

## **Peaceful Muslims fear backlash**

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Two days after the London blasts, I finally spoke to my cousin who lives in London and was relieved to hear that she and other family members are all safe.

My concern now is backlash. Although my uncle has been living in London for the past 40 years or so and my cousins are all residing in their birth country, they will be second-guessed regarding their patriotism, their values, their political stance, and their overall sanity countless times. They will have to endure this suspicion from society because they are Muslim.

The stories of being caught in a dark, jammed subway encompassed with injured people are nightmarish. My deepest sympathies go to those who have lost loved ones and those who have been inflicted with injuries. I detest those who did this; for they not only took the lives of innocent people, but also took our peaceful religion and its followers, once again, back several notches. I loathe the person who wrote the gloating statement taking responsibility for this horrendous crime. You cannot combine praise of our Lord and a crime in one statement.

After great tragedies and hearing of others' suffering, one's mind starts to contemplate many things. Why did God provide me with such comforts while people in other nations are starving to death? Why are there ongoing wars in some parts of the world? Why does it take a war to end a war? Why do we keep asking for more when we have abundance? What can I do to make a difference?

I will continue to pray for sensibility, compassion, security, prosperity and an all around better future not only for us, but also the people of the world.

### **Zeba Hashmi**

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