



September 12, 2014

The Honorable James Comey  
Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, DC 20511

Via Email, Mail and Facsimile

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LIBERTIES UNION  
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Re:

Dear Director Comey:

On July 9, 2014, in response to an article published by the *Intercept* on domestic surveillance of American Muslims, we wrote a letter requesting a meeting with President Obama, Attorney General Eric Holder and you. We were joined by a coalition of more than fifty civil liberties, human rights and religious organizations in raising concerns not only about the *Intercept* report, but about the broader context of federal, state and local law enforcement targeting of entire communities—particularly American Muslims—for surveillance and investigation practices based on their race, religion, ethnicity or national origin. We write to reiterate our request for a meeting to discuss the steps you are taking to address these concerns.

Documents obtained through an American Civil Liberties Union Freedom of Information Act request show that the FBI has been mapping a broad spectrum of communities, including American Muslim communities, the African American community and Latino American communities, without any basis for individualized suspicion. Under the guise of community outreach, the FBI has targeted mosques and Muslim community organizations for intelligence gathering. It has pressured law-abiding American Muslims to become informants against their own communities, often in coercive circumstances. It has sent undercover FBI employees and informants to infiltrate mosques and community centers in what appear to be virtual fishing expeditions. It has also stigmatized innocent Muslims by placing them on the No Fly List and other watch lists. In short, the government's domestic counterterrorism policies treat entire minority communities as suspect, and American Muslims have borne the brunt of government suspicion, stigma and abuse.

We are particularly concerned that restrictions on the FBI that were originally designed to remedy abuses and protect civil liberties during investigations have been significantly loosened, resulting in rights violations.

We have also repeatedly raised concerns about the negative impact that prior changes to the Attorney General's Guidelines on Domestic FBI Operations and the Domestic Investigations and Operations Guide have had on civil liberties protections.

We would appreciate the opportunity to discuss these matters further. If we can provide any information in advance of the meeting or provide scheduling details, please contact ACLU Legislative Counsel Naureen Shah at 202-675-2327.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laura W. Murphy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Laura W. Murphy  
Director  
Washington Legislative Office

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Naureen Shah". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Naureen Shah  
Legislative Counsel

Cc:

Lisa O. Monaco, Assistant to the President for Homeland Security  
Eric H. Holder, Jr., Attorney General  
James Clapper, Director of National Intelligence