

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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BARBARA HANDSCHU, RALPH DIGIA,
ALEX McKEIVER, SHABA OM, CURTIS :
M. POWELL, ABBIE HOFFMAN, MARK
A. SEGAL, MICHAEL ZUMOFF, :
KENNETH THOMAS, ROBERT RUSCH,
ANETTE T. RUBENSTEIN, MICHEY :
SHERIDAN, JOE SUCHER, STEVEN
FISCHLER, HOWARD BLATT and :
ELLIE BENZONE, on behalf of themselves
and all others similarly situated, :

71 Civ. 2203 (CSH)

Plaintiffs, :

-against-

SPECIAL SERVICES DIVISION, a/k/a :
BUREAU OF SPECIAL SERVICES,
WILLIAM H.T. SMITH, ARTHUR :
GRUBERT, MICHAEL WILLIS,
WILLIAM KNAPP, PATRICK :
MURPHY, POLICE DEPARTMENT
OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK, :
JOHN V. LINDSAY and various unknown
employees of the Police Department acting :
as under-cover operators and informers,

Defendants. :

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FAIZA ALI, for her declaration pursuant to 28 U.S.C. sec. 1746, states as follows:

1. I am the advocacy and civic engagement coordinator for the Arab American Association of New York, located at 7111 Fifth Avenue in Brooklyn. I have been employed there since October, 2012, and I was formerly employed at Brooklyn Congregations United. I was employed at the New York chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) from 2005 to 2011. I make this statement to explain some of the effects that awareness of systematic

police surveillance has had on me and on members of the Muslim community with whom I work.

2. Linda Sarsour explains in her statement in paragraph 3 that our organization is very cautious in using volunteers. I think this is true of other organizations that work with Muslims. When I worked at CAIR, the organization was very careful in using volunteers for fear of informers.

3. It has been my experience that students and other young people, and their parents, are intimidated by the awareness of police surveillance, and frightened of its effects. In February of 2012, I went to a meeting of the Muslim Student Association (MSA) at NYU, with a speaker from CAIR and another from the National Lawyers Guild. The students were asked to group themselves, to go to one side of the room or the other, to show whether they were comfortable with questions that were raised. One of the questions was, "Do you feel comfortable going to the MSA after you know about the police surveillance?" A large number of students went to the side of the room that expressed their apprehension. Several students at the meeting also said that their parents were very concerned, that their parents did not want their children to participate in any public political activities.

4. In November, 2012, the Jamaica Muslim Center held a town hall meeting with the New York City Police. The idea was to express support of the police in connection with the Muslim community. One speaker said that people had nothing to fear from the police if they were not doing anything wrong, and he criticized those Muslims who object to the police tactics. I went there to hand out leaflets and to carry a small sign that said "Walking While Black and Praying While Muslim is Not a Crime." There was a young woman who was helping me prepare before the town hall meeting, making leaflets and signs. She said to me that her mother had forbidden

her to go to the meeting because she was frightened of the police. The young woman said she could help behind the scenes, in making the signs, but that it was impossible for her to go to the meeting because of the prohibition.

5. In short, my experience is that young people and their parents are very apprehensive about police surveillance, and they are afraid to take action against it or to protest publicly because of their fear of the possible consequences.

I declare under the penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct, Executed on

January 18, 2013



Faiza Ali