

Liberties Union and others, last year <u>sued the government</u>, saying the

An executive order signed by President Bush in 2001 allows the federal

In the court brief, the nonprofit organizations argue that the Bush policy

and Treasury's efforts "have created a climate of fear and intimidation

among nonprofit organizations, discouraging them from doing their

government to freeze the assets of charities, businesses, and individuals if

seizure of the financial assets was illegal.

they are being investigated for terrorist activities.

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critical humanitarian work -- particularly in conflict-torn regions that are most in need -- for fear of being arbitrarily subjected to these actions and policies themselves."

"In effect, the government's actions and policies are counterproductive to its efforts to counter terrorism because they discourage and undermine the vital work" of charities, they say.

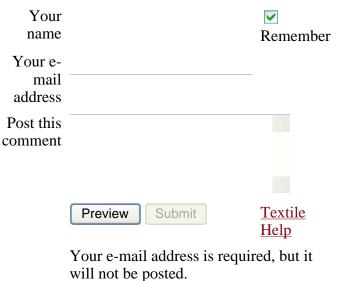
The organizations that filed the brief are Grantmakers Without Borders, OMB Watch, the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, the Appleton Foundation, the Bill of Rights Defense Committee, the Defending Dissent Foundation, the Fund for Nonviolence, Grassroots International, Kinder USA, Muslim Advocates, and the Muslim Public Affairs Council.

According to <u>*The Toledo Blade*</u>, last month, a judge ruled that KindHearts's lawyers could have access to documents and other materials seized during a raid on the charity's offices law-enforcement agents. The newspaper said that the decision was a victory for the Muslim group.

Read *The Chronicle's* article about a push by charity leaders to get President Obama to change contentious antiterrorism policies that affect the nonprofit world.

- Ian Wilhelm

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