



FACT SHEET ON THE MOVIE *TORN*

***Torn* is a fictional story that touches on many social and civil rights problems that our country is struggling with in a post-9/11 environment. This fact sheet provides movie viewers with real examples of how that struggle is affecting our communities and American Muslims in particular.**

Ali and Maryam were subjected to numerous FBI interviews and deceptive interrogation practices without having a lawyer present.

Did you know:

- According to the former FBI DC Bureau Chief, over **half a million** Muslims and Arabs were interviewed between 2001 and 2005 and **not a single interview led to information** relevant to the 9/11 attacks.

Vandals spray "Terrorists Go Home" on Ali and Maryam's garage and throw a brick through their window.

Did you know:

- Hate crimes against perceived Muslims jumped by 50% in 2010.
 - A man was murdered by a woman who pushed him in the path of a moving subway train in Queens, New York. The woman told police, "I pushed a Muslim off the train tracks because I hate Hindus and Muslims since 2001 when they put down the twin towers...".
 - A 78-year-old shopkeeper of Iranian descent was shot to death in Brooklyn, New York by the same gun that killed two Arab shopkeepers earlier in the summer.
 - A Sikh professor at Columbia University was attacked by a group of men who fractured his jaw, repeatedly kicked and punched him, all the while hurling slurs and anti-Muslim statements at him.
- 39% of respondents to a USA Today/Gallup poll admitted to feeling **at least some prejudice** against Muslims. 39% also believed Muslims, including U.S. citizens, should be required to carry a special ID.
- 22% of those polled said they **wouldn't want Muslims as neighbors.**

We learn that both Walter and Eddie are subjected to bullying in school.

Did you know:

- In a recent survey of Muslim children aged 12 to 17, **80% reported that they had been subjected to bigoted taunts**, epithets and harassment. Half of those responding reported being called names even in front of teachers and school administrators.
 - Kids reported being called names including “terrorist,” “raghead,” “tower takers,” and “bomber.”
 - A Muslim high school student in Staten Island went through a harrowing ordeal in which he was frequently labeled a “terrorist,” punched in the groin, and spat on by fellow teenagers.

FBI agents in Torn repeatedly accuse Ali and Walter – who were innocent – of terrorism. At one point, an agent says, “I gotta bomb and a Pakistani kid,” insinuating that the two are always connected.

Did you know:

- After ten years of surveilling American Muslims in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Connecticut, the NYPD’s secret Demographics Unit ***never generated a single lead*** or triggered a terrorism investigation.
- In 2008, the FBI modified its policy guidelines to allow for massive racial and ethnic data-gathering and spying on mosques and other religious and political gatherings, even if there is no evidence of criminal activity.
- Today, the FBI has **15,000 spies and informants**, many targeting the American Muslim community, in addition to as many as 45,000 unofficial “hip pocket” informants.

Maryam, a realtor, loses clients and experiences a decline in business in the aftermath of the attack in Torn.

Did you know:

- Even though American Muslims account for just 2% of the U.S. population, they account for **25% of employment discrimination cases**.
 - In 2010, The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) sued JBS Swift, a meatpacking company, on behalf of 160 Somali immigrant employees saying supervisors and workers had cursed them for being Muslim; thrown blood, meat and bones at them; and interrupted their prayer breaks.
 - Two courts found that Abercrombie & Fitch, the fashionable clothing retailer, discriminated against women wearing hijabs – firing one and refusing to hire another.

Muslim Advocates works on the frontlines of civil rights to guarantee freedom and justice for Americans of all faiths. To learn more, visit www.muslimadvocates.org