


December 15th, 2003

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To: Robert S. Mueller, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation
J. Edgar Hoover Building
935 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20535

Dear Director Mueller:

I do not know whether you remember, but shortly after 9/11/2001 you (and DCI Tenet) took to the airwaves and, decrying the dearth within the US intelligence community of Arabic speakers and others familiar with the Middle East and its cultures, appealed to the patriotism of Arab-Americans and urged those eligible to seek careers in any of the US intelligence services. I was one of those who responded - I picked the CIA¹. Turned out to be one of the worst decisions of my life, as I ended up dealing with officials with little or no respect for the Constitution, laws, or regulations of the United States, or the very concept of the rule of law.

Among other things I dealt with during the course of what turned out to be disastrous interactions with the intelligence community were criminal abuses of the public trust by government and public officials as well as out and out public and official corruption. This letter and attached documents describe a sequence of events involving public corruption that entailed, among other things, fixed cases in multiple courts, both state and federal, and the obstruction of justice that goes with that. I should make clear at the outset that I mean "fixed cases" in the most literal sense, with all the connotations of public corruption that go with that.

Instead of seeking a career in the US intelligence community I might have been better off showing my patriotism with a US flag lapel pin or bumper sticker.

¹ I am writing you rather than DCI Tenet because, among other things, this letter and attached documents describe numerous violations of federal civil rights and criminal statutes, and the FBI has investigatory responsibilities when it comes the violation of such laws.

Shortest version is that I had applied for a job with the CIA, was offered one, changed my mind, the good folk at the CIA got carried away in trying to convince me otherwise, things went terribly wrong, some Agency officials found themselves looking at an embarrassing situation, and in trying to cover it up, some genius in the CIA came up with a convoluted plan that involved fixed and scripted cases in multiple courts. Like the cliché about a coverup worse than the crime, it made things far worse.

It all started when I applied for a job with the CIA's Directorate of Operations after 9/11/2001. After a series of lengthy interviews, I was offered a job in April of 2002. Soon thereafter, I had second thoughts - there were ambiguities about the Agency's intentions, indicia that the good people at the CIA had in mind something other than the specific job for which I had applied², plus indicia that they were dealing with me in bad faith. In light of that, plus emerging patterns that did not augur well for where things were headed, I withdrew my application in July of 2002. I assumed that would be that. I was wrong.

Somebody at the CIA sought to change my mind, but chose a counterproductive as well as convoluted way to go about things: the very next day after I withdrew my application saw the beginning of just about all the bad things people associate with CIA officials behaving badly. Everything from dirty tricks to interfering with my life and livelihood, a recruitment tactic called "isolate-and-alienate" that was unnecessarily complex and resulted in an extremely awkward situation when things went wrong, as well as a messed up sequence that started with some Agency officials arranging within less than twenty four hours of the withdrawal of my application for my eviction from where I had been living and steering me to a CIA safehouse where I ended up living with some of their operatives for five months³, coupled with intense and

² From the jobs listed on the Agency's recruitment brochures, I had selected and applied to become an Operations Officer. I did not add "but if not, please consider me for whatever else you might need." Somebody at the CIA apparently thought I had, and sought to recruit me as an Agent - something I had no intention of becoming as there is not much of a future in that. Things went downhill from there.

³ Most of what happened during this phase is described in the facts section of the legal complaint (enclosed).

systemic psychological stressors that were bewildering at first, until I found out much later that they were part of a standard operating procedure employed by the Agency and known as “Alice in Wonderland” or the “confusion technique,” and intended, among other things, to thoroughly break down a target recruit⁴.

Initially during this phase, things were done in a light-hearted vein, as if it were a hazing ritual - almost like a juvenile prank or an elaborate practical joke⁵. Not being in on the joke, it soon ceased to be humorous: patience and self deprecation are all well and good, but what the CIA sought went beyond that and bordered on masochism⁶ - which was actually the point. As I would later find out, destroying a target recruit’s sense of dignity and self respect is one of the chief goals of what was often referred to as “*the Process*” by many of the operatives with whom I dealt⁷.

