



POWER, PAIN, POTENTIAL



South Asian Americans at the Forefront of
Growth and Hate in the 2016 Election Cycle

About South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT)

South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT) is a national nonpartisan non-profit organization that fights for racial justice and advocates for the civil rights of all South Asians in the United States. Our ultimate vision is dignity and full inclusion for all. SAALT fulfills its mission through advocating for just and equitable public policies at the national and local level; strengthening grassroots South Asian organizations as catalysts for community change; and, informing and influencing the national dialogue on trends impacting our communities. SAALT is the coordinating entity for the National Coalition of South Asian Organizations (NCSO).

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Summary	3
Definitions, Methodology, Limitations	5
Demographic Context of South Asian American Growth Nationwide	7
South Asian Americans in the South	8
The Growth of the Undocumented South Asian American Population	8
The Potential and Power of South Asian American Civic Engagement	10
Hate Violence	11
Hate Violence Returns to Historic Levels Mirroring the Year after 9/11	11
Underreporting Hate Crimes	12
Racial Profiling and Hate Violence	13
Rise in Organized White Supremacist Groups	15
Xenophobic Political Rhetoric	16
Xenophobic Political Rhetoric during the 2016 Election Cycle	16
The Relationship between Xenophobic Political Rhetoric and Policymaking	17
Xenophobic Political Rhetoric and Hate Violence – Is there a Relationship?	18
Conclusion and Recommendations	20
Recommendations for Government	20
Recommendations for Communities	22
Endnotes	24
Map: Incidents of Hate Violence Targeting South Asian, Muslim, Sikh, Arab, Hindu, Middle Eastern, and Arab Communities Nationwide: November 2015 – November 2016	28
Appendix A: Incidents of Hate Violence Targeting South Asian, Muslim, Sikh, Arab, Hindu, Middle Eastern, and Arab Communities Nationwide: November 2015 – November 2016	30
Appendix A Endnotes	47
Appendix B: Instances of Xenophobic Political Rhetoric Targeting South Asian, Muslim, Sikh, Arab, Hindu, Middle Eastern, and Arab Communities Nationwide: November 2015 – November 2016	55
Appendix B Endnotes	64

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The tragic attacks of September 11, 2001 were a crippling wound for all Americans. In the year following 9/11, South Asian, Muslim, Sikh, Hindu, Middle Eastern, and Arab communities were the targets of historic levels of violence, rhetoric, and intolerance, simply for how we pray, how we dress, the languages we speak, and the company we keep. Fifteen years have passed since that second plane shifted the ethos of the nation, and our communities continue to be painted as radical, monolithic, and worthy of suspicion by citizens, elected officials, and law enforcement. According to a January 2016 survey by the Pew Research Center, “about half of Americans (49%) think at least ‘some’ U.S. Muslims are anti-American.”¹ The last year in particular has seen an exponential rise in hate violence targeting our communities.

A major stage for xenophobic characterizations were the divisive arguments of the 2016 presidential elections, where threats of mass deportations, loyalty checks, and false equivalencies between combating Islamophobia and combating terrorism were proud talking points for candidates wrestling for the nation’s highest office. In addition, the divisions in our community became exposed as candidates capitalized on largely anti-Muslim rhetoric and policy proposals in an effort to win over non-Muslim South Asians.² The overwhelmingly xenophobic political rhetoric in the 2016 election cycle was not and cannot be separated from the real violence and threats against our communities. In our 2014 report, *Under Suspicion, Under Attack*, we warned to expect a uniquely vitriolic 2016 election cycle given the surge in hate violence we recorded between our 2010 and 2014 reports.

In anticipation of the election and the wave of violence, backlash, and scapegoating aimed at our communities after the attacks in San Bernardino and Paris in November and December 2015 respectively, SAALT established a public online database to document incidents of hate violence and instances of xenophobic political rhetoric over the course of the last year up to November 15, 2016, one week after the presidential election. In this report, *Power, Pain, Potential*, we documented 207 incidents of hate violence and xenophobic political rhetoric aimed at South Asian, Muslim, Sikh, Hindu, Middle Eastern, and Arab communities during this period. This is a 34% increase in less than a third of the time covered in our 2014 report, *Under Suspicion, Under Attack*. This breaks down further into 140 incidents of hate violence and 67 instances of xenophobic political rhetoric of which 196 or an astounding 95% were motivated by anti-Muslim sentiment. Additionally, one in five instances of xenophobic political rhetoric we documented came from presidential nominee and now President-elect Trump.

About half of Americans (49%) think at least some U.S. Muslims are anti-American.

Source: Pew Research Center

The latest hate crimes data released by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) confirms that the recent spike in anti-Muslim hate violence mirrors levels in the year after 9/11.³ The 2015 FBI Hate Crime Statistics show not only a 7% increase in hate crimes overall, but a disturbing 67% increase in hate crimes targeting Muslims.⁴ SAALT's data includes hate violence and rhetoric, which meets a lower threshold than the legal definition of a hate crime, but nonetheless paints a full picture of the xenophobia our communities face, which is steeped in anti-Muslim sentiment. We caveat this with the importance of acknowledging that not all South Asians are Muslim, and not all Muslims are South Asian. Yet it is enough simply to be perceived as Muslim to be a target of hate violence and xenophobic political rhetoric.

This report shares the details of what we collected in our database along with analysis on larger systems, institutions, and trends that have created a climate of hate targeting South Asian, Muslim, Sikh, Hindu, Middle Eastern, and Arab communities. This includes a national increase in government policies that racially profile our communities, a national rise in organized white supremacist groups, and growing lack of mistrust with law enforcement. We also observe that the increase in xenophobic political rhetoric is not just limited to elected officials and candidates, but white supremacist thought leaders who are gaining increasing influence to shape policies at the federal level.⁵

The backdrop of this hostility and intimidation is the rapid growth of communities of color in the United States, with the country projected to be majority people of color by 2044 and even earlier for children (2020). South Asian Americans, who currently number over 4.3 million, are the fastest growing demographic group in the United States. Notably, 30% of South Asians in the United States reside in the South, an increase from half a million to over one million since 2000.⁶ Our communities' population growth, particularly in the South, has been met with a rise in xenophobic political rhetoric and hate violence in this region. The number of hate violence incidents we documented in this report compared to our 2014 report show that the largest spike in hate violence incidents against our communities occurred in the South. In 2014, we documented 20 incidents of hate violence in the South over a three-year period. In this report, we documented 43 incidents of hate violence in this region, over double the number in

SAALT documented 207 incidents of hate violence and xenophobic political rhetoric aimed at South Asian, Muslim, Sikh, Hindu, Middle Eastern, and Arab communities in one year. This is a 34% increase in less than a third of the time covered in our 2014 report.

just one year. Even as South Asian Americans continue to be the most rapidly growing demographic group in the nation, American popular and political discourse grows increasingly xenophobic. We see the peculiar and dangerous consequences of this dynamic most visibly in the American South, a region of our nation that has always reflected deep manifestations of racism and where the largest concentration of South Asian American population growth has occurred over the last fifteen years.

We conclude with recommendations for both government and the community that encourage elected officials to move beyond symbolism and into action and empower community members to lead voter engagement, political education, and youth leadership development efforts. It is critical that our solutions ultimately work toward dismantling the policies and institutions that have made the paradox of living at the intersection of growth and hate a possibility. The 2016 presidential election only reinforced the continued challenges the United States is grappling with around race and racism directed at communities of color. Freedom, equality, and liberty, however, are not abstractions. They are the irreducible ideals on which America was founded, and these promises, as always, are the only solution to repair the divided state of America.

DEFINITIONS, METHODOLOGY, LIMITATIONS

Throughout this report, we use the term “our communities” to refer to South Asian, Muslim, Sikh, Hindu, Middle Eastern, and Arab communities. Although we are diverse, our communities share many common cultural and social characteristics. Media, political leaders, and American society at large often categorize us as one, particularly in public discourse in recent years and in many of the xenophobic comments and incidents of hate violence discussed in this report.

This report uses the term hate violence to refer to crimes including murder, arson, assault, harassment, and vandalism that also involve bias or animus toward our communities. Some of the incidents described in this report do not meet the high legal threshold set by the FBI for hate crimes or a particular state’s statute on hate crimes. We use the broader term “hate violence” in this analysis to include attacks that might not qualify as hate crimes in a particular jurisdiction or where law enforcement agencies did not pursue hate crime charges even when the legal elements were met, but nonetheless appear to involve hate or malice toward our communities, instill fear, and threaten safety and freedom. An example of such is a Philadelphia, PA incident where a severed pig’s head was left at a mosque in a clear act of intimidation and harassment.⁷ This report focuses on hate violence incidents that occurred between November 2015 and November 15, 2016, one week after election day to capture the post-election surge in hate violence.

Xenophobic political rhetoric, as used in this report, refers to comments motivated by a fear or hatred of those perceived to be different, other, or “foreign.” This report includes statements made by political leaders including candidates for elected office, elected officials, and government representatives at the state, federal, and local levels. Such rhetoric is not limited to name-calling, but also includes references to concrete public policies related to immigration, surveillance, and law enforcement targeting immigrants and communities of color. As with hate violence, this report focuses on xenophobic political rhetoric that occurred between November 2015 and November 15, 2016 to include the post-election surge. SAALT tracked the xenophobic political rhetoric and hate violence incidents described in this report through an online database populated with a variety of methods, including internet news searches, action alerts and announcements by ally organizations, community members, media watchdog entities, and a crowd-sourced database where members of the public submitted and viewed descriptions of incidents. SAALT’s simple, user-friendly, and transparent portal for community input lays a foundation for innovative models to address underreporting of hate crimes. Additionally, the collection of information can be viewed in real-time by community members, government officials, media, and other stakeholders, which allows for analysis of emerging trends. Community-based organizations can continue to fine-tune this model to improve public participation. Law enforcement can also adapt elements of this model to increase accuracy of government data

sets by improving our communities' ability to submit and access information about hate violence.

We use the U.S. Census definition for the South, which includes the sixteen states of Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi, Tennessee, Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas as well as the District of Columbia.⁸

While our research represents a sample of hate violence and xenophobic political rhetoric throughout the country, we recognize that it is impossible to list all the violent attacks and xenophobic comments made against our communities, due to the underreporting of such incidents, the normalization of anti-Muslim comments by political leaders, and the limitations of our research methodology. SAALT also recognizes its limited capacity to capture the impact of hateful rhetoric made by politicians at the state and local levels, including regions where SAALT has more recently developed relationships with local organizations and community leaders.

Additionally, due to severe underreporting of hate violence and stigma attached to such incidents, the examples of hate incidents in this analysis should not be viewed as a comprehensive account of all hate violence targeting our communities in the specified time period but rather as a sample. The federal government itself lacks comprehensive and longstanding data on hate violence aimed at our communities writ large; the FBI only began tracking hate crimes animated by anti-Arab, anti-Sikh, and anti-Hindu sentiment in 2015. In addition, Bureau of Justice Statistics suggest that the actual number of anti-Muslim hate crimes in 2014 was likely 6,000 or more even though the FBI only reported 154.⁹

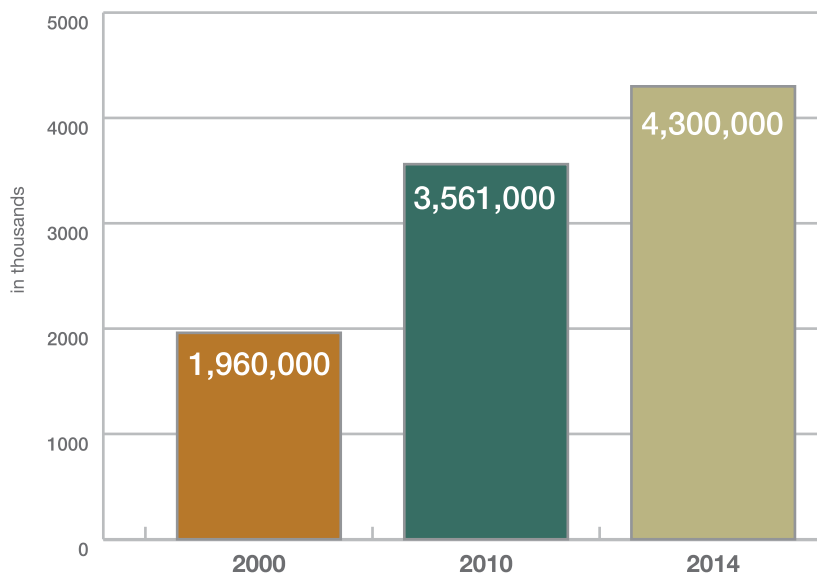
Finally, there is a significant lack of data on South Asian Americans apart from Indian Americans, which makes realistic and comprehensive demographic analysis of the totality of our communities difficult. SAALT has been tracking hate violence and rhetoric against our communities for over a decade. It is our hope that this analysis provides a snapshot of the very real impact and consequences of a uniquely vitriolic election cycle that has revealed a divided nation.

DEMOGRAPHIC CONTEXT OF SOUTH ASIAN AMERICAN GROWTH NATIONWIDE

South Asian Americans are the fastest growing demographic, outpacing not only other Asian American populations but other communities of color as well. The South Asian American population has not only grown but diversified over the last fifteen years in three important ways:

1. The South Asian American population in the American South has doubled from 500,000 to over one million in this region since the year 2000.
2. There has been a large growth in the undocumented South Asian population, including 450,000 Indian-Americans alone. This makes India the fourth highest sending country for undocumented immigrants after Mexico, El Salvador, and Guatemala.¹⁰
3. South Asian Americans have been increasingly engaged in civic and electoral spheres, including a growth in the size of the South Asian electorate measured in the 2012 election cycle.

Growth in South Asian American population 2000–2014

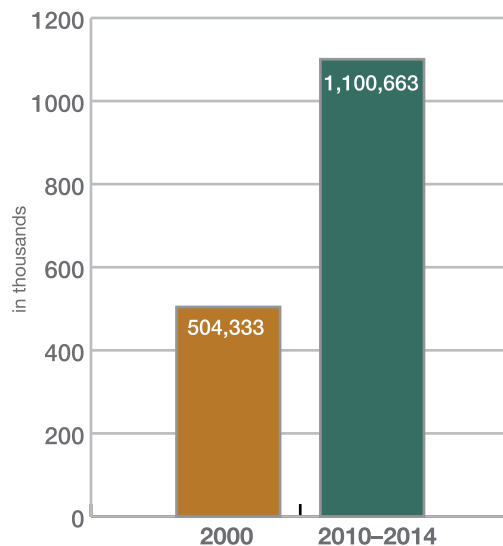


The South Asian community in the United States includes individuals who trace their ancestry to Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The community also includes members of the South Asian diaspora – past generations of South Asians who originally settled in other parts of the world, including the Caribbean, Africa, Europe, Canada and the Middle East, and other parts of Asia and the Pacific Islands. Indians comprise the largest segment of the South Asian community, making up over 80% of the total population, followed by Pakistanis, Bangladeshis, Nepalis, Sri Lankans, and Bhutanese.¹¹ While there is no official federal government count of the Muslim population, it is estimated that there are at least 3.3 million Muslims in the United States, with the recent growth being in part due to immigration from an increasingly diverse group of countries.¹² While all Muslims are not of South Asian origin, this number is notable to understand the magnitude of hate violence and rhetoric focused on a very small percentage of the American population.

