



## Cruz Disagrees With Trump on Muslim Registry

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Republican and Democratic presidential candidates have condemned Donald Trump for his recent statements suggesting the United States should start a database registry of Muslims.

Mr Trump's headline-grabbing statements have left his establishment rivals, such as former Florida Governor Jeb Bush, trailing in the polls.

U.S. Senator Marco Rubio of Florida said he does not think the vetting process, which can take up to two years, would deter an ISIS fighter.

Ted Cruz also jumped into the fray, tell reporters in Iowa: "I'm a big fan of Donald Trump's but I'm not a fan of government registries of American citizens".

The first reference to a database for Muslims came in Trump's interview with Yahoo News published earlier Thursday in which the billionaire real estate mogul did not reject the idea of requiring Muslims to register in a database or giving them special identification cards noting their religion.

"There was music blaring in the background, and people were screaming to sign books, and sign different things, and he was asking questions", Trump said. "But it's all about management".

Trump has also the US should increase surveillance of mosques and consider closing those that are tied to radicals.

"I want a database for the refugees", Trump said.

"I don't want Syrian refugees to come here now because we don't know who they are", Kasich said.

Carson says he would be in favor of monitoring "a mosque or any church or any organization or any school or any press corps where there was a lot radicalization and things that were anti-American". Asked how that differed from efforts last century to track Jews in Nazi Germany, he said: "You tell me".

Demonstrators in Washington and Vermont on Friday called for Trump and other Republican presidential candidates to relax their stance towards refugees.

“Singling out any ethnic or faith group to register with the government is morally repugnant, not to mention unconstitutional”, AJC Executive Director David Harris said.

Ibrahim Hooper, spokesman for the Council on American-Islamic Relations, said Trump and his top rival for the GOP nomination, neurosurgeon Ben Carson, have participated in the mainstreaming of anti-Muslim sentiment.

“I watched the World Trade Center go down”, Trump asserted, adding he watched in New Jersey, “as thousands of people were cheering as the building was coming down”.

That’s a sentiment about Muslims shared by a self-described Christian at Trump’s rally Saturday in Alabama. “All I want to do is [have] a level playing field”. I want to have surveillance. “We’ve had it before, we will have it again”. The libertarian Cato Institute’s Ilya Shapiro said the idea violates basic privacy and liberty rights.

Trump said, drawing applause from the crowd.