

# OPINION

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## Terrorism Fear Erodes Civil Rights

One year after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks irrevocably changed the landscape of America, the government response threatens to cause irrevocable harm to the U.S. Constitution, according to University of Oregon law professor Robert L. Tsai.

"The Justice Department's refusal to release the names of dozens of suspects who were detained after the attacks threatens to erode civil liberties for all Ameri-

cans," he says.

Tsai, who is an expert on constitutional law, is alarmed about the consequences of this policy.

"How do you hold the government accountable when individuals are held in secret and denied access to legal advice?" he asks. "When people are so frightened about terrorism that they allow the government to violate the Constitution in the name of national security, they risk losing protections we all take

for granted."

The right to confront your accuser in open court, and to have the protection of legal counsel are more than abstract rights, Tsai says.

"They are basic rights that are under siege in the name of national security, and the damage to our rights may be lasting," he says.

Robert L. Tsai can be reached at 541-346-3691 or by e-mail at rtsai@law.uoregon.edu.

## We Need War Against AIDS

By SALIH BOOKER,  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF  
AFRICA ACTION

Whether measured by numbers killed or nations wounded, by economies upended or families crushed, the AIDS pandemic is a much deadlier global threat than that posed by terrorist groups. But almost no one draws the logical conclusion: The war on AIDS is

more important than the war on terrorism.

Even though Congress is currently considering increasing annual U.S. funding for combating AIDS globally, with a total that could possibly reach \$1.2 billion, it still is not nearly enough.

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan has called for \$10 billion in annual global AIDS funding. Advocates say that the United States should provide at least one-fourth of this total,

or \$2.5 billion per year. This price tag is modest compared with the sums quickly appropriated in response to Sept. 11.

AIDS is now acknowledged as the worst plague humankind has ever faced. The new U.N. estimates for 2001 are chilling: 3 million more dead, 5 million more HIV infections, 40 million people now living with HIV/AIDS—28 million of

*Years from now, people will ask about AIDS, as with the Holocaust or the Rwandan genocide: How could they have known—and failed to act?*

—Salih Booker, executive director of Africa Action.

them in Africa. Since the start of the infection, 22 million lives have been lost worldwide, more than 17 million of these in Africa.

Years from now, people will ask about AIDS, as with the Holocaust or the Rwandan genocide, "How could they have known—and failed to act? The reason is not knowing what to do. The main elements have been agreed on: Prevention measures, like

condoms and safe-sex education, are essential. Women must have the right and power to control their sexual choices.

Treatment, including access to antiretrovirals, must be available to provide hope for survival and an incentive to be tested. Health systems must be given the capacity to fight back by treating diseases and by blocking HIV transmission from mothers to newborns.

What is lacking is the money to carry out these efforts, notes U.N. Special Envoy Stephen Lewis.

"We have, all over the (African) continent, individual projects and programs that are successful and the frustration lies in our inability to take them to scale," Lewis said. "(Lack of dollars) is the single most inhibiting factor."

Most of the dying are in Africa and therefore invisible outside that continent. Even if moved by Africa's tragedy, the average American often assumes it is someone else's responsibility.

Strong U.S. leadership in funding the global war against AIDS could turn the tide. We need a world war against AIDS.

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