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March 24, 2011

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invasive and humiliating body search is performed, which many have described as sexual harassment. Some are left handcuffed for hours on end, in many cases standing upright. Others are lett in a cell. At
least a dozen Muslim women of Somali origin have also reported being subjected to invasive and humiliating searches at the border that they felt were inappropriate and a form of sexual harassment.

And then conies the questioning. American Muslims crossing the border have reported in
alarming numbers that they are being subjected to extensive inappropriate questioning pertaining to religion and religious practices. A number of questions appear to be most common:

1, Do you pray five times a day?
2. Which mosque do you pray at?
3. Do you pray your morning prayer at he mosque?
4. Who is the Imam (religious leader) at your mosque?
5. Who else prays at your mosque?
6. Which Muslim charities have you donated to?
7. Which Muslim countries have you traveled to?
8. During your travels to these countries, have you been approached by anyone suspicious?
9. What do you think of Anwar al-Awlacki?
10. Which Muslim organizations are you affiliated with?
11. Are you affiliated with any terrorist organizations?
12. Do you know any terrorists?
13. Are there terrorists in our mosques?

Of course, the actual list of questions is much longer. Such questioning appears to be part of a larger policy to "map and track racial and religious demographics" and investigate "racial and ethnic behavior."

All in all, the process can take anywhere between two to ten hours. More disconcerting is that
these same individuals report being subjected to the same mistreatment and inappropriate questioning each and every time they cross the border. Let me repeat, exactly the same way each and every time

Page 2 of 4

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they cross the border. In fact, one of our clients has said that he can no longer step near the border without suffering from a panic attack, due to the traumatic experiences he has suffered through.

Some of our clients have been fired from their jobs for falling behind or lost prospective job opportunities. Some have given up on educational opportunities. Some have stopped visiting their families in Canada. And some simply choose to no longer vacation in Canada. None of these individuals have ever been charged with or suspected of a crime. Yet, they are being treated as common criminals. Such policies and procedures appear to be based not upon reasonable suspicion, rather upon religion, race, ethnic background, national origin, and gender.

Please find enclosed individual complaints written by some of our clients that have offered their
story as an example of a much larger pattern of discrimination. However, please keep in mind that many of our clients have chosen not to reveal their complaints or identities for fear of humiliation or
retaliation.

Our United States Constitution prohibits selective law enforcement based on considerations
such as religion, race, ethnic background, national origin, and gender. Such classifications of cItizens are
clear violations of equal protection laws and threaten to stigmatize members by reason of their
membership in a particular group. The harm caused by these policies extends far beyond that inflicted
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CC: (b) (6) , Policy Advisor, Office for Civil Rights & Civil Liberties, Department of Homeland Security, Building 410, Mail Stop #0190. Washington, D.C. 20528, Fax: (202) 401-4708, (Via
Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested and Facsimile Transmission)

CAIR 15 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.

Page 4 of 4
PRIV 11-0292 - 000064

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