



**TIME:**

**UN**

**KNOWN**





**09/11/2019 - 12/31/2019**  
Stories of September 11th, 2001 and after

**THE DAY OF  
SEPTEMBER 11**

# 8:24 AM

*“We have some planes.  
Just stay quiet, and  
you’ll be okay. We are  
returning to the airport.”*

— Mohamed Atta, Hijacker



# 8:25 AM

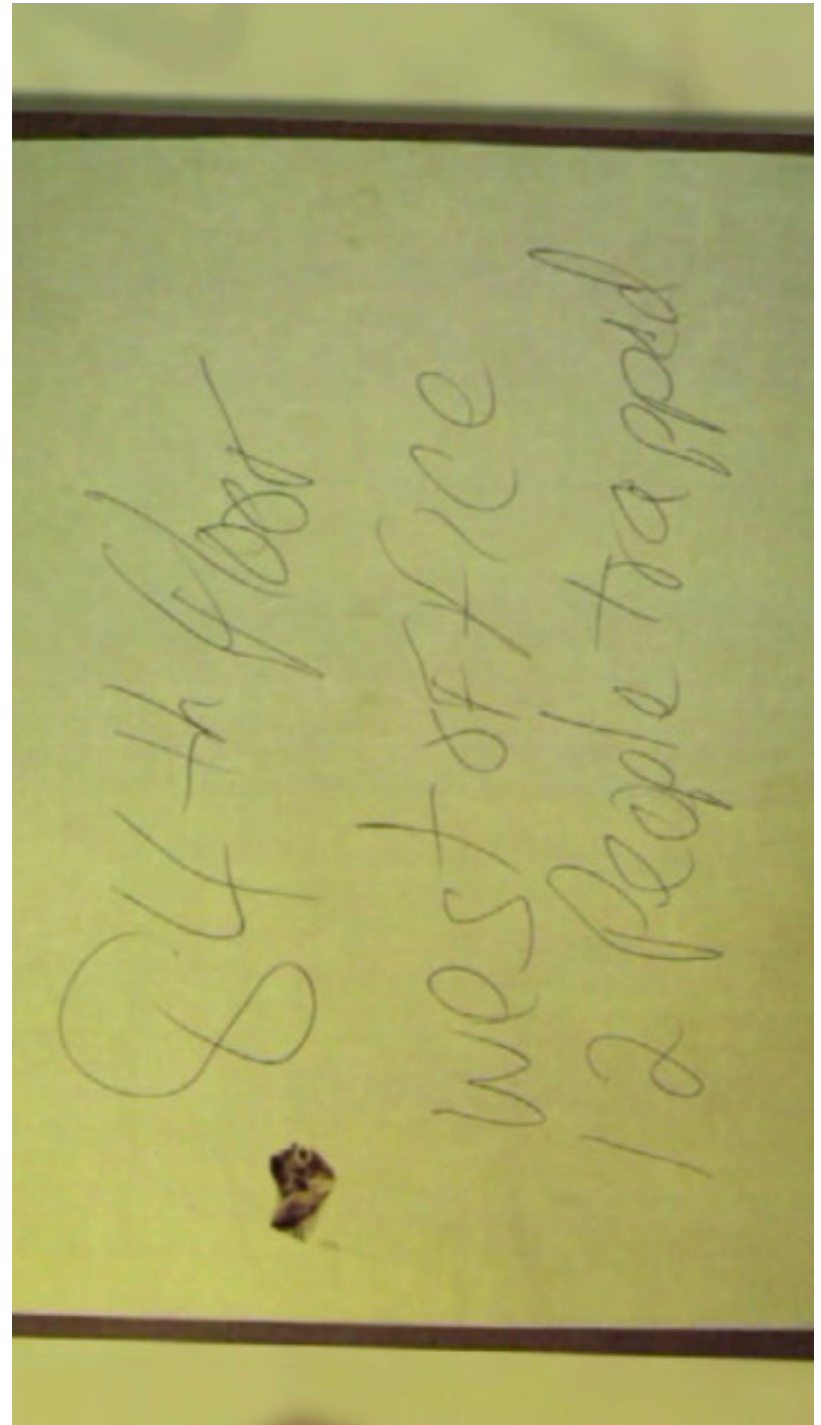
*“Nobody move.  
Everything will be  
OK. If you try to  
make any moves,  
you’ll endanger  
yourself and the  
aeroplane. Just stay  
quiet We have some  
planes. Just stay  
quiet, and you’ll be  
okay. We are return-  
ing to the airport.”*

— Mohamed Atta

# 8:44 AM

*“Mom, this is Mark Bingham. I just want to tell you that I love you. I am on a flight from Newark to San Francisco. There are three guys on board who have taken over the plane and they say they have a bomb. You believe me don’t you, Mom? I’m calling you from the air phone.”*

— Mark Bingham, Flight 93



**TIME:UNKNOWN**

*“Something is wrong. We are in a rapid descent we are all over the place. I see water. I see buildings. We are flying low. We are flying very, very low. We are flying way too low. Oh my God we are flying way too low. Oh my God!”*

