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Quotations

Disbelief in magic can force a poor soul into believing in government and business

-- Tom Robbins

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Announcements : **GRAHAM'S AMENDMENT passed!**



Posted by : [ilyana](#) on Friday, November 11, 2005 - 09:17 AM CET



GRAHAM'S AMENDMENT passed! I heard it on the Rachel Maddow show this morning :-) (A democracy is no place for Stealth amendment or law passage. There should be mandatory publication of Congressional activity, followed by a period for public comment **BEFORE a VOTE is Cast by Congress!** This would inform 'we the people' about what laws we will have to live with if the law passes, and give Congress time to read all the material to understand what they are voting for.

From News Day article:

"The unusual provision, passed by a 49-42 vote, would reverse a Supreme Court ruling last year that permitted inmates to file habeas corpus petitions, triggering hundreds of lawsuits from prisoners who said they were being held with no basis."

http://www.newsday.com/news/nationworld/world/ny-wohabe114507579nov11_0,6972229.story?coll=ny-worldnews-headlines

This needs to be challenged immediately, starting with the FIVE Democratic Senators who voted for it!

According to the New York Times:

"The five Democrats voting for the bill were Senators Joseph I. Lieberman of Connecticut, Mary L. Landrieu of Louisiana, Ben Nelson of Nebraska, Kent Conrad of North Dakota and Ron Wyden of Oregon."

<http://www.nytimes.com/2005/11/11/politics/11detain.html>

Additionally there were 2 Democrats who did not vote!!!Corzine - New Jersey (didn't vote) and Inouye - Hawaii (didn't vote). If the Democratic Yes Votes and those who abstained **had voted NO**, this amendment would have been defeated!!

This information came from the following commentary :

<http://www.boomantribune.com/?op=displaystory;sid=2005/11/11/10538/783>

The appropriations bill, to which it is attached, is expected to be up for final vote next week. This is what it does:

"GRAHAM AMENDMENT PASSES: HABEAS CORPUS SUSPENDED

From The Center for Constitutional Rights:

Bush's New Assault on Democracy: Habeas Corpus Stabbed in the Back

Synopsis

The Bush Administration, through an amendment introduced by South Carolina Senator Lindsey Graham, has just successfully stripped federal courts of jurisdiction to hear applications for habeas corpus brought by those unilaterally declared enemy combatants without any process and held by the U.S. indefinitely throughout the world and even in the United States. This was accomplished by means of a last minute amendment to the Military Authorization Bill, brought up on the floor of the Senate without committee deliberations and virtually no advance warning to the American people that it was happening.

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Galloway faces Jail!?!?

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Description and Status

It was not only human rights groups like the Center for Constitutional Rights, but many in the military or retired from the military who opposed the Graham amendment: Judge John Gibbons, who argued the landmark CCR case *Rasul v. Bush* before the Supreme Court, John Hutson, Dean of Franklin Pierce Law Center and former Judge Advocate General of the U.S. Navy, and the National Institute for Military Justice, among others, wrote open letters to the Senate to oppose the dismantling of habeas corpus.

The Graham amendment will create a thousand points of darkness across the globe where the United States will be free to hold people indefinitely without a hearing and beyond the reach of U.S. law and the checks and balances of the courts enshrined in our Constitution. The last time this country suspended habeas corpus was for the internment of tens of thousands of Japanese Americans during World War II, a travesty that is now universally recognized as a blot on our nation's history. The purpose of the writ of habeas corpus has always been to relieve those wrongfully held from the oppression of unchecked executive power. The most reliable way to determine whether someone is properly held or a victim of injustice is to have a right to judicial review of the detention. This has been understood at least since the proclamation of the Magna Carta in 1215.

While the Administration and its supporters have tried to characterize the men being held at Guantánamo as the worst of the worst against all evidence, the fact is that even the military has admitted that they often apprehended the wrong people. Most have no ties to Al Qaida, many were turned over to the U.S. for bounty, and many more were just in the wrong place at the wrong time. If they have no way to appeal their innocence or their status, they will be left to rot in detention indefinitely.

Senator Graham's jurisdiction-stripping efforts come as allegations of secret CIA detention facilities around the world dominate headlines; the Bush Administration has consistently sought to put itself above the law and evade oversight and accountability for torture and other abuse. It is no secret that arbitrary indefinite detention and widespread prisoner mistreatment have taken and continue to take place at Guantánamo and other U.S.-run facilities. The Graham Amendment will only serve to reinforce the growing perception in the world that the United States has become an enemy of human rights.

As has been the practice of this Administration, this latest scheme was accomplished stealthily and in secret. The Center for Constitutional Rights vows to continue to fight for the rule of law. We will not allow American democracy to be eroded a little at a time, until, finally looking around, we can longer recognize what has become of this democratic nation."

<http://www.ccr-ny.org/v2/reports/report.asp?ObjID=B9iXnQkBmm&Content=664>

Tell everyone you know about this amendment. Please help stop it before it becomes law. If it passes, ANYONE AT ALL could be detained without being able to defend themselves in a court of law.

See my comments and post from yesterday on this subject:

<http://www.choicechanges.com/modules.php?op=modload&name=News&file=article&sid=162> Here is a direct link to petition the Senate to stop Grahams ill conceived stealth admendment:

<http://www.ccr-ny.org/v2/reports/report.asp?ObjID=tNs7RqrFSC&Content=660>

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