



Council on American–Islamic Relations
New York Chapter
475 Riverside Dr., Suite 244
New York, New York 10115
www.cair-ny.org | 212.870.2002

September 6th, 2013

The Honorable Eric Holder
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Attorney General Holder,

We, the representatives of the New York Chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), request on behalf of our organization and of the Muslim community that you audit the New York Police Department Intelligence Division, as well as their actions and operations that are used in targeting Muslims within our city. The specific units/sections we request you audit include about and any successors in interest or function including: the Zone Assessment Unit, Cyber Intelligence Unit, Criminal Intelligence Section, Intelligence Operations and Analysis Section, as well as any fusion or intelligence centers operated by the New York Police Department. Tens of millions of municipal dollars are appropriated annually to the Intelligence Division. As you have stated, this program has not yielded any results. We ask that you use your authority to audit the abovementioned divisions and any successors in interest or function.

The unwarranted actions the NYPD has taken against the Muslims in New York, cannot and should not be ignored. If issues such as these continue to be put aside it will only escalate into something much worse; a further deterioration into distrust and fear of the NYPD.

The NYPD has been financing an unconstitutional policy and practice of targeting entire Muslim communities for discriminatory surveillance. The religious profiling program has placed unwarranted suspicion on hundreds of thousands of innocent New York Muslims. Recent findings have shown that the NYPD has labeled entire mosques as terrorist organizations and placed informants in various Muslims communities and organizations.

The NYPD Intelligence Division is able to take such actions only because they have been given ample resources including hundreds of millions in federal, state, and municipal funds. They employ over a thousand municipal employees, however they have not received a single audit from your office during the ten years they have been in existence.

CAIR–NY is a chapter of America's largest Muslim civil liberties and advocacy organization. Its mission is to enhance the understanding of Islam, encourage dialogue, protect civil liberties, empower American Muslims, and build coalitions that promote justice and mutual understanding.



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The blatantly unconstitutional methods and illegal conventions of the New York Police Department uses in domestic surveillance tactics is completely undermining the law they themselves are supposed to be upholding. Nor do they appear to operate within the mandates of the New York Patrol Guide. We know for example that the Intelligence Division conducted surveillance in New Brunswick, NJ and New Orleans, LA. In New Brunswick, the NYPD operated a safe-house conducting surveillance unbeknownst to local or federal authorities. In New Orleans, the NYPD targeted a conference of liberal organizations. Again, based on press reports the NYPD did not notify local authorities. Consequently, we ask that you examine whether #212-83, Leaving City on Official Business and #212-107, Secure Automated Fast Event Tracking Network (SAFETnet) were followed according to procedure. Lastly, we also know that federal High Intensity Drug Trafficking (HIDTA) resources were used during surveillance of mosques and businesses in Newark, NJ. We request you investigate whether the NYPD followed procedures enumerated Patrol Guide for the usage of these resources.

We are hopeful that after receiving this letter you will apply yourself in resolving the issue at hand; remitting a full fiscal management and operations audit of the sections and units of the New York Police Department's Intelligence Division referenced above. Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis famously said, "Sunlight is the best disinfectant." Today, you have an opportunity to uphold your statutory obligation and this oldest of traditions in transparency and accountability.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Sadyia Khalique at 212.870.2002.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ryan Mahoney", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ryan Mahoney
Board President