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Bias incidents vs. Muslims continue to be reported

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The spate of bias attacks against Muslims since the terrorist assault on the World Trade Center is continuing, Police Commissioner Bernard Kerik reported yesterday.

Kerik said the NYPD has logged 56 anti-Muslim incidents in the eight days since the bloodiest terrorist attack in the nation's history.

The hate crimes ranged from death threats on the upper East Side, the stoning of an Arab man on a Manhattan street, and the arrival of a suspicious package at Afghanistan's mission to the United Nations.

Kerik highlighted five incidents that occurred Wednesday: ■ Two people on the upper East Side reported receiving letters filled with anti-Arab insults.

■ The Long Island City offices of a Bangledeshi newspaper were painted with anti-Muslim graffiti. Bangledesh, once part of Pakistan, is a predominately Muslim nation.

■ Wednesday night, a 30-year-old Inwood man, Almamun Kahn, was approached by six to eight men who shouted anti-Arab remarks and hurled stones at him. Kahn was not injured and the attackers fled, police said.

■ The Afghani mission to the UN, on Lexington Ave., received a package in the mail containing a note denouncing Osama Bin Laden, the terrorist who was reported living in Afghanistan recently and whom President Bush has called the prime suspect in last week's attacks. The package also contained a rawhide pig's ear, assumed to be an insult to Muslims, who shun pork.

Public officials, including Bush and Mayor Giuliani, have denounced U.S. bias attacks against Arabs and South Asians since World Trade Center collapse, which is believed to have been the work of followers of Bin Laden.

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