

PUBLISHED

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE FOURTH CIRCUIT

No. 05-6396

JOSE PADILLA,

Petitioner - Appellee,

versus

C. T. HANFT, U.S.N. Commander, Consolidated
Naval Brig.,

Respondent - Appellant.

WASHINGTON LEGAL FOUNDATION; THE ALLIED
EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION,

Amici Supporting Appellant,

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CRIMINAL DEFENSE
LAWYERS; COMPARATIVE LAW SCHOLARS AND EXPERTS
ON THE LAWS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM AND ISRAEL;
PEOPLE FOR THE AMERICAN WAY FOUNDATION AND THE
RUTHERFORD INSTITUTE; THE BRENNAN CENTER FOR
JUSTICE AT THE NEW YORK UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF
LAW; AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION; NEW YORK
CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION; AMERICAN CIVIL
LIBERTIES UNION OF SOUTH CAROLINA; AMERICAN
CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION OF VIRGINIA; ORIGINAL
CONGRESSIONAL SPONSORS OF 18 U.S.C. SECTION
4001(A); JANET RENO; PHILIP B. HEYMANN; ERIC
H. HOLDER, JR.; JEFFREY H. SMITH; CENTER FOR
NATIONAL SECURITY STUDIES; CONSTITUTION
PROJECT,

Amici Supporting Appellee.

Appeal from the United States District Court for the District of South Carolina, at Charleston. Henry F. Floyd, District Judge. (CA-04-2221-26AJ)

Argued: July 19, 2005

Decided: September 9, 2005

Before LUTTIG, MICHAEL, and TRAXLER, Circuit Judges.

Reversed by published opinion. Judge Luttig wrote the opinion for the Court, in which Judge Michael and Judge Traxler joined.

ARGUED: Paul Clement, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, Department of the Solicitor, Washington, D.C., for Appellant. Andrew G. Patel, New York, New York, for Appellee. **ON BRIEF:** Jonathan S. Gasser, United States Attorney, OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY, Columbia, South Carolina; Miller W. Shealy, Jr., Assistant United States Attorney, OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY, Charleston, South Carolina; David B. Salmons, Assistant to the Solicitor General, Daryl Joseffer, Assistant to the Solicitor General, Stephan E. Oestreicher, Jr., UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, Washington, D.C., for Appellant. Jenny S. Martinez, Stanford, California; Michael P. O'Connell, STIRLING & O'CONNELL, Charleston, South Carolina; Donna R. Newman, New York, New York; Jonathan M. Freiman, WIGGIN AND DANA, L.L.P., New Haven, Connecticut, for Appellee. Daniel J. Popeo, Richard A. Samp, WASHINGTON LEGAL FOUNDATION, Washington, D.C., for Amici Curiae, Washington Legal Foundation and The Allied Educational Foundation, Supporting Appellant. Steven D. Benjamin, BENJAMIN & DESPORTES, P.C., Richmond, Virginia; Donald G. Rehkopf, Jr., BRENNA & BRENNA, P.L.L.C., Rochester, New York, for Amicus Curiae, National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, Supporting Appellee. David N. Rosen, DAVID ROSEN & ASSOCIATES, P.C., New Haven, Connecticut; Mary J. Hahn, ALLARD K. LOWENSTEIN INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS CLINIC, New Haven, Connecticut, for Amicus Curiae, Comparative Law Scholars and Experts on the Laws of the United Kingdom and Israel, Supporting Appellee. Elliot M. Mincberg, Deborah Liu, PEOPLE FOR THE AMERICAN WAY FOUNDATION, Washington, D.C.; John W. Whitehead, THE RUTHERFORD INSTITUTE, Charlottesville, Virginia; Mark E. Haddad, Joseph R. Guerra, Robert N. Hochman, Chad W. Pekron, SIDLEY, AUSTIN, BROWN & WOOD, L.L.P., Washington, D.C., for Amici Curiae, People for the American Way Foundation and The Rutherford Institute, Supporting Appellee. Serrin Turner, Burt

