Good to know there's additional cases...While our Compliance team will not be able to investigate as thoroughly without names, if the Somali community members would like to file cases anonymously (or perhaps identified only by initials or first name etc), then we can at least note that these incidents happened. Important info we need if possible is precisely when this happened (what date) and what questions were asked, and whether these questions were asked during primary or secondary or both...

Thanks,

Nancy has other cases of people asked inappropriate questions by CBP but they were too afraid to be identified. They are mostly Somali. Questions like

How often does he pray, how religious, why did he study a certain major in school

Questioned for 4 hours.
Does he believe in jihad, what tribe from in Somalia is he from.

Are you Sunni or Shia

Why do you live so close to the mosque.

We will try to follow up with more of them to see if they will come forward or allow us to provide more details.

Nancy had a separate file of these and I was not involved with them. Lack of communication in our office!

Sure. That would be great. (b) case is well documented and so the Compliance team said they have sufficient info to proceed. But we didn't have the same info on (b) case so they asked me to follow up. I will pass along that (b) has faced delays due to possibly being on a watchlist (or much more likely because his name is similar to others who are on the list), but that he did not allege any inappropriate questioning due to his religion or tribal affiliation.

Thanks,
b) was in that category. has been asked about what tribe he came from in Somalia, what mosque he prays at, how often he prays and whether any family members are strictly religious. Everything on his camera, cellphone and computer has been copied.

I was contacted a couple of years ago by an imam with similar complaints about the type of questions he is asked and delays when returning to the U.S. He seems to have moved and I have not been able to reach him so cannot give you the details about him.

has complained mostly about being on a “selectee” list and having difficulty boarding planes in a timely manner, plus always being sent for further screening when returning from abroad. He has missed a number of flights and feels that he is being singled out because of his religion and national origin. But the questions he was asked were not about his religion.

I am sure would be willing to talk to your compliance team if you think they’d still be interested. might also be willing although he’s so busy, it’s tough to get a hold of him. It’s possible he’ll be at the Bridges meeting tomorrow – although he sent someone in his place to the last meeting, the young Somali guy. Let’s talk tomorrow.

I forwarded several cases to our Compliance team who are collecting complaints from travelers who have had problems at Boston Logan Airport. They are interested in learning more details about what happened to I know you mentioned that he’s had trouble with both TSA and CBP and has been held and questioned about his tribe and religion. If is comfortable sharing, our compliance team is specifically interested in details about his treatment at primary and secondary inspections with CBP at Boston, and specifically what kind of questions he was asked, how long he was detained, and any other important details. Dates of these incidents would be especially helpful.

I hope to see you tomorrow at Bridges, so we can touch base then. But wanted to give you a heads up.

Thanks,

b)
Absolutely. We'll keep quiet. Will check in with you later on.

—just a quick request. We know CBP Boston can get pretty defensive, and thus would you mind keeping my request below under wraps? I think we'll be able to accomplish more that way...Can explain more over the phone if you'd like.

Thanks!

I will include the details of complaints. And yes, I do plan on contacting I already have some cases from but several of these are JFK related rather than BOS). But yes, if you could get me whatever you can, that would be great...and once again, if names are not available, we can submit the entry anonymously if the date of the incident and some details are provided. Thanks!
To: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Boston CBP Issues

(b) (6) complaint was sent to your office too. Letter attached. We have some other incidents but may not be able to give you the names by the end of this week. Many of the groups at the Bridges meetings said they had people complain to them. Are you asking them too? I think [redacted] has a few people complaining to him. [redacted] had some, and some other people mentioned incidents at Logan as well. I'll check with them.

From: [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2011 3:26 PM
To: [redacted] [mailto]
Subject: Boston CBP Issues

(b) (6)

This is a project that I am hoping you might be able to help me with. CRCL Officer Margo Schlanger has asked my colleagues and I to collect specific cases where travelers have had problems with CBP at Boston Logan Airport. If possible, it would be good to have information such as name (if the individual is willing to share, otherwise we can submit an anonymous entry), date of incident, and some details. I've already included reports from [redacted] and Mr. [redacted] My colleague is collecting more stories from the Somali community in Boston and in Portland, Maine.

Specifically are there incidents where:
- Travelers have been told they cannot call relatives while held in secondary inspection
- Travelers have been told they cannot use the restroom while in secondary
- Travelers have not been provided appropriate interpretation services
- Travelers have been asked offensive/inappropriate questions

But if you have other incidents that are noteworthy, we'd like to hear about them as well.

I need to compile this data by the end of the week for finalizing early next week. If it might be easier to do this over the phone, I am happy to call any of you at a time that's convenient.

I am hoping that collecting this information will perhaps lead to some broader policy initiatives or at least local directives to CBP Boston. Thus any info would be much appreciated!

Thanks,

(b) (6) Esq.
Community Engagement Section
Office for Civil Rights & Civil Liberties
US Department of Homeland Security
Washington DC 20528

(b) (6)