

## **Don't Blame the Innocent**

**There were 1.8 billion Muslims in the world as of 2015 – roughly 24% of the global population.**

**There are about 3.45 million Muslims of all ages in the U.S., or about 1.1% of the U.S. population. This is based on an analysis of census statistics and data from a 2017 survey of U.S. Muslims.**

**[Reza Aslan: Anyone who asks why Muslims have not condemned terrorism can't use Google](#)**

**“first of all, let’s be clear that every single organization, major organization, Muslim organization throughout the world and in the United States, every prominent individual, be it political or religious leaders — everyone has condemned, not just this attack, but every attack that occurs in the name of Islam.”**

**“Anyone who keeps saying that we need to hear the moderate voice of Islam — why aren’t Muslims denouncing these violent attacks doesn’t own Google.”**

**I would add to that statement that everyone's Google search experience is not the same. It is designed to lead you to what you WANT to find, once it "knows" your preferences. If you have chosen to view bigoted anti-Muslim sites, even accidentally, you'll find even more of those. And the media does not interview Muslims every time a terrorist acts to get their opinion. Why should they? It is not normal nor sensible to blame the innocent majority for a crime.**

**It is not every Muslim's responsibility to disavow, nor to apologize for acts by other Muslims.**

**Many Americans, though not all, condemned the US invasions of Iraq and Afghanistan. A number of us would express regret for the US/UK overthrow of Iran's government in 1953. Many of us sympathize with the Palestinian cause, and believe our country should put real pressure on Israel to end its occupation and violations of human rights.**

**Americans have perpetrated reprehensible acts on Muslim nations and populations, directly or indirectly, things our government did, but not because the people wanted them to happen. Should we all explicitly apologize? Are we all guilty?**

**Should all Christians take the blame for Dr. Tiller's murder? Should all white people apologize for the many black people unjustly lynched, shot, or otherwise killed or maimed by pale bigots?**

**No, we don't blame the innocent. Many good people are working to make the future better than the past, but all those who simply lead their lives and do no harm, regardless of race or religion, do not deserve prejudice.**

**--cosmic rat Jan. 14, 2018**