

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 283

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Federal Government should takes steps to counter the growth in anti-Muslim sentiments, targeted rhetorical attacks, and violence against the Muslim, Arab, Sikh, and South Asian American communities.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 26, 2011

Mr. CONYERS (for himself, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. McDERMOTT, Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. HONDA, Ms. WOOLSEY, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. TOWNS, Ms. CHU, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. STARK, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. MORAN, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. POLIS, Mr. RUSH, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. TONKO, and Mr. FILNER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Federal Government should takes steps to counter the growth in anti-Muslim sentiments, targeted rhetorical attacks, and violence against the Muslim, Arab, Sikh, and South Asian American communities.

Whereas the United States is a country founded on the principles of tolerance and religious freedom, as embodied in the First Amendment of the Constitution;

Whereas the protection of these principles is vital to the ongoing sense of community shared by the diverse peoples and religious groups of the United States;

Whereas violent extremism is a serious threat to the sense of community fostered by the First Amendment and is perpetrated by individuals from a variety of racial, ethnic, religious, and political backgrounds;

Whereas the investigation of violent extremism must be careful to proceed based on the facts, not innuendo and opinion, and critically relies on the cooperation and confidence of the public;

Whereas law enforcement and government officials should avoid conduct that raises the specter of unconstitutional profiling, including the assignment of blame or targeting members of an entire religious, ethnic, or geographical community for increased suspicion, based on the conduct of a single or small group of individuals;

Whereas American Muslims have a centuries-long history of playing crucial roles in the United States Armed Forces and law enforcement, and as business leaders, doctors, lawyers, and teachers and are an integral part of diverse communities in cities and small towns throughout the United States;

Whereas American Muslims, like all citizens of the United States, want to live in safe communities, do their part to keep communities safe, and should enjoy the same rights and freedoms guaranteed to all citizens of the United States;

Whereas there exists in the United States today a disturbing and dangerous trend of anti-Muslim rhetoric and bigotry,

evidenced by attacks against individuals, religious institutions, and entire communities;

Whereas Congress has a solemn duty to ensure that its actions do not fuel misconceptions about, and prejudices toward, any faith community, including the American Muslim community and Islam;

Whereas putting an entire community under suspicion erodes trust in government and law enforcement at all levels, which, in turn, undermines public safety;

Whereas targeting American Muslims for scrutiny based on their religion goes against the core principles of religious freedom and equal protection under the law;

Whereas a 2006 study commissioned by the United States Department of Justice found that Arab Americans were suspicious of Federal law enforcement due to government policies and that both community members and law enforcement officers determined that diminished trust was the most important barrier to cooperation; and

Whereas scores of religious, civil rights, law enforcement, and national security leaders and organizations representing diverse citizens of the United States and areas of expertise are concerned about hearings which appear to target the American Muslim community: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Rep-

2 resentatives that—

3 (1) investigations into radicalization in the

4 United States should focus on the criminal behavior

5 of individuals and avoid creating the impression of

1 unconstitutional profiling based on constitutionally
2 protected beliefs and activities; and

3 (2) the Federal Government should take steps
4 to counter the growth in anti-Muslim sentiments,
5 targeted rhetorical attacks, and violence against the
6 Muslim, Arab, Sikh, and South Asian American
7 communities.

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