South Asian Americans in the South

The growth of the South Asian American population has occurred in some traditional hubs such as New York, New Jersey, California, and Illinois, as well as newer, emerging populations in states such as Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, Virginia, and Texas. Currently, approximately 30% of the nationwide South Asian American population lives in the South, an increase since 2000. Improved employment prospects, lower cost of living, and other economic factors have increasingly drawn South Asian Americans to Southern states.¹³ Of the ten metropolitan areas in the United States that experienced the largest South Asian population growth since 2000, five of these areas were in the South: Charlotte, NC; Richmond, VA; Raleigh, NC; San Antonio, TX; and Jacksonville, FL.¹⁴ Georgia experienced a large growth in the Indian-American population over the last few decades, which is now coupled with significant growth in the Bhutanese-American population in the last five years. Dallas and Houston are two other major Southern hubs for the Bhutanese-American community.¹⁵ The growth and challenges of South Asian American communities in the South and nationwide provide an important

South Asian American Population in the South



backdrop for the surge of hate violence and xenophobic political rhetoric aimed at our communities today.

One particularly poignant example in the South was in February 2015 when an Indian grandfather, Sureshbhai Patel, was brutally beaten by a Madison, AL police officer after first being mistaken as Black and subsequently when he struggled to communicate in English. Mr. Patel remains paralyzed and despite tireless advocacy work on the part of National Coalition of South Asian Organizations (NCSO) member, Asha Kiran, based in Alabama, a federal indictment of the officer ultimately led to two mistrials and an acquittal.

The Growth of the Undocumented South Asian American Population

The history of South Asian immigration and the socioeconomic data of the current population dispel the myth of uniformly successful South Asian American communities. Nonetheless, the model minority myth prevents marginalized South Asian Americans from accessing necessary support, particularly in the face of increasing xenophobic political rhetoric and hate

violence. Immigration laws have not only shaped which South Asian immigrants have settled in the United States, but also their experiences here.

The Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965, a result of the Civil Rights movement and organizing led by Black Americans, lifted national quotas and allowed the immigration of professionals whose skills were in high demand in the United States labor market, including physicians, engineers, scientists, and academics. This legislative change especially enabled educated, professional South Asians to arrive in record numbers and settle throughout the country. This wave of immigrants in turn used the family reunification provision of the 1965 law to sponsor the immigration of less-skilled relatives, adding to the socioeconomic diversity of South Asian American communities. Many other factors have also influenced South Asian immigration to the United States in recent years, including family reunification, economic conditions, displacement, political persecution, conditions for LGBTQ individuals throughout South Asia, and the lack of immigration reform in the United States. Today, South Asian Americans are engaged in a variety of small business enterprises, including driving taxicabs and working in hotels, motels, gas stations, restaurants, convenience stores, factories, and newspaper stands.

Since 2000, unauthorized immigration from Asia has grown at rates much faster than from Mexico.¹⁶ India is the country of origin with the greatest increase in unauthorized immigrants to the United States with a 914% increase since 1990.¹⁷ The lack of comprehensive immigration reform worsens conditions for undocumented immigrants, their families, and Americans at large. Undocumented individuals and others with an uncertain immigration status face unique barriers when interfacing with public safety and law enforcement programs. Numerous studies and interviews with law enforcement have shown that undocumented individuals and communities are less likely to report violence or seek protection from law enforcement out of fear of deportation.¹⁸ In an effort to foster community trust with law enforcement, sanctuary city policies, for example, decouple the immigration and criminal justice systems to ensure local law enforcement officers do not collude with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to deport undocumented individuals who come forward to report abuse or crime.

India is the country of origin with the greatest increase in unauthorized immigrants to the United States with a 914% increase since 1990.

Source: The Atlantic

Less than half of the states in the South have cities with sanctuary city policies and the entire nation witnessed a backlash against these policies in 2015 when Congress nearly passed a bill that would withhold critical Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding for cities that enforced sanctuary city policies. Sanctuary city policies are missing from regions where they are needed the most, and with members of Congress keeping these areas and policies under siege, our undocumented community members are in greater danger of hate violence.

Since SAALT's 2014 report, President Obama announced the expansion of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program and a newly proposed Deferred Action for Parental Accountability (DAPA) program through Executive Action. Unfortunately, while these programs would have benefitted over 40% of the estimated 450,000 undocumented Indian Americans alone and countless more South Asian Americans, application rates were extremely low for South Asian Americans. Asian Americans constituted less than 4% of accepted DACA applications. Approximately 6,000 Indian and Pakistani youth have applied for DACA since it began in 2012 and less than 5,000 have successfully obtained DACA, leaving our communities with some of the highest denial rates among Asian Americans applying to the program. Unfortunately, South Asians face a number of barriers including a profound lack of trust in law enforcement in the wake of flawed surveillance, national security, and racial profiling policies and practices over the past 15 years.

The Potential and Power of South Asian American Civic Engagement

As our community grows in number, we must also grow our power to influence policies, public discourse, and election results. The South Asian American voting age population grew 99% for Indians, 205% for Pakistanis, and 471% for Bangladeshis between 2000-2010, and these numbers only continue to grow.¹⁹ It is important that this growth translates to increased voter eligibility and voter turnout. The 2016 election cycle showed just how important a unified South Asian American voice could have been. Simultaneously, South Asian American

grassroots groups are growing, as are the issues on which they focus. SAALT has seen a significant growth in South Asian community-based organizations at the local level. Membership in the National Coalition of South Asian Organizations (NCSO) has nearly doubled in size since its inception in 2008, presently standing at 54. Notably, NCSO representation in the South, which has traditionally been low, has increased in the last five years along with the population growth, coupled unfortunately with a rise in incidents of hate violence and xenophobic political rhetoric in this region. Historically service oriented groups are addressing issues of immigration, racial profiling by law enforcement, and hate violence to meet the needs and challenges of the growing community.

HATE VIOLENCE

Ninety-four percent or 132 out of the 140 incidents of hate violence documented in our database were motivated by anti-Muslim sentiment. Our database also reflects a concentration of hate violence aimed at our communities in the American South, a region that has also seen a concentration of the rapid growth in our communities in the last fifteen years. Thirty-one percent of the incidents of hate violence we tracked (43 out of 140) occurred in the South. The numbers of incidents in all other regions of the country are still troubling and the actual numbers of hate violence incidents against our community members have gone up overall in the past year. However, the greatest increase in the number of incidents we documented between our 2014 report and now occurred in the South. The distinct political, social, and legal context of the South, along with quickly changing demographics, have presented particular challenges to communities of color, and specifically to populations who are targets of hate violence and xenophobia.

In this section we explore four important trends:

1. The escalation of hate violence over the last year with a concentration of incidents in the American South. We find it particularly disturbing that the levels of violence, which had subsided after the first year since 9/11, are once again back to those heightened levels.
2. The challenges associated with underreporting of hate crimes, including bridging trust between communities and law enforcement to accurately

report hate crimes at the local level, as well as the absence of comprehensive national legislation on hate crimes.

3. The relationship between racial profiling and hate violence, as studies have begun to explore the connection between those who are the targets of government surveillance and profiling programs and those who are more likely to be vulnerable to hate violence.
4. The national rise in organized white supremacist groups and their influence, a phenomenon that has been well documented by the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC).

We conclude the report with innovative recommendations that help shift the current systems, institutions, and policies that both foster an environment of hate and offer little protection for our communities.

Hate Violence Returns to Historic Levels Mirroring the Year after 9/11

The following examples from SAALT's database are illustrative of the physical violence, psychological harm, and community-wide fear caused by hate violence in the American South. Please see the map at the end of this report for a complete geographic illustration of SAALT's database.

- **November 26, 2015, Austin, Texas:** A Muslim student who was walking from a mosque near the University of Texas campus was attacked and shoved to the ground, with the assailant yelling at him and accusing him of taking instructions from ISIS.²⁰
- **December 9, 2015, Washington, D.C.:** A painting company stated “Death to Muslims” to Aaditya Shah after he cancelled the job because the company arrived late.²¹
- **August 12, 2016, Tulsa, Oklahoma:** Khalid Jabara was shot and killed by Stanley Vernon Majors, who had long terrorized the Jabara family, and had run over Khalid’s mother in prior months leaving her with several broken limbs. Khalid called the police 30 minutes prior to his death to say that he was scared because his neighbor had a gun and had a history of terrorizing the family, calling them “dirty Arabs” and “filthy Lebanese.” Khalid called his mother and told her not to come home because Majors had a gun and shortly afterward Majors shot Khalid to death while he was still on the phone with his mother.²²
- **September 12, 2016, Fort Pierce, Florida:** The Islamic Center of Fort Pierce, attended by Omar Mateen, the man responsible for the mass shooting in the Pulse nightclub in Orlando, Florida, was set on fire by an arsonist during the Muslim Eid al-Adha holiday.²³
- **October 8, 2016, Cary, North Carolina:** A seven-year old Pakistani American boy was assaulted on a school bus by five other boys who made references to Islam, Muslims, and Pakistan during the attack.²⁴

Anti-Muslim hate crimes have been rising since 2012. Even in 2014 when hate crimes in America dipped across the board, anti-Muslim crimes were an exception, with an increase of about 14% over the prior year according to the FBI.²⁵ The FBI’s 2015 Hate Crime Statistics show another surge totaling 257 anti-Muslim hate crimes, a 67% increase since 2014 and the highest level since 2001.^{26 27} SAALT’s database findings complement this 2015 data, which reveal an increase in attacks on mosques and religious



In 2015, there were 257 anti-Muslim hate crimes, a 67% increase since 2014, and the highest level since 2001.

Source: FBI

institutions, an increase in violence on college campuses and against young people, and a number of incidents involving armed assailants. Prior to the 9/11 attacks, the FBI typically recorded between 20 and 30 anti-Muslim hate crimes per year. However, in 2001, that number surged nearly twentyfold to more than 500 anti-Muslim hate crimes.²⁸ Between 2002 and 2014, annual hate crimes against Muslims remained between 100-150, approximately five times higher than the pre-9/11 rate. Through efforts largely led by the Sikh-American community after the 2012 massacre of six Sikh leaders at the gurdwara in Oak Creek, WI by a known white supremacist, the FBI began collecting data on anti-Sikh, anti-Arab, and anti-Hindu hate crimes in 2015 for the first time. In addition to the rise in anti-Muslim hate crimes, 37 anti-Arab hate crimes were documented in 2015 in addition to a handful of anti-Sikh and anti-Hindu hate crimes. The FBI states that it takes at least five years for categories to become fully integrated into reporting protocols to begin reflecting accurate numbers.

Underreporting Hate Crimes

The underreporting of hate crimes is a serious concern. Underreporting is particularly acute among Muslim American community members because of deep mistrust with law enforcement. In some states few or zero hate crimes against Muslims were reported by the FBI, even though community groups’ counts were much higher. 2015 FBI data shows that 96 cities either did not report hate crimes or reported zero hate crimes, and nearly half of those cities were in the South.²⁹ Bureau

of Justice Statistics studies have indicated that the real level of hate crimes in America is 20 to 30 times higher than the numbers reported over the years by the FBI.³⁰

Government authorities themselves know that hate crime conviction statistics do not reflect the high number of actions and crimes motivated by hate. From 2002 to 2012, local Texas law enforcement agencies reported that about 200 crimes per year were motivated by hate, but only 10 resulted in hate crime convictions. Ultimately, the federal government has only obtained 29 hate crime convictions since 2009.³¹ This can be attributed to the fact that the United States does not have strong national legislation on hate crimes. While the 2009 Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act defines the scope of hate crimes and expands the protected categories of individuals who are covered, it still relies on the patchwork of current state hate crime laws for enforcement, of which five states do not even have one. Three of those states are in the South – Arkansas, Georgia, and South Carolina. In the case of Dylan Roof of South Carolina, who murdered nine Black members of the historic Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in June 2015, federal prosecutors stepped in to issue an indictment because South Carolina does not have a hate crimes law. However, federal prosecutors are often reluctant to step into cases unless the state’s attempt to do so is patently unacceptable. On the other hand, Stanley Vernon Majors, the white neighbor who murdered

Khalid Jabara on the steps of his Tulsa, OK home in August 2016, was swiftly handed a hate crimes charge by Tulsa prosecutors. But, this was only because of immense community pressure nationwide even though Oklahoma has a strong hate crimes statute.

It may seem simple enough that uniform national legislation on hate crimes with strong enforcement measures combined with greater community trust with law enforcement may solve the problem. But, what happens when the public discourse on South Asian, Muslim, Sikh, Hindu, Middle Eastern, and Arab communities and a host of national policies that condone racial profiling and surveillance of our communities are continually reinforced? Studies are beginning to show that those who are the targets of government surveillance and profiling programs are more likely to be the victims of hate violence that goes unreported.³² Can a series of discussions between communities and law enforcement officers really address such systemized securitization of our communities?

Racial Profiling and Hate Violence

Under the guise of national security, numerous policies have targeted South Asian American communities, particularly those who are Muslim or perceived to be Muslim. These include, but are not limited to the Patriot



Act, National Security Entry-Exit Registration System (NSEERS), the Department of Justice Guidance on the use of race by law enforcement, Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) program, immigration laws and enforcement, and local law enforcement surveillance, profiling, and stop and frisk policies.

In 2012, SAALT coordinated a report with Muslim, Sikh, and South Asian organizations titled *In Our Own Words* that chronicles the stories of working-class Sikh and Muslim residents of New York City who experienced racial and religious profiling by law enforcement through a number of state-sanctioned policies. These include the Patriot Act, which increased the government's ability to conduct searches and surveillance after September 11, 2001. Under this legislation, the FBI conducted more than 500,000 "voluntary" interviews of Muslim and Arab men and conducted raids on Muslim homes, businesses, schools, and organizations.³³ This also led to an onset of increased racial profiling during air travel, which has spiked again in the last year.³⁴ NSEERS, also known as "Special Registration," followed quickly behind the Patriot Act. This program required males over age 16 on non-immigrant visas from 24 Muslim-majority countries to report to local immigration offices for lengthy interrogations. Over 83,000 individuals registered under NSEERS, with 13,000 of those placed into deportation proceedings, resulting in zero terrorism-related convictions.

Today, the federal Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) program narrowly targets its efforts on surveilling the American Muslim community by encouraging imams, community leaders, teachers, and business leaders to identify early signs of "extremism" and "radicalization" and report community members to law enforcement. The rollout of CVE over the last two years has been wrought with closed-door meetings, pilot city tests in Los Angeles, Boston, and Minneapolis/St. Paul, and ultimately an entire office established under the Department of Homeland Security to oversee its implementation. Recent findings show that a new effort to couple CVE efforts in schools with anti-bullying initiatives actually fuels the school to prison pipeline, as it encourages teachers to report "suspicious" students to authorities through the "Don't Be a Puppet" program.³⁵ Such policies erode rather than build trust between our communities and law enforcement over time.³⁶ The revised 2014

Over 83,000 individuals registered under NSEERS, with 13,000 of those placed into deportation proceedings, resulting in zero terrorism-related convictions.

