

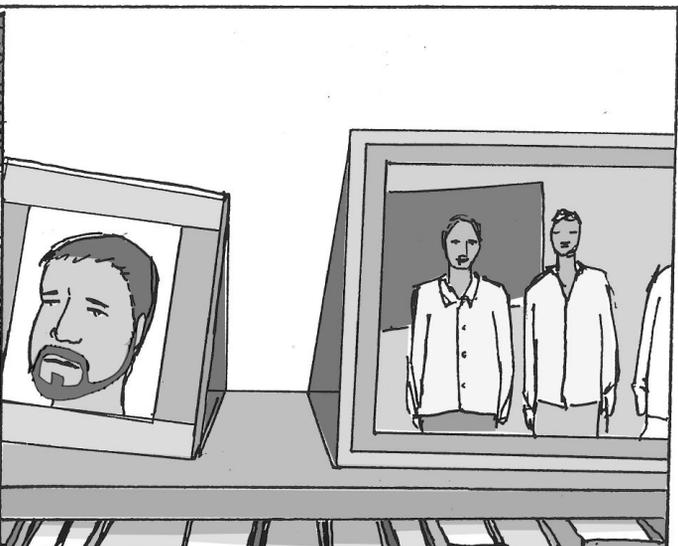
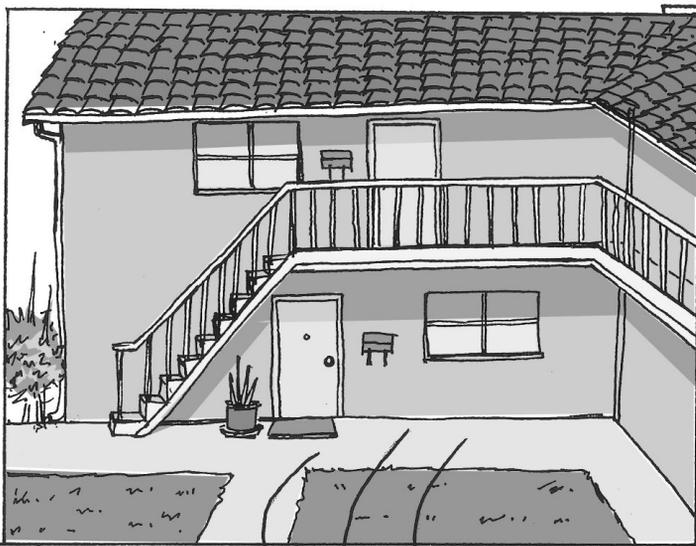
the midnight special law collective presents...

# KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

## Comix

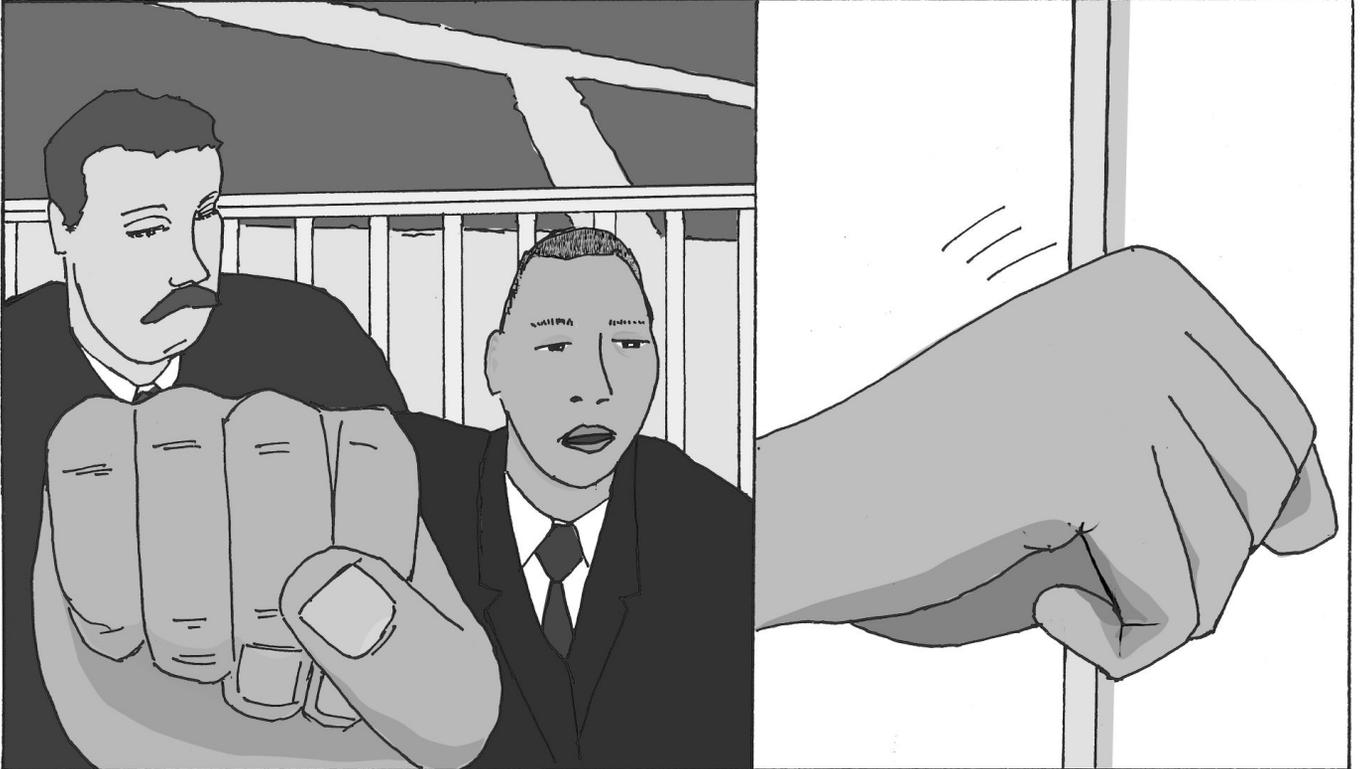


in collaboration with matthew riederer



I still can't believe it-  
Jameel's son getting  
married already!





