

# **Keeping America Safe?: Racial/Ethnic Profiling Post 9/11**

**GRADE LEVEL:** 9-12

## **INTRODUCTION**

The tragic events of September 11, 2001 forever changed the way Americans thought about terrorism, security, and threats to Americans both domestically and internationally. Terrorism had always been something other countries experienced or American embassies or soldiers faced overseas, a safe distance from this nation's shores. The events of that fateful day permanently changed that perception. As a result, America had to grapple with how it could protect itself from foreign and domestic threats, secure its borders, and monitor and expel those within the U.S. who sought to destroy its way of life. This lesson plan explores some of the tactics that American officials and individuals undertook in the effort to identify who might be a threat. It furthermore explores the potential efficacy and risks of such methods.

## **HISTORICAL CONTEXT**

The U.S. government responded quickly to the crisis of 9/11 by passing a number of measures which, officials argued, helped contain or eliminate security threats. The USA Patriot Act, for example, which was signed into law on October 26, 2001, allowed federal officials to trace communications both for law enforcement and foreign intelligence gathering purposes. It also gave the Secretary of the Treasury regulatory powers to combat corruption of U.S. financial institutions, ostensibly to prevent foreign money laundering, and tightened immigration controls to restrict national borders to foreign terrorists and detain and remove those within the country.

In June of 2002, the U.S. Attorney General announced the National Security Entry Exit Registration System (NSEERS) which required all male nationals between the ages of 15 and 25 from 25 countries to register, as well as be fingerprinted, photographed and questioned. Those who failed to do so faced deportation and criminal penalties. While introduced under the auspices of national security, one obvious result of such measures was racial profiling, which has occurred at the federal, state, and local levels since the September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks.

According to "We are One America," a non-profit organization founded in the immediate aftermath of 9/11 to combat race-based prejudice, racial profiling occurs when legal authorities use race, ethnicity, religion, or national origins rather than specific evidence of suspicious behavior to determine who to investigate, arrest, or detain. Racial profiling in the United States did not begin in 2001 with the terrorist attacks; for decades studies have demonstrated that African Americans, Native Americans and Latino/Hispanic Americans are stopped and searched more often while driving than whites. But since then, legal authorities have increasingly targeted members of Arab, Muslim, and South Asian communities to search, interrogate and detain in the name of "national security." They have, furthermore, labeled such minorities "terrorism

suspects” when in reality they were guilty of misdemeanors or minor immigration violations, if they were charged at all.

In New Jersey, racial profiling has primarily targeted African Americans. The 1998 shooting of three unarmed minorities on a New Jersey highway by state police propelled the issue of racial profiling to the attention of federal investigators. After numerous investigations by the state of New Jersey and monitoring by the federal government, Governor Corzine, in the fall of 2009, signed legislation mandating state oversight intended to prevent racial profiling. The bill creates an office under the attorney general to continue examining motor vehicle stops, which came under heavy scrutiny after state officials first acknowledged racial profiling on New Jersey's highways.

Groups like the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), enforcement organizations, legal scholars and civil rights activists have sought similar national legislation. This June (2010) they testified before the House Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Civil Liberties at a hearing on racial profiling to set the stage for the reintroduction of the End Racial Profiling Act (ERPA) to both the House and the Senate.

Despite such efforts to eliminate racial profiling programs and tactics by law enforcement agencies across the country, in the spring of 2010, Arizona's governor signed the nation's toughest bill on illegal immigration into law, a law many consider racial profiling because it is aimed at Arizona's large Hispanic population. It seeks to identify, prosecute and deport illegal immigrants. The law, which proponents and critics alike said was the broadest and strictest immigration measure in generations, would make the failure to carry immigration documents a crime and give the police broad power to detain anyone suspected of being in the country illegally. Opponents have called it an open invitation for harassment and discrimination against Hispanics regardless of their citizenship status.

**THEMES:** racial/ethnic profiling, domestic terrorism, democracy, justice

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

Following this activity, students will be able to:

1. Understand the practice of racial/ethnic profiling and its use in locating threats to the security of the United States.
2. Comprehend the consequences laws have on people's lives.
3. Compare and contrast arguments for stricter legal control in emergencies with ideas of freedom and individual rights.

## **NEW JERSEY STANDARDS:**

**STANDARD 6.1 (U.S. History: America in the World):** All students will acquire the knowledge and skills to think analytically about how past and present interactions of people, cultures, and the environment shape the American heritage. Such knowledge and skills enable students to make informed decisions that reflect fundamental rights and core democratic values as productive citizens in local, national, and global communities.

