647,784
2009 Approved Grantmaking Budget (T1:21095)	\$	7,000,000
2009 Out of Docket*	\$	(390,000)
2009 Docket I	\$	(1,490,000)
<b>Total 2009 Available Grantmaking Budget:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>5,120,000</b>

Organization	Grants Totals	T1 Code	2008	2009	2010
American Civil Liberties Union Foundation	500,000	21095		250,000	250,000
Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services <sup>1</sup>	200,000	21095		100,000	100,000
Asian Law Caucus	200,000	21095		100,000	100,000
Center for Strategic and International Studies	75,000	21095		75,000	
Eisenhower Project	160,000	21095		160,000	
Muslim Advocates	320,000	21095		160,000	160,000
National Religious Campaign Against Torture	130,000	21095		130,000	
New York University School of Medicine	180,000	21095		115,000	65,000
OneAmerica <sup>2</sup>	100,000	21095		50,000	50,000
South Asian Americans Leading Together <sup>3</sup>	100,000	21095		50,000	50,000
Sikh Coalition	200,000	21095		100,000	100,000
<b>Total Recommended:</b>	<b>\$ 2,165,000</b>		<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 1,290,000</b>	<b>\$ 875,000</b>
<b>GRANTMAKING TOTAL THIS DOCKET:</b>	<b>\$ 2,165,000</b>				

<b>Total 2009 Available Grantmaking Budget:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>5,120,000</b>
<b>Total Recommendations This Docket:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>(2,165,000)</b>
<b>Total 2009 Grantmaking Budget Remaining Upon Approval of This Docket:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>2,955,000</b>

  
Approval Signature

*June 25, 2009*  
Date

<sup>1</sup> The total grant recommended to ACCESS is \$300,000 over two years. NSHR is to provide \$200,000 and EOF's Immigrant Rights is to provide \$100,000.

<sup>2</sup> The total grant recommended to OneAmerica is \$200,000 over two years. NSHR is to provide \$100,000 and EOF's Immigrant Rights is to provide \$100,000.

<sup>3</sup> The total grant recommended to SAALT is \$200,000 over two years. NSHR is to provide \$100,000 and EOF's Immigrant Rights is to provide \$100,000.

\* The NSHR Campaign made four additional out of docket grants since the first docket of 2009. We provided \$25,000 to the National Religious Campaign Against Torture; \$200,000 to American Envirionics; \$15,000 to Link Media, Inc.; and \$25,000 to Physicians for Human Rights. The Campaign also contributed \$50,000 to the larger \$400,000 US Programs general support grant to the Institute for Policy Studies.

## 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

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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.

**National Security and Human Rights Campaign**

**Docket II of 2009**

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**Name of Organization:** American Civil Liberties Union Foundation

**Tax Status:** 501(c)(3) public charity

**Purpose of Grant:** To support the Exposing and Opposing Government Surveillance through Local Advocacy Project

**Previous OSI Support:** \$16,996,506  
\$7,400,000 from ACLU gen. support (2005-2009)  
\$2,625,000 from Chairman's Overseas (2004-2008)  
\$2,233,006 from US Programs (1997-2004)  
\$1,482,400 from Law & Society (1997-2002)  
\$850,000 from Repro Health & Rights (2001-2003)

**Organization Budget:** \$63,652,000

**Project Budget:** \$500,000

**Major Sources of Support:** Open Society Institute \$3,703,000; Oak Foundation \$750,000; Atlantic Philanthropies \$600,000; David and Lucile Packard Foundation \$350,000; William and Flora Hewlett Foundation \$300,000; Huber Foundation \$225,000; Gill Foundation \$200,000; Carnegie Corporation of New York \$150,000; LuEsther Mertz Charitable Trust \$150,000

**Amount Requested:** \$500,000

**Amount Recommended:** \$500,000 [NSHR Campaign, T1: 21095]

**Term:** Two years (July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2011)

**Matching Requirements:** None

**Description of Organization:**

The American Civil Liberties Union Foundation (ACLUF) is the 501(c)(3) arm of the ACLU, a nonpartisan public interest organization of more than 500,000 members devoted to protecting civil liberties. Founded in 1920, the ACLU is widely regarded as the nation's foremost advocate of individual rights. Headquartered in New York City, the ACLU has a significant presence in every state through its extensive network of affiliates and chapters. The ACLU engages in strategic litigation, integrates advocacy efforts, and raises public awareness of and challenges civil liberty violations. It operates national projects focusing on: technology and liberty; national security; human rights; religion and belief; immigrants' rights; voting rights; reproductive freedom; LGBT rights; women's

rights; racial justice; capital punishment reform; First Amendment rights; prisoners' rights; and drug law reform.

**Description of Program for Which Funding Is Sought:**

The Exposing and Opposing Government Surveillance through Local Advocacy Project (Surveillance Project) is a special initiative of the national ACLU and five state affiliate campaigns to roll back government monitoring of political activists and religious minorities in Illinois, Massachusetts, Maryland, New York, and Washington.

Coordinated by the ACLU's national office, the state affiliate campaigns will reinforce one another while they further through public education the ACLU's national agenda of opposing intrusive government surveillance.

Each of the five selected state affiliates will tackle the unique set of problems they are confronting in their jurisdictions. The Illinois ACLU will focus on the surveillance of political dissidents and Muslims. The New York Civil Liberties Union will continue to pressure the New York City Police Department (NYPD) to impose privacy protections as it seeks to implement a wide-scale video surveillance system, the Lower Manhattan Security Initiative. Given Washington's status as a border state and a technology hub, the Washington ACLU plans to work with technology and activist communities to research the use and misuse of data-sharing and surveillance technologies. Massachusetts has been the focus of several new security initiatives since the 9/11 attacks, and its ACLU affiliate intends to address "behavioral profiling" at Boston's Logan Airport, the creation of the "Commonwealth Fusion Center" to monitor political activism, and coordination between the FBI and campus police at local universities. The ACLU of Maryland will work with the Maryland Legislature to obtain full disclosure of the Maryland State Police's improper spying on peace activists and anti-death penalty activists that included covert infiltration of meetings and the false labeling of activists as "terrorists" in a criminal intelligence database, Red Squad-style practices that were a subject of extensive media coverage in 2008.

Four affiliates, Illinois, Massachusetts, New York, and Washington, will address the use of surveillance camera systems to track innocent residents. These campaigns will build on the innovative work of the New York Civil Liberties Union Foundation, which, with the support of OSI, launched its Security and Surveillance Project in 2007 to document and challenge the growing threat to privacy posed by the NYPD as the department has transformed itself into one of the world's largest counterterrorism agencies. These four affiliates will receive assistance from the ACLU's Technology and Liberty Project, which has developed a "Take Action" advocacy tool on the website, [www.youarebeingwatched.us](http://www.youarebeingwatched.us).

State affiliates in Illinois, Maryland, New York and Washington will use Freedom of Information Act requests and litigation to force law enforcement agencies to release documents demonstrating how political activists have been surveilled, and use media advocacy to mobilize policy makers and the public.

An oversight team<sup>1</sup> in the national office will lend its expertise to the five affiliates, coordinate the sharing of information and expertise, and offer legal and technical analyses and advocacy tools to ensure that the state campaigns remain strongly connected to leading national privacy groups and local coalition partners. The oversight team will also ensure that the affiliates' efforts are strategic, savvy, and non-duplicative.

### **Rationale for Recommendation:**

This grant will advance the National Security and Human Rights Campaign priorities of restoring broad privacy protections and limitations on domestic spying; supporting credible voices in the movement for a progressive national security policy; and strengthening the capacity of watchdog organizations to document government abuses.

As the Bush era ends and the Obama era begins, the future of privacy is at a pivotal moment. The “war on terror” has stoked an appetite for invasive law enforcement and data collection. According to the Homeland Security Department’s former chief privacy officer, the rash of post-9/11 “intelligence fusion centers” that have sprung up jeopardizes privacy because of ambiguous lines of authority, lack of oversight, and excessive secrecy. Moreover, outdated privacy laws are not up to the task of protecting Americans against powerful new technologies and increasingly massive databases.

The ACLU believes that societal apathy towards surveillance must be reversed in order to stop our nation from becoming a full-fledged surveillance society. The changed political climate provides new opportunities to restore the protection of privacy and political and religious tolerance. Because much of the implementation of government surveillance takes place at the state and local levels, a state-based strategy that includes litigation, legislative reform, and public education will complement federal policy advocacy.

The ACLU is one of only a handful of national organizations in the United States with a powerful and effective state infrastructure. The on-the-ground intelligence gained by its affiliates informs and leverages national efforts to enact change. At the same time, the technological expertise, advocacy tools, and coordination offered by the national office spur innovation at the state and local levels. Utilizing a “grants to affiliates” model, the proposed Surveillance Project will expose and oppose government spying programs in states with some the most advanced local surveillance programs in the nation.

The ACLU’s record of mobilizing grassroots constituencies through “grants to affiliates” projects has been impressive. Since 9/11, state-by-state campaigns have led to the passage by more than 400 communities in 46 states of resolutions against the PATRIOT Act, as well as the passage by 21 states of legislation opposing implementation of the REAL ID Act.

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<sup>1</sup> The national oversight team will be made up of: Dorothy Ehrlich, ACLU Deputy Executive Director; Jay Stanley, Communications Director of the Technology and Liberty Project; Mike German, Policy Counsel on National Security, Immigration, and Privacy in the ACLU Washington Legislative Office; Jameel Jaffer, Director of the ACLU National Security Project; Ateqah Khaki, Advocacy Coordinator of the ACLU National Security Project; and Geri Rozanki, ACLU Director of Affiliate Support.



The Surveillance Project's oversight team includes some of the nation's leading privacy experts and litigators. The team is committed to providing cross-departmental support to the five selected state affiliates, including: consulting on strategy; offering technical and legal expertise; providing communications and policy expertise; and developing coordinated media resources, web features, videos, talking points, and toolkits for outreach to the media, the public, and policymakers.

For the above reasons, OSI staff recommends a grant of \$500,000 over two years to support the Exposing and Opposing Government Surveillance through Local Advocacy Project of the American Civil Liberties Union Foundation.

**Name of Organization:** Arab Community Center for Economic & Social Services

**Tax Status:** 501(c)(3) public charity

**Purpose of Grant:** To provide core support to the National Network for Arab American Communities

**Previous OSI Support:** \$475,000  
\$200,000 from Civil Liberties (2006)  
\$150,000 from Immigrant Rights (2004)  
\$75,000 from U.S. Programs (2003)  
\$50,000 from Emma Lazarus Fund (1998)

**Organization Budget:** \$15,022,119.00 (FY 2008-2009)

**Project Budget:** \$1,703,606 (FY 2008-2009)

**Major Sources of Support:** Government grants \$911,000; Ford Foundation \$280,000; Carnegie Corporation of New York \$275,000; Four Freedoms Fund \$106,250; Proteus Fund NSHR Pooled Fund \$85,000; Corporate donations \$40,000; Rights Working Group \$30,000

**Amount Requested:** \$400,000 over two years

**Amount Recommended:** \$300,000 over two years  
\$200,000 [NSHR Campaign, T1: 21095]  
\$100,000 [EOF Immigrant Rights, T1: 24441]

**Term:** Two years (October 1, 2009 – September 31, 2011)

**Matching Requirements:** None

**Description of Organization:**

The Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services (ACCESS) was founded in 1971 in Dearborn, Michigan. ACCESS is a human services and advocacy organization committed to the development of the Arab-American community in all aspects of its economic, social, and cultural life. With a staff of 250, the organization provides an array of social, mental health, educational, cultural, employment, legal, and medical services to members of the Arab-American community and others in its offices in Michigan and elsewhere in the nation. The organization provides these direct services with a grassroots advocacy perspective, believing that one cannot serve one's community without also being a strong advocate for it. ACCESS also operates several national initiatives, including, the National Outreach Department, the Community Health and Research Program, and the Arab American National Museum.

### **Description of Program for Which Funding Is Sought:**

The National Network for Arab American Communities (NNAAC) is a project of the National Outreach Department at ACCESS. Formally established in November 2004, NNAAC is a national network of 19 independent Arab-American community-based organizations located in 10 states<sup>2</sup>. Its primary mission is to develop grassroots institutions that meet the needs, and represent the concerns, of Arab-Americans at the local level and that advocate for policy reform on the national stage. NNAAC provides to the organizations in its network: advice and assistance on capacity building, a forum for knowledge-sharing and collaboration, and a platform for speaking out on issues of concern to Arab-American communities. Local groups inform and advance NNAAC's national advocacy priorities, which are centered on immigrants' rights, national security and civil liberties, human services, and civic engagement.