— Madeline Sweeney, Flight 11 Attendant

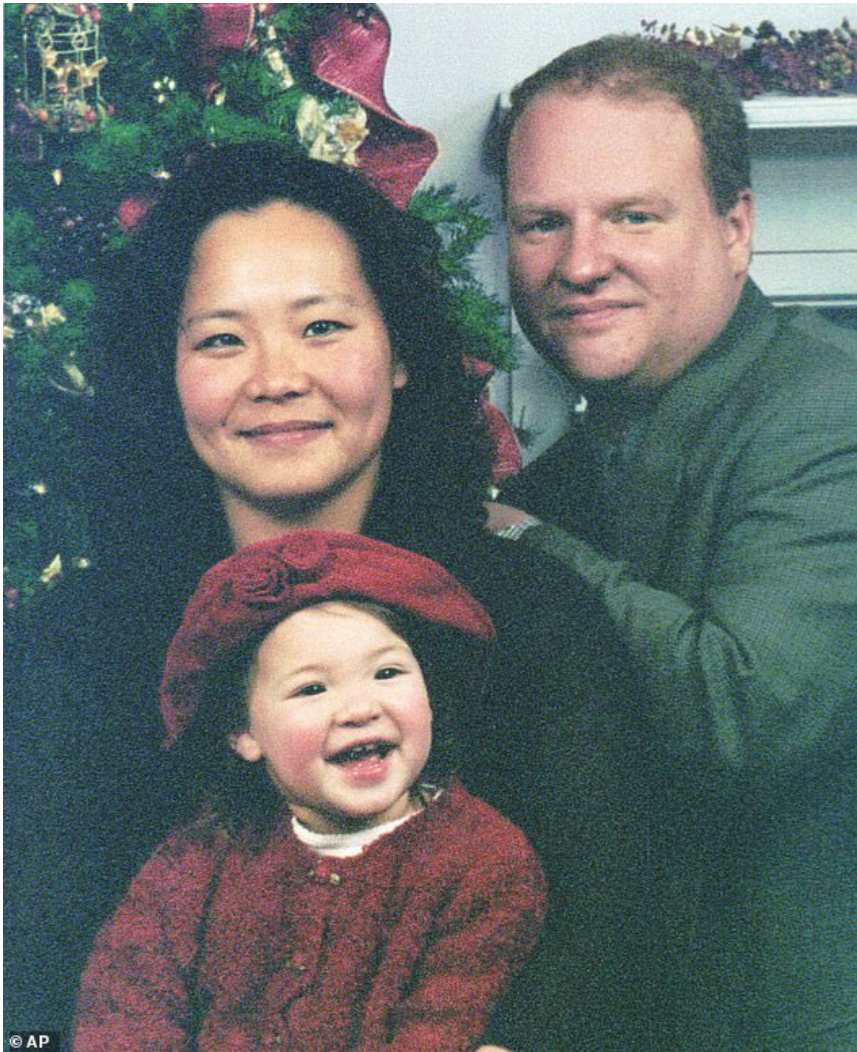
**8:59 AM**

*“Jules, this is Brian—listen, I’m on an airplane that’s been hijacked. If things don’t go well, and it’s not looking good, I just want you to know I absolutely love you, I want you to do good, go have good times, same to my parents and everybody, and I just totally love you, and I’ll see you when you get there. Bye, babe. I hope I call you.”*

— Brian David Sweeney, Flight 175 Passenger



# 9:00 AM



*“It’s getting bad, Dad. A stewardess was stabbed. They seem to have knives and Mace. They said they have a bomb. Passengers are throwing up and getting sick. The plane is making jerky movements. I don’t think the pilot is flying the plane. I think we are going down. I think they intend to go to Chicago or someplace and fly into a building. Don’t worry, Dad. If it happens, it’ll be very fast. My God, my God.”*

— Peter Hanson, *Flight 175*

**9:00 AM**



*“Just got a report from the director of Morgan Stanley. Seventy-eight seems to have taken the brunt of this stuff, there’s a lot of bodies, they say the stairway is clear all the way up, though.”*

— Ladder 15 Irons, Firefighter

# 9:45 AM

*“I know you’ve got a lot in the building but we’re up on the top. Smoke rises too. Come on, I can barely breathe now — can’t see. It’s really bad, it’s black, it’s arid. We’re young men, not ready to die.”*

*— Kevin Cosgrove, Vice President Aon Corporation*



## TIME:UNKNOWN

*“A plane crashed into the Trade Center. It’s on fire, and I’m in it, and I can’t breathe. Tell everyone I love them, and if I don’t get out... goodbye.”*

*— Brian Nunez,  
Office Manager Floor 104*

*“I just wanted to let you know I love you and I’m stuck in this building in New York. There’s lots of smoke and I just wanted you to know that I love you always.”*

*— Melissa Harrington Hughes*

**TIME: UNKNOWN**



*“Number three in the back. The cockpit’s not answering. Somebody’s stabbed in business class. And I think there’s mace—that we can’t breathe. I don’t know. I think we’re getting hijacked.”*

— Betty Ong, Flight 11 Attendant

**9:58 AM**

*“Tell the boys I love them. We’re getting ready to do it now. It’s happening!”*

— CeeCee Ross Lyles, Flight 93 Attendant





## **TIME:UNKNOWN**

*“This plane has been hijacked. A hijacker also cut the throat of a business-class passenger, and he appears to be dead. I see water and buildings! Oh my God! Oh my God!”*

*— Madeline Sweeney, Flight 11 Attendant*

**9:59 AM**

*“It was like  
being—I’ve  
never been in  
an earthquake,  
but I can  
imagine that’s  
what it’s like.”*

*— Dianne DeFontes, Receptionist,  
Drinker Biddle and Reath*



## TIME:UNKNOWN

*“I am OK, I heard the plane and then I heard it hit. I called you at home; wait till you hear my message...thank you for calling me!”*

– Unknown

*“Honey, wanted to tell you how much I love you. I was a little worried. I don't want to lose you now that I got you back. You mean everything to me. You have my whole heart and life. I love you so much.”*

– Unknown



**THE FOLLOWING  
DAYS**



**SEPTEMBER 12, 2001**

**Syracuse, New York**

An unidentified woman called in a bomb threat Wednesday to the Islamic Society of Central New York. The suspect left a message on an answering machine at about 6 p.m., according to a Syracuse Police Department report. The woman said, "We should put a bomb in through your front door and eliminate all of you. Bomb every Islamic society. Allah is a pig. He doesn't exist. Have a nice day."

**Coney Island, New York**

An Egyptian American man reported that he and others have been victims of abuse over the past three days. While at Coney Island Hospital Wednesday morning, a man looked at him and said all Arabs should be sent back to the Middle East. "We were watching [Mayor Rudolph] Giuliani on the television at the hospital. Then he [the man in the reception area] said, 'Kick them out from here. They have to go back home. They are cowards. He was looking right at me.'"

