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Muslims Allege FBI Bias

FBI accused of using 'false, misleading, fear-producing' info

By Donna Gordon Blankinship
The Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — A Washington state Muslim group has asked the U.S. Department of Justice to investigate alleged anti-Islam bias in FBI trainings of law enforcement officers and regular citizens.

In a letter mailed Monday to the department's civil rights division, the Washington Council on American-Islam Relations accused the FBI of trainings that include "false, misleading and fear-producing information."

The letter lists a number of complaints about FBI trainings, including one in Seattle last spring, where participants at a "citizens' academy" at the FBI office said they were given a handout comparing Arab/Islamic propaganda with Nazi propaganda.

The complaint also mentioned an FBI training lecture in Washington, D.C., also last spring that was critical of Islam. The bureau employee who gave the lecture contended, among other things, that the more devout a Muslim is, the more likely he is to be violent. The lecture came to light last month, at which time the FBI said it has begun a review of its training to make sure it is consistent with FBI standards.

A Muslim-American woman who participated in the Seattle training said she was surprised by the handout because everything else about the eight-session "citizens' academy" had been respectful.

"I felt as if I had been invited to someone's house and then the host started calling me bad names," Ghada Ellithy, a structural engineer who works for the Army Corps of Engineers and is an America citizen, said during a news conference Monday.

Ellithy wrote to the FBI to complain about the handout but says she hasn't received a response.

The FBI in Seattle has issued a statement saying the agency is currently conducting a comprehensive review of all training and

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URBAN FARM



Megan Horst introduces her chicken Lolly to the Palacios family Saturday Oct. 1 at the Rainier Beach Urban Farm and Wetlands Preserve Groundbreaking. The community farm festival included tours of the farm and wetlands, an opportunity to meet neighborhood farmers, hear live music, and eat delicious food.

Race Talks Series, Equity Event

Race in the Spotlight: Two Efforts Ask, 'How Progressive Is Portland?'

By Helen Silvis
Of The Skanner News

Is Racism dead? Is it Possible to be 'Post-Racial'?

Two upcoming events will shine the spotlight on race in Portland. One will feature young Portlanders asking whether the ideal of being 'post-racial' is now possible or if that's simply fiction. The other will look at Portland through the lens of the 2010 Communities of Color report, which showed wide disparities in income that fall along troubling color lines.

The 'Race Talks' series, sponsored by the city's Office of Human Relations, has brought together Portlanders of all races and from all walks of life to grow understanding of our differing perspectives on race. On Tuesday Oct. 11, the program will showcase five young Portlanders, members of the Millennial generation also known as Gen. Y. The event is called:

'Post-Racial, Fact or Fiction? Millennials Speak!'

The presenters are: Hannah Eko, an active duty officer in the US Coast Guard Jaime Guzman-Limon, active in the Student Alliance Project and the Northwest Immigrant Youth Alliance

Nathan Holst, an employee of homeless nonprofit, Sisters Of The Road, as well as a musician, anti-racist and youth director Caitlin Campbell, a field coordinator for NARAL Pro-Choice Oregon

Jahzeel Ormeno, born and raised in Peru, he came to the United States at age 13 to escape terrorism.

So is a post-racial society possible? Following the presentations, the audience will break into small discussion groups facilitated by trained volunteers from Uniting to Understand Racism. Listen to the presenters and make your contribution to Race Talks Tuesday Oct. 11 at the Kennedy School, 5736 NE 33rd Ave. 503-249-3983

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'Are You Ready?' Project for East County

Goal is to build a stronger support network for underserved families

Helen Silvis
Of The Skanner News

Linda Hornbuckle and Zeke 'Yung Mil' Jones plan to be at Highland Christian Center, Saturday Oct. 15. The singers are just two of the high-profile Portlanders taking part in 'Are You Ready?' a community-wide event to build a stronger support network for East Portland.

"Are you Ready?" will run from 10 am to 4 pm Saturday Oct. 15 at Highland Christian Center, 7600 NE Glisan St.

East Portland is rapidly becoming the youngest, most diverse part of the city. With a growing population of Latinos, African Americans and immigrants from all over the world, East Portland is home to 37 percent of the city's children. Many of the areas newest Black residents were displaced by

gentrification from North and Northeast Portland and moved to East Portland. Yet transportation and social services are still catching up with the needs of the families living here.

"People don't know where to go for help?" said Pastor W.G. Hardy, the senior minister from Highland. "Where do they go when

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