

## ISLAMOFOBIA IN IRVING, TEXAS

The city of Irving, Texas has been under the spotlight ever since the arrest of Ahmed Mohamed, the 14 year old Muslim high school student who built a clock. The clock was thought to be a bomb and police were called to the scene and placed Ahmed under arrest. His story has circulated around the world, with many accusing authorities of stereotyping Ahmed as a terrorist because he is Muslim. Many people claim this event shows the intensity of the Islamophobia that has swept across the U.S. after

9/11 and that Irving has a history of anti-Islam mentality which led to the arrest of Ahmed. Irving, Texas, about 15 miles away from Dallas, has a population of around 230,000 people, and has a growing population of thousands of Muslims. The Muslim population is growing so much that the Islamic Center of Irving, the main mosque in the town, is generating plans to build a second, smaller mosque. Despite this, there is a history of an anti-Islam mindset in the Texan suburb that perhaps led to the arrest of Ahmed. Tensions with the Muslim community in Irving rose in 2012 when Mayor Beth Van Duyne gave

her opinion about stories regarding a Muslim mediation panel located at the mosque, which settled civil disputes using Sharia law in non-binding situations. She began referring to the panel as a court and said the U.S. was defending other cultures so much that it stopped protecting its own. She told her city council to endorse a law that prohibited judges in family law cases from using foreign laws. This was viewed as a law that unfairly targeted Muslims and garnered national media attention. Van Duyne's comments reminded many of the Islamophobia that swept ... *continued on page 2*

## ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS OF MONETARY SUPPORT

Many of us now have heard of the incident regarding Ahmed and his clock. It has sparked national outrage, and the internet has poured in support for Ahmed by encouraging him to pursue his ambitions and to be proud of his heritage. As part of this, Ahmed has also received an offer to intern with Twitter, a \$250,000 scholarship from BitCoin, and a Microsoft goodie bag, including: a Surface Pro 3, a Microsoft Band, a 3D printer, and a Office 365 subscription. In fact ... *continued on page 2*

## THE MEDIA'S RESPONSE TO AHMED MOHAMED

On Monday, September 14 2015, Irving, Texas police arrested 14-year-old Ahmed Mohamed at school for possessing what his teachers believed to be a bomb. In fact, Ahmed was simply showing them a clock he had personally engineered. Rather than receiving accolades, Ahmed was handcuffed and then led out of the school after being investigated by the police ... *continued on page 2*

# The Acronym

Academy's Choice Reading:  
One Newspaper for You and Me

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## WHAT'S NEW IN THIS EDITION?

**On 14 September, 2015, Ahmed Mohamed was arrested by police in Irving, Texas for bringing a bomb to school. Many have hypothesized that this wouldn't have happened had he been white. In a post 9/11 America, what does it mean to be Muslim in America? What does it mean to be any minority? At IMSA, is there a cause for alarm on the subject of race? What are the larger issues surrounding racial prejudice and profiling at in America and at IMSA? This week, the Acronym has investigated these issues and more**

## RACIAL PROFILING AT IMSA

In light of Ahmed's recent situation, I have recently thought a great deal about racial profiling and its place at IMSA. While I, personally, see a lot less prejudice here than I did at my old schools, I think there still are some cases where people express their racial profiling differently, without realizing it. I remember one day in fifth grade when I dressed up in an Indian lengha for a culture festival at my elementary ... *continued on page 3*

## A HISTORY OF ISLAMOPHOBIA

Islamophobia is dislike of or prejudice against Muslims or Islam, especially as a political force. The word, islamophobia, can be traced all the way back to 1910, where Alain Quellien used the word islamophobie to criticize French colonial administrators for their treatment of Muslim subjects. The dispute between the West and Islam dates back to the development of Islam. As time progressed, the relationship between the two ... *continued on page 3*

## FORM YOUR OWN OPINIONS

The recent events involving Ahmed Mohamed and a supposed bomb threat have raised some pretty significant questions regarding Islamophobia in America. Everyone's heard the media-encouraged story about the 14 year old Islamic kid from Irving, Texas who brought his made-from-scratch clock to school, and who (after some potentially racial biasing) was arrested and suspended on the grounds of bringing what appeared ... *continued on page 4*