**STANDARD 6.2 (World History/Global Studies):** All students will acquire the knowledge and skills to think analytically and systematically about how past interactions of people, cultures, and the environment affect issues across time and cultures. Such knowledge and skills enable students to make informed decisions as socially and ethically responsible world citizens in the 21st century.

**STANDARD 6.3 (Active Citizenship in the 21st Century):** All students will acquire the skills needed to be active, informed citizens who value diversity and promote cultural understanding by working collaboratively to address the challenges that are inherent in living in an interconnected world.

## **MATERIALS:**

- Appendix A: “Threats and Responses,” *The New York Times*, January 20, 2003.
- Appendix B: Peggy Noonan, “Profiles Encouraged: Under the Circumstances, We must be Wary of Young Arab Men,” *The Wall Street Journal*. October 19, 2001
- Appendix C: Michael Elliot, “The Shoe Bomber’s World,” *Time*, February 16, 2002 (excerpt).
- Appendix D: Gordon Lubold, “Homegrown Terrorism a Growing Concern for US Intelligence,” *Christian Science Monitor*, February 4, 2010.
- Appendix E: Carrie Johnson, “Jihad Jane, an American Woman, Faces Terrorism Charges,” *The Washington Post*, March 10, 2010.
- Appendix F: Summary and Section 201 excerpted from the End Racial Profiling Act of 2007, Otherwise Known as House of Representatives (H.R.) 4611, 110<sup>th</sup> Congress.

## **DETAILS OF ACTIVITY:**

### **PART 1: Defining Profiling (20-25 min.):**

Begin by asking students to define race. What does it mean? To whom does it apply? Ask them to define racial profiling, and share their experiences or knowledge about it. Explain that this lesson plan will be a case study of racial profiling as it applies to Muslims and Arabs in post-9/11 America.

Have students read the five case studies included in the *New York Times* article “Threats and Responses,” published in 2003 (Appendix A). You may wish to divide the class into groups and assign each a separate case study to explore (each is less than a page in length). Explain that the article includes profiles of individuals suspected of terrorist activity who, the *New York Times*’ reporter suggests, were the victims of racial profiling during a time when many believed it was necessary to monitor the Muslim/Arab population in the nation.

Such abbreviated profiles necessarily focus on some details and leave out others. After students read through materials have them try to put faces to the names of the people they have read about—what do they know about the personal and professional lives of the people in question? What details do they not know? Most importantly, have students consider how these profiles balance questions about individual rights and property (many of those interviewed estimated the financial cost of their profiling) with those of legal status and national safety. Some of these case studies were illegal immigrants. Should that matter?

### **PART 2: What Does Terrorism Look Like? (25 minutes)**

Divide students into groups (either 2 large groups or 4 smaller groups.) Explain that they will debate the effectiveness of racial profiling to capture domestic terrorists in America. Assign Appendices B through E—one per group, and ask students to consider the following questions based on the information in their article:

- What does a “terrorist” look like (note to teacher: these articles were selected because they depict very different images of suspected or convicted terrorists)?
- What is an act of terror?
- Can laws help to catch these kinds of criminals and, if so, how?
- Would increasing laws to restrain individuals such as those in the articles, affect other Americans’ freedoms and actions too? If so, is the trade off necessary?

### **PART 3: Wrap Up Discussion (10 min.)**

Finally, distribute Appendix F, an excerpt from and summary about the End Racial Profiling Act, first introduced in Congress in 2001 prior to the 9/11 attacks, and then repeatedly reintroduced to Congress over the next nine years (it is due to be reintroduced to both houses again this summer or fall, 2010). The concluding 10 minutes of class should be spent exploring the advantages and disadvantages of such a law. Ask students to consider the perspective of the authors of their respective articles. Would these people support or oppose such a law? Why or why not?

## Follow-up Activity

Examine the controversy surrounding Arizona's racial profiling law aimed at its Hispanic population. Assign students to research the issue through newspaper articles online; each student should find one article supporting the measure and another opposing it. Have students bring these pieces to class, and compile a list of the benefits as well as the drawbacks of utilizing racial profiling to deal with the illegal immigrant population in Arizona.

Is Arizona's racial profiling law considered more palatable by Americans than New Jersey's racial profiling of African Americans on its highways? Than Arab American profiling since 9/11? Why? Why not? Is racial profiling justified in certain situations and not others? How do you decide? How do you balance keeping America safe with protecting/upholding its basic democratic principles?

