

# THE Skanner

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a Better Future Now

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415 N. Killingsworth St.  
P.O. Box 5455  
Portland, OR 97228

Telephone (503) 285-5555  
Fax: (503) 285-2900

info@theskanner.com

www.TheSkanner.com

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# Opinion

## Huge Holes in Trump's Views on Combatting Terrorism

I awoke to a story that Presidential candidate Donald Trump was now proposing that the families of terrorists should be killed. As best as I can tell, his rationale is that if any terrorists know that their families will be killed, they are less likely to be terrorists. The Russian mafia has a similar view on dealing with opponents, by the way.

There are several things about this 'proposal' that struck me.

First, which terrorists? Does Donald Trump mean that the family of the late Timothy McVeigh — the Oklahoma City bomber — should have been whacked by the USA?

Does he mean the family of James Holmes, the convicted killer in the Aurora, Colorado massacre?

Does he mean the family of Dylann Roof, of the Charleston, South Carolina church killings?

Does he mean the family of



Bill Fletcher Jr.  
*The Global African*

Adam Lanza, the killer in the Newtown/Sandy Hook elementary school shootings?

For some reason, I suspect that this is not what Trump had in mind. But it is a relevant question since most of the post-9/11 terrorism in the USA has been carried out by

“They talk as if we are engaged in a giant video game war where there are no real consequences

white supremacists. Taking Trump's argument to its logical conclusion would mean that a lot of White people would find themselves on the receiving end of drone attacks or sniper shootings.

Second, who is a terrorist?

This is actually more complicated than it seems since there is no international consensus on the definition of a terrorist. There are, for instance, Kurds who are fighting the so-called Islamic State (Daesh) in Syria and Iraq who are considered terrorists by Turkey, but have received varying degrees of support from the USA.

Whose families should be exterminated? In the 1980s the U.S. government supported the Contras in their war with the Nicaraguan government. The Contras engaged in military attacks on civil-

ians and non-military targets. That is usually a definition of terrorism. Should their families have been eliminated? What about the families of the US governmental authorities, e.g., the CIA, who supported such operations?

You see where I am going? But let me add one point.

Has it occurred to anyone that we may already be paying the price for the killing of families of alleged terrorists?

Every time there is so-called collateral damage in the killing of alleged terrorists, that is frequently the family and/or friends or in some cases, simply someone walking by. Has anyone considered that such killings may have already triggered reactions on the part of people who might have otherwise never considered anything close to terrorism?

Trump and several of the other Republican candidates are very fast and loose with their language. They talk as if we are engaged in a giant video game war where there are no real consequences, just a shoot 'em-up free-for-all. In the case of Donald Trump, it might be that this is the result of prolonged exposure to reality TV shows.

Just saying...

## Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia Defends Racism

On the same day that President Barack Obama gave a stirring and historically grounded commemoration regarding the 150th anniversary of the passage of the 13th Amendment, the one that “abolished” slavery, Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia chose to disregard tenets of equality and opportunity from the bench during the hearing for Fisher V. University of Texas. Scalia suggested that African American students would benefit more if they went to “lesser track” schools.

His verbatim comments: “There are those who con-



Julianne Malveaux  
NNPA  
Columnist

tend that it does not benefit African-Americans to get them into the University of Texas, where they do not do well — as opposed to having them go to a less advanced school, a slower-track school where they do well,” Scalia said. “One of the briefs pointed out that most of the Black scientists in this country don't come from

schools like the University of Texas. They come from lesser schools where they do not feel that they're being pushed ahead in classes that are too fast for them.”

“Scalia suggested that African American students would benefit more if they went to “lesser track” schools

What does Justice Scalia mean by “lesser schools?” Does he suggest that the African Americans, most at the top 10 percent of their high school class can't compete with their peers, similarly

situated students at the top of their classes?

Abigail Fisher, who is bringing this lawsuit, was deficient, and judged as so. She was not in the top 10 percent at her

Texas high school; according to the Top Ten Percent Plan any graduating senior in the top 10 percent of their graduating class receives admission to the University of Texas at Austin.

More than three quarters of the slots at the University of Texas-Austin are reserved for that group of students. Fisher was a middling student who did not have enough social value to be considered among the 8 percent whose admission is a function of the Personal Achievement Index (PAI) and Academic Index (AI). These are the folks who based on their race, socioeconomic status, family background, extra curricular activities and other factors stand out.

These folks are not all African American; in fact of the 841 that make up the 8 percent, only 47 of them scored lower than Fisher and only five of them were African-American. They are folks whose portfolio deserved special consideration.

Read the full commentary at [TheSkanner.com](http://TheSkanner.com)

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