**Huntington, New York**

Faiza Ejaz, a Pakistani woman, was standing outside a mall, waiting for her husband to pick her up from work. According to press reports, Adam Lang, a seventy-six-year-old man sitting in his car outside the mall, allegedly put his car in drive and started driving towards her. Ejaz was able to avoid the car by jumping out of the way and running into the mall. Lang then jumped out of his car and screamed that he was "doing this for my country" and was "going to kill her." Mall security agents seized Lang. Sergeant Robert Reecks, commander of the Suffolk County Bias Crimes Bureau, told reporters: "if she hadn't jumped out of the way, he would have run right over her." Lang was charged with

first-degree reckless endangerment, which requires an enhanced penalty if the crime is bias-motivated.

**Brooklyn, New York**

A florist from Brooklyn stopped working the noon-to-midnight shift Wednesday, afraid for his safety. Since the terrorist attack and reports that Islamic militants at work are responsible, he has been told by passers-by, men he did not know, that he will be killed or deported, that he is "no good."

**Virginia Beach, Virginia**

A New York City cab driver and Vietnam veteran of Trinidadian descent was stopped by police five times in three states in the 24 hours after he left the terror-stricken metropolis at work to visit his wife and children in Virginia Beach. During the fifth stop Wednesday afternoon, Virginia Beach police forced him to pull into the K mart shopping center on Holland Road. Police called in the bomb squad and detained the Trinidad native and his wife for hours. The spectacle drew hundreds who watched from behind yards of yellow police tape. Television news crews filmed the event. The 48-year-old man, was stopped once in Delaware, twice in Maryland, once near the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel and on Wednesday in Virginia Beach, as he and his wife were leaving the Super K mart on Holland Road. Police handcuffed the man and his wife briefly. Officers and FBI agents interrogated them for more than an hour. Helmeted police and bomb-sniffing dogs combed the cab, but found nothing. About 200 people gathered in the parking lot and watched from behind crime scene tape. "I put my life for this country!" said the man, a father of five. His oldest daughter, he said, serves on the carrier Carl Vincent. Police spokesman said someone called 911 just after noon to report seeing a "potentially suspicious. . . New York City cab." That, coupled

with a report from Delaware and Maryland police that a "suspicious" New York City cab was headed south Tuesday night, led to the traffic stop.

**Fair Haven, Michigan**

The windows of a Middle Eastern family's service station were shot up by vandals Wednesday night.



**Merced County, California**

The Palestinian owners of a deli-market reported receiving a phone call late Wednesday morning from a man threatening to kill them and their families.

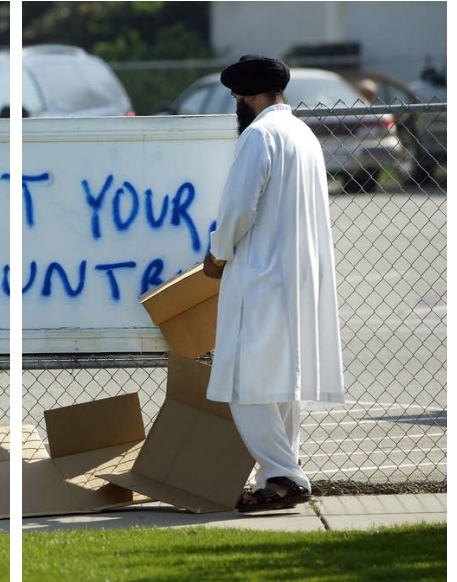
**Irving, Texas**

On the night of September 12, 2001, someone fired at the Islamic Center of Irving, leaving thirteen to fourteen bullet holes in the building. The shots were fired after the evening prayer had ended and the building was empty. For the first two or three days after the attack, local police provided security for the mosque. Immediately after the attack, the imam reported a noticeable decline in prayer attendance. He estimated that daily prayer attendance dropped from 150 to thirty or forty persons. Friday prayers dropped

from one thousand to five hundred persons. Mosque attendance normalized after a few weeks.

**Palmer, Massachusetts**

Police on Wednesday investigated fliers they believe targeted businesses for a boycott because they might be owned by Arab-Americans. A woman was spotted in the morn-



ing placing fliers containing on police called "libelous propaganda" on cars at a gas station just off the Massachusetts Turnpike. Three small flags were drawn on the fliers, along with a hand-written, error-filled message that began, "To all true Americans, we ask that you do not patron the following businesses. . . " The gas stations and convenience stores listed are not all necessarily owned or staffed by people of Middle Eastern descent, said Palmer police.

**Revere, Massachusetts**

Malika Bey is a blond-haired, blue-eyed Irish-American, but when she pulled her minivan in to her neighborhood gas station yesterday, all the man in the car in front of her saw was the scarf wrapped around her head. "Are you happy with what happened yesterday?" he yelled as he jumped out of his station wagon.

"You should all be killed." Bey, a 36-year-old Revere mother of four, stepped out of her car, gave the man a lecture about Islam's commitment to peace, asked him if he supported the violence in Northern Ireland, and reminded him that the Allah worshiped by Muslims is the God worshiped by Christians. The two shook hands, but Bey, who changed her name when she converted to Islam, was shaken.

#### **Somerset, Massachusetts**

Three teens were arrested after lobbing a firebomb onto the roof of a convenience store owned by an American citizen from India. "They think we're from the Middle East," said the owner, who stepped out of his store and saw the three running into the woods just after 10 p.m. Wednesday. The fire caused \$ 1,000 in damages. Two of the teens told police "they wanted to get back at the Arabs for what they did in New York,

#### **Lawrence, Kansas**

The University of Kansas Public Safety Office received four reports of "generic threats" on Tuesday and Wednesday. Someone at Ellsworth Hall was overheard saying, "Let's bomb them all." Someone at Oliver Hall said, "Let's beat up all the foreign students." And two threats were called in to the University Daily Kansan's Free for All anonymous call-in line. One asked students to "meet at the towers, organize a raid and go to Learned (Hall) to beat up all the Arabs." Another said: "Let's shoot down all the Arabs." Police were looking into the threats, though no suspects had been identified.