Neuborne, BRENNAN CENTER FOR JUSTICE, New York University School of Law, New York, New York, for Amicus Curiae, The Brennan Center for Justice at the New York University School of Law, Supporting Appellee. Ann Beeson, AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION FOUNDATION, New York, New York; Denyse Williams, ACLU OF SOUTH CAROLINA, Columbia, South Carolina; Arthur N. Eisenberg, NEW YORK CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION FOUNDATION, New York, New York; Rebecca K. Glenberg, ACLU OF VIRGINIA FOUNDATION, Richmond, Virginia, for Amici Curiae, American Civil Liberties Union, New York Civil Liberties Union, American Civil Liberties Union of South Carolina, American Civil Liberties Union of Virginia, Incorporated, Supporting Appellee. Matthew S. Dontzin, Brian S. Koukoutchos, Fiona M. Doherty, THE DONTZIN LAW FIRM, L.L.P., New York, New York, for Amici Curiae, Original Congressional Sponsors of 18 U.S.C. Section 4001(A), Supporting Appellee. Julia C. Ambrose, Katherine E. Stern, JONES DAY, Washington, D.C.; Deborah N. Pearlstein, Avidan Y. Cover, HUMAN RIGHTS FIRST, New York, New York, for Amici Curiae, Janet Reno, Philip B. Heymann, Eric H. Holder, Jr., and Jeffrey H. Smith, Supporting Appellee. Kate Martin, CENTER FOR NATIONAL SECURITY STUDIES, Washington, D.C. Joseph Onek, THE CONSTITUTION PROJECT, Washington, D.C.; Paul R. Q. Wolfson, WILMER, CUTLER, PICKERING, HALE AND DORR, L.L.P., Washington, D.C.; Kate Hutchins, WILMER, CUTLER, PICKERING, HALE AND DORR, L.L.P., New York, New York, for Amici Curiae, Center for National Security Studies and Constitution Project, Supporting Appellee.

LUTTIG, Circuit Judge:

Appellee Jose Padilla, a United States citizen, associated with forces hostile to the United States in Afghanistan and took up arms against United States forces in that country in our war against al Qaeda. Upon his escape to Pakistan from the battlefield in Afghanistan, Padilla was recruited, trained, funded, and equipped by al Qaeda leaders to continue prosecution of the war in the United States by blowing up apartment buildings in this country. Padilla flew to the United States on May 8, 2002, to begin carrying out his assignment, but was arrested by civilian law enforcement authorities upon his arrival at O'Hare International Airport in Chicago.

Thereafter, in a letter to the Secretary of Defense, the President of the United States personally designated Padilla an "enemy combatant" against this country, stating that the United States is "at war" with al Qaeda, that "Mr. Padilla engaged in conduct that constituted hostile and war-like acts, including conduct in preparation for acts of international terrorism that had the aim to cause injury to or adverse effects on the United States," and that "Mr. Padilla represents a continuing, present and grave danger to the national security of the United States." Having determined that "detention of Mr. Padilla is necessary to prevent him from aiding al Qaeda in its efforts to attack the United States or its armed forces, other governmental personnel,

or citizens," the President directed the Secretary of Defense to take Padilla into military custody, in which custody Padilla has remained ever since. The full text of the President's memorandum to the Secretary of Defense reads as follows:

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

TO THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE:

Based on the information available to me from all sources,

REDACTED

In accordance with the Constitution and consistent with the laws of the United States, including the Authorization for Use of Military Force Joint Resolution (Public Law 107-40);

I, GEORGE W. BUSH, as President of the United States and Commander in Chief of the U.S. armed forces, hereby DETERMINE for the United States of America that:

(1) Jose Padilla, who is under the control of the Department of Justice and who is a U.S. citizen, is, and at the time he entered the United States in May 2002 was, an enemy combatant;