KNOCK!  
KNOCK!

Who would be visiting at this early hour?

Yes?

Good morning, Mr. Ahmed. I'm Federal Agent Kim, and this is Agent Matthews. We just need to ask you some questions.

What could they want? I haven't done anything. It's probably better if I just cooperate.

Yes, yes, please come in.





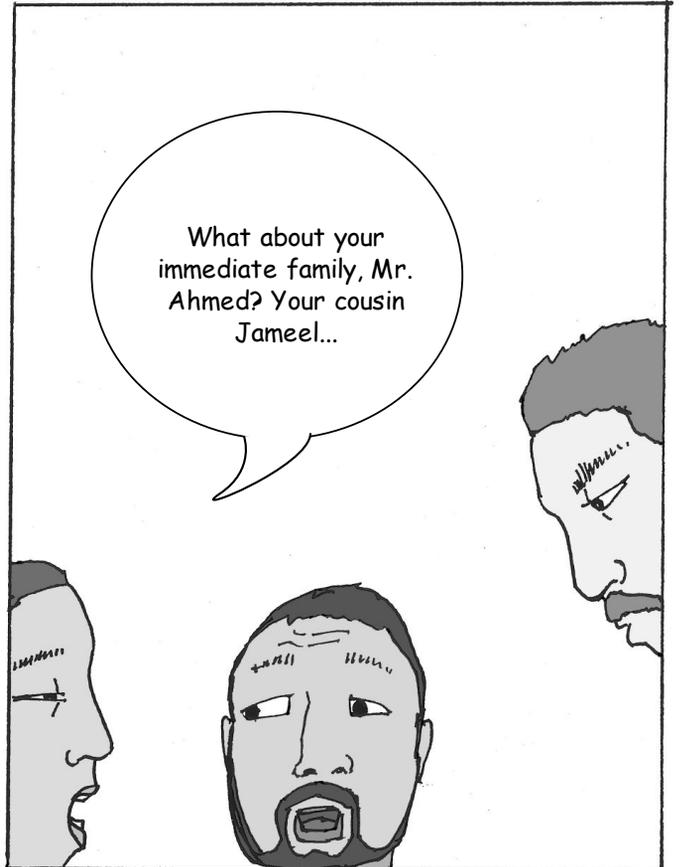
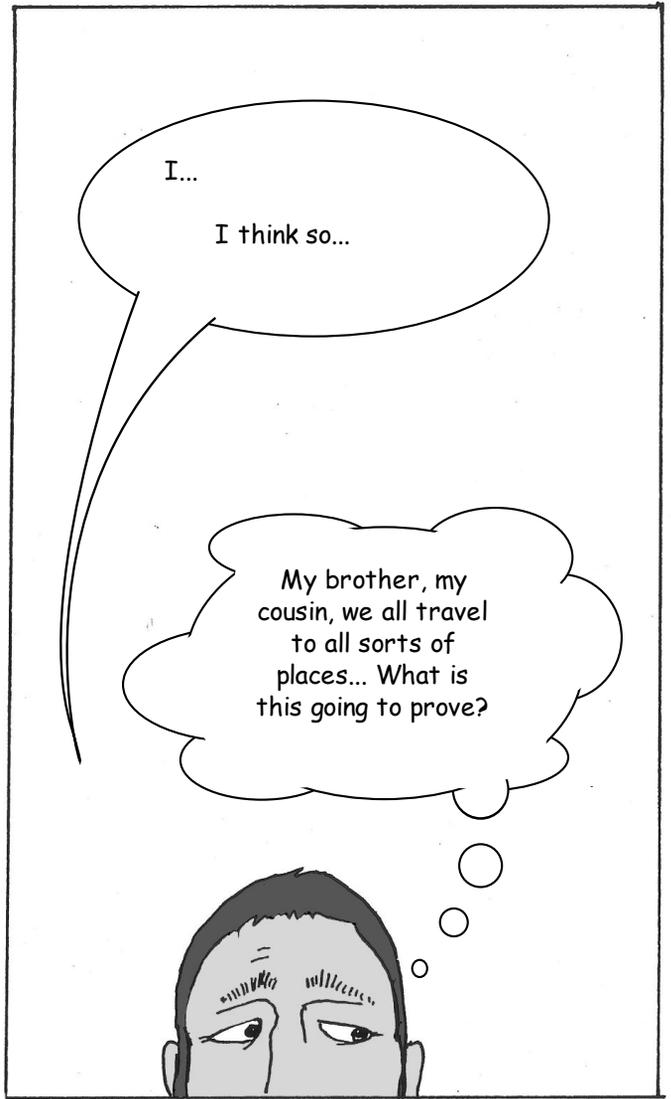
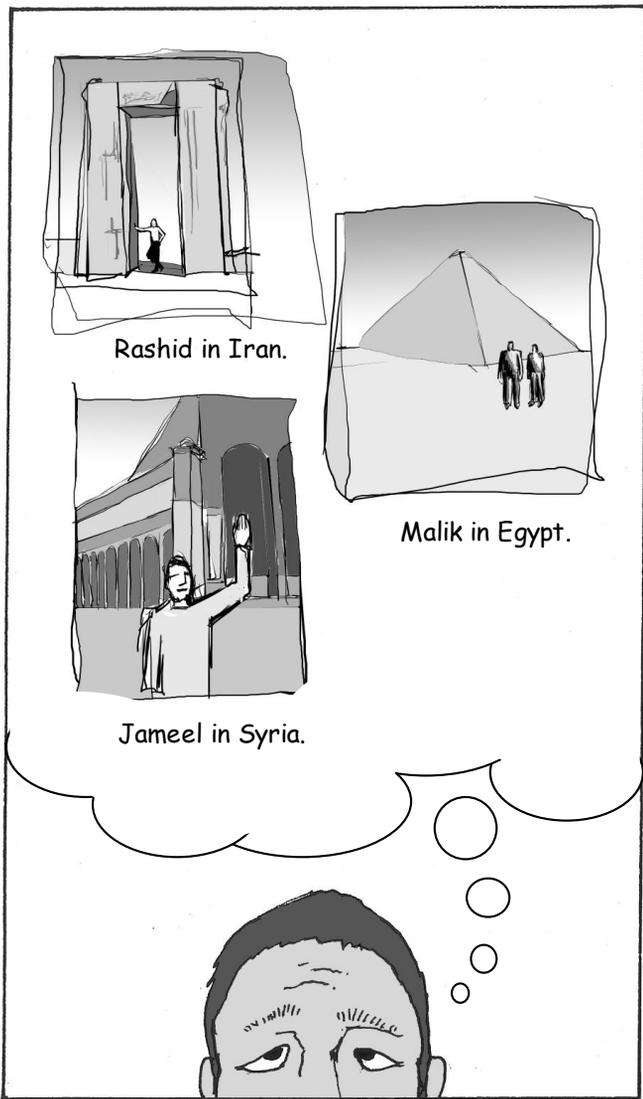
Mr. Ahmed, we just have a few questions for you.

