

Overview of Changes to Legal Rights

By The Associated Press

September 5, 2002, 11:44 AM EDT

Some of the fundamental changes to Americans' legal rights by the Bush administration and the USA Patriot Act following the terror attacks:

- * **FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION:** Government may monitor religious and political institutions without suspecting criminal activity to assist terror investigation. *USA PATRIOT Act Sections 215, 411, 802 and Attorney General's Edict for Increased surveillance of Religious and Political Organizations*
- * **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION:** Government has closed once-public immigration hearings, has secretly detained hundreds of people without charges, and has encouraged bureaucrats to resist public records requests. *USA PATRIOT Act Sections 411 & 412; Dept. of Justice Interim regulation Sep 20, 2001 (66 FR 183 at 48334, 9/20/01); and Attorney General's edict subverting Freedom of Information Act requests*
- * **FREEDOM OF SPEECH:** Government may prosecute librarians or keepers of any other records if they tell anyone that the government subpoenaed information related to a terror investigation. *USA PATRIOT Act Section 215*
- * **RIGHT TO LEGAL REPRESENTATION:** Government may monitor federal prison jailhouse conversations between attorneys and clients, and deny lawyers to Americans accused of crimes. *DOJ issued Bureau of Prisons interim regulation, made effective 10/31/01 (66 FR 211, at 55062, 10/31/01)*
- * **FREEDOM FROM UNREASONABLE SEARCHES:** Government may search and seize Americans' papers and effects without probable cause to assist terror investigation. *USA PATRIOT Act Sections 203, 206, 213, 215, & 218*
- * **RIGHT TO A SPEEDY AND PUBLIC TRIAL:** Government may jail Americans indefinitely without a trial. *Dept. of Justice Interim regulation Sep 20, 2001 (66 FR 183 at 48334, 9/20/01); USA PATRIOT Act Section 412; & Bush's order designating "enemy combatant."*
- * **RIGHT TO LIBERTY:** Americans may be jailed without being charged or being able to confront witnesses against them. *Dept. of Justice Interim regulation Sep 20, 2001 (66 FR 183 at 48334, 9/20/01), George W. Bush's Military Order establishing military tribunals, and order designating "enemy combatant" & USA PATRIOT Act Section 412*

(In accordance with Title 17 U.S.C. Section 107, this material is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving the included information for research and educational purposes.)

Additional Information provided by Lane County Bill of Rights Defense Committee
PO Box 51434 Eugene, OR 97405 www.efn.org/~lcbordec

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