Judicial Watch™

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BY FEDERAL EXPRESS

November 2, 2001

Special Agent Robert G. Wright, Jr.
610 W. Joliet St.
Crown Point, IN 46307

Dear Bob:

I have emailed to you today and also enclose herein copies of the "Complaint To The Federal Bureau Of Investigation Office Of Professional Responsibility And The United States Department Of Justice Office Of Inspector General For Dereliction Of Duty By The Federal Bureau Of Investigation In Failing To Investigate And Prosecute Terrorism And Obstruction Of Justice In Retaliating Against Special Agent Robert Wright" and your accompanying Attestation.

Please sign this letter on the line provided below to signify your authorization to Judicial Watch, Inc. to file this Complaint as your counsel with the FBI-OPR and the DOJ-OIG.

If you have any questions, please call me at (202) 646-5168.

Sincerely,

JUDICIAL WATCH, INC.

Michael J. Hurley

Michael J. Hurley

Cc: Larry Klayman, Esq.

Authorization:

Robert G. Wright Jr.

Robert G. Wright, Jr.

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IN THE MATTER of FBI Special Agent Robert G. Wright, Jr.	))))))

COMPLAINT TO THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE *OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL* FOR DERELICTION OF DUTY BY THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION IN FAILING TO INVESTIGATE AND PROSECUTE TERRORISM AND OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE IN RETALIATING AGAINST *SPECIAL AGENT ROBERT G. WRIGHT, JR.*

Robert G. Wright, Jr., a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation ("SA Wright")[1], hereby submits this Complaint through his counsel, Judicial Watch, Inc. and Schippers & Bailey, to the Federal Bureau of Investigation ("FBI") Office of Professional Responsibility (the "OPW") pursuant to 28 C.F.R. § 29c (d) and to the United States Department of Justice ("DOJ") Office of Inspector General (the "OIG") pursuant to the July 11, 2001 Order, signed by Attorney General John Ashcroft, that gives the OIG the same authority to investigate misconduct allegations against employees of the FBI as it has with respect to all other components of the DOJ[1].

Specifically, Special Agent Wright was assigned to the counterterrorism task force in

[1]This Complaint is separate from the OPR action initiated against SA Wright in regard to the sexual *harassment charge made by SA Cybil Reed in Case No. 66F-HQ- 1 26109 1.*

Chicago[2] and was conducting a criminal investigation of the sources and methods of funding terrorist activities in the United States by HAMAS operatives in the Chicago area.[2] SA Wright's successful investigation led to the seizure of $1.4 million of terrorist funds and was the first occasion that the U.S. government used the civil forfeiture laws to seize terrorist assets in the United States.[3]

Despite the unqualified success of this criminal investigation of terrorism, however, the FBI failed to take seriously the threat of terrorism in the United Sates and, more specifically, thwarted and obstructed SA Wright's attempts to launch a more comprehensive criminal investigation of the sources and methods of funding terrorism in this country. Worse yet, FBI officials retaliated against SA Wright because, against their wishes, he aggressively continued to pursue a criminal investigation and prosecution of terrorists in the United States. This retaliation evidences an unlawful scheme to discredit and, thereby, silence SA Wright, who has sought to communicate his experience to Congress and others in the public interest.

This Complaint seeks remedies for the FBI's unlawful retaliation against SA Wright and a full and thorough investigation by the OIG of the FBI's illegal cover-up and obstruction of justice. The public interest and safety clearly require such an investigation of the FBI and its attempt to cover-up its negligent dereliction of duty in failing to take seriously the threat of

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[2]Investigating the sources and methods of funding for terrorists is so critical to fighting terrorism that the Bush Administration recently created a task force to identify and interrupt the flow of money to terrorists. This effort, to be run by the U.S. Customs Service, will be composed of 70 persons specializing in tracking illicit money from drugs sales and other illegal activities, as well as agents from the FBI, DOJ, the Internal Revenue Service and the Treasury Department's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network.

terrorism in the United States. Indeed, had SA Wright been allowed to do his job and had the FBI properly discharged its law enforcement duties to stop terrorists in the United States, the September II, 2001 attacks might not have happened, nor might the American people now be terrorized by the current threat of anthrax being distributed through the U.S. mail system.

