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## SMEARS PUT COPS IN NO-WIN DILEMMA

After two recent horror shows — the attempted Times Square bombing and the Staten Island Ferry crash — I was struck by the large number of visitors to our city, of all races and ages, who expressed amazement at the professionalism and courtesy of police.

So, did an activist group, coupled with its boosters at The New York Times, gang up on the men and women who keep us safe?

A front-page Times story last week detailed a study by the Center for Constitutional Rights, which concluded that Blacks and Latinos were nine

times as likely as whites to be stopped by police last year, but no more apt to be arrested. An outrage! Grounds for a lawsuit!

Only on an inside page did cops explain that the higher number of stops are the result of police flooding high-crime areas. And, the data collected even from non-arrests is crucial to fighting future crime.

"The article is meant to be inflammatory in terms of stirring emotions against us," said a cop I know. He explained that the proportion of minorities who are stopped and frisked actually matches the races of people who commit crime.

But the article is "purposely making it sound as if we are stopping people for no reason and making excuses just to harass the minority population.

Nothing can be further than the truth." "Slowly, special-interest groups and the mainstream media are trying to take away our ability to do our jobs effectively, which will result in a return to crime statistics not seen since the '80s and early '90s," the cop said. "And guess who they will blame?"

"They'll say we're not doing our job."

Truer words were never spoken.

