

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS**

AMERICAN SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION;
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY
PROFESSORS; AMERICAN-ARAB ANTI-
DISCRIMINATION COMMITTEE; BOSTON
COALITION FOR PALESTINIAN RIGHTS, and
ADAM HABIB,

Plaintiffs,

v.

MICHAEL CHERTOFF, in his official capacity as
Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security;
CONDOLEEZZA RICE, in her official capacity as
Secretary of State,

Defendants.

**DECLARATION OF
SALLY T. HILLSMAN**

Case No. 07-11796 (GAO)

DECLARATION OF SALLY T. HILLSMAN

I, Sally T. Hillsman, of Washington, D.C., do declare:

1. I am the Executive Officer of the American Sociological Association (“ASA”). I have been a member of the ASA since 1966 and Executive Officer since 2002.
2. I earned my PhD in Sociology from Columbia University in 1970, and my A.B. in Sociology and Economics from Mount Holyoke College in 1963. I am a member of Phi Beta Kappa, and was elected a fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration in 1992.
3. Prior to becoming the ASA Executive Officer, I was the Deputy Director of the National Institute of Justice at the U.S. Department of Justice from 1996-2002; Vice President for Research and Technology at the National Center for State Courts in

Williamsburg, Virginia; and Associate Director and Director of Research at the Vera Institute of Justice in New York City. I also served on the faculty of the Sociology Department of Queens College of the City University of New York.

4. In my capacity as Executive Officer of the ASA, I am the chief administrative officer responsible for the Association's national headquarters, programs, and the transaction of all Association business, including the publication of ASA's journals and magazines. I lead the Association's activities in the areas of science policy and professional ethics, and its programs in minority training, research and development, academic and professional affairs, and communications. As Executive Officer, I am also a member of the program committee for each Annual Meeting of the Association, which is chaired by the ASA President, and responsible for all business aspects of the Annual Meetings.

The American Sociological Association

5. Founded in 1905, the ASA is a non-profit membership association based in Washington, D.C. With over 14,000 members, the ASA encompasses sociologists who are faculty members at colleges and universities, researchers, practitioners, and students. Approximately 20 percent of the Association's members work in government, business, or non-profit organizations.

6. The ASA's mission is to advance sociology as a scientific discipline and profession serving the public good. As the national association for sociologists in the U.S., the ASA provides services to its members, and works to promote the vitality, visibility, and diversity of the discipline. Working at the national and international levels,

the ASA aims to articulate policies and implement programs likely to have the broadest possible impact for sociology now and in the future.

7. The ASA furthers its mission through conferences, meetings, publications, and other member services.

ASA Efforts to Stimulate a Global Exchange of Ideas

8. As the largest single association of sociologists in the world, the ASA strives to engage, to foster dialogue among, and to encourage collaboration with, sociologists from all continents. Global exchange of knowledge is vital to the advancement of science. The ASA believes that every field of science, sociology included, is international in scope, because science by its very nature develops and spreads across national and cultural boundaries.

9. The ASA furthers a global dialogue among sociologists in myriad ways. While the ASA is the national association for sociologists in the U.S., the ASA has a significant number of non-U.S. members from around the world. In 2008, the ASA introduced a new category of membership – an International Associate membership – in order to make the ASA scholarly journals and activities more accessible to sociologists outside the U.S. The ASA represents the U.S. in the International Sociological Association (“ISA”), and a number of ASA members hold leadership positions in ISA. The ASA has also successfully sought funding from the U.S. government that has enabled ASA U.S.-based members and other sociologists to travel abroad to participate in scholarly conferences.

10. The ASA and its members frequently invite foreign scholars to lecture, to attend conferences, to meet other scholars inside the U.S., and to participate on the

editorial boards of ASA scholarly journals. Advances in scientific work are not confined within national boundaries because neither the problems scientists address nor the research they conduct is national in nature. Sociologists and other scholars require exposure to international work and exchanges within the international community of scientists. Sociology is an expanding field of science nationally and internationally.

