The White House, Office of the Press Secretary, December 09, 2009

**Presidential Proclamation--Human Rights Day, Bill of Rights Day, and Human Rights Week**

**A PROCLAMATION**

More than 60 years ago, the United Nations General Assembly approved the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, declaring the "inherent dignity" and "equal and inalienable rights" of all human beings as the "foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world." This self-evident truth guides us today. Although every country and culture is unique, certain rights are universal: the freedom of people -- including women and ethnic and religious minorities -- to live as they choose, speak their minds, organize peacefully and have a say in how they are governed, with confidence in the rule of law. History shows that countries that protect these rights are ultimately more stable, secure, and successful.

In the United States, these fundamental rights are the core of our Declaration of Independence, our Constitution, and our Bill of Rights. They are the values that define us as a people, the ideals that challenge us to perfect our union, and the liberties that generations of Americans have fought to preserve at home and abroad. Indeed, fidelity to our fundamental values is one of America's greatest strengths and the reason we stand in solidarity with those who seek these rights, wherever they live.

Human Rights Day, Bill of Rights Day, and Human Rights Week must be our call to action. As Americans, we must keep striving to live up to our founding ideals. As a Nation, the United States will always side with the innocent whose rights are denied, the oppressed who yearn for equality, and all those around the world who strive for freedom. As members of what
President Franklin Roosevelt called "the human community," we will never waver in our pursuit of the rights, dignity, and security of every human being.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim December 10, 2009, as Human Rights Day; December 15, 2009, as Bill of Rights Day; and the week beginning December 10, 2009, as Human Rights Week. I call upon the people of the United States to mark these observances with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this ninth day of December, in the year of our Lord two thousand nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-fourth.

BARACK OBAMA

American Civil Liberties Union
On Human Rights Day, ACLU Calls For U.S. Commitment To the Bill of Rights
Because freedom can't protect itself:

- **ACLU Congressional Scorecard**
- **A Breakdown of the H.R. 3845, The USA PATRIOT Amendments Act of 2009**

1. [BORDC: Proposed Civil Liberties Legislation](http://www.bordc.org/threats/legislation/)
BORDC's mission is to organize and support an effective, national grassroots movement to restore civil liberties guaranteed by the Bill of Rights.

2. **"Civil Rights" vs. "Civil Liberties" - Learn About the Law**
"Civil liberties" concern basic rights and freedoms that are guaranteed -- either explicitly identified in the Bill of Rights and the Constitution, ...
[public.findlaw.com › Civil Rights Center › Basics](http://public.findlaw.com)

NJ Superior court judge and civil liberties scholar Anthony Napolitano, ...
[mondoglobo.ning.com/group/](http://mondoglobo.ning.com/group/)

BILL OF RIGHTS FOR STUDENTS

The Bill of Rights was ratified by

Bill of Rights Day is observed on December 15.
three-fourths of the newly formed United States in 1791 to ensure individual rights that were not addressed in the United States Constitution. These first 10 amendments to the Constitution enumerate and protect many of our rights, including freedom of speech, worship, the press, and assembly.

Image Courtesy of the Library of Congress

CLASSROOM ACTIVITY

Bill of Rights Day is a good opportunity for students to explore a variety of students’ rights issues. Ask students to identify an issue that has come up in your school, such as dress codes, drug testing, zero tolerance, privacy, religion, or freedom of expression. Have them explore the ways in which the Bill of Rights protects and does not protect students, as well as some of the past and recent challenges to students’ rights. Have students write position papers or debate individuals or teams of students with opposing points of view. The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) Student Rights page has information and articles about recent court cases focused on students’ rights.

Students can continue to explore the Bill of Rights by examining the ways in which it applies to current events and issues such as homeland security, prisoners’ rights, the death penalty, and more. Provide access to a daily newspaper. Then ask students to construct a scrapbook or bulletin board display of articles that address Bill of Rights issues.

Lesson Plans

Freedom of Speech and Automatic Language: Examining the Pledge of Allegiance
High school students explore the right to freedom of speech by examining the Pledge of Allegiance from historical and personal perspectives and in relation to novels they have read.

