



## **Briefing Guide: The DHS “Race Paper”**

*Color of Change (COC), the Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR), and the Kramer Law Clinic are currently litigating under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) to uncover how the FBI and Department of Homeland Security (DHS) are monitoring and surveilling public protests regarding police violence, racial justice, and the Movement for Black Lives (M4BL). Between May and December of 2017, DHS and the FBI turned over hundreds of pages of emails, reports, policies, and surveillance documents to us. While many of these documents were fully or partially redacted, it is clear from their substance that the FBI and DHS (including their sub-agencies) are surveilling the M4BL as well as Black activists and organizers, reinforcing a law enforcement narrative that broadly criminalizes Black protestors.*

*One of the most concerning documents turned over to us is a fully-redacted report referred to as “the Race Paper.” On March 16, the Center for Constitutional Rights and the Kramer Law Clinic filed a motion in federal court in order to force DHS to turn over an unredacted version of the document.*

### **Email: The “Race Paper”**

The DHS Office of Intelligence and Analysis (“I&A”) produced several emails sent in early 2017 between their personnel concerning a document they referred to as “the Race Paper.” Each email attached a separate version of the document, and some emails contain some feedback from DHS personnel on the structure of the document, call for in-person meetings to discuss the paper, and expressly mention “drivers” and “indicators.”

All versions of the “Race Paper” itself were produced to us, but in completely redacted form – nothing, not even the official title of the document, is visible. DHS claims the document is exempt from release to the public under certain statutes. Considering the documents are all fully black out, we are thus left to speculate, as to why DHS would prepare a document it refers to only as “the Race Paper” and then closely guard its contents, even to the point of concealing its actual title and a basic description.

### **LINKS:**

- [Redacted version of the “Race Paper” \(Bates IA 508-516\)](#)
- [Race Paper Email \(Bates IA 259-70\)](#)