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## NO SUCH THING AS A POSITIVE STEREOTYPE

Stereotypes. They are unavoidable difficulties in today's society. The good news is that most people are beginning to understand what stereotypes are and their negative impacts. Among other consequences, stereotypes can isolate a victim, destroy their confidence, and cloud their true identity. But one thing we often forget about is the supposedly "positive" stereotype. These so-called positive stereotypes latch onto the back of our minds, and we apply them to everyday situations, both consciously and

unconsciously. They have become so pervasive that in some cases the victims themselves have adopted them. One example of a "positive" stereotype is that Asians are smart. At first glance, this statement may not seem to be that harmful; it appears to be a compliment toward a group of people. But herein lies the problem: it still defines a large group of people with one characteristic, which clouds people's individuality. For example, if an Asian did not display great academic talents, but instead developed a passion for art, they would not conform to the stereotype. Stereotypes

pressure individuals to submit their personality to the influence of others, because they make one feel that they are supposed to follow the stereotype. That Asian might carry the burden of a precarious balance between their individual identity and that of their group's identity. Furthermore, if an Asian works really hard, is their intelligence not the fruit of their own effort? Or is it merely a by-product of their Asian ethnicity? Aren't they more than just another smart Asian? Those who are stereotyped – even positively stereotyped – often face mingled feelings of guilt and frustration because ... *continued on page 4*

# ISLAMOPHOBIA IN IRVING, TEXAS

Teddy Khan  
Staff Writer

The city of Irving, Texas has been under the spotlight ever since the arrest of Ahmed Mohamed, the 14 year old Muslim high school student who built a clock. The clock was thought to be a bomb and police were called to the scene and placed Ahmed under arrest. His story has circulated around the world, with many accusing authorities of stereotyping Ahmed as a terrorist because he is Muslim. Many people claim this event shows the intensity of the Islamophobia that has swept across the U.S. after 9/11 and that Irving has a history of anti-Islam mentality which led to the arrest of Ahmed.

Irving, Texas, about 15 miles away from Dallas, has a population of around 230,000 people, and has a growing population of thousands of Muslims. The Muslim population is growing so much that the Islamic Center of Irving, the main mosque in the town, is generating plans to build a second, smaller mosque. Despite this, there is a history of an anti-Islam mindset in the Texan suburb that perhaps led to the arrest of Ahmed.

Tensions with the Muslim community in Irving rose in 2012 when Mayor Beth Van Duyne gave her opinion about stories regarding a Muslim mediation panel located at the mosque, which

settled civil disputes using Sharia law in non-binding situations. She began referring to the panel as a court and said the U.S. was defending other cultures so much that it stopped protecting its own. She told her city council to endorse a law that prohibited judges in family law cases from using foreign laws. This was viewed as a law that unfairly targeted Muslims and garnered national media attention. Van Duyne's comments reminded many of the Islamophobia that swept across the U.S. in recent years.

Following her comments about the Muslim panel, anti-Islam hysteria took hold in Irving, with the mosque receiving hateful emails and phone calls. The leaders of the mosque were shocked by these hate messages and criticized Van Duyne for igniting anti-Islam mentalities with her apparent attack on their faith. She was also criticized for using the Sharia panel debate to further her own political agenda.

In only the last few years, the city of Irving has had a history of Islamophobia not only among its citizens, but lawmakers as well. This mentality could likely have contributed to the sudden arrest of Ahmed.

# ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS OF MONETARY SUPPORT

Xinyu Guan  
Staff Writer

Many of us now have heard of the incident regarding Ahmed and his clock. It has sparked national outrage, and the internet has poured in support for Ahmed by encouraging him to pursue his ambitions and to be proud of his heritage.

As part of this, Ahmed has also received an offer to intern with Twitter, a \$250,000 scholarship from BitCoin, and a Microsoft goodie bag, including: a Surface Pro 3, a Microsoft Band, a 3D printer, and a Office 365 subscription. In fact, as the days go on, it seems that the donations that Ahmed receives become increasingly lucrative.