11. The ASA fosters a global dialogue amongst sociologists at public conferences, most significantly, at its Annual Meeting. The ASA Annual Meeting, held each year in a major U.S. city and once a decade in Canada, is the major sociological meeting each year for American sociologists. Over 6,000 people attend annually, including a substantial number of international scholars. This meeting is the focal point for discussion of new scholarship and research findings; scholarly interaction among sociologists and students from diverse intellectual backgrounds, geographical, and institutional settings; advanced professional training; and the recognition of outstanding scholarly and professional accomplishment through the presentation of national awards. In the past three years alone, scholars from Europe, Asia and Asia Pacific, Africa, the Middle East, Central and South America have attended the Annual Meeting. In recent years, the ASA has secured outside funding to bring international scholars to participate in the Annual Meeting from sources such as the Ford Foundation, the Mellon Foundation, and the Open Society Institute Foundation. Scholars who attended the ASA 2006 Annual Meeting, including those invited by the Program Committee, came from many countries, including Lithuania, Israel, Germany, Canada, Portugal, China, Japan, France, Netherlands, Sweden, and Denmark. Several United Nations officials also attended. Scholars who attended the ASA's 2005 Annual Meeting, including those invited by the

Program Committee, included scholars from Indonesia, Italy, Bulgaria, Venezuela, Brazil, Azerbaijan, Slovakia, India, Czech Republic, Poland, South Africa, Croatia, and Nigeria. Scholars who attended the ASA's 2004 Annual Meeting, including those invited, came from Japan, Korea, India, Venezuela, Brazil, Mexico, Peru, Israel, Russia, Poland, Hungary, South Africa, and England. Several public officials from across the globe also participated, including Mary Robinson, former President of Ireland and former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and Wilmot James, Executive Director of the Human Sciences Research Council in Cape Town, South Africa.

12. The ASA also engages a national and international audience through its journals and magazine. The ASA publishes nine scholarly journals and one research-based general audience magazine which are available throughout the world, and in which international scholarship is published. The ASA scholarly journals are: *American Sociological Review*, *Contemporary Sociology*, *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*, *Social Psychology Quarterly*, *Sociological Methodology*, *Sociological Theory*, *Sociology of Education*, *City and Community*, and *Teaching Sociology*. The ASA's award-winning magazine is *Contexts: Understanding People in their Social Worlds*. All ASA journals and its magazine are published online as well as in print so they have significant national and international readership beyond the ASA's national and international membership.

13. The ASA historically has supported the free exchange of ideas across national, state, cultural and social borders, and actively has protested restrictions on the free movement of scholars and students and barriers to scholarly inquiry and exchange on behalf of its members. For example, in 1979, the ASA Council officially requested the State Department grant a visa to Dr. Andre Gunder Frank, an economist and sociologist

(now deceased) from the University of Amsterdam. The ASA stated that it did not “officially endorse Dr. Frank’s views,” but it believed that “[i]nternational exchanges are at the very heart of the scholarly enterprise,” that Dr. Frank was “plainly an influential scholar,” and that ASA’s members and others would profit from listening to him. In 1988, the ASA Council resolved to protest the exclusion of Dr. Margarita Viera Hernandez, a Cuban criminology scholar who was precluded from entering the U.S. to present a paper at the ASA Annual Meeting and from accepting an award from the Association’s members. And, in 1990 the ASA Council stated that because of problems that Cuban scholars were having procuring visas to enter the U.S. so they could be heard by members, sociologists and other scholars, the ASA would “oppos[e] any and all restrictions on scientific interchange between the two countries.”

14. Since then the ASA has repeatedly reiterated its position that the free flow of ideas across national borders is a necessary component of effective scholarly debate for its members, sociologists and other scholars, and has continued to protest the exclusion of foreign scholars on behalf of its members who wish to hear them at ASA events as well as in other venues in which ASA members participate. For example, in October 2004, the ASA wrote to the Secretary of State about the exclusion of more than 60 Cuban scholars scheduled to attend a Latin American Studies Association (“LASA”) annual meeting. (Many ASA members are also members of LASA, and two have been LASA presidents in the last twenty years.) In addition to denying LASA members and attendees their right to hear these scholars, the ASA explained that the decision cost the U.S. “an exceptional opportunity to promote debate and change within Cuba itself,” sent the dangerous message to foreign scholars “that the United States is no longer a nurturing

environment cultivating intellectual exchange[,]” and expressed the fear that such exclusions would cause the U.S. “to lose [its] future as an international leader in science, technology, engineering, and medicine.” In 2005, the ASA issued a Statement on Human Rights on the Occasion of Its Centenary stating that the “Association deplores restrictions on the free movement of scholars and students and barriers to scholarly inquiry and exchange.” In that statement the ASA urged “all governments to resist attempts to restrict scientific exchange within and across national boundaries and to actively promote dialogue, debate and discussion across all barriers to communication and collaboration.” Then in 2006, the ASA issued a Statement on Academic Independence and Scientific Integrity reaffirming its “ongoing support for the protection of academic independence and the integrity of scientific research through the open movement of faculty and students between universities irrespective of nationality or political views.” In 2007, in a statement concerning academic freedom and Cuban scholars, the ASA reaffirmed its goal to protect “academic independence . . . through the open movement of faculty and students between universities irrespective of nationality or political views.”

