



Ethical Action Report



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Civil Liberties: Urge your senator to repeal the Protect America Act

Contact your senator and urge him or her to repeal the Protect America Act, which gives sweeping powers to the executive branch to spy on Americans without a warrant. This legislation flies in the face of the U.S. Constitution and longstanding notions of civil liberties. It must be stopped! Tell your senator that any reforms to the Protect American Act must clearly state that individual warrants must be obtained when the government wiretaps U.S. citizens.

BACKGROUND

The Protect America Act granted sweeping new surveillance powers to the executive branch, including the power to wiretap U.S. citizens without a warrant. It allows for

massive collection of international communications without a court order or meaningful oversight by either Congress or the courts. No protection is afforded to the U.S. end of the communication.

But now we have a chance to repeal or modify the Protect America Act: the Senate Judiciary Committee will soon consider legislation that would reinstate civil liberties protections and reestablish oversight. If your senator is on the committee please contact him or her and demand that they repeal the Protect America Act.

Free Burma: Demand that Myanmar release political detainees

Write to Foreign Minister Nyan Win and urge that Myanmar authorities release political detainees, unless they are to be charged with recognizable crimes. Also demand that all detainees be held only in official places of detention, given immediate access to lawyers, and not be subjected to torture:

Foreign Minister Nyan Win
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Naypyitaw
Union of Myanmar

BACKGROUND

In August 2007 several hundred Burmese monks staged a protest in Myanmar. The military junta responded by launching a brutal crackdown against the monks and other protestors.

Now reports are surfacing of horrendous government tactics, including ongoing night raids, arbitrary arrests, and horrible detention conditions. Police have been asking for money from detainees' families in exchange for their release. Many who've been arrested have endured flawed proceedings and have been sentenced to jail or labor camps.

The Myanmar state media has said that approximately 3,000 people have been arrested but that 2,500 have been released. However, the true number of people in detention is most likely higher, and arrests continue to be reported.

Religious Freedom: Ask China not to allow proselytizing at the 2008 Olympic Games

Write to Ye Xiaowen, the director-general of the Chinese State Administration for Religious Affairs, and ask him not to allow proselytizing of visitors to the 2008 Olympic Games:

Director of the State Council Bureau of Religious Affairs
Ye Xiaowen

Guowuyuan Zongjiao Shiwuju
Guowuyuan
22 Xianmen Dajie
Beijingshi 100017 The PRC

BACKGROUND

The 2008 Olympic Games will be held in Beijing, China, attracting thousands of people from across the globe. Religious faiths of all kinds will be represented among the guests of the Olympic games, in addition to those who adhere to no religious faith at all.

To accommodate the religious diversity of attendees of the Olympics, China, an officially atheist country, has promised to offer religious services. This is welcome news. However, China should be urged not to allow religious proselytizing at the Games, as other Olympic hosts often do. Guests to the Olympics should be free to practice their religion in peace, but should also be free from pressure to convert.

Reproductive Health: Oppose anti-birth control extremists in the Office of Population Affairs

Sign Planned Parenthood's petition opposing Susan Orr's appointment to a leadership role in the Office of Population Affairs. Orr is staunchly opposed to birth control and comprehensive sex education. It's therefore ludicrous to appoint her to the department that advises on reproductive health policies. Don't let the Bush administration put ideology ahead of science yet again; please sign Planned Parenthood's petition here: http://www.ppaction.org/campaign/oppose_orr/

BACKGROUND

Orr has demonstrated on several occasions her hostility to reproductive health. She has supported the reinstatement of the global gag rule, which was announced by President Bush on his first day in office in 2001. She urged Bush to revoke approval of mifepristone, a safe abortifacient and emergency contraceptive drug. And she served as the senior director for marriage and family care at the Family Research Council, a blatantly anti-choice, anti-birth control, and anti-sex education organization. She currently serves on the board of directors of Teen Choice, a group that advocates for abstinence in lieu of contraception.

Now she has been named by President Bush to be the Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Population Affairs (DASPA). In this role she would oversee Title X, the federal program responsible for providing birth control and other family planning services to the poor.

Please make your voice heard and oppose the appointment of Susan Orr to the Office of Population Affairs.

Contacting Elected Officials

White House

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Congress

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Visit www.senate.gov or www.house.gov to
use your representatives' e-mail contact forms.

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