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Chicago, Illinois

SWORN STATEMENT

I, Robert G. Wright, Jr., Special Agent, Chicago Field Office, Chicago, Illinois, of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), do hereby solemnly swear the following:

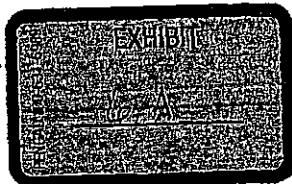
I have been advised by Supervisory Special Agent (SSA) Mark Van Steenburg of FBI Headquarters, Washington, D.C. that he is investigating a complaint of employment discrimination F-99-5371 pursuant to Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, and/or Title 29 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 1614, et seq.

I understand that the claimant is Special Agent (SA) Gamal Abdel-Hafiz and that the issues under investigation are his beliefs that he was discriminated against based on Religion (Muslim) and National Origin (Arab/Middle Eastern) when:

1.) on May 26, 1999, a Special Agent (SA) of the FBI Chicago Field Office telephonically discussed with a SA in the FBI Dallas Field Office, the complainant's refusal to wear a recording device for SAs in the FBI Washington and Tampa Field Offices, which resulted in damage to his professional reputation, questioned his integrity, credibility, and loyalty to the United States of America;

2.) on May 26, 1999, a SA of the FBI Chicago Field Office insinuated during a telephone conversation with a SA of  
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FOX-00013

FBI Dallas Field Office that HAMAS, a terrorist group, had successfully infiltrated the FBI through the complainant;

3.) On May 26, 1999, the Case Agent stated that Muslim agents should not be assigned to International Terrorism matters, but to matters such as Bank Robbery and White Collar Crime;

4.) On May 26, 1999, the Case Agent said that he was going to request that the complainant be removed from the Grand Jury 6 (e) list;

5.) On May 26, 1999, the Case Agent stated that Muslims will always sympathize with each other;

6.) On May 27, 1999, the complainant learned that the Case Agent from the FBI Chicago Field Office did not want the complainant to have access to his case files.

#### BACKGROUND

The following is a brief description of my background and experience with the FBI:

Entered on Duty: 09/09/90  
Offices of Assignment: 01/91 - 10/93  
Kansas City Field Office  
10/93 - Present  
Chicago Field Office

I was assigned to the International Terrorist squad at FBI Chicago Field Office during the spring of 1999. At that time I was aware that a member of HAMAS, a terrorist organization, had attempted to secure employment with the FBI.

In April of 1999, SA Gamal Abdel-Hafiz had telephoned and advised me that a friend of his worked as an accountant for a company upon which I had served the company President and Vice-President with Federal Grand Jury subpoenas. He also advised me that the accountant was concerned about harming his application he had submitted to the FBI to become a translator. Through the course of my investigation it had been determined that this company had receive financing from two siblings of Usama Bin Laden and United States designated HAMAS terrorist Mousa Abu-Marzook. Each of the aforementioned are Muslim. SA Abdel-Hafiz stated that the accountant had inquired of him if he should quit his employment, as it appeared there was a criminal investigation underway. SA Abdel-Hafiz advised that he had gone to Detective Charles Storey of the Dallas, Texas Police Department, who is assigned to a Terrorism Task Force and the Case Agent on the Dallas FBI HAMAS investigation. SA Abdel-Hafiz stated he had reviewed Detective Storey's investigative files which contained intelligence and investigation from my cases.

A few weeks later I received another telephone call from SA Abdel-Hafiz. He advised he had been telephoned by the accountant who stated that the President of the company was aware of his relationship with SA Abdel-Hafiz. The President inquired if the accountant could arrange a meeting between SA Abdel-Hafiz and the company President regarding the Chicago investigation. The accountant then mentioned his concern to SA Abdel-Hafiz that

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funds the accountant was transferring overseas on behalf of the company may have been used to finance the embassy bombings in Africa. In addition, the accountant recounted unusual events following the receipt of the subpoenas. One of the events that was highly unusual to him involved a friend of his coming to the United States from a middle eastern country and secretly meeting with the company President and Vice-President, and never disclosing his presence in the United States to the accountant. This was unusual as when either the accountant or the other individual would travel to each others country, they would have dinner and spend time together.