Department of Justice guidance on the use of race by law enforcement continues to sanction profiling in the name of national security, border security, and among local law enforcement officials.³⁷ The Department of Homeland Security has indicated that it will release its own guidance on the use of race by law enforcement that will likely be similar. At the local level, Stop and Frisk in New York City, which allowed for the indiscriminate search and seizure of Black and Brown residents, was finally struck down due to the tireless advocacy work of "Communities United for Police Reform," who posed the alternative "Community Safety Act," adopted by the New York City Council in 2013.³⁸

Lastly, our immigration system continues to cast our communities as suspicious and disloyal. Between 2015-2016, Bangladeshi Muslim asylum seekers were confined, force-fed, and ultimately deported by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) while their cases were still on appeal in immigration courts. These asylum seekers, who desired protection from political persecution in Bangladesh, were instead denied their civil rights in the U.S. and returned home against their will, almost certain to face violence. Their political party, the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), was incorrectly classified as a Tier III terrorist organization by the U.S. federal government based on loose claims of affiliations with terrorist groups, justifying the denial of their asylum claims. The case of the Bangladeshi asylum seekers reflects the intersection of rising anti-Muslim and anti-immigrant sentiment borne out in policy. It illustrates how the federal government is quick to classify a mainstream political party of a predominantly Muslim nation as a terrorist organization, and illustrates

how ICE does not coordinate its actions with the other federal immigration entities who are tasked with hearing asylum cases and appeals.

Other shifts in immigration policy include the Priority Enforcement Program (PEP) intended to replace Secure Communities, which re-prioritizes those who face imminent deportation. New categories for prioritization include people who “pose a danger to national security; those who are “suspected of terrorism,” and those who have been “active...in a criminal street gang.” This policy disproportionately targets Muslim, Arab, and South Asian community members, and is particularly alarming in the face of ramped up efforts to deport Latino communities during the mass holiday ICE raids that occurred in 2015 and 2016. President-elect Trump has promised to continue this trend by deporting two to three million immigrants almost immediately. In order to build trust with law enforcement, our communities need to know that our government is not using its own policies to criminalize us unfairly.

Rise in Organized White Supremacist Groups

Over the last 15 years, the rapid growth of organized white supremacist groups has run parallel to the tremendous growth in the South Asian American population across the nation. According to the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC), white

supremacist groups grew by over 54% from 2001 to 2014.³⁹ The most recent SPLC *A Year in Hate and Extremism* report shows Klan groups grew from 72 to 190 in number between 2014 and 2015.⁴⁰ Of the top five states with concentrations of hate groups, three are in the South (Texas, Florida, and Tennessee), and two of those are the sites of rapid South Asian American population growth (Texas and Florida). Despite such growth, our communities remain vulnerable to hate groups escalating in these same regions.

Earlier this year, SPLC released its *Field Guide to Anti-Muslim Extremists*, highlighting the growth in anti-Muslim networks, most of which are underpinned by philosophies of white supremacy, sharing in their analysis that targets and demonizes Black communities, immigrants, and Muslims.⁴¹ The guide also brings to light the pervasiveness of many of these individuals and their institutions in mainstream media. The normalization of these extremists’ views encourages hate crimes, shapes the outcome of elections, and influences policymaking. Many of the extremists documented in this guide are responsible for the xenophobic political rhetoric captured in SAALT’s database; many have been appointed or considered for high-level cabinet positions in the Trump administration. White supremacist groups have gained momentum and resources, and have deeply influenced the corresponding uptick in both hate violence and xenophobic political rhetoric that we have seen in just the last year. This has also been reflected in public policies at all levels, something we explore in more detail in the next section.

XENOPHOBIC POLITICAL RHETORIC

In our 2014 report, we narrowed the scope of political rhetoric to elected officials and candidates, but over the last year our database captured a diverse array of xenophobic political rhetoric, likely electrified by an election year, that came from elected officials, candidates, individuals, and institutions, many of whom are known anti-Muslim extremists. We examine three ideas in the context of the 2016 election cycle:

1. The scope of xenophobic political rhetoric, 96% anti-Muslim, which is not limited to only one political party.
2. How political rhetoric and policies at the state and national levels mutually reinforce each other.
3. The possible relationship between xenophobic political rhetoric and hate violence.

Xenophobic Political Rhetoric during the 2016 Election Cycle

SAALT logged 67 instances of xenophobic political rhetoric in our online database within the last year. Over half of the instances include statements by former or current elected officials, candidates for elected office at all levels, and appointed officials. Sixty-four of the 67 instances of xenophobic political rhetoric or 96% were animated by anti-Muslim sentiment. Presidential nominee and now President-elect Trump made over 20% of the comments we documented. Several

additional comments are from leaders who expressed agreement with President-elect Trump bringing the total to nearly 30% of our database.

The following are examples of the type of rhetoric regularly aimed at our communities. Please see the chart at the end of this report for a full list of incidents from SAALT's database.

- Presidential nominee and now President-elect Donald Trump on the shooting at the Orlando nightclub in June 2016: "Appreciate the congrats for being right on radical Islamic terrorism, I don't want congrats, I want toughness & vigilance. We must be smart!" He followed up this tweet with, "Is President Obama going to finally mention the words radical Islamic terrorism? If he doesn't he should immediately resign in disgrace!"⁴²
- Presidential nominee Hillary Clinton drew connections between Islam and terrorism, using the phrase "radical Islamism" when referring to the attacks in Orlando and Paris. She also characterized American Muslims as the eyes and ears of terrorism by repeating that "the United States needs to work with Muslim communities who are on the front lines to identify and prevent attacks."⁴³
- The Democratic mayor of Roanoke, Virginia, David Bowers, requested in a written statement that all government and non-government organizations in the city of 99,000 suspend any

assistance to Syrian refugees “until these serious hostilities and atrocities end.”⁴⁴

- Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX), in response to attacks in Brussels, called “to empower law enforcement to patrol and secure Muslim neighborhoods before they become radicalized.”⁴⁵
- Barry Pendergraft, chief of police in Gurley, AL, posted a photograph on his personal Facebook account of a box of ammunition with the text: “100 more bacon grease covered bullets in the box! This relaxes me so!!” A few days later, he posted a video of ammunition loading with the text: “Happiness is a couple thousand rounds in the ammo box! Bacon grease dipped of course!!”⁴⁶

All of the sitting elected and appointed officials above remain in office. The increase in xenophobic and anti-Muslim political rhetoric cannot be attributed to one party alone. While the number of statements by President-elect Donald Trump, and presidential candidates including Ben Carson, Ted Cruz, and Jeb Bush comprised a significant portion of the xenophobic political rhetoric documented, presidential nominee Hillary Clinton also engaged in such rhetoric. Many of the xenophobic comments captured in our database from current and former elected officials in the South characterize Muslims as a threat to our national security and question the loyalties of residents and other elected officials who do not support increased racial profiling, deportation, and violence targeting Muslims in the United States. In the current climate, anti-Muslim political rhetoric is underreported, given the frequency of policies and rhetoric invoking profiling and discrimination in the name of increasing national security. Other examples from the South include:

- A textbook campaign waged by a mother of a 7th grade student in Tennessee after learning that Islam is part of the religious studies curriculum;
- An anonymous letter questioning if a Muslim city council candidate in Florida can be trusted in City Hall;
- President of Liberty University in Virginia advocating for more people to be granted concealed-carry permits to “end those Muslims before they walked in.”

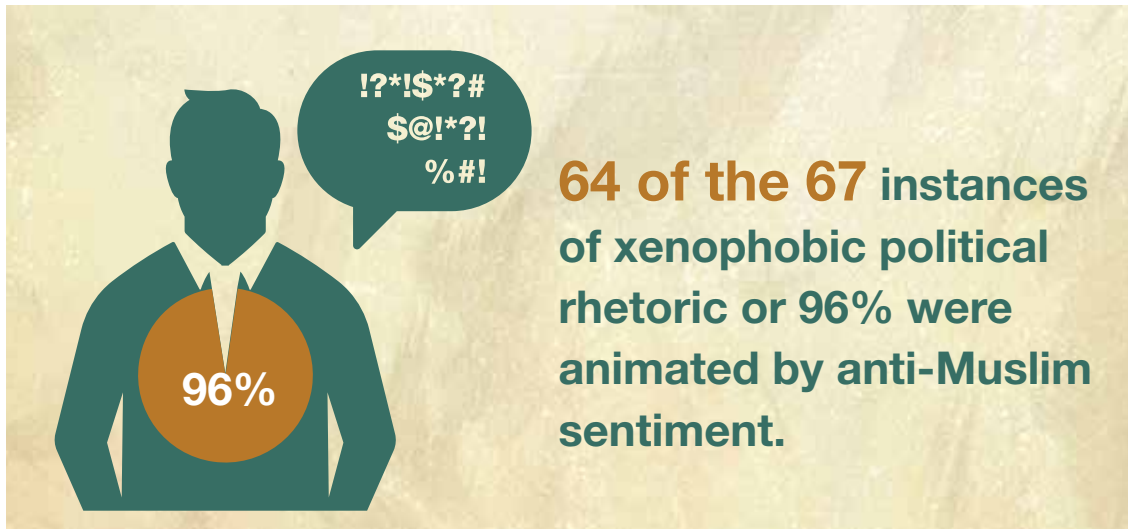
This violent rhetoric is occurring in places where South Asian American communities are experiencing significant population growth, leaving our communities at greater risk for both hate violence and racial profiling.

The Relationship between Xenophobic Political Rhetoric and Policymaking

Patterns in employment discrimination, opinion research, bullying, and other data show that hate violence and xenophobic political rhetoric and policies have a serious impact on our communities.⁴⁷ Most Americans report having an unfavorable view of Islam and rank Muslims most negatively among all major religious groups.⁴⁸ According to a 2010 Gallup poll, nearly half of Muslims are more likely than Americans of other major religious groups to say they personally have experienced racial or religious discrimination in the past year.⁴⁹ We often think about racist or xenophobic political rhetoric as explicit and sensational remarks that are typically condemned in name. Yet the sentiments driving the rhetoric are often translated into public policies, largely with public support rather than condemnation.

Rethink Media released poll findings in 2016 indicating that most Americans are appalled or at the very least reject anti-Muslim rhetoric.⁵⁰ However, when shown discriminatory policies such as extra airline security measures for Muslims or passengers perceived to be Muslim, most respondents believe that is acceptable. This disconnect reveals that the American public may reject discrimination in theory but largely accepts it in practice. This relationship between rhetoric and policy has not been fully explored and may be an important next step in addressing the growing rhetoric and violence against our communities and another way of holding policymakers accountable. It also has important implications for examining policies that uphold racial profiling, which are either the result of or the impetus for xenophobic political rhetoric. Empirical data challenges make it difficult to imply a causal relationship, but there is certainly a correlation.

Anti-Islam laws are an illustration of this relationship between xenophobic political rhetoric and policy. The Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR) and



University of California at Berkeley’s Center for Race and Gender analyzed anti-Islam state laws, such as bans on Sharia law, which have proliferated in recent years and do not increase safety but rather lead to religious intolerance. This includes vandalism of mosques, exclusion of certain school textbooks that include explanations of Islam, and policies to ban Muslim immigrants and refugees.^{51 52} Nearly all the states that passed anti-Islam laws since 2010 were in the South – including Oklahoma, North Carolina, Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Tennessee – further targeting our communities in this region. In the last year, 31 states, including two-thirds of Southern states, passed unconstitutional bans on Syrian refugees. Fueled by public hysteria about Muslim immigrants after the Paris attack, Congress attempted a national ban through the “American SAFE Act of 2015,” which passed in the House.⁵³ Xenophobic political rhetoric is not merely words alone; the rhetoric is borne out in a number of policies that reinforce messages painting our communities as un-American and disloyal, which have very real consequences including additional airport security, anti-Islam laws, and refugee bans.

Xenophobic Political Rhetoric and Hate Violence – Is there a Relationship?

Our communities have long known that xenophobic political rhetoric engenders hate, and recent research methods are now reflecting this empirical reality. In

the past, experts and commentators have noticed that hate crimes against perceived Muslims have jumped and remained high as a result of anti-Muslim propagandizing, such as the spike observed in 2010 during anti-Sharia law crusades and battles over proposed mosque construction.⁵⁴ Academic institutions are beginning to explore the connection between rhetoric and hate, a historically challenging relationship to prove empirically but well understood by communities on the ground.

One such example is a recent quantitative analysis by California State University that explores the connection between political rhetoric and anti-Muslim hate crimes. Statements from political figures against particular groups corresponded with changes in the number of hate crimes against those groups.⁵⁵ Analyzing data following terrorist attacks, researchers found that a tolerant political statement about Muslims was accompanied by a sharp decline in hate crime, while an intolerant announcement was followed by “a precipitous increase in both the severity and number of anti-Muslim hate crimes.” Specifically, after President George W. Bush made statements of tolerance at a mosque on September 17, 2001, anti-Muslim hate crimes dropped at least 50% over the next six days.⁵⁶ On the other hand, anti-Muslim hate crimes increased by an astounding 87.5% in the days directly following President-elect Trump’s speech after the San Bernardino attacks calling for a “total and complete shutdown of Muslims entering the United States.”

Positive statements by politicians about communities are important, but the larger problem of characterizing entire groups based on the actions of individuals is one that must be confronted, as it is not applied equally across groups. In particular, this does not occur when the perpetrator of a hate crime is a white supremacist, as we saw with Dylan Roof of South Carolina, who murdered nine Black members of the historic Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in June 2015. It is important to note that Roof was convicted by a jury in December 2016 on all 33 federal counts, including the

hate crime charges.⁵⁷ The complex relationship between rhetoric and hate violence is one that certainly deserves more attention and research to ensure that the burden of proving the real consequences of these problems does not continue to fall on the communities most impacted. Empirical data has not caught up to what our communities inherently know and experience on a daily basis, which is that xenophobic political rhetoric is deeply connected to the increase in violence and racial profiling we face.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Hate violence and xenophobic political rhetoric not only shaped the tone of the 2016 election cycle and laid the foundation for the next administration; they are deeply rooted in our policies and institutions. South Asian American communities are the fastest growing demographic group in the nation, leading the way for this nation to become majority people of color in less than thirty years. It is critical that this demographic power be transformed into political power that not only tracks, reports, and prosecutes violence and rhetoric targeting our communities, but ultimately dismantles the policies and institutions that have made this paradox of living in the middle of immense growth and hate a possibility. Key strategies include engaging with elected officials and government leaders to protect our communities, but also identifying solutions within our communities that make us stronger over time.

Recommendations for Government

Elected officials should move beyond symbolism and into action

Denouncing and reducing anti-Muslim rhetoric is not a matter of political correctness – it is a matter of public safety, and can be a matter of life and death. It is crucial for our elected officials and candidates to lead the way with responsible messages in the aftermath of attacks that could spur anti-Muslim backlash and violence against our communities. Government officials

should also work with our communities on specific policies that uphold those values.

