

I Tweeted Chicago Protesters Were 'Ready' for Harris. Then, I Got the Call From the FBI

My post would not have been considered threatening if I were not Muslim or Palestinian. The pro-Harris partisans who reported the post know that.



EMAN ABDELHADI

AUG 21, 2024 • PAID



391



71



58

Share



Eman Abdelhadi @emanabdelhadi · Aug 16

Just got the call from the FBI.
Thanks everyone.



516



1.1K



8.5K



2.5M



Eman Abdelhadi
@emanabdelhadi

For folks wondering if it was a scam. It was definitely the FBI. Just got off a three way call with them and the lawyer I acquired this morning thanks to incredible community support. The issue seems to have been resolved for now. Extremely triggering way to spend the day.

1:59 PM · Aug 16, 2024 · **151.1K** Views



118



232



3.4K



82



CHICAGO – On Friday morning, I got a voicemail from the FBI. When my phone rang and Apple registered it as the “US Government,” I knew exactly who it would be. For the past week, **Kamala Harris** supporters have been bombarding my social media

pages with proud declarations that they'd reported me to the federal government as well as my employer for "threatening the Vice President."

The post that solicited the harassment was about protests. After Harris silenced an genocide protesters in Michigan, I said "Oh Kamala is NOT ready for Chicago. But don't worry; we're ready for her," referencing the upcoming Democratic National Convention, where over 200 groups have promised to march on the DNC to protest against the party's complicity in Israel's genocide in Gaza, its right-wing turn on immigration, police brutality, and more.

Immediately, Harris-followers labeled the post as dangerous and threatening and the slew of harassment began. I followed the post with another saying her cruel reaction to protesters would energize street protests. "You know damn well I was talking about protests," I chided one of the accounts that had led the charge. But still, the K-Hive marched on. Supporters even took to my email and my Instagram to threaten me or let me know I'd been reported.



The Chanteezy Is Real 🏳️‍🌈💛🌸 @iamchanteezy · Aug 9

This tweet is dangerous and threatening as hell.



Eman Abdelhadi

@emanabdelhadi

Follow

Oh Kamala is NOT ready for Chicago.
But don't worry; we're ready for her.

1:50 AM · 8/8/24 From Earth · **180K** Views

837

1.3K

7.7K

1.2M

1



CBlackburnRyan

@blckburn

I reported it/her and flagged FBI Secret Service and FBI Chicago Field office don't play with [#KHive](#)

10:07 AM · Aug 9, 2024 · **10.4K** Views

20

29

336



As a Muslim, I am no stranger to FBI surveillance. When I was a teenager, my mother worked for an Islamic philanthropic organization that delivered humanitarian aid to orphans and refugees worldwide. It was one of **at least nine** Muslim philanthropic groups closed by the FBI in the early 2000s, a process the American Civil Liberties Union has **called** a "chilling effect" lacking due process.

A widow, my mother raised us on a meager income as she both worked full-time and redid her entire education. Between work, school, and mothering was the FBI. I remember watching her comb through our house, our books, our CDs, our cassette tapes for anything that might be misinterpreted if our house got raided. She fielded calls from the FBI every once in a while. I can picture her face after those calls, terrible but defiant. We learned to whisper even in our homes, to be careful what we said on the telephone. We had not done anything wrong, but we learned early that being Muslim was enough.

In my tight-knit Muslim community, the threat of FBI surveillance tore at our bonds with each other. Two **prominent members** of our mosque were eventually **jailed** for failing to stop relief money from entering Iraq, where **US sanctions** are estimated to have **killed 1.5 to 2 million people**. Everyone in my community knows the story of how they got caught. They received an offer to go on a free vacation as winners of some contest or sweepstakes. While they sat on the beach, the FBI bugged their house.

The possibility of collaborators in our midst hovered over our interactions. Rumors flew left and right about who might be working with them, translating for them. We not know who to trust, and we monitored each other for the slightest evidence.

The FBI has been honing these tactics in Black communities for decades. Between 1956 and 1971, the notorious Counterintelligence Program (COINTELPRO) infiltrated Black communities under the motto **"discredit, disrupt, and destroy."**

They **monitored** intellectuals like James Baldwin, purposefully sowed discord and mistrust within and between organizations, and even aided local police in **assassinating** Fred Hampton.

Surveillance of Black activists **did not stop** with COINTELPRO. Black Lives Matter activists **have also been** surveilled by the FBI. We likely will not know the full extent of its interventions in the movement for decades.

My post would not have been considered threatening if I were not Muslim or Palestinian. Those who called the FBI know that. They invoked the arm of the state that's been honed to silence dissent and monitor those of us deemed undesirable as "threatening." They did so while warning that fascism is at the door with Donald Trump on the ballot – that democracy itself is on the line.

At best, this is simply not a winning strategy. It confirms the worst fears of Arab and Muslim voters, that we are disposable to the party that claims to serve us best and feels entitled to our votes. At worst, it enables fascism in the name of preventing it; it kills democracy in the name of protecting it. We all deserve better.

ZETEO TOWN HALL AFTER KAMALA HARRIS' DNC SPEECH

*On Thursday, Mehdi and **Zeteo** political reporter Prem Thakker will host a live Town Hall Q&A for **paid** subscribers, debriefing Harris' speech, highlighting the most important moments of the convention, and answering your questions about what comes next. Be on the lookout for that registration on Thursday afternoon.*



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A guest post by

Eman Abdelhadi

Eman Abdelhadi is a scholar, writer and organizer based in Chicago. She teaches at the University of Chicago and is a columnist at In These Times mag.

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Comments Restacks



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Amal El Sabrouty Amal El Sabrouty Aug 21, 2024

This is extremely disturbing - so much for freedom and democracy

LIKE (25) REPLY



5 replies



Eric Gross Parking Lot Dispatch Aug 21, 2024

I am so sorry. Nobody deserves this.

LIKE (23) REPLY



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