



**Organization of Islamic Cooperation**

**FIFTH OIC OBSERVATORY  
REPORT ON  
ISLAMOPHOBIA**

May 2011 to September 2012

PRESENTED TO THE  
39<sup>TH</sup> COUNCIL OF FOREIGN MINISTERS

Djibouti, Republic of Djibouti

15-17 November 2012



Organization of Islamic Cooperation  
[www.oic-oci.org](http://www.oic-oci.org)



Original: English

FIFTH OIC OBSERVATORY  
REPORT ON  
ISLAMOPHOBIA

May 2011 to September 2012

PRESENTED TO THE  
39<sup>TH</sup> COUNCIL OF FOREIGN MINISTERS

Djibouti, Republic of Djibouti

15-17 November 2012

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

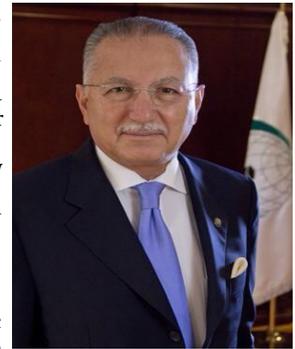
<b>FOREWORD by the OIC Secretary General</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>1: ISLAMOPHOBIA, INTOLERANCE AND DISCRIMINATION AGAINST MUSLIMS</b>	<b>7</b>
1.1. <i>The Raise of Anti-Islam Far-Right</i>	8
<b>2: MANIFESTATIONS OF ISLAMOPHOBIA</b>	<b>10</b>
2.1. <i>Islamophobia in USA</i>	10
a) <i>Funding of Islamophobic Propaganda</i>	11
b) <i>The Qur'an Burning in Florida and Afghanistan</i>	13
c) <i>"Innocence of Muslims"</i>	14
d) <i>The NYPD Spying on Muslims &amp; FBI Islamophobic Training Material</i>	15
e) <i>10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of 9/11</i>	16
e) <i>The Congressional Hearing on "Radicalization of the American Muslim community"</i>	18
2.2. <i>Islamophobia in Europe</i>	18
a) <i>The Norway Massacre</i>	22
b) <i>The 'Charlie Hedbo' Islamophobic Caricatures</i>	23
2.3. <i>Media Islamophobic Discourse and Campaigns</i>	24
<b>3: SOME POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>4: THE HUMAN RIGHTS FRAMEWORK TO ADDRESS ISLAMOPHOBIA</b>	<b>29</b>
4.1. <i>The Istanbul Process</i>	29
<b>5. ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE OIC</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>6: CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>ANNEXES</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>A: SOME ISLAMOPHOBIC INCIDENTS</b>	<b>35</b>
I. <i>Incidents Related to Mosques</i>	35
II. <i>Desecration of Muslim Graves</i>	47
III. <i>Political and Social Campaigns against Islam and Muslims</i>	49
IV. <i>Intolerance against Islam and its Sacred Symbols</i>	62

---

V. <i>Discrimination against Muslim Individuals in Educational Institutions, Workplaces, Airports, etc</i>	66
VI. <i>Incidents Related to Hijab (Veil)</i>	81
<b>B: US: ISLAMOPHOBIC INCIDENTS HIT TEN YEAR HIGH</b>	88
<b>C: JOINT STATEMENT BY CO-CHAIRS MINISTERIAL MEETING ON IMPLEMENTATION OF HRC RESOLUTION 16/18</b>	89
<b>D: OIC MEDIA STRATEGY IN COUNTERING ISLAMOPHOBIA</b>	90

## FOREWORD by the OIC Secretary General

The Islamophobia Observatory at the OIC is presenting its Fifth Report. It needs to be appreciated that the mandate provided by the CFM has been discharged in a most accurate fashion in documenting a sustained frequency of Islamophobia and raising awareness about the phenomenon as a contemporary manifestation of racism. The fact that during each of the five reporting periods, the Observatory actually had to select events in different categories that could be annexed to form the basis of the report must constitute a matter of grave concern.



The current reporting period, starting and ending with reprehensible events like Qur'an burning by the Florida pastor and the trailer of "Innocence of Muslims" on the *YouTube*, was riddled with a host of disturbing episodes, most notably, the Utoya massacre in Norway. In confirming our worst fears, increasing frequency of such events and their aftermath vindicated OIC's warnings of serious repercussions. The long term implications with regard to peaceful coexistence in an interdependent and interconnected world go beyond these repercussions. Revelations, during the last five years, of institutionalization and even constitutionalization of Islamophobia and its use as an instrument of local, regional and international politics – documented by the Observatory – are most disconcerting.

In a globalized world, religion has emerged as a major factor in international politics and we need an intercultural approach to squarely address the simmering tensions that continue to pose a clear and present danger to peace, security and stability in the regional as well as the global context. The consensual approach reflected in the eight points for action, at the national and the international levels that lie at the heart of the OIC sponsored UN Human Rights Council resolution 16/18, provides with the silver lining. The Istanbul Process that I initiated with Secretary of State Hillary Clinton – with the participation of Baroness Catherine Ashton and ministers from OIC and non-OIC countries – to build on the consensus building that went into resolution 16/18 must be carried forward. I am glad that it has come to be recognized as the way forward by all stakeholders. This approach carries a lot of potential in terms of evolving an international consensus to deal with the matter while addressing genuine concerns of all parties. The real test, however, lies in implementation. We need to maintain a kinetic focus on squarely addressing grey areas like the interface between freedom of opinion and expression and freedom of religion that have clearly emerged as issues of valid but at times competing concerns. I believe according equal weight to the competing concerns could form a good point of departure in search of durable and consensual solutions that may be found through evolving an integrated approach around the Istanbul Process.

I commend the Islamophobia Observatory for a job well done. It has indeed been a useful experience and forms the basis of OIC's call for an Observatory at the international level with a broader mandate for documenting the incidents of Islamophobia, Christianophobia and Judeophobia and all the other forms of intolerance and incitement to hatred on religious grounds.

Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu  
Secretary General.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Fifth Annual report of the OIC Islamophobia Observatory substantiates that the onslaught against Islam and Muslims by radical extremists individuals and groups continue unabated. In fact the Report's findings show that some of the incidents that occurred during the period under review, have surpassed the severity and gravity in incitement and advocacy of hatred of Islam and Muslims compared to those reported in the Observatory's previous reports.

The Report is divided into five chapters. Chapter 1 describes the general trend of intolerance and discrimination against Muslims. It confirms the OIC's concerns and apprehensions that in some Western societies Islam was being increasingly misperceived as a religion of intolerance and Muslims as a burden on society both from a cultural and economic perspective, thus leading to further stigmatization and marginalization of Muslim minorities. This trend was parallel to a sustained Anti-Muslim campaign by numerous far right wing parties and other hostile quarters, which availed themselves of the right to freedom of expression to preach what often amounted to incitement to hatred and violence on the basis of religion or belief. The massacre in Norway by a Christian extremist, Anders Behring Breivik, was a sinister but clear illustration of what a culture of intolerance yield if left to prosper freely under the pretext of freedom of expression.

Chapter 2 of the report deals with various manifestations of Islamophobia in Western countries. In the context of the US, the OIC Observatory noted several incidents, starting with the burning of copies of the Holy Quran by US soldiers in Afghanistan, in February 2012 - which came as an upfront act of desecration and provocation inciting hatred and violence on the basis of religion. A similar act was conducted by the Dove World Outreach Center, run by Pastor Terry Jones, in April 2012. The Observatory also noted with great concern the release on *Youtube*, in July 2012, of a short film entitled "The Innocence of Muslims". The film was a deliberate act of incitement that provoked sentiments of Muslims all over the world. While violent reactions to the film were condemned by all, including the OIC, figures and leaders from around the globe were also unanimous in their strong condemnation of the film. Another issue of concern in the US, during the reporting period, was the practice of racial/religious profiling, including against home born American citizens. Investigative reporting revealed that many Muslims were being spied on for no other reason than their faith. In the same vein it was worrying that certain training material for FBI staff and officers was prejudicial to the image of Muslims and tended to overstate the danger and links between Islam and various forms of extremism, including terrorism.

With regard to Islamophobia in Europe, while statistical evidence demonstrated that the percentage, in recent years, of actual terrorist attacks in Europe involving Muslims had remained beneath the bar of 1%, the overall impression propagated by the Media and national discourse was that of an omnipresent and growing Islamic threat. Moreover, several European study centers indicated that a majority of cases of discrimination and hate crimes based on religion or belief were actually directed against Muslims. Many of these continued to occur at the level of education and employment, with Muslims being either barred from wearing religious symbols and ornaments, particularly the Islamic headscarf (hijab), or simply dismissed on the basis of their religion. Other international human rights agencies and organizations as Amnesty International noted with concern that more was needed to be done to confront the growing climate of discrimination and prejudice against Muslims in Europe, including direct attacks and desecration of Muslim places of worship, cemeteries and other Islamic centers as well as an increasing disregard of anti-Muslim discourse. The Norway massacre, committed in the name of

an extremist Christian ideology wanting to confront an inexistent, or to the least, radically exaggerated ‘Muslim threat’, exposed the clear and present danger in allowing extremism and intolerance to thrive unquestioned. It was all the more worrisome that evidence of the perpetrator of the crime, Anders Breivik, having ties and being inspired by other anti-Muslim figures, as the English Defence League (EDL) and Dutch politician Geert Wilders, was not matched by focus on the consequences of allowing a culture of intolerance to prosper freely. The Islamophobic satires of the French magazine “Charlie Hebdo” were condemnable example of this culture.

The OIC Observatory noted, during the reporting period, that Western media, including the social media, continued to play a key role in promoting and disseminating an anti-Muslim culture. The lack of objectivity and biased reporting combined with continuous focus on the issue of “Islamic extremism” steadily consolidated negative stereotyping of Muslims. It was revealing how the Norway attacks by Breivik were initially presumed and reported to have been committed by a Muslim although no evidence whatsoever to corroborate this fact had been made available. Furthermore, the amalgam between the acts of a few extremists and the Islamic religion as a faith and set of principles and teachings has exacerbated tensions and augmented suspicion and marginalization of Muslims who were portrayed as being guilty by association. Misinformation about Islam being a backwards religion that sanctioned violence and decadence was rampant in the media fuelling negative stereotyping, discrimination and violence against Muslims.

Chapter 3 of the Report outlines some constructive developments with regard to combating Islamophobia. Among those was a ruling of a Danish court, which found public statements to be racially offensive against Muslims and accordingly fined their author. Other public prosecutors in Austria and in Germany filed incitement charges in relation to anti-Muslim material promoted by far-right blogs and parties. Likewise, in the US, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) initiated a lawsuit to compensate a woman who had been barred from wearing the hijab in her work place, while France inaugurated its first municipal Muslim cemetery in the city of Strasbourg, a step seen as an act of recognition of the country’s largest minority group. It was a matter of concern that such positive actions and initiatives to promote tolerance and social cohesion, whether emanating from Western governments or taking place at the level of civil society, were seldom advertised by the Media.

Chapter 4 of the Report relates to the Human Rights framework on the basis of which the OIC was consistently seeking to address the issue of Islamophobia and incitement to religious hatred and violence. Among the most important steps initiated by the OIC was the launching of the ‘Istanbul process’, a series of expert meetings aimed at defining means of implementing HRC Resolution 16/18 on “combating intolerance, negative stereotyping and stigmatization and discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against persons based on their religion or belief” which was adopted by consensus during the 16<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council, in Geneva. The first meeting held in Istanbul, in July 2011, was co-chaired by the OIC Secretary General Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu and US Secretary of State Mrs. Hillary Clinton, while foreign ministers and officials of 28 countries from around the world attended the meeting. The Meeting expressed support for a unified stance underscoring the need for various political, legislative and administrative actions to be taken, at both national and international levels. The second event was held in Washington DC in December 2011 and focused on two specific aspects provided for by Resolution 16/18, namely effective government engagement strategies towards members of religious minorities, including training of Government officials on religious and cultural

awareness, and; enforcing laws that provided protection against discrimination on the basis of religion and belief, including an assessment of laws currently in place. The next expert meeting was planned to take place in London under the European Union auspices, in December 2012.

Chapter 5 of the reports describes various steps and actions taken by the OIC to combat Islamophobia. Such actions included raising awareness, engaging in diplomatic efforts to sensitize the international community, addressing critical cases of religious intolerance notably by condemning and responding to Islamophobic acts or publications. Among the events organized by the OIC was a workshop on “Media Misrepresentations of Islam and Muslims: The Search for Remedies,” held in Brussels in February 2012. The workshop was able to formulate an “OIC Media Strategy in Countering Islamophobia”, which was later adopted by the Ninth Islamic Conference of Information Ministers (ICIM), held in Libreville in April 2012. The OIC also participated in a number of meetings of the focal points of the Alliance of Civilization (AoC) group of friends as well as in other international conferences aiming at promoting intercultural and interfaith dialogue such as the session on “Intercultural Dialogue: Culture of Peace - Avenue of Multiculturalism”, held on the sidelines of the 15<sup>th</sup> Eurasia Economic Summit in Istanbul in April 2012. At another level, the OIC focused its attention on addressing the needs of the youth, notably by creating adequate youth programs that would help consolidate the cultural, moral, social and educational grounds needed to ensure tolerance and understanding among people.

## INTRODUCTION

The Fifth Annual Report of OIC Observatory covers the period from June 2011 to September 2012. The enhancement of the reporting period beyond the usual twelve months is in consonance with the forthcoming CFM session at which the report is mandated to be presented. Since its establishment in 2007, the OIC Observatory on Islamophobia has brought out 5 Annual reports. The primary objective of the Reports was to closely monitor the motivated and ascendant campaign of hatred and intolerance of Islam and incidents and activities of prejudice, negative stereotyping and stigmatization of Muslims in different parts of the globe.

In reviewing the last five years, Observatory draws satisfaction in fulfilling the mandate accorded by the CFM with regard to documenting an increasing frequency of acts of discrimination, indignation, racial slurs, dehumanization, provocation and incitement to violence against Muslims. The most important accomplishment lies in achieving the end of raising awareness with regard to the overall trend of Islamophobia and sub-trends in the different geographical contexts that were essentially based on a simple and fact based approach of a compendium but contributed significantly towards revealing a systematic pattern.

OIC has been consistently warning against serious repercussions of the ascendant trend of Islamophobia with regard efforts geared towards peace, security and stability in the regional as well as the global context. High profile and impactful events during the last five years like the Swiss ban on construction of minarets in mosques and discriminatory legislation in some European countries against hijab were ominous in terms of institutionalization and constitutionalization of Islamophobia. Politicization and utilization of Islamophobia as an instrument of electoral politics with in both the national as well as the regional context in Europe as well as the US was yet another development pregnant with exceedingly adverse consequences in terms of the corresponding political ,sociological and economic impact. The ensuing electoral gains coupled with the global economic recession could form aggravating circumstances with regard to fueling socio-economic tensions in the Western polities with irretrievably serious repercussions. Distinctly consistent lack of objective reporting on matters pertaining to Islam and Muslims in sections of western media was noteworthy. Some important revelations last year that signified use of Islamophobia as an instrument of global politics may not be discounted.

The Observatory's efforts in sensitizing the international community of dangerous implications of Islamophobia were successful in making a positive impact with particular reference to sensitizing governments and the global political and religious elite on threat posed by Islamophobia to interfaith harmony and by implication to peaceful coexistence in a globalized world. This was supported by the OIC's diplomatic initiatives through multilateral and bilateral engagement and dialogue geared towards promoting collective action to combat intolerance and incitement based on all religious grounds. We invigorated our diplomatic initiatives towards bringing the international community to a common platform in combating of intolerance, negative stereotyping and stigmatization based on religious grounds. The eight points, for action at the national and the international level, proposed by the Secretary General OIC to the 15<sup>th</sup> Session of UN Human Rights Council in 2010, were well received by all parties. These points formed the basis for the consensual adoption of the landmark Resolution 16/18 at the 16<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva. The Secretary General OIC and US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and then took the initiative of launching the Istanbul Process to lend the essential political impetus to the consensual implementation of the resolution in a Meeting held in Istanbul in July 2011. The meeting attended the EU High Representative for Foreign and Security Policy and Foreign Ministers from both OIC and Western Countries resulted in the expression of a collective will to combat religious intolerance by implementation of 16/18. The Istanbul Process

continued with an expert level meeting held in Washington DC in December 2011 and the next meeting scheduled to be held in London under the EU auspices in December 2012.