It makes one think: "Man, I wish I built a clock and got arrested. Then would I receive the same treatment that Ahmed is receiving?" Of course, Ahmed's certainly is a special case—he is 14, black, and Muslim. He is a maker, and his hobby is "to invent stuff." Thus, when he gets arrested for being falsely accused of bringing a bomb to school, the incident represents a much larger problem in America: Islamophobia, racism, white supremacy, prejudices in deterring science. Because of this, he attracts a lot of Internet support, visits to the White House, to Space Camp, and to visit with Mark Z.

But does he deserve so much monetary, physical compensation? Although it is easy to say exactly how much monetary support is worth, and thus to claim how much a company supports Ahmed's cause, is monetary support really what Ahmed needs, especially at such a young age as 14?

An old Chinese proverb states, "Give a man a fish, and you feed him for a day. Teach him how to fish, and you shall feed him for eternity." So if Ahmed gets invited to attend the Google Science Fair, or a prestigious space conference at the White House, it's quite beneficial for him because he gets encouraged to pursue his scientific curiosity, as well as enabling him to be in contact with some truly great minds, who will be able to advise him about society and life. On the other hand, if Ahmed only receives monetary support, it suggests that when anyone insults him, he should expect to receive lots of money or benefits for no work on his part whatsoever. So in the end, monetary support will not teach him to be resilient, hard-working, or less cynical about people.

In addition, every day there are many other Black Muslims in this world who face racism, and yet have to work hard for their scholarships, internships, and Surface Pro 3s. What makes Ahmed different? Do we choose to treat Ahmed like a king so that we don't have to compensate everyone like him who endures a hardship?

I think if you really want to support Ahmed, invite him over, give him some wise words, encourage his curiosity—but DON'T just send him money, like a scholarship. It trivializes all the hard work that he should have done to receive it.

## THE MEDIA'S RESPONSE TO AHMED MOHAMED

Jason Chen  
World Outlook Editor

On Monday, September 14 2015, Irving, Texas police arrested 14-year-old Ahmed Mohamed at school for possessing what his teachers believed to be a bomb. In fact, Ahmed was simply showing them a clock he had personally engineered. Rather than receiving accolades, Ahmed was handcuffed and then led out of the school after being investigated by the police. Although we may hear about this event from across the country and feel removed from it, imagine if you were accosted and then interrogated by your principal before being brought to the police station. Despite not knowing the boy at all, thousands of people have reached out across social media, eager to support the boy's cause.

People across the world have accused the school of traumatizing the boy and Texas police of racial profiling. Mohamed, however, has also been praised for his technical initiative, and was even offered jobs and scholarships. His innovation in building a clock has also garnered attention from top colleges like MIT, which have offered him tours of their schools. Three days after Mohamed was arrested, MIT's president sent out a message on Twitter that the university was "delighted" that he was interested.

However, responses haven't ended there. A number of celebrities have shown their empathy for Mohamed's plight, posting across social media from a mélange of fields and careers. #IStandWithAhmed hashtags have broken out across the country, and an extensive list of offers has begun rolling in for him. He's been offered a Space Camp scholarship, a Twitter internship, and the support of Foursquare, a local search and discovery service mobile app, among others. The co-founder of Reddit, Alexis Ohanian, has even offered to introduce Ahmed to some of his connections in the science field.

Social media hasn't been the only source of support for Ahmed, however. Autodesk, 123D Circuits, and other software corporations have extended offers to meet and also sent free building kits to the boy. From astrophysicists to astronauts, and business schools to R&B artists, Ahmed Mohamed has gotten attention from almost everyone, and thousands are eager to share their opinions about what he's been through.

Despite many positive reactions, Ahmed's story has also inspired some suspicions. Richard Dawkins, a British writer and evolutionary biologist, was caught up in a controversial debate when he voiced his opinion that Ahmed's motives were questionable. Although Dawkins believed that the boy should not have been arrested, he wondered whether the boy's reason for inventing the clock was truly honorable, or whether he wanted to arouse widespread public attention with his work. Upon publicizing his opinions, Dawkins sparked dramatic backlash, and eventually retreated, apologizing if he seemed "over the top" in his quest for truth and too sensitive to possibly being fooled.

