



9-11 and Why We are Not Safe

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For thirteen years, every September 11 is a painful reminder of one the saddest day of my life. My heart bleeds for all of the families who lost their loved ones and of the children who lost their parents. September 11th was a double tragedy: the one inflicted by terrorists who hate our freedom and the one represented by the ineptitude, negligence and incompetence of politicians candy-coated with political correctness.

Convoluting laws prevented security and intelligence agencies' databases from interfacing and our government's apprehensive policies about profiling certain people for fear of hurting their feelings due to religious persuasion or physical appearance. Seriously?

Let's talk about the Latin community which has always been highly profiled in the United States and no one says anything about it. Every South American traveler, men, women and children alike, landing on US soil is scrutinized by default and thus received directly into U.S. Customs abound with German Shepherd dogs. Politicians and the media have conditioned the American people to believe that Mexicans and other Central American citizens are synonymous with illegal immigrants. What the media and politicians take less interest in are all of the other illegal immigrants coming from Poland, Russia, Canada and Italy quite evident in cities such as Chicago, Miami and New York.

Another fine example of profiling points to countries such as Colombia and Mexico. Media and politicians would have the country believe that all drugs emerge from these two countries, when in fact, drugs also come from Russia, Italy, Holland and Afghanistan to mention a few. So why should there be any concern at all about profiling 'others' who come from countries which we know for a fact breed terrorism?

Political correctness that has infested American society is putting us all in grave danger. The fact that the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) is a political and governmental agency only makes things worse.

Ladies and gentlemen, you don't combat terrorism with a Valentine Day's approach. Unfortunately, technology is not enough, American airport security calls for the implementation of private sector professional security psychologists that would operate in the same manner employed in Israel at any one of their airports. With airport security psychologists, a simple question can expose an intention; a shred of evidence invisible to the untrained eye can reveal a complot. These professionals are technically trained to recognize critical clues which for any of us common folk would be overlooked.

If there is a country under constant and imminent threat it is Israel. Strangely so, Israeli airports do not experience the perpetual mess that prevails even throughout inner city airports here in the States. If we only listen to common sense we would learn from our Israeli friends and embrace their security tactics. But for this government and for some politicians, it is evident that acknowledging such experience is the equivalent of handling cow dung with bare hands.

According to the Government Accountability Office (GAO), the TSA program is incapable of spotting a terrorist person or threat in an effective manner. For some, being a TSA agent is a tepid job void of the patriotism and conviction that inspire our police officers and firefighters. Instead, TSA is focused on box cutters, pocket knives, gels, baby formula, shoes and liquids. Because terrorists are familiar with America's flimsy security measures, they are certainly not planning to hijack a plane with a box cutters anymore.

The United States will always remain a target in the eyes of terrorists because of one striking significant fact: we love life and freedom and they love violence, death and being martyrs and this is the fundamental reason why we are not safe.

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