Anyway I can help. But I don't really know anything-

Do you know anyone who has traveled to Syria, Afghanistan, Pakistan, or Iraq recently?



Of course I do!



...Can you tell us more about his recent visit?

Jameel just returned from Syria. He went to find a bride for his son, Abdul.

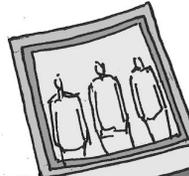
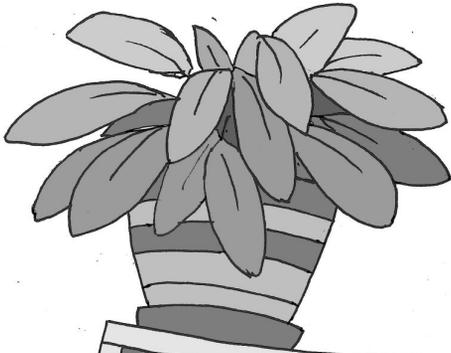
Sure he did. How many times a day do you pray?

Is that really important?

If you just answer our questions, Mr. Ahmed, things will go a lot smoother.

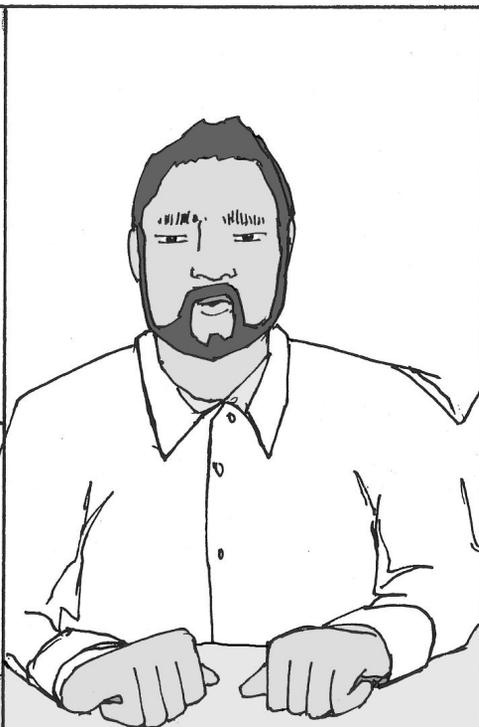
Of course, sir. I pray five times a day.

And what are your views on jihad?





I... I thought the September 11th attacks were terrible. Those men don't represent Islam.



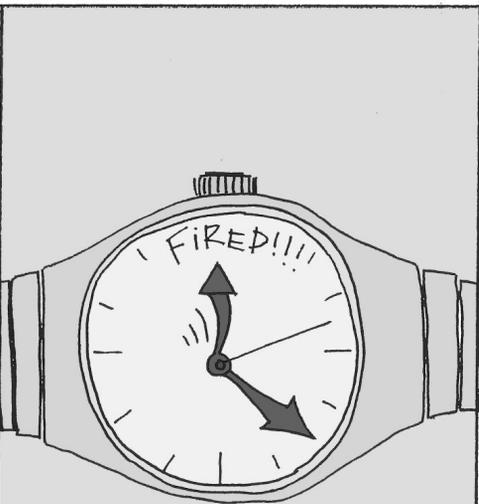
Hmmm...