#### **West Toledo, Ohio**

Arab-Americans outside a West Toledo private school for Muslims were threatened by an angry motorist. "He said, 'If any of your

families are rejoicing overseas, we want to let you know we're going to get them, and get you too,'" recalled an administrator, who helps oversee the school, which has students in kindergarten through 12th grade. The man fled and wasn't arrested. Citing the tragedy and fears, the 100-student school closed at noon - 3 1/2 hours early.

#### **Chapel Hill, North Carolina**

A yellow flier from the "Informed Christian News Service" made the rounds of UNC's campus Wednesday, just one day after the attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon. Titled "A Frank Word About Islam," the flier warns, "We must not let down our guard concerning the violent nature of Islam. Friends, please do not be fooled by the false face which Islam puts on in nations where it does not rule!"

#### **Bridgeview, Chicago**

Police turned back 300 marchers—some waving American flags and shouting "USA! USA!"—as they tried to march on a mosque in Bridgeview, a southwest Chicago suburb late Wednesday. Three demonstrators were arrested. "I'm proud to be American and I hate Arabs and I always have," said a teenager protester.

#### **Castroville, California**

A man entered a convenience store late Wednesday and threatened to blow it up. The clerk working there that day contacted deputies, who arrested the man—was eventually arrested and charged with a hate crime.

#### **Gary, Indiana**

A Yemeni native—and U.S. citizen—was the subject of an attack in his gas station. Someone fired 21 shots from a high-powered assault rifle at

him early Wednesday morning, as he stood behind a glass shield. Fortunately, he escaped death or injury

#### **Ocala, Florida**

A businessman made his feelings known Wednesday when he taped a No Muslims sign across the plate



glass window of his store, Golf USA. The property manager made the man take it down; the lease prohibits unapproved signs. He taped it up again and finally removed the sign when Ocala police officers were called to the store.

#### **Forest Park, Missouri**

The Palestinian-American owner of a market said he called police after someone entered the store Wednesday and threatened him. "He was asking where we were from and why we were bombing," said the shopkeeper, who asked not to be identified out of fear. "He said, 'I'm at war with you.' I told him, 'I'm an American just like you.'"

#### **Cranston, Rhode Island**

For more than a century, the Palestine Shriners have helped Rhode Island children who are burned or disabled. On Wednesday, the orga-

nization taped over the word "Palestine" on its vans after two incidents of harassment and changed its name to Rhode Island Shriners.

#### **Dayton, Ohio.**

Sometime between Tuesday night and Wednesday morning, someone shattered a window at a convenience store. The owner told police he had been getting phone calls threatening to burn his building down.

About 1:20 a.m. Wednesday, police were dispatched to a cellular phone store on the report

of a burglar alarm. They found the store's display cases shattered, its contents ransacked. They also found "anti-Arabic graffiti sprayed on the walls of the store in red and black spray paint." The owner's car, parked outside, also had "anti-Arabic, pro-United States" graffiti sprayed on it.

## **SEPTEMBER 13, 2001**

#### **Seattle, Washington**

On the morning of September 13, 2001, Issa Gandeel, a Palestinian Muslim and an Arab, was leaving the Idriss Mosque when he smelled gas near his jeep and saw a man, subsequently identified as Patrick Cunningham, come out from behind his jeep. Cunningham was carrying a can of gasoline and a gun. When Gandeel asked Cunningham what he was doing behind the jeep, Cunningham

walked away. When Qandeel tried to stop him, Cunningham shot at Qandeel three times, although his gun did not discharge any bullets. Cunningham then started running away and Qandeel chased him. Cunningham shot at Qandeel again and this time a bullet did discharge, although it missed Qandeel. Cunningham was apprehended when he crashed his car trying to get away. Police later discovered that Cunningham planned to burn cars in the mosque driveway because



of anger at the September 11 attacks. Federal authorities prosecuted Cunningham for attacking Qandeel and attempting to deface a house of worship. He plead guilty on May 9, 2002 and was scheduled to be sentenced on October 18, 2002. He faces a minimum of five years of incarceration.

#### **SeaTac, Washington**

Raymond Isais Jr. allegedly assaulted Kulwinder Singh, a turbaned Sikh taxi worker. After getting into the back seat of Singh's taxi, Isais told Singh, "You have no right to attack our country!" He then started choking Singh. After both men then got out of the taxi, Isais started punching Singh, pulled out tufts of his beard and knocked off his turban. Isais called Singh a terrorist during the assault.

Local police were able to apprehend Isais Jr. the same day using a description provided by Singh. He was charged with a hate crime by local country prosecutors.

#### **Jacksonville, Florida**

A chain of Middle Eastern cafe-groceries received seven threats, according to one employee. "They said, 'What type of food do you serve?', she remembered of the final

call to the store, which has locations in Jacksonville and Neptune Beach. The caller asked if it was the kind of food the hijackers eat. Then the caller said, 'OK, we're going to come and kill everybody today,' according to the employee.

#### **Indianapolis, Indiana**

The Masjid Al-Fajr received profanity-laced phone calls blaming Muslims for the worst terrorist attacks in U.S. history. A mosque member said the caller were "saying things like, 'You guys did it and we're gonna get you, and go home.'" Callers referred to Osama bin Laden, a Muslim terrorist suspected of being behind Tuesday's attacks on New York City's World Trade Center and the Pentagon near Washington. "You guys better condemn him," one person reportedly said.

#### **San Gabriel Valley, California**

Two carloads of young men confronted a 21-year-old Latino man as he drove home from work on Thursday night. The cars attempted to box in the Latino man's vehicle, forcing him to exit the highway and stop. Both cars followed, stopped and seven men jumped out. Thinking he was being robbed, the Latino man handed over his wallet, but the men pulled him out of the car and threw him on the ground. Five of the men had semiautomatic weapons and were pointing them at his head. Another had a revolver. They asked him if he was Arabic or from Afghanistan. What may have saved his life is that the Latino man knew enough English that he recognized the word "Arab" as they screamed it over and over. The man spoke enough Spanish to convince them he was not an Arab.