(2) Mr. Padilla is closely associated with al Qaeda, an international terrorist organization with which the United States is at war;

(3) Mr. Padilla engaged in conduct that constituted hostile and war-like acts, including conduct in preparation for acts of international terrorism that had the aim to cause injury to or adverse effects on the United States;

(4) Mr. Padilla possesses intelligence, including intelligence about personnel and activities of al Qaeda, that, if communicated to the U.S., would aid U.S. efforts to prevent attacks by al Qaeda on the United States or its armed forces, other governmental personnel, or citizens;

(5) Mr. Padilla represents a continuing, present and grave danger to the national security

of the United States, and detention of Mr. Padilla is necessary to prevent him from aiding al Qaeda in its efforts to attack the United States or its armed forces, other governmental personnel, or citizens;

(6) it is in the interest of the United States that the Secretary of Defense detain Mr. Padilla as an enemy combatant; and

(7) it is REDACTED consistent with U.S. law and the laws of war for the Secretary of Defense to detain Mr. Padilla as enemy combatant.

Accordingly, you are directed to receive Mr. Padilla from the Department of Justice and to detain him as an enemy combatant.

DATE: June 9, 2002

Signature
/George Bush/

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 Qaeda, an entity with which the United States is at war; who took up arms on behalf of that enemy and against our country in a foreign combat zone of that war; and who thereafter traveled to the United States for the avowed purpose of further prosecuting that war on American soil, against American citizens and targets.

We conclude that the President does possess such authority pursuant to the Authorization for Use of Military Force Joint Resolution enacted by Congress in the wake of the attacks on the United States of September 11, 2001. Accordingly, the judgment of the district court is reversed.

I.

Al Qaeda operatives recruited Jose Padilla, a United States citizen, to train for jihad in Afghanistan in February 2000, while Padilla was on a religious pilgrimage to Saudi Arabia.¹ J.A. 18-19. Subsequently, Padilla met with al Qaeda operatives in Afghanistan, received explosives training in an al Qaeda-affiliated camp, and served as an armed guard at what he understood to be a Taliban outpost. Id. at 19-20. When United States military operations began in Afghanistan, Padilla and other al Qaeda operatives moved from safehouse to safehouse to evade bombing or capture. Id. at 20. Padilla was, on the facts with which we are presented, "armed and present in a combat zone during armed conflict between al Qaeda/Taliban forces and the armed forces of the United States." Id. at 21.

Padilla eventually escaped to Pakistan, armed with an assault rifle. Id. at 20-21. Once in Pakistan, Padilla met with Khalid Sheikh Mohammad, a senior al Qaeda operations planner, who directed Padilla to travel to the United States for the purpose of blowing up apartment buildings, in continued prosecution of al Qaeda's war of terror against the United States. See id. at 22. After receiving further training, as well as cash, travel documents, and communication devices, Padilla flew to the United

¹ For purposes of Padilla's summary judgment motion, the parties have stipulated to the facts as set forth by the government. J.A. 30-31. It is only on these facts that we consider whether the President has the authority to detain Padilla.

States in order to carry out his accepted assignment. Id. at 22-23.

Upon arrival at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport on May 8, 2002, Padilla was detained by FBI agents, who interviewed and eventually arrested him pursuant to a material witness warrant issued by the district court for the Southern District of New York in conjunction with a grand jury investigation of the September 11 attacks. Id. at 93. Padilla was transported to New York, where he was held at a civilian correctional facility until, on June 9, 2002, the President designated him an "enemy combatant" against the United States and directed the Secretary of Defense to take him into military custody. Id. at 16, 94. Since his delivery into the custody of military authorities, Padilla has been detained at a naval brig in South Carolina. Id. at 162-63.

On June 11, 2002, Padilla filed a petition for a writ of habeas corpus in the Southern District of New York, claiming that his detention violated the Constitution. Id. at 164. The Supreme Court of the United States ultimately ordered Padilla's petition dismissed without prejudice, holding that his petition was improperly filed in the Southern District of New York. Rumsfeld v. Padilla, 124 S. Ct. 2711, 2727 (2004). And on July 2, 2004, Padilla filed the present petition for a writ of habeas corpus in the District of South Carolina. J.A. 166.

