

STATEMENT FROM THE LYNNE STEWART DEFENSE COMMITTEE 12/3/03

The Lynne Stewart Defense committee is outraged at the vindictive superceding indictment that was brought by the Bush/Ashcroft Justice Department. The new charges were brought to "replace" the top two charges of the original indictment which were dismissed after Judge Koeltl - United States District Court, Southern District of New York found them to be unconstitutional. Ultimately the U.S. Attorney's office was unable to appeal that decision (per decision of the Solicitor General's office).

The Justice Dept. bent on attacking the attorney-client relationship and obviously angry at their initial loss now reframes the material aid to terrorism charges as to Lynne Stewart. This time she is charged with providing personnel to the conspiracy that personnel being her client, Sheik Rahman. The indictment begins with at least 16 pages on Sheik Rahman before it even begins with the actual counts of the indictment. Also added is a great deal of inflammatory and prejudicial rhetorical language meant to drape Lynne Stewart in a "terrorist" cloak - the implication being if an attorney vigorously represents someone accused of being a terrorist the attorney risks being labeled a terrorist too. The alleged behavior remains unchanged from the original indictment.

The judge has set a new motion schedule and trial is now set to begin on May 17th. The LSDC will continue to fight these outrageous charges. Lynne Stewart is guilty of nothing but being an attorney advocating vigorously for her client. Please join us in supporting Lynne Stewart by bringing her to speak to your area, by holding receptions and fund raisers and by donating funds to the LSDC. Email info@lynnestewart.org for more information. Many articles and copies of court decisions can be found on the website www.Lynnestewart.org.