



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 Convenes Somali Youth Summit

On Saturday, January 22, 2011, CRCL convened a youth summit with Somali-American youth and law enforcement agencies in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The event attracted over 100 individuals including the U.S. Attorney and Congressman Keith Ellison, as well as seven local law enforcement agencies, representatives from the FBI Minnesota field office, as well as regional representatives from ICE Homeland Security Investigations, CBP and TSA.

The meeting provided an opportunity for Somali youth groups to learn more about the various roles and responsibilities of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and discuss community issues and concerns with government representatives. Meeting participants discussed ways in which Somali youth and government entities can improve communication and build trust in a variety of ways, from convening regular youth summits to supporting and participating in youth sporting activities.

To learn more, you can read an article that a Twin Cities newspaper, *Mogadishu Times*, ran on the meeting, recently translated into English: “[Historic Conference Between Somali Youth and US Government in Minneapolis.](#)”

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Image of the Somali Youth Summit. Photo courtesy of Mogadishu Times (www.mogadishutimes.com) and www.photobucket.com.

State and Major Urban Area Fusion Center Program Stakeholder Meeting

On February 18, 2011, CRCL held a stakeholder meeting on the DHS State and Major Urban Area Fusion Center program to inform CRCL's upcoming Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Impact Assessment of the program to Congress. Section §511 of the [Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007](#) ("the Act") directed DHS to (in coordination with federal partners) establish partnerships with state, local, and regional fusion centers. More information about fusion centers can be found [here](#).



Image of the State and Major Urban Area Fusion Center Program stakeholder meeting

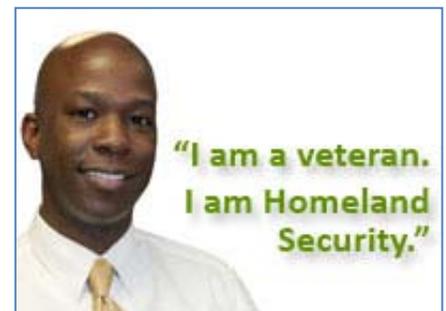
The Act also directed CRCL to submit a report to Congress concerning the civil liberties impact of the program. The first CRCL [Fusion Center Program](#) impact assessment was completed in December 2008; CRCL organized the stakeholder meeting as part of the standard process of creating an updated assessment for individuals and communities most affected by the program.

During the meeting, a wide range of stakeholders—including government partners, community and advocacy organizations—convened to discuss DHS's Fusion Center Program and offered feedback concerning the civil rights and civil liberties impact of the program. Some participants sought information, for example, about protections against unlawful racial or ethnic profiling being conducted by fusion centers; others spoke about the importance of ensuring fusion center compliance with constitutional protections such as the First and Fourth Amendments. These and other issues discussed during the meeting will be considered in CRCL's upcoming impact assessment.

DHS and Wounded Warriors

Secretary Napolitano has announced an ambitious goal for DHS to employ 50,000 veteran civilian employees by 2012—substantial growth from the Department's current veteran roster of 47,000. CRCL is one of many crucial partners in meeting this commitment, focusing on work with disabled veterans through programs such as the Wounded Warriors program. One of many events in this effort occurred two weeks ago, when CRCL offered a résumé writing class for disabled veterans, providing a detailed overview of the structure and format of the federal résumé, federal hiring websites, and the three-tier hiring process used by federal agencies – even holding one-on-one sessions with each participant. The résumé class preceded a large interagency Wounded Warriors employment conference on February 25, 2011, at Ft. Belvoir, VA. The conference brought together several hundred participants, and offered workshops on networking, an employment fair, and an opportunity for veterans to share their employment history with hiring managers from federal agencies across the Washington metropolitan area.

The Department is committed to engaging the unique talents, skills, and work ethic of veterans through employment, contracting opportunities, and outreach with the veteran community. Last year, DHS hired 3,192 veterans, including 708 disabled veterans; of those, 436 employees had a 30 percent or higher disability ratings. Read more about [Veterans and Homeland Security](#).



CRCL on the Road

February 1-4 – Houston, Texas

CRCL attended meetings with diverse ethnic and community-based organizations.

February 7 – Columbus, Ohio

CRCL co-hosted a roundtable meeting with the Somali Law Enforcement Advisory Committee.

February 7-10 – Glynco, Georgia

CRCL reviewed a new training course for state and local law enforcement personnel.

February 8 – Detroit, Michigan

The CRCL Officer attended meetings with CBP personnel, met with a community group, and spoke at a University of Michigan ACLU event.

February 9 – Jackson, Mississippi

CRCL led a training of state and local law enforcement professionals at the Mississippi Fusion Center.

February 21-24 – San Diego, California

CRCL attended meetings with diverse ethnic and community-based organizations and attended a Somali youth roundtable.

February 22-25 – Florence, Italy

CRCL attended a conference on Muslim minorities, migration, and security in the transatlantic space.

February 23-25 – Nashville, Tennessee

CRCL presented at a continuing legal education class and spoke about the history of employment verification in the U.S.

February 18-25 – Doha, Qatar

CRCL attended a Federal Officer and Congressional Staff visit to the State of Qatar to conduct a cultural and law enforcement exchange of best practices in promoting an open society.

February 25 – Boston, Massachusetts

CRCL led a regular roundtable meeting with diverse ethnic and community-based organizations.

February 28 – Northern Kentucky

CRCL led a civil rights and civil liberties training of state and local law enforcement personnel.

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. 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.

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Prior newsletters:

Issue 1 (Sept. 2010) *About this Newsletter • Civil Rights Complaints • Anti-Discrimination Obligations for Recipients of DHS Financial Support • Expanded Community Engagement*

Issue 2 (Oct. 2010) *CRCL Leads Presentation on Children • Guidance to Travelers Carrying Religious Articles • New Environmental Justice Group • DHS and Hispanic Heritage Month • ITACG Impact Assessment Completed*

Issue 3 (Nov. 2010) *New Website Launched • CRCL Submits Annual Report to Congress • ICC Submits Annual Report to the President • Complaints Process Improved • Universal Periodic Review, Before the UN Human Rights Council • Human Rights Day, December 10 • CRCL Expands Community Outreach Roundtables • CRCL Leadership*

Issue 4 (Jan. 2011) *Message from the Officer • If You See Something, Say Something Listening Session • E-Verify Rights and Responsibilities Videos • Training of Trainers • EEO Complaints Backlog Reduced • Expanded Los Angeles Roundtable Kickoff*