#### **Anaheim, California**

Tears welled up in an Iranian-born businessman's eyes as he recounted the angry telephone calls that keep pouring into his restaurant. "You can't stay in the U.S.," was one message. Another caller simply reeled off bitter obscenities. "I am an American citizen," the entrepreneur said Thursday

#### **New York, New York**

The administrator of an Islamic school reported that a man started threatening the children and "he specifically said that he's going to paint the city—the streets with our children's blood. And being responsible for 425 kids wasn't a comfortable feeling at that time for me. So we called the police. And as sad as I was, I started being terrified from that moment on."

#### **Clinton, Montana**

Responding to a 9-1-1 call from a concerned citizen, Montana Highway Patrol officers pulled over a

caravan of "Arab-appearing" people with Massachusetts license plates on Interstate 90 late Thursday afternoon. According to police, the caller said he was concerned because the group of 15–20 people had olive-colored skin; members were driving in a pack of five cars talking to one another on walkie-talkies. When officers pulled the cluster of cars over near Clinton, they discovered that the group had been pulled over in Billings for the same reason, and they learned that the group was not a band of terrorists on the run from the East Coast. They drivers were, in fact, Puerto Ricans on their way to start a church in Oregon.

#### **Salt Lake City, Utah**

Thursday night, police arrested a 31-year-old man after a small fire at a Pakistani-owned restaurant around 7 p.m. The arsonist allegedly ignited gasoline at the back of the building but caused only minor damage because customers doused the flames. The man "stated that he did this because of what happened on Tuesday.

## **SEPTEMBER 14, 2001**

#### **Everett, Massachusetts**

Vandals threw softballs inscribed with pro-American slogans through the window of a cafe owned by a Greek American. The softballs had slogans written on them, including "God bless America" and "Freedom for all," police said. The owner, who is Greek- and Italian-American, said he believes the assailants were targeting a nearby Middle Eastern cafe, and hit the wrong target.

#### **Miami, Florida**

FBI and INS officials removed a Pakistani man and his nephew from a Carnival Cruise Lines ship

on Friday and detained them because one man's name resembled that of a bombing suspect. Officials later determined the men had no ties to terrorism.

#### **Park Slope, Brooklyn**

A motorist blocked the path of a cab driver who appeared to be of Middle Eastern descent on Friday. "Get out of the car, Arab," the motorist shouted as he pounded on the car. "You are going to die, you Muslim."

#### **Albuquerque, New Mexico**

A rug shop owned by a U.S. citizen of Iranian descent was vandalized when someone threw two rocks through the plate-glass window sometime between Thursday night and Friday morning.

#### **Appleton, Wisconsin**

Since Tuesday's terrorist attack, about a dozen customers have asked a Sikh gas station owner if he is from Iraq. Friday he posted



the sign at his station stating: "I am Indian. I am Sikh. I am not Muslim." He had an unpleasant encounter Friday with an elderly man who saw the sign and

told him, in vulgar language, he didn't care what country Singh was from, that he didn't belong here because he is not a citizen

#### **Tulsa, Oklahoma**

Late Friday night, police were called to investigate an attack on an Indian man. He was leaving his apartment "and, three people jumped on him. They knocked in public him down and covered his eyes then beat on him," said a police spokesperson. After addressing him with an expletive, the men threatened to hurt him, saying, "We are going to cut you like you cut our people."

#### **Wichita, Kansas**

Prosecutors on Friday declined to file misdemeanor disorderly conduct charges against two men accused of yelling obscenities at international students at Wichita State University. "It fell clearly in the category of what would be called free speech," said Kim Parker, chief deputy district attorney. A man who identified himself as one of the two men arrested told radio

listeners he was only showing patriotism. WSU police said they responded to student reports that two men drove their pickup into a WSU residence hall parking lot and cursed at international students.

#### **Flint, Michigan**

The mother of a Kearsley High School student said her daughter was the subject of taunts and slurs since Tuesday's terrorist attacks. "Kids started taunting her, saying 'Go back where you came from,' " said the mother, who describes her daughter as a "dark-skinned, three-quarters Hispanic girl." She said, "I'm American born." They said it doesn't matter—you're not white."



#### **SeaTac, Washington**

Burglars broke into mosque Friday night, shattering a window and prying collection boxes open. Although the collection boxes contained no money, the mosque administration took the burglary seriously, canceling children's religion classes and further heightening security

#### **Salt Lake City, Utah**

Thursday night, police arrested a 31-year-old man after a small fire at a Pakistani-owned restaurant in Salt Lake City, around 7 p.m. The arsonist allegedly ignited gasoline at the back of the building but caused only minor damage because

customers doused the flames. The man "stated that he did this because of what happened on Tuesday

#### **Houston, Texas**

A Pakistani American said several people came to his business on Friday and made racial slurs against him. "The way you burn us, I'm going to burn you. And I'm going to burn your place."

## **SEPTEMBER 15, 2001**

#### **Mesa, Arizona**

Just four days after 9/11, Balbir Singh Sodhi, a Sikh business owner, was planting flowers outside of his gas station when he was shot and killed. We later learned that his shooter had reportedly told a waitress at Applebee's "I'm going to go out and shoot some towel heads," and "We should kill their children, too, because they'll grow up to be like their parents."

#### **Austin, Texas**

The Travis County, Texas fire marshal's office is investigating an arson attempt on a Pakistani-owned gas station early Saturday as a hate crime. A fire-setting device was thrown at the gas station at about 12:45 a.m. The device fell short of the store, which had closed at midnight, leaving burn marks on the sidewalk. No one was injured.

