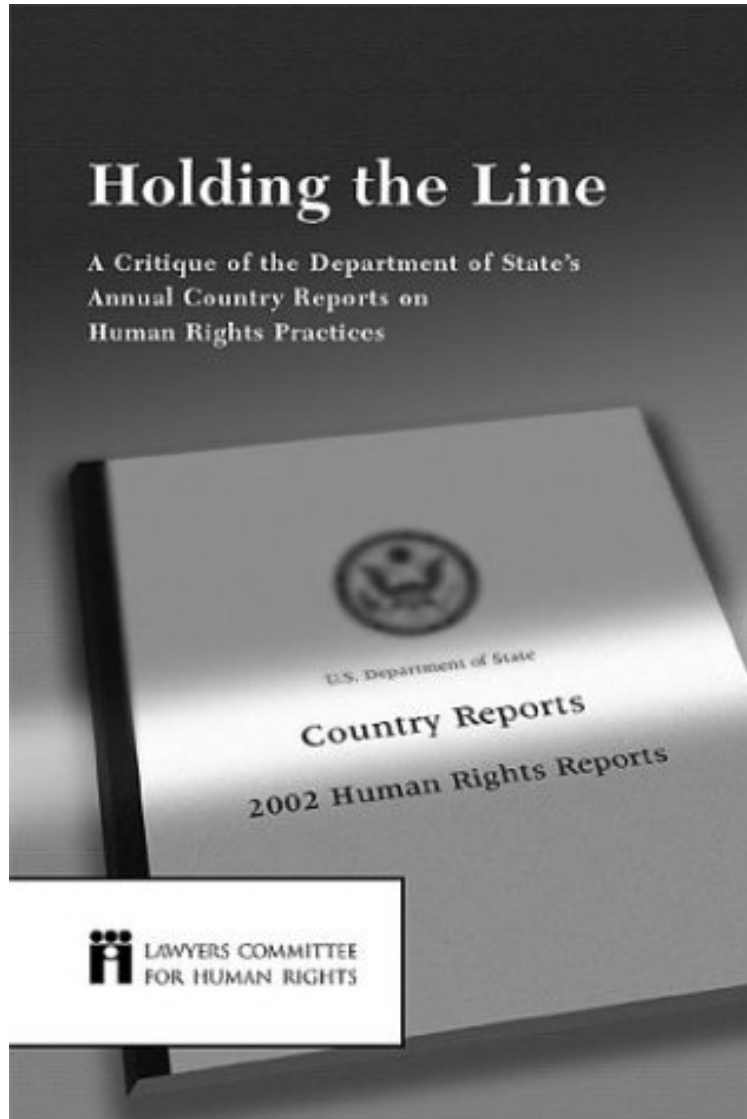


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Holding the Line

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HOLDING THE LINE, published by Human Rights First, formerly Lawyers Committee for Human Rights, shows how the United States government's annual report on human rights around the world reflects the special strains of the "war against terrorism." Special measures taken by allies in the name of counter-terrorism often overstep the line-flouting standards long upheld by the United States but now being eroded at home. These include the use of

emergency laws and special courts; detention without trial; and secret arrests and incommunicado detention. Coverage of some countries that are allies in the war on terrorism is frank and fair, but coverage of some key allies lacks this full objectivity. An instruction to embassies preparing the 2002 country reports may account for blind spots in the coverage: "Actions by governments taken at the request of the United States or with the expressed support of the United States should not be included in the report."