



The Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties supports the Department of Homeland Security as it secures the nation while preserving individual liberty, fairness, and equality under the law.

CRCL Leads ICCT Call Following Sikh Temple Shooting in Wisconsin

Statement by Secretary Napolitano on Shooting in Wisconsin — August 6, 2012

“Yesterday’s tragedy in Wisconsin is deeply saddening. The Department of Homeland Security will continue to provide any support necessary to the ongoing investigation. Our thoughts and prayers go out to those impacted by this tragedy, the Sikh community, and especially the family and friends of those killed or wounded.”

On August 6, 2012, CRCL conducted an Incident Community Coordination Team (ICCT) call following the shooting at a Sikh Gurdwara in Oak Creek, Wisconsin. During the call, leaders from Sikh, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim, and interfaith communities and organizations discussed the shooting with senior government officials from the White House Office of Public Engagement, Department of Justice (DOJ) Civil Rights Division, DOJ Community Relations Service, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Counterterrorism Division, DHS Office of Infrastructure Protection, and DHS Center for Faith-based & Neighborhood Partnerships.

More than 100 participants from across the country joined the ICCT call, which lasted for more than an hour. Government officials shared information about response activities and resources available to communities to promote safety and security in places of worship.

Community leaders expressed concerns and offered suggestions ranging from how government can increase efforts to improve security at local and community levels to opportunities for senior Administration officials to show solidarity with diverse interfaith community partners.

The ICCT nationwide call is the only tool of its kind available for rapid-incident communications between the federal government and diverse communities in the aftermath of an incident of national significance. The ICCT is chaired by the CRCL Officer.

New Secure Communities Video on Unlawful Retaliation

CRCL, in partnership with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Enforcement and Removal Operations, has released its fourth installment in a series of Secure Communities video briefings for state and local law enforcement. The fourth video focuses on unlawful retaliation, and assists officers in identifying potential abuses by landlords, employers, or others who may be involved in conflicts with immigrants. . All four video briefings, along with a range of supplemental materials, can be found on the [Secure Communities website](#), and the videos are also available for downloading through ICE’s iTunes channel.

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Secretary Napolitano Hosts Second Annual DHS Iftar Dinner

In August, Secretary Napolitano hosted the second annual DHS Iftar dinner bringing together Muslim community members, international partners, and federal, state and local officials.

During the dinner, Secretary Napolitano delivered remarks highlighting the Department's collaboration with Muslim-American communities to make our nation safe, secure and more resilient.

"Communities of faith have been one of our most steadfast allies in our efforts to secure our nation and combat violent extremism," said Secretary Napolitano. "DHS is committed to continuing to work with these communities to address threats that endanger the safety and security of our nation and all communities of faith."



Secretary Napolitano greets guests at the Second Annual DHS Iftar Dinner.

Guests included members from the diplomatic corps from the embassies of Pakistan, Afghanistan, Qatar, Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Jordan and Turkey.

CRCL Develops New Somali Cultural Awareness Training for Law Enforcement

As part of its continued engagement and countering violent extremism (CVE) efforts within diverse communities, CRCL recently developed a new cultural awareness training course, "Somali Cultural Training: Community, Culture and Religion." The course was created to meet the specific needs of law enforcement to engage more effectively with Somali-American communities and develop more effective community policing strategies. In addition, the course provides insight on cultural dynamics within the Somali community and geopolitical issues, best practices for partnering with the community and "cultural do's and don'ts" when interacting with all members of the community, including women and youth in particular.

Since July, CRCL representatives have delivered the new training to approximately 300 state and local law enforcement officers, DHS officials and other federal partners in San Diego, Seattle and Minneapolis. The training has been well-received by participants who have requested additional trainings in the future.

To request this and other CRCL community engagement trainings, email CommunityEngagement@hq.dhs.gov.

CRCL Participates in White House Hispanic Community Action Summits

Over the past several months, the White House Office of Public Engagement and the White House Initiative for Educational Excellence for Hispanics have met with Hispanic communities in cities across the country to build relationships and engage in conversations about core issues that are critical to the Latino community like education, immigration, jobs, civil rights, the economy and health care among others.

CRCL representatives have participated in several of the summits, where DHS policies and activities were discussed among participants. At the most recent summit, representatives from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services shared information about the Department's new [deferred action process](#) for young people who are low immigration enforcement priorities. CRCL is in the process of organizing follow up meetings in response to concerns raised in immigration-related sessions in Phoenix, Durham, Los Angeles, and Philadelphia. These meetings focus on addressing DHS programs and the protections afforded under our nation's civil rights laws.

CRCL on the Road, August

August 6-8 – Seattle, Washington

CRCL delivered Somali cultural awareness training to local law enforcement.

August 9 – Augusta, Maine

CRCL delivered Privacy/Civil Rights and Civil Liberties training to the Maine Information and Analysis Center.

August 13-14 – Minneapolis, Minnesota

CRCL participated in a pilot of a multi-day CVE workshop being developed for state and local law enforcement and partners.

August 21 – Meridian, Idaho

CRCL delivered Privacy/Civil Rights and Civil Liberties training to the Idaho Criminal Intelligence Center.

August 23 – Houston, Texas

CRCL convened its quarterly community engagement roundtable with diverse ethnic and community-based organizations.

August 27-28 – Albuquerque, New Mexico

CRCL will deliver special pre-conference training at the New Mexico Emergency Management Association and Homeland Security Conference.

August 29 – Las Vegas, Nevada

CRCL will deliver Privacy/Civil Rights and Civil Liberties training to the Southern Nevada Counter Terrorism Center.

August 14 – Atlanta, Georgia

CRCL participated in a pilot of a multi-day CVE workshop being developed for state and local law enforcement and partners.

August 21 – Springfield, Massachusetts

CRCL coordinated the BRIDGES community engagement roundtable with the U.S. Attorney's Office.

August 24 – Atlanta, Georgia

CRCL delivered Privacy/Civil Rights and Civil Liberties training to the Georgia Information and Analysis Center.

August 27-September 7 – Islamabad, Pakistan

CRCL will conduct several presentations as part of a U.S. State Department speaker tour addressing civil rights and civil liberties community engagement best practices.

August 30 – Las Cruces, New Mexico

CRCL will present a CVE training to state and local law enforcement.

Additional information, and contacting us

The goal of this periodic newsletter is to inform members of the public about the activities of the DHS Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, including: how to make complaints; ongoing and upcoming projects; opportunities to offer comments and feedback; etc. We distribute our newsletters via an email list and make them available to community groups for redistribution. We also post information pulled from the newsletter on a webpage, [CRCL at Work](#). If you would like to receive this newsletter via email, want to request back issues, or have other comments or questions, please let us know by emailing crcloutreach@dhs.gov. If you are on this list, but no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please send an email to the same address asking us to unsubscribe you. For more information, including on how to make a civil rights or civil liberties complaint about DHS activities, see www.dhs.gov/crcl.

CRCL Phone: 202-401-1474 • Toll Free: 866-644-8360 • TTY: 202-401-0470 • Toll Free TTY: 866-644-8361

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