



Invasion: How America Welcomes Terrorists

From the speech by Michelle Malkin on March 22, 2003 at the Chicago/Oakbrook CMF Conference; she is a syndicated columnist and author of the best-seller Invasion.

My talk is about a serious subject and I open my remarks with a very different kind of prayer. It was a prayer that was recited by a stranger who was welcomed in America with wide-open arms. The stranger's name was Mohamed Atta. And the prayer was found in papers in his abandoned luggage after September 11, 2001 and it went like this: "Crave Death: Bring knives, your Will, IDs, your Passport, Oh God, open all doors for me; Oh God, you who open all doors, please open all doors for me. Open all venues for me, open all avenues for me."

At every twist and turn of his journey in America, the doors were opened for Mohamed Atta and 18 of his criminal associates. Unlike the million of strangers who have come here to pursue faith, family, and freedom, the 9-11 terrorists did not come here to live the American dream; they came here to destroy it. These 19 homicidal hijackers came here seeking revenge, not peace. They came here craving death, not freedom. They were not the first to abuse our hospitality and they were not the last; they will not be the last to hide their evil intentions behind the disguise of benign visitors or needy immigrants.

My research highlights case after case of innocent lives lost at the hands of foreign terrorists and other enemies of peace who benefited from our broken latches, and our busted fences, our defective screen doors and the myriad other symptoms of lax immigration enforcement. Let us not forget the six people who died and the thousands who were wounded in 1993 at the World Trade Center during a bombing at the hands of illegal aliens from Palestine, Egypt, Jordan and Pakistan who freely overstayed their visas and exploited our loophole-ridden asylum system.

There were twelve people about whom I talk in my book *Invasion* who died from 1997 to 1999 at the hands of an illegal alien serial killer, Angel Resendiz, who goes back and forth freely across the US-Mexican border. I don't have to remind you of the death toll on September 11, 2001 at the hands of Mohamed Atta and his terrorists hijackers who slipped past our snoozing State

Department and Immigration and Naturalization Service. Five of those terrorists had freely overstayed student, tourist and business visas. Two were gunned down on July 4, 2002 in a very little reported act of terrorism at the Los Angeles International Airport. It was a lone Egyptian terrorist who escaped deportation when his wife won a visa lottery.

My home is in Montgomery County, Maryland and in the fall of 2002 we were terrorized and ten people died at the hands of sniper suspects John Muhammad and Lee Malvo. Muhammad had been stopped in Miami for attempted illegal alien smuggling but was never prosecuted. Malvo was an illegal alien from Jamaica, who had been apprehended by Border Patrol agents in Washington State, but had been released pending deportation against the Border Patrol's recommendation.

A year after the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, we have new laws, we have new agencies, we have new government spending to fight off unwelcome invaders. But the Golden Door remains wide open to the world lawbreakers and evildoers.

Just a few facts. According to the INS, at least 78,000 illegal aliens from terrorist-supporting and terrorist-friendly countries live in the United States today. More than 300,000 illegal alien fugitives, including 6,000 from high-risk terror-sponsoring countries in the Middle East, remain on the loose in our country despite deportation orders. Last year, at least 105 foreign nationals suspected of terrorist involvement received U.S. visas anyway because of lapses in the new background check system. There is still no systematic tracking of criminal alien felons across the country, yet untold thousands of illegal aliens pass through the fingers of Federal Immigration Authorities every day. Even today, Mohamed Atta's deadly prayers for open borders and unobstructed avenues to terror are being answered by our government, which is supposed to be constitutionally bound to provide for the common defense. I believe that until our leaders, both political and religious, stop putting so many other interests above our national interests, a

dangerous state of immigration and anarchy will persist.

CARDINAL MINDSZENTY

As I prepared my talk, I came across some of Cardinal Mindszenty's living words that relate directly to the themes of much of my research and reporting. This is from His Eminence's 1974 book *Memoirs* and I quote: "In a country where the citizens fear God, they will respect the law. Where they respect the law, they will live in peace. A nation filled with peace is a strong nation".

My own journalistic interest in documenting the failures of border security and immigration enforcement matters is driven by both moral obligation and civic and professional duty. As a God fearing, law abiding, peace-seeking daughter of legal immigrants from the Philippines, I have never taken for granted the rights and responsibilities that come with citizenship. The oath, that my parents and so many millions of other naturalized Americans in this country took, resonated even more powerfully with me after September 11 than ever before. I'd like to quote from the oath that new Americans take. "I hereby declare on oath that I will support and defend the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America against all enemies foreign and domestic. That I take this obligation freely without any mental reservations or purpose of evasion. So help me God."

