

APPARENTLY, REPORTING ON RIGHT WING DEATH SQUADS IS NOW MATERIAL SUPPORT FOR TERRORISM

We've discussed the recent SCOTUS decision that ruled the government can charge people engaging in First Amendment activities with material support for terrorism. Even groups trying to teach terrorist organizations to engage peacefully might be judged to be materially supporting terrorists.

And while I don't think that's precisely what is going on here, the logical next step after treating counseling on conflict negotiations as material support for terrorism is to treat reporting on conflict negotiations as material support for terrorism.

Hollman Morris Rincón, an independent journalist in Colombia, won a Nieman Fellowship this spring to study conflict negotiation strategies, international criminal court procedures, and the Rome Statute. I'll just quote the AP:

BOGOTA, Colombia – The U.S. government has denied a visa to a prominent Colombian journalist who specializes in conflict and human rights reporting to attend a prestigious fellowship at Harvard University.

Hollman Morris, who produces an independent TV news program called "Contravia," has been highly critical of ties between illegal far-right militias and allies of outgoing President

Alvaro Uribe, Washington's
closest ally in Latin America.

The curator of the Nieman
Foundation at Harvard, which has
offered the mid-career
fellowships since 1938, said
Thursday that a consular
official at the U.S. Embassy in
Bogota told him Morris was ruled
permanently ineligible for a
visa under the "Terrorist
activities" section of the USA
Patriot Act.

Of course, given that the Attorney General has,
himself, helped a bunch of white Republicans get
away with their material support for Colombia's
death squads, you might think our country simply
thinks some terrorists are more equal than
others. But keep in mind: both Colombia's left
wing and right wing terrorists are on the
Foreign Terrorist Organization list.