

This weekly paper is for Government departments and statutory organisations dealing with counter-terrorism. It is intended to inform on CT issues that have been covered in the domestic, overseas and online media during the week. It provides background and context to issues covered in the CT Talking Points but also covers additional issues which have been prominent in the media.

Overview

There has been light media coverage of CT related issues in the past week with Schedule 7 stop and searches dominating. This has featured during a week in which President Obama's state visit, the Ash cloud and injunctions have dominated coverage. The main CT story has featured as follows:

- **Schedule 7:** There has been strong domestic and overseas media interest this week in statistics which suggest that people from ethnic minorities are up to 42 times more likely than white people to be the target of Schedule 7 stop and search powers. This has prompted accusations of "ethnic profiling" as well as calls for an "independent investigation" into the use of these powers.

Detail

Stops and searches under Schedule 7 of the Terrorism Act 2000

- UK mainstream media

The Guardian reported that people from ethnic minorities are up to 42 times more likely than white people to be the target of Schedule 7 stop and search powers. The Guardian argued that despite claims that profiling on the basis of ethnicity is banned by the police, the figures give strength to the argument that people are having their human rights infringed on the basis of what they look like. The figures published were released following a freedom of information request from the Federation of Student Islamic Societies (FSIS) who said that Schedule 7 was "draconian". StopWatch, a criminal justice action group, accused the government of "ethnic profiling". Both groups called for an investigation into the use of these powers.

The Guardian also highlighted another story related to stop and search powers. The paper claimed that security services are trying to recruit Muslims to spy on their communities during the stop and search process. The article acknowledged that there is no independent evidence to support the claims that police and MI5 are abusing Schedule 7 powers in this way, but it claimed that there is a consistency of testimony from those who have been stopped.

- UK BAME media

The Asian Image, one of the largest BAME outlets, picked this up in secondary reporting. It quoted Nick Gargan, chief executive of the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) as saying that Asian communities feel that they are being singled out by officers using these powers disproportionately.

- Online reaction

The story was picked up on LondonMuslim.blogspot which said that it was "way beyond the point of using words like shocking" to describe this news because Muslims in Britain are "treated like an enemy of the state". And iEngage asked whether "the abuse of counter-terrorism powers by security services and police forces, are being adequately addressed by the Government, the Independent Reviewer of terrorism legislation and the Equality and Human Rights Commission."

➤ International media

Pakistani newspaper 'Dawn' duplicated The Guardian article under the alternative headline of "Anti-Asian bias". Press TV, an Iranian outlet, also featured the story under the headline "Terror law unduly targeting non-whites".