I. INTRODUCTION.

On Tuesday, September 11, 2001, terrorists associated with Osama bin Laden ("bin Laden"), a U.S. Designated Terrorist[4] and his Al-Qaeda network of terrorist organizations carried out terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York, New York, and the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia, killing thousands of innocent and unsuspecting persons, as well as hundreds of police, fire and rescue workers, and traumatizing the American public. These attacks were perpetrated by militant Islamic followers of bin Laden that had been trained in terrorist warfare at bin Laden's training camps in Afghanistan. The perpetrators and their co-conspirators entered the United States with visas approved by U.S. immigration authorities even though some of them were known terrorist suspects. They planned the attacks for several years without detection by the FBI by, among other things, attending various flight training schools throughout the United States to learn how to fly commercial airplanes and scouting the particular flights to be hijacked. They also used stolen credit cards to fund their preparation and living expenses in the United States, and they received wired funds from, and wire-transferred funds to, Al-Qaeda's paymaster in the United Arab Emirates. In short, they were allowed to rent apartments, shop at American stores and otherwise infiltrate into American society.

Then, on what forever will be remembered as a national day of infamy, the terrorist perpetrators passed through airport security at Boston's Logan Airport with knives and box cutters, boarded American Airlines Flight 11 and United Airlines Flight 175, and then hijacked and crashed the airplanes in the North and South Towers of the World Trade Center, causing the towers to collapse into a massive pile of rubble, killing almost 5,000 innocent persons.

Another group of these terrorists using the same *modus operandi* passed through airport security at Washington-Dulles Airport with k6ves and box cutters, boarded American Airlines Flight 77, and then hijacked and crashed the airplane into the south side of the Pentagon, killing several hundred more innocent persons. Still another group of these terrorists passed through airport security with knives and box cutters at Newark Airport in Newark, New Jersey, boarded and hijacked United Airlines Flight 93 and, after a struggle with several valiant passengers aboard the flight, crashed the airplane in a field in Stony Creek, Pennsylvania, causing the deaths of all the passengers and crew aboard the flight.

Sadly, the September 11th attacks were not prevented because the FBI failed to take seriously or consciously ignored the security threat posed by known terrorists to U.S. citizens in this country. In the aftermath of the September 11, these terrorist attacks have been called the greatest intelligence failure since Pearl Harbor, and Congress has decided to hold hearings to investigate the intelligence failure of the FBI and the Central Intelligence Agency ("CIA") in failing to prevent terrorist attacks on U.S. soil. Additionally, the September 11th attacks are a result, in part, of the FBI's grossly negligent failure to discharge its law enforcement function by refusing to actively pursue criminal investigations and prosecutions of known terrorists in the

United States. According to the Dallas Morning News, the FBI's former counterterrorism chief blamed federal officials, in part, for not taking the terrorism threat more seriously.[5] As reported by the Dallas Morning News on October 24, 2001, Oliver Revell, former Deputy Director of the FBI, echoed this harsh reality when he stated at a Press Club of Dallas luncheon: "Why didn't we know about September 11? We were deaf, dumb, and blind. We were asleep at the switch." (Id.) Mr. Revell further commented that despite the early warnings sips of previous terrorist attacks since 1992, the United States failed to recognize impending disaster because its federal law enforcement (the FBI) is a "dysfunctional montage." (Id.)

Worse yet, not only was the FBI lax in its failure to actively pursue criminal investigations of terrorists suspects in the United States, but its actions and the actions of some of its agents working intelligence operations also intentionally stifled ongoing criminal investigations of terrorists. In this regard, SA Wright, an 11-year FBI veteran who is an expert in counterterrorism investigations[6], has criticized the FBI's lack of support for and interference with his criminal investigation of terrorist operatives of the HAMAS terrorist organization. As a result of this criticism, the FBI has retaliated against SA Wright. Moreover, less than ten days after the September 11 attacks, a DOJ official even threatened SA Wright and his counsel, stating that he (the DOJ official) was "tired of Judicial Watch's conspiracy theories" and that, if SA Wright did not speak immediately with his SAC in Chicago, SA Wright and his counsel "would pay the consequences."