A renewal grant from OSI would allow the NNAAC to:

**Strengthen and institutionalize its core program functions.** NNAAC provides capacity building trainings and workshops<sup>3</sup> for its member organizations on skills such as engaging in policy advocacy as 501(c)3 organizations, establishing and working in local and national coalitions, effectively communicating with the media, utilizing the internet and new technologies to advance advocacy goals, and accessing local funding sources. Network members can apply for one-on-one technical assistance from NNAAC staff as well as funding re-grants from NNAAC. Through its Arab-American Resource Corps, NNAAC currently trains and supports 95 Americorps-funded staff positions, which are held predominantly by Arab American women, in member organizations across the country and at ACCESS. Now in its seventh year, the Arab-American Resource Corps functions as a leadership development pipeline and has over 200 alumni, many of whom continue to serve as leaders in their communities, mentor current fellows, and organize NNAAC's National Arab American Service Day, through which, in April 2009, 1,500 volunteers participated in 30 service projects in 19 cities across the country.

**Support NNAAC's national security and civil liberties campaign.** NNAAC will continue to work with advocacy partners around the country on the range of post-9/11 issues affecting Arab and Muslim Americans. NNAAC plans to focus its education and advocacy efforts on: (1) racial and religious profiling of Arab and Muslim travelers at border crossings; (2) lack of a viable process for challenging wrongful inclusion on watch lists; and (3) FBI, DHS, and police surveillance and profiling. NNAAC will advocate for the collection of data by race and ethnicity on stops by Customs and Border Protection within 100 miles of a border crossing; draft and disseminate a policy paper on making a transparent redress process available to those wrongly placed on watch lists; and seek

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<sup>2</sup> NNAAC member organizations are located in New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Florida, Georgia, Massachusetts, Illinois, Michigan, California, Texas, New Jersey, and Washington, D.C. Of the NNAAC's 19 members, 15 are directed by women, many of whom were NNAAC member organization founders.

<sup>3</sup> NNAAC works with experts such as Wellstone Action, the Alliance for Justice, and the Building Movement Project to deliver these trainings and workshops at its conferences.

changes to FBI guidelines to limit investigations to circumstances in which there is probable cause of wrongdoing. NNAAC will continue to promote its Border Profiling Hotline, launched in December 2008 in partnership with the ACLU of Michigan, NAACP-Michigan, and Muslim Advocates, among others; and will continue to conduct Know Your Rights trainings and distribute English and Arabic-language Know Your Rights materials. ACCESS has previously helped pass, and may continue to seek, local ordinances banning police profiling based on immigration status and religious dress.<sup>4</sup> It plans to hold an Arab American Advocacy Week annually in Washington, D.C. The inaugural week this spring brought together about 23 NNAAC community leaders and included meetings with the Department of Homeland Security and members of Congress to discuss border profiling. NNAAC is both a regional coordinator and member of the Steering Committee of the Rights Working Group, and it has been involved in the development of the Rights Working Group's racial profiling campaign.

**Support NNAAC immigration reform campaigns.** NNAAC will support field-building and mobilization around comprehensive immigration reform by growing the capacity of its member organizations to organize at the local level by providing trainings and convenings, and by engaging its members and Arab businesses in calls for reform. As part of the new Reform Immigration for America campaign, NNAAC advocates forcefully for due process in the immigration system, eliminating the long security backlogs for Arabs and Muslims in the naturalization process, and in educating the community, coalition partners, and elected officials on the impact of immigration policy on Arab and Muslim communities.

**Support NNAAC's Register, Educate, Vote (REV) Campaign.** Launched in 2008, the REV Campaign seeks the long-term promotion of meaningful grassroots civic engagement in the Arab-American community. NNAAC plans to register at least 1,000 new voters, create and disseminate non-partisan voting materials in English and Arabic nationwide, disseminate information on the 2010 U.S. Census, and train network members on how to incorporate civic engagement into their organizational work.

NNAAC is currently staffed by a full-time Advocacy Coordinator who was hired with OSI support in 2007, and by part-time allocations of ACCESS's National Outreach Director, Advocacy Manager, and Senior Program Manager, and a Field Organizer.

### **Rationale for Recommendation:**

This grant will advance the National Security and Human Rights Campaign priority 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 them and to promote the acceptance of these communities in American society. It will also advance the Equality and Opportunity Fund's Immigrant Rights Portfolio's priorities of stemming the erosion of the civil and human rights of immigrants and linking immigration to broader national issues.

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<sup>4</sup> NNAAC has submitted a bifurcated budget.

The post-9/11 backlash and ensuing “war on terror” has disproportionately targeted and harmed AMEMSA communities and the organizations that serve them. Despite the enormous challenges these communities confront, the resources and infrastructure devoted to the protection of these communities against violations of their rights are woefully inadequate.

NNAAC was founded in 2004 to help fill this gap by providing a strong national voice for local Arab-American communities on the full range of issues affecting them, and strengthening local community organizations and deepening their capacity to promote economic empowerment, foster civil participation, and engage in policy advocacy. NNAAC brings to this work the credibility and leadership that ACCESS has achieved after nearly four decades as a service organization. Being connected to the on-the-ground experiences of its network members across country provides NNAAC with important data that it uses to elevate Arab-American voices and inform its national advocacy.

Despite its relatively sparse resources and the limited capacity of its member organizations, NNAAC plays a crucial role in immigration and civil liberties advocacy. NNAAC has assumed leadership roles in national coalitions such as the Rights Working Group and the Coalition for Comprehensive Immigration Reform, and it works closely with mainstream civil rights organizations and AMEMSA organizations recommended in this docket. National Outreach Director Taleb Salhab, who joined ACCESS soon after the NNAAC’s founding, is the driving force behind NNAAC and is highly respected for his skills as an organizer.

NNAAC’s membership continues to add members at a measured pace and is adding three new members this year, including a Somali social services agency in California and a Brooklyn-based organization of young Arab-American women who utilize new media for policy advocacy.

OSI provided early support to ACCESS to support its immigration organizing and advocacy. Support from OSI’s Emma Lazarus Fund helped ACCESS launch its work assisting community-based organizations to engage in policy advocacy, which led to the creation of the NNAAC, and OSI support over the past two years enabled NNAAC to hire its first full-time dedicated staff person. Increased OSI support will enable NNAAC to take its work to the next level, from start-up to a long-term institution.

For the above reasons, OSI staff recommends a renewal grant of \$300,000 over two years to support ACCESS’ National Network for Arab American Communities.

**Name of Organization:** Asian Law Caucus

**Tax Status:** 501(c)(3) public charity

**Purpose of Grant:** To support the Civil Rights and National Security Project

**Previous OSI Support:** \$150,000 from ELF Direct Services (1997)

**Organization Budget:** \$1,783,605

**Project Budget:** \$156,734

**Major Sources of Support:** Proteus Fund NSHR Pooled Fund \$50,000; Individual donors and special events \$63,469

**Amount Requested:** \$200,000

**Amount Recommended:** \$200,000 [NSHR Campaign, T1: 21095]

**Term:** Two years (July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2011)

**Matching Requirements:** None

**Description of Organization:**

Founded in 1972 and based in San Francisco, the Asian Law Caucus (“the Caucus”) is the oldest Asian Pacific Islander (API) civil rights organization in the country. The Caucus is committed to the pursuit of equality and justice for all sectors of society with a specific focus on addressing the needs of low-income Asian and Pacific Islanders and building pan-Asian alliances with other communities of color to challenge the ways in which national security concerns have been used to justify violations of the civil rights of API and other communities of color. The Asian Law Caucus works primarily - although not exclusively - in northern and central California, and has a staff of 18.

Through programs focused on employment and labor rights, housing advocacy and community development, immigrants’ rights, juvenile justice and education, and national security and civil rights, the Asian Law Caucus provides community legal services, engages in policy advocacy, and conducts grassroots outreach and public education. The Caucus played a supporting role in litigating the *Korematsu v. US coram nobis* ruling, in which a federal court judge in 1988 overturned the World War II-era conviction of Fred Korematsu for having violated a military relocation order targeted against Japanese Americans living on the west coast of the United States – a conviction that had been affirmed by the Supreme Court in 1944 in a much criticized ruling. The success of the *coram nobis* proceeding laid the groundwork for the passage in Congress in 1988 of a Japanese internee redress law that provided \$1.2 billion in compensation to internees. Subsequent to the 9/11 attacks, the Caucus has consistently denounced government action

taken in the name of national security that profiles Arab, Middle Eastern, Muslim, and South Asian (AMEMSA) communities.

**Description of Program for Which Funding Is Sought:**

With support from OSI for the Asian Law Caucus's Civil Rights and National Security Project, the Caucus will engage in the following activities during the proposed grant period to protect and mobilize AMEMSA communities that are being targeted by law enforcement:

**Profiling and intrusive searches and questioning at the border by U.S. Customs and Border Protection.** After two years of advocacy against, and Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) litigation to obtain information on, the widespread profiling and intrusive searching and questioning of AMEMSA individuals at the border by the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), the Asian Law Caucus published, in April 2009, a report titled *Returning Home – How the U.S. Government Violates Civil Rights at Our Nation's Doorsteps*. This report, which the Caucus released in coordination with the release of a complementary report by Muslim Advocates, documents a widespread CBP practice of detaining law-abiding AMEMSA individuals for prolonged periods during which CBP questions these individuals on their political views and religious beliefs and searches their laptop computers, cell phones, documents, and other belongings. The Caucus plans to disseminate the report to over 1,500 government actors and community leaders and use the report as a basis for seeking policy reforms. The Caucus also plans to use the report as an organizing tool in AMEMSA communities by encouraging individuals who have faced rights violations at the border to come forward with complaints and begin discussions with them on the issues of FBI surveillance and local law enforcement profiling.

The Caucus plans to develop a training segment for incorporation by CBP into a mandatory 12-hour training for CBP staff that will address civil rights concerns raised by border stops questioning and offer tools for cultural competency. The Caucus will also seek rule changes for CBP border searches from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and will engage in legislative advocacy on these issues.<sup>5</sup>

**FBI and local law enforcement profiling and surveillance.** The Caucus has observed an increase in the number of complaints of FBI and local law enforcement profiling from the low-income AMEMSA and other immigrant communities in the Bay Area and central California. Through its community outreach work, the Caucus has offered its support to a largely underserved Somali community in South Bay that the FBI has stepped up nationwide investigations of due to concerns that terrorists are recruiting young Somali men for suicide missions in their homeland, and the Caucus regularly receives reports of profiling by local law enforcement officials of South Asian, Muslim, and Sikh men in northern California.

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<sup>5</sup> The Asian Law Caucus has submitted a bifurcated project budget.

During the proposed grant period, the Caucus plans to collect data and stories from targeted communities in partnership with the Northern California Council on American Islamic Relations and Somali Community Services, and it will aim to forge coalitions between AMEMSA communities and other communities of color and established civil rights and civil liberties groups such as the NAACP, the National Council of La Raza, and the ACLU of Northern California. The organization will assist local AMEMSA groups in filing FOIA requests to obtain information on the FBI and local police surveillance of community organizations, places of worship, and specific individuals, and will produce a report on the extent of profiling and the chilling effects it is having on AMEMSA communities. The Caucus will also engage in advocacy with local officials such as civilian compliant review boards for local enforcement to investigate the targeting of vulnerable communities and promote system-wide reforms, and it will explore litigation to challenge profiling.

In addition, the Caucus will continue to conduct Know Your Rights trainings for activists, local attorneys, religious leaders, and youth in affected communities and train them to spot civil rights issues and to document their interactions with federal and local law enforcement. The Caucus will promote a Know Your Rights comic book on encounters with the FBI that was developed by Midnight Special Law Collective and Caucus staff attorney Veena Dubal. In addition, the Caucus will seek to engage and cultivate youth from targeted AMEMSA communities as spokespersons on these issues. It is currently discussing collaborative strategies with Breakthrough (another OSI grantee) on the development of interactive media content, such as videogames, and mini-documentaries through which youth will convey their experiences with profiling by law enforcement. Through these efforts, the Caucus hopes to stimulate discussions between young people and adults and to build coalitions across communities to work together in combating profiling.