The following examples illustrate helpful actions by political leaders:

- In 2015, Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX) introduced House Resolution 413 to honor post-9/11 hate crime victims; the bill was cosponsored by Congressmen Andre Carson (D-IN), Mike Honda (D-CA), and Paul Tonko (D-NY).^{58 59}
- In 2012, following the violent attack on the Sikh gurdwara in Oak Creek, Wisconsin where six worshippers were killed, the Chicago City Council and Illinois House of Representatives passed anti-hate resolutions condemning hate crimes and hateful political rhetoric, and participated in a bipartisan interfaith event commemorating the resolutions.⁶⁰
- In October 2016, the city council of Columbus, OH passed a resolution condemning Islamophobia in response to reports of discrimination facing Muslims in Ohio and advocacy by interfaith organizations.⁶¹
- In November 2016, Republican Mayor Sam Liccardo of San Jose, CA declared that the city of San Jose would not tolerate hate crimes after a hijab-wearing student at San Jose State University was attacked.⁶²

Elected officials at all levels and federal agencies should enact and improve policies

- **Elected officials and candidates must remain vigilant against policies that sanction racial profiling,** which ultimately undermine safety of our communities by eroding trust with law enforcement and further marginalizing communities facing hate violence.
- **Federal lawmakers must pass federal anti-racial profiling legislation.** This includes passing legislation such as the End Racial Profiling Act and incorporating similar safeguards in other policies related to immigration and civil liberties so that our communities feel protected instead of targeted by our government.
- **Federal government agencies should remain vigilant in addressing hate crimes by acknowledging the growing problem of white supremacy.** Singling out Muslims with policies such as the Countering Violent Extremism program and continuing to characterize white perpetrators of hate violence as lone actors ignores systemic racism and white supremacy.
- **The federal government should maintain infrastructure to improve reporting of hate violence.** In our last report, SAALT recommended a National Task Force to Prevent Hate Violence focused on Muslim, Arab, and South Asian communities. Utilizing our proposed model, the White House established this Initiative at the end of 2014. We urge the next administration to maintain and grow the Initiative to develop SAALT's recommendations on improving reporting mechanisms in our communities, bridging the deep lack of mistrust with local law enforcement, and providing in-language assistance and resources for reporting and prevention of hate crimes.
- **Federal agencies must improve their policies on racial profiling.** While the revised DOJ Guidance on the use of race by law enforcement expanded the protected categories of people, it did not address any other crucial loopholes, effectively

rendering little change in our communities and other communities of color facing violence. We urge the Department of Justice to prioritize disaggregated data collection on racial profiling complaints, improve training of law enforcement officers, and institute strong enforceability measures in its implementation phase. We also urge the Department of Homeland Security to learn from the Department of Justice's omissions and pass its own guidance on the use of race by law enforcement that includes our robust recommendations.

- **City Councils should establish jurisdictions as "hate-free zones."** While it may seem symbolic, this is a strong step toward institutionalizing protections for our communities. The City Council of Berkeley, CA, following the lead of their Congresswoman Barbara Lee, who was the first to speak out against the "War on Terror" just days after 9/11, passed a resolution in September 2001 establishing Berkeley as a "hate-free zone." This meant the city would support the efforts of local organizations to eliminate racism, discrimination, and actions of hate against Muslim and Arab residents.⁶³ As a result of the presidential elections, similar efforts are gaining momentum and can be paired with legislation, improved reporting and prevention mechanisms, and resources for communities.

Improve reporting mechanisms

The government and our communities know that hate crimes are underreported. We need innovative models in data collection and reporting, and stronger coordination between federal, state, and local systems. Communities still face a disproportionate burden in proving the scope of the problem, while a pro-active, community-based approach by government officials and law enforcement is what community members desperately need. As over 80 organizations outlined in a September 2016 letter, the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice should acknowledge open investigations of hate violence against our communities, educate and share best practices with national and local civil rights counterparts, train law enforcement to accurately report and track hate incidents, and increase outreach to our communities to better understand the harassment and violence facing us on a daily basis.⁶⁴

While there are a number of reasons for dismal reporting numbers, there is also no single uniform federal reporting system for local jurisdictions, which makes it difficult to compare data across cities. There is no uniform hate crimes legislation that lays out a clear pathway from reporting to prosecution. And, there is a profound lack of mistrust and even information between communities and local law enforcement making reporting a significant challenge. Community members need liaisons at the local level who are trustworthy and can navigate the reporting process effectively. The federal government should also create a centralized source of information for communities to access the various state hate crime statutes and receive assistance to report hate crimes.

Recommendations for Communities

Promote civic engagement and support widespread political education within and outside Muslim, Arab, and South Asian communities

- **Civic engagement** within our communities and with other communities of color is critical to building our power over time. The deep community engagement work of members of the National Coalition of South Asian Organizations has resulted in both movement building and policy change in key parts of the country, including the South.
- **Investing in youth leadership** is also critical to building a strong pipeline for civic engagement. Youth in SAALT's Young Leaders Institute have supported the Movement for Black Lives on their campuses, hosted challenging conversations with their peers on racism and anti-immigrant and anti-worker policies in their communities, helped remove Confederate monuments on their campuses, and spoken out against hate violence and racist political rhetoric.
- **Voter engagement**, while front and center with the recent presidential election, is not only about getting people elected, but also holding candidates and elected officials accountable to our

communities before and after they are elected. SAALT published a presidential voter guide for the 2016 elections to help community members make informed choices about the candidates with rich perspective on the tremendous demographic growth in our communities. It is critical that a South Asian American voice is accompanied with a strong political agenda that meets the needs of our communities, particularly working class, undocumented, and Muslim populations.

- **Political education** is another important component of building power in our communities. Organizations such as Islamic Networks Group, Campaign to Take on Hate, Rethink Media, and the Southern Poverty Law Center have developed public education materials, tools, resources, and curriculum to discuss Islamophobia; the relationship between anti-Muslim hate, racism, and the criminal justice system; key public polling data on mainstream American views of Muslims, hate violence, and xenophobic political rhetoric, and policies; and a guide to anti-Muslim public figures respectively. The wide dissemination of these materials in our communities is an important part of going beyond denouncing hate violence and xenophobic political rhetoric to identifying the systems that uphold this environment and building a movement to dismantle them.

Utilize restorative justice models rather than relying on the criminal justice system

While many advocates at the national level have historically called for increased sentences for hate crimes, it is important to consider alternatives outside the criminal justice system, especially when the perpetrators are youth and people of color. Government agencies can draw upon models such as Illinois, where probation for hate crimes involves educational programs conducted by universities or non-profit organizations and, when it is safe to do so, community service for the benefit of communities affected by the hate crime.⁶⁵

Law enforcement and communities can employ a restorative justice framework to help prevent hate crimes and address the aftermath. DRUM-South Asian Organizing Center has hosted a series of

community conversations with working class Muslim community members in New York City, who are the most impacted by government surveillance and racial profiling policies, to think collectively about alternatives to policies that criminalize as a response to violent attacks. They challenge us to shift away from a framework of “victimhood” that relies on police, and instead move toward one of building collective power by drawing on examples of Black Muslim communities who historically built strong relationships, identified common problems, and engaged in partnerships with others to address shared issues. DRUM points out that Black imams have been asking the difficult question of “Why do you think these incidents [hate violence] almost never happen to us [Black Muslims]?” Arguably, the strong community infrastructure developed in many Black Muslim communities acknowledged

tensions between communities of color and proactively addressed them. These are the type of long-term discussions and investments our communities should make with other communities of color to make us all safer. In December, 2016, DRUM-South Asian Organizing Center and partner organizations along with community members declared the Jackson Heights neighborhood in Queens, NY as a “hate-free zone.” The initiative is centered on principles of community defense against racism, xenophobia, and bigotry.⁶⁶ An overreliance on the criminal justice system does not build power in our communities to address the systemic causes of hate violence. With the proliferation of racial profiling policies across public institutions, we must be bold and innovative in the solutions we create to address and prevent hate violence.

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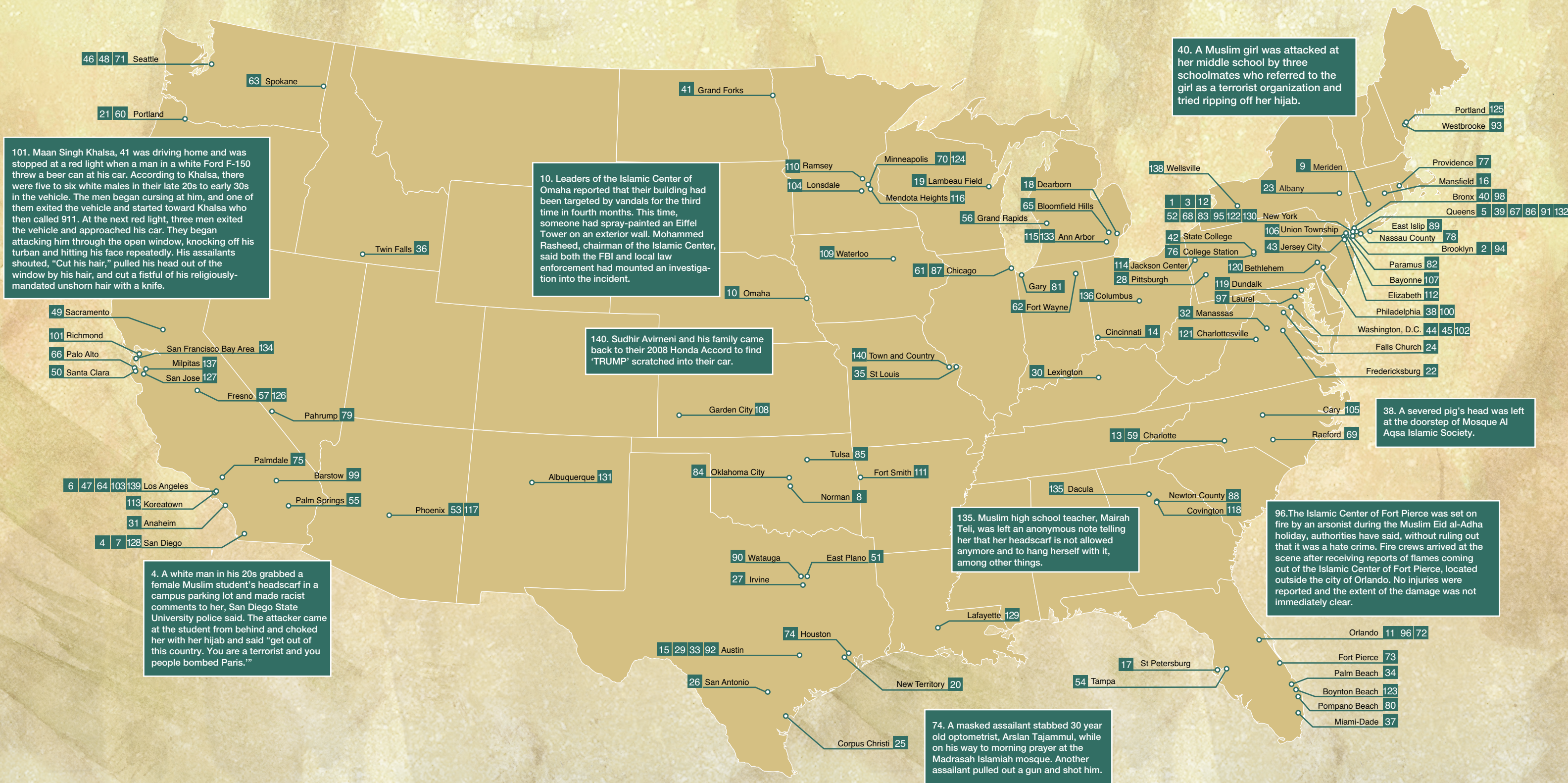
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Incidents of Hate Violence Targeting South Asian, Muslim, Sikh, Arab, Hindu, Middle Eastern, and Arab Communities








Nationwide: November 2015 – November 2016









58 Southwest Airlines flight






Appendix A









Incidents of Hate Violence Targeting South Asian, Muslim, Sikh, Arab, Hindu, Middle Eastern, and Arab Communities Nationwide: November 2015 – November 2016









	1	November 2015	New York, NY	Ferida Osman, 21, a Muslim Hunter College student was spat on by a stranger as she waited for a train at Pennsylvania Station last week. She was talking on her phone when suddenly she felt a spray of saliva hit her. She said she heard someone yelling, “Go back home, you terrorist.” ¹
	2	November 2015	Brooklyn, NY	A pair of sisters and an infant were allegedly approached in Bedford Stuyvesant by a postal worker who shouted obscenities and reportedly said, “I am going to burn your ‘f***king’ temple.” He allegedly elbowed one of the women and spat in her face while she was waiting to cross the street. The man followed her across the street and called the other Muslim woman a “n**ger” and said, “I am not crazy, I am a postal worker.” ²
	3	November 2015	New York, NY	A man called an NYU student a “fucking Arab motherfucker, fucking terrorist leave this country, we’re gonna blow you all up.” He also spit on the student. The Latino NYU student was mistakenly profiled as Muslim. ³
	4	November 2015	San Diego, CA	A white man in his 20s grabbed a female Muslim student’s headscarf in a campus parking lot and made racist comments to her, San Diego State University police said. The attacker came at the student from behind and choked her with her hijab and said “get out of this country. You are a terrorist and you people bombed Paris.” ⁴
	5	November 2015	Queens, NY	Sameya Omarkheil, 22, an Afghan-American student at St. Paul’s School of Nursing in Queens, said a man intentionally tripped her early last week as she was rushing to take an exam. The man then threw his cigarette butt near where she had fallen, ground it out with his shoe and said, “Go back to your country,” recalled Ms. Omarkheil, who was born and raised in New York and also wears a hijab. ⁵
	6	November 2015	Los Angeles, CA	Sikh Metrobus driver Balwinder Jit Singh was attacked by 34-year-old K.C. Tard. Tard had boarded the Metro bus in south Los Angeles when he began shouting that the bearded, turbaned driver, Balwinder Jit Singh, was a terrorist and a suicide bomber who had hijacked the vehicle, prosecutors said. He subsequently beat Singh which left the driver with a black eye, a bruised jaw, and a swollen face. He continues to experience pain and blurred vision. ⁶
	7	November 2015	San Diego, CA	A pregnant Muslim woman, dressed in a hijab and pushing her child in a stroller was followed by an unidentified man. He made racially charged threats before stopping her and pushing her stroller into her. The woman knows the man from previous incidents of harassment. ⁷












 = Denotes an incident motivated by anti-Muslim sentiment or if the victim is perceived to be Muslim.