The period covered by the Fifth Annual Report was marked by an alarming rise of extremist activities in Europe and the US. Particularly alarming was the fact that this trend was not just limited to individuals and groups but continued to figure into the agenda of political parties. The Observatory would like to reiterate the concern that the electoral gains made on the basis of such divisive agenda could lead to a vicious circle of Islamophobia being used as an instrument of electoral politics leading to exceedingly adverse consequences. The fact that Observatory reports over the last five years could compile on a daily, monthly and yearly basis continuing acts with Islamophobic attributes in the different categories reflected in annexes to annual reports must form a matter of grave concern for the international community. An objective analysis of the incidents recoded in the Fifth Annual Report will show that the right wing extremists have been busy manipulating the mindset of the ordinary people to take a negative and distorted view of Muslims and Islam by stirring up preposterous myths like Islam being grossly opposed to freedom of expression and that the Muslims in Europe posed a threat to western values and civilization.

A worrying aspect of the period covered by the Fifth Report is that while the Islamophobia phenomenon was earlier construed as being predominantly prevalent in Europe, it now appears to be taking roots in the United States of America – a country known to be founded on embracing diversity and tolerance amongst its core values. The burning of a copy of the Holy Quran by a Florida church pastor, FBI training programs for surveillance and extra vigilance on American Muslims, holding of US Congressional Hearings promoting a negative view of American Muslims, the release of “Innocence of Muslims”, and dissemination of Islamophobic paranoia through the social media by right wing extremist elements received wide coverage substantiating the OIC’s concerns and contention. These developments are contradictory to the proclaimed values of liberty and equality that the United States of America has been promoting around the world. It is indeed noteworthy that the right to freedom of expression has more than often been cited in defense of the proliferation of Islamophobia. The OIC has always upheld its unwavering commitment to freedom of expression but has never held back in expressing caution and concern of its misuse or abuse. Like all other rights, the right of freedom of expression is not absolute and that cannot be exploited to infringe on the rights of others or to incite violence and hatred to endanger human lives by engaging in blatant insult, denigration and mockery of the deep seated religious beliefs and symbols and personalities sacred to religions and their followers. The tragic Norwegian massacre of 77 innocent people, mostly young, by a youth motivated by one of the most bigoted anti-Muslim politicians in Europe, must raise an alarm bells for the international community.

Islamophobia is an affront to human rights as a contemporary manifestation of racism. In presenting its Fifth Report, the Observatory reiterates call for concerted international action to arrest the trend that continues to be detrimental to peaceful coexistence. It is encouraging to note that Observatory’s endeavor over the last five years has catalyzed positive response with particular reference to focused reporting and monitoring of the ominous trends by important international and regional Organizations like the Gallup, Council of Europe and EFRA. OIC continues to work with all the major international initiatives like the AoC and the King Abdullah Center for Intercultural Dialogue.

The OIC stands ready to continue working with all stakeholders to uphold human rights and human dignity, to embrace diversity of religious beliefs and cultural backgrounds in a manner that respects human life and dignity. The international community must be firm in rejecting any word or deed that undermines the sanctity of human dignity and peaceful cohabitation among peoples of diverse faiths and beliefs. This forms an absolute imperative for action by the international community and procrastination is not an option.

## 1: ISLAMOPHOBIA, INTOLERANCE AND DISCRIMINATION AGAINST MUSLIMS

During the period under review, Islamophobia continued to be manifested through hate speech, violent acts against mosques and other perceived places of worship by Muslim, including cemeteries, discriminatory practices, associating Muslims with terrorism, and denying them basic rights and privileges, such as equal treatment in schools, employment, etc.

Islam continued to be seen as alien religion in many parts of the western world. The section related to Muslims in a study on intolerance and prejudice in Europe titled “Intolerance, Prejudice and Discrimination by Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation, stated<sup>1</sup>:

After statistical testing, three statements were used to produce the anti-Muslim attitudes mean scale (Table 7, items 18 to 20). These cover the general impression that there are too many Muslims in the country, the charge that Muslims make too many demands, and broad-brush criticism of Islam as a religion of intolerance. Four further statements were surveyed in a random half of the sample...We also surveyed the idea that Muslims generally support and condone terrorism.

Table 7: Anti-Muslim statements (agreement in percent)

No.	Item	D	GB	F	NL	I	PT	PL	HU
18	There are too many Muslims in [country].	46.1	44.7	36.2	41.5	49.7	27.1	47.1	60.7
19	Muslims are too demanding.	54.1	50.0	52.8	51.8	64.7	34.4	62.3	60.0
20	Islam is a religion of intolerance. [France: Islam is a religion of tolerance.]	52.5	47.2	52.3*	46.7	60.4	62.2	61.5	53.4
<b>Additional items</b>									
22	The Muslim culture fits well into [country/Europe].	16.6	39.0	49.8	38.7	27.4	50.1	19.0	30.2
23	Muslims' attitudes towards women contradict our values.	76.1	81.5	78.8	78.2	82.2	72.1	72.1	76.8
24	Many Muslims perceive terrorists as heroes. [France: question not asked].	27.9	37.6	-	29.2	28.5	30.3	30.2	39.3
25	The majority of Muslims find terrorism justifiable. [France: not justifiable]	17.1	26.3	23.3*	19.9	21.5	22.4	26.0	29.6

\* In France the statements were formulated positively and subsequently reverse coded (for reasons see chapter 3.2). In these cases the value for France is the percentage of respondents who “somewhat” or “strongly” disagreed with the statement.

the eight countries differ little in their levels of prejudice towards Muslims.

In the US, Pew polls was quoted<sup>2</sup> in August 2011 as stating that “...the percentage of Americans with favorable views of Islam dropped, from 41 percent to 30 percent in the past five years.” In addition, report by *People For the American Way* (PFAW) stated<sup>3</sup> that Right-Wing extremists were leading a sustained attack against American Muslims, attempting to prevent them from freely practicing their religion, curtailing their political rights, and in some cases, compelling their deportation. The report,

<sup>1</sup> See *EuropeNews* blog’s entry “EU: Half of Europeans say Islam is a religion of intolerance”, in: <http://europenews.dk/en/node/50157>, retrieved on 07.12.2011, emphasis added.

<sup>2</sup> See *Huffingtonpost*’s entry “Muslims In America Divided On Improving Image 10 Years After 9/11”, in: [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/08/24/muslim-america\\_n\\_935685.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/08/24/muslim-america_n_935685.html), retrieved on 25.08.2011

<sup>3</sup> Cf. “PFAW Report: The Right Wing Playbook on Anti-Muslim Extremism”, In: <http://www.pfaw.org/press-releases/2011/07/pfaw-report-the-right-wing-playbook-anti-muslim-extremism> retrieved on 03.08.2011

(...)

...A majority of more than 70 percent of European respondents find that Muslim attitudes towards women are incompatible with their own values. Overall in the surveyed countries about one third think that Muslims treat Islamist terrorists as heroes...

...It is conspicuous that Europeans are largely united in their rejection of Muslims and Islam. The significantly most widespread anti-Muslim attitudes are found in Germany, Hungary, Italy and Poland, closely followed by France, Great Britain and the Netherlands. The extent of anti-Muslim attitudes is least in Portugal. In absolute terms, however,

*The Right Wing Playbook on Anti-Muslim Extremism*<sup>4</sup>, inter alia, discussed eight strategies employed by anti-Muslim activists to cast doubt on the validity of Islam as a religion and the integrity of American Muslims in order to justify prejudice and illegal discrimination:

- a) Framing American Muslims as dangerous to America
- b) Twisting statistics and using fake research to “prove” the Muslim threat
- c) Inventing the danger of “creeping Sharia”
- d) Justifying taking away freedoms and liberties from Muslims in order to “defend liberty”
- e) Denying the validity of Islam as a religion
- f) Arguing that Muslims have no First Amendment rights under the Constitution
- g) Linking anti-Muslim prejudice to anti-Obama rhetoric
- h) Slandering progressives and non-Christians as unholy and anti-American

The Observatory believes that these are the core principles fuelling the aforementioned far-right anti-Islam agenda and anti-Muslim message. It is, therefore, important to understand this far-right phenomenon:

### 1.1. The Raise of Anti-Islam Far-Right<sup>5</sup>

Anti-Muslim sentiment in Europe was nothing new. It started taking a more pronounced form in recent years, mostly online, but also with small groups organizing street protests against a perceived Islamization of Europe. In France, the anti-Muslim *Bloc Identitaire* had emerged as one of the loudest voices on the extreme right fringes.

A key development came in 2009 with the creation of the English Defence League, which claimed to be peaceful but whose anti-Muslim protests ended in clashes with police and left-wing demonstrators. Two years after, the group boasted its ranks had swollen to 10,000, though authorities said its fluid nature made it hard to measure. European police agency Europol in 2010 said its quick rise had raised the profile of right-wing extremism in Britain. The EDL spawned offshoots across northern Europe, with varying success - mainly *Facebook* groups.

The Danish Defence League appeared to have been more successful. Danish blogger Margrethe Hansen, who spent three months infiltrating far-right groups online, noted that the Danish Defence League probably counted about 100 active members – a considerable number considering the group was founded in 2010 – and had the potential to become the strongest far-right group in Denmark. In 2011, she spied on the *Facebook* pages of Scandinavian anti-Muslim groups, including the Danish Defence League, by creating a fake profile. Posing as a rabid nationalist, she said she found the anti-Muslim community had more in common with white supremacists than its leaders admitted. Hansen reportedly lived at a secret address after receiving death threats from anti-Muslim extremists who saw her as a traitor for embracing multiculturalism

---

<sup>4</sup> Available here: <http://www.pfaw.org/rww-in-focus/the-right-wing-playbook-anti-muslim-extremism>

<sup>5</sup> This section was partly adapted from *The Associated Press* article “Europe’s radical right focuses on fighting Islam”, in: [http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5gsR\\_LFNq74Ky\\_4b\\_jEyS50s94avg?docId=8ae5073105fe42ffa463e144251ee316](http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5gsR_LFNq74Ky_4b_jEyS50s94avg?docId=8ae5073105fe42ffa463e144251ee316), retrieved on 08.12.2011

The anti-Islamic movement's ideological roots could be found in the so-called "counterjihadist" community of American and European bloggers who on sites such as "Gates of Vienna" and "Brussels Journal" Muslim immigrants were colonizing Europe with the tacit approval of left-wing political elites. Some analysts believed the rhetoric used in the anti-Islamic community was so aggressive it should come as no surprise that, eventually, someone would leap from words to action, as Breivik did. Oeyvind Stroemmen, a Norwegian Green Party member and writer who warned of violence from anti-Muslim extremists before the July attacks said: "There is something in the ideology itself which makes violence a logical result."

Many experts said the anti-Muslim groups had a greater potential to grow than traditional far-right extremists, who were struggling to boost their numbers. That realization had led some political fringe groups, like the British National Party and Belgium's Vlaams Belang, to shift from blanket opposition to immigration to a focus on Islam. The manifesto of the BNP, whose leader had a conviction for racial hatred and had denied the Holocaust in the past, included a "counterjihadist" chapter, saying Europe was being invaded by Muslims.

Here are some of Europe's far-right parties and their status<sup>6</sup>:

- **Austria:** Freedom Party, 34 of 183 seats in parliament, second-strongest party in opinion polls.
- **Britain:** British National Party. Membership restricted to "indigenous British people". Ten local councillors, down from 50 in 2008.
- **Denmark:** Danish People's Party. Third largest party, and was kingmaker in parliament for 10 years. Pushed Denmark to adopt some of Europe's strictest immigration laws.
- **Finland:** The Finns. Won 19 percent of parliamentary election votes in 2011—up from 4 percent four years earlier.
- **France:** National Front. Leader Marine Le Pen won nearly 18% of vote in April 2012's first round of presidential elections. Eyeing seats in June 2012 parliamentary elections.
- **Germany:** NPD. In 2 of 16 state legislators but no seats in national parliament. Support base in former Communist East German states where unemployment makes discontent high.
- **Greece:** Golden Dawn. A neo-Nazi party, one of Europe's most extreme, had been prospering with pain of austerity program. It was expected to take a dozen seats in parliamentary election of 06 May 2012.
- **Hungary:** Jobbik. Won nearly 17 percent of 2010 vote. One of two leading opposition parties. Also, conservative Fidesz party of Prime Minister Viktor Orban passing laws restricting civil rights, basic freedoms that go against its EU membership.
- **Netherlands:** Freedom Party. Led by Geert Wilders, it's third-largest in parliament, brought down minority government by withdrawing support. Suffered electoral losses lately.

---

<sup>6</sup> See *Mercury News*' entry "A look at far right parties in Europe", in: [http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci\\_20547413/look-at-far-right-parties-europe](http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci_20547413/look-at-far-right-parties-europe), retrieved on 06.05.2012

- **Norway:** Progress Party in Norway. Holds 41 of 169 seats in parliament. Norway's biggest opposition party. More moderate than many European counterparts.
- **Sweden:** Sweden Democrats. Entered parliament in 2010 with 19 of 349 seats but no major impact on legislation.

However, there was some encouraging moves in Europe against this far-right, as on 31 March 2012, Danish Police said<sup>7</sup> about 200 to 300 people from Denmark, Britain, Germany, Sweden and Poland took part in what was billed as a "European counter-jihad meeting" to protest what they called the Islamization of Europe. However, they were **met by a 10-times larger counter-demonstration** by left-wing groups under the banner "Aarhus for Diversity".

In the US, the Executive Director of Stop Islamization of America (SIOA), Pamela Geller, invited Stop Islamisation of Europe (SIOE) to create<sup>8</sup> a new global force determined to defend free societies globally: *Stop Islamization of Nations* (SION). Geller became SION's founding President, and the founder of the Stop Islamization movement worldwide while Robert Spencer was chosen as Vice President.

## 2: MANIFESTATIONS OF ISLAMOPHOBIA

### 2.1. Islamophobia in USA

On 14 February 2012, the blog *Islamophobia Today* reported<sup>9</sup> that a research by the Triangle Center on Terrorism and Homeland Security found that the number of attacks committed by Muslim Americans had fallen for the second year in a row, despite warnings of a potential wave of violent attacks hatched on U.S. soil. The findings followed revelations that the New York Police Department had spied on the city's Muslim community. Charles Kurzman, the University of North Carolina sociologist who wrote the study as well as the book "The Missing Martyrs: Why There Are So Few Muslim Terrorists", noted that: "Muslim American terrorism continued to be a miniscule threat to public safety last year. **None of America's 14,000 murders in 2011 were due to Islamic extremism...**The challenge is for Americans to be vigilant about potential violence while keeping these threats in perspective." David Schanzer, the Triangle Center's director, said the study proved that "those who predicted an inevitable, rapid increase of homegrown violent extremism among Muslim Americans were wrong."