Regardless of his motive, Ahmed Mohamed's plight has generated thousands of responses from social media, celebrities, and large corporations, engendering a controversial debate about science,

### EXAMPLES OF #ISTANDWITHAHMED



# RACIAL PROFILING AT IMSA

Shivali Shukla  
Opinions Editor with Opinions Staff

In light of Ahmed's recent situation, I have recently thought a great deal about racial profiling and its place at IMSA. While I, personally, see a lot less prejudice here than I did at my old schools, I think there still are some cases where people express their racial profiling differently, without realizing it.

I remember one day in fifth grade when I dressed up in an Indian lengha for a culture festival at my elementary school. I remember being worried that the other kids would judge what I was wearing because they had never seen anything like it before, and because it was so different from what the majority of others were wearing.

In contrast, at IMSA, I've found that I don't have to worry about such petty things, because people accept different cultures and ethnicities. However, at the same time I think the diversity here never goes unnoticed. There are low-key moments when students, without meaning anything by it, say things like "This picture has so many Asians lol", or "You could do it because you're Indian!" While not many people find this offensive, I've only recently realized that while IMSA is accepting of all races, and many people even participate in the cultural activities of other races, the cultural divide still exists, people are always going to associate certain

characteristics with certain races.

Similarly, Daniel Shin wrote that his "wish for the longest time throughout middle school was to be white. I resented not being born into a white family because I felt as though there were so many disadvantages that came with being Asian. My primary complaint with my ethnicity was that I felt as though people held a preconception of me when they saw me for the first time. They assumed certain parts of my life before even getting to know me. When I met people for the first time, they would assume I had a

**I WOULD TRY MY BEST TO HIDE MY ASIAN ACCENT AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE**

really peculiar name or that I did not speak English very well. Because of this, I would try my best to hide my Asian accent as much as possible and I would be ashamed of being seen with my parents in public. But now, I've come to accept the importance in diversity, and I am extremely proud of my culture and am not afraid to show it. And I believe that IMSA has helped me accomplish that."

However, Amy Yu, Class of '17, explained to me a different viewpoint: "I haven't really seen much

racial profiling here at IMSA, but I have seen some people who deeply care about understanding and appreciating race, while others don't mind the differences all that much. Like, I've seen people who get angry when others participate or interact with certain aspects of a culture or race that isn't their own, because they think no one is truly trying to understand their culture. They want people to comprehend and accept everything about their race, and they want people to recognize the differences and divisions between each race. Others, though, don't care about the differences and just simply accept and participate in any aspect of other ethnicities. So I guess while racial profiling hasn't been such a big deal at IMSA, there are definitely people who strictly identify with their race and are often so proud of their ethnicity that they require others to fully understand every aspect, [or] otherwise to not associate with any aspect of their culture."

Amarachi Okoli, another Opinions writer, wrote about a more specific, personal experience related to racial profiling at IMSA: "I have seen an incident or two of racial profiling at IMSA, up close. On one occasion, three boys - one African-American and two Caucasians - were having a conversation as they were leaving the main building. The African-American boy asked one of the Caucasian

boys a question, and in response, the Caucasian boy called his friend a racial slur. Because they appeared to be friends, many may have assumed that they were joking with one other and that the expression may not have been intended as an insult. However, whether they both knew it or not, the use of the word was truly an offense. The fact that the boy was smiling and quickly veered away from the African-American boy, as if trying to avoid getting hit by him, shows that he knew the context in which the word is used.

"It was obvious that Caucasian boy did not use that word in ignorance; he knew what he said and what it meant. Clearly the two of them knew each other, but even more troubling is the lack of respect that the Caucasian boy showed for that African-American boy, whom he may consider a friend, which made it all the more insidious and damaging. Ignorance could not have been at play and was not the issue, at least not entirely. As already said, racism is insidious and often finds its way into even the most unlikely places, such as IMSA. As a place of higher learning, one would think the atmosphere at IMSA would liberate people from such tendencies. One would hope that IMSA students would take to heart IMSA's mission statement, our motto, our creed: to fulfill the mission of advancing the human

condition, instead of acting in contradiction to that noble mission.

"Even if the African American student may not have viewed or may not be aware of the full weight of the word, historically, socially, and politically, it was offensive to me, and indeed to all African Americans, especially those who bear the scars of racism."

