



American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee
Celebrating 25 Years of Dedicated Service to Civil
and Human Rights

December 14, 2004

Michael J. Garcia, Assistant Secretary
US Immigration and Customs Enforcement
United States Department of Homeland Security
425 I "Eye" Street
Suite 7100
Washington, DC 20536

VIA FACSIMILE: 202-307-9911
AND UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

Dear Mr. Garcia:

I am writing as President of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC). Established in 1980 by former US Senator James Abourezk, today ADC is our nation's largest membership organization dedicated to protecting the civil rights of Arab Americans.

The purpose of this letter is to request that US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) release data on nationality of those 230 individuals detained as a result of the recent enforcement initiative by your agency.

According to a September 30, 2004, ICE statement entitled, "Terrorist Threat and Disruption Efforts by ICE," and a November 4, 2004, ICE press release entitled, "ICE Threat Disruption Effort Results in More than 230 Arrests," your agency utilized three databases (namely NSEERS, SEVIS, and US VISIT) to reprioritize leads resulting in the above-referenced arrests. In October, ADC expressed concern apprehensive of the use of NSEERS in the reprioritization of leads in enforcing our nation's immigration laws.

In order to alleviate these concerns, which have since been echoed by numerous members of the Arab-American and Muslim communities, it is our sincere hope that ICE will release the nationality breakdown of those arrested in order to assure the Arab-American and Muslim communities, along with the rest of our nation, that immigration enforcement is not resulting in a disproportionate impact on individuals from Arab or Muslim countries.

Thank you for your kind and continued attention to our concerns and we hope to maintain our good working relationship with US Immigration and Customs Enforcement. I look forward to hearing from you soon on this important and timely matter.

Very truly yours,

Hon. Mary Rose Oakar
President

Cc. Undersecretary Asa Hutchinson (DHS) via facsimile
Daniel Sutherland, Civil Rights Officer (DHS) via facsimile
Legal Department (ADC)

American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee
Legal Department

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