

ImpeachCentral.com

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Introduction

In reading this impeachment manual it is important to keep two points in mind. First, that the act of lobbying (or influencing) your congressperson is a dynamic process; it will become easier to master the more it is practiced. Second, lobbying begins with a small number of committed and focused individuals. As time progresses, others in your community will be drawn to this crucial work. So don't give up!

Please feel free to adapt the material in this kit (excluding the Articles of Impeachment) as is appropriate for your own district and region of the country. And if you have any questions, do contact us. Finally, remember...you are not alone.

Sample E-mail Letter

Impeach Central, a grassroots organization, urgently needs people to help impeach the Bush Administration. You can assist in this process by mounting a lobbying campaign in your congressperson's district.

Through our joint effort we will keep the pressure on your representative until _____(he/she) introduces the Articles of Impeachment in Congress or at least publicly supports impeachment. _____(he/she) has been selected because _____ has been considering impeachment, but needs that final push from you.

Impeach Central is part of a much larger impeachment effort that includes such people as U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark and Professor of Law Francis A. Boyle, authors of the Articles of Impeachment.

IC would appreciate the active participation of your group's membership. Would you kindly circulate this e-mail at your next general meeting. We look forward to hearing from you and any questions you may have.

Thank you so much,

Impeachment Talking Points

1. Impeachment will never happen.

Impeachment may or may not happen, but the impeachment process can achieve the following:

- The process is a tool (or strategy) that will expose the criminality of the Bush Administration.
- Facts brought to light could be helpful in keeping Bush from being elected in 2004.
- It will be more difficult for the Bush Administration to plan and carry out new military operations with impeachment proceedings hanging over them.
- The media will be forced to cover the hearings as new facts arise.
- Even if elected, Bush will end up a lame duck president whatever the outcome of the proceedings. The Bush administration will lose credibility with the public.

2. You'll never get a congressperson to stand up.

They may be afraid that:

- They won't get elected, because impeachment is such a thorny issue in general.
- The Bush administration will impinge on the rights of congresspersons.
- Their corporate contributors will react negatively if they support impeachment

However, if a large percentage of a representative's constituency calls for impeachment, that representative would be more likely to respond. Through lobbying, a congressperson will be asked to either stand up and introduce Articles of Impeachment into Congress (as a bill) or to simply support others who will do so.

3. Impeachment is a distraction from focusing attention on the 2004 elections.

It is a false choice to choose one over the other. They complement one another. One is a legislative process while the other is an electoral campaign. It is important to keep in mind these questions:

- Can we trust the Bush Administration - with its track record - to play fair in 2004?
- Facts brought to light in an impeachment process could be helpful in keeping Bush from getting elected in 2004.

4. Most of the public supports Bush, so how can he be impeached?

- Once impeachment facts are introduced (through hearings in the House Judiciary Committee) the media will have a field day with the Bush Administration's criminal deeds.
- Nixon won reelection by a landslide in 1972, but subsequently resigned in the face of almost certain impeachment.

- George Bush Senior was popular after the first Gulf War, but because of a sluggish economy he lost re-election.
- The public is now focusing on the economy and the cost of occupying Iraq. A large number of U.S. soldiers and Iraqi citizens have died as well.

5. Impeachment hurts the Democratic candidates' chances of getting elected.

- Democrats and other party candidates will profit from revelations of the Bush Administration's wrongdoing.
- Impeaching Clinton didn't stop the Republicans from getting elected in the 2000 and recent mid-term elections.
- The impeachment does not require the endorsement of candidates, therefore the public will not associate particular electoral campaigns with impeachment.

6. Why not leave the issue of impeachment to the larger peace groups?

- To the best of IC's knowledge, there are no large peace groups doing what IC is doing. Impeach Central has a national strategy that actively recruits constituents who lobby their representatives to stand up for impeachment.

7. Impeachment is such a negative process. Why get involved?

- There is a moral and legal imperative for impeachment: The Bush Administration has lied to Congress and the American people.
- It is not as negative as the alternative: watching Bush and Rumsfeld start a new war, plunging the country into further debt while more innocent people die.
- Stealing an election is also very negative. Keeping legitimate voters off the voter rolls (as happened in Florida, 2000) is anything but positive.
- We must protect our democratic rights by exercising the constitutional right of impeachment.

