



IN THIS WEEK'S ISSUE

CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS

No relevant hearings this week.

ABOUT D.C. NEWS & VIEWS

D.C. News & Views is MPAC's weekly round-up of news from our nation's capitol, plus thoughtful analysis about current issues that affect Muslim Americans.

News & Views connects you to decision-makers and opinion-shapers, and provides avenues for you to add your voice to

Ban on 'Material Support' Contradicts Efforts to Promote National Security

 On Tuesday, the Supreme Court ruled six to three to uphold the ban on 'material support' in the form of training, advice, and/or services to foreign terrorist organizations (FTOs). The broad-brushed ruling continues to impede the work of human rights and humanitarian organizations aiming to promote nonviolent means of advocacy. The ruling not only dismisses the fundamental rights that protect the work of such organizations vis-a-vis granted under the U.S. Constitution, but it also erodes the institutions of diplomacy and conflict resolution that are alternate measures to military force.

One of the main plaintiffs in this suit, the Humanitarian Law Project (HLP), insisted that providing educational resources and tools to push militant groups toward peaceful means of advocacy could not be deemed criminal under the U.S. Constitution. In addition, numerous members of civil society have deemed this a violation of their First Amendment rights.

Stephen Vladeck, Professor of Law at American University, stated, "The decision sends a clear message that the First Amendment does not protect even the most benign forms of advocacy on behalf of groups designated as 'foreign terrorist organizations' by the Secretary of State."

According to Chief Justice John Roberts, providing "even seemingly benign support bolsters the terrorist activities of that (FTO) organization." Thus, efforts to push FTOs away from violence into peaceful advocacy ultimately undermines any American administration's goal to foster global security without the constant exertion of our military.

Rather than minimizing terrorism, this ruling will only serve to

debates which shape our country.

escalate it further. Not only does it put up new barriers to communication and education, which can de-escalate global political tensions, it effectively shuts off pathways toward peaceful alternatives to violence.

This leaves only military force as the only conceivable option left for governments and militant groups alike. As a result, more time, lives, money and resources will be spent in order to defeat violent groups. Ultimately, this harms America's national security.

Charities, communities, and Congress need to come together to offer a legislative fix. Not only does the ruling threaten fundamental constitutional rights, it only serves to undermine the safety and security of our nation.

[CONTACT: Haris Tarin, DC Office Director, (202) 547-7701, haris@mpac.org]

MUSLIM PUBLIC AFFAIRS COUNCIL
110 Maryland Ave., N.E. Suite #304
Washington, D.C. 20002
P: 202 547 7701
F: 202 547 7704

Our Newsletter System

Please take a moment now and update your MPACnews subscription information. Use the *'manage your preferences'* link at the very bottom of this email.

Also, please take a moment to save our email address (news@mpac.org) into your "safe list" or address book to ensure MPAC emails go directly to your Inbox.

How Does MPAC Help Muslims & Islam in America?

Created in 1988, the Muslim Public Affairs Council is a public policy institution that focuses on fostering a vibrant Muslim American community that is a vital and contributing element of America's pluralism. MPAC has built a reputation as a consistent and reliable resource for government and media, and is trusted by Muslim Americans as an authentic, experienced voice. The Mission of MPAC encompasses promoting a Muslim American identity, building constructive relationships between Muslim Americans and their representatives, and training a future generation of men and women to share our vision.

DONATE TO MPAC

BECOME
A
MEMBER