15. The ASA believes that the exclusion of scholars from the U.S. because of the content of their scholarship or their political views undermines freedom of intellectual exchange, and freedom of speech of its members and other scholars more generally, to the detriment of scientific development in sociology which is at the heart of the ASA mission. Freedom to present scientific research and debate its meaning and implications for society are hallmarks of American democratic culture and the basis of the U.S.’ enviable record of scientific achievement to which members of the Association have contributed significantly for over a hundred years. Academic freedom has allowed

scientists, intellectuals, and scholarly membership societies, including the ASA, to flourish and to create one of the world's most dynamic educational systems and robust knowledge-based economies. The ASA is opposed to the use of explicit visa denials or de facto denials that are based on ideology. Such actions suppress free intellectual exchange among its members and other scholars which is the heart of the ASA's members' and other scholars' academic freedom to speak, to hear others and to study, alone or collectively, any and all topics of scientific significance. The robustness of both our scholarship as sociologists and our democracy depends upon being able to entertain all informed views and engage in vigorous debate.

The Effect of Professor Adam Habib's Exclusion on the ASA

16. Professor Habib is one of South Africa's leading scholars and social commentators on issues of democracy, governance, and social movements. Each year since 2002, the *Financial Mail*, one of South Africa's leading financial magazines, has described Professor Habib as one of the 300 most influential opinion makers in South Africa. Readers of American newspapers such as *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post* regularly find Professor Habib quoted in news articles about major social issues.

17. Professor Habib has deep ties to the political science and sociology academic communities in the U.S. generally, as well as the ASA and its members, specifically. He earned his PhD in Political Science from the City University of New York's Graduate Center, studying and collaborating with ASA members throughout his educational experience here in the U.S. He works on scholarly and research projects in collaboration with U.S.-based scholars, including members of ASA. He attends and

gives presentations at sociology-related conferences throughout the world, including conferences attended by ASA members.

18. In September 2006, the ASA invited Professor Habib to speak at its Annual Meeting in August 2007. A formal invitation was issued in April 2007. Exh. A (Invitation to Professor Habib). Again, the Annual Meeting is the ASA's largest event each year, and its leading vehicle for international exchange of ideas. The theme of the 2007 meeting was *Is Another World Possible: Sociological Perspectives on Contemporary Politics*. Professor Habib was invited to present a paper on a panel entitled "Globalization and Resistance" that was comprised of both domestic and international scholars invited to discuss social movements and globalization. Other slated participants included Carlos Crespos, a Bolivian scholar; Joel Rocamora, a Pilipino scholar; Raka Ray, a scholar from the University of California-Berkeley; and Susan Eckstein, a scholar from Boston University and past president of LASA.

19. As one of South Africa's most respected social scientists, one of Africa's leading scholars of democratization and political change, and as the editor of an important new collection of essays entitled Voices of Protest: Social Movements in Post-Apartheid South Africa, the ASA panel organizers viewed Professor Habib's participation as vital to the dialogue. In particular Professor Habib's recent work on how South African social movements have changed with the maturing of the country's new democracy is cutting edge, and the ASA panel organizers viewed Professor Habib's contribution to be of critical importance to this international scholarly dialogue. Professor Habib accepted the invitation.

20. In October 2006, the government revoked Professor Habib's multiple-entry visa without explanation. This visa had permitted Professor Habib to enter the U.S. on numerous previous occasions to attend conferences and meet with U.S. scholars. The revocation of Professor Habib's visa suddenly threw into question his ability to speak at the ASA's 2007 Annual Meeting. For this reason, on February 1, 2007, the ASA sent a letter to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice expressing its concern that Professor Habib's exclusion "directly contradicts our nation's heretofore enviable status as the world's destination for the free exchange of scholarly ideas," and its "hope that the Department of State will reconsider its position and facilitate Dr. Habib's efforts to enter this country in time for his participation in [the ASA's] August 2007 meeting." Exh. B (Letter of Frances Fox Piven & Sally T. Hillsman to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice dated Feb. 1, 2007). The ASA emphasized that because of the U.S.'s "long and enviable history as the world's foremost host to scholarship . . . the United States owes it to the world's peoples, as well as to our own, to sustain vigorous intellectual exchange, which is the foundation of democratic institutions." *Id.*