Lobbying Overview

Lobbying is an attempt to influence elected officials on specific legislation. Legislation can either be introduced or a draft bill that may be introduced in the future to any legislative body such as a city council, state legislature or Congress. Writing letters is one of the most fundamental grassroots tools for showing support or opposition towards an issue. A handwritten letter shows the congressperson that the constituent has thought about the issue and has serious opinions about it. It only takes 5-7 minutes to have a constituent write a letter when a sample letter is provided. It will also demonstrate to the congressperson that the group submitting the letters is organized and can influence voters in her/his district. The goal is to mail all the letters at the same time while keeping count of them since the number of letters received directly impacts the congressperson's position on the issue.

By generating hundreds of letters on the impeachment issue we can lobby from a position of strength when visiting a legislator. We want to show the congressperson that the issue of impeachment is strongly supported by members of her/his district. In addition to generating letters, we want to target mainstream media, and organize a deluge of letters-to-the-editor and numerous op-ed pieces in the local print media. In summary, we must show the congressperson that impeachment has strong support among her/his constituents and make it visible in the press.

We want one or more members of the House of Representatives to introduce the Articles of Impeachment in Congress. The strength of our impeachment case is directly related to the number of congresspeople who will sponsor the bill.

Lobbying, like most endeavors, requires preparation and lots of practice. By lobbying in an organized and consistent manner, we can demonstrate power and influence. In conclusion, there is nothing politicians understand better than power and influence.

Your Rights to Demonstrate and Protest

A guide for demonstrators, marchers, speakers and others who seek to exercise their First Amendment rights.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

Q. Can my free speech rights be restricted because of what I want to say – even if it’s controversial?

A. No. The First Amendment prohibits restrictions based on the content of speech. However, this does not mean that the Constitution completely protects all types of free speech activity in every circumstance. Police and government officials are allowed to place certain non-discriminatory and narrowly drawn “time, place and manner” restrictions on the exercise of First Amendment rights.

Q. Where can I engage in free speech activity?

A. Generally, all types of expression are constitutionally protected in traditional “public forums” such as streets, sidewalks and parks. In addition, your speech activity may be permitted to take place at other public locations which the government has opened up to similar speech activities, such as the plazas in front of government buildings.

Q. What about free speech activity on private property?

A. The general rule is that free speech activity cannot take place on private property absent the consent of the property owner. However, in California, the courts have recognized an exception for large shopping centers, and have permitted leafleting and petitioning to take place in the public areas of large shopping centers. The shopping center owners, however, are entitled to impose regulations that, for example, limit the number of activists on the property and restrict their activities to designated “free speech areas.” Most large shopping centers have enacted detailed free speech regulations that require obtaining a permit in advance. It is unclear whether the courts will extend this “shopping center exception” to other types of private property, such as the walkways in front of large free-standing stores, such as a Safeway or a Costco.

Q. Do I need a permit before I engage in free speech activity?

A. Not usually. However, certain types of events require permits. Generally, these events are: 1) a march or parade that does not stay on the sidewalk and other events that require blocking traffic or street closures; 2) a large rally requiring the use of sound amplifying devices; or 3) a rally at certain designated parks or plazas, such as federal property managed by the General Services Administration. Many permit procedures require that the application be filed several weeks in advance of the event. However, the First Amendment prohibits such an advance notice requirement from being used to prevent rallies or demonstrations that are rapid responses to unforeseeable and recent events. Also, many permit ordinances give a lot of discretion to the police or city officials to impose conditions on the event, such as the route of a march or the sound levels of amplification equipment. Such restrictions may violate the First Amendment if they are unnecessary for traffic control or public safety, or if they interfere significantly with effective communication with the intended audience.

A permit cannot be denied because the event is controversial or will express unpopular views

SPECIFIC PROBLEMS

Q. If organizers have not obtained a permit, where can a march take place?

A. If marchers stay on the sidewalks and obey traffic and pedestrian signals, their activity is constitutionally protected even without a permit. Marchers may be required to allow enough space on the sidewalk for normal pedestrian traffic and may not maliciously obstruct or detain passers-by.

Q. May I distribute leaflets and other literature on public sidewalks?

A. Yes. Pedestrians on public sidewalks may be approached with leaflets, newspapers, petitions and solicitations for donations. Tables may also be set up on sidewalks for these purposes if sufficient room is left for pedestrians to pass. These types of free speech activities are legal as long as entrances to buildings are not blocked and passers-by are not physically and maliciously detained. No permits should be required.