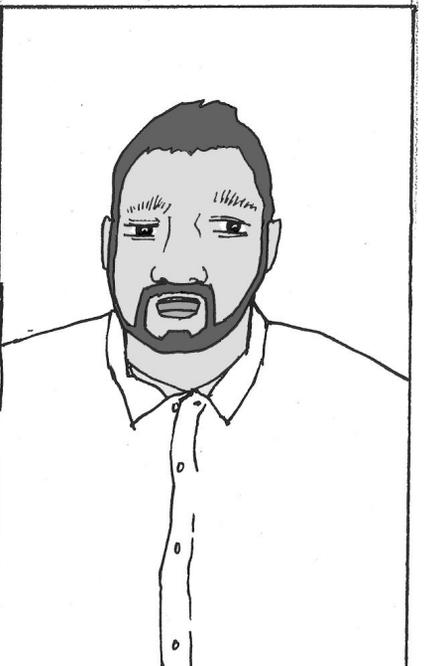
You know, if you could come back another time... I was just about to leave for work. I can't be late.



Would you rather answer our questions at work?



How long did you say Jameel was in Syria?

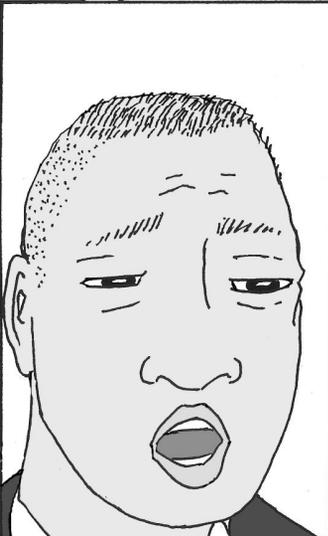


Umm...  
a month...

Really? A month, not three weeks?

Well, it could be...

Jameel has already told us he was only there for three weeks. You know that lying to a federal agent is a felony, right? We can deport your whole family.\*



Look, we know you're respected in the community. So you can help us. Just let us know if your neighbors do anything suspicious.



We can make your life a lot more difficult if you don't cooperate with us.



Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Special Agent Michael Kim  
555-867-5309 mkim776@fbi.gov

Think about it... but call us in the next few days, or we'll call you.

\*This is not necessarily true.

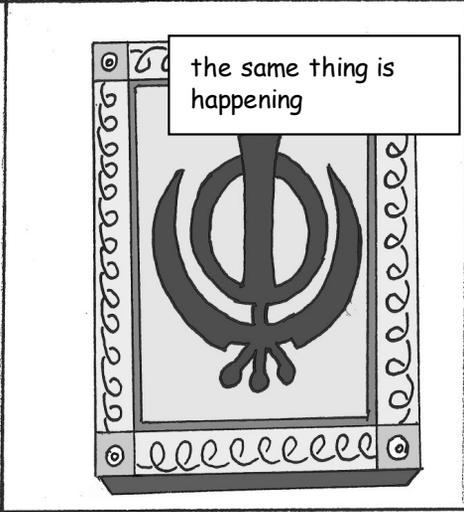


Later that day...

Mohammed,



I'm sorry to hear about this,



the same thing is happening



in our community.



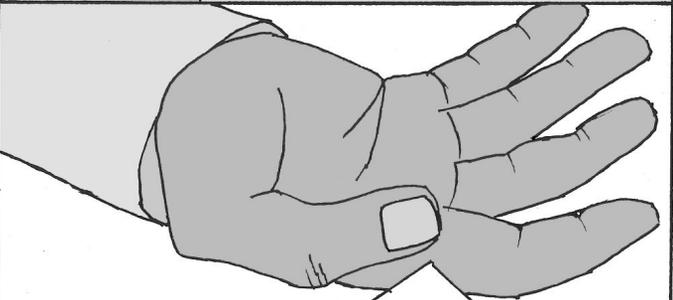
Some people at the Gurdwara were approached by federal agents asking about their political views, who they know, that sort of thing.



They told me to call them back. I want a lawyer, but it's so expensive...

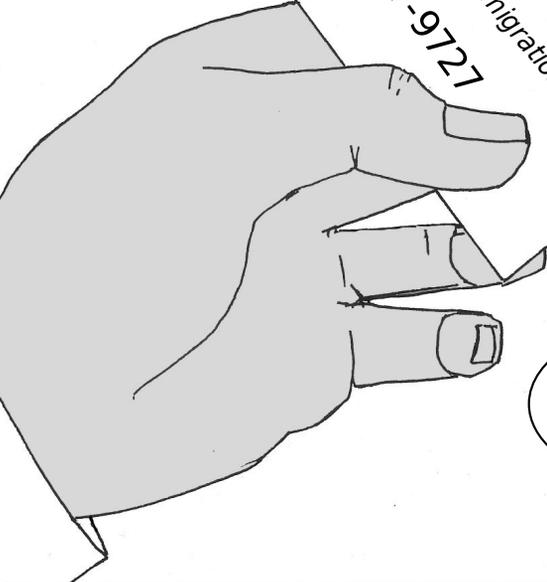


A woman from my Gurdwara told me about the Arab American Anti-Discrimination Committee and the National Immigration Project. Their lawyers will give you free advice.

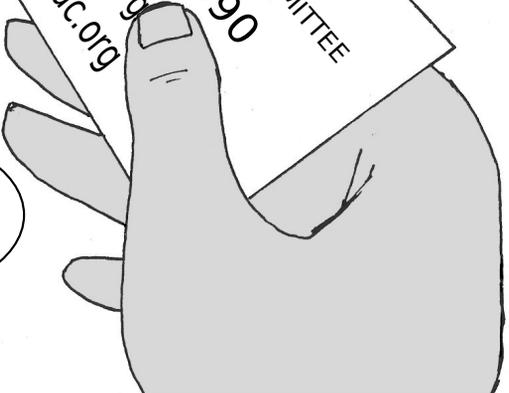


NATIONAL IMMIGRATION PROJECT  
www.nationalimmigrationproject.org  
617-227-9727

ARAB AMERICAN ANTI-DISCRIMINATION COMMITTEE  
202-244-2990  
legal@adc.org  
www.adc.org