Indeed, SA Wright had already met with his Chicago SAC in March 2001 and June 22, 2001, about his terrorism concerns. At that time, he advised the SAC that he had identified the creation of the entire U.S.-based HAMAS network, including those responsible for it. He warned the SAC that the HAMAS network was "going strong" because the FBI-and particularly the International Terrorism Unit-was not doing anything to stop it. SA Wright further advised the SAC that hundreds of people had already died, including five Americans, and he warned that more people would die in the future because the FBI was not doing its job.

In addition, SA Wright provided the SAC with specific information about an FBI relief supervisor who knowingly and intentionally obstructed SA Wright's investigation. Although no action was taken against the relief supervisor, the SAC did initiate an OPR investigation against SA Wright only weeks following SA Wright's criticism of the FBI.[7] This retaliatory OPR investigation concerned something related to SA Wright's criminal case that had occurred more than three years earlier. Nevertheless, SA Wright was vindicated when, on October 30, 2001, the initial investigation concluded that "no action' should be taken against SA Wright regarding the retaliatory OPR initiated by the SAC. However, on the same day, SA Wright was informed that he was the subject of another retaliatory OPR investigation-this one initiated by FBI headquarters ("FBIHQ") OPR Unit–for something else that also had occurred three years earlier related to the same case.[8]

This Complaint discusses: (1) the FBI's grossly negligent failure to pursue criminal investigations of counterterrorism and prosecute known terrorists during the months and years leading up to the September 11th terrorist attacks, (2) the apparent reasons for the FBI's abrogation of its law enforcement responsibility to investigate and prosecute terrorists who engage in illegal activities in the United States, and (3) the OPR's arbitrary, erroneous and unfair decision regarding an unsubstantiated, coercive and retaliatory sexual harassment complaint against SA Wright, Case No. 66F-HQ-1261091 Sub D, and the FBI's further retaliation in removing SA Wright from his counterterrorism duties, all in an attempt to discredit and silence him.

II. FACTUAL BACKGROUND.

A. Early Warning Signs That Americans Were Specifically Targeted By Bin Laden.

Terrorism has been rampant in the Middle East for decades. During the last decade, the incidence of terrorist attacks on Americans has increased with alarming frequency. Since at least 1992, and maybe earlier, the FBI unmistakably has been on notice that the United States and its citizens have been, and continue to be, prime targets of terrorist attacks in the United States and abroad perpetrated by bin Laden and his Al-Qaeda network of terrorist organizations. The early warning signs of the threat posed by terrorist associates of bin Laden include, but are not limited to, the following terrorist attacks: (a) the 1992 declaration by Al-Qaeda that the U.S. military in Saudi Arabia and Yemen should be attacked; (b) the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center killing six Americans and wounding more than a thousand others; (c) the 1995 murder of 18 U.S. servicemen in Mogadishu, Somalia, and the parading of one serviceman's body through the streets as a means of holding the United States up to public ridicule; (d) the 1995 car bomb explosion outside the American-operated Saudi National Guard training center in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, killing five Americans and two others; (e) the 1996 Khobar, Towers bombing, killing 19 Americans and injuring hundreds of other persons; (f) bin Laden's formal Declaration of War against the United States in 1996; (g) the 1998 "fatwah" (or religious ruling) issued by the International Islamic Front For Jihad Against Jews And Crusaders and endorsed by bin Laden urging Muslims to kill Americans, including civilians, wherever they may be found; (h) the 1998 indictment of bin Laden in New York in connection with the bombing of the World Trade Center; (I) the 1998 bombing of the U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, killing 234 persons, including 12 Americans, and injuring more than 500 others; (j) bin Laden's indictment in 1998 in the United States on a total of 224 counts of murder in connection with the U.S. embassy bombings in East Africa; (k) bin Laden's interview on Qatar television in 1999 again declaring war against the United States; and (l) the suicide bombing in 2000 of the U.S.S. Cole in Aden Harbor, Yemen, killing 17 American sailors and injuring 39 others on board the ship. Individually and collectively, these prior terrorist attacks against Americans made it imperative that the FBI take seriously the threat to Americans posed by bin Laden, Al-Qaeda and their terrorist allies, and, in response to this threat, actively conduct criminal investigations and prosecutions of terrorists to root out the terrorist operatives and "sleeper" cells operating in the United States as to neutralize the threat. By neglecting to take this terrorism threat seriously, the FBI has abdicated its essential law enforcement function, leaving the American public at great risk and danger as punctuated so horrifically by the September 11th attacks.

