



P.O. Box 77208, Atlanta, GA 30357
770.303.8111 | syoung@acluga.org

March 5, 2018

Sheriff Jud Smith
Barrow County Sheriff's Office
Administration Annex
233 East Broad Street
Winder, GA 30680
jsmith@barrowsheriff.com

Frank Rotondo
Executive Director
Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police
3500 Duluth Park Lane, Suite 700
Duluth, GA 30096
membership@gachiefs.com

Ken Vance
Executive Director, Georgia Peace Officer
Standards and Training Council
P.O. Box 349
Clarkdale, GA 30111
kvance@mbcunification.com

Via E-mail

Re: Law Enforcement Expressly Targeting People of the Muslim Faith

Dear Sheriff Smith, Mr. Rotondo, and Mr. Vance,

America is a land of religious freedom, and both the First Amendment and the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution forbid the government from targeting Americans based on their faith, whatever faith that may be.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Georgia writes to express our deep concern about an inflammatory, hateful, and potentially unconstitutional "training course" scheduled for March 8, 2018, which is being organized by the Barrow County Sheriff's Office and is allegedly "approved" by the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police (GACP), titled "Islam in America."¹ For the reasons stated below, we urge the Barrow Country Sheriff's Office to cancel this training and, if the allegations about the GACP's endorsement is correct, we ask that the GACP immediately withdraw its approval. This so-called "training," in addition to being potentially in violation of the Constitution, is an affront to the professionalism of our brave men and women in uniform, the communities they have sworn to protect, and the taxpayers whose dollars are being

¹ See Exhibit A. The training announcement is found on <http://www.barrowsheriff.com/home/administration-division/training-unit/training-calendar/>. The training announcement alleges that this course has been "approved" by the GACP.

wasted on this program. Failure to immediately cancel this training may also expose your office to constitutional liability under both the First and Fourteenth Amendments.

Branding all people of an entire religion as inherently dangerous is not only un-American, it strongly suggests that law enforcement actions taken by your office are unconstitutionally motivated by discriminatory animus. *See generally Vill. of Arlington Heights v. Metro. Housing Dev. Corp.*, 429 U.S. 252 (1977); *Edwards v. Aguillard*, 482 U.S. 578, 583 (1987). For example, the “curriculum” of this 8-hour training course, which reads more like a hysterical screed rather than a legitimate syllabus, states as follows (*see* Exhibit A):

Class Description: The curriculum includes Muslim Brotherhood, Ideology, Challenges to LE and our Constitution.

This course is to learn the jihadist enemy. How they define themselves by documents and social media, the historical basis to justify their actions, and their inspirations. This course also covers the Grand Jihad to eliminate America by terrorist acts and subversive acts under the Muslim Brotherhood.

This course has been approved by the GACP and instructed to numerous agencies.

The instructor is David Bores. David has been in public service for over 45 years. He was the Chief with Woodstock Police, served with the Cherokee Sheriff’s Office, and retired as a Lieutenant Colonel with the United States Army. He is a graduate with the Southern Police Institute at the University of Louisville and holds two Masters of Science from Jacksonville AL and Georgia College.

Language like “jihadist enemy,” “Grand Jihad,” and “Muslim Brotherhood” have long been used to create unfounded fear and suspicion of any person who might practice the Muslim faith. *See IRAP v. Trump*, 857 F.3d 554, 576, 594 (4th Cir. 2017) (en banc) (comments referring to “Islamic terrorists,” “global jihad,” “horrendous attacks by people that believe only in Jihad,” and “Islam hates us” evidence of unconstitutional discriminatory intent), *vacated as moot*, 138 S. Ct. 353 (2017).

The “course instructor,” David Bores, has a documented history of making inaccurate and dangerous statements regarding Americans of the Muslim faith, as well as claims that they are not entitled to the same rights as Americans who follow other faiths. For example, several years ago, Mr. Bores taught a “course” in Nebraska, the description of which stated that “because Islam is a widely recognized and practiced religion, many believe we must automatically grant to it all the rights and privileges offered to other expressions of worship, lest we be accused of being politically incorrect, of being intolerant of multi-cultural beliefs, or worse, of being labeled Islamophobic.”² Alarmingly, it went on to claim that Mr. Bores would teach how to determine which Muslims were peaceful and which want to “subvert our Constitution by imposing Sharia

² Prosecuting Attorneys’ Council of Georgia, *Course Islamic Ideology: Does It Conflict with Our Law Enforcement Mission* (June 25, 2013) available at http://www.pacga.org/site/protected_docs/Islamist_Ideology1.pdf.

law.” It is unclear which unconstitutional surveillance programs or psychic powers Mr. Bores wishes to promote, but the First Amendment already prohibits United States courts from imposing Sharia or any other religious law.