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## REFERENCES and WEBSITES:

For additional reading on racial profiling, see the following:

One America: With Justice for All (Formerly Hate Free Zone), "Racial Profiling: Face the Truth Campaign," 2010, <http://www.weareoneamerica.org/racial-profiling-face-truth-campaign>.

ACLU, "Racial Profiling," <http://www.aclu.org/racial-justice/racial-profiling>.  
ACLU, *Sanctioned Bias: Racial Profiling since 9/11* (February 2004): 1-24.

ACLU, "House to Hear Testimony on Racial Profiling Today" (Press Release), June 17, 2010, <http://www.aclu.org/immigrants-rights-national-security-racial-justice/house-hear-testimony-racial-profiling-today>.

Robyn Rodriguez, "Disunity and Diversity in Post-9/11 America," *Sociological Forum* 23:2 (June 2008): 379-389.

"Gov. Corzine Signs Racial Profiling Reforms into Law," NJ.com, August 27, 2009, [http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2009/08/gov\\_corzine\\_signs\\_racial\\_profi.html](http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2009/08/gov_corzine_signs_racial_profi.html)

Randall C. Archibold, "Arizona Enacts Stringent Law on Immigration," *New York Times*, April 23, 2010, <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/04/24/us/politics/24immightml>.

Appendix A:  
“Threats and Responses,” *The New York Times*,  
January 20, 2003

The Pakistanis pictured here were deported by the United States in the last year for entering the country illegally or overstaying their visas. All said they had been trying to legalize their immigration status. None were charged with terror-related offenses.

SYED WASIM ABBAS

The 33-year-old gas station owner from York, Pa., said he attended Brooklyn College for three years after entering the United States on a student visa in 1992. He speaks English with a Brooklyn accent. He is a former football linebacker and still jokes about how Americans often mistake him for The Rock, the professional wrestler. He happily recalls playing pickup basketball with “Spanish, blacks, Pakistanis and Indians” in Brooklyn. “I couldn’t score,” he said. “They called me a hack.”

After hearing a rumor that it was possible to receive a green card if one applied in Chicago, he flew there and filed an application with a false Chicago address in 1998, he said. But he said he decided to skip his court hearing in Chicago after hearing that other people were arrested for doing the same thing. In 2000, he applied for residency after marrying an American citizen, a Pakistani American woman he met at a college party.

Arrested by I.N.S. agents last May, he said he was questioned for 30 minutes. He said he had spent a month in the Bergen County jail and was deported on the day he was to see a judge. He said he was unaware of any deportation order against him. He and other Pakistanis were handcuffed throughout a 16-hour I.N.S. deportation flight to Pakistan, he said, and his wife remains in the United States.

He estimates he lost \$40,000 he invested in his gas station, which was seized by creditors after his arrest. “It’s pretty obvious,” he said. “They are cracking down on Muslims.”

NAEEM JANJUA

The 30-year-old former owner of a small business said he sneaked into the United States in 1990 in the back of a tractor-trailer from Mexico. He said he had applied for asylum and worked in various jobs. By September 2001, he said, he had opened his own trucking business, married a fellow immigrant from Fiji, had two daughters and bought a home in Heyward, Calif. Each year, he said, he applied to the I.N.S. for a work permit and received one.

Last April, he said, I.N.S. agents arrested him for filing a second asylum application in 1996 under a false name. He admitted making the filing, but said he had grown desperate after hearing nothing about his first application for six years. After spending four months in jail, he said, he was deported in August without seeing a judge.

He estimates that he has lost \$100,000 on his home, which has been sold, and his business, which is closed. He says his wife does not want to move to Pakistan. "I lost my business, my home, everything," he said. "And I'm about to lose my family, too."

#### KHURRAM ALTAF

The 34-year-old father of three said he had managed a Pilot Oil Corporation truck stop on Interstate 78 in Bloomsbury, N.J. "I was the only Pakistani Muslim in the company," he said proudly. He said he entered the United States in 1985 on a tourist visa at the age of 18 and had overstayed it. A lawyer he had paid \$10,000 botched a 1996 residency application, he said. An appeal of that decision, and an application for citizenship sponsored by his sister, an American citizen, were still pending when he was deported, he said. He said he had applied for and received annual work permits from the I.N.S.