However, one would question why still most US Muslims feel targeted by terror policies, if they are less involved in committing such acts. In fact, more than half of Muslim Americans in a poll<sup>10</sup> of September 2011 said government anti-terrorism policies singled them out for increased surveillance

<sup>7</sup> See *Associated Press*' entry "80 arrested after anti-Islam protest in Denmark", in:

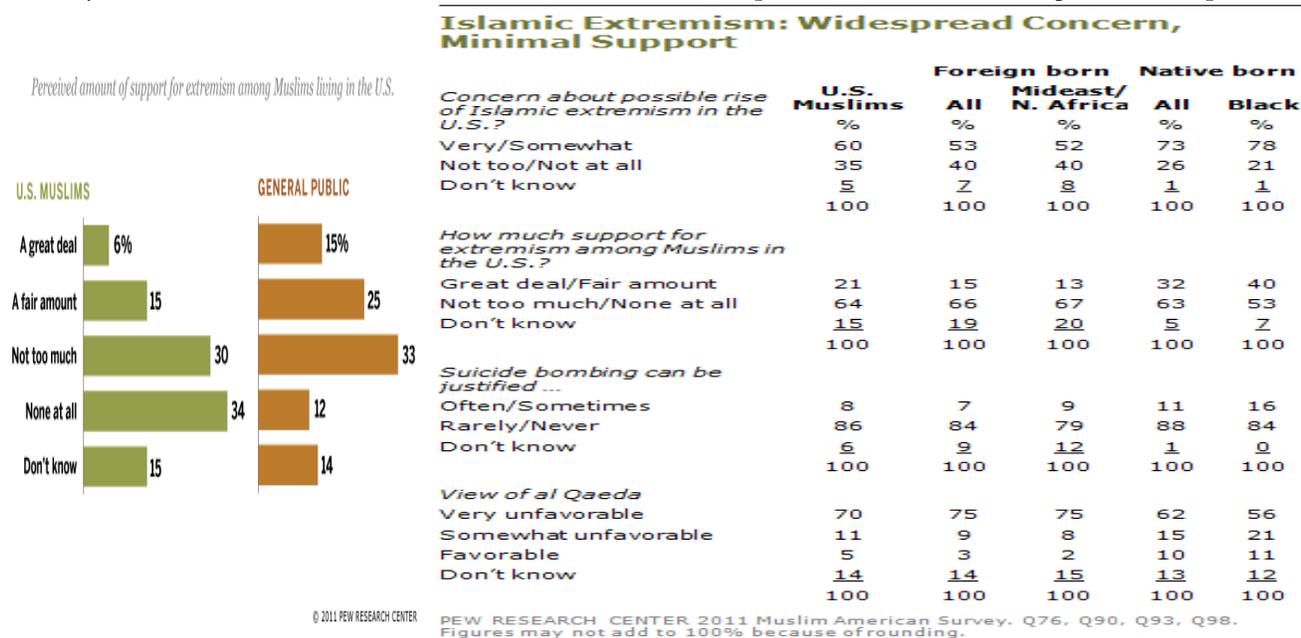
<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5gVYs29AC1Sw-7-hSuJ8jHPhdwo4Q?docId=296254e5ed55479eb35588eebf353a89>, retrieved on 01.04.2012, emphasis added.

<sup>8</sup> See *Reuters*' entry "International Freedom Organizations Unite to Create Stop Islamization of Nations (SION)", in: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/01/17/idUS133243+17-Jan-2012+PRN20120117>, retrieved on 18.01.2012

<sup>9</sup> See *Islamophobia Today* Blog's entry "US: Homegrown Muslim Terrorism Plots Decreased Again In 2011", in: <http://www.islamophobiatoday.com/2012/02/14/homegrown-muslim-terrorism-plots-decreased-again-in-2011/>, retrieved on 15.02.2012, emphasis added

<sup>10</sup> Full report here: <http://people-press.org/files/legacy-pdf/Muslim-American-Report.pdf>

and monitoring, and many report increased cases of name-calling, threats and harassment by airport security, law enforcement officers and others. The following charts<sup>11</sup> shed some important insights:



Risa Brooks, Political Science Professor at Marquette University, in an analysis; “Muslim ‘Homegrown’ Terrorism in the United States: How Serious Is the Threat?”, detailed how the exaggerated fear of Islamic terrorism in the USA diverted costly resources from more pressing threats. She concluded<sup>12</sup>:

The political dynamics noted above contribute to an unbalanced presentation of domestic terrorist threats in the country, the well-intentioned desire by public officials and politicians to prepare people for local attacks even at the risk of overstating their probability, and perhaps more cynically, those individuals’ bureaucratic and political incentives to magnify the threat. Regardless of the source of alarmism, all Americans benefit from questioning assumptions about the Muslim homegrown threat.

#### a) Funding of Islamophobic Propaganda

Following a six-month long investigative research project, the Center for American Progress released a 130-page report<sup>13</sup> titled “Fear Inc.: The Roots of the Islamophobia Network in America” on 26 August 2011, which revealed that more than \$42 million from seven foundations over the past decade had helped fan the flames of anti-Muslim hate in America. The authors – Wajahat Ali, Eli Clifton, Matt Duss, Lee Fang, Scott Keyes, and Faiz Shakir – worked to expose the Islamophobia network in depth, name the major players, connect the dots, and trace the genesis of anti-Muslim propaganda.

The report followed the money and identified the names of foundations who had given money, how much they had given, and who they had given to:

<sup>11</sup> Found here: <http://www.people-press.org/2011/08/30/muslim-americans-no-signs-of-growth-in-alienation-or-support-for-extremism/>, retrieved on 31.08.2011

<sup>12</sup> See Farha Khaled, freelance writer and columnist for the Saudi based *Arab News*, writing to *Loonwatch*, “Daniel Pipes Misrepresents CAP Report on Islamophobia to Solicit Funds”, in: <http://www.loonwatch.com/2011/11/daniel-pipes-misrepresents-cap-report-on-islamophobia-to-solicit-funds/>, retrieved on 29.11.2011

<sup>13</sup> Available here: <http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2011/08/pdf/islamophobia.pdf>

THE FUNDERS	THE AMOUNT	THE RECIPIENTS
Donors Capital Fund	\$20,768,600	Investigative Project on Terrorism (IPT), Middle East Forum (MEF), Clarion Fund (Clarion), David Horowitz Freedom Center (Horowitz)
Richard Scaife foundations	\$7,875,000	Counterterrorism & Security Education and Research Foundation (CTSERF), Center for Security Policy (CSP), Horowitz
Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation	\$5,370,000	MEF, CSP, Horowitz
Russell Berrie Foundation	\$3,109,016	IPT, CTSERF, MEF
Anchorage Charitable Fund and William Rosenwald Family Fund	\$2,818,229	IPT,CTSERF, MEF, CSP, Clarion, Horowitz
Fairbook Foundation	\$1,498,450	IPT, MEF, CSP, Jihad Watch, Horowitz, American Congress for Truth
Newton and Rochelle Becker foundations	\$1,136,000	IPT, CTSERF, MEF, CSP, Clarion, Horowitz, American Congress for Truth
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$42,575,295</b>	

Think Progress website quoted<sup>14</sup> the Report to mention that the money had flowed into the hands of five key “experts” and “scholars” who comprised the central nervous system of anti-Muslim propaganda:

- FRANK GAFFNEY, Center for Security Policy
- DAVID YERUSHALMI, Society of Americans for National Existence
- DANIEL PIPES, Middle East Forum
- ROBERT SPENCER, Jihad Watch
- STEVEN EMERSON, Investigative Project on Terrorism



These five “scholars” were assisted in their outreach efforts by Brigitte Gabriel (founder, *ACT! for America*), Pamela Geller (co-founder, *Stop Islamization of America*), and David Horowitz (supporter of Robert Spencer’s *Jihad Watch*). The report contended that information was disseminated through

<sup>14</sup> See Think Progress’ entry “Report: \$42 Million from Seven Foundations Helped Fuel the Rise of Islamophobia in America”, in: <http://thinkprogress.org/politics/2011/08/26/304306/islamophobia-network/>, retrieved on 27.08.2011, emphasis in the original.

conservative organizations like the *Eagle Forum*, the religious right, *Fox News*, and politicians such as Allen West and Newt Gingrich. Over the past few years, the Islamophobia network (the funders, scholars, grassroots activists, media amplifiers, and political validators) had worked hard to push narratives that Obama might be a Muslim, that mosques were incubators of radicalization, and that “radical Islam” had infiltrated all aspects of American society – including the conservative movement.

An article titled “Shari’a and Violence in American Mosques” by David Yerushalmi and Mordechai Kedar in the *Middle East Quarterly*<sup>15</sup>, claimed that 81% of US Mosques Promoted “Violent Jihad”. It added that the mosques were randomly chosen to:

- (a) to observe and record 12 Sharia-adherent behaviors of the worshipers and the imam (or lay leader); (b) to observe whether the mosque contained the selected materials rated as moderate and severe; (c) to observe whether the mosque contained materials promoting, praising, or supporting violence or violent jihad; and (d) to observe whether the mosque contained materials indicating the mosque had invited guest speakers known to have promoted violent jihad.

The tentacles of American Islamophobic funding machine extended to Europe. According to Hero Brinkman, the MP who left the anti-Islam Dutch political party PVV of Geert Wilders on 20 March 2012, American lobbyists made<sup>16</sup> large donations to a foundation set up by the PVV. Brinkman said he could not rule out the money being used to pay for Geert Wilders’ defense on racial hatred charges. Brinkman’s allegation about the PVV’s finances confirmed what had already been revealed in the Dutch press. In 2011, *Dutch News* reported<sup>17</sup> that the two main US sources for the PVV’s funding were David Horowitz and Daniel Pipes<sup>18</sup>, who CAP’s Report called “*Islamophobia misinformation expert*”.

#### ***b) Qur’an Burning in Afghanistan & Florida***

On 22 February 2012, copies of the Quran and Islamic religious material, from the library that is used by inmates at the Bagram Air Base’s detention facility in Afghanistan, were burned by soldiers from the United States of America. International condemnation followed, and a series of protests took place, including domestic riots which caused several deaths and injuries.

The OIC Secretary General issued a statement, on the same day, deploring the incident and categorizing it as an act of incitement. The Secretary General added that the act was contrary to the the common efforts of the OIC and the international community including the United States Government, to combat intolerance, and incitement to hatred based on religion and belief. The Secretary General welcomed President Barack Obama’s apology and statements by the US Defense Secretary Leon Panetta and the NATO military General against the incident.

<sup>15</sup> Cf. Mordechai Kedar & David Yerushalmi, “Shari’a and Violence in American Mosques”, *Middle East Quarterly*, (Summer 2011, Vol. 18, No. 3, pp. 59-72), available online in: <http://www.meforum.org/2931/american-mosques>

<sup>16</sup> See *Islamophobia Watch* blog’s entry “Wilders’ anti-Islam party is bankrolled by US supporters, says former MP”, in: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/3/21/wilders-anti-islam-party-is-bankrolled-by-us-supporters-says.html>, retrieved on 24.03.2012

<sup>17</sup> See *Dutch News*’ entry “Wilders and the US Israel lobby”, in: [http://www.dutchnews.nl/columns/2010/06/wilders\\_and\\_the\\_us\\_israel\\_lobb.php](http://www.dutchnews.nl/columns/2010/06/wilders_and_the_us_israel_lobb.php)

<sup>18</sup> For reactions of Daniel Pipes on CAP’s Report, please see the Farha Khaled’s article, *op. cit.*

In a separate development, Dove World Outreach Center pastor Terry Jones on 28 April 2012 burned<sup>19</sup> copies of the Quran and an image depicting Muhammad in front of his church and in presence of about 20 people. The event was streamed live over the Internet.

Reacting to the incident, the OIC Secretary General issued a statement expressing his dismay and deploring the repeated act. He hoped that the unfortunate incident was an individually motivated act of hatred and religious intolerance and stressed that it went against all manifestations of civilized behavior. Professor Ihsanoglu reiterated his strong desire that the world leadership will strongly denounce and discourage this abhorrent act as was the case in the previous incident in the same church.

c) *“Innocence of Muslims”*<sup>20</sup>

“Innocence of Muslims” – an anti-Islam video, reportedly written and produced by Nakoula Basseley Nakoula was initially titled “Desert Warrior” – was filmed in 2011. It was reported that the script was initially “about tribal battles prompted by the arrival of a comet on Earth”. Though the story had no religious references, anti-Islamic content was reportedly added post production by overdubbing without the actors' knowledge. According to a self-described consultant to the film, the full-length feature film was shown only once to the public—to an audience of fewer than ten people at a rented theater in Hollywood, California, under the title *Innocence of Bin Laden*. When contacted about the film, Nakoula used the alias “Sam Bacile”, and claimed he was an Israeli-Jew real estate developer, though it was later reported that he is an Egyptian-born Coptic Christian.

Videos of about 14 minutes in length that claimed to be a previews or “trailers” of a longer film were uploaded to *YouTube* in July 2012 by a user named “sam bacile” under the titles *The Real Life of Muhammad and Muhammad Movie Trailer*. Trailers dubbed in the Arabic language were uploaded in early September 2012 and spread by Egyptian-American blogger and Coptic Christian Morris Sadek. On September 8, 2012, an excerpt of the *YouTube* video was broadcast on *Al-Nas TV*, an Egyptian Islamist television station. Demonstrations and violent protests against the film broke out on 11 September 2012 in Egypt and Libya. The protests spread to Yemen and other Arab and Muslim nations over the following days and included attacks on U.S. consulates and embassies. A military-style attack on 11 September 2012 on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi, Libya, that resulted in the deaths of U.S. Ambassador J. Christopher Stevens and three other Americans. According the U.S. and Libyan officials the attack may not have been a spontaneous protest due to the film but rather may have been planned in advance.

In a series of statements in response to the fast evolving situation the OIC Secretary General condemned both the film and the loss of lives during the violence that followed. He added that the two incidents demonstrated serious repercussions of abuse of freedom of expression that OIC had consistently been warning against.” The Annual Coordination meeting of the OIC Foreign Ministers held on the sidelines of the 67<sup>th</sup> UNGA Session in New York adopted a declaration condemning the sacrilegious act of releasing the defamatory video “innocence of Muslims” and publication of offensive caricatures of Prophet Mohammed (Peace Be Upon Him).

<sup>19</sup> See *Islamophobia Watch* blog's entry “Terry Jones burns Qur'an again, gets citation for violating fire ordinances”, in: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/4/29/terry-jones-burns-quran-again-gets-citation-for-violating-fi.html>, retrieved on 30.04.2012

<sup>20</sup> See Wikipedia, in: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Innocence\\_of\\_Muslims](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Innocence_of_Muslims), accessed on 19 September 2012

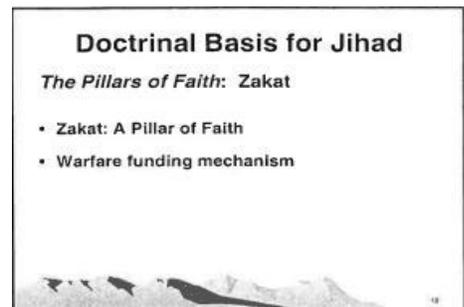
#### d) *The NYPD Spying on Muslims & FBI Islamophobic Training Material*

In September 2011 the *Associated Press* released<sup>21</sup> investigative reporting of stories revealed that the New York Police Department had built an aggressive domestic intelligence program after the Sept. 11 attacks that put Muslim businesses, mosques and student groups under scrutiny. The program went beyond New York with reported CIA assistance.

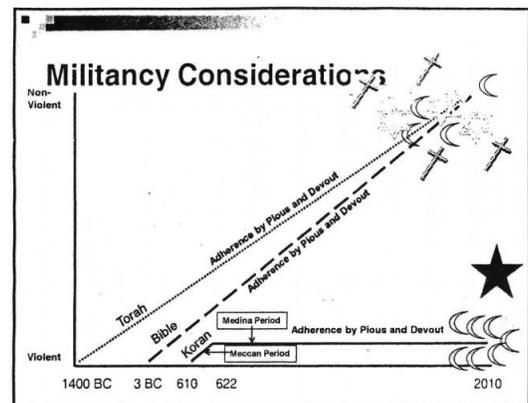
According to officials directly involved in the program, the department planted undercover officers, known as “rakers”, into minority neighborhoods as part of a human mapping program. They monitored daily life in bookstores, bars, cafes and nightclubs. Police reportedly used informants, known as “mosque crawlers”, to monitor sermons, even when there was no evidence of wrongdoing. Neither the city council, that financed the department, nor the federal government, which had given NYPD more than \$1.6 billion since 9/11, were taken into confidence. Many of these operations were built with help from the CIA, which was prohibited from spying on Americans but was instrumental in transforming the NYPD’s intelligence unit.

*Associated Press*’ investigation was based on documents and interviews with more than 40 current and former New York Police Department and federal officials. Many were directly involved in planning and carrying out these secret operations for the department.