**“Material support to terrorism” as an immigration bar.** The Caucus protects refugees, asylum seekers, and other immigrants who face removal from the U.S. based on the government’s assertion that they provided “material support to terrorism” under an overbroad measure introduced in the USA PATRIOT Act, when in fact they have never supported terrorism or other violence when they pose no security risk to the U.S. The Caucus provides direct representation to such immigrants facing these charges in removal proceedings and appeals, and it is currently producing a legal resource manual and a webinar on the material support bar for attorneys and other advocates. OSI funding would cover the production and dissemination of the material support bar legal resource manual.

### **Rationale for Recommendation:**

This grant will advance the National Security and Human Rights Campaign priorities of building the capacity of AMEMSA organizations to fight abusive national security policies that are disproportionately directed at them and to promote the acceptance of these communities in American society; and overturning or limiting the use of material support laws and other threats to free speech, association, and religious expression.



With its longstanding work on behalf of Fred Korematsu and other victims of the military's World War II Japanese internment program, the Asian Law Caucus has promoted the Japanese American voice to speak out against the targeting of AMEMSA individuals and communities who face ethnic, racial, and religious profiling. In addition, in partnership with the ACLU of Northern California and the Council on American Islamic Relations in Sacramento, the Caucus settled a class action suit challenging lengthy background checks that are selectively delaying the naturalizations of AMEMSA non-citizens seeking citizenship; it has settled three employment discrimination cases arising out of acts of post-9/11 prejudice; and it represents AMEMSA clients who have been denied refugee status in the U.S. because of the sweeping immigration bars to admission for the provision of "material support to terrorism."

The Caucus has a strong history and track record of challenging national security-related civil rights violations, and it approaches its legal work with innovation and the values of inclusion and collaboration. The Caucus seeks to not only provide much needed legal services to its constituents, but to build their capacity to create a more just and equitable society. The Caucus emphasizes work in low-income Asian and Pacific Islander immigrant communities, and this grant will help it build strong ties with targeted AMEMSA communities and advocacy organizations.

Executive Director Titi Liu brings both international human rights and domestic civil rights experience to the Caucus, and has written on the role of litigation in social change. Liu worked for seven years as the Law and Rights Unit program officer in the Ford Foundation's Beijing office and was a Visiting Professor in Asian Law at University of Washington School of Law. She serves on the steering committee of the California Coalition for Civil Rights.

For the above reasons, OSI staff recommends a grant of \$200,000 over two years to the Asian Law Caucus to support the National Security and Civil Rights Project.

**Name of Organization:** Center for Strategic and International Studies

**Tax Status:** 501(c)(3) public charity

**Purpose of Grant:** To support the Human Rights and Security Initiative’s Avoiding False Dichotomies and Crafting New Counterterrorism Policies in the First Year of the Obama Administration Project

**Previous OSI Support:** \$751,528  
\$212,673 from Pakistan Grants (2008)  
\$25,000 from East East General Program (2008)  
\$14,470 from Harm Reduction Policy (2008)  
\$15,000 from OSI DC International Advocacy (2007)  
\$25,000 from Public Health Global Health (2006)  
\$8,973 from CEP Grants (2003)  
\$15,000 from Middle East Grant Grants (2006)  
\$415,552 from Latin America Programs (2002-2009)  
\$19,860 from Civil Society (2006-2009)

**Organization Budget:** \$28,500,000

**Project Budget:** \$75,000

**Major Sources of Support:** Ford Foundation \$350,000; Robert Bosch Stiftung 91,000 Euros

**Amount Requested:** \$75,000

**Amount Recommended:** \$75,000 [NSHR Campaign, T1: 21095]

**Term:** One year (July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010)

**Matching Requirements:** None

**Description of Organization:**

The Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) is a bipartisan, nonprofit think tank headquartered in Washington, D.C. that conducts research and analysis with the goal of providing strategic insights and policy solutions to decision makers in government, international institutions, the private sector, and civil society. Founded in 1962, CSIS has grown to become one of the country’s preeminent international policy institutions, with more than 200 full-time staff and a large network of affiliated scholars. In 1999, former U.S. Senator Sam Nunn became Chair of the CSIS Board of Trustees, and John J. Hamre has led CSIS as its President and CEO since April 2000.

CSIS's Human Rights and Security Initiative is headed by Sarah Mendelson, Ph.D. who approaches defense and security policy through a human rights lens and works with policymakers to plan and engage strategically on defense and security policy. With its network of partners, the Human Rights and Security Initiative shapes policy debate, educates and informs the general public, and supports policymakers in rejecting as false the choice between security and human rights.

**Description of Program for Which Funding Is Sought:**

The Avoiding False Dichotomies and Crafting New Counterterrorism Policies in the First Year of the Obama Administration Project builds upon the work of a 2007-2008 CSIS project, led by Mendelson, that was funded by the Ford Foundation and that addressed human rights and counterterrorism in the Euro-Atlantic region. As part of the Ford-funded project, Mendelson convened a transatlantic policy dialogue between European and American human rights and counterterrorism experts to discuss a wide range of counterterrorism policies and potential European assistance in accepting Guantanamo detainees. In addition, the Ford-funded project produced, through a working group led by Mendelson, a report in September 2008, *Closing Guantánamo: From Bumper Sticker to Blueprint*. The *Blueprint's* key recommendations were included in an executive order signed by President Obama on January 22, 2009 ordering the closure of the Guantanamo Bay detention facility within one year.

OSI funding would allow CSIS to continue this work and fill the much needed functions of convening and helping to coordinate think tank, academic, military, intelligence, diplomatic, and human rights communities in the U.S. and Europe that are committed to seeing the Obama administration: (1) close Guantanamo by either releasing detainees or prosecuting them on criminal charges in Article III courts; (2) reform U.S. detention policy in a manner that is compliant with human rights and constitutional norms and promotes accountability for past human rights violations; and (3) seek accountability for past human rights violations committed in the "war on terror."

In addition, during the proposed grant period, CSIS would generate actionable policy recommendations on these issues on a timely basis and shape the public debate through media appearances and written analysis. Mendelson is in frequent contact with, and is often quoted by, reporters in national and international outlets including the *Washington Post*, the *New York Times*, NPR, CNN, BBC, and a number of European news outlets, and she has written extensively on the intersection of national security and human rights. As events unfold, Mendelson intends to publish op-eds, policy memos, and articles that offer human rights-compliant policy recommendations in venues such as the *Washington Post*, *Financial Times*, and *ForeignPolicy.com*. CSIS's media work will be strategically timed to highlight such events as releases of detainees into the U.S.; the signing of a possible memorandum of understanding with the European Union concerning the release of detainees; the release of the inter-agency task force report on detention policy that is expected on July 21, 2009; the eighth anniversary of September 11, 2001; and efforts to amend the military commission rules and institute a preventive detention regime.

In addition, CSIS intends to convene a series of timely meetings, including a discussion of a Human Rights First report that will be released in the coming weeks written by former prosecutors Richard Zabel and James Benjamin that is expected to offer new data supporting the proposition that U.S. federal courts are up to the task of trying terrorism cases while ensuring procedural protections for the accused; discussions with the West Point Combating Terrorism Center and others on the effectiveness of rehabilitation programs in Yemen and other countries with an eye toward the release to Yemen of the approximately 100 Yemenis being held in Guantanamo; and meetings with European Union human rights and counter-terrorism officials to stimulate political will in Europe to receive Guantanamo detainees.

### **Rationale for Recommendation:**

This grant will advance the National Security and Human Rights Campaign priorities of supporting credible voices in the movement for a progressive national security policy; shifting the paradigm away from the “war on terror”; and stopping arbitrary and indefinite detention domestically and internationally.

In his inaugural address, President Obama flatly rejected as “false the choice between our safety and ideals.” And on his second day in office, President Obama signed executive orders banning the use of torture, agreeing to close Guantánamo within one year, and ordering a review of U.S. detention and interrogation policies. However, statements that the president has made in the intervening months have not only called into question his commitment to human rights principles in the national security context but have sparked concerns that the runaway executive actions taken by the Bush administration in its “war on terror” will gain the imprimatur of official U.S. policy.

In a speech on national security delivered on May 21 at the National Archive – shortly after Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid announced his opposition to the release of Guantanamo detainees into the United States, even in situations when they would be transferred to U.S. prisons, and against the steady drumbeat of fear-mongering led by former Vice President Richard Cheney – President Obama stated that while he would aim to charge or release all of the Guantanamo detainees, he reserved the options of trying detainees in military commissions and holding them under a “prolonged detention” scheme. Also in his May 21 speech, President Obama reaffirmed both his opposition to an independent commission tasked with investigating and seeking accountability for past abuses, as well as his decision to reverse a Department of Justice pledge to release photos believed to depict the torture of detainees in Iraq and Afghanistan at the hands of U.S. personnel.

At this critical juncture, there is much that a highly regarded think tank with strong ties to the Obama administration and the media can contribute to the effort to restore human rights principles to counterterrorism policy. CSIS has a stellar reputation amongst government officials, issue experts, the press, and the informed public for its sound and nonpartisan policy recommendations. CSIS is able to tap an extensive network of contacts inside government and the media, and it has the capacity to help shape the time-sensitive public and policy debate on national security issues. In particular, Mendelson is

a well-respected expert on human rights and security who is nimble, resourceful, and well-connected.

Mendelson has long-standing relationships with key actors in the new administration and is able to engage in the national security debate at the highest levels. For example, she has known Ambassador Daniel Fried, Special Envoy on Guantánamo, for years in her capacity as a Russia specialist. Mendelson was one of the first experts Ambassador Fried consulted on issues relating to Guantánamo and has met with him recently to discuss detention policy. Mary DeRosa, Deputy Counsel to the President for National Security Affairs and Legal Advisor to the National Security Council, is a former CSIS colleague of Dr. Mendelson. They both served on the Human Rights and International Law experts group for the Obama campaign and were co-chairs of its Guantanamo sub-group. Another former CSIS colleague, Daniel Benjamin, is the nominee for the State Department's Coordinator for Counterterrorism.

Mendelson is intimately involved in national security and human rights challenges both domestically and internationally. With a 2007-2008 grant from the Ford Foundation, she had the foresight to reach across the Atlantic and initiate trans-Atlantic discussions on the possible resettlement of detainees from Guantanamo in Europe. Mendelson has worked with European government officials and understood early that in order to secure the cooperation of the European Union in accepting former detainees, the U.S. needed to find homes for some former detainees on its own soil, share information with the EU on the detainees, and take into consideration the EU's security concerns. Also, the September 2008 report on which she took the lead role in producing, *Closing Guantánamo: From Bumper Sticker to Blueprint*, laid a foundation for President Obama's January 22 executive order on closing Guantanamo. In addition, Mendelson has a strong track record of working cooperatively and well with human rights activists and retired military and intelligence officers. She and her staff are in regular communication with human rights advocates, including Human Rights Watch, Human Rights First, the Center for American Progress, and OSI-DC, that are working to ensure that U.S. detention policy complies with human rights and Constitutional norms and reflects well on the global standing of the U.S.

For the above reasons, OSI staff recommends a grant of \$75,000 over one year to support the Avoiding False Dichotomies and Crafting New Counterterrorism Policies in the First Year of the Obama Administration project of the Center for Strategic and International Studies' Human Rights and Security Initiative.

**Name of Organization:** The Eisenhower Project, Inc.

**Tax Status:** 501(c)(3) public charity

**Purpose of Grant:** To foster discourse on U.S. foreign and defense policy and countering terrorism between military officers and leaders and civilians in NGOs, think tanks, academia, the media, government, high schools, and universities

**Previous OSI Support:** \$155,000  
NSHR Campaign \$155,000 (2008)

**Organization Budget:** \$460,757

**Project Budget:** \$460,757

**Major Sources of Support:** Scheide Fund \$100,000; Anonymous Donor \$100,000; Speaking Fees \$120,000

**Amount Requested:** \$163,249

**Amount Recommended:** \$160,000 [NSHR Campaign, T1: 21095]

**Term:** One year (June 1, 2009 – May 31, 2010)

**Description of Organization:**

The Eisenhower Project (“Project”) was formally established by filmmaker Eugene Jarecki in 2006 to study and to promote deeper and more reasoned discourse on high school and college campuses in the U.S. on the forces that shape American defense and foreign policy. The Project is based in New York City and is directed by Jarecki. It has three full-time staff members who are joined by interns as needed.