He recounted being arrested by I.N.S. agents at his home in South Amboy, N.J., last April, and being briefly questioned about whether he was involved with Al Qaeda, had relatives in Afghanistan and could fly a plane. He was held in the Bergen County jail for two months and deported last summer without seeing a judge, he said. His three children, who are American citizens, and his wife remain in New Jersey, he said. He does not want to bring his daughter to Pakistan because she has a hearing disability and he believes that she would struggle in school. Unemployed in Pakistan, he has no idea what he is going to do. "Without family, life is nothing," he said. "I'm like a dead person."

#### NAEEM SHAIKH

The 31-year-old Queens taxi driver said he illegally entered the United States in 1994. Smuggled from Pakistan through three countries, he used a fake green card to pass through immigration at Kennedy Airport. On Sept. 11, he was in Battery Park when there was an explosion in the north tower of the World Trade Center. He then watched a second plane slam into the south tower, abandoned his taxi and fled for his life.

After the attacks, he wanted to normalize his legal status. In March, he answered an ad from a Florida lawyer who offered to sponsor immigrants for citizenship. A week later, F.B.I. and I.N.S. agents arrested him. The ad, he believes, was a ruse. He said F.B.I. agents had asked him if he knew Osama bin Laden, if he had been to Afghanistan or Kashmir and if he could fly a plane. They offered him citizenship in exchange for information.

His wife, who is also Pakistani, was pregnant when he was arrested. He estimates that he has lost \$18,000 in clothing and furniture left in his apartment. But he praised several American friends who helped support his wife during the month he spent in jail before being deported without seeing a judge.

His wife and his new son, an American citizen he has not seen, are in Montreal. He hopes to join them, if he can get a Canadian visa. "It's not just us," he said, referring to Pakistanis. "Muslims all over the will be against the U.S. if they keep doing this."

## SYED BASHIR SHAH

The 55-year-old former video store owner and security guard at Los Angeles International Airport said he entered the United States on a tourist visa in 1991 and applied for asylum, citing threats from a violent Karachi political party. He said that he passed a security check of all airport employees last winter and that a valid work permit was sent to his house even after he was deported. "In 1997, I applied to renew my case," he said. "The lawyer charged \$10,000." He said he never knew about his court hearing because his lawyer moved to Australia.

He recounted being arrested at his home in June by an agent who told him that his asylum application had been denied. He was deported in August after spending four months in jail without seeing a judge. He is now in Pakistan living with his wife and three children he had not seen for over a decade. Of the men interviewed, he expressed the least anger at the United States. But he accused the I.N.S. officers and judges of being biased against Pakistanis, a charge immigration officials deny. "There are hearings for Chinese, Mexicans," he said. "They have chance. For Pakistanis, no hearing, no nothing, that's it."

## APPENDIX B:

### Peggy Noonan, “Profiles Encouraged: Under the Circumstances, We must be Wary of Young Arab Men,” *The Wall Street Journal*, October 19, 2001.

It was Sept. 14 at 9 p.m., and I was on Fifth Avenue, directly across the street from St. Patrick’s Cathedral. I was standing, that is, directly in front of the statue of Atlas holding up the world, at the entrance of Rockefeller Center. I was with my 14-year-old son. We were waiting for friends who were going to accompany us downtown to see the memorials that had sprung up in Washington Square and other places.

Our friends were a few minutes late. We waited together on the quiet, near-empty street. New York had been attacked only days before, and our city was quiet; people were home.

Suddenly to our right, on the sidewalk, we saw two “Mideastern looking men,” as we all now say. They were 25 or 30 years old, dressed in jeans and windbreakers, and they were doing something odd. They were standing together silently videotaping the outside of St. Pat’s, top to bottom. We watched them, trying to put what we were seeing together. Tourists? It was a funny time of day for tourists to be videotaping a landmark—especially when the tourists looked like the guys who’d just a few days before blown up a landmark.

We watched them. After a minute or so they finished taping St. Pat’s and turned toward where we were. We were about 20 feet away from them, and we eyeballed them hard. They stared back at us in what I thought an aggressive manner: a deadeye stare, cold, no nod, no upturned-chin hello.

They stared at us staring at them for a few seconds, and then they began to videotape Rockefeller Center. We continued watching, and I surveyed the street for a policeman or patrol car. I looked over at the men again. They were watching me. The one with the camera puts it down for a moment. We stared, they stared. And then they left. They walked away and disappeared down a side street.

Let me tell you what I thought. I thought: Those guys are terrorists.