SA Abdel-Hafiz asked if I desired him to speak with the President. I advised him that I desired him to have the meeting and to wear a concealed recording device (wire) to record what transpired. I then told my supervisor that SA Abdel-Hafiz may be wearing a wire during a discussion with an individual of interest to one of our investigations. I then went to the United States Attorney's Office and discussed this matter with them and they agreed the wire would be of great interest to our investigation. When I returned to the office my supervisor summoned me to his office and advised me that SA Abdel-Hafiz was not going to wear the wire and that I should forget about it.

Later while at the United States Attorney's Office on other matters the question of SA Abdel-Hafiz wearing the wire was brought up by one of the attorneys. The Assistant United States

Attorneys still desired SA Abdel-Hafiz to wear the wire. A conference telephone call was then arranged between three Assistant United States Attorneys, a fellow FBI SA, and myself calling from Chicago, Illinois and speaking with SA Abdel-Hafiz and his supervisor in Dallas, Texas. The Assistant United States Attorneys expressed to SA Abdel-Hafiz the importance of this investigation and the proposed wire. SA Abdel-Hafiz stated that he would only record the individual if he told him he was wearing a wire. One of the Assistant United States Attorneys told SA Abdel-Hafiz they would get a meeting location and wire it, so that SA Abdel-Hafiz would not have to wear the wire. This was not acceptable to SA Abdel-Hafiz who then purposed placing a tape recorder on a table and then speaking with the individual. When this was deemed unacceptable by those present, SA Abdel-Hafiz advised he would meet with the individual and report the meeting on an FD-302 (official report form) as he had done before in response to a similar request for FBI Tampa.

The Assistant United States Attorneys present advised this was not what they desired and inquired what the root of SA Abdel-Hafiz' objection was to wearing the wire. SA Abdel-Hafiz advised that he feared for his safety. When he was told the FBI could protect him, SA Abdel-Hafiz told them he did not trust the FBI to protect him. The Assistant United States Attorneys continued to ask why SA Abdel-Hafiz would not wear the wire and he stated, "A Muslim does not record another Muslim."

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Thereafter, SA Abdel-Hafiz' supervisor concluded the telephone conference. I was aware that the Assistant United States Attorneys spoke with their superior, the United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, and he spoke with the FBI Chicago Special Agent in Charge Kathleen McChesney.

I then telephoned FBIHQ and spoke with Acting Unit Chief (A-UC) Christopher Hamilton and explained to him what had transpired. A-UC Hamilton told me that I would have to understand SA Abdel-Hafiz' perspective and I disagreed with him. After I explained that we had both taken the same oath and this was his duty, A-UC Hamilton told me I had a good point. I then met with SAC McChesney and my supervisor. SAC McChesney directed me to draft a document to FBI Dallas with all of the background and to set a lead for SA Abdel-Hafiz to conduct the recording in a covert manner.

Sometime thereafter, the United States Attorneys believing this the telephone conference would be re-visited, drafted a document describing the events discussed. I believe this was done as they felt the decision reached would come into question at a later date and they desired to have a record of their position. I believe this document may also have been signed by the United States Attorney and is maintained by his office.

Later while speaking about a different matter to SA Wade Ammerman of the FBI Washington Field Office, I explained the

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problems I was having getting SA Abdel-Hafiz to wear a wire. SA Ammerman informed me that his office had problems with SA Abdel-Hafiz previously. SA Ammerman advised that his office had drafted a document and set it to FBI Dallas expressing their concerns about SA Abdel-Hafiz contacting subjects of their investigations and not disclosing these contacts to the SAs conducting these investigations. Further, SA Ammerman told me to speak with SA Barry Carmody of FBI Tampa.

SA Carmody is a friend of mine and he related that the subject of one of his investigations who is Muslim had once reached out to SA Abdel-Hafiz and he refused to wear a wire when they requested. I told him I might let SA Abdel-Hafiz meet with the subject of my investigation and record the results on an FD-302. SA Carmody gave me an idea of what I was looking forward to if I allowed the meeting under those conditions. SA Carmody advised that he had allowed SA Abdel-Hafiz to meet with the subject of his investigation and report the results on an FD-302 and it was a mistake. I asked him to explain and he told me the FD-302 contained only self serving statements for the subject, and he later sent me a copy of the FD-302. I recall the FD-302 stating that subject had advised that SA Carmody did not have anything on the subject of the investigation and that he was keeping the investigation alive in order that he could receive one-year extensions to his mandatory retirement date. This was

not the type of information I was looking for in my investigation.