IMMIGRATION LAWS UNDERMINED

We cannot have a strong nation as long as we continue to tolerate massive undermining of respect for God. We all know that. But I also believe that we cannot have a strong nation as long as we continue to tolerate massive undermining of immigration laws. When scores of illegal alien day laborers are allowed to congregate openly at fast-foods stores and near government offices, it sends a signal that no one cares. And that no one is in charge. It was exactly in this type of environment of chaos and immigration lawlessness that September 11 hijackers Hani Hanjour and Khalid Almihdhar were able to obtain fake photo ID's. From illegal alien day laborers hanging out at a Seven-Eleven in Falls Church, Virginia, it was just a stone's throw away from the Pentagon where hijackers later crashed their plane. It was in this environment of bureaucratic sloppiness and neglect that all nineteen September 11 terrorists got away with filing incomplete visa applications in clear violation of our law and our sovereignty. It was in an uncontrolled environment that a total of 21 out of 48 Islamic radicals entered our country during the past decade. They broke our immigration laws with terrorist plots from the 1993 World Trade Center bombing to the New York City subway bombing conspiracy, to LA International Airport Millennium plot, to the September 11 attacks. They stowed away on ships, they overstayed their visas, and they committed marriage fraud, asylum

fraud, document fraud and citizenship fraud to blend into the American mainstream. One of them, 1993 World Trade Center bomber Mahmud Abouhalima, brazenly filed a bogus application for amnesty under a federal program that was meant for Latin American farm workers. That is how Mahmud Abouhalima won permanent legal residence.

OPEN BORDERS

There are leading religious advocates of open borders, specifically our southern borders, who justify their defiance of Federal Immigration laws by invoking the biblical responsibility to welcome the stranger. They continue to argue that there is no connection between controlling illegal immigration and protecting national security. But the biblical precept to welcome the stranger must be informed by the stark post-September 11 realization that some strangers aren't here to seek shelter. Some strangers aren't here to do the jobs that no one else wants to do. These ill-willed strangers who have learned how to exploit every open door and every gaping loophole and every venue in our immigration system are here to do the job of slaughtering Americans of all faiths and backgrounds on American soil. Better intelligence and improved visa screening overseas will help screen out such unwelcome strangers, but we must shore up the home front as well. Putting out orange rubber cones to mark our borders as we do, even now along many parts of US-Canadian land boundaries, is a farce. So is the ignoring of the dangers of massive unrestricted illegal immigration from Mexico.

How many Saddam Hussein's sleeper terrorists are waiting in the U.S. right now to retaliate against us? How many al-Qaeda arbiters line up moving comfortably and effortlessly in the interior of our nation and in states that give drivers license to illegal aliens and in cities that declared themselves as safe havens for illegal border crossers and for visa overstayers? I report in my book *Invasion* on an international crime ring that was led by an Iraqi native named George Tajirian; the crime ring demonstrates the scope of the alarming problem of potential terrorists pressing at our southern gate. The Tajirians guided aliens from all over the world into the U.S.—usually across the Rio Grande or through El Paso, Texas checkpoints, and arranged transportation and lodging for them once they were inside. According to federal prosecutors, Tajirian charged up to \$15,000 a head. During his trial, which resulted in a thirteen-year prison sentence, prosecutors introduced evidence that he was responsible for smuggling individuals with known ties to subversive or terrorist organizations, as well as individuals who were known to have criminal histories. All told, law enforcement officials believed Tajirian and his Mexican collaborator Angel Melena, who was a high-ranking Mexican

government official, may have smuggled more than a thousand Middle Eastern aliens across the southwest front. The whereabouts of many of these smugglies remain unknown.

In early 2003, a Washington D.C. jury convicted Mohamed Asane Housati for smuggling Iraqis into the U.S. through Columbia, Ecuador and other locations in South America. Housati supplied illegal alien Iraqis with stolen and altered European passports and round trip airline tickets to the U.S. in exchange for up to \$8,000 per person. These Iraqi smugglies purchased documents at a commercial vendor in Northern Iraq called the Market of Passports which they use to travel through Turkey, Ecuador and then into Columbia. According to a statement from the U.S. attorney's office, Housati instructed the aliens to destroy the fraudulent passports and tickets while en route to America and to surrender to the U.S. Immigration authorities without disclosing their true place of origin. The whole scheme relied on knowledge of our government's catch-and-release policy. People are freed pending deportation proceedings and that policy remains in place today.

And yet, our borders remain wide open to infiltrators who may be toting more than suntan lotion and disposable cameras in their luggage. In March 2003, reports surfaced that up to half-dozen Iraqi illegal aliens had attempted to cross the Mexican border possibly carrying biological weapons. Opponents of stricter border controls insist that all we need to do to prevent foreign terrorists from striking again is to reform our intelligence agencies. They insist on only going after big obvious targets, suspected al-Qaeda operatives applying for visas overseas, and leaving everyone else who is breaking our immigration laws alone. But as long as the stubborn signals of an immigration system in total disrepair persist, the invasion that I described in my book *Invasion* will go on unabated. Such signals as driver's licenses for illegal aliens, in-state college discounts for illegal aliens, non-enforcement of employer sanctions, rampant asylum fraud, unpunished document fraud, sanctuary amnesty. Foreign terrorists will read these signals and accept our continued open invitation to enter through every available front, side and back door.

