

DRUM- DESIS RISING UP & MOVING

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October 19, 2009

Mr. Joseph M. Demarest, Jr.
Assistant Director in Charge
Federal Bureau of Investigations
26 Federal Plaza, 23rd Floor
New York, NY 10278-0004

To: Assistant Director Joseph M. Demarest, Jr.

Greetings. I write this letter upon your request to meet with several members of the Muslim advocacy community in New York City today, specifically the organization which I represent. DRUM-Desis Rising Up & Moving is appreciative of your willingness to discuss civil rights issues and for your prompt response to a press conference we held on October 10, 2009 regarding concerns of racial profiling in recent weeks. We also look forward to the community-wide roundtable this Friday, October 23, 2009.

DRUM is a ten year old civil and immigrant rights organization highly respected in the Muslim and South Asian communities of New York City as well as nationally. We are appreciative of the shift in the new administration's willingness to meet with community organizations.

DRUM-Desis Rising Up & Moving, is joining a few other advocates at today's discussion. As such, we would like to present to you some written recommendations from DRUM and the large constituency we represent, so that we may develop a means for relationship building and future communication. We want to emphasize that we do not intend to discuss any specific cases of individuals or investigations. Rather, our sole purpose is to dialogue about broader policy and law enforcement practices.

As we have discussed in today's meeting, here is the written version of the recommendations we are making to seek your support for. These are long-standing issues we have heard from thousands of constituents for several years.

- 1) Support changes to the Department of Justice Guidance on Racial Profiling, 2003. We urge the removal of the allowance of racial profiling in matters of national security & border enforcement

2) End the use of agent provocateurs in mosques, Muslim businesses, organizations, and other neighborhood sites. This practice makes a racial and religious presumption of criminal activity that is biased.

3) Support the End Racial Profiling Act which will be introduced in Congress. We believe this law is needed to maintain constitutional rights for our community and others. We ask for your testimony in support of this important civil rights measure.

4) Support local ordinances that will prohibit domestic intelligence collection and immigration enforcement. We understand this is not your jurisdiction. However, your support for this measure will be important.

6) While we appreciate efforts the FBI has made in the past to hold 'Diversity Trainings' for agents, we do not believe that this is the solution. We hope that it is a first of many steps towards policy change and accountability mechanisms for FBI practices.

7) We support your position if it is still not in full agreement with the NYPD report: *Radicalization in the West: The Homegrown Threat*. We believe that local law enforcement must have clear boundaries with federal law enforcement (FBI, JTTF, and DHS) and have documented the negatives impacts of this collaboration on our community.

We hope that this will be a start in dialogues directly with us on these matters. We suggest a follow-up meeting between yourself, our organization, our attorney at CUNY Law School- Professor Ramzi Kassem, where in we may invite elected officials on these issues. Particularly, we believe that Congressman Charles B. Rangel and Representative Jerrold Nadler will add much to the discussion. Both elected officials are knowledgeable of the issues that will be discussed.

Again, we are pleased to open the lines of communication today and look forward to communication on these recommendations in the near future. If you have any matters to discuss, please call me at (718) 205-3036.

Sincerely,

Monami Maulik
Executive Director

CC: Ramzi Kassem, Esq., City University of New York School of Law
Shahid Butthar, Bill of Rights Defense Committee
Congressman Charles B. Rangel
Representative Jerrold Nadler