



Web MSNBC

[Make MSNBC Your Homepage](#) | [MSN Home](#) | [Hotmail](#) | [Sign In](#)



[Home](#) >> [Travel](#) >> [Travel News](#)

- [BAD TRIPS](#)
- [SUMMER VACATIONS](#)
- [CRUISES](#)
- [DESTINATIONS](#)
- [SHARE PHOTOS](#)

Travel

- [Travel News](#)
- [Destinations](#)
- [Travel Tips](#)
- [Travel Deals](#)
- [Summer Travel](#)
- [Cruising Vacations](#)
- [Family Travel](#)
- [Active Travel](#)
- [Business Travel](#)
- [Luxury Travel](#)
- [Quizzes & Votes](#)
- [Your World Photos](#)
- [Ultimate Getaway](#)

Video

U.S. News

Politics

World News

Business

Sports

Entertainment

Health

Tech / Science

Travel

Weather

Blogs Etc.

Local News

Newsweek

Multimedia

Most Popular

NBC NEWS

Today Show

Nightly News

Dateline NBC

Meet the Press

MSNBC TV

MSNBC Classifieds

Shopping

Headwear screening policy under scrutiny

Religious and ethnic groups oppose new measures; say it singles them out

AP Associated Press

Updated: 6:37 p.m. ET Aug 29, 2007

WASHINGTON - A new airport screening policy for turbans and other headwear has the country's Sikhs concerned they are being unfairly targeted.

The federal policy change went into effect Aug. 4, subjecting travelers to secondary screening at security checkpoints if they are wearing head coverings, such as cowboy hats, berets or turbans. The screenings could include a pat-down search of the head covering if the screener finds it necessary.

The New York-based Sikh Coalition believes the new policy singles out Sikhs and others who wear religious head coverings. More than 25 ethnic and religious organizations, such as the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee and the Asian American Justice Center, have signed the coalition's petition against the policy change.

[Story continues below ↓](#)

advertisement



Bebeto Matthews / AP

Amardeep Singh, executive director The Sikh Coalition in New York, reviews documents at his office in New York. A new airport screening policy for turbans and other headwear has the country's Sikhs concerned they are being unfairly targeted.

Your weather

Your forecast

Click to see the weather outlook for your destination



Start a Business
from Entrepreneur.com

Dating
with Perfectmatch.com

Real Estate
with HomePages.com

Earn a Degree
while you work!

Investments
\$7 online stock buys

Home Equity
With Wells Fargo

Disable Fly-out



Summer with Fido and Fluffy

Readers share photos from summer travels with their pets



Pretty college campuses

Readers share their picks for the prettiest college campuses in the U.S.

Advertisement

MSN SHOPPING

Travel sale shop

- Essentials
- Electronics
- Pet carriers
- Accessories

In the Sikh religion, the turban is considered private, and removing a turban would be like removing a woman's blouse, Neha Singh, the coalition's advocacy director, said Wednesday. Since 2001, federal policy has required screeners to search turbans only if they do not clear a metal detector.

The Transportation Security Administration denies any use of racial or religious profiling in its security screening practices. The recent policy change applies to all head coverings that could be used to conceal something, said TSA spokeswoman Amy Kudwo. The change was not a result of any specific threat information about hiding explosives or weapons in head coverings, she said. And all travelers have the right to request a private screening.

"Head coverings do not 'require' a search under the new policy," Kudwo said in an e-mail. "Individuals MAY be referred for additional screening if the security officer cannot reasonably determine that the head area is free of a detectable threat item."

Deal of the Day

7 days on Crete

Package features kayaking, hiking more action on southern coast of island



The Sikh Coalition has documented 40 incidents when Sikhs were subjected to these searches since Aug. 4. And some of

these travelers were not offered a private area for screening, Singh said, adding, "This is going to lead to profiling."

TSA will not disclose the details of new policy for security reasons. It broadly explains the screening procedures on its Web site with a picture of a white cowboy hat and another picture of three young women laughing and wearing winter hats.

The Sikh community was not notified of the screening changes as it has been in the past, the advocacy group said. The organization met with TSA officials on Aug. 22 and has another conference call scheduled next week to discuss the issue, Singh said. TSA told the coalition the

Most Popular

Most Viewed - Top Rated - Most E-mailed

[Ancient murder mystery takes new turn](#)

[Dutch royals caught revising Wikipedia](#)

[The most powerful women in the world](#)

[Police officer accuses Sen. Craig of lying](#)

[Wilson reportedly slit wrists, didn't overdose](#)

[Most viewed on MSNBC.com](#)

RESOURCE GUIDE

- Dating - Get two months free!
- Find your dream home today!
- Find a business to start
- Fast \$7 trades, no limit
- Home Equity Wells Fargo
- Earn a Degree while you work!
- Shopping

Sponsors:

airport screeners decide to perform secondary screening on turbans at their own discretion.

If the policy remains broad and unregulated, it could lead to profiling, said David Harris, a racial profiling expert at the University of Toledo College of Law.

DON'T MISS THESE TRAVEL STORIES FROM MSNBC.COM

- **What a thrill! Great trips for an adrenaline fix**
 - **Hope you're hungry — and rich — for these eats**
 - **7 lessons from the dreadful summer of 2007**
 - **Flying on faith: Vatican airline takes to the skies**
 - **Excursion Exam: What city is betting on gaming?**
-

© 2007 The Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.

Rate this story Low  High

Current rating: **3** by **40** users • [View Top Rated stories](#)



Print this



Email this



Blog this



IM this

MORE FROM TRAVEL NEWS

[Next → Fewer drivers expected over Labor Day](#)

[Iraqi travelers part of 'unfortunate situation'](#)

Top MSNBC stories

[Police release Sen. Craig interview](#)

[White House counters Iraq report](#)

[Brazil train crash kills at least 8](#)

[Billy Graham released from hospital](#)

NBC News highlights

[Trucker on bowling ball assault](#)

[Matthews: Bad news for Bush](#)

[Remembering Katrina's first days](#)

[TODAY Wedding: Vote for rings](#)

[Who's the most powerful woman?](#)

[Helmsley loves Trouble](#)

SPONSORED LINKS

[Get listed here](#)

Gatlinburg Cabin Rentals, Smoky Mountains

Gatlinburg and Smoky Mountain cabin rentals, special rates available.
hearthsidecabinrentals.com

Weather on Your Desktop

Free tool from The Weather Channel temp, alerts, news, traffic & more.
www.weather.com

Family Vacation Ideas

Plan Fabulous Vacations For The Entire Family. Read More!
family.go.com

Complete Forex Solutions

Free Software & Training. Free Charts & Tools. Try GFT Risk-Free!
www.gftforex.com

Refinance At 5.35% Fixed Rate

Get \$300,000 loan for \$875/month. Calculate Your New Payment. Act Now!
Refinance.LoanOffer.com

Cover | U.S. News | Politics | World News | Business | Sports | Tech/Science | Entertainment | Travel | Health | Blogs Etc. | Weather | Local News
Newsweek | Today Show | Nightly News | Dateline NBC | Meet the Press | MSNBC TV

About | Alerts | Newsletters | RSS | Mobile | Podcasts | Site Map | Help | News Tools | Jobs | Contact Us | Terms & Conditions | Privacy

© 2007 MSNBC.com

© 2007 Microsoft [MSN Privacy](#) [Legal](#) [Advertise](#) [Feedback](#) | [Help](#)