President Barack Obama, contradicting his earlier promise to release hundreds of photos, is now seeking to block the release of those photos showing prisoners in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The pictures allegedly show mistreatment of detainees at US run prisons in Iraq. He articulated his new position after military commanders warned that the images could stoke anti-American sentiment and endanger U.S. troops.
White House press secretary Robert Gibbs told reporters that the president was concerned that the photos' release would pose a national security threat , an argument the administration has not made yet in the courts.

"The president does not believe that the strongest case regarding the release of these photos was presented to the court and that was a case based on his concern about what the release would do to our national security," Gibbs said.

Gibbs said that the main argument previously was a privacy one. He emphasized that the president continues to believe that the actions depicted in the photos should not be excused and fully supports the investigations, prison sentences, discharges and other punitive measures that have resulted from them.

The ACLU responded with searing abuse for the Presidents latest decision.

"The decision to not release the photographs makes a mockery of President Obama's promise of transparency and accountability," said
ACLU attorney Amrit Singh
, who argued and won the case in front of the 2nd
U.S. Court of Appeals
in
New York
. "It is essential that these photographs be released so that the public can examine for itself the full scale and scope of prisoner abuse

A military group said it was relieved Obama would fight the photos' release, adding that soldiers' lives could otherwise be put at risk. Brian Wise, executive Director of Military Families

United, said the pictures "will only serve as propaganda to our enemies who will use the images as a recruitment tool to enlist terrorists."

"The president has said that he wants to improve the image of America throughout the world," Wise said in a statement. "This is not the way to accomplish that. These photos represent isolated incidents where the offending servicemen and women have already been prosecuted. There is no good that can come from releasing these photos."

that was conducted in its name."

Both Democrats and Republicans find it somewhat disturbing that the President of the United States can make a policy decision, and in just a matter of days, take legal action to support a position completely opposite his publicly stated position just a few days earlier.