Q. Do I have a right to picket on public sidewalks?

A. Yes, and this is also an activity for which a permit is not required. However, picketing must be done in an orderly, non-disruptive fashion so that pedestrians can pass by and entrances to buildings are not blocked. Contrary to the belief of some law enforcement officials, pickets are not required to keep moving but may remain in one place as long as they leave room on the sidewalk for others to pass.

Q. Can the government impose a financial charge on exercising free speech rights?

A. Increasingly, local governments are imposing financial costs as a condition of exercising free speech rights, such as application fees, security deposits for clean-up, or charges to cover overtime police costs. Unfortunately, such charges that cover actual administrative costs or the actual costs of re-routing traffic have been permitted by some courts. However, if the costs are greater because an event is controversial (or a hostile crowd is expected) – such as requiring a large insurance policy – then the courts will not permit it. Also, regulations with financial requirements should include a waiver for groups that cannot afford the charge, so that even grassroots organizations can exercise their free speech rights. Therefore, a group without significant financial resources should not be prevented from engaging in a march simply because it cannot afford the charges the City would like to impose.

Q. Can a speaker be silenced for provoking a crowd?

A. Generally, no. Even the most inflammatory speaker cannot be punished for merely arousing the audience. A speaker can be arrested and convicted for incitement only if he or she specifically advocates violence or illegal actions and only if those illegalities are imminently likely to occur.

Q. Do counter-demonstrators have free speech rights?

A. Yes. Although counter-demonstrators should not be allowed to physically disrupt the event they are protesting, they do have the right to be present and to voice their displeasure. Police are permitted to keep two antagonistic groups separated but should allow them to be within the general vicinity of one another.

Q. Is heckling protected by the First Amendment?

A. Although the law is not settled, heckling should be protected, unless hecklers are attempting to physically disrupt an event, or unless they are drowning out the other speakers.

Q. Does it matter if other speech activities have taken place at the same location in the past?

A. Yes. The government cannot discriminate against activists because of the controversial content of their message. Thus, if you can show that similar events to yours have been permitted in the past (such as a Veterans or Memorial Day parade), then that is an indication that the government is involved in selective enforcement if they are not granting you your permit.

Q. What other types of free speech activity are constitutionally protected?

A. The First Amendment covers all forms of communication including music, theaters, film and dance. The Constitution also protects actions that symbolically express a viewpoint. Examples of these symbolic forms of speech include wearing masks and costumes or holding a candlelight vigil. However, symbolic acts and civil disobedience that involve illegal conduct may be outside the realm of constitutional protections and can sometimes lead to arrest and conviction. Therefore, while sitting in a road may be expressing a political opinion, the act of blocking traffic may lead to criminal punishment.

Q. What should I do if my rights are being violated by a police officer?

A. It rarely does any good to argue with a street patrol officer. Ask to talk to a superior and explain your position to her or him. Point out that you are not disrupting anyone else's activity and that your actions are protected by the First Amendment. If you do not obey an officer, you might be arrested and taken from the scene. You should not be convicted if a court concludes that your First Amendment rights have been violated.

A wallet-sized card containing more practical suggestions about encounters with police officers is available in English, Spanish, and Chinese from the ACLU-NC. The ACLU has recently published a "Know Your Rights" pamphlet that explains your rights if you are stopped by the police, the FBI, the INS or the Customs Service. It is available in Arabic, English, and Spanish, and soon will be available in Farsi, Hindi, Urdu, and Punjabi. You can obtain copies of this pamphlet by calling the ACLU-NC at (415) 621-2493.

Important Numbers

If you have a question about your civil liberties or rights, call the ACLU-NC hotline at: 415/621-2493 (x322) If you are arrested while engaging in free speech activities, call the National Lawyers Guild Legal Hotline: 415/285-1011

How to Lobby

Know Your Rights

- Citizens have a right to gather in any location, which is considered public access. Please refer to the ACLU flyer, *Your Rights to Demonstrate and Protest*.

