

**National Lawyers Guild, ACLU of Massachusetts,
American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee,
American Friends Service Committee, MAS Freedom Foundation**

PRESS RELEASE

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COALITION CHALLENGES MBTA SEARCH POLICY

Educational Campaign warns public about threats to basic rights

Boston, October 24, 2006 — Beginning on Wednesday, October 25, 2006, volunteers from Safe-T Coalition will be distributing informational flyers and buttons to commuters at selected MBTA stations.

MBTA has enacted a search policy under which MBTA police, using police dogs, electronic scanners, and physical inspection, can search any passenger on the public transit system without cause for “any kind of device or substance that could be used as a weapon... .”

“The MBTA bad search policy is ineffective and an infringement on rights in a free society,” says Nancy Murray from American Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts. “We can have effective security without sacrificing our basic rights.”

Caline Jarudi from American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee-MA (ADC) states that her organization is “concerned with the disproportionate number of innocent Arab and Muslim Americans that have been targets of similar, highly ineffectual, policies in the past that only serve to increase fear and hatred.”

“This policy proves that the current government has no respect for basic rights to privacy,” adds Jeff Feuer from the National Lawyers Guild, Massachusetts Chapter. “Like spying on our e-mail, eavesdropping on our telephone calls, and checking on our library books, the MBTA policy makes us subject to another arbitrary intrusion by the government into our daily lives. We can just wonder what will be next.”

The SAFE-T Coalition is gathering information about how, when, and where searches are being conducted.