The district court subsequently held that the President lacks the authority to detain Padilla, *id.* at 180-81, that Padilla's detention is in violation of the Constitution and laws of the United States, *id.*, and that Padilla therefore must either be criminally charged or released, *id.* at 183. This appeal followed. We expedited consideration of this appeal at the request of the parties, hearing argument in the case on July 19, 2005.

II.

A.

The Authorization for Use of Military Force Joint Resolution (AUMF), upon which the President explicitly relied in his order that Padilla be detained by the military and upon which the government chiefly relies in support of the President's authority to detain Padilla, was enacted by Congress in the immediate aftermath of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States. It provides as follows:

[T]he President is authorized to use all necessary and appropriate force against those nations, organizations, or persons he determines planned, authorized, committed, or aided the terrorist attacks that occurred on September 11, 2001, or harbored such organizations or persons, in order to prevent any future acts of international terrorism against the United States by such nations, organizations or persons.

Pub. L. No. 107-40, § 2(a), 115 Stat. 224 (September 18, 2001).

The Supreme Court has already once interpreted this Joint

Resolution in the context of a military detention by the President. In Hamdi v. Rumsfeld, 124 S. Ct. 2633 (2004), the Supreme Court held, on the facts alleged by the government, that the AUMF authorized the military detention of Yaser Esam Hamdi, an American citizen who fought alongside Taliban forces in Afghanistan, was captured by United States allies on a battlefield there, and was detained in the United States by the military.² Id. at 2635-37, 2641. The "narrow question," id. at 2639, addressed by the Court in Hamdi was "whether the Executive has the authority to detain citizens who qualify as 'enemy combatants,'" id., defined for purposes of that case as "individual[s] who . . . [were] 'part of or supporting forces hostile to the United States or coalition partners'" in Afghanistan and who "engaged in an armed conflict against the United States" there," id. The controlling plurality of the Court answered that narrow question in the affirmative, concluding, based upon "longstanding law-of-war principles," id. at 2641, that Hamdi's detention was "necessary and appropriate" within the meaning of the AUMF because "[t]he capture and detention of lawful combatants and the capture, detention, and trial of unlawful combatants, by 'universal agreement and

² Having concluded that detention was authorized on the facts alleged by the government, the Court in Hamdi remanded the case for a hearing to determine, pursuant to the due process requirements set forth in its opinion, whether those alleged facts were true. Hamdi, 124 S. Ct. at 2635, 2648-52.

practice,' are 'important incident[s] of war,'" id. at 2640 (quoting Ex parte Quirin, 317 U.S. 1, 28 (1942)). The rationale for this law-of-war principle, Justice O'Connor explained for the plurality, is that "detention to prevent a combatant's return to the battlefield is a fundamental incident of waging war." Id. at 2641.

As the AUMF authorized Hamdi's detention by the President, so also does it authorize Padilla's detention. Under the facts as presented here, Padilla unquestionably qualifies as an "enemy combatant" as that term was defined for purposes of the controlling opinion in Hamdi. Indeed, under the definition of "enemy combatant" employed in Hamdi, we can discern no difference in principle between Hamdi and Padilla. Like Hamdi, Padilla associated with forces hostile to the United States in Afghanistan. Compare J.A. 19-23 (detailing Padilla's association with al Qaeda in Afghanistan and Pakistan), with Hamdi, 124 S. Ct. at 2637 (describing Hamdi's affiliation with the Taliban in Afghanistan). And, like Hamdi, Padilla took up arms against United States forces in that country in the same way and to the same extent as did Hamdi. Compare J.A. 21 (averring that Padilla was "armed and present in a combat zone during armed conflict between al Qaeda/Taliban forces and the armed forces of the United States"), and id. at 20-21 (alleging that Padilla was "armed with an assault rifle" as he escaped to Pakistan), with

