

ON the SIDE

Challenge Islamophobia!

Islamophobia can be stopped. It takes people like you to take action and make a difference. When you encounter Islamophobia in your daily life, it is important to document it, report it and take action yourself.

— pocket guide, Challenging Islamophobia www.cair.com

When Will We Ever Learn?

Almost always the surveillance and information gathering starts with a swarthy group of strangers—American blacks, Italian immigrants, Jews, Arabs. Ethnicity and race are infused with ‘foreign ideology’—anarchism, socialism, Communism, black nationalism, ‘jihadism.’ ...what starts with ‘swarthy strangers’ then goes on to encompass all who disagree with the government’s agenda.

—Stephan Salisbury’s *Mohamed’s Ghost* (as referenced in *Islamophobia and the Politics of Empire* by Deepa Kumar. Haymarket Books. 2011.)

Neither Infidel Nor Terrorist

Iraqis never got introduced to the real Americans, the peace loving Americans. They knew Americans through fighter jets and the military uniform, the attack and the war and invasion. The Arab media call the Americans infidels. Americans call Arabs terrorists, but when you meet each other you find that none of that is true... The small projects we do [together] are very powerful. The main effort is to stop the violence and pave the way for people to develop a peace-loving culture.

—Sami Rasouli, founder of the Muslim Peacemaker Teams, on partnership projects with the Iraq American Reconciliation Project which foster relationships between Iraqi and American people. reconciliationproject.org

Remote Control Combat Stress

In the first study [Armed Forces Health Surveillance Center] of its kind, researchers with the Defense Department have found that pilots of drone aircraft experience mental health problems like depression, anxiety and post-traumatic stress at the same rate as pilots of manned aircraft who are deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan... The Air Force has also conducted research into the health issues of drone crew members. In a 2011 survey of nearly 840 drone operators, it found that 46 percent of Reaper and Predator pilots, and 48 percent of Global Hawk sensor operators, reported “high operational stress.”

—New York Times, February 23, 2013

Heavy Medal

The new blue, red and white-ribboned Distinguished Warfare Medal will be awarded to individuals for 'extraordinary achievement' related to a military operation that occurred after Sept. 11, 2001 [drone strikes and cyberware fare]. But unlike other combat medals, it does not require the recipient risk his or her life to get it.

— Associated Press, February 13, 2013

Keep Radioactivity Out of My House!

Radioactive Bathrooms? Other countries recycle radioactive waste also, with uncertain control and safety. Last year, Bed, Bath and Beyond recalled tissue holders made in India contaminated with low levels of the radioisotope cobalt 60 that were shipped to 200 of its stores in 20 states.

Action:

Write to President Obama (White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20500) and demand that he issue an executive order that no radioactive materials enter the consumer marketplace; write to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (U.S. NRC, Washington, DC 20555-0001) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA, Ariel Rios Building, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20460).

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