

# Entry Denied



**A toolkit for activists**

Dear Friend,

We're extremely pleased that you're considering hosting an Entry Denied event in the future. This toolkit is designed to lead you through the process of planning your program, from start to finish. It includes a step-by-step timeline, a list of tips for the program's major components, and materials you'll need to make your event a success.

The ACLU of Ohio is a small organization with a big goal: defending the Constitution. Ideological exclusion poses a threat to the free exchange of ideas, and by celebrating the works of writers, poets and scholars whose political views led to their exclusion of the U.S we affirm our constitutional rights. We'd like to thank you for sharing our interest in protecting free speech and free expression.

As you move forward in planning your event, the ACLU of Ohio is here to offer advice, guidance, and support. Feel free to contact us at [contact@acluohio.org](mailto:contact@acluohio.org) or (216) 472-2200 with questions or concerns.

Warmly,

ACLU of Ohio Staff

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## BRIEF HISTORY

Ideological Exclusion is the practice of denying visas to foreign nationals with whose political views the government disagrees. Once used to bar suspected Communists from entering the United States, the practice was resurrected by the George W. Bush administration. Some of the most notable individuals who have been denied entry into the United States are former South African President Nelson Mandela as well as British musicians John Lennon and M.I.A. Ideological exclusion violates Americans’ First Amendment right to hear constitutionally protected speech by denying foreign scholars, artists, politicians and others entry to the United States.

## RELATED ACLU CASES

*American Academy of Religion v. Napolitano*

Tariq Ramadan is a Swiss professor and leading scholar of the Muslim world. He has published 20 books and more than 700 articles on subjects including Muslim identity, democracy and Islam, human rights and Islam, the practice of Islam in Europe and Islamic law. In 2004, Ramadan was set to teach at the University of Notre Dame until the government barred him from reentering the United States by invoking the “ideological exclusion” provision.

**When challenged in court government attorneys failed to produce any evidence showing that Ramadan had endorsed terrorism, and during the course of litigation, they abandoned the allegation altogether.**

*American Sociological Association et al v. Clinton*

Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Research, Innovation and Advancement at the University of Johannesburg, Adam Habib, is an expert on issues of democracy, governance, race and South African politics, public policy and social movements. Professor Habib is also a vocal critic of various aspects of U.S. foreign policy, including the war in Iraq. Habib was a frequent traveler to the U.S. and earned a degree from the City University of New York. When he arrived at John F. Kennedy Airport in October 2006, Customs and Border officials revoked Professor Habib’s visa without explanation. As a result, Habib was unable to attend scheduled meetings with U.S. based scholars and representatives from U.S. and international agencies, universities and foundations.

**On January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2010, in a major victory for civil liberties, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton signed orders that effectively ended the exclusion of both prominent scholars Tariq Ramadan and Adam Habib, who were previously barred from the United States by the Bush administration.**

## CONSTRUCTING YOUR EVENT

When planning an event you will want to consider several aspects including:

### **What**

#### Audience

The first step is to determine whom you want to reach. Who is your core audience? Determining that will help you decide what action to take such as hosting an event, organizing a march, or setting up an information booth at a festival.

#### Message

The next step is to determine what message you will deliver. Review our talking points and practice what you will say. If you plan to pass out information or engage passersby, consider creating a script for your participants.

#### Choosing Works:

You will need to select the works to be read. We have provided 11 suggested readings. However, your performers may want the freedom to select their own works – for that purpose we have included a comprehensive list of international artists and scholars who have been excluded because of their beliefs. You can pace the event and custom tailor your themes to the setting of your event. Picking pieces that generally compliment but do not mirror one another will create a smoother flow from one artist to the next.

### **Where**

You should ideally book a location several months prior to your event, to allow plenty of time for publicity and to prevent last-minute scrambles for meeting rooms. Space and price are significant considerations in scouting locations. Some venues will charge a reservation fee, but may waive or lower it for non-profit or community events.

### **Who**

#### Co-Sponsors

In our experience partnering with another organization can broaden the reach of the event and help you gain access to new and different audiences. Doing so may also be helpful for finding readers and publicizing the event. Depending on what organization you work with, your partnership can lend your event more weight and authority.

#### Readers

Lining up readers is likely the aspect of your program that will take the most time and effort. We've included a sample ask letter to demonstrate one way to approach prospective readers. The sooner you reach out and the more lead-time you allow, the easier it will be to find performers.