And then I thought: Whoa, wait a minute. I must be experiencing what people experienced after Pearl Harbor, when all of a sudden they’d see a young Asian guy with a camera and get all excited. You can get paranoid. You can get unfair.

I thought: The guys I just saw weren’t breaking the law, in any case there are no cops around, and if I drop a dime to overburdened 911--"I saw two Mideastern men taking pictures!"—they’d brush me off. So I just filed it away, as did my son. But neither of us could shake it.

## Appendix C:

### Michael Elliot, "The Shoe Bomber's World, *Time Magazine*, February 16, 2002 (annotated).

It was the scream that people noticed. Monique Danison, an American college student, had just finished lunch on American Airlines Flight 63 from Paris to Miami when she heard a woman cry out in terror. "When someone screams the way she did," says Danison, "you know something bad is happening."

Bad is right. Richard Reid, a British passenger on the Boeing 767, was trying to light a fuse protruding from his shoe, witnesses say. According to the FBI, packed in the sole were enough high explosives to blow a hole in the fuselage of the aircraft. But the attempted bombing was foiled. Two flight attendants struggled with the tall, unkempt man after one of them noticed the sulfurous smell of a lighted match. Danison remembers one of the attendants crying, "Oh, my God! Somebody help me!" and then calling for "water, contact solution, anything you have." Passengers passed cups and glasses back to the scene. One of the attendants poured a bottle of water over Reid, who was then restrained with passengers' belts and sedated with drugs from the onboard medical kit. For the rest of the tense flight—the captain had warned that Reid might have accomplices onboard—passengers and crew guarded their prisoner, one of them keeping a grip on his long ponytail. Escorted by Air Force fighters, Flight 63 was diverted to Boston, where Reid was taken into custody. He was denied bail on Dec. 28, and is awaiting trial in Plymouth, Mass.

Immediately after the incident, it was tempting to view Reid more as a lone nut than a cog in a terrorist machine. On Dec. 21, when he first tried to fly to Miami, he raised enough concerns—he paid for his ticket in cash and had no checked bags—that airport officials questioned him so long that he missed the flight. When he showed up the next day, his appearance—long-haired, disheveled, druggie—seemed almost calculated to draw attention. At the boarding gate, says Annie Joly, a Frenchwoman on the flight, "I was immediately struck by how bizarre he looked." After Reid's arrest, the bare bones of his life as a small-time London crook came out, and he claimed to have made the bomb from a recipe on the Internet. He seemed to be what he looked like, the ultimate loser.

Few now think Reid was a bungling amateur. On Jan. 16, a U.S. federal grand jury indicted Reid on nine counts, including use of a weapon of mass destruction and attempted murder. He has pleaded not guilty. The indictment alleges that Reid received training at camps in Afghanistan run by al-Qaeda, the organization headed by Osama bin Laden. The bomb inside his shoe was a sophisticated one. In fact, it turns out to be a favorite of European al-Qaeda operatives. Both FBI and French law-enforcement sources tell TIME there were palm prints and hair on the shoe that didn't belong to Reid. Clearly he had had help....

## Londonistan Calling

Reid was not born to Islam; he is a convert with a convert's zeal. His grandfather was a Jamaican immigrant to Britain, and his father Colvin Robin Reid met and married Lesley Hughes, a white woman who was the daughter of an accountant and magistrate. Richard was born in London in 1973, by which time his father, known as Robin, was in jail for car theft....



Richard was in and out of prison, and when he bumped into his father in a shopping mall seven or eight years ago, he seemed depressed and downhearted. "He was born here in Britain, like I was," says Robin. "It was distressing to be told things like 'Go home, nigger!'" For once Robin, who had converted to Islam while in prison in the 1980s, had a suggestion that seemed to make sense. Muslims, he says, "treat you like a human being." Plus, he says, they get better food in prison. Richard took his father's advice. The next time he was incarcerated, he converted. In so doing, Reid became a member of the fastest-growing religion in Britain. Nobody has an accurate count of the number of British Muslims—estimates range from 1.5 million to 2.5 million—but they run the gamut of all social classes....

At first Reid did not align himself with extremist groups. On leaving prison in 1994, he gravitated to the Brixton Mosque and Islamic Cultural Center, a rundown Victorian house in the heart of black London. The Brixton mosque has a reputation for homeyness. Each morning children stream into the mosque's schools, brought by mothers in head scarves or veils. The mosque doesn't ask many questions about a believer's past. When you come to Islam, says the mosque's chairman, Abdul Haqq Baker, you make a fresh start. Each Friday 400 to 500 worshippers attend prayers, the majority of them black Britons....

