

Project On Government Oversight <http://www.pogo.org>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE January 14, 2005

Contact: Beth Daley beth@pogo.org 202-347-1122

New Vindication for FBI Whistleblower Sibel Edmonds

The Department of Justice Inspector General has released an unclassified version of its report on allegations made by FBI whistleblower Sibel Edmonds. The report confirms that Ms. Edmonds' allegations had merit and deserved further investigation. It also lends weight to the argument made by open government groups that Attorney General John Ashcroft invoked the rarely-used state secrets privilege to hide FBI failures rather than protect national security secrets. The report can be viewed here: <http://www.usdoj.gov/oig/igspecl1.htm>

Later this month, the Project On Government Oversight, the National Security Archive, the Government Accountability Project, and organizations representing families of survivors of the 9/11 attacks will submit an amicus brief with the District Court of Appeals asking that the state secrets privilege be lifted over Ms. Edmonds' case. Representatives of these groups will be available for interview at a noon news conference at the National Press Club on Wednesday, January 26.

American Civil Liberties Union filed a legal brief on behalf of Ms. Edmonds on January 12. To learn more, view their release here: <http://www.aclu.org/SafeandFree/SafeandFree.cfm?ID=17301&c=206>

Associated Press filed this story earlier today:
<http://www.newsday.com/news/politics/wire/sns-ap-attacks-fbi-translators,0,4>
976697.story?coll=sns-ap-politics-headlines

POGO investigates, exposes, and seeks to remedy systemic abuses of power, mismanagement, and subservience by the federal government to powerful special interests. Founded in 1981, POGO is a politically-independent, nonprofit watchdog that strives to promote a government that is accountable to the citizenry.

#