Mr. Bores was also an adjunct instructor on “radical Islam” for the “Center of Security Policy,” which has a long history of advocating policies targeting people of the Muslim faith and advocating unhinged conspiracy theories, like the unfounded notion that people of the Muslim faith are infiltrating or attempting to take over the United States government. This is a sad historical pastime in this country, similar to the old stereotype that Catholic people were secret agents of the Pope, or the anti-Semitic stereotype that Jewish people are allegedly taking over the government.

As leaders of the law enforcement community, sheriffs and police chiefs should promote accurate and effective trainings for their staff, rather than those that promote unjust racial or religious profiling or offensive stereotypes about people of the Muslim faith. Such prejudice contributes to an environment ripe for hate crimes, including hate crimes or constitutional violations perpetrated by police officers themselves.

Furthermore, allowing Mr. Bores to provide discriminatory and inaccurate information to local law enforcement puts community safety at risk, by severely undermining any sense of trust between communities of faith and police officers when cooperation is often essential to help reduce crime.

Our brave men and women in uniform risk their lives every day to protect our communities. Rather than waste their precious time teaching them how to violate the United States Constitution by discriminating against people based solely on their faith, we demand that you cancel this upcoming training immediately. If it is true that the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police has approved this course, we ask that this approval be withdrawn immediately as well.

Sincerely,



Sean J. Young
Legal Director
ACLU of Georgia

EXHIBIT A



Barrow County Sheriff's Office
233 E. Broad Street, Winder, GA 30680
(770) 307-3080
FOR AN EMERGENCY, DIAL 911

Administration Division Detention Bureau Enforcement Bureau Sheriff's Services Executive Staff
Employment Contact Us

2017						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
	4	5	6	7	8	9
		1. WRAP Restraint Chair (07:00-09:00)	1. WRAP Restraint (07:00-09:00) See n			
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
		1. Basic SWAT level 1 (08:00-17:00)	1. Basic lev (08:00-17:00)			
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
		1. F Report New V Mo (13:00-17:00)				
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
		1. Mandate Prep (08:00-12:00)		1. Mandate Prep (08:00-12:00)		

Training Auditorium BCSO Range YMCA Karate Room DC Training Room MANDATORY TRAINING

All categories

Thursday 08 March 2018

08:00-17:00

Islam in America

Islam in America

Course Dates: March 8, 2018

Length: 8hours

Times: 0800 - 1700

Location: Training Auditorium

Class Description: The curriculum includes Muslim Brotherhood, Ideology, Challenges to LE and our Constitution. This course is to learn the jihadist enemy. How they define themselves by documents and social media, the historical basis to justify their actions, and their inspirations. This course also covers the Grand Jihad to eliminate America by terrorist acts and subversive acts under the Muslim Brotherhood. This course has been approved by the GACP and instructed to numerous agencies. The instructor is David Bores. David has been in public service for over 45 years.



Sign up your loved ones by contacting one of the following people via telephone:

- Captain Cory Almond
- Sergeant Tim Laturrell
- Sheriff Jud Smith

TRAINING RESOURCES

- Training Calendar
- Training Directions
- Training Request Forms



Barrow County Sheriff's Office

233 E. Broad Street, Winder, GA 30680

(770) 307-3080

FOR AN EMERGENCY, DIAL 911

- Administration Division
- Detention Bureau
- Enforcement Bureau
- Sheriff's Services
- Executive Staff
- Employment
- Contact Us

2017						
Su	Mo	Tu	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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- Training Auditorium
- BCSO Range
- YMCA Karate Room
- DC Training Room
- MANDATORY TRAINING
- All categories

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The instructor is David Bores. David has been in public service for over 45 years. He was the Chief with Woodstock Police, served with the Cherokee Sheriff's Office, and retired as a Lieutenant Colonel with the United States Army. He is a graduate with the Southern Police Institute at the University of Louisville and holds two Masters of Science from Jacksonville AL and Georgia College.

Class Prerequisites: None

Min Number of students: 5

Max Number of Students: 50

Instructor: Training Staff

Email your training requests to training@barrowsheriff.com

[Back to event list](#)



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- Sergeant Tim Laturell
- Sheriff Jud Smith

TRAINING RESOURCES

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- Training Directions