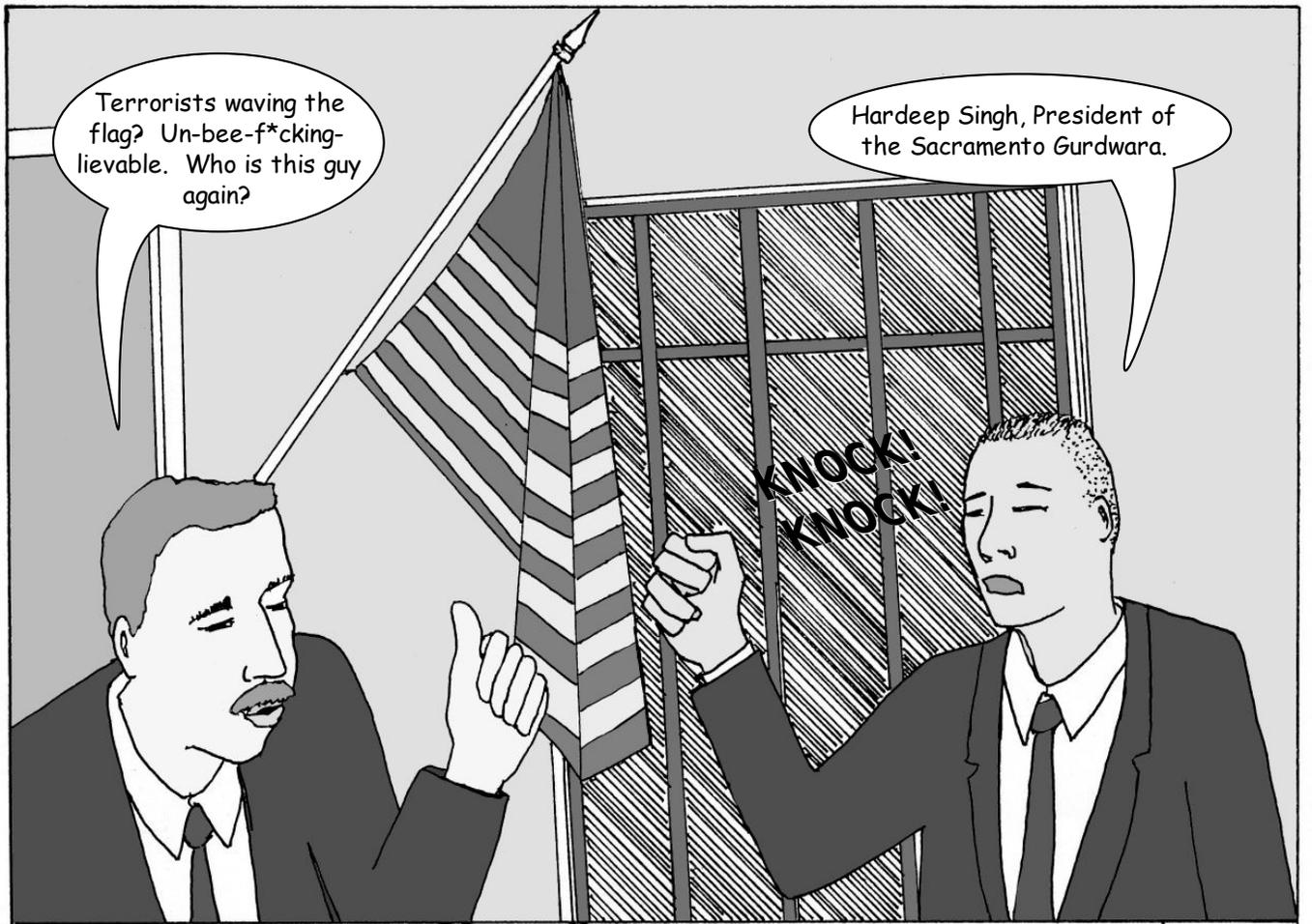
Thanks, Hardeep, I really appreciate this!





And Mohammed, if they come again, just don't talk to them. Even though you're not an American citizen, you have the right to remain silent and a right to get a lawyer to be with you.

