

**RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE FBI WHISTLEBLOWER WHO EXPOSED  
ABUSES ON THE USE OF EXIGENT NATIONAL SECURITY LETTERS**

- WHEREAS**, Mr. Bassem Youssef, a high ranking agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI), sought and received permission to address the American Library Association (ALA) on January 12, 2008; and
- WHEREAS**, Mr. Youssef was then prevented by the FBI from giving a prepared speech before the ALA, and the FBI informed Mr. Youssef that he could be released from employment based on comments he made to the ALA; and
- WHEREAS**, Mr. Youssef courageously came before us to answer spontaneous questions about how the FBI is implementing policies affecting the privacy of all Americans, including those of library users; and
- WHEREAS**, Mr. Youssef has brought to light serious abuses by the FBI in administering the use of exigent National Security Letters; and
- WHEREAS**, The ALA had continuously supported the principles of freedom of information and the public's right to know; and
- WHEREAS**, The ALA has condemned the use of National Security Letters to obtain library records; and
- WHEREAS**, The ALA has urged Congress to pursue legislative reforms that protect library users and others from unwarranted searches; and
- WHEREAS**, The ALA has a long standing policy of supporting free expression by all, including government employees; and

Resolution Commending the FBI Whistleblower Who Exposed Abuses on the

Resolution Commending the FBI Whistleblower Who Exposed Abuses on the Use of Exigent National Security Letters/3

**WHEREAS**, An FBI employee must be permitted to expose abuses of the laws enforced by the FBI if the government is to be held accountable by the public; now, therefore, be it

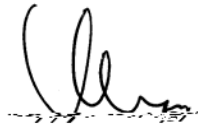
**RESOLVED**, That the American Library Association commends Mr. Bassem Youssef for bringing these serious abuses before the ALA and the American public; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, That the ALA supports and defends Mr. Youssef's right to report on FBI abuses; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, That the ALA urges the FBI to desist from any retaliation against Mr. Youssef for speaking before us; that the ALA communicates these concerns to the Attorney General and the Director of the FBI; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, That the ALA continues to ask Congress to restore and maintain civil liberties, correct the abuse and misuse of National Security Letters and protect the rights of whistleblowers against retaliation.

Adopted by the Council of the American Library Association  
Wednesday, January 16, 2008  
In Philadelphia, Pennsylvania



Keith Michael Fiels  
ALA Executive Director and  
Secretary to the ALA Council