



September 11th Families for Peaceful Tomorrows
www.peacefultomorrows.org

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Family Members of 9/11 Victims Criticize Obama Administration's Revision of Miranda Rights

New York, March 24, 2011 –In response to the Obama administration's revision of Miranda warning rules for terrorism suspects, September 11th Families for Peaceful Tomorrows released the following statement:

The Obama administration's announcement that it will allow investigators to hold domestic-terror suspects longer than other criminals without giving them a Miranda warning gives us pause. We believe that failing to seek Congressional authority to revise these rules represents an abuse of Executive authority. Miranda warnings have governed the handling of criminal suspects for more than four decades and in recent years have not impeded the successful prosecution of terrorism suspects. Indeed both Faisal Shazad and Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab were read their Miranda rights after they were apprehended and despite this still provided information vital to US interests. There is already room in Miranda for postponing the reading of rights in the interests of public safety and this was, indeed, invoked in both instances. However, surprisingly, in the face of this success, President Obama has now chosen to ignore those triumphs and revise the Miranda laws for those apprehended for alleged terrorist activities. We urge caution and we invoke reason; our laws are designed to protect private citizens and to keep our country secure. We should beware of incrementally curtailing those rights that have served this nation well.