



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Office of the General Counsel

Washington, D.C. 20535

April 10, 2003

Stephen M. Kohn, Esq.
Kohn, Kohn & Colapinto, LLP
3233 P St., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20007-2756

Dear Mr. Kohn:

This is in response to your letter dated April 3, 2003, on behalf of your client, FBI Special Agent (SA) Bassem Youssef. Your letter seeks permission on behalf of SA Youssef to meet directly with U.S. Senator Charles Grassley and his staff concerning matters related to his employment with the FBI. Your letter further states that SA Youssef is not requesting permission to conduct a "briefing" in his capacity as an FBI employee; rather his request is to meet in his individual capacity with the Senator but to discuss matters relating to his FBI employment.

FBI policy requires employees to obtain prior written approval with respect to each disclosure of "information or material from or relating to FBI files or any other information acquired by virtue of their official employment, duties, or status." The policy requires FBI employees to submit this material for review at least 30 days in advance of the proposed disclosure (Manual of Administrative Operations and Procedures (MAOP), Part I, 1-24(2)(b)). Disclosures made in the performance of official duties (i.e., "briefings") are outside the scope of this policy. Similarly, official speeches, writings, and publications are reviewed and authorized by cognizant FBI officials and need not be further reviewed.

Without specific information concerning the matters SA Youssef intends to discuss with Senator Grassley and his staff, I am unable to provide specific guidance. Matters relating to SA Youssef's employment may involve pending cases, as well as grand jury, classified, and other information, disclosure of which may violate criminal laws or DOJ or FBI policy. Generally, the FBI will not approve the disclosure of:

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