## From Pakistan to Paris

By 1998, jihad was Reid's chosen path. He took the name Abdel Rahim and...told his parents he was going overseas. Robin says his son sent him a letter from Iran, but if Reid visited there at all, it was probably on his way to a madrasah, an Islamic school, in Pakistan. In 1999 and 2000, Reid appears to have spent much of his time in Pakistan....

By the summer of 2001, Reid was back in London. In July he obtained a new British passport in Amsterdam, claiming that he had accidentally put his old one through a washing machine, and flew to Israel on an El Al flight...He didn't stay there long. On Aug. 9, Reid was back in Amsterdam. It was a good choice. Amsterdam is an open city. In its streets and bars, a rough-looking and by all accounts singularly malodorous Englishman would hardly merit a second glance. He spent much of his time sending e-mails to addresses in Pakistan from Internet cafes. Presumably, it was during these months that the plan to bomb Flight 63 took shape....

On Dec. 5, Reid was off again, this time to Brussels, where he applied for yet another new passport; an embassy spokeswoman says his previous one was worn.... By Dec. 17, Reid was finally in Paris, hanging out in the Goutte d'Or neighborhood, a center of the city's Arab and African population. On Dec. 21, he made his first attempt to fly to Miami. French authorities have discovered an e-mail exchange made afterward with an interlocutor in Pakistan who urged Reid to try again the next day....

As authorities pick away at Reid's case, the web of terror in Europe is slowly beginning to become clear. The Sept. 11 attacks, the Paris plot and the attempt to destroy Flight 63 all share a common cast of characters...But identifying terrorists is only half the job. The real challenge is to figure out why the Muslim community in Europe has become such a rich recruiting ground for Islamic extremists. Plainly, Islam exerts an appeal to those born into the faith who feel oppressed by societies that treat them like second-class relics of European colonialism. Islam also promises something to converts—like Reid—who feel marginalized by modern life. For Europeans, the presence of the terrorist networks should suggest that there is something rotten within their rich societies.

There are messages from Europe for Americans too. In the wake of the Afghanistan war, the U.S. has signaled that it will take action against terrorists and their supporters wherever they may be—in Yemen or Iraq or Indonesia. Yet with the camps in Afghanistan destroyed, many of the world's most dangerous terrorists are not in the Islamic world at all but in the cities of western Europe....

*— Reported by Bruce Crumley/Paris, Helen Gibson and Assif Shameen/London, James Graff/Brussels, Nadia Mustafa/New York, Andrew Rosenbaum/Amsterdam, Sean Scully/Los Angeles, Elaine Shannon/Washington and other bureaus*

## Appendix D:

### Gordon Lubold, “Homegrown Terrorism a Growing Concern for US Intelligence, *Christian Science Monitor*, February 4, 2010.

Homegrown terrorism is a growing threat, US intelligence chief Dennis Blair said this week. But the number of American Muslims engaged in extremist activity remains small and still largely focused overseas.



Director of National Intelligence Dennis Blair testifies on Capitol Hill in Washington, this week, before the House Intelligence Committee hearing on the annual threats assessment of the US intelligence community. (Manuel Balce Ceneta / AP)

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The nation’s top intelligence official warned this week of the threat posed by “homegrown terrorism,” though he said there was no evidence yet of an organized terrorist network operating in the US.

A small number of American Muslims are engaged in extremist activities at home and abroad, said Director of National Intelligence Dennis Blair Tuesday at a Senate hearing. Their focus remains largely overseas, he said, but the threat to the homeland from Americans with links to radicals abroad remains troubling.

“We are concerned that the influence of inspirational figures such as Anwar al-Awlaqi will increasingly motivate individuals toward violent extremism,” Mr. Blair said. Mr. al-Awlaqi is the radical Yemeni cleric linked to Maj. Nidal Malik Hasan, the alleged Fort Hood shooter, as well possibly to Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab the Nigerian who attempted to blow up an American airliner in Detroit on Christmas Day.

Blair also separately warned that Al Qaeda or its affiliates overseas was planning a big attack against the US in the next six months.

Blair's concerns about homegrown terrorism points up the difficulty US intelligence and law enforcement agencies have in spotting terrorists who are American citizens - the so-called "terrorist next door" phenomenon.

