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What if the government could lock you up...  
for as long as it wanted...  
without charging you with a crime?

*Without the protection of **habeas corpus**, it could happen.*

⇒ **What is habeas corpus?**

It's a legal procedure guaranteed by the constitution that means the government can't throw you in prison without charging you with a crime and without giving you the chance to defend yourself against the government's accusations. **Habeas corpus** gives you, whether you're a citizen or not, the right to make the government justify why they're holding you and to ask for your freedom.

⇒ **Why are we talking about it now?**

The Military Commissions Act (MCA), passed by Congress last October, gives the president absolute power to decide who is an enemy of our country, to imprison some people indefinitely without charging them with a crime, and to define what is - and what is not - torture and abuse. It effectively abolishes **habeas corpus**.



⇒ **What can I do?**

- 1) **Get on the bus! Rally in DC on June 26!** The ACLU is hosting a [Day of Action](#), to demand that Congress defend the Constitution and protect what makes us Americans by restoring due process and **habeas corpus**. *Buses will be leaving from Pittsburgh, Harrisburg, and Philadelphia on the morning of June 26. Visit the [Day of Action](#) website ([www.juneaction.org](http://www.juneaction.org)) to reserve a spot on the bus!*
- 2) **Contact Congress:** Urge Sen. Casey, Sen. Specter, and your U.S. Representative to cosponsor:
  - The **Restoring the Constitution Act of 2007** (H.R. 1415, S.576) - making clear that no president can make up his or her own rules regarding torture and abuse.
  - The **Habeas Corpus Restoration Act** (H.R. 1416, S. 185) - restoring the constitutional due process right of **habeas corpus** that was eliminated by the MCA. (Sen. Specter is a sponsor of the Senate version. Rep. Chaka Fattah is co-sponsor of the House version.)
- 3) **Sign the [petition](#)** to restore habeas corpus. Visit [www.juneaction.org](http://www.juneaction.org).
- 4) **Write a letter to the editor and/or blog** about the elimination of habeas corpus and the other problems in the Military Commissions Act. Get more info and talking points at [www.aclupa.org/juneaction](http://www.aclupa.org/juneaction).
- 5) **Keep the discussion going!** Host a house party or discussion group. Rent the movie "Road to Guantanamo," or use news and radio shows to start a conversation and encourage your friends to do their part to restore the Constitution. For background on the issues, go to [www.aclupa.org/juneaction](http://www.aclupa.org/juneaction) and <http://www.findhabeas.com>.

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