

It's time to



# USE YOUR VOICE...

*It's the democratic thing to do!*

Take time to learn more

American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)  
www.aclu.org

Amnesty International  
www.amnesty.org

American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee  
www.adc.org

Friends Committee on National Legislation  
www.fcnl.org

Human Rights Watch  
www.hrw.org

Lawyers Committee for Human Rights  
www.lchr.org

Move On  
www.moveon.org

National Priorities Project  
www.nationalpriorities.org

A Peoples History of the United States  
by Howard Zinn

Project Vote Smart  
www.vote-smart.org

Tom Paine  
www.tompaine.org

True Majority  
www.truemajority.org

## Local Groups

Amnesty International /MSU  
amnesty@msu.edu

Greater Lansing Network Against War & Injustice (GLNAWI)

Meetings alternate in Lansing & East Lansing  
1st & 3rd Mondays 7-9pm  
www.peaceforiraq.org

LCC People for Positive Social Change  
Meetings -Tuesdays  
11:30am-12:30pm  
Rm306 Old Central. LCC

Michigan Peace Team  
michiganpeaceteam.org

MSU Students for Peace and Justice  
msupj@lists.riseup.net  
peaceandjustice2002@hotmail.com

Peace Education Center  
www.peaceeducationcenter.org

Democracies die behind closed doors.

JUDGE DAMON J. KEITH

## The USA PATRIOT Act It's UN-AMERICAN!

The USA PATRIOT Act, signed into law in October of 2001, was passed by congress with such speed (urged on by Attorney General John Ashcroft) that some members did not even have a chance to read the 342 page bill. Some later said that parts of it might be unconstitutional, but with up-coming elections, no one wanted to appear unpatriotic. The few changes that addressed civil liberty issues were taken out *in closed meetings* before the vote.

This Act radically threatens the civil liberties we all have come to take for granted under the Bill of Rights - these are the very freedoms we have been told inspire such violent jealousy in terrorists. Among other things, this law:

- Extends the power of the government to conduct surveillance of U.S. citizens & reduces judicial review of such surveillance
- Permits non-citizens to be jailed indefinitely and with little judicial review, based on mere suspicion
- Allows the FBI to require libraries and bookstores to hand over lists of books borrowed or bought by a person included in a terrorist investigation (The warrant, issued by the secret Foreign Surveillance Court requires a lower standard than the 4th Amendments "probable cause")
- Imposes a gag rule that prohibits a librarian or bookseller from informing anyone that the search has taken place.
- Allows government agents to listen in on lawyer-client conversations in federal prisons
- Extends the scope of wiretaps on phones & computers.
- Permits government agents to search a suspects home without notifying them of the search (This is not limited to terrorism, but all criminal cases)

### The USA PATRIOT Act can apply to U.S. citizens, as well as non-citizens.

This act was promoted as a tool to fight foreign terrorists, but many of its provisions are not limited to the crime of terrorism, but apply to all criminal cases. Terrorism as it is defined in the act could be interpreted to encompass more than you might think.

A person "commits the crime of domestic terrorism if within the U.S. activity is engaged in that involves acts dangerous to human life that violate the laws of the United States or any state and appear to be intended to:

- 1.) intimidate or coerce a civilian population;
- 2.) influence the policy of government by intimidation or coercion; or
- 3.) affect the conduct of government by mass destruction, assassination or kidnapping"

The use of the words, "appear to" make this alarmingly subjective, and the first two provisions are so loosely worded that some people engaged in political protest could be swept into the definition.

### Other Attacks on Liberty

Although the USA Patriot act is the best known of the laws passed in the wake of the 2001 terrorist attacks, there are other new laws and executive orders dealing with air travel, immigration, police practices and emergency powers. These allow innocent people to be denied services, deported and detained in secret. Those who are arrested or singled out by mistake under these policies have little opportunity to correct the error, and the government can prevent them from traveling and hold them incommunicado for interrogation. People have been treated like terrorists simply for supporting causes that are unpopular with people with authority.

### Watch for USA PATRIOT II!

A leaked 86 page draft of "The Domestic Security Enhancement act" would, among other provisions, restrict public access to information about environmental and health risks, allow secret arrests, and shelter federal agents engaged in illegal surveillance. It even **allows the government to strip US citizens of their citizenship.**

This act is not law, yet, but considering the speed with which PATRIOT I was launched, it bears watching.

If you value the liberties guaranteed in our constitution, Speak up in their defense

If you are opposed to the current administration's use of American force to manipulate the politics and resources of other countries, do not be silent.

Be aware of what your government is doing here and abroad *in your name* and how they are planning to govern you.

**Call on your representatives in Washington to act now to rescind the USA Patriot Act** and to change current policies that, far from making us secure, only alienate us from the rest of the world and attack the very freedoms we have been told are the object of terrorist jealousy.

- Call the White House comment line: 202/456-1111 or Fax 202/456-2461
- Toll-free U.S. Capital Switchboard: 1/800/839-5276 (ask for your Sen. or Rep.)
- Senator Carl Levin: 517/377-1508
- Senator Debbie Stabenow: 517/203-1760
- Rep. Mike Rogers: 517/702-8000 or
- Find your Representative in the House: www.house.gov/writerep and enter your zip code

### Register to Vote!

Michigan residents can register to vote at their local city or township clerk's office, or a Secretary of State branch office.

The Family Independence Agency, the Department of Community Health, and the Department of Career Development also offer voter registration services to clients.

You can learn on-line where you should vote, whether you are registered to vote, and, if not, how to register to vote at:

#### www.sospublius.org

You must be registered to vote at least 30 days before an election.

**If you are a student**, make sure you know where you are registered to vote! You may need to vote in your hometown. Make the effort to travel there on election day or apply in advance for an absentee ballot.

### Witness for Peace

**Every Friday at noon** residents of the greater Lansing community gather at the Capitol as a witness for peace-making and non-violent resistance. We believe these are morally superior and humane alternatives to our current national culture of violence and preemptive war. We call on our government to honor international treaties, work through the United Nations and the World Court. We ask that U.S. troops return home. We ask that our national resources be redirected to caring for people at home and abroad. We remind ourselves that perpetual war will bring neither peace nor security.

*If not now...when?*