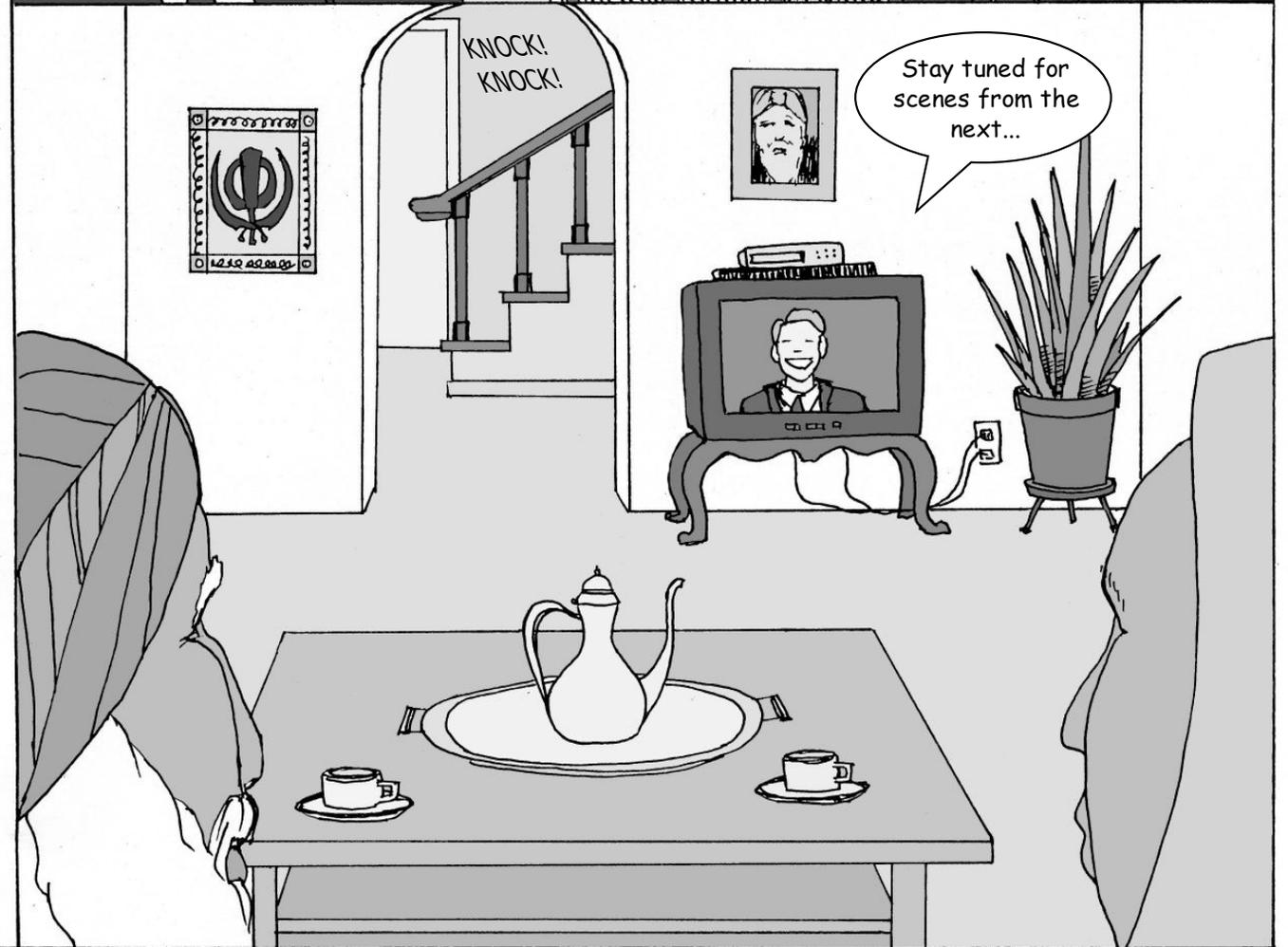
If I were you, I wouldn't talk to those agents again, and definitely not without a lawyer.



Terrorists waving the flag? Un-bee-f\*cking-lievable. Who is this guy again?

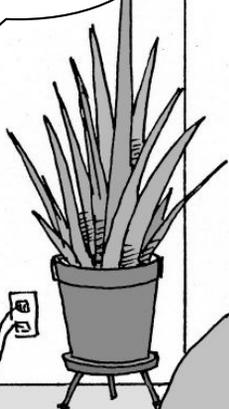
Hardeep Singh, President of the Sacramento Gurdwara.

