

Memorandum of Understanding
between the
United States Attorney's Office for the District of Minnesota
and the
Somali American Taskforce

The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Minnesota (USAOMN) and the Somali American Taskforce (SATF) agree as follows:

Article I. Purpose of Memorandum of Understanding:

- a) This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) sets forth the terms and understanding between the USAOMN and the SATF to implement the Building Community Resilience (BCR) pilot program.
- b) The BCR is a crime prevention pilot program that focuses on addressing the root causes of radicalization to violence, by providing resources to prevent young people from seeking to become involved in criminal activity, provide community-based support and increase engagement between government stakeholders, law enforcement and the Somali Minnesotan community.
- c) BCR will NOT be used as a tool to conduct surveillance on the Somali Minnesotan community or to build intelligence databases about participants of the various programs under the BCR umbrella. BCR is led by the Somali Minnesotan community to increase support and resources to enhance opportunities for Somali Minnesotans.

Article II. Background:

In February 2015, the White House hosted an international summit to address violent extremism. President Obama invited a delegation from the Twin Cities, Boston and Los Angeles. Seven members of the Somali Minnesotan community joined the government and law enforcement officials to present our community-led initiative to counter violent extremism called "Building Community Resilience."

Minnesota is home to the largest Somali-American population in North America, which some estimate to be more than 100,000. Somalis started moving to Minnesota in the early 1990s for many reasons including better education and job opportunities, increase access to health care systems, for an improved environment and to pursue the American dream.

During the last twenty years, the community has made strides to improve life for Somali Minnesotans. However, the community still faces daunting challenges particularly among its youth and young adults. These challenges include: identity crises; under employment; disparities

in healthcare; stymied economic opportunity; gang violence; and targeted recruitment by violent overseas terrorist organizations.

Beginning in 2007, violent extremist organizations such as al-Shabaab, and now more recently ISIL, have successfully targeted and recruited more than three dozen individuals from the Somali Minnesotan community to fight overseas for terrorist organizations.

Article III. Scope of the work:

a) Prevention/Research:

The first component of the BCR pilot program is to identify root causes of radicalization to violence. This committee will work to address the primary root causes of radicalization, including identity issues, community isolation, disaffected youth, lack of adequate role models and limited economic opportunities. Inequality and low social mobility have persisted at unhealthy levels in the Somali Minnesotan community and contribute to the success of al Shabaab, ISIS and other criminal organizations. By creating educational and professional opportunities for young people and expanding after-school youth programming, we will seek to address the factors that have created the environment in which criminal organizations have successfully appealed to youth and young adults. Additionally the committee will work with an independent research team to study the phenomena of violent extremism within the community.

b) Support Teams:

The second component is to empower community-led organizations to support and guide young people who have become disconnected from their families. Community-led teams will consist of parents, imams, teachers, coaches, youth advocates and mental health professionals to collaborate and provide support and resources for young people and families who are struggling.

c) Engagement:

The third component is to increase positive engagement between law enforcement, government and the Minnesota Somali community to build trust and understanding. The BCR pilot program will host community events designed to increase Somali Minnesotans understanding of the United States Government and criminal justice system, including the civil rights and civil liberties of all individuals. Likewise the committee will work with federal, state, and local law enforcement to develop a deeper understanding of Somali cultural traditions and history.

Article IV. Responsibilities of the SATF:

1. Implement the BCR project in the Somali Minnesotan community.
2. Provide community needs assessments and guidelines for grants solicitations.
3. Consult with the Somali Minnesotan community and work on their behalf.
4. Raise money for BCR initiatives.
5. Engage in public relations on behalf of the BCR for the purpose of transparency and community involvement.

6. Work towards empowering our community and encouraging all of their concerns about the BCR be addressed.
7. The Committee will work to protect the civil rights and civil liberties of Somali Minnesotans.

Article V. Funding:

This MOU is not a commitment of funds to any members or organizations represented on this committee. A separate committee comprised of foundation representatives and others will oversee the grant process. No members of this committee will serve on the committee overseeing the grant process.

Article VI. Duration:

SATF role shall be limited to the duration of the BCR.

Article VII. Effective Date:

This MOU is at will and may be modified by mutual consent of authorized officials from the USAOMN and SATF. This MOU is effective the date of its signing by the USAOMN and SATF.

Article VIII. Other:

This MOU will be made in duplicate in Somali and English languages with both versions being equally authentic and publicly available.

Upon signing this document, the USAOMN and SATF agree that the BCR pilot program will not be used to collect intelligence by either party to the MOU.

The BCR pilot program, or any programs under the umbrella of the BCR pilot program, will not be used for surveillance purposes by any law enforcement agency or by any person working for or on behalf of any law enforcement agency.

The disbursement of funds by the granting committees of the BCR will not be dependent on or allow for the surveillance by any law enforcement agency or by any person working for or on behalf of any law enforcement agency.

Somali American Taskforce

<u>Abdisalam Adam</u>	Date: 5/11/15
<u>Fartun Weli</u>	Date: 5/11/15
<u>Abdimalik Mohamed</u>	Date: 5/11/15
<u>Hodan Hassan</u>	Date: 5/11/15
<u>Abdirahman Omer</u>	Date: 5/11/15
<u>Ahmed Burale</u>	Date: 5/11/15
<u>Abdirigan Bihi</u>	Date: 5/11/15
<u>Mohamed Farah</u>	Date: 5/11/15
<u>Mohamed Mohamed</u>	Date: 5/11/15
<u>SAPA</u>	Date:
<u>Jehi with VETAJ</u>	Date:
<u>Weerd 6 / Abdi Salah</u>	Date: 5/13/15
<u>1/4 Hashi Shafi, Somali Action Alliance</u>	Date: 5/14/15
<u>Mahmed Omar, CR4C</u>	Date: 5/14/15

U.S. Attorney District of Minnesota

Date: 5/11/15