

The Washington Post

The U.S. is no haven for violators of international law

Letter to editor

[Ralph G. Steinhardt](#), Washington, March 17th 2015

The wheels of justice may turn slowly, but we can as a nation celebrate the decision of an immigration board to deport retired Gen. Carlos Eugenio Vides Casanova to El Salvador for his role in vicious human rights abuses in the 1980s [“Salvadoran general can be deported for aiding torture,” news, March 14].

It is an ideal time to reflect that The Post has editorialized against the kind of civil tort actions that triggered the government’s deportation proceedings in the first place [“Court shopping,” Oct. 5, 2012]. The Alien Tort Statute, under which the Center for Justice and Accountability successfully sued Gen. Vides Casanova for damages, was adopted in 1789 by the first Congress specifically to ensure that this country did not become a haven for those who violate international law. The founding generation understood that this was in the long-term interest of the United States, and so it has remained.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/the-us-is-no-haven-for-violators-of-international-law/2015/03/17/53cf66e4-cbe9-11e4-8730-4f473416e759_story.html