



Statement by Muslim Advocates Regarding Supreme Court Ruling in *Holder v. Humanitarian Law Project*

(SAN FRANCISCO) **June 21, 2010**—The U.S. Supreme Court’s narrow ruling in *Holder v. Humanitarian Law Project* today fails to provide clarity to donors and charities seeking to aid the poor and promote peace, stability and progress in the U.S. and throughout the world. While the Court’s decision specifically limited its analysis to the conduct of the plaintiffs before them, the Court affirmed that an individual’s intent to assist with peaceful, lawful activities was irrelevant.

For nearly a decade now, convoluted and overly broad federal laws and policies have targeted American Muslim donors and charities for federal investigation and prosecution. These activities have provoked confusion, fear and reluctance amongst donors and charities in the American Muslim community. In its own work with donors and charities, Muslim Advocates hears from Muslim Americans who are less likely now than ever before to give their *zakat* (charity) to parts of the world where it is most needed.

Now that the Court has ruled, it is time for Congress and the President to correct these laws and policies that have gone too far and unduly constrained humanitarian aid and charitable activities.

To learn more about how federal laws, policies and rulings like *HLP* are creating a chill on charitable giving among American Muslim donors, please contact [John Showalter](#), **Communications Director, Muslim Advocates 415.692.1512.**

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Muslim Advocates (<http://www.muslimadvocates.org>) is a national legal advocacy and educational organization. Its mission is to promote freedom, justice and equality for all, regardless of faith, by providing leadership through legal advocacy, policy engagement, and civic education, and by serving as a legal resource to promote the full and meaningful participation of Muslims in American public life.