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HEADLINE: What Does a Terrorist Look Like?

BODY:

To the Editor:

Paul Sperry suggests that the police profile young Muslim men of Arab and South Asian origin. The alternative of random checks, he says, is "politically correct suicide."

While it is true that recent terrorist attacks in the United States and elsewhere have been committed mostly by people who fit that description, let us not forget that other terrorists, including Richard Reid, Timothy J. McVeigh, Terry L. Nichols, Theodore J. Kaczynski, John Allen Muhammad and Lee Boyd Malvo, have been white and black men of varying ages, religions and ethnic origins.

Random searches may not always be efficient, but they can provide the ability to prevent terrorist attacks from those people we may not suspect are willing and able to commit atrocities.

Zachary D. Kaufman
Oxford, England, July 28, 2005

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