	8	November 2015	Norman, OK	Suspect Mark James Riedel, 47, was shot by police officers after he allegedly called 911 to tell dispatchers that he was going to “start shooting anything that looks like a Muslim after what they did to France.” He called twice. In the first call, he told a dispatcher, “You guys seem to be ignoring me. I’m just going to start shooting at cars.” In the second call, the dispatcher tried in vain to keep him on the phone. When police arrived at his house, he allegedly walked out carrying a pistol, and was shot when he ignored repeated demands to put the weapon down, according to Norman Police. ⁸
	9	November 2015	Meridien, CT	Someone fired multiple rounds into the Baitul Aman mosque after the Paris attacks, and bullets ripped through three interior walls and areas where members gather for prayer. The mosque was empty at the time. ⁹
	10	November 2015	Omaha, NE	Leaders of the Islamic Center of Omaha reported that their building had been targeted by vandals for the third time in fourth months. This time, someone had spray-painted an Eiffel Tower on an exterior wall. Mohammed Rasheed, chairman of the Islamic Center, said both the FBI and local law enforcement had mounted an investigation into the incident. ¹⁰
	11	November 2015	Orlando, FL	Amir Elmasri, his wife Nehil, and their children all returned to their home to find a bullet hole in the garage. The bullet had traveled into the couple’s bedroom and lodged itself inside a dresser. When police arrived, they discovered evidence of three shots fired at the house. Elmasri told police he suspects his family was targeted because they’re Muslim. “We are as peaceful as any American family,” he told WFTV. “I mean, why would you shoot at my garage?” ¹¹
	12	November 2015	New York, NY	Christian Alexander Pean, a US citizen of Mexican and Haitian descent, was in the lobby of the AMC theater waiting for a friend when an unidentified man approached him. After asking Pean about his plans, he asks “Is that really what you’re doing? Stop standing there and texting. You know what happened in Paris. Guys like you texting and standing...that’s suspicious.” He got closer and yelled, “Take off your jacket. Open it up and show me what’s inside,” before trying to remove the jacket himself. ¹²






	13	November 2015	Charlotte, NC	<p>Uber driver Samson Woldemichael, a Christian Ethiopian immigrant and father, picked up his assailant outside an Irish pub. Near the end of the ride, the passenger became belligerent. “He told me he was going to shoot me right in the face or strangle me,” Woldemichael told The Huffington Post. “He used a lot of bad words ... really dirty words, and said I was a Muslim.” He then repeatedly punched Woldemichael in the face. Woldemichael says he drove halfway around the block before the passenger “hit me so hard on the forehead with his bare hand.”</p>
				<p>“He then choked me with one arm,” Woldemichael added, “and started hitting me with the other one. I couldn’t move. The only thing I could do was step on the brake, and then I was honking on the horn continuously.”</p>
				<p>Woldemichael told WBTB the man then got out of the car, ran a short distance away and then turned around and launched into another tirade, this time keeping his hand behind his back as though he were armed.</p>
				<p>That’s when Woldemichael says he drove away and called 911. The cops, he said, arrived within a few minutes, but by that point his assailant had disappeared into the night. Woldemichael says he suffered two bruises to his head.¹³</p>
	14	November 2015	Cincinnati, OH	<p>Haneen Jasim was wearing her hijab as she walked home from studying at a Starbucks near the University of Cincinnati. The 22-year-old student said the driver started honking his horn, cursing and calling her a terrorist as she crossed the street — and then he drove straight toward her and didn’t stop. Three people walking in front of Jasim grabbed her and pulled her onto the sidewalk just before the car struck her.¹⁴</p>
	15	November 2015	Austin, TX	<p>A member arrived at the The Islamic Center of Pflugerville, about 15 miles outside Austin, Texas for morning prayer and found torn pages of the Quran outside, smeared with feces.¹⁵</p>
	16	November 2015	Mansfield, CT	<p>Mahmoud Hashem, a civil engineering student at the University of Connecticut, from Egypt returned to his dorm room to find the words “killed Paris” underneath the nametag on his door.¹⁶</p>
	17	November 2015	St. Petersburg, FL	<p>Martin Schnitzler, 43 left a voicemail at the Pinellas Park mosque saying he was going to “firebomb you and shoot whoever is there.” In one message, Schnitzler said, “I’m taking the war to you and I’m going to have a big following.”¹⁷</p>






	18	November 2015	Dearborn, MI	Sarah Beebe, @irish_beebs, tweeted: “Dearborn, MI, has the highest Muslim population in the United States. Let’s fuck that place up and send a message to ISIS. We’re coming.” The former Navy woman added, “I want to re-enlist now. #PrayersForParis.” In another tweet, she said, “People who aren’t American need to learn not to stand 3 inches away from me, because I will punch you. That’s how we do it in America.” ¹⁸
	19	November 2015	Lambeau Field, WI	During the moment of silence during a Green Bay Packers game, one fan shouted: “Death to Muslims.” ¹⁹
	20	November 2015	New Territory, TX	26 year old Clayton Alexander Cansler sent a direct message over Facebook saying he would “shoot up a mosque,” accompanied by an image of an assault weapon and ammunition. ²⁰
	21	November 2015	Portland, OR	Protesters greeted the Ahmaddiya Muslim community, arriving for afternoon prayer at the Rizwan Mosque. A handful of protesters, bearing loudspeakers and wearing sandwich boards emblazoned with phrases like “Jesus Saves From Hell,” shouted obscenities as Muslims made their way into the mosque. ²¹
	22	November 2015	Fredericksburg, VA	Samer Shalaby, spoke on behalf of the Islamic Center of Fredericksburg about a proposal to move the mosque to a larger location. One man attending the meeting characterized Islam as “an evil cult,” while another said that “every Muslim is a terrorist” and told Shalaby “Shut your mouth, I don’t want to hear your mouth.” He added, “Everything that I can do to keep you from doing what you are doing will happen.” ²²
	23	November 2015	Albany, NY	The FBI got involved after a Muslim group based near Albany notified the agency that Jon Ritzheimer, 32, of Phoenix had posted a video on Nov. 18 in which he showed a gun, made profane anti-Obama statements and said he was driving cross-country to confront them. In the video, Ritzheimer, a former marine, says, “F--k you Muslims. We’re gonna stop at virtually every mosque along the way, flip them off and tell them to get f-----.” ²³
	24	November 2015	Falls Church, VA	Chester H. Gore, 27, was charged with using a hoax explosive device at the Dar Al-Hijrah Islamic Center. Gore tried to enter the iron fence around the mosque. and then threw two smoke bombs and a Molotov cocktail toward the building. Young members of the mosque who live in the neighborhood saw him, confronted him and he left, Abdul-Malik said. ²⁴
	25	November 2015	Corpus Christi, TX	The Islamic Society of South Texas received hate mail stating, “Convert to Christianity Before It’s Too Late.” ²⁵










	26	November 2015	San Antonio, TX	Mariano Talavera wore military-style clothes and carried an American flag and a large backpack into the Islamic Center of San Antonio, where he then shouted profanities and desecrated prayer rugs with his shoes. ²⁶
	27	November 2015	Irving, TX	About a dozen protesters carrying long guns, some masked, lined up outside a mosque to “Stop the Islamization of America.” ²⁷
	28	November 2015	Pittsburgh, PA	A passenger began questioning his taxi driver, a 38-year-old Moroccan man asking, “You seem to be like a Pakistani guy. Are you from Pakistan?” He went on to talk about ISIS and the issues he saw with Islam. The passenger asked the driver to wait because he forgot his wallet in the house. He returned with a rifle in his hand. The driver drove away quickly and the passenger shot the back of the taxi. One bullet went through the back window and struck the driver in the back. ²⁸
	29	November 2015	Austin, TX	A Muslim male student was walking from the mosque near the University of Texas when he was attacked and shoved to the ground. He was wearing headphones and the assailant yelled at him and accused him of taking instructions from ISIS. ²⁹
	30	November 2015	Lexington, KY	The Islamic Center of Lexington received an email threatening to kill everyone inside. The threat said, “I’m going to kill everyone I (sic) there you Muslim f**ks. Salabis is coming for you.” ³⁰
	31	December 2015	Anaheim, CA	The owner of Al-Farah Islamic Clothing found an English translation of the Quran pierced with multiple holes and hanging on the front door of the store. Several months ago, an unidentified individual shattered a window in the same store. Police are investigating whether the two incidents are related. ³¹
	32	December 2015	Manassas, VA	A man claiming to be from the Jewish Defense League called the Manassas mosque and left a message saying if one Jew was killed in the California shooting, he would retaliate against the mosque. The caller said, “We’ll do to your people what you did to them. We are checking now to see if one Jew has been killed or shot in California. If that has been the case, we say, never again....The Holocaust.” ³²
	33	December 2015	Austin, TX	Leilah Abdennabi, a Palestinian-American born in Chicago, and Sirat Al-Nahi, an Iraqi-American born in Seattle, went to Kerbey Lane Café when an older man said, “She should just go back to Saudi Arabia where she came from.” He added, “What? You have a gun in there? Just go ahead and shoot me.” ³³









	34	December 2015	Palm Beach, FL	27 year-old Joshua Killets was arrested for smashing windows and overturning furniture at the Islamic Center of Palm Beach. Killets had previously posted Islamophobic content on his Facebook profile. Killets even bragged about committing the act to the person who reported the incident to local police. ³⁴
	35	December 2015	St Louis, MO	A man who identified as a “former Marine” called the St. Louis office of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), threatening to chop off the heads of any Muslims who came to his home. ³⁵
	36	December 2015	Twin Falls, ID	The Islamic Center of Twin Falls was vandalized, with the words “HUNT CAMP?” spray painted on its windows. The man who reported the vandalism to police speculated that the vandal’s words are likely in reference to an internment camp in Idaho for Japanese-Americans during World War II, commonly referred to as the Hunt Camp. ³⁶
	37	December 2015	Miami-Dade, FL	Store clerk, Sikeer Aktaruzzaman, who is from Bangladesh, was shot multiple times. ³⁷
	38	December 2015	Philadelphia, PA	A severed pig’s head was left at the doorstep of Mosque Al Aqsa Islamic Society. ³⁸
	39	December 2015	Queens, NY	Sarker Haque, owner of Fatima Food Mart in Astoria was attacked by a customer who entered his store reportedly asking if everything was free. He then attacked Haque multiple times allegedly saying, “I’ll kill Muslims.” He continued attacking him until another customer entered the store and called police. ³⁹
	40	December 2015	Bronx, NY	A Muslim girl was attacked at her middle school by three schoolmates who referred to the girl as a terrorist organization and tried ripping off her hijab. ⁴⁰
	41	December 2015	Grand Forks, ND	25-year-old Matthew William Gust set fire to the Somali-owned Juba Coffee House and Restaurant with a molotov cocktail, causing \$90,000 in damages. ⁴¹
	42	December 2015	State College, PA	19-year-old Nicholas Tavella, a Penn State student, grabbed an Indian student by the throat while he was crossing an intersection, telling him, “Don’t make me put a bullet in your chest.” Tavella admitted to police he racially profiled the student, saying he appeared to be Middle Eastern. ⁴²
	43	December 2015	Jersey City, NJ	Hate messages were sent in the mail and on the phone to the Al Tawheed mosque. ⁴³
	44	December 2015	Washington, D.C.	U.S. Rep. André Carson (D-Ind.), one of only two Muslims members of Congress, received a death threat. Rep. Carson blamed the death threat on the “toxic environment” of US politics, created in part by Donald Trump’s escalating rhetoric targeting ethnic minorities. ⁴⁴








	45	December 2015	Washington, D.C.	Aaditya Shah commissioned the painting company, Paint1ng.com, but later cancelled after the company was late to the job. In response, the company said, "Death to Muslims." ⁴⁵
	46	December 2015	Seattle, WA	Hamza Warsame, a Somali Muslim student at Seattle Central College, was brutally beaten and then shoved off the roof by other students near the campus. Warsame later died from the injuries. ⁴⁶
	47	December 2015	Los Angeles, CA	The walls of a gurdwara were vandalized with hateful graffiti. The graffiti included the phrase, "F@#k ISIS," and the words "Islam" and other references of gangs. ⁴⁷
	48	December 2015	Seattle, WA	A ride-share driver was assaulted by a man in a group of three passengers, who accused him of being a terrorist. The driver demanded the trio exit his car, but as they were leaving, the aforementioned man reached inside the car and began punching the driver. ⁴⁸
	49	December 2015	Sacramento, CA	A hate crimes investigation was opened against Denise Slader, an employee for the California Department of Corrections. Slader was caught on video attacking two Muslim men praying in a public park with her fists and a cup of hot coffee. ⁴⁹
	50	December 2015	Santa Clara, CA	Police had to evacuate a local office of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) after a letter containing a suspicious white powder was discovered. While the substance came back as harmless, the letter ominously read, "Die a painful death, Muslims." Two similar letters were also sent to the Washington, D.C. CAIR office. ⁵⁰
	51	December 2015	East Plano, TX	The home of a Muslim family was vandalized twice. The family came home to broken windows and their security system shattered. ⁵¹
	52	December 2015	New York, NY	Roberto Murino, a customer at a Herald Square restaurant burst into an anti-Muslim tirade, slapping one worker then busting glass partitions with a chair. ⁵²
	53	December 2015	Phoenix, AZ	Windows were smashed and an office under construction was ransacked at the Islamic Community Center of Phoenix. ⁵³
	54	December 2015	Tampa, FL	A Muslim woman was nearly shot as she left a mosque, and another Muslim woman was nearly run off the road leaving her mosque. ⁵⁴
	55	December 2015	Palm Springs, CA	The Islamic Society of Palm Springs was damaged by arson. ⁵⁵
	56	December 2015	Grand Rapids, MI	A liquor store clerk fought back after a robber shoved a rifle into his mouth and called him a terrorist. The robber shot the man in the cheek, luckily the clerk survived. ⁵⁶








	57	December 2015	Fresno, CA	Two two white men in their early 20s pulled over in their car after spotting Amrik Singh, began to curse at him, and attacked him. They then got back into their car and ran him over. Singh suffered a broken collar bone among other serious injuries. Singh was wearing a turban and had a beard. ⁵⁷
	58	December 2015	Southwest Airlines flight	Gill Parker Payne, 37, of Gastonia, North Carolina, ripped off a Muslim woman's hijab and screamed "This is America!" during a Southwest Airlines flight. ⁵⁸
	59	January 2016	Charlotte, NC	Police escorted a Muslim woman wearing a hijab out of Donald Trump's campaign event after she stood up in silent protest during Trump's speech. Rose Hamid, a 56-year-old flight attendant sitting in the stands directly behind Trump, stood up Friday during Trump's speech when the Republican front-runner suggested that Syrian refugees fleeing war in Syria were affiliated with ISIS. Despite her silence, Trump supporters around her began chanting Trump's name — as instructed by Trump campaign staff before the event in case of protests — and pointed at Hamid and Marty Rosenbluth, the man alongside her who stood up as well. As they were escorted out, Trump supporters roared — booing the pair and shouting at them to "get out." One person shouted, "You have a bomb, you have a bomb," according to Hamid. ⁵⁹
	60	February 2016	Portland, OR	Michael Troxell, 27, is being held without bail on suspicion of using homicidal violence against Abdul Jamil Kamawal, 68. Police responded to a 911 call of a man being attacked with a shovel, they arrived to find Kamawal covered in straw. He died soon after from his injuries. Kamawal was a retired 22-year survey technician for Washington County and worked to help refugees settle in the Portland area. Troxwell was doing construction work on Kamawal's property. ⁶⁰
	61	February 2016	Chicago, IL	John Alletto walked up to a 42-year old Muslim cab driver and asked "Are you Muslim?" The cab driver replied yes and Alletto began to punch him in the head, neck, and body. A witness attempted to intervene and called Alletto racist for beating the man since he was Muslim and Alletto began to fight the witness. ⁶¹
	62	February 2016	Fort Wayne, IN	Three young men, 23-year-old Mohamed Taha Omar, 20-year-old Adam Mekki and 17-year-old Muhannad Tairab, were discovered with multiple gunshot wounds. The three Muslim victims were killed 'execution style.' Relatives of the victims insist that the incident should be viewed as a hate crime. ⁶²







