My Travel Experience

Every time I arrive from overseas, I will be taken to US Customs and Border Protection for further screening. I will stay for more than 3 hours at least especially at the Detroit airport. They will take me to a room with some times 2 people, sometime one person and sometimes 3 people. They always ask the same question such as how many money did you bring? What do you do? They always ask me to surrender to them my wallet and they checked it thoroughly.

The religious questions they asked most of the time were 1. which Masjid I am imam at? 2. What kinds of duties I perform 3. My roles in the Islamic organizations I affiliate with 4. How much money did you bring to your community?

In July 2010, I have missed my plane because of the Custom personnel. He has all my information in front of him and asked me about the Islamic organizations I am affiliated with and he has all of them in front of him. He asked about each of them and my role in the organizations. I was held about 4 hours.

In December 2010, I was held by Customs at Port Huron border for more than 4 hours where I was taken to a room by an officer and two people one male and female joined the officer. The officer told me, we are not arresting you but we have to handcuff you. They handcuffed me and put me against the wall and the officer searched me from up to down running his hand from my chest to legs. They also talk my wallet and ask how much money I have with me.

In Ramadan 2004 or 2005, when I was coming back to USA from Windsor via Ambassador bridge I was held for more than 3 hours asking their traditional question and checking my wallet.

In 2004 or 5, when I was coming from Saudi Arabia for Umrah, Saudi custom told me that they cannot check my bags to Detroit because of the information they have about me. The custom man told I have to go to immigration when I arrive at Germany. In Germany they took my passport and they made a call to USA. After half and hour, the custom person came to with my passport saying you are allowed to travel.

I have more problems in Detroit's airport than any airport. JFK is so far the best for me. They take me to the custom but don't spend more 40 minutes.

Sincerely,

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