21. In May 2007, Professor Habib applied for a new visa for the purpose of fulfilling his speaking engagement at the ASA 2007 Annual Meeting, and other upcoming U.S. speaking engagements. The unexplained revocation of Professor Habib's visa, and the uncertainty as to whether the government would act on the new visa in time for the 2007 Annual Meeting, created administrative and logistical burdens for the ASA. Delays in scheduling the date and time of this session disrupted the complex scheduling of the hundreds of sessions included in a program as large as the 2007 Annual Meeting and inconvenienced thousands of other presenters needing to know the times and dates of

their sessions. The ASA also could not reallocate the funds available to support Professor Habib to cover the travel of other invited presenters, leaving their participation uncertain.

22. The exclusion of Professor Habib, and the government's failure to adjudicate his visa application before the event, prevented Professor Habib from being present at the ASA's Annual Meeting. Because Professor Habib could not deliver his paper himself, and because it was too late for the ASA to secure a replacement speaker, another ASA member and colleague of Professor Habib's summarized the paper he was prepared to present. The paper was entitled "Speaking to Global Debates with a National Lens: South African Social Movements in Comparative Perspective." Professor Habib's inability to attend the conference meant that the ASA and its members were denied the opportunity to hear and meet with Professor Habib. The ASA's members were denied the opportunity to hear him present his prepared paper, to hear him respond to other speakers and to questions from the audience, to talk with Professor Habib in person, and to interact with him throughout the conference. These limitations stymied discussion and denied ASA members and other meeting attendees their right to hear and speak freely and fully on scholarly and social matters of their choosing with Professor Habib. Many in the panel audience wanted to pursue particular arguments with him but were unable to do so. They were also prevented from engaging in the informal networking and exchange of ideas with Professor Habib that makes the annual meeting of unique value to ASA's members, scholars, and students. This informal dialogue within the context of a scholarly meeting is a vital aspect of the ASA Annual Meetings. Scholars and graduate students from the U.S., North America and internationally interrupt their summer research and

writing and spend significant financial resources coming to this meeting, rather than relying on reading published papers and other impersonal forms of communication. They do this because the personal exchanges in which they engage at this meeting are vital to face-to-face exchanges that hone their arguments and analyses and create professional relationships that are vital to continuing scholarly exchange. These types of exchanges cannot be fully replaced through technology, thus limiting ASA members' rights to speak and hear effectively in an environment conducive to high quality scholarly exchange.

23. The ASA did not attempt to secure Professor Habib's attendance through videoconferencing because of the substantial costs of videoconferencing to a membership association and because any alternative way of presenting Professor Habib's views fell far short of effective face-to-face dialogue and debate.

24. Professor Habib is a widely-respected scholar whose views and research are important to the sociology community in the U.S. Because the ASA Program Committee continues to believe that it is important for its members to have an opportunity to hear Professor Habib's ideas and engage him in face-to-face debate and discussion, the ASA has invited Professor Habib to speak at its next Annual Meeting, to be held in Boston in August 2008. The theme of the 2008 Annual Meeting is "*Worlds of Work*." Professor Habib has been invited to speak at a Special Session on: "*Race and Citizenship: Perspectives from South Africa, France, Brazil and United States*." Other slated participants include Michael Burawoy, a scholar from the University of California-Berkeley and former President of the ASA; Michel Wieviorka, a French scholar and current President of the International Sociological Association; Patricia Hill Collins, a

scholar from the University of Maryland-College Park and President-elect of the ASA; and Edward E. Telles, a scholar from the University of California-Los Angeles.

25. Certain ASA members would also like to invite Professor Habib to speak in the U.S. in the future. For example, Dr. Frances Fox Piven, the outgoing ASA president as well as Professor Habib's colleague and former professor would like to invite him to speak to students in the Political Science Department at the City University of New York's Graduate Center. Gay Seidman, Professor Habib's colleague, would like to invite Professor Habib to deliver a lecture to her students in the African Studies seminar at the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

26. The government's refusal to grant Professor Habib a visa or a waiver of inadmissibility on the ground that he has engaged in terrorist activity (an accusation that the government has failed to explain or substantiate) prevents Professor Habib from speaking at the ASA 2008 Annual Meeting. The government's exclusion of Professor Habib compromises the ability of the ASA and its members to meet with Professor Habib, to hear him speak, to debate and exchange informed views, and to collaborate with him on academic projects. It also effectively deprives ASA members of their ability to invite him to lecture, to participate in other conferences, and to exchange ideas with him more generally.