The Eisenhower Project formed with the purpose of engaging in education and outreach around *Why We Fight*, Jarecki’s award winning film, and the film’s subject matter - the massive growth of the American military-industrial complex and how forces, including private economic interests, have misdirected U.S. foreign and military priorities and have upset the delicate balance of powers on which the republic is based. Additionally, the Project works to bridge the military-civilian divide through outreach to the West Point Military Academy and civilian experts. Jarecki has engaged in a series of discussions with West Point commanders since the spring of 2006, when he was invited to show *Why We Fight* at the military academy.

**Description of Program for Which Funding Is Sought:**

The Project will pursue its work on two core areas over the next year:

**1. Civilian-Military Safe Havens Project.** On May 1, 2009, the Project held its first Civilian-Military Safe Havens Conference, which it jointly sponsored with West Point Military Academy's Department of Social Sciences. The goal of the meeting was to begin to bridge the civilian-military divide and to promote dialogue and greater understanding on U.S. foreign and defense policy challenges in the struggle against terrorism. This off-the-record meeting brought together around forty high level active and retired members of the military and distinguished opinion leaders from the media, the academy, think tanks, and the human rights community for what proved to be a compelling and robust exchange on civil-military relations and America's national security challenges. Discussion focused on the state of civilian-military relations, which were strained during the tenure of former Secretary of State Donald Rumsfeld; replacing the misguided "war on terror" paradigm with alternative approaches to national security; media-military relationships and the challenges of covering national security and armed conflict; and prospects for meaningful reform of defense and foreign policy under the Obama administration.

Eisenhower Project staff are currently developing a non-attribution paper capturing the discussion at the conference for distribution to meeting participants and other policy advocates. In consultation with project advisors, the Project may distill some of the policy recommendations and share them with members of Congress and the administration.<sup>6</sup>

Based on recommendations solicited from conference participants, the Project plans to hold a second Civilian-Military Safe Havens Conference in the spring of 2010 to advance the dialogue opened up in May 2009. The meeting will include some of the participants from the 2009 conference and new participants from the military, the media, the academy, think tanks, and human rights organizations. Individuals such as physicians and clerical scholars will be invited to bring additional perspectives. And to maximize the impact of the meeting, the Project hopes to include members of the Obama administration and members of Congress and their staffers. To prepare in advance for the 2010 conference, the Project will establish civilian-military working groups of five to six individuals on a subset of the May 2009 conference topics. The Project plans to hold a smaller-scale meeting in fall 2009 to discuss the progress of these working groups and inform the 2010 Safe Havens agenda. One area that the Eisenhower Project is researching in order to inform civilian-military discourse is the use of accountability for torture and abuse in the "war on terror."<sup>7</sup>

**2. Expanded high school, university, and public outreach and education.** The Project has organized and coordinated film screenings and discussions with Jarecki, at times including foreign policy scholars, advocates, or military leaders, on national

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<sup>6</sup> The Eisenhower Project has submitted a bifurcated budget.

<sup>7</sup> Jarecki is making a film that will explore U.S. and international efforts to hold high level Bush Administration officials to account for torture and other abuses. He has assured OSI that no OSI funds would be spent on film production costs. Jarecki is currently seeking funding for this film from George Soros and other potential donors.

defense on major radio and television broadcast outlets, online, and at high schools, universities, military academies, theaters, and civic institutions in more than 45 states. Last year, the Project completed and began to disseminate *War and the Republic*, a companion study guide to Jarecki's film, *Why We Fight*, which is targeted at high school juniors and seniors and college undergraduates. In late 2008, with the publication of Jarecki's book, *The American Way of War*, Sony Pictures re-released the film on DVD and promoted its companion study guide to teachers. Over 4,000 copies of the study guide have been downloaded so far.

The Project also plans to create a Civilian-Military Speakers' Bureau through which leading active and retired military figures and civilian leaders would address university and public audiences across the U.S. on civilian-military relations and foreign and defense policy developments related to national security and counter-terrorism, and is likely to include issues such as U.S. policy on the detention and trial of terrorism suspects and the pursuit of accountability for Bush administration abuses. The Project will expand the audience for these discussions via webcasts and podcasts. Jarecki has entered into discussions with Harvard University Professor and 2009 Safe Havens meeting attendee Stephen Walt on the prospect of teaching a one-month civilian-military course at the Kennedy School in January 2010. The course discussions would feature policy experts and members of the military and would serve as a model that the Project would seek to replicate with its speakers' bureau initiative across the U.S.

In the coming year, with Simon and Schuster's planned fall 2009 paperback release of *The American Way of War*, the Project plans to work with Keppler on Campus to organize speaking engagements across the U.S. The Project plans to update its study guide, *War and the Republic*, to reflect developments since President Obama assumed office, and to distribute it through a partnership with Brown University's Watson Institute to 3,000 to 5,000 high school and college classrooms nationwide, as well as through Keppler on Campus. The Project intends to develop its website to include updated content relevant to the study guide, including podcasts and webcasts of Speakers Bureau events, and is seeking website-linking relationships with a number of NSHR Campaign grantees and others in the field. Finally, the Project is in conversation with Sony Pictures about making DVDs of feature or class-room length versions of *Why We Fight* available at a reduced cost to teachers.

### **Rationale for Recommendation:**

This grant advances the National Security and Human Rights Campaign priorities of supporting strategic communication, shifting the paradigm away from the "war on terror," and supporting credible voices in the movement for a progressive national security.

The Eisenhower Project has developed a unique platform for sparking interest in foreign and defense policy, and its initiatives are promoting deeper and more reasoned discourse in high school and college campuses on matters of foreign policy and defense, areas that are too widely neglected or spoken of with more passion than precision. Drawing in



particular on his inspiration from President Eisenhower's early warnings of the development of an American military-industrial complex, Jarecki has shown a good ability to open dialogue between people with very different perspectives, and has offered a creative, energetic, and fresh approach in his outreach to and engagement of Americans, from high school students to military commanders and issue experts.

With OSI support in 2008, the Project extended its work to promote discourse among opinion-makers and policymakers across civilian military disciplines. The Project succeeded in bringing together an impressive roster of individuals and developing a compelling agenda for its first Safe Havens conference this May, and received strong encouragement from participants for deepening this work. The proposed Civilian-Military Safe Havens meetings will build upon ideas and relationships developed at the conference. OSI funding would fully support this work, and the Project would provide OSI staff the opportunity to shape agendas and invitation lists as it did in the case of the 2008 Safe Havens conference.

Jarecki has proven himself to be an effective and credible spokesperson on foreign policy and defense matters and has been interviewed on broadcasts including the Daily Show, Charlie Rose, Fox News, CNN, MTV, BBC World, and NPR, and featured in by publications such as the *New York Times*, *Financial Times*, *Daily News*, *New Yorker*, *Vanity Fair*, and *GQ*. He has contributed to *Parade Magazine*, for which he wrote the cover story for their issue marking the fifth anniversary of September 11, and to *Playboy*, in which he published an 8,000 word photo-essay of wartime reflections by famous Americans entitled "Why Are We in Iraq?" In 2006, he was a Senior Visiting Fellow at Brown University's Watson Institute for International Studies. His previous films include *The Trials of Henry Kissinger*.

The Eisenhower Project has shown great promise, and its work is guided by a well-rounded set of advisors that includes members of the military and issue experts.<sup>8</sup> But it is still a young organization and recognizes the need to diversify its funding sources. The recommended grant would help support core costs of the Project's operations for the next year while Jarecki develops a longer term plan for sustaining the organization.

For the above reasons, OSI staff recommends a core support grant of \$160,000 to the Eisenhower Project.

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<sup>8</sup>The Project's advisors include: Steve Clemons, New America Foundation; Elisa Massimino, Human Rights First; Colonel Meese, West Point Military Academy; General Sheehan; Tom Ricks and Nathaniel Fick, Center for New American Security; Susan Eisenhower; Alexandra Toma and Joe Cirincione, Ploughshares Fund; James Der Derian, Watson Institute at Brown University; Jane Mayer, Seymour Hersh, Ralph Nader; Winslow Wheeler, Center for Defense Information; and Chuck Spinney and Tom Christie, Defense in the National Interest.

**Name of Organization:** Muslim Advocates

**Tax Status:** 501(c)(3) public charity

**Purpose of Grant:** To provide core project support

**Previous OSI Support:** \$200,000 from NSHR Campaign (2008)

**Organization Budget:** \$817,176

**Project Budget:** N/A

**Major Sources of Support:** Proteus Fund NSHR Pooled Fund \$75,000; Individual donations \$70,000; Board member contribution \$50,000; AAPIP \$11,000; Unitarian Universalist Service Committee \$9,250; Silicon Valley Community Foundation \$5,000

**Amount Requested:** \$320,000

**Amount Recommended:** \$320,000 [NSHR Campaign, T1: 21095]

**Term:** Two years (July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2011)

**Matching Requirements:** None

**Description of Organization:**

Founded in 2005, Muslim Advocates is an advocacy and educational organization that promotes freedom, justice, and equality for all, regardless of faith, through legal advocacy, policy engagement, and civic education, and serves as a legal resource to promote the full and meaningful participation of Muslims in American public life. Muslim Advocates focuses its work on the profiling and discriminatory treatment of Muslim Americans and Muslim American civic institutions by law enforcement. The organization is based in San Francisco and has four full-time staff, one communications consultant, and a diverse 12-member board of directors.

Muslim Advocates was created as a 501(c)(3) organization by the National Association of Muslim Lawyers (NAML), which was formed in 1996. NAML is the only national professional association for the Muslim American legal community, and has grown to include over 500 members and 12 local Muslim lawyer affiliate groups in many areas of the country, including Chicago, Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco, southern Florida, and Washington, D.C. NAML has no full-time staff, and its Executive Director Farhana Khera shares her time between NAML and Muslim Advocates.

**Description of Program for Which Funding Is Sought:**

Muslim Advocates is requesting renewed core operating support from OSI to continue its work on two primary areas: (1) ending the racial and religious profiling and discriminatory treatment of Muslim Americans, and (2) strengthening Muslim charities.

**1. Ending racial and religious profiling against Muslim Americans.** Muslim Advocates has developed a comprehensive community education and policy and legal advocacy campaign to combat racial and religious profiling of Muslim Americans by the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) and Department of Homeland Security (DHS), including DHS's Customs and Border Patrol (CBP).

Muslim Advocates is monitoring and collecting reports on the profiling of the Muslim community. It has established a toll-free legal hotline to take complaints and is working to increase Muslim Americans' understanding of their rights in encounters with the FBI and DHS and engage them in advocacy for reform. The organization trains volunteer lawyers to represent individuals who have been contacted by the FBI for questioning and engages community leaders in spotting trends and problems. In 2008, Muslim Advocates released an educational video, *Got Rights? Protecting Yourself and Your Family At Home and the Airport*, in five languages (English, Arabic, Farsi, Somali, and Urdu), and to date this video has been viewed by over 20,000 people across the country. To meet the wide demand for the video and for additional training and education on the subject, Muslim Advocates is currently developing a grassroots distribution plan for the video and a new media campaign.

The organization also produces reports, educates federal policymakers regarding the practice and impact on Muslim American communities of FBI surveillance and border profiling, and advocates for reform. In April 2009, Muslim Advocates released a report on border profiling, *Unreasonable Intrusions: Investigating the Politics, Faith & Finances of Americans Returning Home*, to educate community members, policy makers, and the public about this issue. Just two weeks after its release, Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano committed to a comprehensive review of border screening and search policies and to report back to Congress, and Muslim Advocates is currently working with DHS staff to develop a revised border policy.

In addition, Muslim Advocates is working with Senator Feingold and other members of Congress to ensure Congressional oversight over border profiling and is drafting language for inclusion in two bills which advocates hope will be re-introduced in the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress, the Travelers Privacy Protection Act and the End Racial Profiling Act.<sup>9</sup> In early 2009, the organization filed a Freedom of Information Act request with the FBI and Department of Justice seeking a copy of the Attorney General's revised surveillance guidelines and the accompanying guidance to FBI agents implementing those guidelines, and the organization is likely to file a request for information on the FBI's surveillance of Muslim Americans and is interested in exploring the potential of challenging local police department participation in federal surveillance efforts. Muslim Advocates is also exploring potential legal challenges to border profiling and the extensive interrogation practices by the CBP. The organization will also continue to participate in the coalitions

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<sup>9</sup> Muslim Advocates has submitted a bifurcated budget.

to combat racial profiling organized by the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights and the Rights Working Group.

Muslim Advocates plans to hire an outreach coordinator to pursue community outreach and a distribution plan for educational resources, fully cultivate Muslim Advocates' network of lawyers, more effectively engage Muslim community leaders and organizations at the local and national level, and mobilize partners to press jointly for policy change.

