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 **TODAY'S "QUICK HIT":**
WE MUST BE
CONCERNED WITH
TERRORISM!



By Stephen L. Bakke  September 23, 2016

Here's what provoked me:

I've noticed an attempt to downplay the true threat to our country of international terrorism – particularly the radicalized Muslim version which dominates the news reports. I came across a USA today column which concluded that our fears are out of proportion to the true risks.

Here's my response:

We Must Be Concerned with Terrorism!

Greg Toppo's USA Today column on September 22 was an interview of Middle East expert Charles Kurzman, whose opinion is that "Terror fears are 'out of proportion' to risks." I appreciate that he attempts to instill hopefulness, but he also exhibits some wishful thinking, and lack of forward thinking. Kurzman seems to ignore several factors, including:

- While other forms of U.S. violence are reducing, terrorism is small but growing fast.
- Incidents of terrorism would be larger were it not for efforts to secure our country after 9/11.
- General violence occurs in the context of neighborhoods, education, race, culture, etc. It's embedded in home-grown problems.
- Radicalized Muslim terrorism, in contrast, is tied to foreign influences.
- There are millions of like-minded terrorists, located in dozens of countries, just waiting for the opportunity to expand terrorism in the U.S.
- International radicalized Muslim terrorists are a patient group, willing to wait for the right opportunity.
- Solutions for solving a terrorist threat are different than dealing with other crime activity in our country.

Considering the frequency, internationally, of radicalized Muslim terrorism, it's hard to take seriously the charges of "demonization" Kurzman makes. We must be smart in dealing with these very real terrorist threats.