27. If Professor Habib is unable to attend the August 2008 event, the ASA will once again have to make burdensome changes in its extensive program schedule and provide someone to read Professor Habib's paper, while being unable to fulfill its obligation to its members as a scholarly association to have all speakers discuss and debate their ideas and their data. As a membership organization of scholars, the ASA

simply cannot afford the costly interactive video technology that could ameliorate some but not all of the harms caused by the physical absence of a scholar.

28. The long range implications of the government's refusal to provide specificity regarding Professor Habib's alleged offense or to provide any supporting evidence for his exclusion are of grave concern to the ASA, its members, as well as others who value our nation's democratic ethos. This lack of government accountability and fairness will have serious consequences for the U.S. As ASA President Arne L. Kalleberg recently wrote: "What does it mean to tout democracy as an aspiration for the world if our own government increasingly undermines our democratic credibility. How long will it take to encourage the world's scientists and scholars to take their knowledge elsewhere? . . . In the face of government non-accountability, can the United States retain our nation's well-earned 'bright beacon' metaphor that advertises hope, freedom, optimism, opportunity, and openness? Or, is our projected image becoming government – behind-closed-doors, a 'warning beacon' of obfuscation, opaqueness and non-accountability? . . . History is replete with failed nations that became afraid of critical thought and debate." Arne L. Kalleberg, *Democracy's Fading Beacon*, Huffington Post, Nov. 14, 2007. Our nation was built on the belief that free and robust debate, including scholarly dialogue, which the First Amendment protects, would make us strong. Our capacity to do so is being undermined.

29. The unsubstantiated accusation by government authorities that Professor Habib has "engaged in terrorism" is stigmatizing to both Professor Habib and to the ASA and endangers the scholarship published by the ASA. Broad but unsubstantiated accusations such as "engaged in terrorism" that lack specificity, but are also authoritative

and alarming, do damage. They place a particular scholar's reputation in jeopardy within the academic and wider communities of the U.S. and elsewhere, potentially impacting research and teaching that rely in part or in whole on that scholar's body of work. They raise potential questions about the judgment of ASA members who invite that scholar to speak and exchange views with other scholars and students at ASA or ASA member-sponsored events. If repeated, such unsubstantiated accusations have the potential to raise in the minds of *other* scholars – citizens as well as non-citizens – the specter of future government sanction of their own scholarship or professional activity because such government actions are without accountability. As the major publisher of the highest quality scholarship in sociology worldwide, scholarship that includes the scientific study of highly controversial social phenomena as well as social conflict and mass movements, the Association is understandably concerned about the long-range impact on the advancement of scientific knowledge by the potential of scholars' self-censorship from the fear of damage to their professional reputations.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on this 11 day of February, 2008.

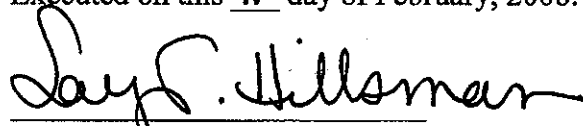

SALLY T. HILLSMAN

Exhibit A



April 11, 2007

Professor Adam Habib
Human and Social Science Research Council
750 Francois Road
Intuthuko Junction
Durban, South Africa 4001
By email: ahabib@hsrc.ac.az

Dear Professor Habib:

It is our pleasure to extend an invitation to you to participate in the 102nd Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association (ASA) to be held at the Hilton New York Hotel in New York City, August 11-14, 2007. We look forward to your participation in a Presidential Thematic Session on globalization as well as in other aspects of the Association's meeting. This thematic panel will also include papers by Carlos Crespo, Universidad Mayor de San Simon, Bolivia; Raka Ray, University of California-Berkeley; Joel Rocamora, Philippines; and Susan Eckstein, Boston University.

We anticipate over 5,000 attendees, including significant participation by many international sociologists and other scholars. We look forward to your attendance and participation.

