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ABUSES BY BORDER PATROL RELATED TO TRUMP ADMINISTRATION EXECUTIVE ORDER ON IMMIGRATION: COMPLAINT SUBMITTED TO DHS INSPECTOR

February 8, 2017

February 7, 2017, New York – A complaint documenting the systematic deprivation of rights at airports around the country over the past ten days in connection with Donald Trump’s January 27, 2017 executive order was submitted last night by the Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR) and the Kathryn O. Greenberg Immigration Justice Clinic at the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law. Twenty-six accounts of these abuses were submitted as part of a formal complaint to the Office of the Inspector General for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), which is conducting an investigation.

The accounts in this complaint show how Customs and Border Protection refused to allow attorneys and clients to communicate amid widespread turmoil and rights violations, meaning that long-time residents and others with valid visas were intimidated and coerced into waiving their rights, unable to obtain medical treatment, and deported in violation of court orders.

Among the declarations included in the complaint is one by Suha Amin Abdullah Abushamma, a citizen of Sudan and a doctor of internal medicine at the Cleveland Clinic with a valid H-1B visa issued in April 2016, who returned from a short visit to family in Saudi Arabia and was detained at JFK Airport. “The United States is my home,” she said. “My apartment with all my things except what I packed for my vacation, my car, my job, and my fiancé all are in the United States.” She was threatened and coerced into signing a document agreeing to deportation, and then sent back to Saudi

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The Indie Film Clinic hosted a pop-up event

Arabia. CBP repeatedly denied her requests to call her immigration attorney and lied to her: a “supervisor then told me that an order that would allow me to stay in the United States would need to come from the Supreme Court, and that this would not happen. They told me that my lawyers could not do anything to help me in my situation and so I should just sign the form. I now know that what they told me was not true.”

The complaint calls on DHS and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to implement a system for ensuring that individuals detained in these airport inspection facilities have access to counsel to ensure that similar abuses do not occur.

Said attorney [Lindsay Nash](https://www.cardozo.yu.edu/directory/lindsay-nash) (<https://www.cardozo.yu.edu/directory/lindsay-nash>), a visiting professor at Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, “These accounts show that CBP’s policy of refusing to let attorneys and clients communicate led to exactly the types of harms that the assistance of counsel should prevent: unlawful detention and deportations, and coercion of people who did not understand their legal rights. To prevent widespread rights violations like this in the future, CBP must ensure that individuals detained in airports have access to counsel.”

The Center for Constitutional Rights is dedicated to advancing and protecting the rights guaranteed by the United States Constitution and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Founded in 1966 by attorneys who represented civil rights movements in the South, CCR is a non-profit legal and educational organization committed to the creative use of law as a positive force for social change. Visit www.ccrjustice.org (<http://www.ccrjustice.org>) and follow [@theCCR](https://twitter.com/theCCR) ([https://twitter.com](https://twitter.com/theCCR)) [/theCCR?ref_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Eauthor](https://twitter.com/theCCR?ref_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Eauthor)).

at Ghetto Film School (GFS) in the Bronx on Thursday, offering free legal services to independent filmmakers.

February 25, 2018

[Longtime Former Cardozo Professor Alex Stein Chosen for Israeli Supreme Court \(/news/longtime-former-cardozo-professor-alex-stein-chosen-israeli-supreme-court\)](#)

Co-Directors of Cardozo's Israeli Supreme Court Project comment below on the news of former Cardozo Professor Alex Stein's appointment to the Israeli Supreme Court.

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Congratulations to Professor Alexander Reinert, Director of Cardozo's Center for Rights and Justice.

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