#### **Pleasant Grove, Texas**

Dallas police and the FBI are investigating whether the shooting death of a Pakistani grocer was out of anger at Muslims for Tuesday's terrorist attacks. Police have been unable to determine a motive for the Saturday night slaying of 46-year-old man.

### Cambridge, Massachusetts

On Saturday night, members of the Harvard University Islamic Society received a harshly worded e-mail blaming all Muslims for the terrorist attacks at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

### Plymouth, Massachusetts

On Saturday in a pizza shop owned by a Middle Eastern man suffered

in Dallas initially believed that he was killed during a robbery because he had been robbed twice that year. Hassan's family, however, believed his murder was a hate crime because nothing was stolen by the assailant and the murder had occurred so soon after September 11. His family also pointed out that customers visiting Hassan's store after September 11 subjected him to ethnic and religious slurs. The case remained unsolved until Mark

### San Gabriel, California

Adel Karas, a forty-eight-year-old Arab and Coptic Christian, and father of three, was shot and killed at his convenience store. According to press reports, his wife, Randa Karas, believes he was murdered because he was mistaken for a Muslim. She points out that no money was taken from the cash register and that her husband had a thick wad of bills in his pocket. Local police told Human Rights

2001 to fifty-one months in jail.

### Chicago, Illinois

Bond was set at \$10,000 Saturday for a man charged with a hate crime and other offenses after police alleged he threatened to blow up a South Side food store owned by an Arab-American in retaliation for the terrorist attacks in New York City. Police said the 49-year-old man walked into a food store at 3:50 p.m. Thursday. Holden allegedly approached the store's owner and said, "I've got a bomb in this bag and I'm going to blow this store up like you Arabs blew up the World Trade Center," according to Chicago police spokesman Pat

### Jackson, Mississippi

A Muslim American woman thought her husband was receiving a prank phone call when she heard a phone caller ask, "May I speak to Osama bin Laden." Then it started turning nasty—he asked, "Does he know how to make bombs?," she said.

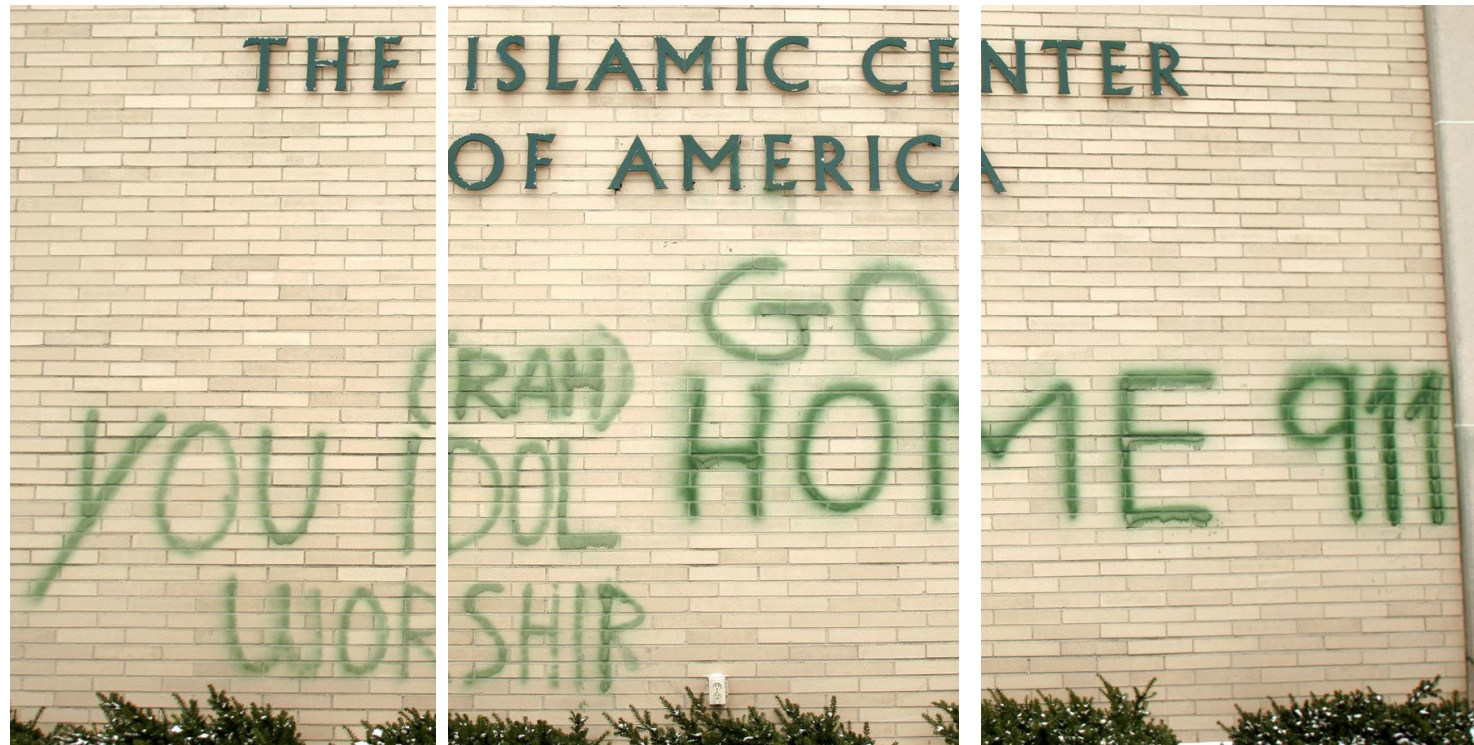
## SEPTEMBER 16, 2001

### Houston, Texas

Someone allegedly set fire to Prime Tires, a Pakistani-owned auto mechanic shop located in an enclave of Pakistani businesses. The fire destroyed the store. The store had received threats immediately after September 11. Thus far, police have been unable to ascertain who started the blaze and the motive of the perpetrator.

