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[The Promise Institute for Human Rights](#) at UCLA School of Law

*****PRESS RELEASE*****

FOUR BROTHERS WRONGFULLY HELD AS ICE DETAINEES BRING THEIR CASE TO THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

LOS ANGELES, CA — This week, the UCLA Human Rights Litigation Clinic filed a merits brief before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and attached evidence showing that FBI agents had knowingly used fabricated evidence to detain brothers Mostafa Mirmehdi, Mohsen Mirmehdi, Mojtaba Mirmehdi and Mohammed Mirmehdi for over 40 months.

The Mirmehdi brothers were arrested in October 2001 as part of a vast sweep of people based on their religious and national backgrounds in the weeks after 9/11. They were particularly targeted as Middle Eastern men. The only grounds for holding them would have been if they were a flight risk or posed a danger to the community. Although an immigration judge had already found the brothers were not dangerous and had released them on bond, the FBI used false evidence against them to get their bond revoked. This set off a chain of events that led to them being held until March 2005, when they were suddenly released late at night on the eve of being interviewed about the terrible conditions they faced in detention by the Office of the Inspector General.

"The Mirmehdis are just one example of hundreds of Middle Eastern, Muslim people held in indefinite detention under baseless terrorism charges," said Steffi Colao, a law student in the Human Rights Litigation Clinic. "In the post-9/11 Islamophobic panic, the US government converted its immigration system into an investigatory authority, and began detaining people based on their nationality - even though nearly all of these accusations were built upon shaky evidence, stereotypes, or in the Mirmehdis' case, false evidence."

This IACHR case has been pending since 2014, when the UCLA International Human Rights Clinic filed a petition before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, on the brothers' behalf.

The brothers have unsuccessfully sought justice in domestic courts for more than a decade for this arbitrary and abusive detention. Because they were not given an effective remedy in United States courts, the Mirmehdis pursued vindication of these human rights violations at the international level.

“Through this petition, we hope that the IACHR will condemn the human rights violation that the Mirmehdi brothers suffered at the hands of the United States government when they were detained for nearly four years for attending a pro-democracy political rally,” said Rie Ohta, attorney with the Promise Institute for Human Rights.

Earlier this year, the Commission determined that the petition was admissible and presented plausible allegations of violations of the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man. As a member of the Organization of American States, the United States is required to abide by the human rights commitments in the Declaration (the foundational text used by the IACHR for adjudication).

Attorneys for the Mirmehdis join the brothers in hoping the IACHR will agree that these violations constitute human rights abuses, award just compensation for the victims, and recommend that the U.S. government amend the laws that immunize governments agents that engage in this conduct from being held accountable.

For more detailed information, view the merits brief submitted to the IACHR [here](#).

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