It's also important to choose an emcee to introduce each reader and keep the program running smoothly. If you choose an individual with name recognition in your community, their involvement can be a big draw.

## Publicity

Once your venue is booked and your event title and description are set, you can begin publicizing your event. If any of your readers are well-known in your community, make sure to highlight their participation.

It's best to use a variety of media so that you can reach the greatest number of people.

- **Members.** If you belong to an organization, this is a great event to advertise to your members in e-mail and print newsletters. Make sure you get the word out early and often. Don't forget the members of your cosponsoring organization.
- **Press.** Check the publishing schedule for your state or city's weekly and monthly magazines – they may require a submission many weeks in advance. Send a media advisory and send it to the daily papers and reporters about a week in advance.
- **Web.** Place it prominently on your own website, add your listing to Craigslist and contact local bloggers to let them know the event is happening. Check the websites of activist and local groups for community calendars to which you can post the listing.
- **Fliers.** Distribute fliers to bookstores, colleges, coffee shops, libraries, music venues, art galleries, and other local stores to make sure you reach a large number of people.
- **Venue.** Be sure to inquire if your venue has a newsletter or bulletin board where you can post information about the event.

## Keep Us Informed!!

As you plan your events, keep us posted. Feel free to contact us at [contact@acluohio.org](mailto:contact@acluohio.org) or call (216) 472-2200.

## TALKING POINTS

### **Barring people from the United States on the basis of their political views is censorship.**

- Ideological exclusion sends the message to the world that the United States is more interested in silencing its critics than engaging them.

### **Ideological Exclusion has been used to bar foreign scholars, artists and human rights activists from the United States.**

- Over the past decade, ideological exclusion has been used to bar prominent thinkers who have been critical of U.S. foreign policy.
- Those denied visas recently include Turkish journalist Haluk Gerger; Nicaraguan human rights activist Dora Maria Tellez; South African political commentator Adam Habib; and Swiss scholar of Islam Tariq Ramadan
- During the Cold War, the U.S. government used ideological exclusion to deny visas to foreign citizens who were thought to be sympathetic to communism.
- Those denied visas during the Cold War include: celebrated Palestinian poet and best-selling author Mahmoud Darwish; Italian playwright and Nobel Laureate Dario Fo; Colombian novelist and Nobel Laureate Gabriel Garcia Marquez; Chilean poet and Nobel Laureate Pablo Neruda; and former Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau.

### **Ideological exclusion diminishes academic and political debate inside the United States.**

- The government has not only harmed the reputation of respected professors, artists, writers and thinkers, but its own reputation as a democracy that embraces a diversity of ideas and free expression.
- The American people have a constitutional right to engage prominent scholars face-to-face.

### **Ideological exclusion is ineffective as a matter of security policy and inconsistent with the ideals that make this country worth defending.**

- While the government has an interest in excluding foreign nationals who present a threat to national security, that is not what’s happening here, where people are being excluded for their political beliefs and associations.
- Applicants should be evaluated for admission to the U.S. on the basis of their actions, rather than their political beliefs and associations.

## THE EXCLUDED

Below is a list of writers and scholars who have been ideologically excluded from the United States, some of their selected works and contact information for their publishers.

### Jorge Luis Borges

*Fictions*

Penguin Classics  
Permissions  
Department  
Penguin Books  
Limited  
80 Strand  
London, WC2R ORL,  
England.  
Fax: 011-020-7010-  
6060

### Dennis Brutus

*Poetry & Protest: A*

*Dennis Brutus Reader*

Haymarket Books  
[info@haymarketbooks.org](mailto:info@haymarketbooks.org)  
773-583-7884

### Charlie Chaplin

MK2.55

rue Traversière  
75012 Paris 33-1-44-  
67-30-00  
Fax: 33-1-43-41-32-  
30

### Mahmoud Darwish

*The Butterfly's Burden*

Copper Canyon Press  
PO Box 271  
Building 313  
Fort Woden State  
Park  
Port Townsend, WA  
98368  
360-385-4925 Fax:  
360-385-4985  
[poetry@coppercanyonpress.org](mailto:poetry@coppercanyonpress.org)

*Memory for*

*Forgetfulness: August,  
Beirut, 1982*

University of  
California Press  
Permissions  
2120 Berkeley way  
Berkeley, CA 94704-  
1012  
510-642-4247 Fax:  
510-643-7127

