

April 11, 2004

Senator Charles Grassley
135 Hart Senate Bldg
Washington, DC 20510-1501

Dear Senator Grassley:

I wrote to you in my letter dated February 16, 2004 (copy attached) expressing my concern for the failure of the Department of Justice, Office of the Inspector General, to issue its long overdue report on the results of its investigation into my report of severe problems within the translation department of the FBI, and their impact on FBI investigations and intelligence gathering, especially as they relate to Counterterrorism. As you are aware, and as I repeated in my letter, my report included issues that relate directly to 9/11 terrorist activities, and thus to the current investigations by the 9/11 Commission. Your staff advised me in a meeting in your office in early February that they had been assured by the DOJ-IG that the report would be out no later than the end of March 2004, and several members of the media have been given this same information. Yet the report has still not been released.

In my letter dated January 5, 2004 (copy attached) to Glenn A. Fine, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Justice, which I copied to you, I outlined the significance of my report to the 9/11 Commission Investigation, stating that "Since the issues and incidents that I have reported to your office have direct bearing on the Commission's investigations, it is extremely urgent that your report be completed and made available to them." Yet the report still has not been released.

These issues go to the heart of the purpose of the Commission; to fully investigate actions of the government pre & post 9/11; and specifically as related to intelligence agencies, whether there were failures that prevented discovery of the planned attacks, whether steps have been taken post 9/11 to correct possible failures, and what additional steps need to be taken. It is therefore urgent that the results of the DOJ-IG investigation be made available to the Commission *prior* to the upcoming public hearings on Tuesday, April 13 and Wednesday, April 14, during which Attorney General Ashcroft and FBI Director Mueller will appear in public before the Commission.

At this point I must question what motives may be behind the continuing delay in the issuance of the DOJ-IG's investigative report. I worked in the translation department for a period of six (6) months, yet the supposedly expedited investigation has been on going for over two years, with repeated delays. Is there significance to the latest delay; that it was not released by the end of March, as promised? Is it perhaps being delayed until after Attorney General Ashcroft and FBI Director Mueller appear publicly before the Commission?

There has been a concerted effort by the FBI and the Department of Justice to prevent information surrounding my allegations from being made public. As noted, the DOJ-IG's investigative report has been repeatedly delayed. Further, as has been reported, Attorney General Ashcroft, at the request of FBI Director Mueller, on October 18, 2002, asserted "State Secret Privilege" in my case.

There are certain extremely important questions that need to be asked during the upcoming hearings. Thus it is crucial for the Commission to have all possible information, not only that provided by me and other witnesses, but also that in the possession of the DOJ-IG, and those findings of the Senate Judiciary Committee to date. It is then that we can expect specific questions from the 9/11 Committee, such as:

1. Director Mueller, is it true that certain translated information pre and post 9/11 contained specific information regarding terrorists and their direct and indirect "support networks" activities in the United States?
 - a. Is it true that some of this information was available as early as April and May 2001?
 - b. Is it true that some of these investigations were *not* forwarded to Counterterrorism, even after 9/11, due to certain "diplomatic relations", as was cited in Attorney General Ashcroft's assertion of State Secret Privilege? How do you justify this, in light of what we experienced on 9/11?
2. Director Mueller, is it true that several top targets of FBI investigations, related to support networks of terrorist activities, were allowed to leave the United States, *months* after the 9/11 attacks; without ever being questioned? Why?
3. Director Mueller, is it true that certain counterintelligence and criminal investigations concerning individuals involved in support of terrorists in the United States were not transferred or shared with on going Counterterrorism investigations, due to certain "reasons", even months after 9/11? What are these "reasons"?
4. Director Mueller, you have repeatedly made public statements after 9/11 that all efforts have been made in improving the FBI's intelligence gathering and sharing capabilities. Is it true that six months after 9/11 the FBI sent a translator to Guantanamo Bay, who by the FBI's own admission was not even qualified in basic English, nor was he proficient in the target language? Is it true that this translator is still in the language department, responsible for monitoring, translating, and transmitting intelligence related information? Is it true that there are other translators, with similar lack of qualifications, within the translation department?
5. Director Mueller is it true that certain information from investigations regarding terrorists and their supporters' activities were intentionally blocked?

- a. Is it true that certain field agents re-sent blocked or mistranslated information to the WFO to be checked again, due to suspicions of the original translations?
- b. Is it true that administrative personnel, after becoming aware that translations were being intentionally blocked and mistranslated, engaged in cover-ups and never provided the field agents with accurate translations?
- c. Is it true that even after the FBI's own confirmation of these incidents, a supervisor involved was placed in charge of a very important translation unit?

Senator Grassley, how is it that the FBI can urge citizens of the U.S. to exercise vigilance against terror, while it is still not vigilant in its' own practices? How can FBI management insist that that they are determined to spare no effort to fix problems within the Bureau and to strengthen its capabilities to fight terror, while they still refuse to admit and acknowledge failures? How can the public trust the FBI with their security, when the FBI cannot secure its own premises?

To this date, the FBI and the DOJ have relentlessly blocked release of information and documents in support of the issues that I have reported. They prevented the release of documents I requested under the Freedom of Information Act; citing "Top Secret Classification" and "National Security" factors. They have stopped court procedures related to my case by asserting "State Secret Privilege". It appears that they have successfully blocked the completion and release of the Inspector General's investigative report, which was placed on an expedited track per Senate request. I stand by my allegations, many of which have already been confirmed by the FBI. And I urge the immediate release of documents and the IG report for the benefit of the 9/11 Commission investigations, and for the benefit of the public at large.

Respectfully,

Sibel D Edmonds

CC: Senator Patrick Leahy

CC: National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon The United States

CC: The Family Steering Committee

CC: The Press