



*Partners for Justice*

**GLOBAL RIGHTS**  
1200 18th Street, NW  
Suite 602  
Washington, DC 20036  
Tel 202 822.4600  
Fax 202 822.4606  
[WWW.GLOBALRIGHTS.ORG](http://WWW.GLOBALRIGHTS.ORG)

Global Rights has joined the ACLU coalition challenging the CFC’s “terrorist list” policy because of our serious concerns that such a policy is vague, overbroad, and could undermine the fundamental principles on which we base our work.

Global Rights would never knowingly employ any person or deal with any organization that uses or advocates the use of violence in contravention of national or international law. On the contrary, we are dedicated to building respect for and the application of all human rights norms. We are concerned, however, that our goal of promoting human rights could be undermined if the CFC required us to affirmatively investigate our employees, checking them against illegal “terrorist lists.”

In many of the countries in which Global Rights operates, human rights advocates are working to protect human rights in the context of government repression. As such, we know that our partners could be erroneously and maliciously labeled “terrorists” for purely political purposes. Even the U.S. State Department has acknowledged such a possibility, warning: “[S]ome authoritarian governments...have attempted to justify old repression by cloaking it as part of the new ‘war on terror.’ ...American policymakers rejected and rebuked, often publicly, such attempts to label those peacefully expressing their thoughts and beliefs as ‘terrorists.’”

Global Rights is also concerned that by undertaking actions that make us appear to be force-extenders for the U.S. government, we could undermine the perception that we are an independent non-governmental organization. The more groups such as ours are believed to lack neutrality, the greater the risks we face. This could both jeopardize our relationships with our partners, and further shrink the space in which humanitarian organizations and NGOs are currently able to operate. It would thus undermine our ability to carry out our work.

A policy requiring organizations who participate in the CFC to check “terrorist lists” is ill-conceived, overbroad, and would run counter to the very human rights principles on which Global Rights stands. Because the CFC has not clarified whether such action is required of participating organizations, we felt that we had no choice but to withdraw from the program until the compliance requirements were clarified and these concerns were put to rest.