Hamdi, 124 S. Ct. at 2642 n.1 (noting that the asserted basis for detaining Hamdi was that he "carr[ied] a weapon against American troops on a foreign battlefield"), and id. at 2637 (quoting Mobbs Affidavit that Hamdi had "'surrender[ed] his Kalishnikov assault rifle'" to Northern Alliance forces (alteration in original)). Because, like Hamdi, Padilla is an enemy combatant, and because his detention is no less necessary than was Hamdi's in order to prevent his return to the battlefield, the President is authorized by the AUMF to detain Padilla as a fundamental incident to the conduct of war.

Our conclusion that the AUMF as interpreted by the Supreme Court in Hamdi authorizes the President's detention of Padilla as an enemy combatant is reinforced by the Supreme Court's decision in Ex parte Quirin, 317 U.S. 1 (1942), on which the plurality in Hamdi itself heavily relied. In Quirin, the Court held that Congress had authorized the military trial of Haupt, a United States citizen who entered the country with orders from the Nazis to blow up domestic war facilities but was captured before he could execute those orders. Id. at 20-21, 28, 46. The Court reasoned that Haupt's citizenship was no bar to his military trial as an unlawful enemy belligerent, concluding that "[c]itizens who associate themselves with the military arm of the enemy government, and with its aid, guidance and direction enter this country bent on hostile acts, are enemy belligerents within

the meaning of . . . the law of war." Id. at 37-38.

Like Haupt, Padilla associated with the military arm of the enemy, and with its aid, guidance, and direction entered this country bent on committing hostile acts on American soil. J.A. 22-23. Padilla thus falls within Quirin's definition of enemy belligerent, as well as within the definition of the equivalent term accepted by the plurality in Hamdi. Compare Quirin, 317 U.S. at 37-38 (holding that "[c]itizens who associate themselves with the military arm of the enemy government, and with its aid, guidance and direction enter this country bent on hostile acts, are enemy belligerents within the meaning of . . . the law of war"), with Hamdi, 124 S. Ct. at 2639 (accepting for purposes of the case the government's definition of "enemy combatants" as those who were "'part of or supporting forces hostile to the United States or coalition partners"' in Afghanistan and who "'engaged in an armed conflict against the United States"' there").

We understand the plurality's reasoning in Hamdi to be that the AUMF authorizes the President to detain all those who qualify as "enemy combatants" within the meaning of the laws of war, such power being universally accepted under the laws of war as necessary in order to prevent the return of combatants to the battlefield during conflict. Id. at 2640-41. Given that Padilla qualifies as an enemy combatant under both the definition adopted

by the Court in Quirin and the definition accepted by the controlling opinion in Hamdi, his military detention as an enemy combatant by the President is unquestionably authorized by the AUMF as a fundamental incident to the President's prosecution of the war against al Qaeda in Afghanistan.³

B.

Padilla marshals essentially four arguments for the conclusion that his detention is unlawful. None of them ultimately is persuasive.

1.

Recognizing the hurdle to his position represented by the Supreme Court's decision in Hamdi, Padilla principally argues that his case does not fall within the "narrow circumstances" considered by the Court in that case because, although he too stood alongside Taliban forces in Afghanistan, he was seized on American soil, whereas Hamdi was captured on a foreign battlefield. In other words, Padilla maintains that capture on a foreign battlefield was one of the "narrow circumstances" to which the plurality in Hamdi confined its opinion. We disagree. When the plurality articulated the "narrow question" before it,

³ Under Hamdi, the power to detain that is authorized under the AUMF is not a power to detain indefinitely. Detention is limited to the duration of the hostilities as to which the detention is authorized. 124 S. Ct. at 2641-42. Because the United States remains engaged in the conflict with al Qaeda in Afghanistan, Padilla's detention has not exceeded in duration that authorized by the AUMF.

it referred simply to the permissibility of detaining "an individual who . . . was "part of or supporting forces hostile to the United States or coalition partners" in Afghanistan and who "engaged in an armed conflict against the United States" there." Id. at 2639. Nowhere in its framing of the "narrow question" presented did the plurality even mention the locus of capture.

