

TERRORIST FEARS STIR IMMIG HUNT

Daily News (New York)

October 1, 2004 Friday, RACING FINAL EDITION

Copyright 2004 Daily News, L.P.



Section: NEWS; Pg. 23

Length: 192 words

Byline: BY Leslie Casimir

Body

THE FEDS ARE stepping up their hunt for undocumented immigrants with suspected terrorist links as the presidential election draws near, officials confirmed yesterday.

"We are moving at an up-tempo pace at pursuing, identifying, arresting immigration-status violators in the interest of national security," said Russ Knocke, a spokesman for the U.S. Immigration Customs and Enforcement in Washington.

"This is information based on intelligence."

Authorities have warned about a possible terrorist attack before the Nov. 2 elections.

But immigrants rights groups fear the heightened search for undocumented immigrants with suspected terrorist links could unfairly target Arabs and Muslims.

"We understand immigration enforcement, we just want to make sure this is not racially motivated," Laila Al-Qatami, communications director at the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, said. "We'll see what happens in the upcoming weeks."

Since the 2001 terrorist attacks, Arab and Muslims have complained of being profiled. Advocates also have been critical of a federal program that mostly required Middle Eastern male visa holders to register with the government.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: IMMIGRATION (94%); TERRORISM (90%); TERRORIST ATTACKS (78%); ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS (78%); ELECTIONS (78%); US FEDERAL GOVERNMENT (78%); RACE & ETHNICITY (78%); DISCRIMINATION (78%); HEADS OF GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS (78%); ARAB AMERICANS (78%); CAMPAIGNS & ELECTIONS (78%); ARRESTS (78%); RACISM & XENOPHOBIA (78%); MUSLIMS & ISLAM (75%); NATIONAL SECURITY (73%); IMMIGRATION LAW (73%); RELIGION (70%)

TERRORIST FEARS STIR IMMIG HUNT

Organization: AMERICAN-ARAB ANTI-DISCRIMINATION COMMITTEE (56%)

Geographic: UNITED STATES (93%); MIDDLE EAST (79%)

Load-Date: October 1, 2004

End of Document