May 14, 2018

SENT VIA EMAIL AND CERTIFIED MAIL

Public Information Coordinator
Texas Commission on Law Enforcement
6330 East Hwy 290, STE 200
Austin, TX 78723
open_records@tcole.texas.gov

To Whom It May Concern:

Under the Texas Public Information Act, Muslim Advocates hereby requests the opportunity to inspect or obtain copies of the requested public records below that are in the possession of the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (“TCOLE”).

Specifically, we request any records related to the event co-organized by Christian Reporter News (“CRN”) and the Concho Valley Council of Governments (“CVCOG”) on May 4, 2018 in San Angelo, Texas, in which Mr. Guandolo and his consulting group, Understanding the Threat (“UTT”), participated (the “Training”). These records include:

1. Any and all records between TCOLE and Mr. Guandolo and/or UTT about the Training or otherwise in the last two years;

2. Any and all records related to any accreditation TCOLE provided for Mr. Guandolo’s Training, including but not limited to any records concerning any application, evaluation, approval, rescinding, suspension, or termination of Mr. Guandolo and/or UTT as an accredited trainer under the Texas Administrative Code §§ 215.1, 215.2, 215.3, 215.5, 215.7, 215.10, 215.17, or 215.19;

3. Any and all records between TCOLE and CRN and/or CVCOG regarding the Training;

4. Any and all inquiries and complaints received by TCOLE concerning the Training, including but not limited to complaints from any member of the public, organizations

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1 The term “records” is intended in the broadest possible sense and includes without limitation all records or communications preserved in electronic or written form, including but not limited to correspondence, regulations, directives, documents, data, videotapes, audiotapes, e-mails, faxes, files, guidance, guidelines, standards, evaluations, instructions, analyses, legal and policy memoranda, minutes or notes of meetings and phone calls, memoranda, agreements, notes, orders, policies, procedures, protocols, reports, rules, manuals, technical specifications, text communications between phones or other electronic devices (including, but not limited to, communications sent via SMS or other text, Blackberry Messenger, iMessage, WhatsApp, Signal, Gchat, or Twitter direct message), training materials or studies, including records kept in written form, or electronic format on computers and/or other electronic storage devices, electronic communications and/or videotapes, as well as any reproductions thereof that differ in any way from any other reproduction, such as copies containing marginal notations. No category of material should be omitted from search, collection, and production.
(such as faith or advocacy groups), or by internal TCOLE staff or employees, either before or after the date of the Training;

5. Any and all materials presented at or used during the Training, including but not limited to documents, agendas, lesson plans, power points, hand-outs, books, articles, and recordings or transcripts of the Training itself;

6. Any and all records reflecting communications between TCOLE and other government agencies or law enforcement personnel regarding the Training and/or Mr. Guandolo and his trainings, including discussions about any of Mr. Guandolo’s previous trainings held on other dates or at other locations; and

7. Any and all records reflecting the attendees at the Training.

The public has an inherent right to be reasonably informed as to what public records contain and the manner in which public bodies conduct their affairs and operations. If an exemption is discretionary, we ask you not to withhold such records, even if they would qualify under the law. We reserve the right to appeal any decision to withhold any information. Further, if your agency does not maintain these records, please provide us with the name and address of the custodian or agency that does.

The Texas Public Information Act requires that you “promptly produce” the requested records unless, within 10 days, you have sought an Attorney General’s Opinion. If you expect a delay in responding to this request, please contact me with information about when I might expect copies of or the ability to inspect the requested records.

We request a waiver of all fees as disclosure of the requested information is in the public interest and is not being sought for any commercial purpose. Muslim Advocates is a non-profit, public interest legal advocacy organization dedicated to promoting freedom and equality for Americans of all faiths. We engage in litigation, legal advocacy, and educational outreach, and regularly produce reports, white papers, and other materials to educate the public on civil rights matters. Muslim Advocates has a wide-ranging docket that has included advocacy highlighting problematic law enforcement trainings. Muslim Advocates regularly files public records requests and publishes information obtained pursuant to such requests in a digestible, public-facing form. Given the evident public interest in the records requested here and Muslim Advocates’ lack of commercial interest, we request a waiver of any fees included in this request. Nonetheless, if there are any fees for searching or copying these records, please inform us of the costs before processing this request.
Thank you for considering our request. Please contact us by phone at (202) 897-1896 or by e-mail at juvaria@muslimadvocates.org if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Juvaria Khan
Staff Attorney