	63	March 2016	Spokane, WA	A naked man vandalized a gurdwara and desecrated sacred items inside. Jeffrey C Pittman, 44, broke into the gurdwara and was arrested wearing nothing but a sheet taken from the temple's furnishings. He was also holding the gurdwara's ceremonial sword. ⁶³
	64	May 2016	Los Angeles, CA	Los Osos High School printed a picture of Bayan Zehlif in the school yearbook with the name 'Isis Phillips' underneath it. ⁶⁴
	65	May 2016	Bloomfield Hills, MI	Several boys yelled "allahu akbar," "ISIS," "raghead," and "terrorist," at both a 17-year old girl and her mother on the Cranbrook Schools campus. Later that same day, while on a run, the same girl was surrounded by five men who screamed racial and religious slurs such as "Arab go back to your country, you don't belong here." When the girl tried to run away, they shoved her. ⁶⁵
	66	May 2016	Palo Alto, CA	52-year-old David Charles Cirner parked his black 2015 Toyota Camry in two spaces at a parking lot on Urban Lane. An Indian taxi driver in his late 40s asked Cirner to move his car so that he could park. Cirner began yelling racial slurs and the man returned to his cab. Cirner then got out of his car and attempted to punch the victim from the passenger side of the taxi and continued to shout slurs. He then moved to the driver's side window and punched the man in the jaw and grabbed the victim's phone and threw it at his head, cracking the screen. Cirner then went back to his car and backed twice into the cab before driving off. ⁶⁶
	67	June 2016	Queens, NY	Mohamed Rasheed Khan, 59, was followed out of the Center for Islamic Studies in Jamaica, Queens and then beaten around the corner by three individuals. Khan was punched and suffered a concussion as well as fractures to his face and ribs and had to undergo surgery. He was also unable to speak, eat or open his eyes. The bike he was on was also stolen from him. The suspects were seen laughing while leaving the scene. Police said nothing. ⁶⁷
	68	June 2016	New York, NY	A man on the New York subway harassed two Muslim women wearing hijabs. He told Amaira Hasan to "go back home and take your bombs with you." ⁶⁸
	69	June 2016	Raeford, NC	Army Reserve officer, Russel Thomas Langford, 36, first left bacon outside of a mosque, then followed a member leaving the parking lot in his Chevrolet Tahoe. He later came back and made death threats. "He told people at the mosque that he would kill them and bury them behind the mosque," said Capt. John Kivett of the Sheriff's Office. "He brandished a handgun while he was on the property." Authorities found several handguns and other weapons, along with 500 rounds of ammunition in Langford's vehicle. ⁶⁹









	70	June 2016	Minneapolis, MN	Two white men approached a car of five Somali Muslim men dressed for nightly prayer and started cursing Islam and Muslims. When the car drove off, the two white men began shooting at the car and injured two of the Muslim men, ages 19 and 20. ⁷⁰
	71	June 2016	Seattle, WA	Robert Harris, 37, posted multiple posts on Facebook about attacking Muslims. He started with “I don’t care who reads this, I will take revenge.” He subsequently posted, “All you gotta be is a little crazy, have a nice gun and plenty of ammunition and blow Muslims away while they are praying at their satanic mosque.” “Revenge is coming my friend,” he continued. “I am going to blow these mother fuckers up, I guarantee that.” He also posted, “Idris mosque in Seattle, too many targets to count,” with an image of the mosque. ⁷¹
	72	June 2016	Orlando, FL	The Masjid Al-Rahman received anonymous threats via email and letters. Threats include, “We know where you are, we know your location...we will come at the right time.” ⁷²
	73	July 2016	Fort Pierce, FL	Taylor Anthony Mazzanti, 25, approached a man outside of the mosque attended by Orlando shooter, Omar Matteen, and said “you Muslims need to get back to your country,” before attempting to break into his vehicle and punch him in the face. ⁷³
	74	July 2016	Houston, TX	A masked assailant stabbed 30 year old optometrist, Arslan Tajammul, while on his way to morning prayer at the Madrasah Islamiah mosque. Another assailant pulled out a gun and shot him. ⁷⁴
	75	July 2016	Palmdale, CA	Ahmed Muqadarati came back to his car to find his windows broken and “F**k Muslim” and “Terrorist” spray painted on his car. ⁷⁵
	76	July 2016	College Station, PA	6 to 7 shots were fired at the Islamic Community Center in the middle of the night. Members woke to find the mosque’s glass completely shattered. No one was injured in this shooting as it was empty at the time. ⁷⁶
	77	July 2016	Providence, RI	The windows of the Muslim Community Center of Kingston’s Masjid Al-Hoda were smashed and the building was spray-painted with anti-Muslim graffiti in large red letters. ⁷⁷
	78	July 2016	Nassau County, NY	A couple became angry after they found the slushee machine at a gas station to be broken and began hurling anti-Muslim slurs at the two gas station clerks and threatened to kill them. They became angrier when the store clerk denied their purchase of several other items with electronic food stamps and the woman began throwing food at the clerk. The man pushed a New York State Lotto machine to the ground causing \$4,000 worth of damage and threw a 6-foot metal cart and two bottles of antifreeze at the clerk. ⁷⁸









	79	July 2016	Pahrump, NV	Things such as ‘foreigner go home,’ ‘Towel head camel,’ ‘Lost turban,’ ‘sand n**ger,’ and ‘I will kill you,’ were spray painted on a Muslim family’s business on N. David Street. This is the most recent in a string repeated anti-Muslim graffiti to this business. ⁷⁹
	80	July 2016	Pompano Beach, FL	The San Francisco, California chapter of Council on American-Islamic Relations received a hate-filled, anti-Muslim voicemail. He said, “I was hoping you guys would answer the phone today and let me know where you’re going to attack in the United States next. I know that you guys are terrorists and that you support terrorists. You people are disgusting. I wish that you were not in the United States, and you don’t deserve to be here, either. I think we should ban all non-American Muslims from entering the United States, and if it were up to me, I would ban all American Muslims as well. You people are terrorists, killers, awful female genital mutilation, anti gay, anti women, anti whatever.” ⁸⁰
	81	August 2016	Gary, IN	The manager at Indiana Family Dollar Store asked Sarah Muzdaher Safi to leave because she wore a niqab. She said, “Ma’am if you can’t remove that from your face, I’m going to need you to leave the store.” Safi explained it was a religious garment and the manager still insisted Safi leave, saying, “you need to remove that from your face or remove yourself from the store.” ⁸¹
	82	August 2016	Paramus, NJ	Surjeet Bassi, 50, went to replace his Mercedes with a newer model at a local Mercedes-Benz dealership and after negotiating the price was told he couldn’t make the purchase because “they were afraid he would sell it to the Taliban.” ⁸²
	83	August 2016	New York, NY	An unknown suspect is seen on video repeatedly hurling a hammer against a sign above the New York City Islamic center. ⁸³
	84	August 2016	Oklahoma City, OK	OK Halal Grocery Store was attacked twice in the same week with hate-filled graffiti including condemning ISIS and calling out nearby mosques. ⁸⁴
	85	August 2016	Tulsa, OK	Stanley Vernon Majors had long terrorized his neighbors, the Jabara family, and had run over Khalid Jabara’s mom in prior months leaving her with several broken limbs. Khalid called the police 30 minutes prior to his death to say that he was scared because his neighbor had a gun and had a history of terrorizing the family. He called them “dirty Arabs,” “filthy Lebanese.” Khalid called his mother and told her not to come home because Majors had a gun and shortly after Majors shot him to death while he was still on the phone with his mom. ⁸⁵
	86	August 2016	Queens, NY	Imam Maulama Akonjee, 55, and his assistant, Thara Uddin, 64, were shot in the back of the head. They were transported to a local hospital in critical condition where they later died. ⁸⁶











	87	August 2016	Chicago, IL	For the month of August, a woman from Chicago hurled Islamophobic and hate filled words at 25-year-old Suzanne Damra. During the final week of August, the woman physically attacked both Damra and her elderly mother. ⁸⁷
	88	August 2016	Newton County, GA	Hundreds of people protested a local Muslim community's plan to build a mosque. ⁸⁸
	89	August 2016	East Islip, NY	Uppal's middle school on Long Island consistently looked the other way when 12-year-old Nashwan Uppal was bullied and harassed. Uppal is a disabled, Muslim student who has been in the school system for seven years and was forced to sign a confession under extreme duress claiming he was part of ISIS and was planning to blow up the school's fence. ⁸⁹
	90	August 2016	Watauga, TX	The Masjid Al-Sahaabah mosque regularly receives threatening voicemails but this one was over the top, according to one of its members. The voicemail was filled with Islamophobic hate. The caller said, "If you think you're going to establish Sharia Law in my neighborhood in this country in Texas, you're very wrong. People like me and my other military brothers are (expletive) heavily armed to the teeth. And we will meet you on any battleground that you want," he says. "We will cut all of your heads off. You understand me? All of you!" ⁹⁰
	91	August 2016	Queens, NY	60-year-old Nazma Khanam was on an evening walk with her husband. She was fatally stabbed in what police think was an attempted robbery. Her family believes it was a hate crime since she was wearing traditional Muslim clothing and the attacker did not take anything. ⁹¹
	92	August 2016	Austin, TX	Emad Sideeq filed a lawsuit against Whole Foods for not doing anything to stop the harassment he faced virtually everyday at work from his fellow employees for being Muslim. He was called "terrorist," and "Muslim terrorist," among other things. They would regularly tell him he would "blow up Ink Block" because he "was a Muslim terrorist." The harassment escalated from verbal to physical attacks causing Sideeq a serious foot injury. ⁹²
	93	August 2016	Westbrooke, ME	Notes left around an apartment complex urged violence against Muslims. They said things like "All Muslims are Terrorists should be killed." Iraqi residents found other notes. ⁹³




	94	September 2016	Brooklyn, NY	Emirjeta Xhelili, 32, made many anti-Muslim remarks before attacking two Muslim women as they pushed their children in strollers, authorities said. Xhelili tried to rip the hijab from the women's heads during the attack. She struck the women in the face and body, and repeatedly shouted, "this is the United States of America, you're not supposed to be different from us," court documents allege. Xhelili told the women, "get the (expletive) out of America (expletive), you don't belong here." She also attacked their children, pushing one stroller to the ground and rattling the other while two infants sat inside, according to court documents. The 11-month-old and the 15-month-old, along with their mothers, were not seriously injured. ⁹⁴
	95	September 2016	New York, NY	A 35-year-old Muslim woman was walking down Fifth Avenue when she felt something warm on her arm. The woman saw her blouse was on fire, and frantically patted out the flames. She noticed a man standing near her with a lighter. She told police that the man did not speak to her and just walked away. ⁹⁵
	96	September 2016	Orlando, FL	The Islamic Center of Fort Pierce was set on fire by an arsonist during the Muslim Eid al-Adha holiday, authorities have said, without ruling out that it was a hate crime. Fire crews arrived at the scene after receiving reports of flames coming out of the Islamic Center of Fort Pierce, located outside the city of Orlando. No injuries were reported and the extent of the damage was not immediately clear. ⁹⁶
	97	September 2016	Laurel, MD	At the Islamic Community Center on Contee Road, an image of a white tractor-trailer was caught on surveillance video twice backing into the masjid. No one was inside at the time and no injuries were reported. ⁹⁷
	98	September 2016	Bronx, NY	While a 25-year-old Muslim man and his mother were walking around the Fordham Manor neighborhood, a car pulled up and passengers began yelling anti-Muslim slurs at the pair. When the victim approached the car to confront the perpetrators, they began punching him. ⁹⁸
	99	September 2016	Barstow, CA	"Terrorist," and "raghead," were found written in permanent marker on Muslim U.S. Army Veteran, 32 year old Mohamed Abbas's work locker. ⁹⁹
	100	September 2016	Philadelphia, PA	A man threw a firebomb into the car of a 40-year-old Muslim man who was sitting in the car. The assailant allegedly screamed "there you go, Muslim!" as he hurled what is assumed to be an improvised incendiary device into the vehicle. ¹⁰⁰

	101	September 2016	Richmond, CA	Maan Singh Khalsa, 41 was driving home and was stopped at a red light when a man in a white Ford F-150 threw a beer can at his car. According to Khalsa, there were five to six white males in their late 20s to early 30s in the vehicle. The men began cursing at him, and one of them exited the vehicle and started toward Khalsa who then called 911. At the next red light, three men exited the vehicle and approached his car. They began attacking him through the open window, knocking off his turban and hitting his face repeatedly. His assailants shouted, "Cut his hair," pulled his head out of the window by his hair, and cut a fistful of his religiously-mandated unshorn hair with a knife. ¹⁰¹
	102	September 2016	Washington, D.C.	Rashid Dar, 27, was dressed in a jubba and taqiyah on his way to deliver a sermon for prayer when he was attacked at the Dupont Metro station. He was punched in the collarbone and believes he was attacked for his dress. ¹⁰²
	103	September 2016	Los Angeles, CA	David Hooks walked towards Balmeet Singh outside Habit Burger and shouted racial slurs at Singh and said "so you're going to blow up this country. You're trying to blow up this country?" According to Singh, Hook yelled "You're trying to blow up this country. I should ... kill you right now." The man approached him, threw a drink in his face and said he was going to kill him for "blowing up this country." ¹⁰³
	104	September 2016	Lonsdale, MN	A sign outside of Treats Family restaurant reads, "Muslims get out." ¹⁰⁴
	105	October 2016	Cary, NC	Dr. Zeeshan-ul-Hassan Usmani, father of 7-year-old Abdul Aziz Usmani, reported that his son was beaten by five students on a school bus, allegedly while they made references to Muslims and the boy's Pakistani heritage. The family has since left the US for Pakistan after the latest incident in a long history of discrimination towards his children and family. "These are six and seven year old kids calling him names, with one kid punching him in the face, while two other kids attacked him, kicked him, and held his arms back." ¹⁰⁵
	106	October 2016	Union Township, NJ	New Jersey congressional candidate, Peter Jacob, who is Indian-American, woke up to find swastikas spray painted on his home. ¹⁰⁶
	107	October 2016	Bayonne, NJ	Muslim Americans found Islamophobic epithets and "Donald Trump" spray-painted all over the Bayonne Muslim Community Center. Words such as "f**k Allah," "f**k Arabs," "Jesus Christ" and "f**k ISIS" were found plastered over the Al Mi'raj Masjid. ¹⁰⁷
	108	October 2016	Garden City, KS	Curtis Allen, Gavin Wright and Patrick Eugene Stein, together plotted to bomb an apartment complex-turned-mosque with 120 Muslim Somali men, women, and children on Election Day. ¹⁰⁸

