



Ethical Action Report



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The *Ethical Action Report* does not represent the views of the American Ethical Union or the American Humanist Association. The American Ethical Union takes ethical positions on public affairs only through resolutions adopted by its Assembly or Board. Past AEU resolutions are available, searchable by date or topic, at: aeu.org/library/byresolution.php?case=resolutions.

Civil Liberties: Rein in Department of Homeland Security Travel Abuses

Write to your senators and congressional representatives and urge them to introduce legislation that would halt civil rights abuses of travelers by the Department of Homeland Security.

BACKGROUND

According to published policy of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), if you're traveling internationally your laptop, cell phone, or PDA can be seized by Border Patrol—an agency of the DHS—without any suspicion and no explanation. Moreover, Border Control can download all your private information—including personal and business documents, emails, phone calls, and web history. If you refuse to let them snoop around in your personal information, they can simply take your device and keep it indefinitely.

The government should have a reasonable suspicion of wrongdoing before doing these kinds of searches. We vitally need legislation that protects the civil liberties of travelers.

The Ethical Culture Movement Stands in Opposition to Violence

The American Ethical Union (AEU), a religious organization, representing a Federation of Ethical Societies across the United States, abhors the use of violence anywhere in the world. We stand in support of other religious organizations that lend their voices locally, nationally and globally to oppose violence.

We, the American Ethical Union, stand by our intergenerational commitment to ethical action. We recognize the unique worth of each individual. We act to elicit the best in others. Our faith is in the human capacity to create a better world. We stand in coalition with other organizations that oppose violence, including the Interfaith Alliance and the Secular Coalition for America.

We strive to work together with other religious organizations who oppose violence, torture, the death penalty, and injustice wherever it may occur. The American Ethical Union, together with our National Leaders Council, has crafted a number of Ethical Action Resolutions over the course of many decades. Those Ethical Action Resolutions are listed on our AEU website.

For more information about the American Ethical Union and our Ethical Societies across the U.S. go to our website www.aeu.org and click **on the left hand side on a Ethical Action**. Here you will **find a link on a the left hand side to Ethical Action in Action**. **On the left hand side, click on Ethical Action Resolutions**.

The American Ethical Union is a founding member of the International Humanist Ethical Union (IHEU), which is the federation of over 100 Humanist, rationalist, secular, Ethical Culture, atheist and free thought organizations in more than 40 countries. For more information about the IHEU go to www.iheu.org.

Human Rights: Support Human Rights Throughout the World

Become informed about human rights abuses around the world and what you can do to help by contacting Amnesty International (www.amnesty.org) and/or Human Rights Watch (www.hrw.org).

BACKGROUND

It's vital that human rights are supported across the world, and we do everything possible to ensure that life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness are protected for every man, woman, and child.

For example, the trial of Saber Ragoubi in Tunisia is one that sadly is a shared reality with too many. Saber Ragoubi was tried unfairly and sentenced to death in December 2007. The information used against him was obtained through torture. At his trial, he said: "I was assaulted in Mornaguia prison and lost three of my front teeth; I request an investigation into the assault. I was also stripped naked to force me to shave my beard."

Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch are two organizations whose missions are to combat such abuses across the globe and to promote human rights. Visit their websites to learn what you can do to help!

Make Ethical & Educated Choices: A Resource for Informed Voters

Be an informed voter! Make sure to read up on the issues that are important to you as we near Election Day, November 4, 2008.

BACKGROUND

Many Americans are concerned with ethical issues behind governmental policies and there is a site that will serve as a resource for voters looking for information on the ethical and social justice positions of candidates in the coming election.

<http://election08.secular.org/>.

Election08.secular.org is a nonpartisan voter resource Web site created by the Secular Coalition for America to inform and serve voters in the 2008 Presidential election.

ACTION ITEM: Check out the website today and plan to vote

- support our Constitution and government, which provide for a strict separation of church and state and prohibit religious tests for public office.
- insist that candidates and the media focus on issues.
- oppose theologically-driven political grandstanding on governmental issues
- support our an important constituency whose growing political power deserves the attention and respect of all candidates.

Contacting Elected Officials

Congress

Mailing Address

United States Senate

or

U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

Phone Number

Capitol Switchboard: (202) 224-3121

E-mail

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

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