



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Office of the General Counsel

Washington, D.C. 20535

September 25, 2007

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Grassley:

Your letter dated September 6, 2007, to Director Mueller has been referred to me for response.

As you observed in that letter, Director Mueller takes very seriously the prohibition on retaliation against whistleblowers. The specific allegations included in your letter by SSA Bassem Youssef were received by the Director and others in early August. The allegations were referred to the Internal Investigations Section (IIS) of the Inspection Division for investigation. Consistent with long standing practice, investigators from the Department of Justice's Inspector General (IG) review every allegation referred to IIS and are given "first refusal rights" over any ensuing investigation. In the case of SSA Youssef's allegation, the Inspector General elected to take the allegations for further review.

Accordingly, the FBI has not taken action to investigate the allegations. The Director will, however, take appropriate action based on the outcome of the IG's efforts.

Very truly yours,

Valerie Caproni
General Counsel

- 1 - The Honorable Patrick Leahy, Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510
- 1 - The Honorable Arlen Specter, Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
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- 1 - The Honorable Glenn A. Fine
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