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Terror Marriage

posted by Phil Keating at 1:39 pm ET



Wow! What a gorgeous morning in Manhattan — blue skies and colors blooming. Spring has arrived, and I am departing for Boston with my cab driver, who is a classic speeding, weaving demon!

I've got an interesting story that will air Friday. The idea: terrorists gaining easy access into the U.S. by marrying women who are American citizens.

Reportedly, 18 men, already on the terror watch list, got into the country this way. In national intelligence circles, this scenario is gaining more and more attention. Since 9/11, there's been plenty of talk, and plenty of congressional attention, given to the borders with Mexico and Canada and plenty of vocal worrying about Al Qaeda hiring the coyotes (Mexican human smugglers) to sneak them into the U.S. But what have you heard about the idea of terrorists exploiting our INS marriage rules?

I remember learning many years ago that if one is a foreigner, and that foreigner marries an American citizen, then that foreigner quite easily gets a green card and is on the fast road to citizenship. In other words, marrying into this country is a lot easier than applying for visas and getting the extensions, etc.

Of course, most people who marry into citizenship do so because they truly love their spouse. Others may do it under the guise of love because their true motive is to live a better life in the good ol' U.S. So, what about terrorists using arranged, Islamic marriages to gain access into the U.S., and then essentially become sleeper cells for attacking the U.S.?

Well, the former CIA man we interviewed for this story believes Al Qaeda members overseas are already working this angle — if they haven't done so already.

So, should the government focus more attention on marriage? Should they tighten up the rules of when, and how long, it takes to get cleared of engaging in a "fraudulent marriage?"

A lady we interviewed for this story sure thinks so. She was bamboozled by a guy who simply wanted to exploit a sham marriage. On the eve of their second anniversary, he dropped the bomb — "Honey, this marriage is over because I only married you to get into the U.S."