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Blog surfaces to counter Juan Williams's notions of 'Muslim garb'

A Tumblr blog surfaced today with a short and simple message: "I will post pictures of Muslims wearing all sorts of things in an attempt to refute that there is such a thing as 'Muslim garb' or a Muslim look."



Iman wears a red jacket only she could get away with. (Jason Kempin/Getty Images for HSN)

In a response to fired NPR analyst Juan Williams's comments on a Fox News show, the Tumblr blog 'Pictures of Muslims Wearing Things' posts photos of famous Muslims, from Yusuf Islam (formerly Cat Stevens) to Shahrukh Khan, and describes their outfits.

"Dave Chappelle is Muslim. He is wearing ruffles and polyester," one entry reads. Another says: "This is Pai Hsien-Yung. He comes from a Muslim background, and was influenced by Mister Rogers' cardigans from a young age."

Not only does it provide fashion advice, but it also offers up an impressive list of famous Muslims, from actor Aasif Mandvi to the model Iman.

By Melissa Bell | October 22, 2010; 6:10 PM ET

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SOURCE:THE NEW REPUBLIC, 1986, pp. 18-22.

A bitter controversy has broken out in Washington over a column by Richard Cohen in the Washington Post Magazine. Cohen reports that certain jewelry stores in Washington admit customers only through a buzzer system, and that some store owners use this system to exclude young black males on the grounds that these people are most likely to commit a robbery.

If you were a jewelry store owner, would you use your buzzer system to exclude young black males? You might take other factors into account - not just age and sex, but style of dress and time of day - but would you ever take race into consideration as well? Whatever you yourself would do, is taking race into consideration in these circumstances racist? Understandable? Both? Neither?

Suppose you were a cabdriver cruising for customers in the middle of the night. Or a woman about to get into an elevator with a stranger in a residential apartment building. How does your decision or your analysis change in these circumstances?

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Here is what the I-get-nervous-when-I-see-Muslims-in-veil said

Neither black nor white store owners are in business to display the virtues of admitting people of all colors, creeds, and fashions to their stores. They are in business to make money. I would want to take precautions to prevent robbery; I would look closely at people entering the store. The race of a potential customer would be one factor among many to be considered as I girded myself against

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