

# THE CONSTITUTION PROJECT



*Safeguarding Liberty, Justice & the Rule of Law*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - March 8, 2013

Contact: Larry Akey, Director of Communications, (202)580-6922 [o] or (202)580-9313 [c], [lakey@constitutionproject.org](mailto:lakey@constitutionproject.org)

## TCP Encouraged That Bin Laden's Son-In-Law To Be Tried In Federal Court

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Virginia Sloan, president of The Constitution Project, a bipartisan watchdog group, applauded the decision to bring Sulaiman Abu Ghaith, an alleged al Qaeda spokesman and Osama bin Laden's son-in-law, to the United States to stand trial in federal court.

"It is very encouraging that the Obama administration has chosen to prosecute this case in federal civilian court. All Americans should have confidence in our criminal justice system's ability to safely and capably handle complex terrorism cases," Sloan said. "The military commission system has not proven itself deserving of the public trust," she added.

Although the details of his capture are not yet clear, reports indicate that Abu Ghaith was originally detained in Turkey after entering that country from Iran. Turkish officials refused to turn him over directly to the United States, opting instead to deport him to his home country of Kuwait. U.S. counterterrorism operatives reportedly took custody of Abu Ghaith on a stopover in Jordan.

"We look forward to learning more about the circumstances surrounding Mr. Abu Ghaith's arrest and transfer to the United States," Sloan said.

Abu Ghaith was arraigned this morning in Federal District Court in Manhattan on charges of conspiracy to commit acts of terrorism. During the arraignment, federal prosecutors told the judge that Abu Ghaith spoke extensively to law enforcement officials following his arrest.

TCP's Liberty and Security Committee outlined the advantages of the federal court system for trying terrorism cases in its 2008 report, [A Critique of National Security Courts](#). Over the last eleven and a half years federal courts have completed nearly 500 terrorism cases, as compared to only seven in the military commission system. Two military commission convictions have been overturned because of basic jurisdictional problems.

###

### [About The Constitution Project](#)

*Created out of the belief that we must cast aside the labels that divide us in order to keep our democracy strong, The Constitution Project (TCP) brings together policy experts and legal practitioners from across the*

*political spectrum to foster consensus-based solutions to the most difficult constitutional challenges of our time. TCP seeks to reform the nation's broken criminal justice system and to strengthen the rule of law through scholarship, advocacy, policy reform and public education initiatives. Established in 1997, TCP is based in Washington, D.C.*



*Try it FREE today.*