### Dario Fo

*Elizabeth: Almost By*

*Chance a Woman*

from Dario Fo and Franca

Rame: *Artful Laughter*

Translated by Ron  
Jenkins  
Aperture Press  
Permissions:  
[info@aperture.org](mailto:info@aperture.org)

### Carlos Fuentes

*Where the Air is Clear*

Dalkey Archive Press

University of Illinois

605 E. Springfield

Avenue, MC-475

Champaign, IL 61820

217-244 5700 Fax:

217-244-9142

[contact@dalkeyarchive.com](mailto:contact@dalkeyarchive.com)

*The Old Gringo*

Farrar, Straus and

Giroux

19 Union Square West

New York, NY 10003

Fax: 212-633-9385

[Rights@fsgbooks.com](mailto:Rights@fsgbooks.com)

### Gabriel García Márquez

*Nobel Lecture*

Nobel Foundation  
PO Box 5232 SE-102  
45 Stockholm,  
Sweden  
[info@nobel.se](mailto:info@nobel.se)

### Graham Greene

*Our Man in Havana*

Permissions  
Department  
Penguin Books  
Limited  
80 Strand  
London, WC2R ORL,  
England.  
Fax: 011-020-7010-  
6060

### Nazim Hikmet

*Poems of Nazim Hikmet*

Persea Books  
Permissions  
853 Broadway, Suite  
604  
New York, NY 10003

### Doris Lessing

*The Grass is Singing*

*The Good Terrorist*

Random House, Inc.

Copyright &

Permissions

Department

1745 Broadway New

York, NY 10019

fax 212- 572-6066

*To Room Nineteen*

from *A Man & Two*

*Women*

Simon and Schuster

Attn: Permissions  
Dept., 10th floor  
1230 Avenue of the  
Americas  
New York, NY 10020  
Fax: 212-698-7284

**Nelson Mandela**

*Posterity Will Prove I Was  
Innocent*

from Nelson Mandela In  
His Own Words

Little Brown  
c/o Diane Spivey  
Brettenham House  
Lancaster Place  
LONDON WC2E  
7EN United Kingdom  
+44 (0)20 7911 8000  
Fax: 44 (0)20 7911  
8100  
[info@littlebrown.co.u  
k](mailto:info@littlebrown.co.uk)

**Ian McEwan**

*Amsterdam  
Atonement  
Saturday*

Random House, Inc.  
Copyright &  
Permissions  
Department  
1745 Broadway  
New York, NY 10019  
Fax: 212-572-6066

**Czeslaw Milosz**

*Selected Poems*

Permissions  
Department, 6th floor  
HarperCollins  
Publishers  
10 East 53rd Street  
New York, NY 10022

**Farley Mowat**

*My Discovery of America*  
McClelland & Stewart  
Ltd.  
75 Sherbourne Street  
5th Floor

Toronto, Ontario  
M5A 2P9  
416-598-1114 Fax:  
416-598-7764  
[rights@mcclelland.co  
m](mailto:rights@mcclelland.com)

**Pablo Neruda**

*To the Dead Poor Man  
Investigations*  
from *The Essential Pablo  
Neruda*

City Lights Books  
Rights & Permissions  
Department  
261 Columbus  
Avenue  
San Francisco, CA  
94133 Fax: 415-362-  
4921

**Tariq Ramadan**

*Western Muslims & the  
Future of Islam*

Oxford University  
Press  
Tim Barton  
198 Madison Avenue  
New York, N.Y.  
10016  
212-726-6000 Fax:  
212-726-6440  
[subrights.us@oup.co  
m](mailto:subrights.us@oup.com)

**Dora Maria Tellez**

*Nicaragua Is a Surprising  
Country*

from *Sandinos'*  
*Daughters: Feminism  
in Nicaragua*  
By Margaret Randall  
Rutgers University  
Press  
100 Joyce Kilmer  
Avenue  
Piscataway, New  
Jersey 08854-8099  
732-445-7762 Fax:  
732-445-7039

**Pierre Trudeau**

*Against the Current –  
Selected Writings*

Permissions  
McClelland & Stewart  
Ltd.  
75 Sherbourne Street,  
5th floor  
Toronto, Ontario  
M5A 2P9  
Fax: 416-598-7764  
Email:  
[rights@mcclelland.co  
m](mailto:rights@mcclelland.com)