**2. Strengthening Muslim Charities.** In the face of post-9/11 targeting of Muslim charities for prosecution on the grounds of providing “material support” to terrorists, Muslim Advocates launched the Muslim Charities Accreditation Program (MCAP) in 2008 with the Better Business Bureau Wise Giving Alliance. Through the MCAP, Muslim Advocates provides nonprofit leaders with legal advice, technical training, and professional evaluation of legal and financial records. In addition, Muslim Advocates holds five full-day educational seminars in five cities each year for senior staff, officers, and board members of mosques and Muslim civic organizations. The past two seminars, held in San Jose, CA in October 2008 and in Irvine, CA in February 2009, each drew nearly 80 individuals representing around 40 organizations.

MCAP has received significant positive press coverage, including coverage in *The Wall Street Journal*, *Chronicle of Philanthropy*, and *National Public Radio*, as well as praise from the U.S. Department of Treasury, which has led the investigations of targeted Muslim charities. The MCAP seminars have filled a huge need in the Muslim community, and Muslim Advocates plans to recruit local lawyer affiliates to help meet the overwhelming demand for follow-up questions and more advanced seminars on specific concerns. Muslim Advocates also plans to publish three educational guides: a resource guidebook for Muslim nonprofit leaders, a reference manual for lawyers advising Muslim nonprofits, and a guidebook on philanthropic giving for Muslim donors.

### **Rationale for Recommendation:**

This grant will advance the National Security and Human Rights Campaign priority 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 them and to promote the acceptance of these communities in American society.

Muslim Advocates fills an important niche in both the AMEMSA community and the broader civil rights, civil liberties, and human rights advocacy communities in the U.S., and it has been an effective bridge between these communities. The organization's founders are Muslim American lawyers and policy experts with experience in Congress, government agencies, and NGOs such as the ACLU and Amnesty International, and they understand the value of having targeted communities in the room as policy is debated. In the aftermath of 9/11, NAML members had tried unsuccessfully to encourage existing Muslim organizations to become effective defenders of the Muslim community with a

strong commitment to U.S. constitutional principles and concluded that Muslim Advocates would play this role.

In its four years, Muslim Advocates has emerged as a prominent and sophisticated national civil rights and legal organization. The organization engages with Muslim lawyers, Muslim community and mosque leaders, other AMEMSA organizations, government officials, the media, and allies in the national security and human rights field. With strong roots in the Muslim community, Muslim Advocates understands how law-abiding members of the community have been unfairly targeted by law enforcement following the 9/11 attacks and is able to translate the community's experiences to policymakers as it advocates for reforms.

Muslim Advocates has played a leading role among the AMEMSA organizations that are working at the intersection of national security and civil liberties. For example, with the ACLU and other national advocacy organizations, Muslim Advocates has been challenging revised Attorney General Guidelines for Domestic FBI Operations that Attorney General Michael Mukasey released in September 2008, and Domestic Investigative Operational Guidelines issued by the FBI in December 2008. Neither document was meaningfully reviewed by Congress or the advocacy community prior to issuance, and the documents raise grave concerns about the resurrection of political surveillance and the expansion of racial and religious profiling because they allow the FBI to commence surveillance without factual evidence of wrongdoing and they authorize the FBI to conduct pretextual interviews, use informants, and conduct physical surveillance in connection with activities protected under the First Amendment. Following recent revelations of FBI mosque infiltration and the use of agent provocateurs in American Muslim communities across the U.S., Muslim Advocates is pursuing a Freedom of Information Act request to obtain fully unredacted copies of the guidelines.

The organization benefits from a skilled staff and the strong leadership of Executive Director Farhana Khera. Prior to joining Muslim Advocates and NAML in 2005, Khera worked for six years for Senator Russell Feingold, as Counsel to the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee, Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Property Rights, where her areas of work included the USA PATRIOT Act, racial profiling, and other civil liberties concerns raised by the post-9/11 anti-terrorism policies. She has been recognized by *Islamica Magazine* as a "Young Muslim Visionary" for her leadership and innovation. Khera is also a leader of the broader national security and human rights field and provides invaluable advice to OSI staff on strategies for combating profiling of the AMEMSA community.

In 2008, the NSHR Campaign provided Muslim Advocates with a core operating support grant of \$200,000 at a moment when the organization was just beginning to make the leap from a start-up to a thriving organization with national stature. Out of this grant, \$40,000 was earmarked for an organizational strategic planning process that is now being completed with a consultant, Compass Point. Muslim Advocates is still a new organization and is transitioning from being primarily board-led to an organization with clearly defined roles and responsibilities for its board and staff. The organization secured

a modest grant from the NSHR Pooled Fund in January to support the development of its lawyers network, and Atlantic Philanthropies is exploring a major grant to the organization.

For the above reasons, OSI staff recommends a renewal core project grant of \$320,000 over two years to Muslim Advocates.

**Name of Organization:** National Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT)

**Tax Status:** 501(c)(3) public charity

**Purpose of Grant:** To support the core work of the National Religious Campaign Against Torture and its project, Evangelicals for Human Rights, to bring a permanent end to, and seek accountability for, U.S.-sponsored torture in the “war on terror”

**Previous OSI Support:** \$385,000  
\$210,000 from NSHR Campaign (2007-2009)  
\$50,000 from Civil Liberties (2007-2008)  
\$25,000 from USJF - General Grantmaking (2007)  
\$75,000 from OSI-DC - Int’l Advocacy (2006-2007)  
\$25,000 from USJF - Special Opportunities (2006)

**Organization Budget:** \$807,929

**Project Budget:** \$678,820

**Major Sources of Support:** Ford Foundation \$200,000; Vanguard Charitable Endowment Program \$125,000; John Merck Fund \$50,000 (pending); Unitarian Universalist Service Committee \$10,000

**Amount Requested:** \$130,000 (\$95,275 for NRCAT and \$34,725 for EHR)

**Amount Recommended:** \$130,000 [NSHR Campaign, T1: 21095]

**Term:** Ten months (June 1, 2009 – February 28, 2010)

**Matching Requirements:** None

**Description of Organization:**

Founded in January 2006, the National Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT) is a 501(c)(3) membership organization based in Washington, D.C. NRCAT’s core mission is to end America’s use of torture and cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment in the U.S. “war on terror.” Since its founding, NRCAT’s membership has grown dramatically to more than 250 national and regional religious organizations and more than 46,000 individual people of faith, including members from the Roman Catholic, Evangelical Christian, Protestant, Unitarian Universalist, Quaker, Orthodox Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, Baha’i and Sikh communities. Endorsers of NRCAT include such prominent figures as President Jimmy Carter, Elie Weisel, Rich Cizik, and Rick Warren, among others.

With the powerful influence of evangelicals during the Bush years, NRCAT launched Evangelicals for Human Rights (EHR) as an independent project in September 2006 with a seed grant from OSI. Under the visionary leadership of David Gushee, Professor of Christian Ethics at Mercer University in Atlanta, EHR mobilizes the evangelical community to oppose torture through public education and theological proclamation.

With support from OSI, NRCAT and EHR teamed up with the Center for Victims of Torture in 2008 on a campaign to secure a presidential executive order banning torture that met with success with President Obama's issuance of an executive order ending torture on his second day in office.

### **Description of Program for Which Funding Is Sought:**

During the proposed grant period, the National Religious Campaign Against Torture and Evangelicals for Human Rights will focus on galvanizing faith-based communities across the nation to advocate for: (1) a permanent end to U.S.-sponsored torture; and (2) the creation of a nonpartisan Commission of Inquiry to investigate the authorization and use of torture in the "war on terror." NRCAT will work in conjunction with a network it has built of state ecumenical agencies, religious organizations and leaders, and human rights organizations, including OSI-DC, to persuade the Special Task Force on interrogation established by President Obama's January 22 executive order to recommend measures that would permanently ban, and seek accountability for, torture. In addition, this spring, in coordination with OSI-DC and 17 other human rights groups, NRCAT posted an on-line petition on its website in support of a Commission of Inquiry that has been endorsed by more than twenty-five heads of faith groups, numerous senior religious leaders, and thousands of individuals.

In 2008, NRCAT hired a skilled communications expert who has significantly increased NRCAT's media outreach. In the past year, NRCAT's activities were reported in 221 media stories. In addition, NRCAT has played a critical role in an editorial board project funded by the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee that brought religious delegations in seven cities to meet with editorial boards of major newspapers and urge them to editorialize against U.S.-sponsored torture. NRCAT provided model editorials and op-eds, training for participants, and background materials. Through this project, editorials were published in the *Durham Herald Sun*, *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, *Portland Oregonian*, *Milwaukee Sentinel*, and *San Jose Mercury News*, and op-eds were published in the *Concord Monitor* and *San Jose Mercury News*.

To commemorate Torture Awareness Month in June, NRCAT organized, with a \$25,000 rapid response grant from OSI, a well-publicized religious witness that called upon President Obama to establish a Commission of Inquiry. The June 11 event began with a press conference at the National Press Club joined by prominent leaders of faith groups and a procession to the White House for a public witness, and was followed by a private meeting between religious leaders and White House staff including Michael Strautmanis, Chief of Staff Special Assistant to the President for the White House Office of Public



Liaison Valerie Jarrett; Mike Gottlieb, White House Counsel's Office; David Myers, Homeland Security; Tina Tchen, Director, Public Engagement; and Paul Monteiro of the Faith Office, Department of Public Engagement. Among those who participated in the White House meeting were: Rev. Dr. John Thomas, President, United Church of Christ; Dr. Ingrid Mattson, President, Islamic Society of North America; Rabbi Steve Gutow, President, Jewish Council for Public Affairs; Rev. Dr. Michael Kinnamon, General Secretary, National Council of Churches; and Rev. Rich Killmer, NRCAT's Executive Director.

NRCAT's communications staff will draft op-ed pieces and articles in favor of a Commission of Inquiry that will be signed by pairs of senior national faith group leaders and placed in key publications. NRCAT will also assist religious leaders in conducting media campaigns in their home cities to keep the pressure on policymakers and deepen the participation and commitment of faith-based groups.

In the coming months, NRCAT will engage in public education and outreach to policymakers to demand key changes to U.S. interrogation policy. NRCAT's recommendations include: (1) barring any interrogation technique that the U.S. would oppose if it were to be used on its personnel; (2) requiring all U.S. personnel to follow a transparent national standard for interrogations; and (3) modifying Appendix M of the Army Field Manual in order to ensure that inhumane techniques like prolonged isolation and sensory deprivation are not used on detainees.

NRCAT has recently developed a study guide for use by congregations, "Ending U.S.-Sponsored Torture Forever," and an inspirational video that features religious leaders and activists, investigative journalists, attorneys, and issue experts to mobilize Americans of faith to join NRCAT's campaigns to end torture and establish a Commission of Inquiry. As part of this June's Torture Awareness Month, NRCAT is urging congregations to display banners that read: "End Torture Forever – Investigate, Legislate."<sup>10</sup> The United Methodist building, located across the street from the Capitol has agreed to display such a banner throughout the month of June.

### **Rationale for Recommendation:**

This grant will advance the National Security and Human Rights Campaign priorities of restoring an absolute prohibition against torture; supporting credible voices in the movement for a progressive national security policy; and holding government officials accountable for the use of torture.

Barack Obama's presidency started on a promising note for human rights advocates opposed to U.S.-sponsored torture, with his issuance on January 22 of an executive order banning torture and establishing a task force on interrogation. Human rights advocates have been frustrated, however, by Obama's refusal to support a mechanism for investigating the authorization and use of torture, stating that he had taken steps to end torture and that the nation needed to look forward, not backward. Obama allowed

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<sup>10</sup> NRCAT has presented a bifurcated budget.

Department of Justice (DOJ) Office of Legal Counsel “torture memos” to be publicly released on April 16 in a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) suit after the leak earlier in the year of an International Committee of the Red Cross report documenting the torture of high level detainees in CIA custody. But at the same time, Obama all but assured CIA staff that they would be safe from criminal prosecution for participating in torture. Then on May 13, in a sudden reversal of course, Obama withheld DOJ photos believed to depict abusive treatment of detainees in Iraq and Afghanistan by U.S. military personnel that DOJ had agreed to release by May 28 in a FOIA suit, citing concerns that the images would “further inflame anti-American opinion” and endanger troops.