In the same period, September 2011, *Danger Room*<sup>22</sup> acquired and released dozens of pages of a recent FBI training material on Islam wherein the constitutionally protected religious faith of millions of Americans was portrayed as an indicator of terrorist activity. One FBI presentation noted: “The strategic themes animating these Islamic values are not fringe; they are main stream.” The FBI was reportedly teaching its counterterrorism agents that “main stream” [sic] American Muslims were likely to be terrorist sympathizers; that the Prophet Mohammed was a “cult leader”; and that the Islamic practice of giving charity was no more than a “funding mechanism for combat”. At the Bureau’s training ground in Quantico, Virginia, agents were shown a chart contending that the more “devout” a Muslim, the more likely he was to be “violent”.



*Think Progress*<sup>23</sup> reported that the documents offered a violent interpretation of Islam in which “Any war against non-believers is justified” and a “moderating process could not happen if the Koran continued to be regarded as the unalterable word of Allah.” A particularly blunt slide showed a comparison of Judaism, Christianity and Islam, depicting how they had moderated their “militancy considerations” over time:



<sup>21</sup> For a comprehensive understanding of the issue, please see: <http://www.ap.org/Index/AP-In-The-News/NYPD>

<sup>22</sup> See *Danger Room*’s entry “FBI Teaches Agents: ‘Mainstream’ Muslims Are ‘Violent, Radical’”, in: <http://www.wired.com/dangerroom/2011/09/fbi-muslims-radical/all/1>, retrieved on 16.09.2011

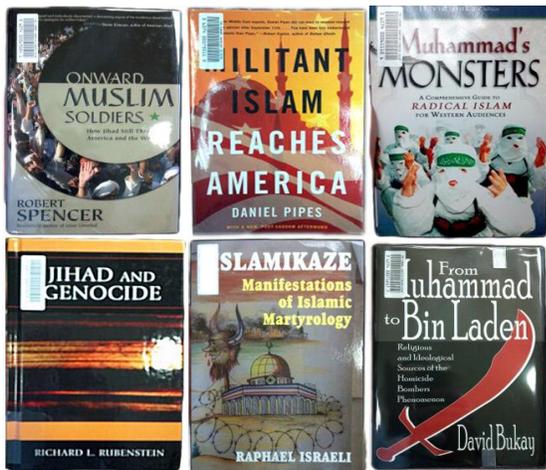
<sup>23</sup> Cf. <http://thinkprogress.org/security/2011/09/15/319772/fbi-islamophobic-training/>, retrieved on 17.09.2011

The information in the slides was clearly Islamophobic and completely ignored the fact that Islamic extremism was a limited problem within the United States and hardly a frequent phenomenon in Muslim communities. A recent Duke study on terrorism showed that since 9/11, the U.S. had experienced only 33 deaths from Muslim terrorism while 150,000 murders had occurred during the same time.

Several of the slide presentations are the work of an FBI intelligence analyst named William Gawthrop who, in 2006, before he joined the Bureau, gave an interview to *WorldNet Daily*, in which he stated “Muhammad’s mindset is a source for terrorism.”

It may be noted that this was not the first time that the FBI had offered stage to noted Islamophobes. In July 2011, Ackerman identified that an FBI terrorism presentation recommended anti-Muslim blogger Robert Spencer’s book, “*The Truth About Mohammed: Founder of the World’s Most Intolerant Religion.*” Spencer - profiled in the Center for American Progress’ new Islamophobia report, “Fear, Inc.,” - operates the blog *Jihad Watch* and co-founded the *Stop Islamization of America* group with Pamela Geller. Spencer was one of the core “misinformation experts” identified in “Fear, Inc.” and had promoted the conspiracy theory that President Obama might be a Muslim. Notably, Norwegian terrorist Anders Brevik cited Spencer’s work 162 times in his manifesto.

Spencer Ackerman, an American national security reporter and blogger, wrote an article<sup>24</sup> stating that FBI library and online training resources were stocked with Islamophobic material, and had permeated the FBI’s training culture and the internal reference resources available to FBI agents.



An examination of the FBI’s library in Quantico, which was not open to the public, revealed that the Bureau stocked a wide range of resources on Islam including a number of books by well known anti-Islam authors Daniel Pipes and Robert Spencer.

The combination of Islamophobic presentation and the FBI’s apparent endorsement of noted anti-Muslim “experts” like Spencer and Pipes raised serious questions about the FBI’s counterterrorism training and the Bureau’s profiling of Muslim Americans.

### e) 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of 9/11

The 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 9/11 was marked around the world with several events, including memorials, commemoration ceremonies, interfaith workshops, and tributes to the victims. During the initial years, the tragic event was perceived as the act of Islam and its followers, as Rabbi Eric Yoffie, president of the Union for Reform Judaism, put it “...entire populations are represented in the public imagination by their worst elements, when the sins of the few are applied to the group as a whole. I have watched in

<sup>24</sup> Cf. Spencer Ackerman, “New Evidence of Anti-Islam Bias Underscores Deep Challenges for FBI’s Reform Pledge”, in: <http://www.wired.com/dangerroom/2011/09/fbi-islam-domination/all/1>, retrieved on 25.09.2011

astonishment as prominent politicians, including candidates for President of the United States, have found it politically opportune to peddle divisive anti-Muslim bigotry.”<sup>25</sup>

In the context of 9/11 commemorations, the statement by the Canadian Prime Minister, Mr. Stephen Harper was the most flagrant in terms of stigmatizing Muslims and showing intolerance against Islam.

In an exclusive interview with *CBC News*<sup>26</sup> on 06 September 2011 he, inter alia, said: “**the major threat is still Islamicism...** There are other threats out there, but that is the one that I can tell you occupies the security apparatus most regularly **in terms of actual terrorist threats.**” He added that terrorism by Islamic radicals was still the top threat, though a “diffuse” one, asserting: “When people think of Islamic terrorism, they think of Afghanistan, or maybe they think of some place in the Middle East, but the truth is that threat exists all over the world,” citing domestic terrorism in Nigeria. The prime minister said home-grown Islamic radicals in Canada were “also something that we keep an eye on.”

OIC issued a statement regretting his views, and stressing that his remarks could only serve to accentuate the misunderstanding and suspicion between the West and the Muslim World and impeded the international community’s collective goal of addressing intolerance and hatred between religions and diverse cultures.

According to a survey on “What It Means to be an American: Attitudes in an Increasingly Diverse America Ten Years after 9/11”<sup>27</sup> by the Brookings Institution and Public Religion Research Institute, Americans when asked to consider the Muslim faith, mostly expressed discomfort and nearly half said that Islam was incompatible with American values (see the chart below).

### Lofty Ideals Mask a Discomfort Toward Muslims

Americans vigorously support the idea of religious freedom, at least in the abstract. But when asked to consider the Muslim faith many Americans express discomfort, and nearly half say that Islam is incompatible with American values.



Source: Public Religion Research Institute, *Pluralism, Immigration, Civic Integration Survey, August 2011* (N=2,450)

<sup>25</sup> See: *Washington Post*'s entry “After Sept. 11, four tasks for religion”, in: [http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/guest-voices/post/after-sept-11-four-tasks-for-religion/2011/09/10/gIQA9h4kHK\\_blog.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/guest-voices/post/after-sept-11-four-tasks-for-religion/2011/09/10/gIQA9h4kHK_blog.html), retrieved on 12.09.2011

<sup>26</sup> See *CBC News*' entry “Canadian PM says ‘Islamicism’ biggest threat to Canada”, in: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/story/2011/09/06/harper-911-terrorism-islamic-interview.html>, retrieved on 07.09.2011, emphasis added.

<sup>27</sup> For more details, see: [http://www.brookings.edu/reports/2011/0906\\_american\\_attitudes.aspx](http://www.brookings.edu/reports/2011/0906_american_attitudes.aspx), retrieved on 14.09.2011

*f) The Congressional Hearing on “Radicalization of the American Muslim community”*

The second of a series of controversial hearings of the House Homeland Security Committee, chaired by Representative Peter King, were held on 15 June 2011. US lawmakers were told<sup>28</sup> that US prisons were becoming a hotbed for indoctrinating inmates and turning them into radical Muslims. King told the committee: “Dozens of ex-cons who became radicalized Muslims inside US prisons have gone to Yemen to join an Al-Qaeda group run by a fellow American, Anwar al-Awlaqi...” The Congressmen while speaking about his perceived radicalization in US prisons, preferred to conceptualize it as “prislam”<sup>29</sup>.

*Loonwatch* while analyzing the hearings stated<sup>30</sup>:

It must be repeated from the very beginning that King was tarnished by his past Islamophobic and anti-Muslim comments. A point which had been made by countless journalists as well as by fellow Congressmen/women during the first hearing. He had not apologized for, or retracted, any of those comments, which made the present populist exercise he was involved in even more deplorable.

King also lacked all credibility considering he supported IRA terrorists for over a decade. Only in the magical realism world of Washington politics would someone who supported terrorists be the chairman of a committee discussing homegrown terrorism and radicalization, unless King is now going to argue that “one man’s terrorist is another man’s freedom fighter?”

Peter King wanted to sharpen his hawkish GOP credentials, pander to the anti-Muslim base of his party and present an image of being tough on terror, while also continuing the scapegoating and fear-mongering of Muslim Americans. These hearings only reinforced the point that Muslim Americans had been making the past few years, they were being unfairly targeted and felt besieged as a community.

## 2.2. Islamophobia in Europe

On 24 November 2011, the *Islamophobia Watch* blog quoted<sup>31</sup> Europol annual terrorism report entitled *EU Terrorism Situation and Trend Report (TESAT)*, to state that in recent years only 0.4% of terrorist attacks in the European Union were committed by Muslims—less than 1% (actually, less than half of 1%). In 2009 and 2010, there were a grand total of 543 terrorist attacks, of which only 4 were committed by Muslims. **This means that only 0.7% of terrorist attacks—again, less than 1%—were committed by Muslims.** Meanwhile, in that same time frame, separatist groups in Europe committed 397 terrorist attacks, or 73% of terrorist attacks overall. In other words, separatist groups committed

<sup>28</sup> See *Associated Press*’ entry “Radical Islam spreading in US prisons: lawmakers”, in: [http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5j0ZL\\_xvg-6QWD-A4GC5C\\_neH4kaw?docId=CNG.1e5d3f9448ec96aed7651f278cc122ed.e21&safe=active](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5j0ZL_xvg-6QWD-A4GC5C_neH4kaw?docId=CNG.1e5d3f9448ec96aed7651f278cc122ed.e21&safe=active) retrieved on 16.06.2011

<sup>29</sup> See *loonwatch*’s entry “Peter King and “Prislam”: Round 2 of Muslim American Radicalization Hearings”, in: <http://www.loonwatch.com/2011/06/peter-king-and-prislam-round-2-of-muslim-american-radicalization-hearings/> retrieved on 16.06.2011

<sup>30</sup> See *loonwatch*’s entry “Peter King and “Prislam”: Round 2 of Muslim American Radicalization Hearings”, *op. cit.*

<sup>31</sup> See *Islamophobia Watch* blog’s entry “Updated Europol Data: Less Than 1% of Terrorist Attacks by Muslims”, In: <http://www.islamophobiatoday.com/2011/11/24/updated-europol-data-less-than-1-of-terrorist-attacks-by-muslims/>, retrieved on 26.11.2011, emphasis in the original.

99.2 times (almost 100 times) more terrorist attacks than Muslims. Another 85 attacks were committed by left-wing groups, accounting for about 16% of terrorist attacks overall.

Here is the data for 2009:

Member State	Islamist	Separatist	Left-wing	Right-wing	Single-issue	Not specified	Total 2009
Austria	0	0	0	0	1	5	6
France	0	89	0	0	1	5	95
Greece	0	0	15	0	0	0	15
Hungary	0	0	0	4	0	0	4
Italy	1	0	2	0	0	0	3
Spain	0	148	23	0	0	0	171
Total	1	237	40	4	2	10	294

Figure 2: Number of failed, foiled or successfully executed attacks in 2009 per Member State and per affiliation.<sup>9</sup>

And for 2010:

#### ANNEX 2: FAILED, FOILED AND COMPLETED ATTACKS IN 2010, PER MEMBER STATE AND PER AFFILIATION

Member State	Islamist	Separatist	Left-wing	Right-wing	Single-issue	Not specified	Total 2010
Austria	0	1	1	0	0	0	2
Czech Republic	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Denmark	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
France	0	84	0	0	0	0	84
Greece	0	0	20	0	1	0	21
Italy	0	1	7	0	0	0	8
Spain	0	74	16	0	0	0	90
Sweden	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
United Kingdom	-	-	-	-	-	40	40
Total	3	160	45	0	1	40	249

The data showed that from 2007 to 2009, out of 1,317 terrorist attacks only 3 of them were committed by Muslims. From a percentage standpoint, that means **only about 0.2% of terrorist attacks in Europe were committed by Muslims in those years—again, far less than 1%**. In spite of this fact, the media and national discourse continued to spread the idea of the threat of “Islamist terrorism.” The data, however, did not support such fear-mongering. Yet, it would be amazing how many people would persist in the belief that “Islamist terrorism” continued to be an existential threat to Europe, as this discourse helps to fuel the anti-Islam agenda and anti-Muslim message.

Discrimination against Muslims was at all-time high in Belgium. According<sup>32</sup> to the 2010 report prepared by **Belgium's** Center for Equal Opportunities and Opposition to Racism (CEOOR), a total of 166 out of 1,466 cases launched in connection with discrimination and racism-related offenses involved faith. 84% of these cases were connected to Islam while only 2% concerned Christianity and Judaism. The high number of cases of discrimination against Muslims was likely to bring more debates on Islamophobia back to the agenda. 80% of the complaints filed with the CEOOR involved racism. These incidents of Islamophobia were mostly characterized by propaganda being disseminated through email and pressure in the workplace. The workplace-related cases of discrimination included exclusion and verbal provocation of Muslims. The Report noted these instances were a result of workplace administrations believing that "religion has no place in the workplace." The tension arising from Islamophobic attitudes in the workplace was mostly eliminated "by transferring the Muslim employee involved to another department or laying her/him off."

In the **Netherlands**, a poll by Dutch firm *Maurice de Hond* on 29 July 2011 showed<sup>33</sup> that 52% of Dutch, a majority, believed that Geert Wilders, the anti-Islam politician, did not need to tone down his inflammatory anti-Islamic comments. This meant that Wilders' Islamophobic discourse was approved by the majority of Dutch citizens. This understanding was confirmed by Ineke van der Valk, Dutch senior researcher, who wrote a book about Islamophobia and discrimination in the Netherlands, which stated<sup>34</sup>, inter alia, that there were more than 100 'incidents' at mosques in the Netherlands between 2005 and 2010 - far more than in other countries. The incidents were detailed in a new Dutch book about Islamophobia and discrimination. Those responsible for the trouble mostly went unpunished. Ineke listed 117 incidents at Dutch mosques between 2005 and 2010. The number in the US was just 42 during the same period. The incidents included arson, the daubing of slogans on walls, vandalism and much more, as well as "A suspect letter containing powder, telephone threats, hanging a dead sheep on the building, with 'No Mosque' daubed on the body. Or a pig's head. Or sheep's or pig's blood daubed on the wall ..." These incidents happened surprisingly often in small places.

In **Poland**, according to a survey by the marketing research company *TNS Obop*<sup>35</sup>, almost 55% of all Poles had a negative attitude to Islam, 30% more than in 2008.

In **France**, a report released<sup>36</sup> by the Paris-based *Islamophobic Crime Monitoring Group* indicated that the number of Islamophobic attacks in France increased by 34% in 2011 in comparison with the previous year.

In **Denmark**, on 31 March 2012, about 200 to 300 people from Denmark, Britain, Germany, Sweden and Poland took<sup>37</sup> part in what was billed as a "European counter-jihad meeting" to protest what they called the Islamization of Europe. The anti-Islamic rally had, among the speakers, Tommy Robinson,

<sup>32</sup> See *Islamophobia Watch* blog's entry "Discrimination against Muslims at all-time high in Belgium", in: <http://www.islamophobiatoday.com/2011/06/23/discrimination-against-muslims-at-all-time-high-in-belgium/> retrieved on 25.06.2011

<sup>33</sup> See *YNet News*' entry "Survey: Wilders anti-Islamic rhetoric fine", in: <http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-4101879,00.html>, retrieved on 30.07.2011

<sup>34</sup> See *Radio Netherlands Worldwide*'s entry "The Dutch: world leaders in Islamophobia", in: <http://www.rnw.nl/english/article/dutch-world-leaders-islamophobia>, retrieved on 13.01.2012

<sup>35</sup> See *Islamophobia Watch* blog's entry "Islamophobia harms Poland", in: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/1/22/islamophobia-harms-poland.html>, retrieved on 24.01.2012

<sup>36</sup> See *World Bulletin*'s entry "Islamophobic attacks in France up by 34%: report", in: <http://www.worldbulletin.net/?aType=haber&ArticleID=85304>, retrieved on 04.02.2012

<sup>37</sup> See *Associated Press*' entry "80 arrested after anti-Islam protest in Denmark", *op. cit.*

the head of the English Defense League, a far-right group that had staged rowdy protests in Britain, and had inspired smaller offshoots in a number of European countries.

