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FBI Whistleblower Sues for Release of Justice Inspector General Reports  
By Justin Rood, CQ Staff

An FBI whistleblower who was fired after alleging fraud and mismanagement within the bureau's language unit, filed suit Tuesday in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia to compel release of two reports by the Justice Department's inspector general.

Former FBI translator Sibel Edmonds has demanded that the FBI release the results of investigations conducted in response to her allegations of wrongdoing.

The reports were the result of two-year investigations into her claims, which included allegations that the FBI translation program was riddled with incompetence, lacked urgency, suffered numerous security breaches, and deliberately slowed the pace of translations to justify budget increases.

The FBI labeled the entirety of both reports as classified upon news of their completion in July.

That classification effectively barred the inspector general's office from releasing redacted versions of the reports to the general public.

Protests of the determination came quickly from the offices of Sens. Charles E. Grassley, R-Iowa, and Patrick J. Leahy, D-Vt., both on the Judiciary Committee.

Shortly thereafter, Justice Inspector General Glenn A. Fine told the senators that the FBI had begun working with his office to produce unclassified versions of the reports.

To date, no such reports have been released.

Edmonds and her lawyer, Mark Zaid, of Washington, D.C.-based Krieger & Zaid PLLC, have already sued the FBI for wrongful termination following her March 2002 dismissal.

A federal judge dismissed that case in July, after the Justice Department asserted that the proceedings threatened to reveal classified information and endanger national security.

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