What You Need

- Two or More People
- Ironing Board
- Clip Boards/Cardboard "Boards"
- Stationery
- Envelopes
- Lots of Pens
- Masking Tape
- One Mounted Impeachment Sign - 24 inches by 30 inches
- One Mounted Sample Letter - 24 inches by 30 inches - place the letter somewhere high and visible so that people can copy onto stationery
- Black or Blue Marker
- Jar for Donations
- Volunteer Sign-Up Sheets
- Flyers

Where to be

In selecting a location you need to keep in mind:

- Ideally spend 2-3 hours at a time
- Heavy pedestrian traffic
- Time of day. (Is there a major event going on?)
- Weekday or Weekend. (Weekends twice as busy.)
- Few distractions
- A reasonable store manager (if on private property).
- Busy supermarket storefronts
- Busy public street
- College campuses

Examples of bad locations:

- Door-to-door (too slow)
- Tourist areas

Tactics

- Please refer to the ACLU flyer, *Your Rights to Demonstrate and Protest*
- Target someone stoppable (don't run after people)
- Make eye contact
- Hand-over the clip board and bring them to the ironing board

Pitfalls

- Talking too much
- Arguing
- Preaching to the converted
- Chatting about other issues
- Going into too much detail
- Allowing people to tell you what 'you should really be working on'
- Sitting at a table
- Allowing disruptive people to bother you
- Standing with someone while he/she holds your board

How to break out of conversations

- Agree and let go
- Explain you have a lot of letters to collect and move on.

Points to Remember

- Busy locations
- Stay mobile
- Always make eye contact
- Keep it short and simple
- Don't let people waste YOUR time
- Reserve spots ahead of time
- Always have one person covering the ironing board
- Give out flyers
- Always have a volunteer sign-up sheet
- Make contacts with individuals who are members of local organizations.

Sample Letter to Congressperson

Congress[.....]
1234 Any Street
Anytown, ST, 12345

Dear Congress[.....]

I am writing to respectfully request that you consider the Impeachment of President George W. Bush, Vice-President Richard B. Cheney, Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld, and Attorney General John David Ashcroft for consistently making false statements in the execution of their official duties. This administration has manipulated the media and concealed information vital to public discourse in a democracy. The list of their betrayal of the American people, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights continues to grow. If we allow this administration to persist with its lies, cover-ups, and war profiteering, then there is something very wrong at the core of our political system.

I urge you as an elected official to do what is right and support the Articles of Impeachment put forward by former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark and Professor of Law Francis A. Boyle.

Sincerely,

Signature

Print Name

Address

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the editor (LTE) are a great way to get your message out to others in your community. Editors and reporters may also look to letters to the editor for ideas and issues that they have not previously covered.

The LTE should be clear, brief, and focused.

Limit the letter to one page.

Remember that shorter letters have a better chance of being published.

LTE campaigns are effective in generating many letters that deal with the same issue. They also serve to address particular news items or editorials that have appeared in the publication. To start a LTE campaign, you should form a LTE committee in your group. Stagger the mailings, a few days apart to address a particular issue.

LTE can be useful in several ways: to respond to an editorial or another letter to the editor, to comment on a recent event, or even to build support for your issue. It is a fantastic way to reach tens of thousands of readers while investing limited time.

Op-Eds

In addition to letters to the editor, newspapers run opinion columns on either the editorial or Op-Ed pages, or frequently both. The term "Op-Ed" is shorthand for "Opposite Editorial." Op-Eds are also referred to as "opinion pieces." Op-Eds are written by guest writers (most of whom, unfortunately, are syndicated columnists and not local citizens).

An Op-Ed should not be confused with an editorial. The editor, or the editorial board, of a newspaper writes editorials. You will notice that editorials are rarely signed, as they represent the point of view of the newspaper as a whole.

Key Points for Discussion

- A. Limit your piece to 500-800 words total. Shorter pieces are more likely to be published and read by the general public.
- B. Research news articles on the subject before writing. The research has to come first.
- C. Mix the human-interest perspective with hard facts and statistics. Give your story a human face backed by solid research.
- D. Indignation is good. Readers like to see passion in a piece. Indignation accomplishes two key goals. First, people are rarely moved to action without the push of one of the emotional buttons (anger and hope). Second, indignation in a piece suggests to the reader that the writer is sincere and independent, not likely beholden to the special interests who value the word "moderate" above all else. A word of caution. *Indignation should not be confused with ranting or lack of civility. Always think of yourself as a professional.*
- E. The first paragraph, and especially the first sentence, should be directly tied to recent news.
- F. The second paragraph should focus on a recommendation. If writing about a bill, the second paragraph might start, "Congress should take this historic opportunity to address..."
- G. The rest of the piece should contain further explanation of the problem that you are addressing, your proposed solutions and the players involved. Make sure to follow the recommendations in section "C" above.
- H. The conclusion should be pithy and memorable. It should cause the reader to ponder all that you have written and it should drive home your central point.
- I. Lastly. Rewrite, rewrite, rewrite. Rewrite until you feel that the piece is both punchy and flowing. Ask family and friends for editorial help.

