

April 22, 2005

The Honorable Alberto Gonzales
Attorney General

United States Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

The Honorable Robert S. Mueller

Director

Federal Bureau of Investigation

935 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20535

RE: Special Agent Robert G. Wright

Dear General Gonzales and Director Mueller:

Nine months ago, on July 14, 2004, we wrote to Attorney General Ashcroft and Director Mueller to express concern about possible retaliation against Special Agent Robert G. Wright, who had alleged wrongdoing by members of the FBI. As mentioned in that letter, the Judiciary Committee was provided with FBI documents indicating that, following a June 2, 2003, press conference at which SA Wright spoke, two top Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR) officials discussed a plan to "take him out."

We have yet to receive a substantive response to our inquiry. In our letter, we asked a number of detailed questions and sought copies of additional documents relating to the investigation of SA Wright. We received only a terse letter from Assistant Attorney General William E. Moschella, dated September 10, 2004, stating that our letter had been forwarded to OPR. Mr. Moschella failed to acknowledge our questions or document request. He merely assured us that "Director Mueller has repeatedly expressed his firm commitment to the protection of employees who report organizational wrongdoing." While that is a fine statement of general principle, we would like to see some evidence that this principle is applied to specific cases.

We learned late yesterday that the FBI suspended SA Wright without pay and intends to terminate his employment within 30 days. We remain concerned that SA Wright is being retaliated against because of his public statements. Therefore, we request a briefing on SA Wright's dismissal no later than April 29, 2005. We would also appreciate a complete and substantive written response to our July 14, 2004, letter and production of the requested documents by that date. Our respective staff members will contact your offices later today to schedule the briefing. Should there be any questions regarding this matter, please have your staff contact Tara Magner with Senator Leahy at (202) 224-7703 and Jason Foster at (202) 224-4515 with Senator Grassley. All responses should be faxed to both (202) 224-9516 and (202) 228-2131. All original material should be sent via USPS mail.

Sincerely,

Patrick Leahy Charles E. Grassley

Ranking Member Member

Attachments

CC: Inspector General Glenn Fine