

JIHAD WATCH



FBI, DOJ argue for dismissal of suit about their foreknowledge of Garland, Texas jihad attack

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This case should not be dismissed. I was co-sponsor and co-organizer of this event and spoke at it, and was there when the jihadis began firing. And this case is bigger than Bruce Joiner, which is not to say that his case is not of cardinal importance. The FBI clearly knew the attack was coming (although it didn't bother to inform us or our security team), as the FBI agent was right there, following behind the jihadis, whom he

had encouraged to “tear up Texas.” But even though they knew the attack was coming, they didn’t have a team in place to stop the jihadis. They had one man there, and one man only. The jihadis were not stopped by FBI agents, but by our own security team. If the jihadis had gotten through our team, they would have killed Pamela Geller and me, and many others. (They would no doubt have loved to kill Geert Wilders, but he left before they arrived.)

The Daily Beast [wrote in August 2016](#) about how this undercover FBI agent encouraged the jihadis. The Beast’s Katie Zavadski wrote: “Days before an ISIS sympathizer attacked a cartoon contest in Garland, Texas, he received a text from an undercover FBI agent. ‘Tear up Texas,’ the agent messaged Elton Simpson days before he opened fire at the Draw Muhammad event, according to an affidavit ([pdf](#)) filed in federal court Thursday.”

What was the FBI’s game in telling them to “tear up Texas”? Why didn’t they have a phalanx of agents in place, ready to stop the attack? Or did they want the attack to succeed, so that Barack Obama’s vow that “the future must not belong to those who slander the prophet of Islam” would be vividly illustrated, and intimidate any other Americans who might be contemplating defending the freedom of speech into silence?

We twice asked the FBI for an investigation into this matter. They ignored us. Of course. After all, it isn’t as if this happened to someone important, like Linda Sarsour.

Now that we are learning how corrupt and compromised the FBI really is, the last thing this case should be is dismissed. We need a full investigation of the FBI’s activities leading up to the Garland jihad attack.

“FBI, DOJ Argue for Dismissal of Suit About Garland, Texas Attack,” by Todd Shepherd, [Washington Free Beacon](#), January 15, 2018:

The FBI and the Department of Justice are arguing for a liability case against them to be dismissed, while at the same time admitting to key details surrounding the bureau’s involvement in the 2015 terrorist attack on the “Draw Muhammad” event in Garland, Texas.

In that attack, the first in the United States for which ISIS claimed responsibility, Elton Simpson and Nadir Soofi, drove to the Curtis Culwell Center in Garland in a car loaded with six guns and over a thousand rounds of ammunition.

The two men opened fire when they were stopped at a perimeter checkpoint. A security guard, Bruce Joiner, was shot in the leg and the two attackers were killed just yards away from where the shooting began.

Joiner [filed suit](#) last October, claiming the FBI was partially responsible for his injuries. His suit argues the bureau “solicited, encouraged, directed and aided members of ISIS in planning and carrying out the May 3 attack,” and is asking for just over \$8 million damages.

Court filings from Thursday confirm that an undercover FBI agent was in a separate car directly behind the attackers when they opened fire, and that the agent, “was dressed in Middle Eastern attire and police almost killed him, but he saved his life by claiming to be an FBI agent.”

Lawyers with the Justice Department are asking the court to dismiss the case, arguing that the FBI is immune from liability under the Federal Tort Claims Act.

The origins of the attack stretch to Paris, France, in January of 2015 when radicalized Islamists killed 12 people at the offices of the satirical magazine *Charlie Hebdo* for the magazine’s depictions of the Prophet Muhammad.

Fewer than two weeks after the *Charlie Hebdo* attack, an Islamic group held a conference at the Culwell Center in Garland, called, “Stand With the Prophet in Honor and Respect.”

As a counter to the Islamic conference, self-described “free speech advocate” Pamela Gellar organized the “First Annual Muhamed (sic) Art Exhibit and Contest,” also to be held at the Culwell Center, slated for May of 2015.

Simpson and Soofi were part of a small cell of radical Islamists in the Phoenix area, which the FBI had been monitoring. An undercover agent, identified in Thursday’s filings only as “UCE-1,” had infiltrated the group for some time and had been in communication with Simpson.

Documents from a separate court case shed light on just how deep the agent’s activity had been, which included the following messaging between “UCE-1” and Simpson about the upcoming “Draw Muhammed” event:

UCE-1: Tear up Texas.

Simpson: Bro, u don’t have to say that...U know what happened in Paris...I think...Yes or no...?

UCE-1: Right.

Simpson: So that goes without saying...No need to be direct.

A *60 Minutes* [exposé](#) last March first revealed that the undercover agent was in a separate car directly behind Simpson and Soofi when the attack began, that the agent was taking pictures of the pair just seconds before they opened fire, and that the undercover agent tried to flee the scene once the attack began but was apprehended by local police.

The government's only comment in response to the *60 Minutes* report last March was to say, "There was no advance knowledge of a plot to attack the cartoon drawing contest in Garland, Texas."

Joiner's attorney, Trenton Roberts, says his client sued in an effort to get to the bottom of the FBI's involvement in the attack.

Roberts says there are only two explanations of what transpired that day with the undercover agent.

"It seems like it had to have been one or the other," [Roberts told](#) the *Washington Examiner*. "Just a complete botched operation where they [the FBI] don't want the attack to actually take place, or, it's something where they need the attack to take place in order for this guy [the agent] to advance in the world of ISIS."

"And that's really what I think. I think that they thought, 'he's undercover and in order to advance, he needed to get pictures or video of this attack,' and then that would bolster his street cred within ISIS," Roberts said.

The government's response claimed that Joiner's lawsuit, "provides only rank speculation that UCE-1 met up with and followed Simpson and Soofi to the event, and provides no well-plead factual allegations regarding what exactly UCE-1 did at or immediately before the event that could constitute the assistance, direction, solicitation, or encouragement of an assault. Rather, the only communication Plaintiff can point to as a basis for the assault claim is the comment to 'tear up Texas.'"

The curiosities surrounding the case have drawn the notice of some congressional leaders.

Ron Johnson (R., Wis.), chairman of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, complained in [April of last year](#) that he was learning details of the FBI's involvement in the attack only through the media, and two years after the fact.