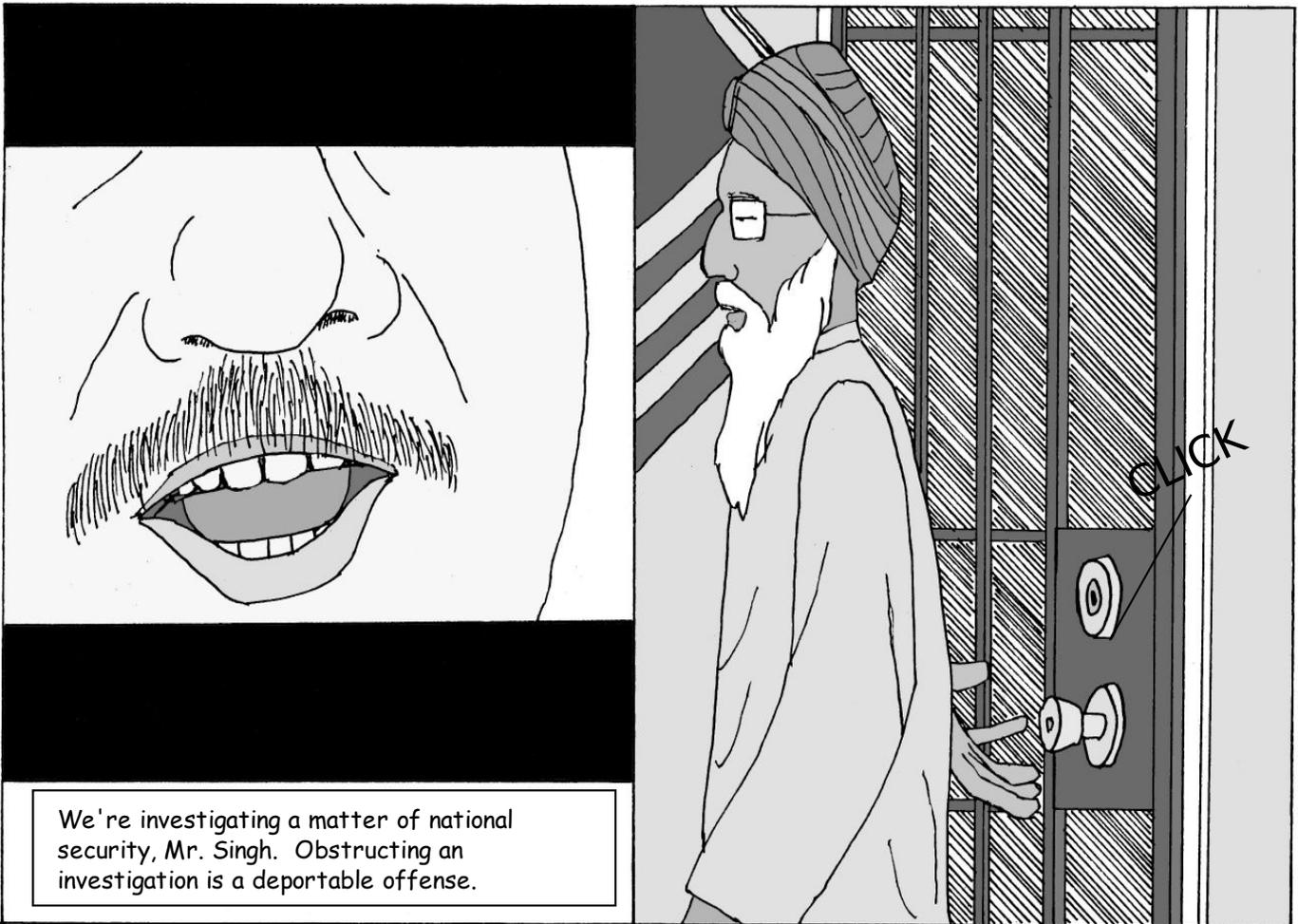
**KNOCK!  
KNOCK!**



**KNOCK!  
KNOCK!**

Stay tuned for scenes from the next...







This is HARRASSMENT. I will not talk to you without a lawyer.

Look. Just answer a few quick questions now, and we probably won't have to visit you again. And if we do, we'll get you a lawyer.



I have nothing more to say to you. Please leave. NOW.



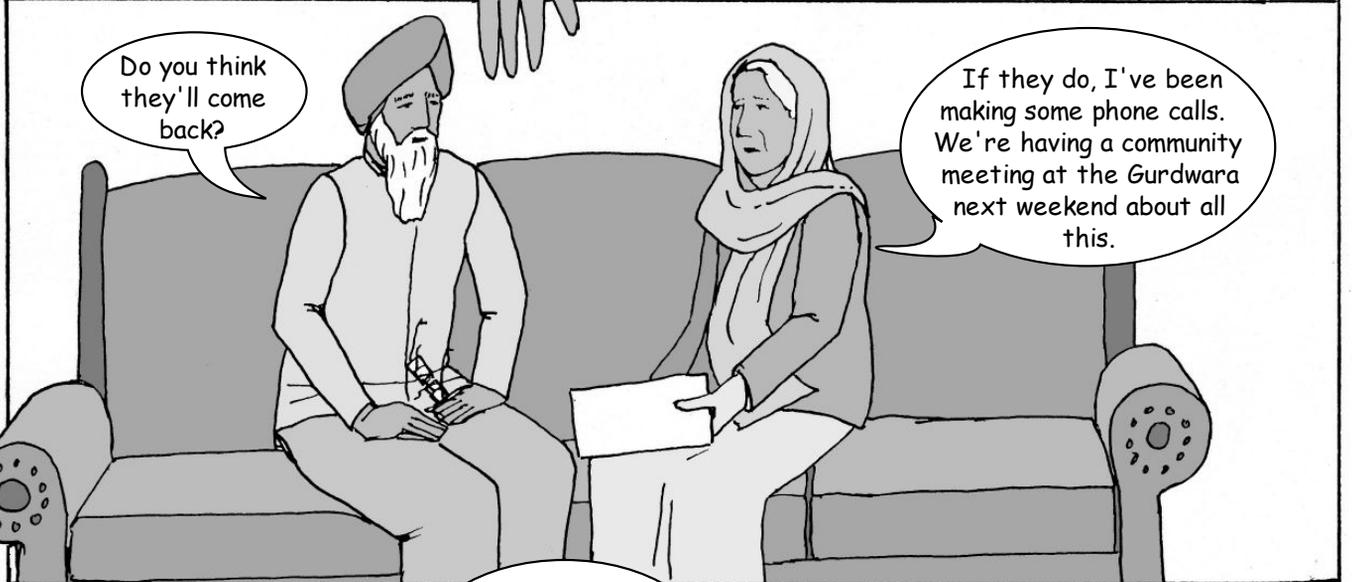
We'll be back.

Soon.



Parveen... maybe I was wrong to ask them to leave...

Hardeep, you did exactly the right thing. Those agents weren't here to investigate anything. And we haven't done anything wrong. They were just here to harass us.



Do you think they'll come back?

If they do, I've been making some phone calls. We're having a community meeting at the Gurdwara next weekend about all this.



Sarah, hello, this is Parveen Singh. I'm sorry to say the FBI has come to our house too.

We should have a meeting so that other people can be prepared if this harassment continues.

One week later...

So if the police come to your door,

you must refuse to talk to them  
without a lawyer!

it is important not to be  
intimidated or think they're  
your friends,

My friend Sarah is here to share her  
experience and so that our communities  
can continue to work together in spite of  
this harassment.

## More Legal Information

### ***What if the police or FBI search my home?***

They can usually only search your home if they have a search warrant or if you give them permission. Never give permission to have your home, car, house, or body searched. Do not open the door to let them in, because they may take this as permission to search. Do not try to physically stop them. Call a lawyer as soon as you can. If they ask to search or start searching, say in a loud, clear voice, “**I do not consent to a search.**” Say it several times. Make sure other people can hear you.

