



Council on American-Islamic Relations

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June 1, 2013

CERTIFIED RETURNED RECEIPT

Thomas E. Perez
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530

Re: FBI's Shooting of Ibrahim Todashev

Dear Assistant Attorney General Perez:

Please be advised that CAIR-Florida represents the family of Mr. Ibrahim Todashev.

The purpose of this letter is to call for an independent, thorough and transparent investigation by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) Civil Rights Division into the FBI's shooting of Ibrahim Todashev after several hours of interrogation at his home on May 21, 2013. We further request a rigorous review of DOJ's policies and procedures related to the use of force against unarmed civilians, in addition to Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) interrogations of Muslims at their homes.

At this juncture, there are three major issues that require a response. First, it is essential that information be released both to the family and to the public regarding the continuous investigation of Mr. Todashev and the events leading to his untimely death. Secondly, a specific inquiry is necessary to determine if law enforcement's investigative procedures violated Mr. Todashev's constitutional rights under the Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Amendment. Lastly, your Division should determine whether the agents involved used excessive force.

According to our sources, Mr. Todashev always cooperated with law enforcement and consented to a final interview with the FBI on May 21, 2013. In fact, Mr. Todashev was so obliging that he even agreed to postpone his visit back to Chechnya to meet with FBI agents.

It is our understanding he was interrogated by the FBI and other law enforcement agents for over five hours in his own home. His friend, Khusen Taramov, who had accompanied him during this visit, was not permitted to be with Mr. Todashev during the interrogation and was eventually asked to leave the premises after four hours of questioning. When Mr. Taramov returned with Soslan Gagloev, another close friend, they learned from the media that Mr. Todashev had been shot.

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This final questioning was preceded by a minimum of three similar interrogations at FBI headquarters and other interactions during a five-week period. One of these encounters included six law enforcement agents approaching Mr. Todashev with guns drawn and pushing him to the ground. In addition to the stream of interrogations, law enforcement agents also followed Mr. Todashev, and questioned his family and friends regarding his association with the suspects in the April 15th Boston Bombing.

While the official version of events changes daily, it appears that an unarmed Mr. Todashev was fatally shot at least seven times, including once in the head. Based on several of the reports, it seems unlikely that the agents were justified in using deadly force against a single unarmed suspect. The circumstances surrounding the shooting are at the very least alarming.

What is even more astonishing is that ten days after the Mr. Todashev's death, there are still a number of crucial questions that remain unanswered. Accordingly, we demand that the DOJ investigate and ensure that all law enforcement agencies abide by the highest legal standards. This case and other similar investigations by the law enforcement agencies indicate the policies and procedures need to be immediately revised to safeguard against such tragedies as the one Mr. Todashev and his family suffered.

A proper investigation of this case will ensure that the values of the U.S. Constitution are inviolable.

Your immediate attention to this matter is greatly appreciated. If you need any additional information, please contact me directly at 813-514-1414 ext. 102.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Thania Diaz Clevenger'.

Thania Diaz Clevenger, Esq.
Civil Rights Director

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