The actual reasoning that the plurality thereafter employed is consistent with the question having been framed so as to render locus of capture irrelevant. That reasoning was that Hamdi's detention was an exercise of "necessary and appropriate force" within the meaning of the AUMF because "detention to prevent a combatant's return to the battlefield is a fundamental incident of waging war." Id. at 2641. This reasoning simply does not admit of a distinction between an enemy combatant captured abroad and detained in the United States, such as Hamdi, and an enemy combatant who escaped capture abroad but was ultimately captured domestically and detained in the United States, such as Padilla. As we previously explained, Padilla poses the same threat of returning to the battlefield as Hamdi posed at the time of the Supreme Court's adjudication of Hamdi's petition. Padilla's detention is thus "necessary and appropriate" to the same extent as was Hamdi's.

Padilla directs us to a passage from the plurality's opinion

in Hamdi in which, when responding to the dissent, the plurality charged that the dissent "ignore[d] the context of th[e] case: a United States citizen captured in a foreign combat zone." Id. at 2643. Padilla argues that this passage proves that capture on a foreign battlefield was one of the factual circumstances by which the Court's opinion was limited. If this language stood alone, Padilla's argument as to the limitation of Hamdi at least would have more force, though to acknowledge that foreign battlefield capture was part of the context of the case still is not to say (at least not necessarily) that the locus of capture was essential to the Court's reasoning. However, this language simply cannot bear the weight that Padilla would have it bear when it is considered against the backdrop of both the quite different limitations that were expressly imposed by the Court through its framing of the question presented, and the actual reasoning that was employed by the Court in reaching its conclusion, which reasoning was consistent with the question having been framed so as to render an enemy combatant's point of capture irrelevant to the President's power to detain. In short, the plurality carefully limited its opinion, but not in a way that leaves room for argument that the President's power to detain one who has associated with the enemy and taken up arms against the United States in a foreign combat zone varies depending upon the geographic location where that enemy combatant

happens to be captured.

Our conclusion that the reasoning in Hamdi does not support a distinction based on the locus of capture is buttressed by the plurality's analysis of Quirin. Although at issue in Quirin was the authority of the President to subject a United States citizen who was also an enemy combatant to military trial, the plurality in Hamdi went to lengths to observe that Haupt, who had been captured domestically, could instead have been permissibly detained for the duration of hostilities. See id. at 2640. That analysis strongly suggests, if it does not confirm, that the plurality did not regard the locus of capture (within or without the United States) as relevant to the President's authority to detain an enemy combatant who is also a citizen, and that it believed that the detention of such a combatant is not more or less a necessary incident of the President's power to wage war depending upon the locus of eventual capture.

Given the lack of any reference to locus of capture in the plurality's articulation of the "narrow question" before it, the absence of any basis in Hamdi's reasoning for a distinction between foreign and domestic capture of one who has both associated with the enemy and taken up arms against the United States on behalf of that enemy in a foreign combat zone, and the plurality's understanding of and reliance upon Quirin as a precedent that would permit the detention of an enemy combatant

who had been captured domestically, we simply cannot ascribe to the rejoinder to Justice Scalia the significance, much less the dispositive significance, that Padilla urges.⁴

2.

Padilla also argues, and the district court held, that Padilla's military detention is "neither necessary nor appropriate" because he is amenable to criminal prosecution. J.A. 172. Related to this argument, Padilla attempts to distinguish Quirin from his case on the grounds that he has simply been detained, unlike Haupt who was charged and tried in Quirin. Neither the argument nor the attempted distinction is convincing.