	109	October 2016	Waterloo, IA	Worshippers at the Masjid Al-Noor Islamic Center found the name “TRUMP” scrawled across the brick building in red spray paint. ¹⁰⁹
	110	October 2016	Ramsey, MN	Jodie Burchard-Risch, 44, a customer at Applebee’s became agitated upon hearing Jama, a Somali-Muslim woman, speaking to her cousins in Swahili. After berating her, Burchard-Risch took a mug of a beer mug and smashed it in Jama’s face. Jama required 17 stitches. ¹¹⁰
	111	October 2016	Fort Smith, AK	Masjid Al Salam Mosque and the Fort Smith Islamic Center were vandalized with phrases such as “Go Home” and “Go Back to Your Country” in addition to swastikas. ¹¹¹
	112	October 2016	Elizabeth, NJ	Fatma Farghaly saw an ad on Craigslist for a one-bedroom apartment and received confirmation on the phone that it was still available. However, after arriving, William Greda asked Farghaly if she is Muslim and after Farghaly said she is, Greda told her that he does not rent to Muslims. ¹¹²
	113	October 2016	Koreatown, CA	Mark Lucian Feigin left a voicemail at the Islamic Center filled with hate and profanity and called again the following day threatening to kill Muslims. The LAPD searched his house to find 9 guns and 250 pounds of ammunition. ¹¹³
	114	October 2016	Jackson Center, PA	Store owner Paul Chandler placed an ad in a local newspaper that said: “Please NO Muslims or Hillary Supporters — We do not feel safe selling to terrorists!” Chandler said, “We have a responsibility not to sell weapons to people we think would use them in a crime or do something illegal with them. I have to be honest with you — I do not feel safe selling weapons to Muslims. I’m not denying them the right. They can buy a gun somewhere else. I’m just not going to be the one to sell it to them.” ¹¹⁴
	115	October 2016	Ann Arbor, MI	An unidentified man carrying an Islamic State flag and dressed in a thawb was carrying a fake machine gun on his back and wearing a “Sharia for Ann Arbor” T-shirt, according to Skyline High School senior Mustafa Syed, who said he was approached by the man. Syed said the man told him terrorism is what Muslims believe in, including Muslims in Ann Arbor. ¹¹⁵
	116	October 2016	Mendota Heights, MN	An anti-Muslim remark was written along the walls of Brown College near a suite where two Muslim students were residing. ¹¹⁶

				Arizona schoolteacher, Faye Myles, told student, A.A., that she couldn't wait for Trump to become president because that would mean the student could get deported. A.A. is a Muslim refugee from Somalia who came to the United States in 2012. Up until January, A.A., an 11-year-old, had been enrolled at the school as a sixth grader.
	117	October 2016	Phoenix, AZ	"I can't wait until Trump is elected," the teacher reportedly told the student. "He's going to deport all you Muslims. Muslims shouldn't be given visas. They'll probably take away your visa and deport you. You're going to be the next terrorist, I bet." The complaint lodged by the ACLU further alleged that Myles' harassment "was extensive," going so far as to choke A.A. "until his eyes began to water from the pain." The teacher also showed the class a video clip of the September 11, 2001 hijackers and suggested that A.A. was going to become a terrorist, saying "That's going to be you." ¹¹⁷
	118	October 2016	Covington, GA	An armed militant group, Georgia Security Force III% is targeting a Muslim congregation in central Georgia, calling its plans to build a new mosque an effort to build a training ground for the Islamic State group. Residents launched a Facebook page called Stop the Mosque that included videos of masked men setting off bombs in the woods. The group's creator, former Marine Chris Hill, 42, has vowed violence against the proposed mosque. ¹¹⁸
	119	October 2016	Dundalk, MD	The following message was left on an Iraqi family's doorstep: "Terrorist, Leave, No one wants you here, Your kind is a disgrace, 9/11 was your fault." It also included a drawing of a woman in a hijab holding a bomb. ¹¹⁹
	120	October 2016	Bethlehem, PA	Anti-Muslim writing was found in a men's bathroom in Chandler-Ulmann hall of Lehigh University. ¹²⁰
	121	November 2016	Charlottesville, VA	Dorms at the University of Virginia were vandalized with the word "terrorist" and an arrow drawn to point toward the room of several Muslim students in Brown Residential College. This writing marks the third of several racist vandalisms on and near grounds this semester. ¹²¹
	122	November 2016	New York, NY	Singh, senior religion fellow at the Sikh Coalition, reached out for a water cup while running, a woman pulled the cup back and called him a "dirty Muslim." In another incident, a man shouted at other marathon runners that Singh is a member of ISIS and is closing in on them. ¹²²
	123	November 2016	Boynton Beach, FL	A mosque was vandalized with racial and anti-Muslim epithets in black spray paint. The entrance of the sign of the Alamin Center was defaced with "Fuck Islam" and "Fuck ISIS." ¹²³
	124	November 2016	Minneapolis, MN	The word "ISIS" was spray-painted on the Muslim Student Association of the University of Minnesota's sign. ¹²⁴

	125	November 2016	Portland, ME	A University of Southern Maine student wrote the Latin phrase “Deus Vult” or “God Wills It” on a desk and a wall, according to student leaders. The phrase was used as a rallying cry for Christians during the Crusades in medieval times, and more recently has been adopted as an anti-Muslim insult. ¹²⁵
	126	November 2016	Fresno, CA	A Muslim woman was leaving the voting booth when someone yelled “Muslim go back home” at her. ¹²⁶
	127	November 2016	San Jose, CA	19-year old Esra Altun was walking back to her car at San Jose State University when someone grabbed her hijab from behind and yanked it backward. Altun struggled to breathe as the man pulled hard at her head scarf inside the third floor of the West Garage. ¹²⁷
	128	November 2016	San Diego, CA	A San Diego State University student wearing a hijab was robbed in a campus parking structure. She said the two men, described as in their early 20s, made comments about President-elect Donald Trump and the Muslim community and then took her purse and backpack. Investigators say the men took the woman’s car keys and ran off. Her vehicle was missing from the parking garage. ¹²⁸
	129	November 2016	Lafayette, LA	An 18-year-old Muslim student at the University of Louisiana-Lafayette was knocked to the ground with something metal and verbally assaulted with obscenities before attackers made off with her wallet and headscarf. ¹²⁹
	130	November 2016	New York, NY	Muslim students at New York University found their prayer room vandalized with “Trump” spray-painted on it. ¹³⁰
	131	November 2016	Albuquerque, NM	An unknown male attempted to pull a Muslim woman’s headscarf off at the University of New Mexico. ¹³¹
	132	November 2016	Queens, NY	19-year-old Muslim college student, Fariha Nizam had been on the Q43 bus for less than 10 minutes when an older white couple boarded and came towards her. The woman gestured at her headscarf and told her to “take it off” and that she is “not allowed to wear that anymore.” The woman then came towards her and attempted to take it off herself. ¹³²
	133	November 2016	Ann Arbor, MI	A man approached a Muslim student at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor and threatened to set her on fire with a lighter unless she removed her hijab. ¹³³
	134	November 2016	San Francisco Bay Area, CA	While on her way home on the Bay Area Rapid Transit, Ivet Lolham was overheard speaking Assyrian. Another passenger began accosting her, saying, “Trump might deport you. This woman is a stalker from the Middle East. She’s a Middle Eastern terrorist, she’s terrorizing citizens like me and she will probably get deported.” ¹³⁴

	135	November 2016	Dacula, GA	Muslim high school teacher, Mairah Teli, was left an anonymous note telling her that her headscarf is not allowed anymore and to hang herself with it, among other things. ¹³⁵
	136	November 2016	Columbus, OH	A Muslim woman and her family, while stopped at a traffic light, were verbally assaulted by an unknown man. The man approached the vehicle, banged on the windows, and took pictures of her family. He yelled, “C***, you don’t belong in this country,” and “Go back to your f**king country.” ¹³⁶
	137	November 2016	Milpitas, CA	Nicki Pancholy, an Indian woman who does not identify as a Muslim, wore a bandana to protect her head prior to leaving her car for a hike. She returned to her car to find, “Hijab wearing b----- this is our nation now get the f--- out.” ¹³⁷
	138	November 2016	Wellsville, NY	‘Make America White Again,’ was spray painted above a softball dugout. ¹³⁸
	139	November 2016	Los Angeles, CA	The UCLA White Students Group disseminated posters all over campus calling for white supremacy and xenophobia. ¹³⁹
	140	November 2016	Town and Country, MO	Sudhir Avirneni and his family came back to their 2008 Honda Accord to find ‘TRUMP’ scratched into their car. ¹⁴⁰

Appendix A Endnotes

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Appendix B







Instances of Xenophobic Political Rhetoric Targeting South Asian, Muslim, Sikh, Arab, Hindu, Middle Eastern, and Arab Communities Nationwide: November 2015 – November 2016






	i.	November 2015	Fox News	Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) continued to call for Muslim refugees from Syria to be barred from entering the United States but opening the borders to displaced Christians, arguing there is not a “meaningful risk” that Christians will commit terrorist acts. ¹
	ii.	November 2015	CNN’s “State of the Union”	Former Republican Governor Jeb Bush said: “I think we need to do thorough screening and take in a limited number. There are a lot of Christians in Syria that have no place now. They’ll be either executed or imprisoned, either by Assad or by ISIS. We should focus our efforts as it relates to the refugees for the Christians that are being slaughtered.” ²
	iii.	November 2015	ABC’s “This Week”	Senator Marc Rubio (R-FL) said that all Muslims are not extremists, but added, “We are at war with radical Islam. With an interpretation of Islam by a significant number of people around the world that they believe now justifies them killing people who don’t agree with their ideology.” ³
	iv.	November 2015	MSNBC’s “Morning Joe “	“You’re going to have to watch and study the mosques, because a lot of talk is going on at the mosques,” less than a month after telling Fox Business that “absolutely” shut down U.S. mosques to defeat Islamic State militants. ⁴
	v.	November 2015	Yahoo News	Donald Trump was asked whether his push for increased surveillance of American Muslims could include warrantless searches. He suggested he would consider a series of drastic measures. ⁵
	vi.	November 2015	Roanoke, VA	In a statement, Roanoke’s Democratic mayor, David Bowers said he was requesting that all government and non-government organizations in the city of 99,000 suspend any assistance to Syrian refugees “until these serious hostilities and atrocities end.” ⁶
	vii.	November 2015	Fox News’ “The Kelly File”	“It’s not about closing down mosques. It’s about closing down any place — whether it’s a cafe, a diner, an internet site — any place where radicals are being inspired,” Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) said when asked if he agreed with Trump. ⁷
	viii.	November 2015	Alabama	Republican presidential candidate Ben Carson while speaking on refugees: “If there’s a rabid dog running around in your neighborhood, you’re probably not going to assume something good about that dog,” Carson said during a campaign stop in Alabama. “And you’re probably going to put your children out of the way. That doesn’t mean that you hate all dogs.” “To bring them here under these circumstances is a suspension of intellect.” ⁸










 = Denotes an incident motivated by anti-Muslim sentiment or if the victim is perceived to be Muslim.









	ix.	November 2015	Birmingham, AL	Donald Trump on 9/11: “There were people over in New Jersey that were watching it, a heavy Arab population, that were cheering as the buildings came down.” ⁹
	x.	November 2015	Twitter	“After today’s attack in Mali, the Obama-approved domestic anti-terror plan: Give up your guns and memorize a Koran verse,” former Republican Governor Mike Huckabee wrote. ¹⁰
	xi.	November 2015	Columbus, Ohio	Donald Trump on unfounded allegations of celebrations after 9/11: “And holding tailgate style — tailgate! You know what that means? Tailgate! That means football games, Ohio State. Thousands of people, in parking lots, on roofs. Tailgate is a lot of people.” ¹¹
	xii.	November 2015	CNN Newsroom with host Carol Costello	A Michigan mayor who was asked by a CNN anchor whether she is “afraid” to govern “a majority Muslim-American city” told Media Matters she was caught “completely by surprise” by the line of questioning, explaining that “we don’t think of our Muslim neighbors in those terms.” ¹²
	xiii.	November 2015	Nevada	On Donald Trump’s allegations of celebrations after 9/11: Ben Carson said that he saw it, too. “I think that was an inappropriate response,” he said. ¹³
	xiv.	December 2015	Fox News’ “Fox and Friends”	Fox News Expert Dr. Keith Ablow said, “Maybe somebody said something that he considered off-color about his faith and he decided, look, now it’s go time. Listen, if somebody named Syed leaves your party and people say, “why is Syed leaving,” you know what? Call the cops. That’s the point at which we’re at in this country. I’m sorry to say it, but we’re there, and to do otherwise would be called the psychological force of denial.” ¹⁴
	xv.	December 2015	Lynchburg, VA	Liberty University president Jerry Falwell Jr. said, “If some of those people in that community center had what I have in my back pocket right now ... Is it illegal to pull it out? I don’t know ... I’ve always thought that if more good people had concealed-carry permits, then we could end those Muslims before they walked in ... and killed them.” ¹⁵
	xvi.	December 2015	Twitter	Former Republican Governor George Pataki on twitter. @GovernorPataki: We must declare war on radical Islam. @LorettaLynch I’m not edging toward violent speech, I’m declaring we kill them. Go ahead, arrest me. ¹⁶
	xvii.	December 2015	Washington, D.C.	Donald Trump calls for “complete shutdown” of Muslims entering the United States. ¹⁷
	xviii.	December 2015	Las Vegas, NV	Assemblywoman Michele Fiore (R-NV) said, “What--are you kidding me? I’m about to fly to Paris and shoot ‘em in the head myself!” when asked why she didn’t join the statement on Syrian refugees. ¹⁸









	xix.	December 2015	CNN's Larry King	Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez (D-CA) said, "We know that there is a small group, and we don't know how big that is, from the people that I speak to — that Islam is their religion and who have a desire for a caliphate and to institute that in any way possible," stated Sanchez. "They are not content enough to have their way of looking at the world, they want to put their way on everybody in the world. They are willing to go to extremes. They are willing to use and they do use terrorism." ¹⁹
	xx.	December 2015	Fox News	Fox News host Eric Bolling made the startling claim that there were reports of Muslims in New Jersey being given advance notice of the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks so they could watch the attacks from their rooftops. "I remember specifically the news reports about Jersey City. They said people were on the roofs watching the planes fly in. They were tipped off prior to the thing," Bolling said. "And this was a narrative that was going on. I remember video. I don't remember if it was Pakistan or Paterson." ²⁰
	xxi.	January 2016	Muscatine, IA	A Sikh man wearing a red turban was ousted from a Donald Trump rally at Muscatine High School. The man was escorted out of the rally after interrupting Trump's speech for displaying a banner that said "Stop Hate". After the protester was escorted out of the rally, Trump responded in reference to his 'Make America Great Again' hats: "He wasn't wearing one of those hats was he? And he never will, and that's OK because we got to do something folks because it's not working." ²¹
	xxii.	February 2016	New Hampshire	At the Feb. 1 Republican presidential debate, Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) criticized Obama for his recent visit to a Baltimore mosque. "Oh, you know, basically implying that America is discriminating against Muslims. Of course there's going to be discrimination in America of every kind. But the bigger issue is radical Islam. My problem with what he did is, he continues to put out this fiction that there's widespread discrimination against Muslim Americans." ²²
	xxiii.	February 2016	Minnesota	A personalized license plate featuring seven characters — FMUSLMS - was issued in Minnesota. ²³
	xxiv.	March 2016	Southwest, VA	At a rally in southwest Virginia on Monday, Republican front-runner Donald Trump again told an apocryphal story about a general killing Muslim terrorists with bullets dipped in pigs' blood. ²⁴
	xxv.	March 2016		Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) called for law enforcement agents to "patrol and secure Muslim neighborhoods" in the United States in response to attacks in Brussels, which killed at least 34 people. He released a statement saying that the country needs "to empower law enforcement to patrol and secure Muslim neighborhoods before they become radicalized." ²⁵





