



United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0504

<http://feinstein.senate.gov>

October 25, 2005

Arlen Specter
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. Senate
Dirksen Senate Office Building
Suite 224
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Specter,

I write to respectfully request that you not proceed at this time with legislation entitled *The Alien Tort Statute Reform Act*, S. 1874, and ask that you not schedule this matter for a hearing until I am able to clarify certain provisions.

The legislation in question is designed to address concerns about the clarity of the existing Alien Tort Claim statute in light of the recent Supreme Court decision in the case of *Sosa v. Alvarez-Machain*, 542 U.S. 692 (2004). However, I believe that the legislation in its present form calls for refinement in light of concerns raised by human rights advocates, and thus a hearing or other action by the Committee on this bill would be premature.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dianne Feinstein". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and a long, sweeping underline.

Dianne Feinstein
U.S. Senator

DF: sac