Exploring Free Speech and Persuasion with Nothing But The Truth
This lesson for grades 6–8 has students read Nothing But The Truth by Avi and discuss, research and write about free speech issues related to it.

That’s Not Fair! Examining Civil Liberties with the U.S. Supreme

Web Links

The Charters of Freedom: Bill of Rights
This website from the United States National Archives offers a look at the actual Bill of Rights, with links to high-resolution images and related information.

The Bill of Rights: A Brief History
This ACLU resource provides a brief history of the Bill of Rights and the rationale for the creation of these 10 amendments to the United States Constitution.

Rights of Citizens: The Bill of Rights
This resource featured on Ben’s Guide to the U.S. Government for Kids provides information about citizenship and the Bill of Rights.

Texts


In this lesson, high school students work in groups to examine the issue of civil liberties online.

What Are My Rights? Exploring and Writing About the Constitution
This lesson engages high school students in a study of the First Amendment by using it to explore youth curfews, demonstrating the impact that the law can have on their everyday lives.

Birth of a Nation: The First Federal Congress, 1789–1791
This online exhibit includes images of many original documents and describes how the Bill of Rights was passed.

Civil Liberties and the Bill of Rights: A Course for Students
This course introduces students to a uniquely American invention: the written specification of individual liberties and rights that citizens possess.

BILL OF RIGHTS AND THE PATRIOT ACT

1. Bill of Rights Defense Committee
Working with communities to uphold the Bill of Rights ... Three provisions of the USA PATRIOT Act are set to sunset at the end of ... The day before the hearing, Representative Rush Holt (D-NJ) introduced the JUSTICE Act in the House. ...

www.bordc.org/

2. BORDC: Resources for K-12 Teachers and Students

3. Bill of Rights Day Lesson Plans from the American Constitution Society: ... Resources for teaching civil liberties and the USA PATRIOT Act: ...

4. JUSTICE Act: a bill to restore the Bill of Rights to America ... Sep 17, 2009 ... EFF Supports JUSTICE Bill to Reform the USA PATRIOT Act and Repeal .... and every day he gets bombarded with "patriots" who litter his blog ...

www.boingboing.net/2009/09/17/justice-act-a-bill-t.html - Cached

5. Bill of Rights, December 15
Bill of Rights Day is celebrated on December 15th of each year. Created by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt ... Bill of Rights Forgotten? USA PATRIOT Act ...

nedv.net/community/december/bill_of_rights_day.php - Cached

6. Campaign For Liberty — Happy Bill of Rights Day | by Anthony Gregory
Dec 15, 2009 ... There would be no **Patriot Act**, no secret searches, ... I celebrate **Bill of Rights Day**, not out of some delusion that we have the enumerated ...  
*www.campaignforliberty.com/article.php?view=439* -Cached -  
This **Bill of Rights Day**, Show Your Support for BORDC · BORDC News: BORDC Leads .... The **PATRIOT Act** and Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) ...  
*www.constitutioncampaign.org/blog/?tag=patriot-act* -Cached -  
7. **Real Think Tank: Happy Bill of Rights Day!**  
Dec 15, 2009 ... Today, December 15, is **Bill of Rights day**. ... unreasonable search – “PATRIOT” Act; Due process – “PATRIOT” Act again; Speedy trial – Gitmo ...  
*www.realthinktank.com/2009/12/happy-bill-of-rights-day.html* -  
8. **informationliberation - Torture Bill States Non-Allegiance To Bush** ...  
Buried amongst the untold affronts to the **Bill of Rights**, .... When the USA **PATRIOT act** was rushed through at the height of an anthrax scare without any ... This is a dark **day** for the United States, the **day** America died and the bastard ...  
*www.informationliberation.com/index.php?id=16337* - Cached -  
Searches related to Patriot Act and Bill of Rights Day  
**habeas corpus** patriotruß feingold patriot act patriot act fisa patriot act patriot act probable cause patriot act supreme court patriot act constitutional rights patriot act liberties patriot act terrorism