In light of these abrupt shifts, it is critical that NRCAT continue to focus national attention on the importance of taking measures to ensure that U.S.-sponsored torture never takes place again and creating a Commission of Inquiry. NRCAT and EHR have recognized the power and credibility of religious spokespersons who convey the message that torture is a morally wrong and ineffective as a counterterrorism strategy, and they have built a powerful alliance between these highly persuasive voices and human rights advocates. In building a movement to oppose torture, NRCAT and EHR have bridged religious denominations as well as political affiliations and racial lines. NRCAT has also formed close working relationships with national, state, regional, and grassroots religious groups, a list of which may be found at [www.tortureisamoralissue.org](http://www.tortureisamoralissue.org).

A recently released survey from the Pew Research Center’s Forum on Religion and Public Life regarding attitudes toward torture broken out by religion found that a majority of Catholics and evangelical Christians respond favorably to torture. Surprised by these results, NRCAT’s leadership has redoubled its efforts. It has accepted the challenge of educating religious dominations about the immorality of torture and alerting them to the moral drift that has taken place in this country under fear of terrorism and the necessity of examining what went wrong in order to make sure that the mistakes of the past are never again repeated.

On June 3, the NRCAT Board of Directors voted enthusiastically to continue the organization’s vital work at least through December 31, 2011. Once NRCAT has achieved its goals of a permanent end to torture and an accounting for past abuses, NRCAT plans to explore ways to build on the rich grasstops and grassroots networks it has cultivated over the past three years. NRCAT is also considering a role for itself, EHR, and the broader religious community in challenging prolonged detention as a form of torture, in challenging the imposition of the death penalty in military commissions solely on the basis of hearsay evidence or a guilty plea, and to help quell anti-Muslim sentiment in the event of a future terrorist attack on U.S. soil.

For the above reasons, OSI staff recommends a grant of \$130,000 over ten months to support the work of the National Religious Campaign Against Torture, of which \$95,275 will support ongoing core work of NRCAT and \$34,725 will support Evangelicals for Human Rights.

**Name of Organization:** New York University

**Tax Status:** 501(c)(3) public charity

**Purpose of Grant:** To support the Advocating Against Torture: The Clinician’s Voice Project of the Bellevue/NYU Program for Survivors of Torture

**Previous OSI Support:** \$4,911,910  
\$65,000 from NSHR Campaign (2009)  
\$856,720 from Presidential Grants (1997-2009)  
\$294,537 from M. East & N. Africa (2004-2008)  
\$420,000 from US Justice Fund (1991, 2001, 2007)  
\$100,000 from China Grants (2006)  
\$805,044 from NYC Community Fellowship (2006)  
\$355,000 from Youth Development (1997-2005)  
\$320,000 from US Programs (1998-2004)  
\$141,644 from Chairman’s Grants (2003)  
\$15,332 from Central Eurasia Project (2002, 2003)  
\$250,000 from OSI Institutional Grants (2001)  
\$223,893 from Public Health (1996-2001)  
\$793,550 from Crim. Just. Fellowships (1996-2001)  
\$116,691 from PDIA (1998, 2000)  
\$154,500 from other OSI Programs (1999-2007)

**Organization Budget:** \$1,600,000

**Project Budget:** \$180,000

**Major Sources of Support:** Open Society Policy Center \$30,000 (anticipated)

**Amount Requested:** \$180,000

**Amount Recommended:** \$180,000

**Term:** Nineteen months (June 1, 2009 – December 31, 2010)

**Matching Requirements:** None

**Description of Organization:**

Founded in 1995, the New York University School of Medicine’s Bellevue/NYU Program for Survivors of Torture (PSOT), located in New York City, serves as a leader in the provision of medical and mental care and social services for, and engages in public education and research on – and advocacy on behalf of – torture survivors. Bellevue/NYU PSOT is dedicated to helping torture survivors build healthy, self-

sufficient lives and has provided comprehensive and multidisciplinary care for nearly 3,000 men, women, and children from more than 80 countries.

Directed and co-founded by Dr. Allen Keller, Bellevue/NYU PSOT has developed an international reputation for excellence in its clinical, educational, and research activities. It has a team of 13 full-time primary care physicians, psychologists, psychiatrists, social service providers, and masters of public health, as well as a full-time director of research and two post-doctoral fellows. The staff is fluent in more than ten languages and is culturally diverse, and it includes professionals from the U.S., Sierra Leone, Tibet, and Israel.

### **Description of Program for Which Funding Is Sought:**

The Advocating Against Torture: The Clinician's Voice Project seeks to leverage the expertise of health care professionals in seeking a permanent end to, and accountability for, U.S.-sponsored torture in the "war on terror." In addition, the project seeks to investigate and expose medical complicity in torture and hold health professionals who participated in torture to account.

A careful reading of the recently leaked International Committee of the Red Cross report evaluating the treatment of 14 high value detainees held in secret CIA prisons, as well as recently released Department of Justice Office of Legal Counsel "torture memos," strongly suggest that American psychologists, psychiatrists, and physicians helped design, monitored, and otherwise collaborated in CIA torture and aggressive interrogation techniques used on U.S.-held detainees. During the proposed grant period, Dr. Keller and his colleagues plan to educate the general public about the roles played by American health professionals in torturing detainees by: authoring scholarly articles in publications such as the *Journal of the American Medical Association*; blogging online for lay audiences; submitting letters to the editor and op-eds to leading newspapers and magazines; and participating in public meetings, conferences, convenings, and public hearings.<sup>11</sup>

Dr. Keller also plans to conduct original medical research using a database compiled by Seton Hall Law School culled from detainee records that include approximately 25,000 weight data points for roughly 700 Guantanamo detainees. A preliminary review of the data demonstrates several large variations in weight over both short and long term periods. Until now, the primary food-related complaint has been forced naso-gastric feeding of detainees on hunger strikes. This new data may shed light on additional questions such as whether food was manipulated as a means of abuse, by over- and under-feeding, and by controlling dietary schedules and habits. Currently, there is nothing in the medical literature on this subject, and an evaluation of this data could

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<sup>11</sup> Though not part of the Advocating Against Torture: The Clinician's Voice Project, Dr. Keller is working on writing a book intended for a lay audience that is tentatively entitled *Tales of Horror, Tales of Hope: A Physician's Journey in Caring and Advocating for Torture Victims*. Blog entries and articles that Dr. Keller produces for this project may be used as material for this upcoming book.

provide crucial support for the need for a commission of inquiry to investigate the treatment of detainees.

In addition, as part of the project, Bellevue/NYU PSOT plans to retain as a consultant Len Rubenstein, the outgoing Executive Director of Physicians for Human Rights (PHR) and an experienced human rights attorney, to advocate for the imposition of higher ethical and legal standards for health professionals.<sup>12</sup> Through the work of PHR, a ground-breaking bill was recently proposed in the New York State Assembly, Bill A0665, that would: prohibit the participation in torture and improper treatment of prisoners by health care professionals; prohibit health care professionals from engaging, assisting, or planning the torture or improper treatment of a prisoner; and impose an affirmative duty on health care professionals to report torture and improper treatment. This bill – the first of its kind in the U.S. – has the potential to serve as a model for similar efforts in other jurisdictions. The Project’s work on this effort will include public education that does not constitute lobbying activities.

In implementing this project, Dr. Keller will work closely with PHR and a team of medical and mental health professionals with substantial expertise in advocating against torture and abuse, including Dr. Kate Porterfield, Bellevue/NYU PSOT Senior Psychologist; Dr. Barry Rosenfeld, Psychologist, Fordham University; and Dr. Homer Venters, Internist, NYU School of Medicine.

### **Rationale for Recommendation:**

This grant will advance the National Security and Human Rights Campaign priorities of restoring an absolute prohibition against torture; holding private actors accountable for past abuses and violations of law, including the use of torture; funding original field research that will support efforts to reform U.S. detention practices so that they comport with international human rights; and supporting new voices in the movement for a progressive national security policy.

In its first two years, the Advocating Against Torture: The Clinician’s Voice Project, with support from OSI, has demonstrated that health professionals who care for victims of torture are forceful validators for the point that torture cannot under any circumstances be condoned, and are uniquely qualified to assess, expose, and challenge medical complicity in torture. The project’s leader, Dr. Keller, has been an exceptionally effective validator, both because of his obvious passion for his work and because he is informed by direct clinical experience with torture survivors in the “war on terror.” Dr. Keller conducted forensic evaluations for, and co-authored, a PHR report released in July 2008, *Broken Laws, Broken Lives: Medical Evidence of Torture by U.S. Personnel*, on 12 individuals who had been detained in U.S. custody as part of the “war on terror” and who described having been tortured at the hands of Americans while held at Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo. With medical colleagues, Dr. Keller documented the profound physical and psychological suffering from the beatings, sexual humiliation, sleep deprivation, death threats, and extremes of heat and cold that these individuals – all of whom were

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<sup>12</sup> NYU has submitted a bifurcated project budget.

ultimately released without charge – were forced to endure. Dr. Keller also edited a report by PHR and Human Rights First entitled, *Leave No Marks: Enhanced Interrogation Techniques and the Risk of Criminality*, which was released in August 2007.

Dr. Keller is in great demand as a trainer and speaker. As an illustration, on June 11, 2009, Dr. Keller participated in two public education efforts: a presentation to the congregants of the Princeton Methodist Church on the need for full disclosure and accountability for torture; and a training for the Guantanamo Military Tribunal Defense Attorney Program in Arlington, Virginia on effective interviewing skills and the health consequences of torture. In addition, his writings have gained him a sizeable readership. As a result, Dr. Keller is in an excellent position to contribute on at least two critical fronts to the continuing campaign against torture.

First, Dr. Keller and his colleagues on the project will be contributing to the body of evidence that U.S. personnel engaged in torture by continuing to conduct forensic evaluations of former detainees who have alleged that they were tortured while at U.S. detention facilities, by providing trainings on interviewing and examining detainees to attorneys and medical professionals, and by conducting original medical research and analysis. These additions to the public record will likely lead to the discovery of more information and will support demands for a nonpartisan commission of inquiry to investigate abuses committed in the “war on terror.”

Second, through his work with PHR, Dr. Keller will have a platform for advocating that American health professionals who became “calibrators of harm instead of healers” must be held to account for their complicity in torture before state professional boards. The growing body of evidence that health professionals observed as detainees in U.S. custody were tortured has emerged from Freedom of Information Act litigation and investigative research has fueled a movement in New York State and elsewhere to impose mandatory standards of conduct for health professionals. As a physician responsible for coordinating bioethics at the NYU School of Medicine, Dr. Keller is a powerful advocate for the position that health professionals who decided whether interrogations methods should be continued or stopped – and thereby served as the ultimate arbiters on torture – directly contravened the central tenet that health care professions must “do no harm” and should lose their professional licenses.

For the above reasons, OSI staff recommends a renewal grant of \$180,000 over nineteen months to support the Advocating Against Torture: The Clinician’s Voice Project of the Bellevue/NYU Program for Survivors of Torture.

**Name of Organization:** OneAmerica (formerly Hate Free Zone Washington)

**Tax Status:** 501(c)(3) public charity

**Purpose of Grant:** To provide general support

**Previous OSI Support:** \$250,000  
\$200,000 from Civil Lib. and Immigrant Rts (2007)  
\$50,000 from USJF Civil Liberties (2005)

**Organization Budget:** \$1,903,974

**Project Budget:** N/A

**Major Sources of Support:** Four Freedoms Fund \$635,000; State of Washington Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development \$326,587; Gates Foundation \$200,000; Ford Foundation \$100,000; Seattle Foundation \$50,000; Universalist Unitarian \$45,000; City of Seattle \$32,525

**Amount Requested:** \$200,000

**Amount Recommended:** \$200,000  
\$100,000 [NSHR Campaign, T1: 21095]  
\$100,000 [EOF Immigrant Rights, T1:24434]

**Term:** Two years (January 1, 2009 – December 31, 2010)

**Matching Requirements:** None

**Description of Organization:**

OneAmerica (formerly Hate Free Zone Washington) was established in the wake of the 9/11 attacks to counter the backlash in Washington State directed against Middle Easterners, East Africans, South Asians, Muslims, Sikhs, and other immigrants and minorities. Since its inception, OneAmerica has grown to become the largest immigrant advocacy organization in Washington State and a national leader in the field of immigrants' rights. OneAmerica's mission is to advance democracy and justice through building power in immigrant communities in collaboration with key allies. The organization is based in Seattle and has a staff of 15.

