

In the name of God
God of Justice and Equality

My name is Manijeh Mehrnoosh & I am sharing the following true story, one of too many, that happened to me and my sister.

I am sharing this to invite you, Chair Prozanski and member of the committee to join me to support Senate Bill 560, Oregon's End Profiling Act. I thank you ahead of time because by doing that you are giving me and other members of our community a sense of belonging and trust.

Please hear our Voice, we are screaming, "We are American citizens, we have rights, and we know our rights for God sake!"

As I said at the beginning this is only one of too many incidents that has happened to us.

My sister and I drove to San Francisco to visit my daughter, a Berkley student last September.

After I drove for a few hours, my sister started driving. She happens to wear a head scarf due to our religion.

She drove for an hour or so, when she saw police lights behind her. She slowed down to pull over to stop, but the patrol officer turned his lights off. My sister continued driving thinking it wasn't for her. She saw the patrol officer turned his lights on again. My sister pulled over and stopped. The police officer approached us and asked for her driver's license and the insurance card. She gave him everything he wanted. The officer then stated, "She was speeding because she slowed down further when I turned on my lights and sirens." The officer was mobile and not running any sort of radar before he proceeded to pull us over. He gave her a speeding ticket, stating my sister was 5 mph over the posted speed limit and we couldn't prove him wrong. It was our words against his. I am sure it was because of her head scarf. I have to mention that this was not the first time. There have been other occasions. I witnessed this happens almost every time she is driving and not me, who does not wear a scarf. She was not speeding and I was sitting by her holding the GPS tracking her speed and the whole time it showed she was staying on limit.

It is unfortunate that I have to tell both my sister and my daughter that not only do we have to follow the law, because it's the right thing to do, but most important because we are also Muslims. We are very aware that being a Muslim in our communities makes us a target to the police. We should only fear the police because of our actions, but not because of who we are! I know we have long ways to go to end profiling, but with your support, we will have more faith in seeking justice.

I appreciate your time and attention. Thank you for helping our dream come true.

Please support Senate Bill 560, Oregon's End Profiling Act because this is the "right" thing to do.

Thank you for letting me Scream, "I am here, I am like you, I love the rain, I love the sunshine, I love everything exactly like the rest of you, now why should I suffer because, I am this or that, or in my sister's case wearing a scarf? Why?!!

Khadijeh Manijeh