A good chunk of the “*the Process*” turned out to revolve around some CIA recruiter playing God with my life⁸ - directing a variety of scripted scenarios taking place in real-life

⁴ “Breakdown,” not in the Hollywoodesque sense of a police interrogation or melodramatic courtroom cross examination, which are intended to bring about temporary results, but in a more permanent, fundamental, and structural sense that enables an intelligence service to gain as complete a degree of control over a target as one can fathom. Has to do with behavior modification. It went bad. Optimal results for such tactics occur when one has physical control over the target – i.e.; physical custody. The CIA did not have that option in this case (the Good Old Boys’ Network produced judges sufficiently corrupt so as to preside over fixed cases in the hope of shielding officials from liability, but none corrupt enough to ignore habeas corpus and order me bundled off to some CIA facility). They improvised as best they could – a lot of mind games, pressure tactics, thousands of manhours in extensive surveillance barely concealed (intentionally?), etc, intended to make it *feel* as if I were in their clutches and had no option but to cave in. As with most half measures, the results were not good.

⁵ Difference being that these pranksters or jokers had access to the considerable resources of the CIA’s Directorate of Operations, so they got quite elaborate and too cute with things. When things backfired, they got even more elaborate and cute in trying to cover up.

⁶ When I first expressed second thoughts about joining the Agency, it was emphasized by one of the operatives with whom I dealt at the time that being a “glutton for punishment” was a desirable trait in this line of business. I withdrew my application soon thereafter.

⁷ In referring to Agency-related things, operatives would often attempt to infuse things with mysterious or even mystical over or undertones - almost like shamans or seers.

⁸ Part of the playing-God angle had to do with an insider joke or theme derived from exchanges

settings, role acting that effectively reduced my life for the past seventeen months (and counting) to a prolonged piece of improvisational theater, coupled with the closing of some doors and opening of others in the hope of channeling me towards a life and lifestyle integrated with the CIA, as well as attempting to create a relationship of dependency upon the Agency, be it psychological, economic, or otherwise. Playing God in this instance, while possessing neither the omniscience nor omnipotence of a deity, produced results that were far from pretty.

As I would later find out, the chief aim during this phase was to bring about a breakdown - just keep adding stressors in a methodical and systemic manner, and sooner or later a point of overload will be reached and something will give.

As was inevitable, there was a breakdown - just not what the CIA had in mind. After months of dealing with all that the CIA had been throwing at me, I broke down in late December of 2002 and tried to commit suicide. Unfortunately for whichever CIA official was in charge of things, it was not exactly the kind of breakdown which had been sought, and its aftermath did not bring about the results which had been hoped for. Instead of the malleable and submissive subject who was supposed to emerge at that stage of "*the Process*," I emerged in a vindictive and wrathful mood toward the people who had dared play God with my life and just about wrecked it in the process.

That is where things stood in late December of 2002: a recruitment effort that had gone disastrously wrong and which involved just about every no-no that CIA officials are supposed to avoid - at least inside the US. Invasion of privacy, domestic spying on a US citizen, coercion, manipulation, dirty tricks, civil rights violations, civil and criminal fraud, behavior modification on an unwilling and unwitting target that went awry⁹, hypnosis and hypnosis attempts by lay and

I had with some operatives before withdrawing my application, to the effect that I thought the CIA was, at the end of the day, a federal agency, not God. There was a bit of "yes it is" and "no it isn't" kind of jesting about that. I think I bruised somebody's feelings, because Agency officials poured a lot of resources into trying to convince me otherwise, got ego invested on that point, got carried away, and things got messy.

⁹ Jocularly referred to as "mind fucking" within the Directorate of Operations. At the time, I did

non-professional operatives on a non-voluntary subject that, considering you are reading this, were not as effective as had been hoped. You name it, Agency operatives did it during the course of this ill-starred recruitment attempt. There was even personal corruption on the part of some officials who took advantage of their roles in the recruitment process to personally profit, in the form of direct pecuniary gain, from the target of the recruitment effort¹⁰.

And threatening to blow the whistle on it all, a ticked off lawyer who had been subjected to all the preceding, feeling deeply violated and baying for payback. Being a lawyer, I sued - which was not good for the CIA, as there were many embarrassing things in the complaint, and worse things likely to emerge during discovery, that made some Agency officials look like renegades run amok inside the US. A bad situation if you were the CIA official in charge of that mess. Understandably, the good people at the CIA did not want such dirt to come out. Unfortunately, whoever they put on point tried to cover it with more dirt.

