



May 10, 2011

Latest IRS News

Muslim Couple Alleges Harassment by IRS Officers

A Muslim couple from Somalia living in Omaha, Nebraska alleged that IRS officers harassed the wife, whose identity is withheld upon her request.

The incident took place on May 3, just 2 days after the death of Osama bin Laden. In the complaint filed by the couple, they allege that on that day, IRS officers barged into their apartment and threatened the wife using Bin Laden's name.

According to the woman, when she opened the door for the officers, they entered and began asking her a series of questions. The Somali woman, whose husband is under IRS investigation, said the officers told her, "If you work with us, we can help you," to which she replied, "I'm not in trouble, why do you want to help me out?"

When the woman refused to answer their questions on grounds that her husband was not home (he was across town working at their ethnic food store at the time), the officers then started making reference to Bin Laden. "We don't take the easy way! We got Osama Bin Laden! We look for people who do bad stuff," they said. After asking some more questions, the

officers left the apartment.

The Somali woman and her husband are US citizens who have lived in the country for years. She said after the incident, she fears for her safety and that of her family therefore she requested anonymity. The local Somali and Sudanese communities expressed their disbelief and shock at the alleged incident. Many individuals from these communities expressed regret and fear after hearing the woman's story.

The couple's attorney said he had never seen anything like this and is filing a complaint with the IRS and the US Attorney for Nebraska. But the IRS' response was the following statement: "Federal disclosure law prohibits the IRS from commenting on any individual taxpayer situation.

The Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration is the organization that investigates allegations of wrongdoing by IRS staff. We would encourage them to contact that organization."

Marlee Matlin Owes IRS

Actress Marlee Matlin, who shot to fame at the age of 21 with her Oscar-winning performance in *Children of a Lesser God*, owes the IRS about \$50,000 in back taxes and is working out a payment plan. She and her husband, who is a police officer, intend to sell their 2,600 square foot home in Pasadena and take their four children out of private school.

Matlin insists that owing \$50,000 in taxes does not make her a 'bad person'.

She told People magazine, "It's reality. It's the reality that a lot of people in America are facing."