This increasing level of Islamophobia in Europe prompted Thomas Hammarberg, commissioner for Human Rights at the Council of Europe (CoE), to warn<sup>38</sup> that the continent was facing what he called a “crisis situation” because of rising xenophobia and Islamophobia, and the reason had been “a lack of courage among the politicians to stand up and defend the values that we have agreed upon in Europe, since quite some time...[and]...some politicians are not clear about human rights principles and the fact that we cannot accept xenophobia, Islamophobia, racism...This is seen by some people as legitimizing their prejudices, which in turn has unfortunately led to the growth of some extremist movements who feel that their position, their propaganda has actually been more or less approved by the leading politicians. So there is a combined crisis here when it comes to basic values, fear among the people and the lack of principled positions by the politicians.”

A report by Amnesty International titled *Choice and prejudice: discrimination against Muslims in Europe*<sup>39</sup> released on 23 April 2012 revealed that European governments needed to do more to challenge the negative stereotypes and prejudices against Muslims fuelling discrimination especially in education and employment. Marco Perolini, Amnesty International’s expert on discrimination, noted<sup>40</sup>:

Muslim women are being denied jobs and girls prevented from attending regular classes just because they wear traditional forms of dress, such as the headscarf. Men can be dismissed for wearing beards associated with Islam...Rather than countering these prejudices, political parties and public officials are all too often pandering to them in their quest for votes...Wearing religious and cultural symbols and dress is part of the right of freedom of expression. It is part of the right to freedom of religion or belief – and these rights must be enjoyed by all faiths equally...While everyone has the right to express their cultural, traditional or religious background by wearing a specific form of dress no one should be pressurized or coerced to do so. General bans on particular forms of dress that violate the rights of those freely choosing to dress in a particular way are not the way to do this...EU legislation prohibiting discrimination on the ground of religion or belief in the area of employment seems to be toothless across Europe, as we observe a higher rate of unemployment among Muslims, and especially Muslim women of foreign origin...Any restriction on the wearing of religious and cultural symbols and dress in schools must be based on assessment of the needs in each individual case. General bans risk adversely Muslims girls’ access to education and violating their rights to freedom of expression and to manifest their beliefs.

The Report exposed the impact of discrimination on the ground of religion or belief on Muslims in several aspects of their lives, including employment and education. It focused on Belgium, France, the Netherlands, Spain, and Switzerland where Amnesty International had already raised issues such as restrictions on the establishment of places of worship and prohibitions on full-face veils. The report documented numerous individual cases of discrimination across the countries covered.

<sup>38</sup> See *Today’s Zaman*’s entry “Europe faces crisis because of rising Islamophobia, says CoE’s Hammarberg”, in: <http://www.todayszaman.com/news-245708-europe-faces-crisis-because-of-rising-islamophobia-says-coes-hammarberg.html> retrieved on 01.06.2011

<sup>39</sup> Full copy of the Report available here: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/EUR01/001/2012/en/85bd6054-5273-4765-9385-59e58078678e/eur010012012en.pdf>

<sup>40</sup> See Amnesty website’s entry “Europe: Muslims discriminated against for demonstrating their faith”, in: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/news/muslims-discriminated-against-demonstrating-their-faith-2012-04-23>, retrieved on 25.04.2012

*a) The Norway Massacre*<sup>41</sup>

The 2011 Norway attacks were two sequential terrorist attacks against the civilian population, the government, and a political summer camp in Norway on 22 July 2011. Anti-Islamic extremist Anders Behring Breivik confessed the massacre, and his trial started on 16 April 2012, where he said<sup>42</sup>, inter alia, that he would commit such atrocity again, and called his July 2011 rampage the most “spectacular” attack by a nationalist militant since World War II. Reading a prepared statement in court, the anti-Muslim extremist lashed out at Norwegian and European governments for embracing immigration and multiculturalism. He claimed to be speaking as a commander of an anti-Islam militant group he called the Knights Templar – a group that prosecutors say did not exist.

Breivik’s militantly far-right ideology was outlined in an online 1,518-page manifesto *2083 – A European Declaration of Independence*, posted on the day of the attacks under the anglicized pseudonym Andrew Berwick. His ultranationalist manifesto laid out his xenophobic worldview, which contained an array of political concepts; including support for varying degrees of cultural conservatism, right-wing populism, anti-Islamization, “far-right Zionism”, and Serbian paramilitarism; while arguing for the annihilation of Islam, “Eurabia”, “cultural Marxism”, and multiculturalism, to preserve a Christian Europe. He further urged Europeans to restore the historic crusades against Islam as in the middle ages. Among other things, in the manifesto he identified the Beneš Decrees, which facilitated the Expulsion of Germans from Czechoslovakia after the Second World War, as an example for committing that act on European Muslims. In his manifesto he also urged the Hindus to drive Muslims out of India.

Breivik’s writings mention the **English Defense League**, claiming that he had contact with members of the EDL, and that a Norwegian version of the group, was ‘in the process of gaining strength’.

In his online *Youtube* video, he expressed admiration for **Dutch politician Geert Wilders, whose political party, the Party for Freedom, he described as “the only true party of conservatives”**.

The OIC, the United Nations, the European Union, NATO, and governments around the world expressed their condemnation of the attacks, condolences, and solidarity with Norway. However, there were reports of European politicians giving support to the killings or excusing them as a result of multiculturalism. Interviewed on a popular radio show, the Italian politician Francesco Speroni, a leading member of the Lega Nord, at the time, the junior partner in Berlusconi’s conservative coalition, said: “Breivik’s ideas are in defence of western civilisation.” Similar views were voiced by Italian MEP Mario Borghezio. Werner Koenigshofer was expelled from the right-wing Freedom Party of Austria after equating the massacre with the death of millions of fetuses through abortion.

The Observatory is of the view that ‘the Norway massacre’ highlighted relevance of the UNGA Resolution 62/272 of 5 September 2008, which denounced the association of any religion to terrorism.

---

<sup>41</sup> See: *Wikipedia’s* entry “2011 Norway Attacks”, in: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2011\\_Norway\\_attacks](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2011_Norway_attacks) retrieved on 31.07.2011

<sup>42</sup> See *Islamophobia Today’s* entry “Anders Breivik Trial: Suspect Defends Norway Massacre, Insists He Would Do It Again”, in: <http://www.islamophobiatoday.com/2012/04/17/anders-breivik-trial-suspect-defends-norway-massacre-insists-he-would-do-it-again/>, retrieved on 18.04.2012

On 25 July 2011, Susan Brooks Thistlethwaite, reacting on the attacks, said the following in the *Washington Post*<sup>43</sup>:

The religious element in terrorist extremism cannot either be ignored or overblown. It is an important part of the whole equation. In this Norwegian case, conservative Christianity and right-wing, nationalist political ideologies mutually reinforced and tempted each other, and the acts of a person like Anders Behring Breivik were apparently the result. Looking closely at theological interpretations can illuminate how the mass killing of people to accomplish a political end can be justified as right and even a moral imperative in the eyes of individuals and groups wanting to impose their political views through violence...It is absolutely critical that Christians not turn away from the Christian theological elements in such religiously inspired terrorism. We must acknowledge these elements in Christianity and forthrightly reject these extremist interpretations of our religion. **How can we ask Muslims to do the same with Islam, if we won't confront extremists distorting Christianity?**

The incident substantiated the OIC's position on Islamophobia and intolerance of religious and cultural diversity. The so called manifesto "2083: A European Declaration of Independence" validates OIC's concern on intolerance of religions. Hence the need for concerted global action on the implementation of Resolution 16/18 by the UN Human Rights Council constituted an imperative that must be addressed within the framework of the Istanbul Process initiated on 15 July 2011 at a meeting co-chaired by the OIC Secretary General and the US Secretary of State.

The Norway Massacre may be viewed as an outcome of hate speech and religious intolerance fueled by unbridled freedom of expression. It highlights the serious repercussions of abuse of freedom of expression as well as the significance of OIC's call for evolving a normative framework that would address the concerns of all parties and underwrite peaceful coexistence.

#### *b) The 'Charlie Hedbo' Islamophobic Caricatures*

On 31 October 2011, a French satirical weekly said<sup>44</sup> it had named the Prophet Mohammed as "editor-in-chief" for its next issue to celebrate the election win of Tunisia's Islamist party. The publication *Charlie Hedbo* also said the issue that would come out on 2<sup>nd</sup> November would be re-named "Sharia Hedbo" after senior transitional Libyan leader Mustafa Abdel Jalil said that Islamic sharia law would be the basis of legislation under the country's new regime. The magazine said in a statement: "To fittingly celebrate the victory of the Islamist Ennahda party in Tunisia ... Charlie Hedbo has asked Mohammed to be the special editor-in-chief of its next issue...The prophet of Islam didn't have to be asked twice and we thank him for it." The publication's editor in chief and cartoonist Charb told *AFP*: "We don't feel like causing further provocation. We simply feel like doing our job as usual. The only difference this week is that Mohammed is on the cover and it's pretty rare to put him on the cover."

<sup>43</sup> See *Washington Post* in: [http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/on-faith/post/norway-attacks-when-christianity-becomes-lethal/2011/07/25/gIQAPRw5YI\\_blog.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/on-faith/post/norway-attacks-when-christianity-becomes-lethal/2011/07/25/gIQAPRw5YI_blog.html), emphasis added

<sup>44</sup> See *Expatica*'s entry "France: Satirical French weekly names 'Mohammed' as top editor", in: [http://www.expatica.com/fr/news/french-news/satirical-french-weekly-names-mohammed-as-top-editor\\_185639.html](http://www.expatica.com/fr/news/french-news/satirical-french-weekly-names-mohammed-as-top-editor_185639.html), retrieved on 01.11.2011

The incident prompted a strong condemnation from the OIC Secretary General, Professor Ekmeleddin Ihsanoğlu. In a statement released on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2011, Ihsanoğlu said<sup>45</sup>: “The publication of the insulting cartoon by the magazine ~ which has [a] history of attacking Muslim sentiments [through] provocative publications intolerant of Islam and Muslims ~ was an outrageous act of incitement and hatred and abuse of freedom of expression.” He added that the publication of a cartoon substantiated the OIC’s concern regarding the alarming rise of Islamophobia in Europe, which he said is being perpetuated by intolerant and hate-motivated journalism by certain media organizations, including *Charlie Hebdo*.

On 19 September 2012, the weekly repeated the offense to Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) by publishing<sup>46</sup> nude cartoons of the Islam’s sacred symbol. The Secretary General, once again, expressed his shock and dismay at this move by the French magazine, adding that “...the French weekly should pay heed to the concerns of international community on incitement and intolerance of religious beliefs including that expressed by the French Prime Minister Jean Marc Ayrault.”

### 2.3. Media Islamophobic Discourse and Campaigns

Some quarters of the western media have at times been playing a role in fomenting anti-Muslim image in recent times. Part of American media have been fueling misperception that America was assaulted by Muslim fanatics who hated their freedoms, values, religion and way of life, and Islam was to be blamed.

The lack of objectivity is pronounced when it comes to reporting on Muslim communities by certain sections of the western media. They have been observed to be overly selective, one sided, simplistic and clichéd. Muslims have frequently felt discriminated against, in the wake of news stories and commentaries that portray a negative image of their culture and religion in the public consciousness. Unbalanced reporting also reinforces stereotypes providing the reader with the impression that the entire Muslim community is prone to violence, abusive towards women, rigid and monolithic. As Professor Bassiouni pointed out<sup>47</sup>, “The Islamophobes artfully play on the notion of guilt by association or collective guilt...[Islam] is portrayed as violent, aimed at world domination and can only have peace when Muslims have subjected all others in the world.”

On the other hand, media reporting to the effect that Islamic way of life and Islam itself is a barrier before liberal democratic thought and that Islam represents a culture that cannot possibly achieve harmony with the modern world is another source of stigmatization felt by Muslims.

A most disconcerting aspect of the coverage of the twin terror tragedy that rocked Oslo on July 22 was that even parts of the mainstream global media could not resist the temptation.

<sup>45</sup> See *Today’s Zaman*’s entry “OIC condemns French magazine for insulting Prophet Muhammad”, in: [http://www.todayszaman.com/mobile\\_detailn.action?newsId=261736](http://www.todayszaman.com/mobile_detailn.action?newsId=261736), retrieved on 03.11.2011

<sup>46</sup> See *news.com.au*’s entry “French magazine Charlie Hebdo publishes nude cartoons of Prophet Mohammed, in: <http://www.news.com.au/world/french-magazine-charlie-hebdo-publishes-nude-cartoons-of-prophet-mohammed/story-fndir2ev-1226477532876>, retrieved on 19 September 2012

<sup>47</sup> Cf. M. Cherif Bassiouni, *Islamophobia and the New York Mosque Controversy*, available in: <http://www.groverreport.org/2010/09/27/islamophobia-and-the-new-york-mosque-controversy/> accessed on 28 September 2010

On 31 July 2011, the Lankan newspaper *Sunday Times* ran an article, “Islamophobia of the Western Media”<sup>48</sup> quoting an account by *Fairness & Accuracy In Reporting* (FAIR), an independent body that monitors the US media, which gave an idea of how the garland of blame for any incident would be placed around the necks of Islam:

Right-wing terror suspect Anders Behring Breivik reportedly killed 76 people in Norway on Friday, by all accounts driven by far-right anti-immigrant politics and fervent Islamophobia. But many early media accounts assumed that the perpetrator of the attacks was Muslim.

On news of the first round of attacks – the bombs in Oslo – CNN’s Tom Lister (July 22) did not know who did it, but knew they were Muslims: “It could be a whole range of groups. But the point is that al-Qaeda is not so much an organization now. It’s more a spirit for these people. It’s a mobilizing factor.” And he speculated confidently about their motives: “You’ve only got to look at the target – Prime Minister’s office, the headquarters of the major newspaper group next door. Why would that be relevant? Because the Norwegian newspapers re-published the cartoons of Prophet Mohammed that caused such offence in the Muslim world...That is an issue that still rankles amongst Islamist militants the world over.”

CNN terrorism analyst Paul Cruickshank (July 22) took to the airwaves to declare that “Norway has been in al-Qaeda’s crosshairs for quite some time.” He added that the bombing “bears all the hallmarks of the al-Qaeda terrorist organization at the moment,” before adding, almost as an afterthought, that “we don’t know at this point who was responsible.”

On Fox News Channel’s O’Reilly Factor (July 22), guest host Laura Ingraham declared, “Deadly terror attacks in Norway, in what appears to be the work, once again, of Muslim extremists.” An early Wall Street Journal editorial (July 22) dwelled on the “explanations furnished by jihadist groups to justify their periodic slaughters,” before concluding that because of Norway’s commitment to tolerance and freedom, “Norwegians have now been made to pay a terrible price.” Once the alleged perpetrator’s identity did not conform to the Journal’s prejudice, the editorial was modified, but it continued to argue that al-Qaeda was an inspiration: “Coordinated terrorist attacks are an al-Qaeda signature. But copycats with different agendas are surely capable of duplicating its methods.”

Many pundits and outlets had to scramble to justify their ideological presumptions in the wake of the unexpected suspect.

The Washington Post blogger Jennifer Rubin (July 22) had called the Norwegian violence “a sobering reminder for those who think it’s too expensive to wage a war against jihadists,” citing Thomas Joscelyn of the *Weekly Standard*’s assertion that “in all likelihood the attack was launched by part of the jihadist hydra.”