### Houston, Texas

Federal law enforcement agents and the Houston Fire Department arson unit are investigating an



a reported \$ 60,000 in damage in a fire that appears to have been set by arsonists. An adjacent liquor store also suffered heat and water damage. Prior to the fire, the owner had received threatening phone calls and even had a threatening bullet placed at his door. The fire is still under investigation, according to Plymouth fire official.

Stroman admitted to killing Hassan to a fellow prison inmate in January 2002. Murder charges against Stroman were dropped once he was convicted and sentenced to death for Vasudev Patel's murder.

Watch that they do not believe his murder was bias-motivated because there is no evidence to indicate anti-Arab or an anti-Muslim bias. The murder remained unsolved at the time of this writing.

### Dallas, Texas

Waqar Hassan, a forty-six-year-old Pakistani and father of four, was killed while cooking hamburgers at his grocery store on September 15, 2001. Although no money was taken from Hassan's store, police

### Kalamazoo, Michigan

Vandals lashed out Friday or early Saturday at a gas station owned by an Indian family, spray-painting ethnic slurs on its windows and walls. Scrawled across the store's exterior in yellow, black and red spray paint were things like "White Power," "Arab" and vicious slurs about Arabic people.

### Salt Lake City, Utah

James Herrick set fire to the Curry in a Hurry restaurant, causing minimal damage. Herrick admitted to setting the fire because he was angry over the September 11 attacks and knew the restaurant owners were from Pakistan. A federal district court in Utah sentenced him on January 7,

early-morning blaze Sunday at an auto mechanic shop to determine if it was intentionally set and a hate crime, according to fire officials. The fire gutted a store in the 12000 block of Bissonnet in Houston, a Pakistani enclave of small businesses and residential neighborhoods.

#### **Mesa, Arizona**

An Indian-immigrant gas station owner was shot and killed and a Lebanese American clerk at a gas station was shot at, police said Sunday. The East Valley Tribune reported that the 42-year-old suspect shouted, "I stand for America all the way," as he was handcuffed Saturday night.

#### **Bridgeport, Connecticut**

A mosque was vandalized on Sunday. Phone wires had been cut and vandals placed graffiti proclaiming "You will all die."

#### **West Babylon, New York**

A man was arrested after bringing a homemade metal pipe bomb and explosive materials to a Huntington Station apartment. He told the residents "that he planned to use the bomb to get an Arab."

#### **Augusta Georgia**

A Pakistani woman said two teenagers in a Jeep started tailing her. She tried to let them pass, but they pulled into her path and blocked her. She said she backed up and drove around them, and the Jeep followed her. The boys made gun gestures with their fingers, aiming imaginary pistols at her. She said they called her names, and said, "Go back to your country, wherever you came from." "I didn't know if they had a gun or something," she said. "I had my 8-month-old son in the back. I was just scared."

#### **Erie, Pennsylvania**

About 15 Muslims were inside the Islamic Cultural Center on Sunday night when a phone call was received by a teenager member. "I answered the phone and said 'Yes, this is the Islamic Center at 9 E. 12th St.,'" she said. "I thought it was the news media, because a TV station was going to come here for an interview." "Then the caller said, 'I want justice,'" Al-Ammoury said. "I told the man who called, 'I don't understand why you are calling.'" "He said, 'I want justice because you bombed the buildings in New York.' I asked him his name. He said his name was not important. "Then he said, 'The important thing is, you're going to die, I'm going to kill you all.'" Then the man hung up.

#### **Depew, New York**

A steel men's-room door was slammed hard into the head of an Arab-American man Sunday afternoon by a teenage employee of the Tops supermarket who called the man an "Arab terrorist," Buffalo police reported today. He was knocked unconscious for a brief time and that when he left the lavatory, his assailant and several other employees sitting at a break-room table laughed at him and refused him any aid. One witness told police that the Arab-American man went into the employees' break room and asked for the location of the lavatory. As the man headed into the lavatory, police said, one teenage employee jumped up from the table, kicked his leg out in a hostile manner and uttered an ethnic slur. He then was accused of pushing the bathroom door with both hands, striking the victim in the head.

#### **SEPTEMBER 17, 2001**

#### **Lincoln Park, Michigan**

Ali Almansoop, a forty-four year old Yemeni Arab, was shot and killed in

his home after being awoken from his sleep by Brent David Seever. At the time of his murder, Almansoop was in bed with Seever's ex-girlfriend. Immediately before killing Almansoop, Seever said that he was angry about the September 11 terrorist attacks. Almansoop pleaded that he did not have anything to do



with the attacks. Seever shot Almansoop anyway. Seever acknowledged to police investigators that he killed Almansoop in part because of anger related to September 11. Prosecutors chose to prosecute the matter as a murder, rather than a bias-motivated murder, because they believe Mr. Seever's motivation for murdering Almansoop was motivated in part by jealousy over Almansoop's relationship with his ex-girlfriend. Mr. Seever had been stalking his ex-girlfriend before the murder.

#### **SEPTEMBER 19, 2001**

#### **San Gabriel, California**

An Egyptian-born man died of a gunshot wound following a possible robbery at his mom-and-pop market. The 48-year-old Coptic Christian was fatally shot

by two men who entered his San Gabriel store, authorities said

#### **Frederick County, Maryland**

Satpreet Singh, a turbaned Sikh, was driving in the middle lane of a two lane highway. A pickup truck



pulled up close behind Singh and the driver started making profane gestures towards him. The pickup truck then moved alongside Singh's car on his left and the driver took out a rifle. Singh increased his speed to get away from the pickup truck. Seconds later he heard rifle shots. No bullets hit Singh or his car. The pickup truck then turned around and started traveling in the opposite direction. Singh filed a criminal complaint with the local police. At the time of this writing, local authorities have not been able to ascertain the identity of the person who shot at Singh.

