

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

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<https://oversight.house.gov>

October 24, 2023

The Honorable Ur M. Jaddou
Director
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
Department of Homeland Security
5900 Capital Gateway Drive
Camp Springs, MD 20746

Dear Director Jaddou:

We write with concern over a report¹ about a current U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) adjudication officer who celebrated recent atrocities committed by Hamas, a designated Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO), and has made repeated disparaging remarks about Jews and Israelis. Antisemites and those who glorify and celebrate terrorism and the slaughter of innocents have no business interacting with the public on behalf of the American government, and certainly should not be given authority to adjudicate immigration benefits. We request documents and information to conduct oversight of USCIS's apparent failure to vet this individual's suitability for employment and what USCIS is doing to ensure this employee is removed and her cases reviewed.

According to a report, USCIS hired an employee who celebrated recent terrorist activity, excused the brutal slaughter of innocents in Israel as justified "resistance" and displayed a clear bias against Jews and Israelis. Specifically, that report states that Nejwa Ali worked for USCIS as an asylum officer before becoming an adjudication officer.² This employee has recently used her social media accounts to promote content celebrating recent Hamas atrocities that have caused the death of thousands, including dozens of Americans.

One post displayed Hamas terrorists paragliding with weapons accompanied by the text "Free PALESTINE."³ Instead of Hamas, she blamed Jews and Israelis for the slaughter, writing "Israeli, American privilege is disgusting...I hold every Israeli accountable for their governments (sic) actions, IF they do not speak against Israel."⁴ She has also posted antisemitic content, including a video captioned "F*** Israel and any Jew who supports Israel."⁵ Another post celebrated the ultimate goals of Hamas, stating "F*** Israel, the government, and its military. Are you ready for your downfall?"⁶ She has also justified the mass murder of innocent civilians

¹ Luke Rosiak, *The U.S. Gov't Hired A Pro-Hamas PLO Spokeswoman To Handle Asylum Claims*, THE DAILY WIRE (Oct. 18, 2023).

² *Supra*, n.1.

³ *Id.*

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ *Id.*

by Hamas as the inevitable outcome of “resistance”, writing “Respect our existence, or expect resistance. Simple. No Apologies.” Apparently, this recent conduct is not an isolated incident, as her views have been made known on her various social media accounts for years, where she has previously promoted boycotting Israel and referring to Israel as “APARTHEID Israel.”⁷

Asylum officers “[a]djudicate asylum applications, conduct credible and reasonable fear screenings, and adjudicate other benefit applications managed by the asylum program...”⁸ It is unfortunate that foreign nationals who made claims for protection in the United States due to alleged persecution in their home countries on account of a protected ground—including race, religion, or membership in a particular social group⁹—may have had their cases reviewed by an employee who harbors such repugnant views. Among other duties, adjudication officers “review and make determinations on cases for immigration benefits.”¹⁰

Immigration and naturalization adjudications must be held to high quality standards to ensure that only those who are legally eligible for benefits receive them. The stakes are high for those who seek to reside in this country or become a U.S. citizen and for the American people. Our country has learned, through painful loss, that bad actors and terrorists will exploit any vulnerability in our lawful immigration system to gain a foothold in the United States.¹¹ There is no justification for permitting an open terrorist sympathizer and antisemite to have authority to determine immigration benefits. We are also concerned that this employee may have acted out her bias in adjudications. Accurate adjudications that protect against ineligible applicants, deliver a fair process for qualified applicants, and guard against national security threats must be the priority for the agency.

To assist our oversight into how an antisemitic terrorist sympathizer gained employment with USCIS and authority over immigration benefits, please provide the following documents and communications as soon as possible, but no later than November 7, 2023:

1. All documents and communications related to the hiring of Nejwa Ali by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) or any component agency, including but not limited to any Standard Form (SF)-50 Notification of Personnel Action, SF-52 Request for Personnel Action, SF-61 Appointment Affidavits, SF-85 Questionnaire for Non-Sensitive Positions, SF-85P Questionnaire for Public Trust Positions, and/or SF-86 Questionnaire for National Security Positions;

⁷ *See id.*

⁸ Career Opportunities, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, available at <https://www.uscis.gov/about-us/careers/career-opportunities> (last visited Oct. 18, 2023).

⁹ INA 208(b); 101(a)(42)(A) (“...persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion...”).

¹⁰ *Supra*, n.8.

¹¹ *The 9/11 Commission Report: final report of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks upon the United States*, (July 22, 2004) at pg. 384, available at <https://govinfo.library.unt.edu/911/report/911Report.pdf> (“For terrorists, travel documents are as important as weapons...In their travels, terrorists use evasive methods, such as altered and counterfeit passports and visas, specific travel methods and routes, liaisons with corrupt government officials, human smuggling networks, supportive travel agencies, and immigration and identity fraud... We found that as many as 15 of the 19 hijackers were potentially vulnerable to interception by border authorities”).

The Honorable Director Jaddou

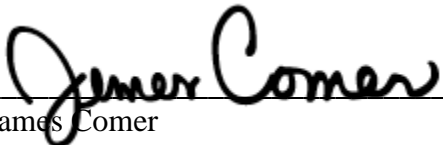
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2. All documents and communications related to any background check completed for Nejwa Ali, including but not limited to any check done pursuant to an employment decision, as a condition of ongoing employment, or related to obtaining or maintaining a security clearance;
3. All documents and communications related to the personnel file of Nejwa Ali, including any personnel action including but not limited to disciplinary action;
4. All documents and communications containing any complaints against Nejwa Ali by other personnel, the public, or applicants for benefits;
5. All documents and communications related to any concerns of bias or adjudication integrity concerns pertaining to Nejwa Ali;
6. All documents and communications related to USCIS's receipt of, discussion of, or response to any media inquiry regarding Nejwa Ali;
7. All documents and communications related to any action taken by USCIS to respond to reports of antisemitic behavior or terrorist sympathies by Nejwa Ali.

To arrange for delivery of responsive documents or ask any related follow-up questions, please contact the Committee on Oversight and Accountability Majority staff at (202) 225-5074. Attached are instructions for producing the documents and information to the Committee. The Committee on Oversight and Accountability is the principal oversight committee of the U.S. House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate "any matter" at "any time" under House Rule X. Thank you in advance for your cooperation with this inquiry.

Sincerely,



James Comer
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Accountability



Glenn Grothman
Chairman
Subcommittee on National Security,
the Border, and Foreign Affairs

cc: The Honorable Jamie Raskin, Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Accountability

The Honorable Robert Garcia, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on National Security, the Border, and Foreign Affairs