

FBIHQ  
Email  
to Houston  
FBI Agent

From: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]  
To: [REDACTED]  
Date: Mon, Jan 6, 2003 11:54 AM  
Subject: Re: Conflict of Interest

[REDACTED],  
Just wanted to let you know that on 1/2, I e-mail Deputy Director Bruce Gebhardt about your concerns (without identifying you). I have not heard back from him yet, but I asked him if he would provide me with a response or if there had been an official response prepared already. I'll let you know when/if I hear from him.

Houston  
FBI Agent  
Email to  
FBIHQ

>>> [REDACTED] 12/27 4:11 PM >>>

Dear [REDACTED]

I am a 12+ year veteran of the FBI and a case agent assigned to the Houston field office. I am currently working Counterterrorism matters. A recent edition of the SIOC Sentinel, dated 12/20/02, contained a story on Page 44, titled "Called Off The Trail? FBI Agents Probing Terror Links Say They Were Told, 'Let Sleeping Dogs Lie'"

While I am by far, no fan of the media, this article identifies an active duty FBI Agent, SA Gamal Abdel-Hafiz, who allegedly refused to actively assist in an ongoing Counterterrorism investigation by specifically refusing to consensually monitor a conversation he was going to be having with one of the subjects in the case.

The article goes on to claim that, "Abdel-Hafiz was promoted to one of the FBI's most important anti-terrorism posts, the American Embassy in Saudi Arabia, to handle investigations for the FBI in that Muslim country."

If these facts are indeed true, I would like to make the following inquiries:

- o Why is the FBI continuing to permit an individual who, has a self-declared conflict of interest, to wit, a previously stated refusal to record potentially incriminating conversations with Muslim subjects, continued access to sensitive case information and intelligence data? Why wasn't his security clearance pulled?
- o Why wasn't this agent charged with insubordination and referred to OPR?
- o This situation would be analogous to, say a Catholic FBI Agent refusing to act against a Catholic priest who is allegedly involved in kiddie porn. If I were an American-Indian Special Agent, can I refuse to work investigations involving "Crime on Indian Reservation" cases? Would the Bureau also tolerate these situations?
- o What kind of dangerous precedent is the Bureau establishing by the way in which they handled this situation? An Agent refuses to assist in an investigation and he is promoted and sent to one of the most critical posts in the Bureau's war against terrorism??
- o If these allegations are true- how can the public have any degree of confidence that the FBI is serious about the war against terrorism when this agent is permitted by HQ's to refuse to help in an investigation of a Muslim?
- o Are Special Agents, who happen to Muslim, now afforded special and preferential treatment by FBIHQ?
- o Does the FBI now intend to ascertain the subject's ethnicity and religious orientation prior to proceeding with any criminal investigation?

o When Muslim Special Agents are sworn in at the FBI Academy, do they now take a different oath of office? "To protect the US against all enemies both foreign and domestic, except for my fellow Muslim brothers whom I will refuse to investigate."

o The FBI is supposedly concerned over the potential penetration of the Bureau by another "Special Loser" Hanssen type mole and yet here is a situation which one would think that it be prudent to temporarily suspend Abdel-Hafiz's security clearance until such time it can be determined exactly where his loyalties lie. If Abdel-Hafiz is "uncomfortable" conducting terrorism investigations against Muslim targets then perhaps he can work on some non-Muslim background investigations or work some non-Muslim drug cases but he should certainly be removed from Saudi Arabia where he poses a real threat to Bureau security and all FBI investigations that send leads to the legat there.

It is my belief that an FBI Agent has a duty to the public and to the Constitution to act against all enemies domestic and foreign. There is no exemption clause for individuals of a particular faith or religious belief.

I would like to request your office to look into this matter most earnestly since it potentially has direct impact on the FBI's success against terrorism and the public's continued confidence in the FBI.

Thank-you for you assistance in this matter,

[REDACTED]