B. SA Wright's Criminal Investigation of the HAMAS Terrorist *Organization in the United States.*

SA Wright became an FBI agent in 1990.[9] In October 1993, for safety reasons following a fatal shooting incident[10], he was transferred from the Kansas City Division to the Chicago Division[11]. He was assigned to the FBI Chicago Division's Joint Terrorism Task Force ("JTTF") and investigated terrorist activity by operatives of HAMAS[3] in the Chicago area and eventually throughout the United States. As part of this task force, he became particularly familiar with the techniques generally used by international terrorist organizations to surreptitiously move and launder money in and out of the United States, including through the use of domestic financial institutions, in support of extortionate terrorist and paramilitary activities and operations in the United States and abroad[12].

After only four months of working on the JTTF, SA Wright recognized that many of the terrorist suspects in the Chicago area were actively involved in well-organized criminal activities. Specifically, SA Wright learned, among other things, that HAMAS had established a significant presence in the United States. In order to train and equip HAMAS terrorists abroad, HAMAS utilized non-profit organizations such as the Holy Land Foundation and other front *organizations in the United States. These were utilized by HAMAS to recruit, organize, train* and support HAMAS terrorist operatives and to plan and carry out terrorist attacks.[14] Indeed, many of the Chicago terrorist subjects were business owners and leaders of non-profit organizations. SA Wright, therefore, appropriately concluded that following the money trail and seizing terrorists' assets would be an

effective means of neutralizing the terrorism threat.

After investigating a low-level HAMAS operative and learning about the HAMAS

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[3]HAMAS is an acronym of the Arabic term for "The Islamic Resistance Movement" – Harakat al Muqawama al Islamiyya. It is an independent terrorist political organization founded in the Israeli Occupied Territories in 1987 at the beginning of the Intifada, the Palestinian-led campaign to resist Israeli political domination of the occupied territories. HAMAS, which is an off-shoot of the Muslim Brotherhood ("MB"), has engaged in more than a decade-long campaign of subversive and violent activity, commonly denominated as terrorist activity, undertaken primarily in Israel, and supported in part by illegal activities in the United States, including but not limited to money laundering in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1956.

enterprise in the United States, SA Wright realized that HAMAS had developed an extensive Chicago-based network.[15] SA Wright eventually opened an investigation pertaining to Mohammed Salah, a high-level HAMAS operative who was a naturalized American citizen and Chicago-area resident. Salah, who had been a HAMAS operative of Marzook, a U.S. Designated Terrorist, responsible for recruiting and training terrorists in the United States, had been arrested in Israel in 1993 for his membership and participation in HAMAS. In January 1995, Salah, a U.S. Designated Terrorist, pled guilty in an Israeli military court and was sentenced to five years imprisonment for being a member of HAMAS and to illegally channeling funds to HAMÀS, including funds transferred through an account he held jointly with his wife at the LaSalle Talman Bank in Chicago.[16] SA Wright's investigation eventually expanded to encompass a relative of Mohammad Salah,[17] and the Quranic Literacy Institute ("QLI"),[18] a purportedly tax-exempt organization in Chicago whose officers funneled money to Salah to fund his terrorist activities for HAMAS.

During this investigation, SA Wright realized that neither FBI headquarters ("FBIHQ") nor any of the FBI's Field Divisions were conducting a nationwide criminal investigation of the HAMAS criminal enterprise in the United States. Although each FBI division was conducting a local investigation of HAMAS operatives within the division's jurisdiction, the results of these local investigations were not being utilized in a nationwide effort to fully identify and neutralize HAMAS terrorists in the United States.

Therefore, in August 1995, following the arrest of HAMAS leader Mousa Abu Marzook in New York,[19] SA Wright laid the groundwork to establish a nationwide criminal investigation