### ***What if the police or FBI say I have to go to a grand jury?***

A grand jury is a special court that looks at evidence and questions people. It is serious, but doesn't mean you'll go to jail. The police or FBI may threaten to send you to a grand jury if you don't answer their questions. But even if you do cooperate, they may still send you to a grand jury, so don't let them intimidate you. Just say, “**I do not want to answer any questions right now. My lawyer will call you back.**” Call a lawyer as soon as you can.

### ***What if the police or FBI mistreat me?***

Remember their name, badge number, what they look like, and other identifying information. You have a right to ask the officer for their name and badge number. Write down a description of what happened as soon as you can. Try to find witnesses and get their names and phone numbers. If you are injured, take pictures of the injuries. Call a lawyer as soon as you can.

## About the People Who Made This Comic

The **Midnight Special Law Collective** is a group of non-lawyers in the Bay Area who work to help everyone understand the law and protect themselves. We believe that everyone has the right to be free and be safe. Find out more at [www.midnightspecial.net](http://www.midnightspecial.net).

**Veena Dubal** is an activist and attorney who is interested in the relationship between law and violence. She is currently conducting her doctoral research on the response of the public interest law movement to the communal violence that swept Gujarat, India in 2002.

**Matthew Reiderer** is the artist for this comic. He says, “Drawing these comics is one of the proudest things I've done. I'm from colorado, and now san diego. I'm really grateful to everyone who makes this work possible. I would like to thank a few of my mentors, for the investments they have made in me: soyun park, bill vandenbergh, k. wayne yang, yen le espiritu.”

## Special Thanks

We would like to thank Stacy Tolchin, Lily Haskell, Nupur Modi, AROC, ASATA, the NLG, Design Action, and all the other people who looked at drafts of this comic book. Your constructive criticism improved it immensely. We are especially grateful for the Birjinder Anant Commemoration Award. Without their generous support, this comic book would not have been possible.

**Dedication:** In memory of Birjinder Anant: Birj, your passionate search for justice and gentle steadfastness inspired us in more ways than we can describe. You live vibrantly in our hearts and minds. We miss you and dedicate this comic to your spirited memory.

We are translating this comic book into other languages, including Arabic, Punjabi, and Farsi. For more copies, email [comix@midnightspecial.net](mailto:comix@midnightspecial.net) or find them online at [www.midnightspecial.net](http://www.midnightspecial.net).

### Resources

#### **American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC)**

202-244-2990 • [www.adc.org](http://www.adc.org)

#### **National Immigration Project**

617-227-9727 • [nationalimmigrationproject.org](http://nationalimmigrationproject.org)

#### **Your Lawyer's Name & Phone #:**

#### **Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF)**

212-966-5932 • [www.aaldef.org](http://www.aaldef.org)

#### **Detention Watch Network**

[www.detentionwatchnetwork.org](http://www.detentionwatchnetwork.org)

#### **Local Support Organizations:**

## Prepare Yourself and Your Family

- Find local groups that provide legal help for immigrants, and know local laws. Write down their phone number and carry it with you, or have it easy available. Better yet, memorize it!
- Find a lawyer through a local group or the resources below. Make sure you feel comfortable talking with them, and that they will always answer your calls. Memorize their phone number!
- Educate yourself! The more you know, the better prepared you will be.

## Basic Legal Information

### ***What if the police or FBI question me?***

You have the right to remain silent. You should not answer questions or talk with the police, the FBI, ICE, or any other law enforcement agent without a lawyer with you. It's not a crime to refuse to answer questions. If the police or FBI question you, take their business card and say: **"I do not want to answer any questions right now. My lawyer will call you back."**

### ***What if I speak to the police or FBI anyway?***

Anything you say to the police can be used against you, your family, your friends, and your community. Do not lie or misrepresent information to the police or FBI. Lying to the government about anything is a serious crime.

### ***Do I have to answer questions if I am arrested?***

No. If you are arrested, you do not have to say anything or answer any questions. You should not say anything or sign anything without speaking to a lawyer first. You have the legal right to remain silent and the legal right to a lawyer, so just say: **"I am going to remain silent. I want to see a lawyer."**

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Non-citizens usually have the rights below, regardless of their immigration status. This may change in the future. Non-citizens at the border or in an airport who are trying to enter the US do not have the same rights.

### ***What if I'm not a citizen and ICE contacts me?***

Talk to a lawyer as soon as you can. Do not say anything or sign anything before you talk to a lawyer. Always carry with you the name and telephone number of a lawyer who will take your calls. If you don't have a lawyer, see the resources below.

### ***What if I'm detained?***

You have the right to call a lawyer or your family if you are detained, and you have the right to be visited by a lawyer while in detention. You do not have the right to a free lawyer. You have the right to have your lawyer with you when you go in front of an immigration judge.

### ***Do I have to carry my green card or other immigration papers with me?***

Yes. There are certain immigration papers you must carry with you at all times. This includes your green card, I-94, Employment Authorization Card, Border Crossing Card and/or other required ICE papers that prove that you have registered with ICE. If you do not have these papers with you, you could be charged with a crime. The government does not always enforce this law, but it could at any time.

*(Cut out the section below to keep in your wallet!)*

### **Know Your Rights!**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● If the police or FBI question you, take their business card and say: <b>"I do not want to answer any questions right now. My lawyer will call you back."</b></li><li>● If you are contacted by ICE or the FBI, talk to a lawyer as soon as you can.</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● If you are detained or arrested, you have the legal right to remain silent and the legal right to a lawyer, so just say: <b>"I am going to remain silent. I want to see a lawyer."</b></li><li>● If the police or FBI want to search your home or your possessions, say in a loud, clear voice, <b>"I do not consent to a search."</b></li></ul> |
|---|--|