The New York Times columnist Ross Douthat (July 25) likewise argued for responding to the horror in Norway by paying more attention to the alleged perpetrator’s point of view:

The New York Times’ July 23 report explained that while early speculation about Muslim terrorists was incorrect, there was ample reason for concern that terrorists might be responsible. In 2004 and again in 2008, the No. 2 leader of al-Qaeda, Ayman al-Zawahri, who took over after the death of Osama bin Laden, threatened Norway because of its support of the American-led NATO military operation in Afghanistan.

<sup>48</sup> In: <http://www.sundaytimes.lk/110731/Columns/cafe.html> retrieved on 31.07.2011

Of course, anyone who kills scores of civilians for political motives is a “terrorist”; the language of the Times, though, suggested that a “terrorist” would have to be Islamic. The Times went on: Terrorism specialists said that even if the authorities ultimately ruled out Islamic terrorism as the cause of Friday [22 Jul]’s assaults, other kinds of groups or individuals were mimicking al-Qaeda’s brutality and multiple attacks.

Thomas Hegghammer, a terrorism specialist at the Norwegian Defence Research Establishment, said the manifesto bears an eerie resemblance to those of Osama bin Laden and other al-Qaeda leaders, though from a Christian rather than a Muslim point of view. Like Mr. Breivik’s manuscript, the major Qaeda declarations have detailed accounts of the Crusades, a pronounced sense of historical grievance and calls for apocalyptic warfare to defeat the religious and cultural enemy. “It seems to be an attempt to mirror al-Qaeda, exactly in reverse,” Mr. Hegghammer said.

To the paper’s credit, the New York Times’ Scott Shane wrote a strong second-day piece (July 25) documenting the influence of Islamophobic bloggers on Breivik’s manifesto: His manifesto, which denounced Norwegian politicians as failing to defend the country from Islamic influence, quoted Robert Spencer, who operates the Jihad Watch website, 64 times, and cited other Western writers who shared his view that Muslim immigrants pose a grave danger to Western culture...

It is not new for media to jump to the conclusion that Muslims are responsible for any given terrorist attack; the same thing was widespread after the 1995 Oklahoma City bombings. It was carried out by a deranged soldier.

On a separate development, Julian Petley, professor of Screen Media and Journalism at London’s Brunel University, said<sup>49</sup> at the unveiling ceremony of his latest book *Pointing the Finger: Islam and Muslims in the Contemporary UK Media* British newspapers had traditionally right-wing, nationalistic and even racist tendencies. Petley further stressed that even the BBC was joining the rightists as TV and Radio networks including the BBC were rapidly moving toward Islamophobic and anti-Muslim racist content in line with the ongoing process of shift in the media atmosphere. He added based on their findings published as part of *Pointing the Finger: Islam and Muslims in the Contemporary UK Media* the Islamophobic content in British media center on four common clichés about Muslims: *all Muslims are the same, all Muslims are under the influence of religious teachings, all of them are lower than other people in moral, human, cultural and political terms and “all of them are considered a threat”*.

In addition to that, Richard Peppiatt, the *Daily Star* reporter who resigned in protest at the paper’s methods, notably its boosting of the English Defence League (EDL) and its incitement of racism and Islamophobia, gave<sup>50</sup> evidence to the Leveson Inquiry on 29 November 2011. He described a culture at the *Star* where “a top down pressure to unearth stories which fitted within a certain narrative (immigrants are taking over, Muslims are a threat to security) led to casual and systemic distortions.” Peppiatt told the inquiry how he made up a story about a non-existent Muslim bomb plot. He said the inspiration for the story was “a line” from a *Sunday Telegraph* article which suggested that Muslim

<sup>49</sup> See *Press TV*’s entry “Most British media are racist”, in: <http://www.presstv.ir/detail/181391.html>, retrieved on 24.05.2011, emphasis in the original.

<sup>50</sup> See *Islamophobia Watch* blog’s entry “UK: Richard Peppiatt exposes *Daily Star*’s anti-Muslim agenda at Leveson Inquiry”, in: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2011/11/29/richard-peppiatt-exposes-daily-stars-anti-muslim-agenda-at-l.html>, retrieved on 30.11.2011

terrorists might be thinking of disguising themselves as Sikhs and hiding bombs in their turbans. From the *Star's* standpoint, Peppiatt explained: “having a story that lashed out at both Muslims and Sikhs at once was far too good to pass over.”

Peppiatt's report was published in the *Star* under the headline “Airports facing turban warfare”. It

**AIRPORTS FACING TURBAN WARFARE**



27th January 2010  
By Richard Peppiatt

Like Be the first of your friends to like this.

SECURITY chiefs fear Muslim extremists may be planning to hide explosives inside Sikh headgear.

Al-Qaida are said to be plotting to dress as Sikhs to exploit religious sensitivities about removing traditional clothing.

A security source said: “Dressing as a Sikh may give would-be suicide bombers the edge in getting past checkpoints. “Security agents on the ground have been warned to be vigilant. Thorough body pat-downs are now regular practice, but the head area may be open to exploitation.

“Ceramic weapons are also a concern, but we are working hard to deal with the threat.”

ABOVE: Security chiefs fear Muslim extremists may be planning to hide explosives inside Sikh headgear

began: “Security chiefs fear Muslim extremists may be planning to hide explosives inside Sikh headgear. Al-Qaida are said to be plotting to dress as Sikhs to exploit religious sensitivities about removing traditional clothing. A security source said: ‘Dressing as a Sikh may give would-be suicide bombers the edge in getting past checkpoints’.”

There obviously is a need to devise a strategy to arrest the aforementioned Islamophobic tendencies by focusing on media literacy. It is interesting to note that some Muslims living in the West are active to that end. One of those, is Inayat Bunglawala, the chair of *Muslims4UK*, a consultant editor at *ENGAGE*, and a blogger. In an article to *New Statesmen*, he suggested<sup>51</sup>, inter alia, that “...when newspapers make serious errors in their stories, the subsequent correction or apology

should be given a prominence that is commensurate with their original story. This would surely encourage greater diligence and accuracy on the part of some of the worst tabloid offenders.” He concluded his article by stating:

Ultimately, we need to try to get to the point where our press applies the same standards to Muslims as to any other faith group or any other minority group community. Currently, no other faith group is treated with this barrage of inaccurate and often downright malicious misrepresentation in the national press. It is, of course, understandable that in view of the al-Qaeda terror threat we have seen in recent years that newspapers will often touch on the issue of Muslims and Islam in their reporting. That is, however, absolutely no excuse for their lies and incitement.

### 3: SOME POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS

On 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2011, the **Danish** Eastern High Court fined<sup>52</sup> with 5,000 kroner [888.09 USD] Lars Hedegaard, the president of the Free Press Society, for making racially offensive comments against Muslims in December 2009, such as “Girls in Muslim families are raped by their uncles, their cousins, or their fathers,” and “When a Muslim man rapes a woman, it is in his right to do so,” which were among the comments Hedegaard made during a 35-minute interview at a Christmas party with the author of the blog *snaphanen.dk*, who subsequently published the comments on the blog. May 3<sup>rd</sup>'s decision overturned a decision in January 2011 by the Frederiksberg District Court, which stated that

<sup>51</sup> Inayat Bunglawala, *Islamophobia and the press*, in: <http://www.newstatesman.com/blogs/the-staggers/2012/01/press-story-group-muslims>, retrieved on 30 January 2012

<sup>52</sup> See *Copenhagen Post's* entry “Denmark: Free speech advocate guilty of racism”, in: <http://www.cphpost.dk/culture/culture/51549-free-speech-advocate-guilty-of-racism.html> retrieved on 04.05.2011

while it found Hedegaard's comments to be insulting, Hedegaard did not know that his controversial comments would be made public.

In **Austria**, on 25 May 2011 local authorities filed<sup>53</sup> incitement charges against Gerhard Kurzmann of the far-right Freedom Party for commissioning a video game that required players to target and stop mosques, minarets and muezzins as they pop up on a screen. The game – called “Moschee Baba”, German for “See ya, mosque” – was posted online and sparked widespread condemnation. Prosecutors said that they also had filed charges against Alexander S., the head of an unnamed Swiss advertising company, who allegedly designed the game.

In **Germany**, local authorities announced<sup>54</sup> a plan to place anti-Islamic websites under surveillance because of growing concern that they were becoming more radical and fomenting right-wing violence. The calls for greater scrutiny of the far-right intensified after the revelation in November 2011 that a neo-Nazi terrorist cell murdered at least 10 people, eight of them Muslim immigrants of Turkish origin, in a killing spree spanning more than a decade. The case had embarrassed German authorities and exposed them to criticism that they had been blind to the threat posed by racists.

Separately, the state prosecutor's office in **Munich** stated<sup>55</sup> that in the first week of January 2012 it had launched an investigation into Michael Stürzenberger, a politician who had written blogs for *Politically Incorrect*, on suspicion of incitement to racial hatred. Mr Stürzenberger, a former spokesman for the conservative Christian Social Union party, wrote on 05 January 2012: “The totalitarian claim to power inherent in Islam and its legitimization of violence and killing cannot have a place in a democratic and free society.”

On 6 February 2012, **France** inaugurated<sup>56</sup> its first municipal Muslim cemetery in the city of Strasbourg a move hailed by Islamic leaders as a step in recognizing one of the country's largest minority groups. Local officials and Muslim leaders attended a ceremony in the northeastern French city to launch the cemetery, which opened space for about 1,000 graves.

In **US**, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) charged<sup>57</sup> in a lawsuit it filed on 21 September 2011 against 704 HTL Operating, LLC and Investment Corporation of America, doing business as MCM Elegante Hotel in Albuquerque for violating federal law by subjecting a Muslim woman to religious discrimination and to retaliation for opposing the discrimination. In its suit, the EEOC said that the hotel failed to accommodate Safia Abdullah's request to work wearing a hijab. In addition, the EEOC alleged that the hotel either failed to hire Abdullah or discharged her because of her religion and/or because she engaged in the protected conduct of opposing discrimination, including requesting religious accommodation. Such alleged conduct violates Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of

---

<sup>53</sup> See ABC News' entry “Politician faces legal action for mosque ‘game’”, In: <http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory?id=13683192>, retrieved on 26.05.2011

<sup>54</sup> See *Islamophobia Watch* blog's entry “Anti-Islamic websites come under greater scrutiny in Germany”, in: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/1/8/anti-islamic-websites-come-under-greater-scrutiny-in-germany.html>, retrieved on 09.01.2012

<sup>55</sup> See *Islamophobia Watch* blog's entry “Anti-Islamic websites come under greater scrutiny in Germany”, *op. cit.*

<sup>56</sup> See *Islam in Europe* blog's entry “France: First municipal Muslim cemetery inaugurated in Strasbourg”, in: <http://islamineurope.blogspot.com/2012/02/france-first-municipal-muslim-cemetery.html>, retrieved on 08.02.2012

<sup>57</sup> See *Islamophobia Today's* entry “EEOC sues Albuquerque hotel over ban on employee wearing hijab”, in: <http://www.islamophobiatoday.com/2011/09/23/eoc-sues-albuquerque-hotel-over-ban-on-employee-wearing-hijab/>, retrieved on 25.09.2011

1964, which prohibits employment discrimination based on religion and retaliation for opposition to discrimination.

In Australia, Queensland's Deputy Premier Andrew Fraser called<sup>58</sup> on Liberal National Party (LNP) and



Katter's Australian Party MPs to denounce a group spreading anti-Islamic propaganda in the state. Mr Fraser's west Brisbane electorate was being letterbox dropped by a group called the QSociety (group that had organized a speaking tour for Robert Spencer from *Jihad Watch*), which was concerned with the "erosion of Western values and the Islamisation of Australia". The flyers said: "it's time to say no" to the Halal food industry, "whitewashed Islamic

content" in state schools, Sharia finance and "segregation and apartheid" such as prayer rooms. They directed readers to a website and a Victorian address.

#### 4: THE HUMAN RIGHTS FRAMEWORK TO ADDRESS ISLAMOPHOBIA

During the period under review in this Report, the OIC engaged with its western partners with a view to addressing intolerance on religious grounds. The process came to be known as the "Istanbul Process".

##### 4.1. The Istanbul Process

The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) hosted a ministerial meeting in Istanbul on 15 July 2011, which gave a united impetus to the implementation of UN Human Rights Council Resolution 16/18 on "Combating intolerance, negative stereotyping and stigmatization of, and discrimination, incitement to violence, and violence against persons based on religion or belief".

The meeting was co-chaired by the OIC Secretary General Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu and US Secretary of State Mrs. Hillary Clinton. Foreign Ministers and officials of 28 countries from around the world and international organizations as well as EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs were invited to participate.

A joint statement<sup>59</sup> issued by the Co-Chairs at the end of the meeting called upon all relevant stakeholders to take seriously the call for action set forth in resolution 16/18, which contributed to strengthening the foundations of tolerance and respect for religious diversity as well as enhancing the promotion and protections of human rights and fundamental freedoms around the world.

The participants, resolved to go beyond mere rhetoric. They reaffirmed their commitment to freedom of religion or belief and freedom of expressions by urging States to take effective measures, as set forth in Resolution 16/18, consistent with their obligations under international human rights law, to address and combat intolerance, discrimination, and violence based on religion or belief.

<sup>58</sup> See *Islamophobia Watch* blog's entry "Australia: deputy premier denounces Q Society on behalf of Labor government and calls on opposition parties to join him", in: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2011/12/1/queensland-deputy-premier-denounces-q-society-on-behalf-of-l.html>, retrieved on 03.12.2011

<sup>59</sup> Seen as Annex C of this Report.

The Co-Chairs of the meeting committed to working together with other interested countries and actors on follow up and implementation of Resolution 16/18 and to conduct further events and activities to discuss and assess implementation of the Resolution. Participants were encouraged to consider to provide updates, as part of ongoing reporting to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, on steps taken at the international level on the implementation of Resolution 16/18, building also on related measures in the other resolutions adopted by consensus on freedom of religion or belief and on the elimination of religious intolerance and discrimination.

The Istanbul meeting was a timely initiative. It launched what has come to be known as the Istanbul Process aimed at building on the process of consensus building that resulted in adoption of HRC resolution 16/18. The resolution and the Process reflected the OIC's maturity and ability to engage effectively towards evolving consensus on the most sensitive issues in contemporary international relations. The incidents that took place one week later in Norway proved how important it was for the international community to work hand-in-hand with a view to winning the battle against any kind of extremism, discrimination or intolerance.

Prof. Ihsanoglu has always underscored that the real test lies in implementation of the Resolution. The Istanbul Process was carried forward by the second event held in Washington DC in December 2011. With the next event planned in London under the EU auspices, the Process must continue to reflect sustained and structured engagement that is geared towards evolving and implementing a common understanding on interrelated issues. OIC has taken a bold initiative in sponsoring a fresh approach reflected in the resolution 16/18 and the Istanbul Process thereon and looks forward to be reciprocated in the same spirit towards seeking effective remedial measures with regard to its vital concerns.