Amarachi brought up a good point about how sometimes racism goes unnoticed. All of these viewpoints point towards some type of racial profiling at IMSA, whether recognized or unrecognized. While, due to the culture at IMSA, it may be hard to directly relate racial profiling to Ahmed's case and Islamophobia, we all recognize that prejudice does exist in all forms within the IMSA community, whether it is highly distinct or very subtle, and I think

**RACISM IS INSIDIOUS AND OFTEN FINDS ITS WAY INTO EVEN THE MOST UNLIKELY PLACES, SUCH, AS IMSA**

## A HISTORY OF ISLAMOPHOBIA

Abhay Gupta  
Staff Writer

Islamophobia is dislike of or prejudice against Muslims or Islam, especially as a political force. The word, islamophobia, can be traced all the way back to 1910, where Alain Quellien used the word islamophobie to criticize French colonial administrators for their treatment of Muslim subjects. The dispute between the West and Islam dates back to the development of Islam.

As time progressed, the relationship between the two civilizations grew more intense, as they started disagreeing with each other during peace, and was increased in particular areas termed as "frontier".

All was calm for a while, with only minor clashes taking place, but then 9/11 happened. After 9/11, it was thought by every American that Islam was the cause for

such horrendous crimes, and since 9/11, hate crimes towards Muslims have been consistently five times higher than before 9/11. In actuality, 9/11 is an isolated case executed by a radical terrorist group; the religion of Islam is not at fault.

The average number of hate crimes per year nevertheless since 2010 has been higher than in the three years preceding the Park51 controversy.

The Park51 controversy began when an Islamic cultural center opened, near the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Towers and critics argue that this should not be happening because there should not be a mosque near the site of the attacks.

These facts, however, do not include some of the frightful violence witnessed in the past year, such as the execution of three Muslims in Chapel Hill, NC. It is also worth noting that non-

Muslims have also been victimized by anti-Muslim hate crimes, such as Wade Michael Page mistaking Sikhs for Muslims as he shot them down.

As the construction of mosques occur, their destruction does alongside as well. The FBI has been blamed to check mosques and Islamic communities through spies in an effort to incite Muslims who have done nothing illegal to participate in terrorist activity, such as a recent case involving the arrest of three Brooklyn men for plotting to join ISIS.

Court documents prove that none of the men would have been in a position to travel to Syria or Iraq without the help of an FBI informant. The NYPD, similarly accused like the FBI, also released its own surveillance program of Islamic communities. It too relied on informants as well as "mosque crawlers" and various alternate methods of

profiling to target (if not create) possible terrorists. The NYPD ended the program in 2014, but is thought to not have formally eradicated all of its dubious methods.

The last presidential race observed the most conspicuous instances of radical Islamophobia to date. At one GOP debate, Newt Gingrich associated Muslim Americans with Nazis, asserting that just as the Nazis attempted to intrude into the U.S. during World War II, Muslims might be striving to do the same today.

The 2016 presidential race already comprises a field of Islamophobia bombast. Rick Santorum faulted Presidents Bush and Obama for offering "all Muslims authorization for diagnosing a tumor inside themselves;" the disease was "Islamic terrorism." Islamophobia is widespread in all forms of mass media.

Muslims disposed to violence and terrorism are also vital to the plotlines of current award-winning TV shows such as *Sleeper Cell*. The persona of Muslims in the U.S. news media has also declined since 2010. The expectation for an improved America still survives. It's conceivable that the following five years will be better when it comes to citizens establishing an America in which Islamophobia is less widespread.

## NO SUCH THING AS A POSITIVE STEREOTYPE

Parth Dhyani  
Staff Writer

Stereotypes. They are unavoidable difficulties in today's society. The good news is that most people are beginning to understand what stereotypes are and their negative impacts. Among other consequences, stereotypes can isolate a victim, destroy their confidence, and cloud their true identity. But one thing we often forget about is the supposedly "positive" stereotype.

These so-called positive stereotypes latch onto the back of our minds, and we apply them to everyday situations, both consciously and unconsciously. They have become so pervasive that in some cases the victims themselves have adopted them.

One example of a "positive" stereotype is that Asians are smart. At first glance, this statement may not seem to be that harmful; it appears to be a compliment toward a group of people. But herein lies the problem: it still defines a large group of people with one characteristic, which clouds people's individuality.

