

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Office of Civil Rights and Liberties
601 South 12th Street
Arlington, VA 20598-6006



**Transportation
Security
Administration**

FEB 4 2010

Mr. Edward Hasbrouck
The Identity Project
1736 Franklin Street, 9th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Hasbrouck:

Thank you for your letter of December 11, 2009, expressing concern about recent press reports pertaining to certain TSA screening management procedures that appeared on the internet. Specifically, you believe that referring passengers who hold passports issued by certain foreign governments for additional screening is a possible civil rights violation and requires appropriate investigation, enforcement and corrective action.

TSA works in close conjunction with the Department of State and other U.S. Government agencies to strengthen alliances to defeat global terrorism and prevent attacks against the United States and its partners. Security measures are subject to constant review and revision.

In developing and implementing security measures to ensure the safety of the traveling public and the movement of people and commerce, TSA takes every effort to ensure the civil rights and liberties of all travelers are respected and safeguarded. It is TSA's expectation that all people will be treated properly and respectfully while ensuring the security of international civil aviation and the U.S. transportation system. This is also true with respect to the additional screening requirement for holders of passports issued by the countries of interest that you identified in your e-mail. Please note that a passport-issuing country is not coextensive with a person's national origin.

We appreciate that you took the time to share your concerns with us and hope that this information is helpful. If we may be of further assistance, please call the Office of Civil Rights and Liberties at (877) 336-4872.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer K. Carmichael".

Jennifer Carmichael
Director