

October 2011

Margo Schlanger  
Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties  
Department of Homeland Security  
Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties  
131 M Street NE  
Washington, DC

Dear Margo:

We are writing to follow up on a meeting request made at the last CRCL Committee meeting on September 26, 2011 to discuss the DHS "If You See Something, Say Something" campaign. As civil liberties, civil rights, human rights, immigrant rights, national security and privacy organizations, we are deeply concerned about how suspicious activity reporting programs, such as the DHS See Something, Say Something program lead to racial and religious profiling and impact Arab, Middle Eastern, Muslim, Sikh, and South Asian communities.

In particular, we would like to meet with you to discuss the campaign's protections against racial or other identity-based profiling as well as the privacy protections in place. We would also like to learn what mechanisms are in place to ensure compliance with civil rights protections as well as grievance procedures for individuals who have been discriminated against. We would also like to learn what policies DHS has employed to collect, retain, and purge data obtained through the campaign and how individuals can have inaccuracies removed from federal, state, local and private databases.

In addition, we would like to discuss what measures your office is taking to ensure accountability, transparency and oversight related to civil rights and civil liberties protections as DHS expands its work against domestic radicalization and "homegrown" terrorism.

We look forward to hearing from you and beginning a dialogue on these important and pressing civil rights and civil liberties issues. We appreciate your time and your commitment to engaging with us. If you have any questions or require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact Aadika Singh at 202-591-3308 or [asingh@rightsworkinggroup.org](mailto:asingh@rightsworkinggroup.org).

Sincerely,

The American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee  
The Arab American Institute  
The Council on American-Islamic Relations  
The Electronic Privacy Information Center  
The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights  
The Muslim Public Affairs Council  
The Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund  
The Sikh Coalition  
South Asian Americans Leading Together  
Rights Working Group  
United Sikhs

Cc: Laura Olson  
Cyrena Khoury