

Human Rights Abuse Database

The Bill of Rights Defense Committee's U.S. Human Rights Abuse Database is a web-based, searchable repository of stories about post-9/11 human rights abuses in the United States. The stories come from local and national press, and reports or records of advocacy organizations and civil rights and immigration attorneys' offices. Website visitors can search the stories by type of abuse, law or policy used; government entities involved, geographic region or city, nationality or other characteristic of the affected person or group, and date.

How HRAD Can Help You

Many people are willing to go along with U.S. "war on terror" laws and policies unless there is proof that rights have been abused and innocent people have been hurt. With the goal of increasing awareness of the damage done by these laws and policies, HRAD collects stories of abuses from individuals and partner organizations and makes them accessible to all. The searchable database of human rights abuse stories that HRAD provides can be a valuable resource for many individuals and groups.

Journalists

Journalists can use the database to add detail and depth to their stories on well-known abuses and, in the process, learn of previously unreported stories. By reporting on human rights abuses using information from HRAD, journalists will help to increase awareness of the human consequences of policies relating to the "war on terror."

Organizations and activists

Civil liberties, human rights, and immigrant and refugee rights organizations and activists can use HRAD to find stories that can be used in public hearings, published in literature, and relayed to legislators to prove that new laws and policies are having a disastrous effect on innocent people's lives. Public hearings and dramatic presentations of these stories provide opportunities for dialogue between the public and elected representatives.

Attorneys

Immigration attorneys and others can use the database's graphical charting capabilities to pinpoint new problems and to view trends. A chart might reveal, for example, that a law used to target Somalis in 2001 and 2002 was later used to target immigrants from other countries.

Community Groups

Local residents and activists can print reports on human rights abuses in their area to present to the public and local officials and legislators. Such reports can support assertions that certain laws and policies have resulted in local human rights abuses and need to be amended. Others who serve targeted populations can use the database to research and report the impacts of policy changes over time on specific groups of people in particular locations.