

February 29, 2012

The Honorable Pedro E. Segarra
Mayor
City Of Hartford
550 Main Street
Hartford Ct 06103

Re: Complaint and Request for Information about the New York Police Department
operating within Connecticut

Dear The Honorable Pedro E. Segarra,

The undersigned civil rights and civic groups write to you regarding the New York Police Department's (NYPD) violations of the civil rights of law-abiding Connecticut residents. These residents have been subject to unlawful racial and religious profiling by the NYPD through overbroad surveillance practices alarmingly far outside of the NYPD's physical jurisdiction. We request your office to investigate the extent of the NYPD's activities within CT and to call for a Department of Justice investigation of the NYPD's surveillance programs.

On February 2, 2012, the AP reported that the NYPD recommended increasing surveillance over and intelligence collection from thousands of Shiite Muslims and their mosques based solely on their religious affiliation.¹ No other leads or evidence of wrongdoing were presented as an impetus for this multi-state investigation. The Islamic Institute of Ahl'albait at 82 Somerset Street in West Hartford, Ct. was among the extensive list of Shi'a mosques, community centers and organizations included in the report.² On February 18, 2012, the AP reported that NYPD surveillance had also encompassed student groups, including the Muslim Student Association at Yale University.³

These revelations are just the latest of a series of investigative reports regarding the CIA-assisted NYPD surveillance program, which specifically targeted the American Muslim community only because of their religious affiliation. The NYPD infiltrated Muslim neighborhoods and community organizations as part of a human mapping program that systematically monitored daily aspects of American Muslim life. Informants, known as "mosque crawlers", were dispatched to monitor sermons and

¹ "Document Shows NYPD eyed Shiites Based on Religion," Matt Apuzzo and Adam Goldman, *Associated Press*, February 2, 2012, *available at* http://ap.org/NYPD/nypd_02022012.html (last accessed February 8, 2012).

² "US-Iran Conflict: The Threat to New York City," NYPD Secret: Intelligence Strategy Report, *available at* <https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/288719-nypd-iranianintel.html?key=9a9ba0d2ea8a33e7dce6> (last accessed February 8, 2012).

³ "NYPD monitored Muslim students all over Northeast," Chris Hawley, *Associated Press*, February 18, 2012, *available at* http://www.ap.org/pages/about/whatsnew/wn_021812b.html (last accessed February 20, 2012).

conversations without any evidence of wrongdoing—infringing on protected First Amendment activities.⁴

We request your office to undertake an immediate investigation into the extent of NYPD's activities in Connecticut—far outside its jurisdiction—and the level of Connecticut police involvement in these activities in your community. In addition, we request your office to petition the U.S. Department of Justice to investigate the NYPD's actions.

We respectfully urge your office to give this matter priority and hope that your office will contact us through our coalition representatives, Nermeen Arastu, narastu@aaldef.org, Sandra Staub, ssaub@acluct.org, or Mongi Dhaouadi, Mdhaouadi@cair.com, with a response.

Respectfully,

Sandra J Staub
Legal Director, ACLU-CT

Mongi Dhaouadi
Executive Director, CAIR-CT

Nermeen Arastu
Staff Attorney, AALDEF

Undersigned Organizations:

American Civil Liberties Union of Connecticut (ACLU-CT)
Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), Connecticut
Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF)
Allard K. Lowenstein International Human Rights Clinic at Yale Law School
New England Muslim Bar Association
Muslim American Civil Liberties Coalition
Desis Rising Up and Moving (DRUM)
National Lawyers Guild – Connecticut Chapter
Hon. Luis E. Cotto
The Civic Trust Public Lobbying Committee
The Bill of Rights Defense Committee

Cc: The Honorable Dannel P. Malloy

⁴ “With CIA Help, NYPD Moves Covertly into Muslim Areas,” Matt Apuzzo and Adam Goldman, *Associated Press*, August 23, 2011, *available at* http://www.ap.org/pages/about/whatsnew/wn_082511a.html (last accessed February 8, 2012).