



The Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties supports the Department of Homeland Security as it secures the nation while preserving individual liberty, fairness, and equality under the law.

CRCL leads presentation to the UN Special Rapporteur on child protection

The UN Special Rapporteur on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution, and Child Pornography, Dr. Najat Maalla M’ijid, visited DHS on October 15, 2010, to hear about the Department’s many activities to protect children. As DHS’s “single contact official” for Human Rights treaty compliance under [Executive Order 13107](#), CRCL Officer Margo Schlanger led the Department’s presentation. Highlights

Blue Campaign

included :

- The [Blue Campaign](#), a coordinated “One-DHS” campaign against human trafficking, which launched in July 2010.

The Blue Campaign is organized around the “three Ps” of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000: Prevention, Protection, and Prosecution, and adds as the key fourth element “Partnership.” For information and resources, see www.dhs.gov/humantrafficking.

- ICE’s Child Protection Program, which investigates and prosecutes perpetrators of child pornography, child sex tourism, child trafficking, and forced child labor.
- U.S. Secret Service (USSS), in partnership with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, provides technical, forensic and investigative assistance in missing children cases, and the USSS campaign [Operation Safe Kids](#) promotes the safety of children by providing parents with a document containing the child’s biographic data.
- The many types of victim assistance available, including immediate social services, referrals, and both short and long-term immigration benefits.
- Appropriate treatment for unaccompanied minors apprehended by CBP or ICE, and the CRCL process for receiving and investigating complaints or information about inappropriate treatment or conditions. To make a complaint, contact CRCL at crcl@dhs.gov, or call 202-401-1474 • Toll Free: 866-644-8360 • TTY: 202-401-0470 • Toll Free TTY: 866-644-8361.
- DHS’s international and domestic training for law enforcement, on signs and responses to trafficking and victimization, including a recent video-based computer training program that CRCL assisted in developing, and another currently in progress.



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UN Special Rapporteur on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution, and Child Pornography, Dr. Najat Maalla M'ijid, attends cross-component DHS meeting hosted by CRCL.

Guidance to Travelers Carrying Religious Articles

CRCL partners with CBP and TSA to develop guidance for travelers carrying religious articles, particularly during religious holidays when there may be an unusual number of such travelers. One holiday recently ended is Sukkot, during which some Jewish travelers entering the United States may carry religious items such as an etrog (a citrus fruit) or lulav (an object that combines willow and myrtle twigs and palm fronds). With CRCL's partnership, TSA and CBP both prepared for the holiday by educating their officers about what to expect and the applicable agricultural inspection rules, and issued information to travelers to inform them as well. (For Sukkot objects, the crucial information was that all are generally permitted to come into the country as either personal or checked luggage, if they are free of pests or symptoms of disease; European willow is, however, forbidden.)

Similarly, during the Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca, or Hajj, there may be a large number of travelers carrying religious objects or dressed in religious garb. This year Hajj is in mid-November; DHS will be providing refresher training to CBP and TSA officers, and will soon post information for travelers at www.cbp.gov and www.tsa.gov. CRCL will also link to this information to its [web site](#) in November.



Etrog and Lulav

Complaints about Screening

The DHS Traveler Redress Inquiry Program (TRIP) is a single point of contact for individuals who have inquired or seek resolution regarding difficulties they experienced during their travel screening. Visit www.dhs.gov/trip for more information. Additionally, CRCL investigates claims of civil rights and civil liberties abuses to help DHS improve protections and programs. Click [here](#) for information on how to file and submit a complaint or email us at crcl@dhs.gov for more information.

New Environmental Justice Working Group

[Executive Order 12898](#), on "Environmental Justice" requires DHS to "make achieving environmental justice part of its mission by identifying and addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations in the United States and its territories and possessions." To further this goal by coordinating Departmental strategy and activities in this important area, DHS has formed an Environmental Justice Working Group. CRCL is co-chairing the group, and activities will be reported in this newsletter.

DHS Celebrates National Hispanic Heritage Month

National Hispanic Heritage Month ended October 15, 2010; its theme was *Heritage, Diversity, Integrity, and Honor: The Renewed Hope of America (Herencia, Diversidad, Integridad y Honor: La Renovada Esperanza de America)*. This annual observance was mandated by Congress in 1988, to celebrate and recognize the achievements and contributions Hispanic Americans have made to American society and culture.

DHS marked National Hispanic Heritage Month in many ways, including FEMA's first Latino Leadership Summit, which brought together over 100 business and community leaders of Latino communities from all over the United States to discuss how we can all come together to help meet the needs of our entire communities; the focus was on preparedness and on communication both before and after disaster strikes. The conference took place from September 29-30, and CRCL Disaster Preparedness Section staff attended in order to connect with the participants. We are working with FEMA on its efforts to reach entire communities. As Administrator Craig Fugate said at this event,

The only way to succeed in building resilient, prepared communities is to partner with community leaders, whether they are elected or appointed officials, leaders in their faith congregations or the private sector, or connectors in their neighborhoods. The Latino community is among the largest and fastest growing populations in the United States and including [these] leaders in the emergency preparedness dialogue is an essential part of keeping our nation and our neighborhoods safe.

For public preparedness information in Spanish, see www.Listo.gov, the Spanish version of www.Ready.gov. On www.Listo.gov the public can find new Spanish-language public service advertisements that aim to inform the Spanish-speaking public of the importance of being prepared for disasters.

CRCL submits Civil Rights/Civil Liberties Impact Assessment to Congress

One of the ways CRCL protects civil rights and civil liberties is by conducting "impact assessments" of DHS programs or activities. These are in-depth reviews, examining policy and its implementation, and assessing what improvements might better protect civil rights or civil liberties. When Congress created the Interagency Threat Assessment and Coordination Group (ITACG), a unit at the Office of the Director of National Intelligence staffed by state and local law enforcement personnel, whose role is to serve as liaison between the Intelligence Community and state and local law enforcement, it also [mandated](#) an impact assessment of that program, to be conducted jointly by CRCL and our counterparts at the Office of the Director of National Intelligence and the Department of Justice. That Assessment has now been reported to Congress and is available on CRCL's website at www.dhs.gov/crcl. Generally, the Assessment concludes that the ITACG is a useful program with positive civil liberties and privacy effects. We do recommend that ITACG policy be developed to formalize existing antidiscrimination requirements to reference National Counter-Terrorism Center policies on information access and dissemination. The ITACG leadership has agreed to these recommendations.

Additional information, and contacting us

The goal of this periodic newsletter is to inform members of the public about the activities of the DHS Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, including how to make complaints; ongoing and upcoming projects; opportunities to offer comments and feedback; etc. We distribute our newsletters via an email list, post them on our website (www.dhs.gov/crcl), and make them available to community groups for redistribution. If you are receiving this newsletter by either of the latter two methods and would like to receive it via email, please send a request to join our distribution list: crcloutreach@dhs.gov. If you are on that list, but no longer wish to receive it, let us know the same way. For more information, including on how to make a civil rights or civil liberties complaint about DHS activities, see www.dhs.gov/crcl.

Prior newsletters: *Issue 1 (Sept. 2010) Civil Rights Complaints • Anti-Discrimination Obligations for Recipients of DHS Financial Support • Expanded Community Engagement*



We are America, by Muhammed Ibrahim, Age 11

Submitted to the [USCIS National Children's Art Project](#)