## 5. ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE OIC

During its five-year existence, the Observatory's annual report on Islamophobia had found media as the one of the issues that merited a closer attention within the OIC Strategy to address the anti-Islam agenda and anti-Muslim message in some parts of the West. In fact, "the real problem is the Islamophobic misinformation machine, supported by...conflict-driven media [in the West]. Stories of Muslims engaging in peaceful faith-inspired endeavors don't sell nearly as well as stories of attempted Times Square bombings. Yet even coverage of violent stories is skewed against Muslims: for example, the mainstream media largely ignores violence against Muslims, such as when a mosque in Florida was bombed. (Just imagine the media frenzy if that had been a Muslim bombing a church.) The press also ignores stories of Muslim heroism, such as the fact that the man who stopped the Times Square bomber was himself a Muslim. Perhaps ... Islam [is perceived] as inherently violent, and imagine that an "Islam versus the West" clash of civilizations is inevitable, because ... [Western] perspective is shaped by the warped way the media reports on Islam."<sup>60</sup>

OIC organized a workshop on "Media Misrepresentations of Islam and Muslims: The Search for Remedies," held in Brussels on 15-16 February, 2012. The meeting had the objective to brainstorm and discuss the various approaches and mechanisms that could be utilized to deal with the rise of Islamophobia and its effects and impacts on Muslim communities in the west and the Muslims in general

---

<sup>60</sup> Chris Stedman, "Sam Harris, Will You Visit A Mosque With Me?", in: [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/chris-stedman/sam-harris-racial-profiling\\_b\\_1472360.html?ref=religion](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/chris-stedman/sam-harris-racial-profiling_b_1472360.html?ref=religion), retrieved on 05.05.2012

The result of the aforementioned Brussels workshop were reflected in the *OIC Media Strategy in Countering Islamophobia*<sup>61</sup>, adopted at the Ninth Islamic Conference of Information Ministers (ICIM), held in Libreville, Republic of Gabon, on 18-20 April 2012. The said strategy had short, medium and long term goals for putting in place an action plan to fight Islamophobia. It asked Member States to create funding for media campaigns to counter intolerance against Islam and discourage using expressions such as “Islamic” fascists or “Islamic” extremists for criminal terrorists. The OIC underlined the importance of developing narrative on daily issues such as the environment, climate change, social justice, development, poverty, etc. For the **medium** term, member states were asked to implement media literacy programs in schools to combat misperceptions, prejudices and hate speech. It aimed at utilizing success stories in the Muslim world “as a means to show that the interests of Muslims are similar to the rest of the world when it comes to democracy, good governance and human rights.” The strategy even planned to create awards for excellence in unbiased journalism, reporting, photography and publishing. According to the **long** term goals, professional media people in Member States were called to “develop, articulate and implement voluntary codes of conduct.” It set up scholarship programs for Westerners to study in the Muslim world and encourage reporter-exchange programs between the Muslim world and the West in order to disseminate this information throughout media outlets.

In terms of meetings related to dialogue among civilizations, the OIC consecutively participated in the *Sixth Meeting of the Focal Points of the Alliance of Civilizations (AoC) Group of Friends*, held in Doha, State of Qatar on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2011, and *Seventh Meeting of the Focal Points of the Alliance of Civilizations (AoC) Group of Friends*, held in Lisbon, Portugal on November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2011. In these meetings, the OIC perspective, in terms of improving the efficacy of Alliance of Civilizations, was duly highlighted. The OIC released, on the sidelines of the *AoC Forth Annual Forum* (Doha, 11-13 December 2011), a booklet on the OIC co-sponsored Roundtable on “Addressing Islamophobia”, held during the *AoC Third Annual Forum* on May 27, 2010 in Rio de Janeiro. It is worth mentioning that the OIC convened the 2<sup>nd</sup> *Meeting of the AoC Focal Points of the OIC Member States*, ISESCO Headquarters, 16-17 October 2011.

Considering that youth forms the most important actor at the grass roots’ level, special attention has been accorded to this part of the society within OIC efforts to address Islamophobia. OIC attended the *First Convention of the Global Youth Movement for the Alliance of Civilizations (GYMAOC)*, held in the Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan on 09-10 April 2011. In a message to the event, the OIC Secretary General, inter alia, stated: “...there is a need to equip the youth with all they need in terms of cultural, scientific, moral, social, religious, psychological and intellectual strengths, so that they can have a cohesive and immunized force characterized by mental, intellectual, scientific maturity, and embrace a moderate outlook, which would qualify them to become responsible members of their societies and face the various challenges posed by the accelerated development of contemporary civilization. Our societies should also create the proper conditions likely to shield our youth against extremism, intolerance and violence that bring nothing but harm to young people, to Islam and to Muslims and hurt the religion and civilization of the youth. Governments would have to play their roles but it will need the support of the civil society, and the youth should be the driving force of this civil society in laying a strong

---

<sup>61</sup> For more information, please see: “OIC fleshes out action strategy in Gabon to combat Islamophobia”, in: <http://www.defendingreligiousfreedom.com/oic-fleshes-out-action-strategy-in-gabon-to-combat-islamophobia/>, retrieved on 21.04.2012. The adopted Strategy is the Annex D of this Report.

foundation of tolerance and respect for diversity; to defeat, discredit and to make accountable all those who are actively involved in inciting hatred and endangering peaceful co-existence.”

Within this spirit, the OIC General Secretariat, as a partner of the UN Alliance of Civilizations Fellowship Programme, hosted in Jeddah 12 European & North American Fellows from 10 to 14 April 2012. The fellowship program is part of AoC’s efforts to facilitate intercultural dialogue at the grass-roots level to foster better understanding among people of different cultures and break through stereotypes and misconceptions. This constitutes a commonality in terms of OIC’s objectives and approach.

OIC Secretary General participated at the Session on “*Intercultural Dialogue: Culture of Peace - Avenue of Multiculturalism*”, held on the sidelines of the 15<sup>th</sup> Eurasia Economic Summit in Istanbul, from 10-12 April 2012. In his statement to the event, Prof Ihsanoglu, inter alia, pointed out: “that developing a Culture of Peace needs a multilateral and multidimensional approach. The issue has been on the agenda of the United Nations for some time now. If we are to indeed attain this objective, we would need to identify all the threats and impediments to peace, including intolerance of cultural and religious diversity. For the past decade and more, the OIC has been successful in the adoption of a resolution on Defamation of Religions at the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva and at the UN General Assembly. The Resolution after the initial years was however faced with opposition from the western countries who perceived it to be Islam centric and argued that its provisions were designed to restrict freedom of speech.”

## 6: CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The frequency and continuation of Islamophobic incidents and trends, in the period under review in this Report clearly indicates and suggests that a lot more needs to be done to correct the misperceptions against Islam and its followers, and that all stakeholders are needed to be politically and socially involved with honest intentions and visions towards fruitful reconciliation among different faiths and civilizations.

Islam is a religion of peace, tolerance and accommodation. However, motivated sections of Western mind and media have adopted a very hostile attitude towards Islam and its followers. Muslims are not only being discriminated in the Western world but are not safe even in their own countries. Besides pushing the world into a state of utter uncertainty and insecurity, Muslim-bashing also carries an economic downside in terms of impact on the global economy as well as global economic governance.

It must be noted that the increasing trend of Muslim bashing is fueling internal frictions within Muslim societies between young and old, native and newcomer, secular and devout, militant and moderate. Therefore, the leaders of the Muslim world are urged to encourage their constituencies to work on what unites them rather than what divides them as a means to address the daunting challenges faced on both the internal as well as the external counts.

The Observatory believes that the West needs to engage with the Muslim world to better understand the interests and concerns with a view to removing misperceptions. The virtues and dynamics of diversity are to be cherished with a positive mindset. Voices of reason and responsible members of all communities should help foster the wisdom and the will to work and to live together. Prospects or perception of clash among civilizations, cultures or religions must and be eliminated and averted through concerted international action.

The Observatory reiterates recommendations contained in the previous four annual reports and would like to add the following:

- a) **Media**, there is a need to develop a platform for deliberation and elaboration of possible practical steps, to be taken by media institutions in OIC Member States to promote with their counterparts in the West, the principles of tolerance, mutual understanding and respect with a view to upholding peace, security, stability, prosperity, and sustainable development of societies. There is also a need to ensure that Islamic values of peace and moderation are voiced through mainstream global media.
- b) **Situation of Muslims in the west**: improvement in the quality of life of Muslims living in Western will lead to better understanding and better integration by lessening of mutual mistrust. Muslims should not be seen as second class citizens, must not be dehumanized, demonized, marginalized, feared or despised. It should be recognized that Muslims have the same basic needs and desires as others, which are material well-being, cultural acceptance and religious freedom, without political or social intimidation. In that vein, Muslims should not be marginalized or attempted to be assimilated but rather be accommodated as equal citizens with equal and equally important rights.
- c) **Far-right**: western countries should examine the possibility of evolving an effective strategy to avoid political exploitation of the issues related to discrimination and intolerance, including anti-Islam agenda and anti-Muslim message by the far-right political parties and movements with a view to avoiding a spiral of counterproductive socio-economic implications.

- d) **Grassroots:** Western countries should create conditions conducive to building the capacity of Muslim communities and civil society organizations and try to enable them to work with local and national authorities. In this respect, community outreach programs will be of great use in confidence building and in creating community cohesion, highlighting the sense of living together. The Muslim communities, on the other hand, must shoulder their share of the burden adjust with regard to the civic values of the host countries while distancing themselves from radical mindsets.
- e) **Integration policies:** The more Muslim communities will feel at home and will be truly integrated to the Western societies where they live, the easier it will be to marginalize extremism, defuse radicalism and overcome the perceptions of being left-out, stigmatized and rejected.

Amnesty International's Report titled *Choice and prejudice: discrimination against Muslims in Europe*<sup>62</sup> brought wide-ranging of recommendations that policy-makers would consider taking note. In particular, states should adopt measures to fulfil the right to be free from discrimination, including the following minimum requirements<sup>63</sup>:

- Prohibition of direct and indirect discrimination on all grounds and in all areas of life;
- Independent national anti-discrimination bodies to monitor and make recommendations regarding respect for non-discrimination legislation that have effective investigative powers, a mandate to examine individual complaints of discrimination in both the private and the public sector and take binding and enforceable decisions, and adequate staff and funds;
- Access to effective judicial remedies for victims of discrimination including measures such as the provision of legal aid and representation by non-governmental organizations;
- Shared burden of proof for discrimination claims in administrative and civil courts so that if persons who consider themselves wronged establish facts from which it may be presumed that there has been discrimination, it shall be for the respondent to prove that there has been no discrimination;
- Effective monitoring of the impact of legislation and policies on different groups and collection of accurate disaggregated data to use in identifying and addressing discrimination.

For the abovementioned measures to be effective, all stakeholders should understand that common values of the mankind must be based on a firm commitment to human rights and on the recognition of the inherent dignity of all human beings.

Racism, xenophobia, discrimination, as well as related intolerance persist in many societies despite efforts geared to promotion and protection of human rights. The resurgence - in the wake of consolidation and electoral gains of the far-right political parties and movements - of racist tendencies and Islamophobia pose a serious challenge to the whole range of human rights and freedoms of Muslims particularly in Western countries. In spite of tangible progress achieved in eliminating institutionalized forms of discrimination, many countries still experience new and mounting waves of bias, exclusion and racist violence. These constitute a major threat to friendly and peaceful relations not only among states, but also among people within states. The need, therefore, to take a joint and firm stand against all forms and manifestations of discrimination and intolerance has become more urgent and evident than ever before.

---

<sup>62</sup> *Op. cit.*, while the Observatory endorses some of the recommendations contained therein, it manifest its reservations concerning other reports and documents by the Amnesty International.

<sup>63</sup> See p.27 of the Report.

## ANNEXES

### A: Some Islamophobic Incidents

#### I. Incidents Related to Mosques:

1. **US: Maine Muslim Community Center vandalized after death of Osama bin Laden** – Sometime after morning prayer at the Maine Muslim Community Center on Andersen Street in Portland ended on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2011, someone spray painted “Osama Today, Islam Tomorrow” and “Go Home” on the front and side of the building. The Portland Police Department was investigating the act of vandalism as a hate crime under Maine law.



In: <http://www.wcsh6.com/news/local/story.aspx?storyid=157889>, retrieved on 03.05.2011

2. **US: Bossier Mosque vandalized** – Police reported that a white male in a blue pick-up truck tampered with the doors at the Mosque in Shreveport-Bossier community (Louisiana). When he left, mosque goers discovered he had left pork on the door handles so people would have to touch it to go inside.

In: <http://www.ksla.com/story/14602327/bossier-mosque-vandalized>, retrieved on 11.05.2011

3. **US: Lawn sign advances feud between mosque, neighbor** – A feud between two Transit Road neighbors in Niagara Frontier (Cleveland, Ohio) – a homeowner and a mosque – turned ugly on the weekend of 7 May 2011 when the homeowner, Michael Heck, staked a sign on his front lawn insinuating that the new 11,600-square-foot Islamic worship site was home to a “bomb making” operation.



Mosque members and other area Muslims objected to the sign and called upon Heck to take it down. Heck said he put up the sign because he was frustrated with how the mosque and Amherst town officials have handled his concerns about the

building, which opened in November 2010.

In: <http://www.buffalonews.com/city/communities/amherst/article418403.ece>, retrieved on 11.05.2011

4. **US: Planned Sheepshead Bay mosque forges ahead after hate-tinged graffiti scrawled on site** – Hate-laced graffiti scrawled at the construction site of a Brooklyn mosque was painted over on 11 May 2011 - as its opponents were still reeling over a judge’s decision not to stop the project. Officials said that the words “He is dead” and happy faces had been spray-painted on the Sheepshead Bay site’s plywood walls after news of Osama Bin Laden’s death emerged. The images appeared to be references to this death.



One day earlier (10 May), a Brooklyn Supreme Court justice denied a preliminary injunction to stop the Voorhies Ave. project. The main opposition group, *Bay People*, said in a statement that it would appeal. Mosque officials said the recent “hateful act” would not stop their plans to move forward.

In: [http://www.nydailynews.com/ny\\_local/2011/05/12/2011-05-12\\_planned\\_sheepshead\\_bay\\_mosque\\_forges\\_ahead\\_after\\_hatetinged\\_graffiti\\_scrawled\\_on.html](http://www.nydailynews.com/ny_local/2011/05/12/2011-05-12_planned_sheepshead_bay_mosque_forges_ahead_after_hatetinged_graffiti_scrawled_on.html) & <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2011/5/11/sheepshead-bay-mosque-judge-dismisses-opponents-lawsuit.html>, retrieved on 14.05.2011

5. **Greece: Mosque firebombed in Kallithea** – Unidentified vandals targeted a makeshift mosque in the neighborhood of Kallithea, southern Athens, early on 15 May 2011, smashing the windows before dousing the interior with gasoline and setting it alight. The attack caused significant damage. The arsonists also spray-painted swastika symbols on the walls of the mosque.

In: [http://ekathimerini.com/4dcgi/w\\_articles\\_wsitel\\_7\\_08/05/2011\\_390056](http://ekathimerini.com/4dcgi/w_articles_wsitel_7_08/05/2011_390056), retrieved on 16.05.2011

6. **France: Mosque desecrated with graffiti**

The El-Hijna mosque in Champagnole (Jura) was covered with racist graffiti on 14 May 2011 night. Slogans included “Death to the Arabs”, “France to the French” and Nazi symbols.

In: <http://islamineurope.blogspot.com/2011/05/france-mosque-desecrated-with-graffiti.html>, retrieved on 21.05.2011



7. **US: Another act of vandalism directed against Islamic Center of Murfreesboro** – Islamic Center of Murfreesboro volunteers picking up trash on Bradyville Pike encountered something they could not clean – black spray paint on their adopt a highway sign. The culprit covered up the word Islamic on the ICM sign near mile marker 26 on a portion of state Route 99 southeast of Murfreesboro. The act of vandalism was the latest in a string of vandalism directed at the congregation and its plans to build a new mosque on Veals Road, which is off Bradyville Pike. In January 2010, a vandal spray painted “Not Welcome” on the congregation’s sign announcing its future site. Another sign on the site was later broken in half and someone torched construction equipment on the site in summer 2010.



In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2011/5/22/another-act-of-vandalism-directed-against-islamic-center-of.html>, retrieved on 23.05.2011

8. **UK: Quran ‘desecrated’ in Chorley mosque attack** – Local Police said that on 16 April 2011 intruders entered the Dawat Ul Islam Masjid, also known as Chorley Mosque, in Brooke Street,

before causing interior damage and damaging various items, including a Quran. Officers added that racially-abusive graffiti was found on walls at the building during the incident.

In: [http://www.lancashiretelegraph.co.uk/news/9046828.Quran\\_desecrated\\_in\\_Chorley\\_mosque\\_attack/](http://www.lancashiretelegraph.co.uk/news/9046828.Quran_desecrated_in_Chorley_mosque_attack/), retrieved on 26.05.2011

**9. France: Arson attack on a mosque** – A French newspaper, *Le Progrès*, reported on an arson attack on a mosque in Tarare [a commune in the Rhône department in eastern France]. Petrol was poured outside the front door of the mosque and set alight, but the fire doors were able to contain the blaze. A few months ago the letters “FN” – the initials of the far-right Front National – were painted on the mosque’s wall. “Graffiti, arson. And what will it be next?” the mosque secretary asked: “A small bomb?”