For example, if an Asian did not display great academic talents, but instead developed a passion for art, they would not conform to the stereotype. Stereotypes pressure individuals to submit their personality to the influence of others, because they make one feel that they are supposed to follow the stereotype. That Asian might carry the burden of a precarious balance between their individual identity and that of their group's identity. Furthermore, if an Asian works really hard, is their

intelligence not the fruit of their own effort? Or is it merely a by-product of their Asian ethnicity? Aren't they more than just another smart Asian? Those who are stereotyped – even positively stereotyped – often face mingled feelings of guilt and frustration because they might not fit into their group or they might not want to fit into their group.

Other examples of "positive" stereotypes might be that African Americans are athletic, women are patient and sympathetic, or Italians are great cooks. Since the members of a group do not have the same feelings and no group is completely homogeneous, all of these stereotypes have negative consequences.

That is the problem with stereotyping—it uses a group of people, either by ethnicity, sexual orientation, sex, or physical characteristics, to explain a trait common only to some. It does not matter if that trait is insulting or not, because it still attaches labels to people. There is no such thing as a positive stereotype because its consequences remain predominantly negative. Everyone should be treated as an individual, instead of having their identity dictated to them by a common perception of the group to which they belong.



IT IS IMPORTANT FOR ONE TO REALLY LOOK INTO A SITUATION BEFORE MAKING JUDGEMENTS.



The recent events involving Ahmed Mohamed and a supposed bomb threat have raised some pretty significant questions regarding Islamophobia in America. Everyone's heard the media-encouraged story about the 14 year old Islamic kid from Irving, Texas who brought his made-from-scratch clock to school, and who (after some potentially racial biasing) was arrested and suspended on the grounds of bringing what appeared to be a bomb to school. This was obvious racial prejudice; while many young scientists and engineers are praised for their work, Ahmed endured exaggerated, unfair treatment because of his skin color and beliefs.

We live in what we believe to be a civilized first-world country, and yet lapses in our judicial and political systems like this reveal its flaws. Among these is the inherent racism present in many areas of the U.S., and not enough is being done to change it.

Media outlets and social media sites worldwide have blown this story up, causing it to trend on such popular sites as Facebook, Twitter, etc., with the commonly seen tag #IStandWithAhmed. Now, this reveals something great about our culture: when people are unfairly treated, the world is able to find out. And yet, to some extent this story is being blown out of proportions for the sake of a story. Everyone bands together over the unjust sob-story of a poor kid who just wanted to invent things. Not many of those people have any idea what his invention actually looked like.

For those of you who don't know, the image below was the clock that Mohamed brought in. Generally, this isn't the type of thing a teacher would see and automatically assume to be a clock. Quite frankly it looks like something that could be a bomb. The media's representation of the incident allowed for a convenient story that people could easily be offended by. As stated before I do believe that this incident was grossly mishandled by the police and school, however there is some sense behind their actions.

As stated before, we live in a time where peoples' actions are easily shown to a world-wide audience. This has allowed for



THE CLOCK THAT MOHAMED BROUGHT TO SCHOOL

much more globally-aware citizens. And yet, people don't always take the time to understand the full scope of a situation. Would this have happened to a Caucasian student, or a student in a different part of the country? Perhaps. Yet regardless of potential racial biases, unfair treatments, or bomb-shaped clocks, it is important for one to really look into a situation before making judgements.

Harith Alappat  
Lifestyle Editor



EVERYONE SHOULD BE TREATED AS AN INDIVIDUAL, INSTEAD OF HAVING THEIR IDENTITY DICTATED TO THEM BY A COMMON PERCEPTION OF THE GROUP TO WHICH THEY BELONG.



## FORM YOUR OWN OPINIONS

# THE EVOLUTION OF RACISM IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Heena Srivastava  
Staff Writer

The recent events surrounding 14-year-old Ahmed Mohamed and his homemade creation have sparked vicious shaming towards his teachers, school, and county police. The young Muslim boy from Irving, Texas created a digital clock with innovation and expertise. Shortly thereafter, however, the teen was arrested, his teachers claiming the clock looked like a bomb. Some claim it is not a simple misunderstanding, but rather a racist assumption made based on his Muslim background. The occasion is tragic, not only raising sympathy for the criminalized minor, but cruelly reminding us of how racism's pervasive presence in America.

