

July 27, 2011

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary
152 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Grassley:

We, the undersigned, write to urge prompt consideration and passage of the Consular Notification Compliance Act, S.1194, legislation that would provide for review in capital cases involving foreign nationals who did not receive consular access while in U.S. law enforcement custody as required by the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations (VCCR). This legislation would ensure the reliable and accurate functioning of our domestic criminal justice system; give assurance and leadership to the international community regarding the commitment of the United States to the rule of law, thus protecting the in

we urge you to pass S.1194 promptly in order to implement our obligation as soon as possible. The longer we wait to comply with this important agreement, the more danger we pose for our citizens living and traveling abroad and for the integrity of our own justice system. We thank you for your time and attention to this important matter, and we look forward to working with you in the near future.

Sincerely,

American Civil Liberties Union

Amnesty International USA

Human Rights Defense Center

Human Rights First

Human Rights Watch

Justice Now

National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers

Safe Streets Arts Foundation

The Advocates for Human Rights

The Constitution Project