"The motivations for such individuals are complex and driven by a combination of personal circumstances and external factors," Blair said.

These include feelings of alienation, concerns over American foreign policy, and ties to extremist Islamic groups and "negatively inspirational ideologues."

Of particular concern are US citizens who travel abroad for training and return to attack the homeland, according to an unclassified version of the Annual Threat Assessment presented by Blair at the hearing.

### **Sporadic terror plots to persist**

The assessment said violence from homegrown jihadists will persist "but will be sporadic."

"A handful of individuals and small, discrete cells will seek to mount attacks each year, with only a small portion of that activity materializing into violence against the homeland," according to Blair's testimony.

So far, there is no evidence of a US-based group sophisticated enough to support organized attacks against the US.

Still, there have been several domestic terror plots in the past few years, points out Rick Nelson, an expert at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a think tank in Washington, in an analysis. In the past year, these include:

\* Last September, Najibullah Zazi, an Afghan living legally in the US, was arrested on charges of conspiracy to use weapons of mass destruction. Authorities claimed he traveled to Pakistan to receive training.

\* Eight people were charged in November for allegedly recruiting more than 20 Somali-Americans to join Al Shabab, a local group in Somalia linked to Al Qaeda.

\* In December, the FBI charged US citizen David Coleman Headley with conspiring with operatives of Pakistani terrorist group, Lashkar-e-Taiba, in the attacks in Mumbai in 2008.

\* Also in December, five Northern Virginia men were arrested in Pakistan and were alleged to have traveled there to train with Taliban militants.

## **Why they radicalize**

Poverty and social marginalization are some reasons why some individuals self-radicalize, Mr. Nelson writes in an analysis for CSIS. However, some of the alleged terrorists are from well-off families, including the five from Northern Virginia.

Many individuals may also self-radicalize or radicalize with the help of an inspirational figure in the context of the American wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, which appear to some as a war on Islam.

“The US needs to counteract this narrative,” Nelson said. US policymakers must build stronger partnerships with states threatened by extremist violence.

“Cooperation, rather than large-scale intervention, ultimately offers a surer path to mitigating terrorism,” he writes.

## Appendix E:

### Carrie Johnson, “JihadJane, an American woman, faces terrorism charges,” *The Washington Post*, March 10, 2010.

A petite, blond-haired, blue-eyed high school dropout who allegedly used the nickname JihadJane was identified Tuesday as an alleged terrorist intent on recruiting others to her cause, as federal prosecutors unsealed criminal charges that could send her to prison for life.

Colleen Renee LaRose, 46, has been quietly held in U.S. custody since October on suspicions that she provided material support to terrorists and traveled to Sweden to launch an attack, according to federal officials who spoke on the condition of anonymity because the case is continuing to unfold.

LaRose, who lived in suburban Philadelphia, allegedly recruited men and women in the United States, Europe and South Asia to "wage violent jihad," according to an indictment issued in Pennsylvania. She fueled her interests on the Internet over the past few years and used Web sites such as YouTube to post increasingly agitated messages, the court papers said.

As an American citizen whose appearance and passport allowed her to blend into Western society, LaRose represents one of the worst fears of intelligence and FBI analysts focused on identifying terrorist threats. She is one of only a handful of women to be charged with terrorism offenses in the United States, national security experts said.

Across the ocean Tuesday, Irish police conducted morning raids in Cork and Waterford, arresting four men and three women who had been under electronic surveillance by U.S. and Swedish authorities. The seven were suspected of plotting with LaRose to attack a Swedish artist, Lars Vilks, whose 2007 drawing of the prophet Muhammad with the body of a dog enraged Muslims, according to Irish news accounts.

Justice Department officials declined to comment on the arrests in Ireland or on whether Vilks was a target of LaRose's.

David Kris, assistant attorney general for the national security division, said the prospect that a suburban American woman had conspired to support terrorists and traveled overseas to advance a plot "underscores the evolving nature of the threat we face."

#### **JihadJane, Fatima LaRose**

...The path that LaRose, who is 4 feet 11 inches tall and weighs barely more than 100 pounds, may have taken to jihad remains murky.

She has been married at least twice and, over several years since the mid-1980s, had been arrested in South Texas for writing bad checks and driving while intoxicated, according to court records obtained by The Washington Post.

Investigators suggest that she turned to the Internet a few years ago, using the names JihadJane and Fatima LaRose...[she] described herself in a June 2008 YouTube posting as "desperate to do something somehow to help" suffering Muslims.

