STATEMENT BY HOMELAND SECURITY SECRETARY MICHAEL CHERTOFF ON JUDGE SAMUEL ALITO

Press Office
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Press Release

January 10, 2006
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Statement by Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff on Judge Samuel Alito

During Judge Samuel Alito's confirmation hearings today, some criticism has apparently been leveled at him based on his dissent from a Fourth Amendment decision, which I wrote when I served on the Third Circuit.

I enthusiastically support Judge Alito's nomination. He is an outstanding jurist. Of course, judges sometimes disagree about the application of a legal principle to a narrow set of facts in a specific case. What is not subject to dispute is Judge Alito's fairness, intellect, and commitment to the Constitution. Through the years I worked with him as a prosecutor and as a fellow judge, he displayed a strong belief in, and commitment to, the principles of the Fourth Amendment and equal justice.

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