#### **SEPTEMBER 23, 2001**

#### **Chicago, Illinois**

The St. John's Assyrian American Church was set on fire in the early



morning, causing approximately \$150,000 worth of damage. The fire was caused by someone who put a piece of paper through the church mail slot and then dropped a lit match onto it. Water from fire department fire extinguishers ruined holy pictures, carpeting, and floor tiles. According to the church's pastor, Reverend Charles Klutz, the person whom he believed set the fire had asked a local resident whether the church was a destroyed the store. The store had received threats immediately after September 11. Thus far, police have been unable to ascertain who started the blaze and the motive of the perpetrator.

## SEPTEMBER 29, 2001

### Reedley, California

Abdo Ali Ahmed, a fifty-one-year-

old Yemeni Arab and Muslim, and father of eight, was shot and killed while working at his convenience store. Cash in two registers and rolled coins inside an open safe were left untouched. In addition, Ahmed's gun, which he kept for protection, reportedly remained in its usual spot, indicating that he may not have felt in mortal danger. Two days before his murder, Ahmed had found a note on his car windshield which stated, "We're going to kill all of you [expletive] Arabs." Instead of contacting the police, Ahmed threw the note away.

Ahmed's family and local Muslim leaders have told the local press that they believe his killing was a hate crime. However, largely because no perpetrator or perpetrators have been found for whom a motive can be established, police have not classified the murder as a hate crime. California Governor Gray

Davis offered a \$50,000 reward for information leading to the conviction of Ahmed's killers. At the time of this writing, the investigation into Ahmed's murder was stalled because police had run out of leads.

## SEPTEMBER 30, 2001

### San Diego, California

Swaran Kaur Bhullar, a Sikh woman, was attacked by two men who stabbed her in the head twice as her car was idling at a red light. The men shouted at her, "This is what you get for what you've done to us!" and "I'm going to slash your throat," before attacking her. As another car approached the traffic light, the men sped off. Bhullar felt that she would have been killed by the men if the other car had not appeared. She was treated at a local hospi-

tal for two cuts in her scalp and released later that same day. Local police and federal law enforcement officials have been unable to identify Bhullar's attackers.

## OCTOBER 4, 2001

### Mesquite, Texas

Mark Stroman shot and killed Vasudev Patel, a forty-nine-year old Indian and father of two, while Patel was working at his convenience store. A store video camera recorded the murder, allowing law enforcement detectives to identify Stroman as the killer. Stroman said during a television interview that anger over the September 11 attacks caused him to attack any store owner who appeared to be Muslim. He further stated during the interview: "We're at war. I did what I had to do. I did

it to retaliate against those who retaliated against us." In addition to killing Patel, Stroman also shot and killed Waquar Hassan on September 15, 2001, and also shot Rais Uddin, a gas station attendant, blinding him. Stroman was tried and convicted of capital murder for killing Patel and sentenced to death on April 3, 2002.

## OCTOBER 15, 2001

### **Minneapolis, Minnesota**

Ali W. Ali, a sixty-six-year-old Somali Muslim, died nine days after being punched in the head while standing at a bus stop on October 15, 2002. According to press reports, the only known witness to the attack saw the assailant walk up to Ali, punch him, stand over him, and then walk away. His son and Somali community members attributed the attack against Ali to anger created against Somalis by a front page local newspaper article that appeared two days before the attack. The article said that Somalis in Minneapolis had given money to a Somali terrorist group with links to Osama Bin Laden. After originally finding that Ali had died of natural causes, the Hennepin County medical examiner's office on January 8, 2002 ruled Ali's death a homicide. Ali's family regards his murder as a hate crime. Both local police and the FBI have been unable to find Ali's assailant.

## OCTOBER 19, 2001

### **SeaTac, Washington.**

Karnail Singh is a Sikh man who owns a motel. In mid-October, 2001, John Bethel, a local vagrant who sometimes came into Singh's motel for coffee and food, told Singh, "You better go back to your country. We're coming to kick your ass." A few days later, on October 19,

Bethel entered Singh's motel and shouted, "You still here? Go back to Allah!" before hitting Singh with a metal cane while he stood behind the counter in the motel lobby. Singh, who bled profusely from the blow, spent half a day in the hospital and required ten stitches on his head. Bethel was sentenced to nearly two years in prison for assault with a deadly weapon.

## NOVEMBER 16, 2001

### **Waterbury, Connecticut**

During an evening Ramadan prayer service, rocks were thrown through two windows of the United Muslim Masjid. Approximately thirty-five to forty people were in the mosque at the time. Local police are investigating the incident as a possible hate crime. Dr. Magdy Abdelhady, a member of the mosque, said that local police were responsive to mosque member concerns and seemed to be taking the matter seriously. He said that immediately after the attack on the mosque, attendance had dropped but was now back to normal.

## NOVEMBER 19, 2001

### **Oswego, New York**

Four teenagers burned down the Gobind Sadan, a multi-faith worship center, because they believed the worshipers were supporters of Osama Bin Laden.

## DECEMBER 12, 2001

### **Los Angeles, California**

Surinder Singh Sidhi, a liquor store

owner who took to wearing an American flag turban after 9/11 out of fear of being attacked, is beaten in his store by two men who accuse of him of being Osama bin Laden.

## DECEMBER 29, 2001

### **Columbus, Ohio.**

Sometime during the evening of December 29, 2001, vandals broke into the Islamic Foundation of Central Ohio. The vandals broke a bathroom pipe and clogged the sink, forcing it to overflow for hours; tore frames encasing religious verses off a wall; destroyed a chandelier in the main prayer hall; flipped over the pulpit; cut the wires of high-mounted speakers and amplifiers and threw them to the ground; tore posters off a mosque classroom wall; pulled down curtains and drapes; and tipped over bookcases and file cabinets in a classroom and threw approximately one hundred copies of the Qura'n onto the floor. Water from the stopped-up third-floor sink seeped into the second floor main prayer hall, causing plaster pieces from the main prayer hall ceiling to fall. A torn Qura'n and a smashed clock from the mosque were found in the mosque parking lot. The damage to the mosque was estimated at \$379,000. The mosque was closed after the incident but planned to reopen in October 2002. Both local police and the FBI are conducting investigations.







