

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****March 25, 2005**

WLF ASKS STATE DEPT. TO PRESS FOR COOPERATION WITH DEPORTATIONS

The Washington Legal Foundation (WLF) filed comments today with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice asking that the State Department take significant steps – including, where necessary, the imposition of economic sanctions – with regard to foreign governments that refuse to cooperate with U.S. deportations of their nationals.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has stated that the Governments of the Peoples Republic of China, Eritrea, Ethiopia, India, Iran, Jamaica, Laos, and Vietnam have refused to travel documents, or delayed issuing travel documents, necessary for the repatriation of their nationals in U.S. deportation proceedings. This has resulted in a backlog of tens of thousands of cases in which removal has been ordered. In its comments, WLF noted that the refusal of these countries to cooperate with the U.S. has placed a costly burden on law enforcement agencies that are already under tremendous strain.

WLF urged the State Department to make explicit demands upon the governments involved to fulfill their obligations to repatriate their nationals. Where that does not bring cooperation, WLF urged the Department to impose sanctions, including sanctions under the power granted by the Immigration and Nationality Act to discontinue granting visas to countries that refuse to cooperate in the issuance of travel documents for purposes of repatriation of excluded aliens, and under the Immigration Act of 1990, which authorizes the Secretary of State to exclude aliens for policy purposes.

In appropriate cases, WLF suggested that the State Department recommend to the President that he impose economic sanctions against uncooperative countries pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA). WLF argued that recent intelligence reports of al Qaeda's plans to penetrate the southern U.S. border and kill Americans, if accurately reported by the news media, present an unusual and extraordinary threat to national security fully justifying the exercise of these powers.

WLF is a public interest law and policy center with supporters nationwide. WLF frequently appears before federal courts to support anti-terrorism policies, including in the 2004 U.S. Supreme Court cases *Rumsfeld v. Padilla*, *Hamdi v. Rumsfeld*, and *Rasul v. Bush*.

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For further information, contact WLF Senior Vice President for Legal Affairs David Price, (202) 588-0302. WLF's comments are posted on its web site, www.wlf.org.