

From: Mohammed-Yaaseen Zaman<m.y.zaman@hotmail.co.uk>;

Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2012 5:44 PM

Subject: Re: Fatwa on Airport body scanners.

Full Body Scanners in Airports & Railway Stations.

Dear respected Darul Ifta

Assalaam wa'alaykum wa rahmatullah wa barakatuh.

On 11th December 2011, my family travelled by airplane from Manchester Airport, UK. We were quickly rushed through security checks and I was instructed to be scanned by the new "backscatter" full body scanner, followed by my son aged six and my daughter aged nine. There was no prior warning or information given. It was only on scan completion that I realised what had happened, after previously reading a headline on the internet. I was furious and outraged and complained to the manager. I was told that we would not be permitted to board the plane without the body scan. I also believe that my fully veiled wife would have been scanned if I had not complained strongly.

I requested a manual search to be performed but was declined. I repeatedly requested to speak to the superiors and was declined. I repeatedly asked for contact details to submit a complaint and was eventually given an information leaflet that briefly explained the body scanning process and contact details to complain. The information leaflet stated that passengers have the right to have their scanned image viewed by a staff member of the same sex, yet this protocol was ignored. This information was not available or given until after the scan was performed, leaving my family no choice. Had the information been given before, then my family would have declined to have the body scan, rather than violate Islamic Law and be humiliated and degraded. I was further told that all religious representatives had been consulted and they said that this scan was acceptable. I believe this to be untrue and further investigations should indeed confirm this.

According to Wikipedia, "A **full-body scanner** is a device that creates an image of a person's nude body through their clothing to look for hidden objects without physically removing their clothes or making physical contact. They are increasingly being deployed at airports and train stations in many countries" & "Full-body scanning technology allows screeners to see the nude surface of the skin under clothing". See Ref: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Full_body_scanner

The scanner seems to be capable of producing high resolution images. The scanned images can be extremely explicit and degrading. The images may show the body as unclothed down to the skin, clearly showing the curves, genitals and private parts. One is instructed to stand with arms and legs apart to give a more explicit view of the body leaving no place hidden. (Images of "backscatter" body scanner images attached).

Some world experts in biochemistry and biophysics have also expressed serious concerns over harmful radiation generated by these scanning machines.

1. Does the full body scanner violate Islamic Law (Shariah)?
2. Is it permissible for a Muslim to be screened by full body scanners?
3. Can the scanned image of a Muslim be viewed by a person of the same sex?
4. Should a Muslim refuse to be screened by a full body scanner?
5. What should a Muslim do when requested to have a full body scan?

Assalaam wa'alaykum wa rahmatullah wa barakatuh.

Mohammed-Yaaseen Zaman
United Kingdom

Fatwa: 496/202/H=1433

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
الجواب و بالله التوفيق والعصمة، حامداً ومصلياً ومسلماً

- (1) It is haram (prohibited), rather severely haram.
- (2) No Muslim is permitted to allow it by his own will.
- (3) Taking such pictures, seeing and showing them is severely haram.
- (4) One should refuse to be scanned.
- (5) One should try to avoid it as much as can, rather influential Muslims have a duty to make every possible effort to get Muslims exempted legally from such scanning.

Written By: *Mahmood Hasan, Mufti, Darul Ifta, Darul Uloom Deoband*
Verified by: *Fakhrul Islam/Waqar Ali/Muhammad Noman Sitapuri,*
Darul Ifta, Darul Uloom Deoband

11/03/1433

Translated by: Muhammadullah Qasmi

Online Darul Ifta, Internet Dept, Darul Uloom Deoband