

[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

**From:** Ames, Andrew C. (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Monday, November 20, 2017 3:47 PM  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: Urgent: Response requested - Al Jazeera  
**Attachments:** FBI 1035-1037.pdf; FBI 1057-1059.pdf; OIAC Fusion Center.pdf; IA 253.pdf; NPPD 2055.pdf; DHS Field Analysis Report.pdf

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Sweta,

I received your note from [redacted] My office handles daily media inquiries rather than long form media. Thank you for your inquiry. As a matter of practice, we do not comment on FOIA documents nor do we comment on other agency's FOIA documents.

For your story, here is our on the record statement regarding our legal authorities:

"The FBI investigates activity which may constitute a federal crime or pose a threat to national security and cannot initiate an investigation based solely on an individual's race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, or the exercise of First Amendment rights. The FBI remains committed to protecting those rights for all Americans. Our focus is not on membership in particular groups but on individuals who commit violence and other criminal acts. Furthermore, the FBI does not and will not police ideology. When an individual takes violent action based on belief or ideology and breaks the law, the FBI will enforce the rule of law."

I'd also like to discuss your story with you over the phone if you have a moment.

Sincerely,

Andrew C. Ames  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
National Press Office  
Desk: [redacted]  
Cell: [redacted]

**From:** Sweta Vohra [redacted]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 20, 2017 1:20 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI) <adbell@fbi.gov>; mediainquiry@dhs.gov  
**Subject:** Urgent: Response requested - Al Jazeera

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To [redacted] and the DHS press officer,

My name is Sweta Vohra and I am journalist with Al Jazeera English based in New York City. [redacted] we have been in touch recently regarding a story that I was working on. This is a follow-up to that request.

I have been given access to six internal FBI and DHS documents that have been turned over to the Center for Constitutional Rights and Color of Change through a FOIA lawsuit regarding surveillance of Black Lives Matter.

I have attached the six documents to this email.

We are going to press **Wednesday, November 22nd** with the documents and reactions from the Center for Constitutional Rights, Color of Change and a national security expert. The analysis being put forth in the article broadly states that Black Lives Matter protests are being assessed as violent or threatening by both agencies, without explanation, potentially allowing the FBI and DHS to conduct surveillance on what would otherwise be a protected 1st Amendment activity. Additionally, we explore how that assessment compares to a DHS analysis on white supremacist events.

What is the FBI and DHS response to the language in these documents as well as this analysis?

This will be for a print article on our website. I request a response in writing by **EOB tomorrow, Tuesday November 21st.**

Many thanks,  
Sweta

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Sweta Vohra  
Al Jazeera Network | Producer, Fault Lines  
200 Liberty Street, 18th Floor  
New York, NY 10280

[Redacted] (M)  
[Redacted]

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