- J. Call the Op-Ed editor before you submit your piece. Tell the editor what you are thinking about writing and solicit her/his comments. Ask if they are open to running it. A couple of good things can happen from these pre-submission phone calls. First, the editor might steer you in a better direction than you had first thought of, (Well, if you're writing about X, why don't you try starting it with"). Second, if you get the editor's ear and they do offer comments, they are more likely to embrace (then publish) the piece as their own creation when they receive it.

Visits with the Congressperson

Research

- Research the member's voting record.
- Find out which constituencies and or industries are important in the member's district.
- What committees and or subcommittees does the member sit on? How do they relate to your issue? What power does the member have to give you what you want?

Assemble a Delegation

- A delegation lets the member of Congress know that the issue resonates with the community.
- A good delegation is between three and five people. Large delegations should be avoided because you don't want to overwhelm your member of Congress. It is also important to start to build a relationship with your congressional representative.

Request a Visit

- Visit requests should be submitted to the member's scheduler in letter form, usually via fax. The letter should identify the persons requesting the visit and the constituencies, if any, such people represent. The letter should also specify that you wish to discuss civil liberties in general and impeachment specifically.
- Most likely you will have to follow up several times with the scheduler in order to set a visit. Frequently you will be offered a meeting with an aide. Don't be concerned or feel snubbed: often aides have a lot of influence in the area of policy they cover. Developing good relationships with them can be vital to have a long-term effect on policy.

Planning and Practice

- Discuss with the members of the delegation precisely what issues you wish to bring up. Keep in mind that most visits last only up to thirty minutes.
- Determine what, if any, questions you intend to ask and when you intend to ask them. Keep in mind that once a question is asked you cede control of the meeting to a member or aide, who may spend the rest of your thirty minutes talking about an unrelated issue. Sometimes, not always, it is best to leave questions for after you have conveyed what you wished to convey.
- Based on your research, determine which arguments you think will best sway the member to your position.
- Bring printed materials from credible sources, the briefer the better, to support each of your positions or to offer information the member is not likely to have.
- Always ask for something concrete, i.e. to introduce the Articles of Impeachment, to cosponsor, to vote for or against, or author legislation. It is often a good idea to go into the meeting with a back-up item to ask for, something somewhat easier for the member to agree to, especially if you think it is unlikely they will agree to your primary ask.
- Decide beforehand who is going to say what in the meeting.
- Practice. It sounds silly, but it is better to go in prepared. Take turns playing the member or aide and putting out various scenarios.

The Visit

- Take notes. You will get valuable information regarding the member's position that should help you in future lobbying efforts.
- If the member or the aide asks you for information you don't have, make a note of it and say that you will get back to them. Be sure to do it.
- Record any commitments made by the member or their aide. You may well have to remind them of these.
- If you meet with an aide in the local office, be sure to find out who the aide in charge of your issue in Washington is, and indicate that you plan to follow up with that person.

Debrief/Follow Up

- After the meeting, find a place where you can relax with your delegation and compare notes on the meeting. This is important, as different people might have different interpretations of the members' position.
- Agree as a group on who will do what follow up tasks, i.e. gathering information, writing the thank you letter, etc.
- It is customary to write a thank you letter to the person that you met with. One thank you letter per delegation is sufficient. This is a good opportunity to review commitments made, to provide promised information or other materials that support your position.
- Let us know how it went. Let your experience strengthen the overall effort. We can better coordinate our national lobbying effort when you share your experience with us.