Whoever was in charge opted for an ill-conceived coverup scheme (described in the attached documents) that revolved around fixed cases and the obstruction of justice that goes with that. Among other things, some CIA genius thought it would be a good idea to rig a fixed and scripted case in state court, and use it as leverage to get me to refrain from or abandon a lawsuit in federal court that sought to vindicate various constitutional and legal rights and raised federal and state claims against the Agency and some of its officials - as well as get me to refrain from or abandon other attempts to seek redress. They actually used one of the operatives who was a named defendant in the complaint filed in federal court as part of the scripted case in state court. It was plain extortion, utilizing a state judge as muscle instead of a Fat Tony or Bruno the Bruiser - and instead of cash, the thing of value they sought to extort was forbearance of suit in

not know as much about that aspect of things as I would later find out. Until recently, I had been acting on the assumption that the abuses to date were along the lines of quasi hazing by low level operatives improperly supervised and lacking professional discipline, who got carried away and went too far. Turns out that there was more to it than just that.

¹⁰ One of the more repugnant aspects of what took place. Almost as bad as if my drill sergeant in basic training, no longer satisfied with the sadistic thrills that are among the job's perks, had taken advantage of his position to shake the recruits down for a cut of their paychecks.

federal court and abandonment of other attempts to seek redress against the implicated Agency officials.

Judges might not be the best extortionist material - faced with the threat of whistle blowing, that fixed case in state court came to a screeching halt¹¹.

That government officials occasionally abuse the powers entrusted them is probably an inescapable aspect of the social compact - and we have laws and courts to take care of such abuses when they occur. That puts what happened here beyond the pale - not only the abuses that took place and gave rise to litigation, but the subsequent coverup attempt that cavalierly corrupted and subverted the very system put in place by the Constitution to protect people from such abuses by government officials, or at least provide accountability and redress after the fact - rights and remedies for violations thereof being the bedrock upon which the rule of law and the constitutional structure rest. I mean, some things are just not done, and tampering with the integrity of the judicial and legal process as happened here must be high on the list of those things.

What makes it even more repugnant and morally outrageous is that this was done not in the service of some higher aim or noble purpose, but simply for purposes of CYA: some officials screwed up, panicked, looked at the public resources entrusted them or to which they had access, and without thinking things through, decided to put them to use in service of a harebrained coverup scheme.

Having already gone way beyond the acceptable during the course of the recruitment effort and in the process broke or otherwise violated just about every law or regulation governing their conduct inside the US, Agency officials thought "in for a penny, in for a pound" when it came to covering things up.

Among the federal criminal statutes violated during the course of that coverup scheme were:

- 18 USC § 241, which makes it a crime to threaten, oppress or intimidate any person in order to prevent the free exercise or enjoyment of any right or privilege secured by the Constitution or laws of the United States.

¹¹ See, *Addendum to CJ Hassell Letter* (attached).

- 18 USC § 242, which makes it a crime for any person acting under color of law to deprive a person from rights, privileges or immunities secured by the Constitution or laws of the United States.
- 18 USC § 245(b)(1)(B), which makes it a crime to intimidate or interfere with or attempt to do so by force or threat thereof in order to prevent a person from participation in any benefit, service or privilege provided or administered by the United States.

The good people of the CIA probably ran afoul of many other statutes and regulations.

And all of that is only part of what went on and is *still* going on. Right now, only miles away from you and as you are reading this, there is some manager at the CIA fixated on CYA and worried about the personal adverse consequences of having gone too far both in a recruitment attempt that went sour and in a subsequent coverup attempt that went one worse¹², who, in an attempt at covering up a coverup is deliberately setting the stage and hoping for something to go horribly wrong that might get him or her off the hook.

I thought I should bring this to your attention since the Bureau has investigatory responsibilities when it comes to criminal abuses of the public trust by government officials. There are plenty of such abuses here.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely;

-Khalid Elhassan-

¹² A coverup attempt that, Rube Goldberg aspects aside, involved the investment of, literally, thousands of taxpayer-funded manhours in surveillance alone, plus untold other government resources in who-knows-what-else, all in an attempt at personal preservation from the consequences of misconduct. No hide is worth preserving at such public expense as some future audit will reveal was poured into this coverup attempt.