

Introduction

Since 9/11 Arabs and Muslims have been the victims of increased racism, hate crimes and opposition by many New Yorkers. Why did this happen? The following will show research and statistics as to just why there was an increase in racism towards Arabs and Muslims and give some insight as to why many people turned against them. This topic was chosen to highlight the plight and problems these two groups of people have undergone and maybe lead to solutions if their problems are exposed.

Background

Controversy near Ground Zero

Location of a proposed community center near the former World Trade Center that will include fitness facilities, an auditorium, a restaurant, a library and a mosque, which some oppose:



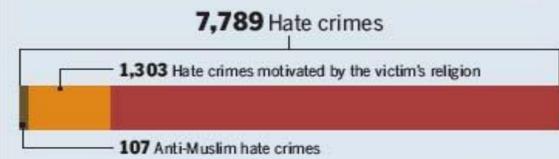
Materials & Methods

Methods

To go about answering the above questions, research was mainly done by looking at articles, statistics, surveys, and reports released by many different organizations. Each was analyzed to come up with specific answers and evidence to support that there was an increase in racism, hate crimes, and opposition towards Arabs and Muslims.

Anti-Muslim hate crimes

While hate crimes against Muslims make the news, they are actually relatively rare, compared with crimes against other minorities. In 2009, the latest year for which statistics were available, the Federal Bureau of Investigation counted:



Source: FBI

Recent anti-Muslim incidents in the Bay Area

September 2010 A burned Quran is found in a trash can in front of a Tenderloin mosque	June 2010 A Muslim man is attacked in Sunnyvale by two men who call him a "terrorist"	August 2009 Two men are arrested for beating a cabdriver in Pleasanton, while repeatedly calling him "Taliban" and "terrorist"
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Source: News reports

Findings

As a result of much research, the following was obtained. Since 9/11 there has been an increase in racism against Arabs and Muslims according to the New York City Commission on Human Rights (2003). Also in the same report 79% of Arabs and Muslims said they felt they had been negatively affected by 9/11 and this made them feel more vulnerable to outside attacks. This anti-Muslim feeling was given the name Islamophobia and led to an increase in hate crimes. A research report by the Pluralism Project found that hate crimes against Muslims increased by 50% and an estimated 1,552 crimes occurred against Muslims, including hate crimes. 10% of those crimes were committed in New York (The Pluralism Project, 2005). Many crimes of this nature were sometimes done on college campuses as well.

More Findings

Also as a result of Islamophobia was the opposition against building a mosque near Ground Zero. Many were against it because of the location, that the mosque was going to be built close to the anniversary of 9/11 and also because the attacks of 9/11 were carried out in the name of Islam. Although there was opposition, there was much support as well.

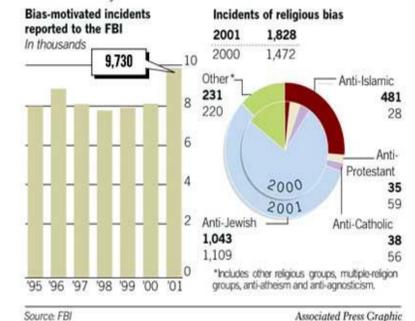


Conclusion

What can be concluded from the following research is that since the terrorist attacks of 9/11 there was increase in racism, hate crimes, and opposition against Arabs and Muslims in New York City. These problems should be greatly looked at and cared about because if nothing is done to support Arabs and Muslims than will continue to be the victims and senseless crimes.

Hate crimes against religious groups, 2001

There was a dramatic increase in the number of hate crimes against people of the Islamic faith during 2001, according to an FBI report released Monday.



Source: FBI Associated Press Graphic

Literature Cited

New York City Commission on Human Rights. (2003). Discrimination against Muslims, Arabs, and south Asians in New York City since 9/11. Retrieved from http://www.nyc.gov/html/cchr/pdf/sur_report.pdf

The Pluralism Project at Harvard University. (2005). Post 9/11 hate crime trends: Muslims, Sikhs, Hindus, and Jews in the U.S. Retrieved from <http://pluralism.org/reports/view/104>

For further information More information on this can be found at http://www.nyc.gov/html/cchr/pdf/sur_report.pdf and <http://pluralism.org/reports/view/104>.

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