

WILL THE NYPD BE SPYING ON MUSLIMS TO LEARN WHAT THEY THINK OF THESE ADMINISTRATIVE PUNISHMENTS?

The AP reports that 6 soldiers and 3 Marines responsible for burning Qurans in Afghanistan and for urinating on a corpse, respectively, will receive Administrative punishment (the punishments for other Marines involved in the urination incident have yet to be announced).

If NYC's Muslims plan to talk about the adequacy of Administrative punishment for the defilement of a corpse, they should be aware that the NYPD finds such conversations legitimate topics for spying. As Adam Serwer noted last week, one of the things (incompetently) redacted in the transcript of NYPD Intelligence Chief Thomas Galati's deposition was that officers were recording Muslims' reaction to the treatment of a New Jersey Transit worker who had burned a Quran.

The improperly redacted conversations cited by the NYPD official, associate police chief Thomas Galati, in fact consist of Muslims discussing discrimination against Muslims after 9/11. The conversations contain no evidence of terrorist ties. In one of the redacted conversations, an Urdu-speaking man says, "This is unbelievable, that New Jersey Transit Worker who got fired for burning the Holy Quran by Ground Zero was rehired last week."

As I noted, the NYPD justified recording such conversations because—Galati claimed—they

indicated where terrorists might be comfortable.

So it's probably safe to assume that NYPD's spooks will head out to cafes in Pakistani neighborhoods so they can eavesdrop on the response to this punishment.