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Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

May 3, 2011

Esq
Sta Attorney
Council on American-Islamic Relations Michigan Chapter
21700 Northwestern Highway, Suite 815 Southfield, Michigan 48075

Homeland

Security

Re: Complaint No.
Complaint No.
Complaint No.
Complaint No.
Complaint No.
Complaint No.
Complaint No.
Complaint No.
Complaint No.
Complaint No.

11-06-CBP-0150
11-06-CBP-0151
11-06-CBP-0152
11-06-CBP-0153
11-06-CBP-0154
11-06-CBP-0155
11-06-CBP-0156
11-06-CBP-0157
11-06-CBP-0158

11-06-CBP-0159 (Anonymous Egyptian Male)

Dear (b) (6)

The Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties received information from you on March 24, 2011, concerning repeated handcuffing, brandishing of weapons, prolonged detentions, invasive and humiliating body searches at the border, and inappropriate questioning that pertains to religion and religious practices by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) personnel.

Under 6 U.S.C. § 345 and 42 U.S.C. § 2000ee-1, the Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties has the responsibility to review and assess complaints against Department of Homeland Security employees and officials concerning violations of civil rights, civil liberties, and profiling on the basis of race, ethnicity, or religion. CRCL has received a number of complaints like yours, alleging that U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers have engaged in inappropriate questioning about religious affiliation and practices during border screening. We will add these complaints to the investigation we are opening on this subject. We are unable to discuss the specifics of this investigation without the express written consent of these complainants; however, once we have their consent, we will provide you with more specific details concerning this investigation.

This Office takes allegations of violations of civil rights and civil liberties very seriously. The purpose of our review is to assess if your complaint implicates issues that should be addressed by Department of Homeland Security management. Under 6 U.S.C. § 345 and 42 U.S.C. § 2000ee-

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Encl.

Margo hlanger
Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties U.S. Department of Homeland Security