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Mirmehdi Brothers Sue Federal Officials For Violations of Their Constitutional Rights

This morning Mohammed, Mostafa, Mohsen and Mojtaba Mirmehdi, filed suit in federal court in Los Angeles against former Attorney General John Ashcroft, FBI Director Robert Mueller and other federal officials for detaining them from October 2001 to March 2005, a period of 41 months, based on false pretenses and in violation of their fundamental constitutional rights. The brothers were detained allegedly because of their links to the Mujahedin-e Khalq (the "MEK") but none of the brothers was a member or supporter of the MEK, as government officials knew when the brothers were detained.

"This lawsuit is intended to affirm the Rule of Law in the United States in the context of the War on Terror," said Paul Hoffman, the lead attorney for the Mirmehdi brothers in this federal civil rights action.

"The Mirmehdi brothers were casualties of the War on Terror and had their lives destroyed based on the misconduct of the federal officials who sought their detention knowing that they had only engaged in peaceful First Amendment activity in opposition to the current regime in Iran."

Prior to 2001 the brothers had lived as law-abiding residents of the Los Angeles community. Because of their opposition to the Islamic regime in Iran they engaged from time to time in marches and other protest activity against this oppressive regime. These activities, however, were used by federal officials as the justification to detain the brothers indefinitely. Only because of the intervention of the federal courts were the brothers released in March 2001.

The lawsuit seeks damages for their wrongful detention in violation of the Constitution. The lawsuit also seeks damages for the inhumane conditions in which the brothers were detained for 41 months in various detention facilities in Los Angeles and Las Vegas, including the denial of basic medical care and being subjected to vicious attacks by guards and other inmates.

"The Mirmehdi brothers were detained longer than virtually all of the post-September 11th detainees caught up in the sweeps of non-citizens in the aftermath of September 11th," said Hoffman. "While the government has a responsibility to take appropriate steps to safeguard national security, this case reveals that government officials abused that responsibility and seeks to hold the officials responsible for violating the Mirmehdis constitutional rights accountable."

The complaint as filed will be posted on the SDSHH website: www.sdshh.com and may be obtained from Paul Hoffman at hoffpaul@aol.com. The Mirmehdi brothers will be available for interviews.