Using a range of tools, OneAmerica advocates on behalf of targeted communities; works to increase civic participation in these communities; and acts as a coordinating body, engaging targeted communities in policy advocacy at the local, state, and national levels, and forming effective coalitions of AMEMSA communities, immigrants, and allies. OneAmerica succeeded in securing funding from the Washington State legislature in

2009 for a program to assist legal permanent residents to become naturalized citizens. In 2008, it succeeded in securing the establishment, through an executive order, of the Washington State New Americans Initiative, a two-year project to determine how the state can more effectively integrate immigrants. The organization also provides direct support and legal referrals to individuals and families facing immigration detention and deportation, and to people of color who face discrimination and harassment in their workplaces, schools, and communities.

During the proposed grant period, OneAmerica will advocate for policy reform seeking immigrant integration in Washington State, and immigration reform at the federal level with a focus on restoring due process and ending arbitrary detention. The organization will also advocate on behalf of AMEMSA communities against intrusive FBI surveillance. To achieve these policy goals, OneAmerica will build and mobilize a diverse base of supporters using the strategies of: (1) policy research and advocacy; (2) membership and leadership development; (3) communications; and (4) nonpartisan electoral organizing and civic participation.

**1. Policy and Research and Advocacy:** In support of its engagement of local communities in policy advocacy, OneAmerica has issued several reports that have sparked debate and are serving as tools to advance progressive reforms. In July 2008, OneAmerica published *Voices from Detention: A Report on Human Rights Violations at the Northwest Detention Center*, which presents findings from an investigation OneAmerica undertook jointly with Seattle University Law School, with support from the U.S. Human Rights Fund. The report identifies conditions and practices within the Northwest Detention Center that violate both domestic law and international human rights law and makes policy recommendations on immigration detention. In April 2009, OneAmerica published *Building Washington's Future: Immigrant Workers' Contributions to Our State's Economy*, a report analyzing the contributions of immigrants to Washington State's economy and recommending ways in which the state can accelerate immigrant integration. OneAmerica is also gearing up to oppose anti-immigrant initiatives in Washington State that would deny immigrants driver's licenses and access to government services. OneAmerica will continue to serve as the Field Coordinator for Washington, Oregon, and Idaho of the Rights Working Group's *Hold DHS Accountable!* campaign calling for an end to immigration enforcement policies that violate due process protections and other basic rights guaranteed by the Constitution.

**2. Membership and Leadership Development:** OneAmerica works with diverse groups of immigrants and minority communities, including new immigrant communities targeted by post-9/11 policies. The organization continues to work closely with its largely Arab and Muslim base and local community organizations in Washington to confront mosque surveillance and FBI questioning, provide Know Your Rights and communications trainings and legal referrals, as well as facilitate meetings on the subject with government officials and law enforcement.

The organization is committed to building leadership in Arab and Muslim communities and positioning them to help shape public policy. In 2009, OneAmerica will launch its



first comprehensive leadership development program for immigrant community leaders in Washington State to build their organizing, advocacy, and communications skills. In addition, OneAmerica plans work to enlist as members its existing organizational coalition partners and individual supporters, and to recruit new constituencies such as businesses and universities.

**3. Communications:** OneAmerica has consistently framed the rights of immigrants in terms of due process, human rights, and constitutional rights, and its work has attracted significant local media attention. OneAmerica plans to launch an interactive website later this year that will use new platforms and technologies so that it can combine social networking with policy advocacy. In addition, OneAmerica plans to launch two major media campaigns—one to support immigration reform, and one to educate mainstream Washington State residents about their immigrant neighbors.

**4. Nonpartisan Electoral Organizing and Civic Participation:** In 2008, OneAmerica registered over 24,000 new immigrant citizens to vote, by sending out over 79,000 pieces of mail, making 22,000 phone calls, and knocking on over 5,000 doors. OneAmerica educated immigrant citizens about the electoral process, civic participation, and key issues of concern in the community. Over the next two years, focusing on voter education and mobilization, OneAmerica will continue its electoral organizing program on a year-round basis so that it can deepen its civic engagement work and have a greater impact on local, state, and national elections.

#### **Description of Program for Which Funding Is Sought:**

OneAmerica is requesting general support.

#### **Rationale for Recommendation:**

This grant will advance the National Security and Human Rights Campaign priority 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 them and to promote the acceptance of these communities in American society. This grant will also advance the Equality and Opportunity Fund's overarching work and, in particular, the Immigrant Rights Portfolio's priorities of stemming the erosion of the civil and human rights of immigrants, and linking immigration to broader national issues to build a multi-ethnic, multi-constituent movement. This grant will also advance the Democracy and Power Fund's priority of supporting grassroots and community organizations that utilize an integrated voter engagement model and inspire public civic participation.

OneAmerica has effectively integrated its grassroots organizing, leadership development, and civic engagement work in AMEMSA and immigrant communities with its work at the local, state, and federal levels to advance its policy goals. In doing so, the organization has shown leadership in developing and implementing creative and effective strategies for broadening its community base and building a movement for the long term.

OneAmerica's organizing work focuses largely on Washington State, a state with a diversity of immigrants (39% Asian, 31% Latino, and 30% from Africa, the Middle East, the former Soviet Union, and other nations) and 170,000 legal permanent residents who are eligible to become citizens, and one of only three states with a New American Policy Council. With a significant focus on AMEMSA communities, the organization has been expanding its work with other immigrant communities and plays a valuable role engaging and empowering communities that do not traditionally work together. Its regional policy work has national impact, focusing attention on issues that are faced by immigrants and minorities nationwide. The organization drives policy change, provides replicable models for grassroots advocacy that have taken root in Oregon and Minnesota, and in doing so, helps lay the groundwork for a sustainable national movement.

On the national level, OneAmerica is and has been at the leadership tables of the key coalitions undertaking work on immigration reform and due process, and has emerged as a respected and effective policy and communications strategy leader. One America brings to this work a strong focus on asylum seekers, refugees, and the concerns of targeted AMEMSA populations – an important addition to the immigrants' rights tables. OneAmerica had advocated with the Rights Working Group for due process protections as part of comprehensive immigration reform; serves on the Executive Committee of the Center for Community Change's Fair Immigration Reform Movement; was part of the leadership in the now-defunct Coalition for Comprehensive Immigration Reform; and served as the Chair of the Steering Committee for Detention Watch Network.

OneAmerica's founder and Executive Director, Pramila Jayapal, is highly regarded as a thoughtful advocate and an innovator in bridging field organizations with national advocacy campaigns. Jayapal has led statewide efforts that have resulted in some important victories for immigrants in Washington State, and serves as the Vice Chair of the Washington State New Americans Policy Council. In the 1990s, Jayapal directed the Fund for Technology Transfer at PATH Seattle, overseeing a \$6 million revolving loan fund for socially responsible health projects in developing countries.

OSI's provision of support to OneAmerica since 2005 has helped the organization change how AMEMSA communities and immigrants are seen in Washington State; highlight the need for immigration reform and immigrant integration; and grow the movement for immigrant civil and human rights. Renewed support to OneAmerica will allow it to continue making significant strides in these areas and take advantage of opportunities opened up by the recent change in administration.

For the above reasons, OSI staff recommends a renewal grant of \$200,000 over 2 years to provide general support to OneAmerica.

**Name of Organization:** Sikh Coalition

**Tax Status:** 501(c)(3) public charity

**Purpose of Grant:** To support advocacy and grassroots mobilization to combat profiling by national security agencies and to prepare policy-makers to protect rights and liberties in the event of a future terrorist attack in the U.S.

**Previous OSI Support:** None

**Organization Budget:** \$854,948

**Project Budget:** \$151,088

**Major Sources of Support:** Individuals \$465,000; Proteus Fund NSHR Pooled Fund \$85,000; Union Square Awards \$25,000; Sikh Spirit Foundation \$25,000; Munshi Bishan Kochhar Foundation \$20,000; Beyond Borders Foundation \$12,000; New York Community Trust \$10,000

**Amount Requested:** \$200,000 over two years

**Amount Recommended:** \$200,000 [NSHR Campaign, T1: 21095]

**Term:** Two years (June 1, 2009 – May 31, 2011)

**Matching Requirements:** None

**Description of Organization:**

The Sikh Coalition was founded in 2001 in New York City to address the violence and discrimination against Sikhs which followed the terrorist attacks of 9/11 with the mission of the realization of civil and human rights for all people. The organization advocates for laws and policies respectful of fundamental rights, promotes appreciation of diversity through education, fosters civic participation to promote community empowerment, and provides direct legal services to protect the Sikh community's civil rights. The Coalition has offices in New York City and Fremont, California, and has a full-time staff of eight.

**Description of Program for Which Funding Is Sought:**

The Sikh Coalition has requested funding to deepen its advocacy and grassroots mobilization to combat profiling by national security agencies and to prepare policymakers to protect rights and liberties in the event of a future terrorist attack in the U.S.<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> The Sikh Coalition has submitted a bifurcated budget for these projects.

**Combating Profiling by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA).** The Sikh Coalition launched its campaign against profiling by the TSA in August 2007, following the TSA's alteration of its headwear search policy, which provided security screeners with new authority to order public removal of religious headdress<sup>14</sup> at airports. After two and a half months of advocacy, the TSA revised its policy, but complaints received by the Sikh Coalition have indicated a continued high rate of airport screenings of Sikhs nationwide. In 2008, the Sikh Coalition led a coalition of civil rights organizations (including the NAACP, National Council of La Raza, Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, Asian American Justice Center, and the American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee) in advocating for self-monitoring by the TSA as to whether its officers engage in profiling. The TSA rejected this proposal last year, but in May 2009 assigned Assistant Federal Security Director of Chicago O'Hare Airport Mark Lendvay to a sixty day assignment in D.C. to research and recommend measures the TSA can take to combat profiling. The Sikh Coalition has met with Lendvay but it is not clear whether it will have access to the final report.

OSI support would enable the Sikh Coalition to build on the momentum it has developed and better engage its grassroots constituency, national human rights and civil rights organizations, Congressional advocates<sup>15</sup>, and members of the Administration on addressing racial and religious profiling by the TSA. Over the coming year, the Coalition plans to reengage its civil rights coalition in advocacy for a TSA self-auditing system, to continue to press the TSA leadership directly and to secure a Congressional sign-on letter to the TSA calling for reform, and to work with Congressional allies to insert language into other legislation to force the TSA to implement anti-profiling mechanisms. The Coalition will continue to provide know your rights materials to community members, and to issue report cards on TSA profiling.

**Preparing for the Day After.** The Sikh Coalition is launching a new effort to secure the development and adoption of backlash mitigation plans to address foreseeable, bigoted violence against Arab, Middle Eastern, Muslim, and South Asian (AMEMSA) communities in the event of another terrorist attack in the U.S.

The Sikh Coalition was heavily involved in advocacy around the 2005 New York City Hate Crimes Prevention Act, and held meetings with the Mayor's office and with the New York Police Department's Hate Crimes Taskforce on the need for a backlash mitigation plan. In 2006, the Sikh Coalition drafted a bill calling on the city to create such a plan, assembled a broad supporting coalition, and secured the support of 25 of the 50 members of City Council – but did not have the capacity to see this work through. At the federal level, the Coalition has raised the issue in the bimonthly Department of Justice interagency meetings with community organizations – leading to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) creation of its Incident Management Team to convene

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<sup>14</sup> For Sikhs, the turban is a religious article and a deep symbol of Sikh identity. Sikhs consider the hair sacred, and are expected to keep it uncut and covered. It is considered a great dishonor for others to touch or remove one's turban, and it is time-consuming to re-tie and often requires the use of a small, pointed tool.

AMEMSA leaders by conference call in response to future terrorist attacks. While pleased the federal government is moving in a positive direction, the Coalition is not pleased that DHS is leading this effort.

The substance of the planning for the Day After efforts are built on the recommendations of a 2002 Human Rights Watch report authored by the Coalition's Executive Director, "*We are Not the Enemy: Hate Crimes Against Arabs, Muslims, and Those Perceived to be Arab or Muslim After 9/11.*" The report details the history of backlash violence in the U.S. against AMEMSA communities, and uses state and federal data to make the case that this violence is foreseeable and predictable. Recommended government mitigation efforts include: the identification of groups, organizations, or neighborhoods likely to be targeted for discrimination or violence; the creation of a communications chain between government and community leaders, and regular meetings with key leaders; the creation of pre-made public service announcements condemning violence, and, in the event of violence, taking quick action to quell it and hold those responsible accountable; and providing training for government personnel on vulnerable communities and pledging publicly not to engage in discrimination in the aftermath of an attack.