	xxvi.	March 2016	Wisconsin	When asked a question pertaining to civil liberties of minorities, as well as the public's misconception that Sikhs, who wear turbans, are members of the Islamic faith, Donald Trump launched a speech about the need to guard Americans against radical Islam - while neglecting to answer Murphy's question on the protection of civil rights of minorities, particularly Muslim and Sikh minorities. ²⁶
	xxvii.	April 2016	Ann Arbor, MI	A number of pro-Trump, anti-Islam sentiments were written on the University of Michigan's campus. Posts written on April 1 in chalk on the diag contained the slogans #Trump2016 and #StopIslam. On April 7th, other slogans such as "No Turkey, Qatar, Saudi, Pakistan," "No more Muslim violence," "F**k SJWs" and "Trump 16" were chalked on the diag. ²⁷
	xxviii.	May 2016	Hoboken, NJ	In response to a tweet from Sikh councilman, Ravinder Bhalla, regarding the implementation of new bike lanes, Robert Dubenezic tweeted, "How the hell did Hoboken allow the guy to be councilman? Shouldn't even be allowed in the US #terrorist." ²⁸
	xxix.	June 2016	Twitter	Donald Trump, in response to a mass shooting at Pulse, a gay nightclub in Orlando, Florida on Sunday, June 12th, tweeted: "Appreciate the congrats for being right on radical Islamic terrorism, I don't want congrats, I want toughness & vigilance. We must be smart!" He followed up this tweet with, "Is President Obama going to finally mention the words radical Islamic terrorism? If he doesn't he should immediately resign in disgrace!" ²⁹
	xxx.	June 2016	Manchester, NH	Donald Trump again addressed the mass shooting in Orlando, Florida and said if elected president, his first policy proposal would be a temporary ban on Muslim immigration. He said the Muslim community "knows what's going on" regarding terrorism," despite no evidence of that in the Orlando killings. He said the Muslim community has "to work with us," and "they knew the person in San Bernardino was bad. They have to turn them in." ³⁰
	xxxi.	June 2016	CNN	Donald Trump in response to the Orlando mass shooting made comments implying Muslim communities aren't doing enough self-policing, saying, "The communities that we're talking about, they know about this guy. They knew that this was tremendous potential for blow up," Trump said. "Right now we have thousands of people in the United State who have the same kind of hate in their heart as he had. And we have to know who they are," he added. He also said bringing in more Syrian refugees would result in more terror. ³¹

	xxxii.	June 2016	Orlando, FL	<p>On the Orlando mass shooting, Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton said, “From my perspective, it matters what we do more than what we say, and it mattered we got bin Laden, not what name we called him. I have clearly said we — whether you call it radical jihadism or radical Islamism, I’m happy to say either. I think they mean the same thing.” She went on to say, “This was a terrorist attack. ISIS appears to be claiming credit for it, whether it had anything to do with it or not — at a minimum, they seem to have inspired it.” Clinton told CNN.³²</p>
	xxxiii.	June 2016	Orlando, FL	<p>Donald Trump, as a follow up to his previous statements on the mass shooting in Orlando, Florida insinuated that President Obama has some sort of connection or sympathy for Muslims in the United States who committed acts of terror. He said, “We are led by a man who is either not tough, not smart, or he has something else in mind. And the something else in mind, people can’t believe it.” In statements about solving the issue of gun violence he made several comments including, “We have to be very strong in terms of looking at the mosques,” “We have to really increase the bombing,” and “We have to knock out their internet capability.”³³</p>
	xxxiv.	June 2016	Naples, FL	<p>Barney Frank, an openly gay former Democratic Congressman from Massachusetts on the Orlando mass shooting: “There is an Islamic element here. Yes, the overwhelming majority of Muslims don’t do this, but there is clearly, sadly, an element in the interpretation of Islam that has some currency, some interpretation in the Middle East that encourages killing people — and LGBT people are on that list. And I think it is fair to ask leaders of the Islamic community, religious and otherwise, to spend some time combatting this.” He also said the attack “reinforces the case for significant surveillance by law enforcement of people who have given some indication of adoption of these angry Islamic hate views.” He said this attack “reflects the virulence of the hatred in this sector of Islam.”³⁴</p>
	xxxv.	June 2016	Dallastown, PA	<p>School Board member, Matthew Jansen, went on a social media rant after seeing a sign in front of Christopher Rodkey’s church that said “Wishing a blessed Ramadan to our Muslim neighbors.” He called the sign despicable and the religion godless.³⁵</p>
	xxxvi.	June 2016	Facebook	<p>Catherine An Ray, a US postal service worker, posted on Facebook on June 13th that she would destroy any mail with the Muslim Eid postage stamp on it. She said, “As a US mail carrier, I can personally assure everyone here that anything with this stamp on it will be lost or destroyed in the system before it makes its delivery. Happy Ramadan.”³⁶</p>

	xxxvii.	July 2016	Missouri	The race for Attorney General in Missouri resulted in both candidates disparaging the other through racist ads paid for by Tea Party Patriots and the State Conservative Reform Action PAC against Kurt Schaefer. The ads target Muslims and Chinese people specifically, depicting Muslims as terrorists and Chinese people as “taking all the land.” ³⁷
	xxxviii.	July 2016	Twitter	Roger Stone (longtime friend and confidant of Donald Trump), called Khizr Khan, father of slain war hero Humayun Khan, a “Muslim Brotherhood agent helping Hillary.” ³⁸
	xxxix.	August 2016	Facebook	Trooper Joshua Dowdle with the North Carolina Highway Patrol agreed on Facebook with his pastor that, “You cannot be a good American and a Muslim.” ³⁹
	xl.	August 2016	BBC segment on Islamophobia	Paul, an Islamophobic heckler, interrupted a Muslim woman’s television interview on Islamophobia. During the interview, 23-year-old Ruqaiya Haris was commenting on the over 7,000 Islamophobic tweets sent worldwide daily during the month of July. Paul interrupted to say, “There’s no Sharia law yet!” Later, he said he felt his freedom of expression was being taken away and that Islam is not a religion but an ideology. ⁴⁰
	xli.	August 2016	San Francisco, CA	Several ads were posted on 10 buses on Muni public transit that said: In any war between the civilized man and the savage, support the civilized man. Support Israel. Defeat jihad. ⁴¹
	xlii.	August 2016		Donald Trump calls for “extreme vetting” of legal immigrants coming from countries with “high rates of terrorism,” as part of his proposed immigration policy. ⁴²
	xliii.	August 2016	Newton County, FL	The community of Newton County is in disagreement about proposed plans to build a Muslim cemetery and mosque. Some residents fear it will be used as a training ground for terrorists. One resident said, “I’m against the mosque coming because of a lot of reasons. There’s 50 acres of the 135 acres that is not accounted for, how do we know it’s not an ISIS camp, training camp? There’s many in this country.” ⁴³
	xliv.	August 2016	Gillette, WY	An anti-Islam group 15 burned a Quran. One protester made it clear that this is not to target ‘jihadists,’ but all of Islam as he claims it is “a criminal organization that passes itself off as a religion.” ⁴⁴
	xliv.	September 2016	Washington, D.C.	Brigitte Gabrielle, the founder of ACT for America, said a “practicing Muslim, who believes in the teachings of the Koran, cannot be a loyal citizen to the United States of America.” She has even said, “Every practicing Muslim is a radical Muslim.” ⁴⁵

	xlvi.	September 2016	San Francisco, CA	The American Freedom Defense Initiative placed hundreds of ads on buses in San Francisco showing images of Palestinian youth in jihadi uniforms and violent poses. The ads read: “The Palestinian Authority Teaches Children to Hate,” and “End All U.S. Aid to the P.A.” ⁴⁶
	xlvii.	September 2016	Ann Arbor, MI	A white male in his 30s shouted at a Muslim couple walking down State Street, relating the couple and Islam to the devil. ⁴⁷
	xlviii.	September 2016	Fargo, ND	A local resident submitted a 200-word article to the local newspaper claiming North Dakota is no place for Islam. ⁴⁸
	xlix.	September 2016	Gurley, AL	On September 23, Barry Pendergraft, chief of police at the Gurley Police Department in the Town of Gurley, AL., posted a photograph on his personal Facebook account of a box of ammunition with the text: “100 more bacon grease covered bullets in the box! This relaxes me so!!” On September 27, he posted a video of ammunition loading with the text: “Happiness is a couple thousand rounds in the ammo box! Bacon grease dipped of course!! ⁴⁹
	i.	September 2016		Local anti-Muslim blogger and retired Army officer, Rich Swier claims that CAIR Executive Director, Nihad Awad, put him on the “ISIS hit list” despite her name also being on the list. ⁵⁰
	ii.	September 2016		Gregory Angelo, President of Log Cabin described the Orlando shooting as “an act of radical Islamic terrorism by an individual who was indoctrinated by the sharia teachings of an Imam who called gay people ‘devil worshippers.’” He also said, “There is a new creeping theocracy in the United States: radical Islam. Regardless of party affiliation, sexual orientation, or religious background, standing up in opposition to twisted interpretations of legitimate faiths isn’t just important; it’s our duty as Americans.” ⁵¹
	iii.	September 2016	Twitter	Congressman Steve King (R-IA) tweeted, “Demographic transformation must end.” ⁵²
	liii.	September 2016	Brainerd, MN	In an event hosted by Oak Street Chapel titled “Lies in the Textbooks,” Todd Wooden along with dozens of supporters “presented the lies of Islam,” in a multi-hour presentation. ⁵³
	liv.	October 2016	Ann Arbor, MI	Several pamphlets that were anti-Black, anti-Muslim, and anti-LGBTQ were disseminated in the halls of University of Michigan buildings. Several drawings illustrated a Muslim man killing a white woman and others alluded that Muslims are targeting the LGBTQ community. ⁵⁴
	lv.	October 2016		Pamela Geller, who once ran an anti-Muslim Facebook page, has teamed up with the American Freedom Law Center to sue the DOJ for its enforcement of Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act after Facebook removed her page. ⁵⁵

	lvi.	October 2016	Tennessee	Michelle Edmisten, a mother of a 7th grade student in a Tennessee school district has launched a campaign against textbooks used after learning Islam is part of the curriculum for the religious studies unit. ⁵⁶
	lvii.	October 2016	St. Louis, MO	Donald Trump said, “The Muslim ban is something that in some form has morphed into [an] extreme vetting from certain areas of the world.” He listed countries such as Syria to describe the areas of the world he was referring to. ⁵⁷
	lviii.	October 2016	St. Louis, MO	In reference to the Orlando shooting, Donald Trump said “For some reason, the Muslim community does not report people like this. But...whether we like it or not there is a problem,” he continued. “We have to be sure that Muslims come in and report when they see something going on. When they see hatred going on, they have to report it.” ⁵⁸
	lix.	October 2016	Chicago, IL	The Illinois Tactical Officers Association hosted a conference on October 13, which included counter-terrorism training and featured anti-Muslim speaker, Sebastian Gorka. ⁵⁹
	lx.	October 2016	Kalispell, MT	Pastor Shahram Hadian drew more than 150 people for a lecture sponsored by ACT for America about “the fallacies of a peaceful Islam.” He said “Allah is satanic” and Muslims are working with Black Lives Matter and other groups to destroy the country. ⁶⁰
	lxi.	October 2016		During the third presidential debate, Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton insinuated American Muslims are on the front lines of terrorism by consistently repeating, “the United States needs to work with Muslim communities who are on the front lines to identify and prevent attacks.” ⁶¹
	lxii.	October 2016	New Hampshire	One Nation, a third party Republican group backing Senator Kelly Ayotte (R-NH), distributed mail across New Hampshire that depicts Ayotte’s opponent Democratic Governor Maggie Hassan as weak on terrorism. The piece includes men in headscarves with guns pointed at a family with the caption, “Radical Islamic terrorists are determined to continue attacking America.” ⁶²
	lxiii.	October 2016	Austin, TX	In a letter published in the Daily Beacon, a student newspaper at the University of Texas, Johnson Smith wrote “anyone against deporting Muslims is committing Treason.” He also said, 15 to 25 percent of Muslims “stab, disfigure, maim, behead, murder and massacre non-Muslims to make Islam the only system of governance in a country.” ⁶³

	Ixiv.	October 2016	Warroad, MN	At an anti-Muslim rally, former FBI agent John Guandolo discussed the growing “threat of Islam,” for which everyone must prepare. He insinuated that Muslims are violent and preparing to attack by saying, “Are you prepared for the two or three dozen jihadis in, pick a city in Minnesota, with mortars or shoulder-fired rockets? You don’t think they can get those in the United States?” ⁶⁴
	Ixv.	October 2016	Oklahoma City, OK	Bill H16-029 was proposed by State Representative John Bennett (R-Sallisaw) in the Oklahoma House Interim Committee. Bennett says Muslims are a threat to the Oklahoma way of life. Bennett accused Muslim’s of chipping away at American freedoms and stated that he is “sick and tired of political correctness and the bowing down of elected leaders every time the liberal media or the real threat calls us names for sounding the alarm. We owe it to our citizens to protect them from this real and present danger.” ⁶⁵
	Ixvi.	October 2016	Temple Terrace, FL	Wael Odeh is a candidate for the City Council election in Temple Terrace, Florida. An anonymous letter was mailed to a number of addresses in Temple Terrace questioning whether City Hall is safe with a Muslim working there and whether Odeh has ties to terrorism. It asked, “Could Odeh’s election be a foot in the door of Sharia Law’s subtle influence in our community?” In addition, the letter says the Council on American-Islamic Relations endorses Odeh and claims the group has links to terrorism. ⁶⁶
	Ixvii.	November 2016	The Daily Stormer	Neo-Nazi Andrew Anglin wrote in a blog post, “I am of course against any violence against these people, however, I do think you should yell at them in people [sic], tell them to go home. ... I encourage you to do that with any foreigners you see, especially those wearing Islamic clothing.” He added, “We want these people to feel unwanted. We want them to feel that everything around them is against them. And we want them to be afraid.” ⁶⁷

Appendix B Endnotes

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