

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 16, 2007

Mr. Stephen Kohn, Esq.
Kohn, Kohn & Colapinto
3233 P Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20007

Dear Mr. Kohn:

I am writing today in response to the Justice Department Inspector General's March 9, 2007, report entitled "A Review of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Use of National Security Letters" and in anticipation of the Inspector General's testimony next week before the Judiciary Committee. In my view, the most troubling section of the report begins on p. 86 and is entitled "Using 'Exigent Letters' Rather than ECPA National Security Letters." That section describes how an FBI headquarters division known as the Communications Analysis Unit ("CAU") obtained information on about 3,000 telephone numbers by issuing 739 so-called "exigent letters."

I understand that your client, Bassem Youssef is the current Unit Chief at CAU. In preparation for next week's hearing, I am interested in learning more about his particular role, if any, in bringing to light the problems with the CAU's use of exigent letters to circumvent the statutes governing National Security Letters ("NSLs"). In particular, I would like to know (1) whether Youssef signed any of the exigent letters, (2) how and when he learned that there were problems with the way they were being issued, (3) what steps he took, if any, to notify others of the problems, (4) what steps, if any, he took to try to rectify the problems, and (5) how timely, responsive, and cooperative others at the FBI were in addressing any of the issues he may have identified.

In exercising our oversight responsibilities, it is critical for the Judiciary Committee to obtain a fuller understanding of who at the FBI knew what about these exigent letters, and when they knew it. Therefore, in order to prepare for next week's hearing, please provide answers to the questions about Bassem Youssef's involvement as well as copies of any and all unclassified e-mails related to the exigent letters issued by CAU.

If you have any questions about this request, please contact Jason Foster at (202) 224-4515. A copy of all correspondence in reply should be sent electronically in PDF format to thomas_novelli@finance-rep.senate.gov or via facsimile to (202) 228-2131.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Grassley
United States Senator

cc: Senator Patrick Leahy, Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary

Senator Arlen Specter, Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary