



# ANGELS PRESS

*“We Can Sit Back and Watch as the World Goes By  
Or We Can Find Opportunities to Make it Better!”*



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## **Nationally Recognized Whistleblower Cathy Harris Updates Her Story in Two New E-Books**

Courage is that rare trait that requires the unusual strength to do what is right - not what is popular in the face of personal harm and at great risk. At a time when everyone needs to be courageous and speak up --nationally recognized whistleblower and business owner Cathy Harris is rereleasing her whistleblowing story in two e-books **“The Cathy Harris Story: A Whistleblower’s Victorious Journey to Justice”**([www.TheCathyHarrisStory.com](http://www.TheCathyHarrisStory.com)) and **“The Failure of Homeland In-Security: The Government’s Dirty Little Secrets from an Insider”** ([www.HomelandIn-Security.com](http://www.HomelandIn-Security.com)) .

The e-books are the revised and updated electronic versions of Cathy’s first paperback book **“Flying While Black: A Whistleblower’s Story”** which was originally published in 2001 through Milligan Books now renamed “Professional Publishing House” ([www.ProfessionalPublishingHouse.com](http://www.ProfessionalPublishingHouse.com)) with Dr. Rosie Milligan out of Los Angeles, CA.

The law defines a “Whistleblower” as a person who exposes mismanagement, abuses of authority, prohibited personnel practices, waste, fraud and other unethical acts of corruption which affects the health, safety and welfare of an entire nation of individuals.

In 1998, Cathy Harris exposed that Black women international travelers were subjected to abusive pat-down inspections, intrusive strip-searches, invasive cavity searches, x-rays, monitored bowel movements, targeted monitoring by drug sniffing dogs, and unlawful and unwarranted prolonged detentions --which sometimes lasted for up to four (4) days so that U.S. Customs Inspectors (now called Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Officers) could make overtime money.

Cathy’s revelations ignited an avalanche of news articles, TV features, and exposés on airport racial profiling which prompted a series of complaints and lawsuits against the U.S. Customs Service.

The negative publicity prompted the Government Accounting Office (GAO) (GAO.gov), the investigative arm of Congress, to conduct an internal investigation of the U.S. Customs Service which led the Customs’ Commissioner to appoint an independent panel to investigate

Passenger Processing procedures; The Subcommittee on Oversight of the House Committee on Ways and Means to hold hearings on Passenger Inspection Operations; and the Senate Finance Committee to hold hearings on the agency's operations and practices.

After the Congressional and Senatorial hearings the following changes occurred:

- The entire Personal Search Handbook was rewritten several times.
- Two bills were introduced to protect international travelers "*The Reasonable Search Standards Act*" by Senator Richard Durbin (D-IL) (1999 & 2001) and the "*Civil Rights for International Travelers Act*" by Congressman John Lewis (D-GA) (1999 & 2001).
- New and updated brochures, signs and other informative material including the Customs declaration were rewritten and reproduced.
- The decision to conduct a personal search of a passenger must now be decided by a GS-12 supervisor, rather than a non-supervisory Inspector (Officer), including a brand new CBP Officer.
- The Customs Managers at the GS-14 or GS-15 levels must now approve all x-ray examinations of a passenger at hospitals.
- If a personal search of an individual lasts longer than two hours, a Customs supervisor will make a phone call to a person of the passenger's choice and inform them they are being delayed.
- Customs now requires that all Secondary Data collections include race.
- CBP Officers are now wearing name tags so they can be easily identified for complaint letters.
- Body scan machines can now take the place of pat-down inspections.

Cathy was successfully vindicated in three different reports and investigations:

1. She was vindicated in March 1999, by the Fox 5 Investigative News Team in Atlanta, which won the Peabody Award for her story, "*Singled Out by U.S. Customs.*" The story confirmed that the Port of Atlanta, where Cathy worked as a Senior Customs Inspector, GS-11, for 11 years, intentionally went after Black travelers for unlawful and abusive pat-downs and strip-searches.
2. She was then vindicated by the March 2000 GAO Report "*Better Targeting of Airline Passengers for Personnel Searches Could Produce Better Results,*" (<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/gg00038.pdf>) which was ordered by Senator Robert Durbin (D-IL) which confirmed that U.S. Customs Inspectors nationwide went after Black women international travelers for these demeaning and intrusive searches.
3. She was vindicated once again by an Independent Panel Report in June 2000, which indicated that U.S. Customs needed outside advice and that the Customs Personal Search Procedures indeed had major flaws. The panel offered 20 recommendations on matters from agency staffing levels to the need to inform passengers of the factors that could prompt a search. The report is available in the e-book "*The Failure of Homeland In-Security: The Government's Dirty Little Secrets from an Insider.*"

Cathy has since abolished her organization, Customs Employees Against Discrimination Assn. (CEADA), which was instrumental in exposing the U.S. Customs Service. She is now empowering employees in the workplace on how to fight back through her seminars ([www.CathyHarrisSpeaks.com/SeminarsandWorkshops.html](http://www.CathyHarrisSpeaks.com/SeminarsandWorkshops.html)) and consultations and has even released a new e-book entitled "*Workplace Survival Guide: How To Fight Discrimination, Whistleblowing and the Workers' Compensation System*" --along with a line of other empowerment e-books through her company, Angels Press, [www.AngelsPress.com](http://www.AngelsPress.com).

For any questions or to buy the books contact Angels Press, Cathy Harris, CEO & President, P.O. Box 5288, Atlanta, GA 31107, Office: (770) 873-2072, Website: <http://www.AngelsPress.com>, Email: [info@AngelsPress.com](mailto:info@AngelsPress.com).