

In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful



Council on American-Islamic Relations

Washington State Chapter
815 First Avenue Northeast, #204, Seattle, Washington 98104
info@cairseattle.org 206.367.4081 www.cairseattle.org

July 7, 2015

Mr. Michael C. Ormsby
United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Washington
P.O. Box 1494
Spokane, WA 99210-1494

Re: Request to investigate a vandalism incident at the Bosnia Herzegovina Heritage Association of Spokane

Dear Mr. Ormsby:

I hope this finds you in the best of health and spirits.

I am writing today to report a vandalism incident involving the Bosnia Herzegovina Heritage Association of Spokane (attached to this letter is a copy of a photo taken of the graffiti. It has also been provided to the Spokane County Sheriff Department), located at 2110 East Broadway Avenue, Spokane, WA 99202. We are requesting that the FBI investigate the incident to see what was the purpose and motivation that led to destruct a property in such a manner. On the evening of July 4, 2015 the vandalism was first spotted. Members of the community were inside the building for Taraweeh prayer. Miralem Cosic is currently renting the building space for the Bosnia Herzegovina Heritage Association of Spokane. He is a Muslim Activist in the Spokane area. Admir Rasic, a relative of the current renter of the community center, called the Spokane police. The police arrived at the scene and completed a report (15-227560). The police than told Mr.Rasic that they would send photographers to take pictures of the scene. CAIR-WA is not aware that this has been done. CAIR-WA has contacted Spokane Police Department and is awaiting response to confirm photo documentation was indeed taken and that an investigation regarding the incident is open.

We believe that strong messages need to consistently be conveyed to the public, as you have done in response to past hate incidents, that those who target citizens because of their race, religion, ethnicity, or other protected status, will be met with the full force of the law.

As you may be aware, CAIR has recently called on local, state and national law enforcement agencies to investigate possible bias motives for a number of attacks on American Muslim community members and institutions.

The events taking place at Bosnia Herzegovina Heritage Association of Spokane fits a pattern of increased targeting of persons and property associated with Islam and the American Muslim community.

CAIR is 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.

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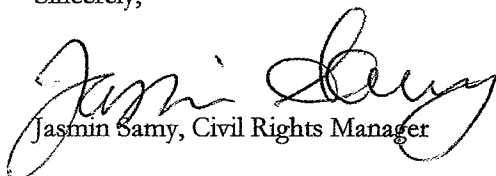
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Please do not hesitate to reach me via e-mail at civilrights@wa.cair.com or via phone, at 206.367.4081 We look forward to your positive reply.

Sincerely,



Jasmin Samy, Civil Rights Manager

Cc:

Robert Deardorff, Assistant Special Agent in Charge, FBI-Seattle
Frank Montoya Jr., Special Agent in Charge, FBI-Seattle
Ozzie Knezovich, Spokane County Sheriff
Frank G Straub, Chief Spokane Police
Patty Murray, Member, US Senate
Maria Cantwell, Member, US Senate
Congresswomen Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Senator Andy Billig, WA State Legislator
Representative Timm Ormsby 3rd Legislative District
Representative Marcus Riccelli, 3rd Legislative District
Sean Tepfer, Law Enforcement Coordinator and Community Outreach Specialist, US Department of Justice
Bob Ferguson, Attorney General, Washington State
Neeka Hodaie, Civil Rights Team Member

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