Building on this previous work, the Coalition will engage the Mayor's office, Police Commissioner, and City Council on the issue in New York City, to seek the adoption of a response plan that can also serve as a model for other municipalities. The Coalition will seek to replicate the effort in at least one other city this year. On the federal level, the Coalition will engage the Department of Justice and Department of Homeland Security, and will seek to build a national coalition on the issue.

Finally, this grant would support deepened participation by the Sikh Coalition in the ongoing Department of Justice bi-monthly interagency meetings with AMEMSA community organizations in Washington, D.C.

### **Rationale for Recommendation:**

This grant will advance the National Security and Human Rights Campaign priority 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 them and to promote the acceptance of these communities in American society.

The Sikh Coalition began as a volunteer effort on the night of September 11, 2001, following violent "reprisal" attacks on one elderly Sikh and two teenage Sikhs in Queens. The group conducted media outreach, called on police to better protect Sikh neighborhoods, created press kits for local use around the country, and set up a website recording hate crimes occurrences featuring a chat board and resources for the media. Within two weeks, the coalition developed affiliations in Toronto, Boston, Washington, D.C., Chicago, Houston, Seattle, San Francisco, and Los Angeles, and the Sikh Coalition formally incorporated in October 2001 as the first civil-rights focused Sikh organization in the country.

From the outset, the organization has had substantial community support. It remained a volunteer organization for three years after 9/11, with a core group of fifteen mostly young Sikhs who devoted anywhere from ten to thirty hours per week working to protect their community. The organization hired its first staff member in September 2003 and opened its first office in March 2004. With financial support from the Sikh community, it opened a second office in Fremont, California in 2008. The growth of its staff to eight represents a quadrupling of its staff since 2007. The organization's board is composed primarily of business people who have prioritized ensuring that the Executive Director has the training and support needed to help guide this growth.

The organization has an impressive track record to date. The organization has won numerous discrimination cases on behalf of Sikhs, including the New York Police Department's 2005 reversal of its policy preventing Sikhs from serving as police officers while wearing turbans, and the reversal of a post-9/11 policy preventing MTA employees from serving as subway conductors while wearing turbans. In 2008, with the help of nine pro-bono attorneys, the Coalition processed 122 requests for legal assistance from victims of hate crimes and discrimination. Through its community organizing and advocacy efforts to address systemic discrimination, the Sikh Coalition played a significant role in securing a 2008 New York City schools regulation that defines, tracks, and aims to prevent bias-based harassment in public schools. As part of its educational efforts seeking to ensure respect of fundamental rights and the acceptance of Sikhs in America in the longer term, the Coalition has to date trained more than 5,500 law enforcement officers, government agency officials, and high school students on Sikhs and Sikh concerns. Three years ago, with funding from the Chevron-Texaco Foundation, the Coalition developed (along with OneAmerica, to which a grant is also recommended in this docket) a three to five day curriculum for high school teachers on issues affecting communities suffering from post-9/11 discrimination which has been taught in two school districts in the Seattle area. The Coalition hopes that the curriculum will be taught in New York City schools in the near future.

The organization is well positioned to undertake both projects outlined in this proposal. Executive Director Amardeep Singh is widely regarded as a skilled advocate and coalition partner. Co-founder of the Coalition, Singh became its first full-time staff person as its Legal Director in 2003, and has served as Executive Director since 2006. Singh has represented dozens of Sikh victims of airport profiling, employment discrimination, and hate crimes. Prior to joining the Coalition, Singh worked as a researcher in the U.S. program of Human Rights Watch.

For the above reasons, OSI staff recommends a grant of \$200,000 over two years to support the Sikh Coalition's TSA Profiling Project and Day After Project.

**Name of Organization:** South Asian Americans Leading Together

**Tax Status:** 501(c)(3) public charity

**Purpose of Grant:** To provide core support

**Previous OSI Support:** None

**Organization Budget:** \$543,982

**Project Budget:** N/A

**Major Sources of Support:** Four Freedoms Fund \$95,000; Proteus Fund \$85,000; Ford Foundation \$60,000; Fund for New Jersey \$59,710; Asian American Practitioners in Philanthropy \$30,000; Rights Working Group \$30,000; Individual donors \$37,345

**Amount Requested:** \$250,000 over two years

**Amount Recommended:** \$200,000  
\$100,000 [NSHR Campaign, T1: 21095]  
\$100,000 [EOF Immigrant Rights, T1: 24441]

**Term:** Two years (July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2011)

**Matching Requirements:** None

**Description of Organization:**

South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT) was founded in 2000 to foster civic and political engagement by South Asians and advance social justice<sup>16</sup> in America. The organization has been staffed since 2004, and it focuses on two policy goals: addressing the impact of post-9/11 national security and immigration policies that target Arab, Middle Eastern, Muslim, and South Asian (AMEMSA) communities, and advocating for enforcement of civil rights laws and comprehensive immigration reform. To advance these goals, SAALT engages in policy analysis and advocacy, community and public education, community organization capacity building, and leadership development. The organization is based in Washington, D.C., and has four full-time staff members.

The primary mechanism through which SAALT involves grassroots communities in its work is the National Coalition of South Asian Organizations (NCSO), a network of 33 organizations from 11 states<sup>17</sup> that engage in direct service provision, advocacy, and

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<sup>16</sup>SAALT’s “social justice” framework consists of: a commitment to challenging racism, sexism, homophobia, and class privilege, a pledge to build national power from the grassroots level with strong networked organizations and individual leadership and engagement, and a belief in working in collaboration with allies to strengthen broader progressive movements.

organizing within South Asian communities. SAALT created and coordinates the NCSO to ensure that local communities are heard and involved in local, state, and national arenas; to facilitate peer exchange and training; and to develop and disseminate shared materials and advance a common and progressive advocacy agenda. Launched in 2008 under SAALT's fiscal sponsorship, the NCSO includes organizations (including the Sikh Coalition, also recommended in this docket) which have long addressed post-9/11 and immigration issues, as well as organizations focusing on health equity, gender violence, and youth empowerment.

### **Description of Program for Which Funding Is Sought:**

SAALT seeks support for its core operations, as well as to deepen and strengthen its programmatic work against profiling and discrimination and for immigration reform. Over the proposed two year grant period, SAALT plans to:

**Engage in policy analysis and advocacy.** SAALT focuses its policy advocacy at the intersection of immigration, profiling, and post-9/11 national security policies. SAALT will continue to share its analysis of comprehensive immigration reform proposals and engage South Asian organizations in reform efforts. During the Obama-Biden transition, SAALT participated in meetings on immigration reform; developed NCSO position papers on immigration and civil rights issues; and coordinated a meeting with AMEMSA organizations on post-9/11 civil rights enforcement. SAALT staff have provided input on, and advocated to members of Congress and government agencies for, reform of the National Security Entry-Exit Registration System (NSEERS), immigration security backlog delays, the use of 287(g) agreements, which allow local law officers to enforce immigration law, and violations of due process rights in detention and deportation. SAALT is currently seeking the elimination of the glaring exemption for national security in the Department of Justice's guidelines barring racial profiling, and anticipates that over the next two years its legislative advocacy will focus on immigration reform, supporting the End Racial Profiling Act, and other efforts to roll back discriminatory post-9/11 policies.<sup>18</sup> In 2009, SAALT's second National South Asian Summit brought together 250 individuals including NCSO members and included a South Asian Advocacy Day on Capitol Hill.

### **Collaborate with civil and immigrants rights groups on national campaigns.**

SAALT brings issue expertise and incorporates the perspectives of NCSO partners in its work with national coalitions. SAALT serves on the Steering Committee of the Rights Working Group, and intends to play a key role in a coalition campaign to end racial profiling. SAALT is a member of the Fair Immigration Reform Movement, a project of the Center for Community Change, and plans to increase its support for comprehensive immigration reform. Finally, SAALT recently joined the Leadership Conference on Civil

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<sup>17</sup> NSCO members are located in Massachusetts, California, New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Washington, D.C., Georgia, Illinois, Michigan, Washington, and Texas, and work with individuals from Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and of many faiths, including Muslims, Christians, Hindus, Jains, and Sikhs.

<sup>18</sup> SAALT has provided a bifurcated budget.



Rights and intends to participate in its task forces on immigration reform and immigrant rights, hate crimes, profiling, and civil liberties.

**Deepen media advocacy by the South Asian American community.** Seeking to shift negative public opinion about Muslims and Sikhs, SAALT uses public speaking, reports, and media outreach to offer accurate information and dispel myths about the South Asian community's cultural values and religious beliefs. SAALT volunteers and staff frequently offer presentations on South Asians in America to community associations, government agencies, and educators. SAALT is currently utilizing communications resources offered by the NSHR Campaign to expand its ethnic and mainstream media outreach. SAALT is working with the SPIN Project to provide spokesperson trainings for its NCSO partners, and to develop a strategic communications plan. It is also starting a South Asian speakers' bureau to facilitate participation by NCSO members, academics, and other South Asian advocates in press conferences, media interviews, and local and national events on immigration and profiling.

**Engage in community education.** SAALT seeks to foster engagement on post-9/11 issues and civic participation amongst South Asian communities of diverse backgrounds. To develop local leadership, SAALT provides trainings and workshops on social justice issues for South Asian students and youth, organizes an annual national day of service, and develops "SAALT Circles" in cities with individual members interested in local advocacy. In 2009, SAALT plans to hold townhall forums on immigration and profiling in Atlanta, Chicago, Los Angeles, Washington, D.C., and Edison, N.J. SAALT is planning a series of webinars for South Asian ethnic media and community members on profiling, the increase in enforcement of immigration laws by local and state law enforcement agencies, immigration reform, and anti-immigration movements. SAALT has developed community education materials explaining new naturalization requirements that include stories about South Asians mired in the immigration system, and plans to develop and disseminate a Know Your Rights brochure tailored to its constituencies. SAALT also plans to develop a legal resource bank with information about lawyers and legal clinics willing to assist South Asians with legal needs.

**Collect and document stories and data from South Asians.** SAALT plans to undertake a documentation project on post-9/11 profiling and due process violations, using video and narratives, in close collaboration with NCSO member organizations. SAALT seeks to fill a gap in comprehensive documentation on the impact of these policies on the South Asian community, and will produce a report to be released in conjunction with the tenth anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

SAALT is engaged in a strategic planning process, due to be completed at the end of June 2009. The organization's staff currently includes an Executive Director, a Policy Director, Communications/Program Associate, and an Americorps volunteer. SAALT has secured funding to hire a Director of Programs and Partnerships to work with the NCSO and guide grassroots education and mobilization efforts. OSI support would enable SAALT to bring on at least one additional member of staff to support its national security and immigration education and advocacy efforts.

### **Rationale for Recommendation:**

This grant will advance the National Security and Human Rights Campaign priority 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 them and to promote the acceptance of these communities in American society. It will also advance the Equality and Opportunity Fund's Immigrant Rights Portfolio's priorities of stemming the erosion of the civil and human rights of immigrants, linking immigration to broader national issues, and advancing sound immigration policy reform.

South Asian communities, particularly Sikhs and Muslims, continue to be targeted by post-9/11 national security and immigration policies. Continued measures such as the increased use of local law enforcement to enforce federal immigration laws and the targeting of religious places of worship by law enforcement are having a significant impact on community members, especially those who are non-citizens, who are experiencing a heightened sense of fear and distrust of law enforcement.

SAALT's work directly addresses these issues and engages South Asians in advocacy. SAALT has played a leading role bringing community voices into policy debates and field campaigns, diversifying documentation and messengers, and broadening civic engagement by immigrant communities.

The organization has strong and dynamic leaders. Executive Director Deepa Iyer brings both consensus building skills and legal and policy expertise to the organization, which she has directed for four years. She served as an Outside Advisor to the Immigration Policy Group of the Obama-Biden transition team, and as a trial attorney at the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice, she helped spearhead the Initiative to Combat Post-September 11<sup>th</sup> Discriminatory Backlash at the Division. Policy Director Priya Murthy previously worked for immigration courts, the Amnesty International Refugee Office, and the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees in New Delhi.

An OSI grant to this promising new organization will complement current capacity building support from the Proteus Fund and the Four Freedoms Fund that are targeted at building civic participation and strengthening the National Coalition of South Asian Organizations.

For the above reasons, OSI staff recommends a grant of \$200,000 over two years to provide core support to South Asian Americans Leading Together.