



The Honorable Vanita Gupta
Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
Civil Rights Division
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20530

September 17, 2015

Re: Department of Justice Investigation of Suspension and Arrest of Ahmed Mohamed

Dear Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General Gupta:

As you know, Ahmed Mohamed, a freshman at MacArthur High School in Irving, Texas, was suspended from school, handcuffed in front of his peers, and arrested on Monday for bringing a homemade alarm clock to his school. Muslim Advocates is deeply troubled by these actions taken by the high school and the Irving Police Department. No child should become a suspect in the eyes of his or her school and of the police simply for using creativity and innovation. We respectfully request that the Civil Rights Division conduct an investigation pursuant to its authority under Titles IV and VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Notably, in Ahmed's community, Irving Mayor Beth Van Duyne received the 2015 "Defender of Freedom" award from Frank Gaffney's Center for Security Policy - an organization well known for spreading bigotry and hatred toward Muslim communities - primarily as a reward for her work in opposing the right of Muslims to use religiously-based, voluntary and non-binding mediation panels, much like Catholic and Jewish communities already do. Furthermore, late last year, an email to the Irving Independent School District board members that claimed "Christians are going to have to stand up against the pro Islamic teaching" prompted an entire meeting on the topic.

This year has been filled with tragic stories of hate crimes and acts of discrimination against those who are Muslim or appear to be Muslim. It is heartening to see a number of people of good conscience, including President Obama and Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, stand up for Ahmed and object to this blatant bigotry. Now, the Irving Police Department and the school district need to take steps to create an environment where all children, regardless of race or faith, will be treated equally and fairly. They can begin by apologizing to Ahmed and his family and expunging the records of his arrest and suspension.

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We request that the Department conduct a speedy, comprehensive and thorough investigation into the deprivation of civil rights of Ahmed Mohamed by MacArthur High School and the Irving Police Department.

We look forward to your response. Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,



Farhana Khera