My thesis is that rampant immigration crimes are a result of unchecked border disorder, massive undermining of respect for the law. So-called small and harmless immigration crimes such as cutting through the rusted barbed wire, overstayed visas, committing marriage fraud, employing an illegal day laborer, lead to more serious national security problems. Examples are rampant of illegal alien gang activity, infiltration by terrorist's cells and internal corruption. First, one broken fence goes unrepaired, then vast miles of borders go undefended. First, hundreds of illegal border crossers go unpunished then millions of line jumpers win amnesty from Congress. First, thousands of visa overstayers are allowed to

violate the rules without consequences, and then hundreds of thousands of fugitives from deportation are allowed to flout the law. Then the media stop referring to the illegal immigrants as illegal but use less judgmental descriptions such as undocumented worker, but that is inaccurate as many of these undocumented workers have plenty of documents. They just happen to be bogus and fake. Then cities begin declaring themselves as safe havens for illegal aliens (undocumented workers) awarding them free health care and voting rights, discounted college tuition rates and soon the INS commissioner himself is sending unmistakable signals to immigration law breakers that he believes that it is neither "practical, nor reasonable" to deport anybody for trashing our fences and our rules. Now untold numbers of radical Islamics have disappeared into the American mainstream. How did that happen? They are poised to attack both the figurative and literal foundation of our free society at a moment's notice.

STATUE OF LIBERTY

In 1995, our Holy Father visited Newark, New Jersey, and he reminded us quote: "Quite close to the shores of New Jersey there rises a universally known landmark which stands as an enduring witness to the American tradition of welcoming the stranger and which tells us something important about what kind of nation America has aspired to be. It is the Statue of Liberty with its celebrated poem 'Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to be free, send these the homeless tempest-tost to me'." Is present-day America becoming less sensitive, less caring toward the poor, the weak, the stranger, and the needy? It must not. Today as before, the United States is called to be a hospitable society, a welcoming culture. If America were to turn in on itself, would this not be the beginning of the end of what constitutes the very essence of the American experience?

As a first generation American Catholic, I cherish the blessings of liberty each and every day. The American experience is alive and well in families, like mine, which count among dream-seekers from all over the world: Filipino, Italian, Scottish, Irish, Korean, Chinese, Hungarian, Russian, and that is just my immediate family! Yes, we should preserve a welcoming culture but not for Godless enemies of the American experience be they Communists, Fascists, or radical Islamics. Again to borrow the words of the Cardinal Mindszenty Foundation, those of us who share a common faith and love of country are bound by moral and civil duty to combine knowledge and action with prayer, penance and sacrifice, to defend Faith, Family and Freedom against those strangers who crave darkness and death over Pax and Lux.

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News & Notes

A SAINTLY FATHER'S SPIRITUAL TESTAMENT TO HIS SON

Born in 1214, King of France at 22 years, married, father of eleven children, Louis IX excelled in penance, prayer and in his love for the poor.

Following is a spiritual testament by St. Louis to his son.

My dearest son, my first instruction is that you should love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your strength. Without this there is no salvation. Keep yourself, my son, from everything that you know displeases God, that is to say, from every mortal sin. You should permit yourself to be tormented by every kind of martyrdom before you would allow yourself to commit a mortal sin.

If the Lord has permitted you to have some trial, bear it willingly and with gratitude, considering that it has happened for your good and that perhaps you well deserved it. If the Lord bestows upon you any kind of prosperity, thank him humbly and see that you become no worse for it, either through vain pride or anything else, because you ought not to oppose God or offend him in the matter of his gifts...

Be kindhearted to the poor, the unfortunate and the afflicted. Give them as much help and consolation as you can. Thank God for all the benefits he has bestowed upon you, that you may be worthy to receive the greater... Be devout and obedient to our mother the Church of Rome and the Supreme Pontiff as your spiritual father. Work to remove all sin from your land, particularly blasphemies and heresies.

In conclusion, dearest son, I give you every blessing that a loving father can give a son. May the three Persons of the Holy Trinity and all the saints protect you from every evil. And may the Lord give you the grace to do his will so that he may be served and honored through you, that in the next life we may together come to see him, love him and praise him unceasingly. Amen.

The Mindszenty Report is published monthly by the Cardinal Mindszenty Foundation, 7800 Bonhomme Ave., P.O. Box 11321, St. Louis, MO 63105, 314-727-6279, Fax 314-727-5897.

Subscription rate: \$20.00/year, \$36.00/two years. Outside the U.S.A. \$28.00

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