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Monday, August 5, 2013

{{FirstName}} {{LastName}}, {{Title}}
{{Company}}
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{{City}}, {{State}} {{Zip}}

RE: Please maintain a visibly professional distance between the FBI and the ADL

Dear {{FirstName}} {{LastName}},

On behalf of IRmep supporters across fifty states, I urge your division office to **opt out** of all future coordination, joint programs and informant sourcing with the Anti-Defamation League (ADL). Based on a thorough review of FBI-documented interactions with the ADL since the 1940s (obtained under FOIA and now online at <http://www.IRmep.org/ila/ADL>), we believe such formal and informal ties with the ADL undermines the FBI mandate as a **federal criminal investigative body** and **internal counterintelligence agency**.

The ADL has tried long and persistently to establish close ties with the FBI—**for the wrong reasons**. In 1940 ADL offered a list of 1,600 representatives as a resources to the FBI as well as access to its investigation files. Some of the recommended individuals were later involved in illegal arms smuggling to Israel and used close ties to the government to quash warranted prosecutions (see <http://www.IRmep.org/ila/feinberg>). In 1944 the ADL requested unprecedented access to FBI files to avoid "duplication of investigation." A SAC rebuffed this as a threat to the integrity of FBI investigations and informants. FBI field division offices have been requested to liaise with ADL regional offices on a voluntary basis cognizant of any outstanding investigations. In 1968 FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover ordered all FBI division offices to establish liaisons with ADL regional offices. This order was repeated by the FBI headquarters in 1985. Both of these orders proceeded subsequent ADL crimes against legitimate organizations engaged in exercising their constitutional rights to peacefully assemble and petition the government for grievances (see below). We therefore urge you to use your discretion to establish and maintain a **well-warranted professional distance** between your division office and the ADL. Close ties to ADL diminish both the **FBI's reputation** and ability to credibly investigate warranted criminal and especially espionage-related activities. For example:

- **ADL ties thwart warranted criminal investigations.** In 1944, Senator Rufus Holman complained to the FBI that the ADL was organizing an illegal boycott of his business and re-election campaign, **a possible violation of the Sherman Act**. The FBI refused to investigate, possibly because David Robinson, the head of the local ADL office organizing the activities, was FBI confidential informant #7 of the Portland division office. In 1946, the ADL obtained the confidential bank records of a rival organization, the Institute of Arab-American Affairs. Though aware of the incident, the FBI did not investigate. In 1969, ADL agents infiltrated a national meeting of the Organization of Arab Students. Although the FBI considered a Foreign Agents Registration Act investigation of the ADL which routinely passes such information to the Israeli government, no action was taken. In the 1990s, ADL operatives infiltrated and illegally collected vast amounts of private information from Bay-area peace and anti-Apartheid groups. The FBI played a minimal role in the investigation. The ADL subsequently paid damages after civil court actions, but was never criminally prosecuted. (See Criminal investigation and successful civil lawsuits against the ADL over privacy right violations 1992-1993: <http://www.IRmep.org/ila/adl-ca>)

- **ADL ties thwart warranted counterespionage investigations.** Retired Mossad case officer and author Victor Ostrovsky claims that the Israeli intelligence agency Mossad actively recruits helpers from organizations like the ADL. Ostrovsky claims Mossad has asked ADL to smear Americans the Israeli government wanted to undermine. Mossad asked ADL to smear as an anti-Semite "one stain you can't wash" Congressman Peter McCloskey (see Ovstrovsky making this claim at Ex-Mossad Agent Revealing Mossad's lethal weapon http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2_79Xc8klc4). By cooperating with the ADL, the FBI may be undermining its own ongoing counter-espionage investigations against a country the FBI has continually documented in reports to be one of the most active in targeting the U.S. for national defense and economic secrets.
- **ADL calls for leniency over crimes committed for Israel are at odds with FBI's mandate.** In 1957, the FBI noticed that ADL was raising funds and lobbying for special treatment of atomic spy Morton Sobell who was sentenced to 30 years in 1950 and admitted to espionage for the Soviet Union in 2008. The ADL has long requested the release of Israel's most notorious spy Jonathan Pollard. In 2009 the ADL pressured the Justice Department to drop prosecutions of American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) officials indicted for passing secrets to Israel (documented by an FBI investigation which amassed credible evidence of espionage that formed the basis of the indictments). The FBI director and agents involved in the case were reported in news accounts as being very disappointed that the ADL and other lobbying to thwart due process paid off and the case never went to trial for a fair and open consideration of facts. Many Americans who have observed AIPAC and the ADL over the years felt the same way.
- **ADL-FBI ties embolden ADL to disrupt legitimate civil society petitions for redress of grievances.** ADL operatives had no right to use illegal means (stolen press credentials, documented by the FBI) to disrupt peaceful antiwar protesters gathered in Madison Square Garden in the 1940s—or Arab student engagement activists in the 1960s, or anti-Apartheid and peace activists in the 1980s and 1990s. ADL has long sought to stand alongside the FBI in order to thwart closer scrutiny of its unlawful activities and foreign agent activity. Some undercover ADL operatives claimed to be "civilian auxiliaries of the Justice Department" according to one complaint released under FOIA. Allowing this gradual ADL penetration of the FBI to continue unchallenged stands to undermine public confidence in the FBI and Justice Department.

It is not clear in the records whether high officials ordering FBI field offices to liaise with ADL "counterparts" had any in-depth understanding of this long string of incidents. A review of past communications from the FBI headquarters reveals that whether or not to liaise and participate in joint programs is the final decision of SACs. The FBI record chronology indicates the bureau has said "no" to ADL requests many times—even calling off investigations of Arab leaders and peace groups urged by ADL because of tainted evidence and problematic informants. **When the FBI has said "yes," it appears to have unintentionally emboldened ADL to conduct unlawful activities with less fear of consequences.** On behalf of IRmep members—and growing numbers of Americans—I urge you to maintain a visibly professional distance between your division office and the ADL in the interest not only of the blind pursuit justice, ***but the appearance of the blind pursuit of justice.***

Sincerely,



Grant F. Smith
Director of Research

PS: See also:

"FBI files reveal Anti-Defamation League spied on Arab students" Grant F. Smith, *EI*, 5/14/2013

"ADL Spies: The Strange History of the Anti-Defamation League" Jeffrey Blankfort, *CounterPunch* 6/12/2013

"Secret files reveal Anti-Defamation League spied on Noam Chomsky" Asa Winstanley, *EI*, 5/17/2013