

Politically Correct Suicide: Still No Subway Profiling

By: Paul Sperry

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New York still won't take the common sense steps to protect mass transit.

After a new series of subway bomb attacks in London, the mayor of New York announced yesterday that police will search backpacks and other bags carried by people boarding city subways.

But the passengers they single out will be picked at random without regard for their race or religion. There will be absolutely no profiling, Mayor Michael Bloomberg vowed.

Talk about politically correct exercises in futility.

Young Muslim men bombed the London tube, and young Muslim men attacked Bloomberg's own city with planes nearly four years earlier. Statistically, they fit the profile of the terrorist targeting the American transportation system.

And yet, still no profiling.

Authorities instead will single out people for special security screening as they do at the nation's airports. That means stopping Girl Scouts and grannies in a procedure that has more to do with demonstrating tolerance for young Muslim men than protecting citizens from them.

At the same time, the NYPD is advising subway riders to be alert for "people" with bulky clothes or fiddling nervously with bags. Could they be more general in describing the traits of an Islamic suicide bomber? They're too PC to narrow it to a level where it can actually be useful to Americans trying to protect themselves and their loved ones.

Truth be told, commuters need to be most aware of young olive-skinned men praying to Allah and smelling like flower water. Law enforcement knows this, and so should you.

Here are the "Suicide Bomber Indicators" the Department of Homeland Security advises U.S. border authorities to be on the look out for, according to a January 2004 "For Official Use Only" handout I've obtained:

*"Nervous, unresponsive (blank stare), or preoccupied."

*"Stiff in the torso or lacking lower mobility or flexibility."

*"Shaved head or short haircut. A short haircut or recently shaved beard or moustache may be evident by differences in skin complexion on the head or face."

*"May smell of herbal or flower water (most likely flower water), as they may have sprayed perfume on themselves, their clothing, and weapons to prepare for Paradise. However, not all suicide bombers are using scented water, because it is widely recognized as an indicator."

*"Forceful behavior or actions (such as pushing through a crowd or entering a restricted area to reach a desired target)."

*"May been [sic] seen praying fervently, giving the appearance of whispering to someone."

*"Recent suicide bombers have raised their hands in the air just before the explosion to prevent the destruction of their fingerprints. They have also placed identity cards in their shoes because they want to be praised and recognized as martyrs."

The London suicide bombers were identified at the scene of the attacks by their IDs. And on the eve of the 9/11 attacks, the hijackers shaved excess hair and perfumed themselves with flower water in a pre-martyrdom process called ablution.

Don't expect the feds to be any more serious about screening Muslim suicide bombers on Amtrak, which pulls into two of the biggest commuter train depots in the country: Penn Station and Union Station.

Asked after the London bombings if the fed-run trains were safe, White House terror czar Fran Townsend claimed: "They're safer than they were after 9/11, they're safer after the Madrid bombings ... It's a lot safer."

What a crock. Not only is there no passenger profiling on Amtrak, there's no bag screening -- even after Madrid. The only restrictions on bags are a 50-pound weight limit, and that's no comfort at all. The London bombers used plastic explosives weighing less than 50 pounds.

Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta and his Muslim-sensitive civil-rights team act as a bulwark against profiling at airports and train stations. One of Mineta's top aides is the son of a Wahhabi mosque leader who raised money for Osama bin Laden's No. 2 in Santa Clara, Calif.

So don't hold your breath for any policy changes there -- even if, as experts predict, as many as 20,000 casualties result from London-type bombs detonated in the New York MTA.

And that's not the only al-Qaida threat to mass transit that authorities are worried about. According to a closely held DHS security advisory I obtained, the "terrorists have designed a crude chemical dispersal device fabricated from commonly available materials, which is designed to asphyxiate its victims."

"The device produces cyanogens chloride (CLCN) gas and/or hydrogen cyanide (HCN) gas," continues the five-page document, first issued Nov. 21, 2003. "These gases are most effective when released in confined spaces such as subways."

And they are extremely deadly, experts say.

By not allowing police to profile the most suspicious train passengers, Bloomberg, Mineta and other leaders are not only unnecessarily inconveniencing millions of commuters, but unwittingly giving Muslim terrorists political cover to carry out their plans. Call it politically correct suicide.

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