

Beat: Miscellaneous

RACING OF ARAB AMERICANS AS TERRORISTS MIGHT CONDUCT EUROPEANS FOLLOW SAME LINE

SYMBOLISM UNDER SIEGE

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USPA NEWS - As history always repeats itself, there is nowadays a parallel between the Asian American experience during the second world war and the contemporary social, political, and legal treatment of Arab Americans and Muslims in the United States and Europe by extension...

As history always repeats itself, there is nowadays a parallel between the Asian American experience during the second world war and the contemporary social, political, and legal treatment of Arab Americans and Muslims in the United States and Europe by extension. Back from "Asian American Law Journal" (Volume 8 "" Article 1, January 2001), it was clearly stated "However, the most important question remains unanswered : the question of the long-term significance that will be attributed to this redress...

...Japanese Americans are one of the few groups to have received an official apology and reparations for a race-based wrong perpetrated by the United States government. As, such, the redress received has implications that reach beyond the internees and their families."

"Clearly, the redress is symbolic "" a statement of regret and a token payment 50 years after the fact hardly constitute compensation "" but what does it symbolize ?"

So, History repeats itself by 'racing' the Arab Americans as 'Terrorists'. And on a larger scale Arab Europeans as 'Terrorists'.

"Just as Asian Americans have been 'raced' as foreign, and from there as presumptively disloyal, Arab Americans and Muslims have been 'raced' as 'terrorists' : foreign, disloyal, and imminently threatening. Although Arabs trace their roots to the Middle East and claim many different religious backgrounds, and Muslims come from all over the world and adhere to Islam, these distinctions are blurred and negative images about either Arabs or Muslims are often attributed to both. As Ibrahim Hooper of the Council on American-Islamic Relations note, 'The common stereotypes are that we're all Arabs, we're all violent and we're all conducting a holy war.'"

"The racialized identification of Muslims and Arab Americans as 'terrorists' has not gone unnoticed. In a 1997 report, Maurice Glele-Ahanzozo, the United Nations special rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related phenomena, noted racism, and discrimination against Arabs in the US and highlighted the media's tendency to identify Arabs and Muslims with terrorists."

"The 'racing' of a group identified by religion and/or national origin has once again been combined with the portrayal of the group as a threat to national security. The government's association of Arab Americans and Muslims, however loosely, with 'terrorism', has much in common with both the treatment of Japanese Americans on the basis of their presumed disloyalty and the anti-communism that followed closely on the heels of World War II. With the 'fall' of communism one would think there would no longer be a perceived need for the repressive measures of the Cold War, but many of these continue under the rubric of fighting 'terrorism'. In this new war, Arab Americans and Muslims have quickly become the most visible 'enemy' ".

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