



Rutgers Council of AAUP Chapters

American Association of University Professors • American Federation of Teachers

Rutgers AAUP-AFT

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Resolution passed by the Executive Council of the Rutgers Council of AAUP Chapters, AAUP-AFT, on October 14, 2010:

That the recent Supreme Court decision in *Holder vs Humanitarian Law Project* (decided on June 21, 2010) dangerously undermines academic freedom for the following reasons:

1. It potentially criminalizes present and future research which involves study of groups defined as "terrorist" by the United States government. Specifically, field-based and related communication with groups which are the subject of such research is now likely to be viewed as a criminal act.
2. It impedes scholar-to-scholar communication on just about any subject where that communication is likely to involve foreign scholars with direct or indirect connection with organizations designated "terrorist" by the United States government.

It is noted that the Supreme Court decision is all the more troublesome because there is a strong likelihood that the government's decision-making process designating groups as "terrorist" is subject to political pressures rather than pursued on the basis of objective evidence alone.

We therefore call upon the United States Congress to reexamine the present law that has dealt this blow to academic freedom, and amend it in such a way as to allow legitimate scholarly research to proceed.