As to the fact that Padilla can be prosecuted, the availability of criminal process does not distinguish him from Hamdi. If the mere availability of criminal prosecution rendered detention unnecessary within the meaning of the AUMF, then Hamdi's detention would have been unnecessary and therefore unauthorized, since he too was detained in the United States and

⁴ Padilla also argues that the locus of capture should be legally relevant to the scope of the AUMF's authorization because there is a higher probability of an erroneous determination that one is an enemy combatant when the seizure occurs on American soil. It is far from clear that this is actually the case. In any event, Padilla's argument confuses the scope of the President's power to detain enemy combatants under the AUMF with the process for establishing that a detainee is in fact an enemy combatant. Hamdi itself provides process to guard against the erroneous detention of non-enemy combatants. 124 S. Ct. at 2648-52.

amenable to criminal prosecution. We are convinced, in any event, that the availability of criminal process cannot be determinative of the power to detain, if for no other reason than that criminal prosecution may well not achieve the very purpose for which detention is authorized in the first place -- the prevention of return to the field of battle. Equally important, in many instances criminal prosecution would impede the Executive in its efforts to gather intelligence from the detainee and to restrict the detainee's communication with confederates so as to ensure that the detainee does not pose a continuing threat to national security even as he is confined -- impediments that would render military detention not only an appropriate, but also the necessary, course of action to be taken in the interest of national security.

The district court acknowledged the need to defer to the President's determination that Padilla's detention is necessary and appropriate in the interest of national security. See id. at 179. However, we believe that the district court ultimately accorded insufficient deference to that determination, effectively imposing upon the President the equivalent of a least-restrictive-means test. To subject to such exacting scrutiny the President's determination that criminal prosecution would not adequately protect the Nation's security at a very minimum fails to accord the President the deference that is his

when he acts pursuant to a broad delegation of authority from Congress, such as the AUMF.

As for Padilla's attempted distinction of Quirin on the grounds that, unlike Haupt, he has never been charged and tried by the military, the plurality in Hamdi rejected as immaterial the distinction between detention and trial (apparently regarding the former as a lesser imposition than the latter), noting that "nothing in Quirin suggests that [Haupt's United States] citizenship would have precluded his mere detention for the duration of the relevant hostilities." Hamdi, 124 S. Ct. at 2640 (emphasis added).

3.

Padilla, citing Ex parte Endo, 323 U.S. 283 (1944), and relying upon Quirin, next argues that only a clear statement from Congress can authorize his detention, and that the AUMF is not itself, and does not contain, such a clear statement.

In Endo, the Court did state that, when asked to find implied powers in a wartime statute, it must assume that "the law makers intended to place no greater restraint on the citizen than was clearly and unmistakably indicated by the language [the law makers] used." Id. at 300. The Court almost immediately thereafter observed, however, that the "fact that the Act" at issue was "silent on detention [did] not of course mean that any power to detain [was] lacking," id. at 301, an observation that

proves that the Court did not adopt or even apply in that case a "clear statement" rule of the kind for which Padilla argues.⁵

Padilla contends that Quirin also supports the existence of a clear statement rule. However, in no place in Quirin did the Court even purport to establish a clear statement rule. In its opinion, the Court did note that Congress had "explicitly" authorized Haupt's military trial. See 317 U.S. at 28. But to conclude from this passing note that the Court required a clear statement as a matter of law would be unwarranted. In fact, to the extent that Quirin can be understood to have addressed the need for a clear statement of authority from Congress at all, the rule would appear the opposite:

[T]he detention and trial of petitioners -- ordered by the President in the declared exercise of his powers as Commander in Chief of the Army in time of war and of grave public danger -- are not to be set aside by the courts without the clear conviction that they are in conflict with the Constitution or laws of Congress constitutionally enacted.

Id. at 25.