As you know, the ASA is the national professional association for sociologists in the United States. With a membership of over 14,000 sociologists, many of whom are faculty in institutions of higher education as well as in government and private-sector research organizations, the Association is dedicated to advancing sociology as scientific discipline and profession serving the public good. The ASA has an international as well as United States membership, and we are active in international scholarly associations, participation in which has been funded by the National Science Foundation.

Please note that the conference opening plenary will be Friday, August 10, at 7:00 p.m. followed by a welcoming reception. As you prepare your travel arrangements, we hope you will be able to arrive in time to attend this plenary event. We will also have a reception in honor of our international scholars later in the meeting.

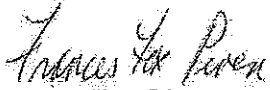
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Washington, DC 20005-4701

(202) 383-9005
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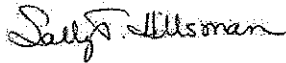
executive.office@asanet.org
www.asanet.org

If there is anyway we can assist you with your arrangements to attend, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Hillsman.

Sincerely,



Frances Fox Piven
President, American Sociological Association
Distinguished Professor, Graduate Center of the City University of New York



Sally T. Hillsman, PhD
Executive Officer, American Sociological Association

Exhibit B



February 1, 2007

Via fax: 202-647-2283

The Honorable Condoleezza Rice
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Rice:

We are writing to express the concern of the American Sociological Association (ASA) about the recent State Department decision to deny Professor Adam Habib, a South African citizen and scholar, entry into the United States. This decision — as is true of other decisions to bar academics who have arranged to meet with colleagues in formal scholarly venues in this country — directly contradicts our nation's heretofore enviable status as the world's destination for the free exchange of scholarly ideas.

Professor Habib has accepted an invitation from the President of the American Sociological Association to participate in the 102nd Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association to be held in New York City in August 2007. However, Professor Habib was notified in October 2006 upon his arrival at JFK International Airport that U.S. officials are denying him entry into the United States. This action appears to preclude the possibility of his being issued a visa to participate in our scientific meeting in August, which typically draws 5,000 to 6,000 participants.

Professor Habib is an officer of the South African Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC), and was a member of an HSRC delegation scheduled to meet with donor institutions in this country, among them the Social Science Research Council, Columbia University, the National Institutes of Health, and the World Bank.

Before October 2006, and since September 11, 2001, Professor Habib had freely entered the United States on nearly two dozen occasions since obtaining his doctorate in political science from the City University of New York. The lack of explanation both from the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Office (to which Habib has written) and from the Department of State raise ominous implications for academic freedom in the United States in the eyes of our membership of over 14,000 scholars and researchers.

ASA supports academic freedom, a hallmark of American democracy, and opposes the use of visa denials, which results in the suppression of free intellectual exchange. When the ASA Annual Meeting was held in San Francisco in August 2005, our effort to

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bring more than 30 foreign scholars into the country met with general success, and we attribute that to responsible efforts of the Department of State. We lost only two invited academics by virtue of visa denials because of understandable, but regrettable, selective restrictions in this era of increased conflict in the Middle East.

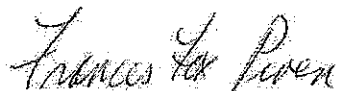
Because of our long and enviable history as the world's foremost host to scholarship and its many social and economic fruits – with which you as an academic are intimately familiar, the United States owes it to the world's peoples, as well as to our own, to sustain vigorous intellectual exchange, which is the foundation of democratic institutions. The United States has a self-imposed obligation to sustain other nations' inspirations, aspirations, and hopes in this regard.

We hope that the Department of State will reconsider its position and facilitate Dr. Habib's efforts to enter this country in time for his participation in our August 2007 meeting.

We urge that you personally review the Department of State decision affecting Dr. Habib. Such decisions are already undermining the willingness of many scientists and academics from many nations to visit the United States and collaborate with their colleagues in this country. This is eroding irreparably our nation's reputation as an indefatigable defender of the free and open search for knowledge.

We believe, as we are sure you do, that such exchanges help the United States preserve its future as an international leader in science, technology, engineering, and medicine.

Sincerely,



Frances Fox Piven, PhD
President and
Distinguished Professor,
Graduate Center of the City University of New York



Sally T. Hillsman, PhD
Executive Officer

Cc: Karen Hughes, Undersecretary of State for Public Diplomacy (fax 202-647-9140)
Pamela Stevens, Secretary of State Press Secretary (fax 202-647-3344)
ASA Membership