Sometime later SA Jerry Melton of FBI Dallas telephoned me at my office to discuss an investigation he was conducting and his desire to review my Grand Jury records. I told him that whatever information he receive to not share it with SA Abdel-Hafiz. The reason I did not want SA Abdel-Hafiz to have access to these documents was the fact that he was not on the Grand Jury 6(e) list (a list of those allowed by law to view Grand Jury materials). Even if SA Abdel-Hafiz was on the 6(e) list, the Assistant United States Attorney had indicated he would have removed him after the aforementioned conference call.

During this conversation with SA Melton, I relayed a story told to me by SA Karen Metterknock of the FBI Milwaukee Field Office. She advised me that an SA who was Catholic had refused to go to an abortion site when ordered by his supervisor. She recounted that the SA was told to either go to the site or put his weapon and badge on his supervisors desk. In SA Abdel-Hafiz' comment that "A Muslim does not record another Muslim," I saw that he did not want to record because of his religion. I found them to be the same. I, as a Catholic SA, would do my duty regardless of religious beliefs. I related my concerns to SA Melton as to what had transpired between Dallas and Chicago FBI offices and what had happened in Chicago with the United States



Attorney's Office. I advised him that until these issues were resolved, that SA Abdel-Hafiz had no need to review my documents.

In the above listed issue #1, I did not state to anyone that SA Abdel-Hafiz refused to wear a recording device for SAs in the FBI Washington Field Office. The conversation was based on information personally known to me, and those relayed by SAs Ammerman and Carmody.

In issue #2, I deny stating or insinuating that SA Abdel-Hafiz had any improper connection to HAMAS. I have discovered through the course of my investigation that members of HAMAS are attempting to obtain employment with the FBI.

I do not recall making the statement attributed to me in issue #3. However, if one is Muslim and their faith interferes with their duty, it concerns me.

I believe in issue #4, I told SA Melton that I was going to check if SA Abdel-Hafiz was on the Grand Jury 6(e) list, and if he was on it he was going to be removed. I was unsure if SA Abdel-Hafiz was on the list, as people working Terrorism investigations throughout the United States were on it. I did check the list several days later and determined that he was not on the list.

I do not recall ever stating the contents of issue #5. I can not imagine in what context I would ever make such a statement.

Regarding issue #6, it is true that I did not desire SA Abdel-Hafiz to access to my case files. One reason was the fact that SA Abdel-Hafiz was in contact with the accountant for the subjects who were under Federal Grand Jury subpoenas in this investigation. Further, SA Abdel-Hafiz was assigned to other matters and access to these files was on a "need to know" basis.

In December 1998, while conducting investigation in Dallas, Texas, SA Abdel-Hafiz assisted me in the review of documents. Following this investigation in Dallas, I expressed to a fellow Chicago SA that I was more comfortable with SA Abdel-Hafiz and felt that I could contact him in the future if I had any questions regarding middle eastern terrorism investigations.

I have not discriminated against SA Abdel-Hafiz based upon his religion (Muslim) or his national origin (Arab/Middle Eastern), and do not have any knowledge of anyone discriminating against him on these bases. My only bias is against terrorists.

I was not the only SA to be concerned with SA Abdel-Hafiz' refusal to wear the wire. Due to the serious nature of the events surrounding this terrorism investigation, a senior SA of the Chicago FBI attempted on three separate occasions, to determine the proper procedure to initiate an inquiry into SA Abdel-Hafiz' refusal. The attempts made through the FBI Chicago security officer were never responded to by FBI Headquarters.

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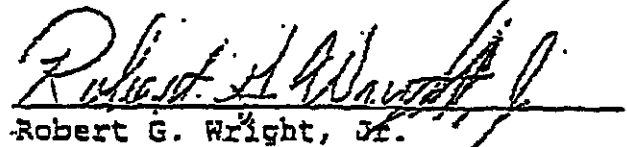
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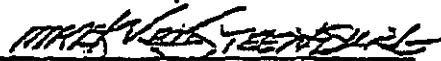
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I do not have any knowledge of any additional information that I believe is relevant to the scope of the inquiry as described to me by SSA Mark Van Steenburg.

I have read this statement consisting of this and ten other pages. The entire statement is true and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief. I understand that the information I am giving is not to be considered confidential and that it may be shown to interested parties.

  
Robert G. Wright, Jr.

Sworn to and subscribed before me at Chicago, Illinois, on this 21<sup>st</sup> day of March, 2000.

  
Mark Van Steenburg  
Supervisory Special Agent  
EEO Investigator