

**Petition to
House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid
Requesting You Act to Rescind the Military Commissions Act and Restore Habeas Corpus**

WE, the undersigned, urge you as our newly elected congressional leaders to move to implement the historic midterm election mandate by acting to rescind the Military Commissions Act signed into law by George Bush on October 16, 2006, because:

1. **it undermines the centuries old right of *habeas corpus***, which provides that a person imprisoned or otherwise restrained by the government has the right to know the reason for his/her imprisonment, the right to confront witnesses against him/her, and the right to challenge the legality of the imprisonment.*
2. **it threatens the existence of other constitutional rights**—i.e., the right to freedom of speech and assembly, freedom of the press, etc.—by making possible the detention and torture of anyone, including an American citizen, who expresses opposition to government policy.
3. **it legalizes torture** of any person defined by the administration as an “unlawful enemy combatant” in defiance of international law and the Geneva Conventions.
4. **it targets immigrants** by denying them habeas corpus rights outright, **and it targets citizens** who disagree with government policy through its very broad definition of “unlawful enemy combatant.”
5. **it provides immunity to those who might be guilty of war crimes**, making meaningful investigation of wrong doing in the “War on Terror” unlikely and thus violating international law.
6. **it disregards the sacrifice of those who have worked, fought and even died to defend our democratic rights** and diminishes the standing of the United States internationally as a democracy.

Signature	Street Address	City, State, Zip Code

Habeas corpus* was first codified in writing in the Magna Carta in 1215 A.D. In this country it was later included in Article I, Section 9 of the U.S. Constitution in one sentence stating, “The privilege of the writ of *habeas corpus* shall not be suspended **unless when in cases of rebellion or invasion the public safety may require it.”