



Email this article
Print this article
Most popular pages

Click to send
Click to print
Today | This Week

Court: Bomb suspect can be held indefinitely

Associated Press
Sept. 10, 2005 12:00 AM

RICHMOND, Va. - A federal appeals court ruled Friday that the government can continue to hold indefinitely an American accused of plotting to detonate a radioactive "dirty bomb."

A three-judge panel of the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled unanimously to reverse a judge's order that the government either charge or free Jose Padilla, who has been in custody for more than three years.

"The exceedingly important question before us is whether the president of the United States possesses the authority to detain militarily a citizen of this country who is closely associated with al-Qaida," Judge J. Michael Luttig wrote. "We conclude that the president does possess such authority."

Andrew Patel, Padilla's attorney, said his client will probably appeal the decision to the U.S. Supreme Court.

"What it could mean is that the president conceivably could sign a piece of paper when he has hearsay information that somebody has done something he doesn't like and send them to jail without a hearing (or) a trial," Patel said.

Email this article
Print this article
Most popular pages

Click to send
Click to print
Today | This Week