⁵ At issue in Endo was the detention of a "concededly loyal" citizen, not an enemy combatant. 323 U.S. at 302. In the face of the statute's silence on detention, the Court looked to the statute's purpose -- the prevention of espionage and sabotage -- to determine whether Endo's detention was authorized. See id. at 300-02. The Court concluded that it was not, because detention of a concededly loyal citizen bore no relation to the prevention of espionage and sabotage. Id. at 302. Padilla's detention, by contrast, emphatically does further the purpose of the AUMF -- "to prevent any future acts of international terrorism against the United States," Pub. L. No. 107-40, § 2(a), 115 Stat. 224 (2001).

Of course, even were a clear statement by Congress required, the AUMF constitutes such a clear statement according to the Supreme Court. In Hamdi, stating that "it [was] of no moment that the AUMF does not use specific language of detention," 124 S. Ct. at 2641, the plurality held that the AUMF "clearly and unmistakably authorized" Hamdi's detention, id. Nothing in the AUMF permits us to conclude that the Joint Resolution clearly and unmistakably authorized Hamdi's detention but not Padilla's. To the contrary, read in light of its purpose clause ("in order to prevent any future acts of international terrorism against the United States") and its preamble (stating that the acts of 9/11 "render it both necessary and appropriate . . . to protect United States citizens both at home and abroad"), the AUMF applies even more clearly and unmistakably to Padilla than to Hamdi. Padilla, after all, in addition to supporting hostile forces in Afghanistan and taking up arms against our troops on a battlefield in that country like Hamdi, also came to the United States in order to commit future acts of terrorism against American citizens and targets.

These facts unquestionably establish that Padilla poses the requisite threat of return to battle in the ongoing armed conflict between the United States and al Qaeda in Afghanistan, and that his detention is authorized as a "fundamental incident of waging war," id., in order "to prevent a combatant's return to

the battlefield," id. Congress "clearly and unmistakably," id., authorized such detention when, in the AUMF, it "permitt[ed] the use of 'necessary and appropriate force,'" id., to prevent other attacks like those of September 11, 2001.

4.

Finally, Padilla argues that, even if his detention is authorized by the AUMF, it is unlawful under Ex parte Milligan, 71 U.S. (4 Wall.) 2 (1866). In Milligan, the Supreme Court held that a United States citizen associated with an anti-Union secret society but unaffiliated with the Confederate army could not be tried by a military tribunal while access to civilian courts was open and unobstructed. Id. at 6-7, 121. Milligan purported to restrict the power of Congress as well as the power of the President. Id. at 121-22 ("[N]o usage of war could sanction a military trial . . . for any offence whatever of a citizen in civil life, in nowise connected with the military service. Congress could grant no such power . . ."). Quirin, however, confirmed that Milligan does not extend to enemy combatants. As the Court in Quirin explained, the Milligan Court's reasoning had "particular reference to the facts before it," namely, that Milligan was not "a part of or associated with the armed forces of the enemy." See 317 U.S. at 45. The Hamdi plurality in turn reaffirmed this limitation on the reach of Milligan, emphasizing that Quirin, a unanimous opinion, "both postdates and clarifies

Milligan." 124 S. Ct. at 2643. Thus confined, Milligan is inapposite here because Padilla, unlike Milligan, associated with, and has taken up arms against the forces of the United States on behalf of, an enemy of the United States.

III.

The Congress of the United States, in the Authorization for Use of Military Force Joint Resolution, provided the President all powers necessary and appropriate to protect American citizens from terrorist acts by those who attacked the United States on September 11, 2001. As would be expected, and as the Supreme Court has held, those powers include the power to detain identified and committed enemies such as Padilla, who associated with al Qaeda and the Taliban regime, who took up arms against this Nation in its war against these enemies, and who entered the United States for the avowed purpose of further prosecuting that war by attacking American citizens and targets on our own soil -- a power without which, Congress understood, the President could well be unable to protect American citizens from the very kind of savage attack that occurred four years ago almost to the day.

The detention of petitioner being fully authorized by Act of Congress, the judgment of the district court that the detention of petitioner by the President of the United States is without support in law is hereby reversed.

REVERSED.