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**Commissioner Robert C. Bonner
U.S. Customs and Border Protection
Statement on Census Data
July 30, 2004**

In 2002, a division of the U.S. Customs Service now part of U.S. Customs and Border Protection requested public information from the Census Bureau. The request was for basic demographic information – available to the general public – to assist in an outreach campaign to educate international travelers on the monetary reporting requirements when traveling abroad. The information was used to create posters, brochures and other materials that would assist these travelers so that they do not violate U.S. laws and regulations when leaving the country. At the time of the request, U.S. Customs was assisting in tracking terrorist financing by looking for people exiting the country with more than \$10,000 undeclared. The outreach program was designed to inform the honest traveler who may be unaware of the law, and to help them avoid making an honest mistake. By informing the honest traveler of U.S. laws, Customs could focus its resources on those with criminal intent. U.S. Customs and Border Protection does not target individuals based on gender and ethnicity. We take any allegations of racial profiling seriously and are working with the Department of Homeland Security's Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties to address any issues which may be raised by leaders of the Arab-American and Muslim-American communities.