Articles of Impeachment

of

President George W. Bush

and

**Vice President Richard B. Cheney,
Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld, and
Attorney General John David Ashcroft**

The President, Vice President and all civil Officers of the United States, shall be removed from Office on Impeachment for, and Conviction of, Treason, Bribery, or other high Crimes and Misdemeanors. - - **ARTICLE II, SECTION 4 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

President George W. Bush, Vice President Richard B. Cheney, Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld, and Attorney General John David Ashcroft have committed violations and subversions of the Constitution of the United States of America in an attempt to carry out with impunity crimes against peace and humanity and war crimes and deprivations of the civil rights of the people of the United States and other nations, by assuming powers of an imperial executive unaccountable to law and usurping powers of the Congress, the Judiciary and those reserved to the people of the United States, by the following acts:

1) Seizing power to wage wars of aggression in defiance of the U.S. Constitution, the U.N. Charter and the rule of law; carrying out a massive assault on and occupation of Iraq, a country that was not threatening the United States, resulting in the death and maiming of tens of thousands of Iraqis, and hundreds of U.S. G.I.s.

Lying to the people of the U.S., to Congress, and to the U.N., providing false and deceptive rationales for war.

2) Authorizing, ordering and condoning direct attacks on civilians, civilian facilities and locations where civilian casualties were unavoidable.

3) Threatening the independence and sovereignty of Iraq by belligerently changing its government by force and assaulting Iraq in a war of aggression.

4) Authorizing, ordering and condoning assassinations, summary executions, kidnappings, secret and other illegal detentions of individuals, torture and physical and psychological coercion of prisoners to obtain false statements concerning acts and intentions of governments and individuals and violating within the United States, and by authorizing U.S. forces and agents elsewhere, the rights of individuals under the First, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth and Eighth Amendments to the Constitution of the United States, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

5) Making, ordering and condoning false statements and propaganda about the conduct of foreign governments and individuals and acts by U.S. government personnel; manipulating the media and foreign governments with false information; concealing information vital to public discussion and informed judgment concerning acts, intentions and possession, or efforts to obtain weapons of mass destruction in order to falsely create a climate of fear and destroy opposition to U.S. wars of aggression and first strike attacks.

6) Violations and subversions of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, both a part of the "Supreme Law of the land" under Article VI, paragraph 2, of the Constitution, in an attempt to commit with impunity crimes against peace and humanity and war crimes in wars and threats of aggression against Afghanistan, Iraq and others and usurping powers of the United Nations and the peoples of its nations by bribery, coercion and other corrupt acts and by rejecting treaties, committing treaty violations, and frustrating compliance with treaties in order to destroy any means by which international law and institutions can prevent, affect, or adjudicate the exercise of U.S. military and economic power against the international community.

- 7) Acting to strip United States citizens of their constitutional and human rights, ordering indefinite detention of citizens, without access to counsel, without charge, and without opportunity to appear before a civil judicial officer to challenge the detention, based solely on the discretionary designation by the Executive of a citizen as an "enemy combatant."
- 8) Ordering indefinite detention of non-citizens in the United States and elsewhere, and without charge, at the discretionary designation of the Attorney General or the Secretary of Defense.
- 9) Ordering and authorizing the Attorney General to override judicial orders of release of detainees under INS jurisdiction, even where the judicial officer after full hearing determines a detainee is wrongfully held by the government.
- 10) Authorizing secret military tribunals and summary execution of persons who are not citizens who are designated solely at the discretion of the Executive who acts as indicting official, prosecutor and as the only avenue of appellate relief.
- 11) Refusing to provide public disclosure of the identities and locations of persons who have been arrested, detained and imprisoned by the U.S. government in the United States, including in response to Congressional inquiry.
- 12) Use of secret arrests of persons within the United States and elsewhere and denial of the right to public trials.
- 13) Authorizing the monitoring of confidential attorney-client privileged communications by the government, even in the absence of a court order and even where an incarcerated person has not been charged with a crime.
- 14) Ordering and authorizing the seizure of assets of persons in the United States, prior to hearing or trial, for lawful or innocent association with any entity that at the discretionary designation of the Executive has been deemed "terrorist."
- 15) Institutionalization of racial and religious profiling and authorization of domestic spying by federal law enforcement on persons based on their engagement in noncriminal religious and political activity.
- 16) Refusal to provide information and records necessary and appropriate for the constitutional right of legislative oversight of executive functions.
- 17) Rejecting treaties protective of peace and human rights and abrogation of the obligations of the United States under, and withdrawal from, international treaties and obligations without consent of the legislative branch, and including termination of the ABM treaty between the United States and Russia, and rescission of the authorizing signature from the Treaty of Rome which served as the basis for the International Criminal Court.