Now more than ever, instances of racial profiling are both glaringly visible and socially problematic. In an America which prides itself on social progress and acculturation, one expects the utmost sensitivity from all citizens. Recently, the public has faced the shame of seeing those expectations continuously lowered, revealing that America is still not as culturally developed as it appears.

After the by September 11th attacks, The War on Terror, and Immigration Reform, the mentality of the country toward race and culture has changed, leaning toward suspicion. This ideology has taken the form of hate crimes and racial profiling, social problems that were not left behind with the Civil Rights Movement or the end of the 20th century.

In the last 15 years, thousands of hate crimes and cases of racial profiling have been documented. Americans have witnessed the Evolution of Racism: a cruel unfolding of events collectively damaging our national integrity. What has the 21st century meant for racism in America?

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A history of hate crimes and cases of racial profiling reminds us of the discrimination still prevalent among us. During such progressive times, one can lose respect for our fellow American citizens. It must not be forgotten, however, that the disappointment felt in American hearts is nothing but definite indication of our progression. We must maintain criticism for prejudice, intolerance for discrimination, and an open heart to victims. A change in actions starts with a change in mentality only the American people can perpetuate.

## 1. New Jersey Turnpike (2000)

A report covering 91,000 police records from the State of New Jersey indicated a consistent pattern of arrest records directed towards African American drivers. While white Americans were shown to have a 28.8% higher chance of carrying contraband than African Americans, African Americans were still searched more often. They made up 17% of the state population and 70% of traffic arrest records.

## 2. The Shooting of Timothy Thomas (2001)

The Cincinnati riots of 2001 were sparked by the death of 19-year-old African American male Timothy Thomas and continued for four days. Thomas was fatally shot by Patrolman Stephen Roach after an attempt to arrest him for non-violent misdemeanors, most of which were traffic violations. The riots were the nation's largest since the L.A Riots of 1992.

## 3. The Shooting of Balbir Singh Sodhi (2001)

Post 9/11, Islamophobia sparked hate crimes across the nation against Americans of South Asian or Middle Eastern descent. Balbir Singh Sodhi, a Sikh gas station owner, was shot and killed by Frank Rocque four days after 9/11.

## 4. The Jena Six (2006)

Six African-American high school students were charged for attempted murder after assaulting 17-year-old Justin Barker, a white classmate. Rallies across the country supported the Jena Six, saying they were disproportionately punished with racial motivation.

## 5. Danziger Bridge Shootings (2005)

On September 4th, 2006, six African American citizens were shot by police officers out of uniform on the Danziger Bridge in New Orleans, Louisiana. Two citizens were killed, while the other four were wounded. The victims were unarmed and had not committed any crime.

## 6. Anti-Immigration Legislation (2006)

Legislation intended to discourage and limit immigration to the US passed in 2006 sparked outrage throughout the nation, mobilizing millions in 102 cities across the country.

## 7. The Shooting of Trayvon Martin (2012)

Trayvon Martin, a 17-year-old African American boy, was shot and killed by George Zimmerman, a local neighborhood watchman. Martin, who was walking from a neighborhood 7-11, was reported by Zimmerman for looking "suspicious". An altercation began between the two, ending with the fatal shooting of the 17-year-old.

## 8. The Shooting of Michael Brown (2014)

Michael Brown, an 18-year-old African American, was shot 17 times by Officer Darren Wilson, a 28-year old white police officer. Michael Brown, although unarmed, had robbed a convenience store of cigarillos. The shooting sparked national unrest, seen as an example of police brutality by African American citizens in the town of Ferguson, Missouri.

## 9. The Death of Eric Garner (2014)

Eric Garner, a 43-year-old African American, was arrested in Staten Island, New York on July 17th, 2014. A police officer arrested him for allegedly selling "loosies" (single cigarettes). Officer Daniel Panteleo put him in what was described as a "chokehold", eventually killing him.

## 10. Charleston, South Carolina Church Shooting (2015)

At Emmanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church, Dylann Roof shot and killed nine people, injuring one more. The church is one of the country's oldest predominantly African-American churches and has long stood as a symbol of civil rights, due to its history of involvement. Roof is to be indicted on federal hate crime charges and is facing up to thirty years in prison or the death sentence.