LaRose allegedly went on to recruit others, asking whether the prospects were European citizens who could travel freely. She looked for recruits whose physical appearance would "blend in with many people" and go undetected in Europe and the United States. She allegedly agreed to marry one co-conspirator in an effort to ease his path to Europe, according to e-mails cited in the indictment.

By March 2009, LaRose had reached out to the Swedish Embassy for information about how to acquire permanent residency in Sweden. The man identified as her potential fiance sent her instructions to "go to sweden . . . find location of" the target and "kill him . . . this is what i say to u."

LaRose allegedly responded, "i agree that it is good i blend in."

#### **An FBI interview**

FBI agents interviewed LaRose in July 2009 in Pennsylvania, where she told them that she had not solicited money for terrorism or posted on a terrorist Web site, according to the indictment, nor used the handle "JihadJane."

In August, LaRose removed and hid the hard drive from her home computer, authorities said. The same day, she traveled to Sweden "with the intent to live and train with jihadists, and to find and kill" her target, the indictment said. LaRose took with her the U.S. passport of a man identified only as "K.G.," with whom she lived, to give it to "the brothers," the indictment said.

In September, she performed online searches to find her target, joined an electronic community that he hosted and journeyed to his artists' enclave in Sweden, the indictment said. By Sept. 30, LaRose e-mailed the man identified as her fiance, saying it would be "an honour & great pleasure to die or kill for" him and asserting that "only death will stop me here that i am so close to the target!"

LaRose ultimately returned to the United States, where she was charged in October in a criminal complaint with helping transfer a U.S. passport belonging to K.G. She appeared in court in Pennsylvania on Oct. 16, where she was appointed a public defender, according to a spokeswoman for the U.S. attorney and a representative in the public defender's office...

J. Patrick Rowan, former chief of the Justice Department's national security division, said the LaRose indictment is "another indication of how the threats come from all directions."

"If nothing else, it's another reminder to the FBI of the obligation to run down every lead and every threat, because they can't be too far-fetched," Rowan said. 132680922633

*Staff writer Spencer S. Hsu and staff researchers Alice Crites and Julie Tate contributed to this report.*

## Appendix F:

### Section 201 excerpted from the End Racial Profiling Act of 2007, Otherwise Known as House of Representatives (H.R.) 4611, 110<sup>th</sup> Congress.

#### SUMMARY:

End Racial Profiling Act of 2007 or ERPA - Prohibits law enforcement agents or agencies from engaging in racial profiling. Defines "racial profiling" as the practice of a law enforcement agent or agency relying, to any degree, on race, ethnicity, national origin, or religion in selecting which individual to subject to routine or spontaneous investigatory activities or in deciding upon the scope and substance of law enforcement activity following the initial investigatory procedure. Allows the United States, or individuals injured by racial profiling, to bring civil actions for declaratory or injunctive relief. Requires federal law enforcement agencies to: (1) maintain adequate policies and procedures for eliminating racial profiling; and (2) cease existing practices that permit racial profiling. Requires states, local governments, and Indian tribes applying for federal law enforcement assistance grants to certify that they: (1) maintain adequate policies and procedures for eliminating racial profiling; (2) have eliminated any existing practices of racial profiling; and (3) have established an administrative complaint procedure and independent auditor program for addressing complaints of racial profiling. Requires the Attorney General to: (1) carry out a two-year demonstration project to collect data on hit rates for stops and searches by law enforcement agents; (2) make grants to develop and implement best practice devices and systems to eliminate racial profiling; and (3) issue regulations for data collection and make reports on racial profiling.

#### SEC. 201. POLICIES TO ELIMINATE RACIAL PROFILING.

a) In General- Federal law enforcement agencies shall--

- (1) maintain adequate policies and procedures designed to eliminate racial profiling; and
- (2) cease existing practices that permit racial profiling.

b) Policies- The policies and procedures described in subsection (a)(1) shall include—

- (1) a prohibition on racial profiling;
- (2) training on racial profiling issues as part of Federal law enforcement training;
- (3) the collection of data in accordance with the regulations issued by the Attorney General under section 401;

(4) procedures for receiving, investigating, and responding meaningfully to complaints alleging racial profiling by law enforcement agents;

(5) policies requiring that corrective action be taken when law enforcement agents are determined to have engaged in racial profiling; and

(6) such other policies or procedures that the Attorney General deems necessary to eliminate racial profiling.