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**DESPITE CONGRESSIONAL REFRAMING, KEY PROVISION OF THE
PATRIOT ACT STILL RULED UNCONSTITUTIONAL**

*Court Rules Ban on All “Expert Advice and Assistance” to Foreign Terrorist Groups
Still Vague*

Also Strikes Down Bans on “Training” and “Services”

New York, NY, July 29, 2005- In Los Angeles, U.S. District Court Judge Audrey Collins ruled in a Center for Constitutional Rights case that a key provision in the USA Patriot Act criminalizing the provision of "expert advice or assistance" to designated foreign terrorist groups is unconstitutional, despite an attempt by Congress to fix the problems in the 2004 Intelligence Reform Act. She also struck down two other key provisions of the bill that ban the provision of "services" and "training" to designated groups.

Judge Collins, the first judge to declare any section of the Patriot Act unconstitutional, had previously declared several parts of the material support statute of the Patriot Act unconstitutional in rulings in 1998 and 2004.

In December, Congress revised the Act in response to her rulings, and the case was sent back to District Court. Today, she ruled that Congress did not adequately clarify the bans on "training" and "expert advice." She also ruled unconstitutional a new ban, added by the 2004 Act, on providing "services" to designated groups.

The Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR) originally filed the case, *Humanitarian Law Project v. Gonzales*, on behalf of the Humanitarian Law Project, a human rights organization that seeks to provide human rights advocacy training to the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), the main Kurdish political party in Turkey, and several Tamil-American organizations that seek to support the lawful activities of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in Sri Lanka, especially in areas affected by the 2004 tsunami. The District Court previously found that both the PKK and the LTTE engage in a wide variety of lawful, nonviolent activities, including providing relief to tsunami victims and other important humanitarian relief efforts.

"This law is so sweeping that it makes it a crime for our clients to provide medical services to tsunami survivors in Sri Lanka and to provide assistance in human rights advocacy to the Kurds in Turkey," said CCR cooperating attorney **David Cole**, who argued the case. *"Judge Collins's decision affirms that we must not sacrifice principles of free speech in the war on terror."*