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2011/6/12/arson-attack-on-french-mosque.html>, retrieved on 14.06.2011

**10. UK: Suspected anthrax ‘attack’ on Finsbury Park mosque** – A package containing a suspicious white powder, an anti-Islamic message and offensive pictures of Muslim women was posted to the Imam of the mosque, in St Thomas’s Road, Finsbury Park, on 16 June 2011. Staff called the police, who closed Rock Street and the mosque, leaving 150 people who turned up for prayers out on the street. After testing the substance, police found it to be harmless. The mosque was the victim of another attack in July 2010 when vandals stuck a pig’s head on the gates outside.

In: [http://www.islingtongazette.co.uk/news/suspected\\_anthrax\\_attack\\_on\\_finsbury\\_park\\_mosque\\_1\\_922896](http://www.islingtongazette.co.uk/news/suspected_anthrax_attack_on_finsbury_park_mosque_1_922896), retrieved on 18.06.2011

**Related: UK: Brighton mosque targeted in wave of hate crime** – A Sussex mosque was targeted in a nationwide wave of hate attacks. The Brighton Al-Quds Mosque in Dyke Road received a suspicious package in what police were treating as a racially or religiously motivated crime. It was one of several Islamic Centres to be targeted in London, Dorset, Merseyside, Birmingham and Gloucestershire since 9 June 2011. In Birmingham the package contained what was reported to be bags of white powder – triggering fears of an anthrax attack. None of the parcels contained any dangerous substances.

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2011/6/30/brighton-mosque-targeted-in-wave-of-hate-crime.html>, retrieved on 30.06.2011

**11. Belgium: Flemish Nationalists Climb on Future Mosque Roof** – Some members of *Vlaams Belang*, an intensely xenophobic Flemish nationalist group, occupied the roof of an Antwerp building that the municipal authorities would turn into a mosque. The protest was against “the islamization of Antwerp” and the “supermosque”, as *Vlaams Belang* leader Filip Dewinter defined it.

In: [http://www.agi.it/english-version/world/elenco-notizie/201106301107-cro-ren1026-belgium\\_flemish\\_nationalists\\_climb\\_on\\_future\\_mosque\\_roof](http://www.agi.it/english-version/world/elenco-notizie/201106301107-cro-ren1026-belgium_flemish_nationalists_climb_on_future_mosque_roof), retrieved on 30.06.2011

**12. UK: Hate suspects sought after pig’s head thrown at proposed mosque** – A pig’s head was thrown on to the roof of a disused pub which was due to be turned into a mosque. A video had been posted on the *YouTube* website, in which a shot of a dismembered pig was followed by footage of two men clearly throwing something on top of *The Plough*, a former rock pub on Manor Road in Bletchley. And police had confirmed they were treating it as a religiously motivated hate crime after they discovered some ‘pork products’ at 11.40am on 24 June 2012. The pub was due to be converted into a Muslim place of worship after the plan received permission on 14 April 2011.



In: <http://www.mk-news.co.uk/News/Hate-suspects-sought-after-pigs-head-thrown-at-proposed-mosque-06072011.htm> & <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2011/7/6/hate-suspects-sought-after-pigs-head-thrown-at-proposed-mosq.html>, retrieved on 07.07.2011

**13. UK: Hate crime probe after pig’s head thrown at Southport Mosque** - Police were investigating a hate crime against Southport’s Muslims after a pig’s head was thrown at Southport Mosque. The dead

animal was found lying outside the mosque on the night of 6 July 2011. It had been thrown over the wall of the place of worship on Sussex Road. Police confirmed they were treating the incident as a hate crime which was being investigated by their specialist SIGMA team.

In: <http://www.southportvisiter.co.uk/southport-news/southport-southport-news/2011/07/21/hate-crime-probe-after-pigs-head-thrown-at-southport-mosque-101022-29090392/>, retrieved on 22.07.2011

**14. UK: EDL racists vandalize mosque in Luton** – Racist thugs from the English Defence League (EDL) vandalized a mosque in Luton, smashing the windows and spraying “EDL” and a swastika - the symbol of Nazi Germany - on the mosque’s walls. The raid on the Luton mosque happened on 29 July 2011 morning, the same day an EDL sympathizer went on a rampage in Norway massacre.

In: <http://www.presstv.ir/detail/191461.html>, retrieved on 31.07.2011

**15. US: Islamic Center of Murfreesboro receives bomb threat** – Murfreesboro Police and the Department of Homeland Security were investigating a bomb threat at the local Islamic Center of Murfreesboro. Murfreesboro Police spokesman Kyle Evans said Imam Ossama Bahloul contacted MPD dispatch around 1:30 p.m. on 06 Sept to report a threatening voicemail that was left on an ICM answering machine around 1 a.m. on 05 September 2011, threatening to place a bomb inside the building on Sept. 11. The message also included extreme profanity and derogatory remarks toward Islam.

In: <http://www.islamophobiatoday.com/2011/09/06/islamic-center-of-murfreesboro-receives-bomb-threat/>, retrieved on 07.09.2011

**16. US: Burnt Qur’an sent to Bronx Mosque** – A Bronx Imam received a partially burnt Koran, delivered in an envelope to his mosque the day before 11 September 2011. There were also papers inside the envelope covered with cartoon like drawing depicting hatred towards Muslims. The Imam also found white powder inside the envelope. Tests determined the powder was actually pieces of the burnt Koran. The incident was being investigated by the hate NYPD’s Hate Crimes Task Force.

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2011/9/13/burnt-quran-sent-to-bronx-mosque.html>, retrieved on 14.09.2011

**17. US: Sign outside Buffalo mosque is smashed on 9/11** – Police were investigating and had not



determined whether it was a deliberate act, but some residents believed this was no accident. Geneva’s Auto owner Walter Johnson said: “That was deliberately done and I think it’s awful.” Buffalo Police Chaplain Bilal Abdullah said: “I guess it was a 9/11. People maybe looked at it as a way to get back at Muslims in general.” Police said a truck drove over the lawn in front of the mosque and smashed the sign, which was found in pieces around the parking lot.

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2011/9/14/sign-outside-buffalo-mosque-is-smashed-on-911.html>, retrieved on 15.09.2011

**18. Netherlands: Freedom Party wants ban on minarets** – Geert Wilders’ Freedom Party was calling for a referendum on banning the construction of new minarets. According to the party, minarets symbolized Islam’s domination over Christianity. They argued that as the Qur’an did not mention minarets, so banning them did not violate freedom of religion. The Council of State, the highest legal body in the Netherlands, had started studying the proposal.

In: <http://www.rnw.nl/english/video/freedom-party-wants-ban-minarets>, retrieved on 26.10.2011

**19. US: Mosque received anti-Islam letters before fire** – A mosque in Wichita that was heavily damaged by fire early on 31 October 2011 had received several anti-Islam letters some months before. Abdelkarim Jibril, president of the Islamic Association of Mid Kansas, said somebody also had begun turning on its

outside water faucet overnight to hike its water bill, and the letters put down Islam, called the prophet Muhammad a p\*g and enclosed drawings mocking him.

In: <http://www.fireengineering.com/news/2011/11/1533237768/mosque-received-anti-islam-letters-before-fire.html>, retrieved on 02.11.2011

**20. France: Arson attack on mosque in eastern region** – France 3 television reported that a mosque in eastern France was damaged after unknown attackers set fire to the building using a burning rubbish bin early on 10 November 2011. The head of the mosque in Montbeliard, located about 170 kilometres south of Strasbourg, near the German border, discovered the fire when he arrived to open the building for morning prayers. One wall was badly damaged. The attack on the mosque was the second in a month.

In: [http://www.monstersandcritics.com/news/europe/news/article\\_1674394.php/Arson-attack-on-mosque-in-eastern-France](http://www.monstersandcritics.com/news/europe/news/article_1674394.php/Arson-attack-on-mosque-in-eastern-France), retrieved on 11.11.2011

**21. Switzerland: Pig Buried in Grounds of Future Mosque** – After an anonymous letter, police have recovered the dead body of a pig and four pigs' heads that were buried in the grounds of a future mosque in the Swiss town of Grenchen, it was also reported that 120 litres of pigs' blood had been poured on the premises.



The proposed building of the mosque had created a lot of bitterness in the local area. Legal action took place to try and stop it, initiated by the previous owner of the land - a Swiss People's Party politician - who said the land was bought under false pretences, with the claim that it would be used for building a parking garage. He said he would never have sold the land if he had known it would be used for a mosque.

In: <http://islamversuseurope.blogspot.com/2011/11/switzerland-pig-buried-in-grounds-of.html>, retrieved on 12.11.2011

**22. Austria: police chief warns that mosque will lead to 'infiltration' by extremists** - *Islam in Europe* blog drew attention to a interview with Alexander Gaisch, the police chief in the Austrian city of Graz, which was published in the *Kleine Zeitung* under the headline "We will be slowly infiltrated". Asked if a planned Islamic centre in Graz could become "a hotbed of radicalization", Gaisch replied: "In the worst case. There will never be an obvious radicalisation. Swordsmen will not be coming, we will be slowly infiltrated. This population group has more children, a different lifestyle. They are doing this quite cleverly with a building in which many people can be accommodated. It will be more than a mosque: a cultural, social centre with a kindergarten."

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2011/11/16/graz-police-chief-warns-that-mosque-will-lead-to-infiltratio.html>, retrieved on 19.11.2011

**23. France: Mosque tagged with Nazi symbols** – A mosque in Villeneuve-sur-Lot (south-western France) was tagged with racist graffiti on 19 November 2011. Inscriptions included: "Islam out of Europe", a swastika, and the number 88 (which stands for 'Heil Hitler'). A possible Molotov cocktail was discovered on site. The



local prosecutor and government official visited the mosque and expressed support for the local Muslim community. The police was to be asked to increase their patrols around places of worship in the department.

In: <http://islamineurope.blogspot.com/2011/11/france-mosque-tagged-with-nazi-symbols.html>, retrieved on 21.11.2011

**24. Netherlands: 117 attacks on mosques in 6 years** – There were 117 incidents of anti-Muslim attacks on mosques in the Netherlands in the years 2005-2010. There were 43 cases of graffiti and 37 cases of vandalism. Researcher Ineke van der Valk studied Islamophobic violence for the Euro-Mediterranean Migration and Development Center (EMCEMO). In 99 incidents the culprits were not found. The incidents were difficult to solve, since the “culprits don’t leave a signature,” said Van der Valk. She added that violence against mosques was relatively rare in the big cities, though relatively many Muslims lived there. The Discrimination Internet hotline also got regular reports of racist statements against Muslims. A spokesperson said that by 30 December 2011 there were 317 reports of “hate against Muslims”, which made up 20% of the total number of reports in 2011.

In: <http://islamineurope.blogspot.com/2011/12/netherlands-117-attacks-on-mosques-in-6.html>, retrieved on 01.01.2012

**25. Mosque Attack Stuns US Muslims** – A wave of arson attacks against an Islamic center and houses in an eastern borough in New York City was sounding the alarm bells among the sizable Muslim minority in the United States. A fire bomb was thrown at a bodega at 179-40 Hillside Avenue in eastern Queens at 8 p.m. on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2012. Ten minutes later, another crude firebomb was thrown, this time at a private home at 146-62 107<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and the house caught fire. Half an hour after that, the Imam Al-Khoei Foundation Islamic center was targeted by two or three Molotov cocktails. The Fire Department of New York said a blaze outside the Islamic center was brought under control quickly after a call came in at about 9 pm of the same day. Police said the attacks were apparent hate crimes.

In: <http://www.onislam.net/english/news/americas/455238-ny-mosque-firebomb-shocks-muslims.html>, retrieved on 03.01.2012

**Related: Alleged Queens firebomber wanted to massacre Muslims in mosque, prosecutors say** – Prosecutors said that the unhinged Queens pyromaniac who unleashed a scary New Year’s Day firebombing spree had planned to take out “as many Muslims and Arabs as possible” by lobbing Molotov cocktails at worshipers inside a mosque. Ray Lazier Legend, 40, allegedly told cops he did not like Muslims or Arabs and he had planned to inflict “as much damage as possible” by hurling all five of his firebombs from the balcony of Imam Al-Khoei Islamic Center onto the crowd below.

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/1/5/alleged-queens-firebomber-wanted-to-massacre-muslims-in-mosq.html>, retrieved on 06.01.2012

**26. Canada: Vandals target Quebec mosque in possible hate crime** – Members of a Quebec mosque said they were shocked by a “savage” act of vandalism. A masked vandal broke several windows and tried to light two cars on fire at the Outaouais Islamic Centre on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2012 morning, the most severe attack in a string of recent vandalism that saw several windows broken in December 2011. Surveillance videos from the mosque showed the suspect breaking the windows of two vehicles parked close to the building about 2 a.m. of that day. The vandal then opened the oil and gas tanks of the vehicles, jammed paper into them and unsuccessfully attempted to set them alight. The suspect then used the radiator from one of the vehicles to smash the mosque’s front door before breaking several windows.

In: <http://www.vancouver.sun.com/news/Vandals+target+mosque+possible+hate+crime/5942599/story.html>, retrieved on 04.01.2012

**Related: Quebec mosque again hit by vandals** – The Outaouais Islamic Centre in Gatineau, Quebec, which had been a target of vandalism, was spray-painted with graffiti of swear words and derogatory references to Arabs and Allah on overnight of 5 January



2012. The mosque had earlier been vandalized (02 January 2012) morning when windows were damaged and someone attempted to set fire to two cars in the parking lot. Police said it was the fourth incident in the last six months.

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/1/5/quebec-mosque-again-hit-by-vandals.html>, retrieved on 06.01.2012

**27. New South Wales: fear of escalating violence after mosque attack** – An attack on a Newcastle



mosque, trapping seven worshippers inside, had been caught on security camera. The attack happened only minutes after a group of children had finished a scripture class and is the latest in a series of incidents that have left the city's Muslim community feeling "vulnerable and scared". In the security footage, which had been provided to police, two tattooed men were seen to approach the Wallsend mosque about 9.30pm on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2012. One man, with a large tattoo of a cross on his neck, kicked through the fence gate and hurled an object at the

mosque's front door. Then he run and smashed a flying kick into the door. More objects were thrown at the building and one of the men was seen to shout what appeared to be abuse.

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/1/4/new-south-wales-fear-of-escalating-violence-after-mosque-att.html>, retrieved on 05.01.2012

**28. UK: Hundreds protest plan for new Sunderland mosque** – Councillor Paul Dixon with anti-mosque protestors filled hundreds of objections against plans for a new mosque. Many residents were furious at the plans, with one claiming Millfield would "end up being Mosquefield" and the council had received 623 letters of objection and a petition bearing 1,462 signatures.



Lib Dem councillor Paul Dixon, who had been working with the objectors, said the residents had fought a "clean campaign" and stressed their objections were not based on racism or Islamophobia, as "People are concerned about noise, traffic and parking. There's also the impact on the character of the area." Coun Dixon said the mosque, which would include a new frontage with two domed columns, would be out of keeping with the 1900s artisan cottages in the area. He said prayer times – which can take place in the early hours of the morning – were also a concern.

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/1/13/hundreds-protest-plan-for-new-sunderland-mosque.html>, retrieved on 14.01.2012

**29. UK: Man racially assaulted Muslim worshippers and attempted to set fire to mosque in Tooting** –

A magistrate's court heard that Damian Royston Smith, 30, of Lambourne Gardens, Essex, harassed worshippers at the Tooting Islamic Centre, in Upper Tooting Road, over five days. On 15 November 2011 Iftikhar Hussain, a volunteer security worker at the mosque, said he saw Smith watching children going to evening classes. Mr Hussain asked him to leave, but he began shouting racist abuse outside the prayer room and the mosque. He went on to charge into the mosque doors with a whisky bottle. Two days afterwards two policemen arrested Smith for trying to set fire to the mosque with a plastic bag filled with tomato tin cans and matches.

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/1/21/man-racially-assaulted-muslim-worshippers-and-attempted-to-s.html>, retrieved on 22.01.2012

**30. France: far-right graffiti on mosque and pig's heads left at construction site** – On 17 January 2012, fascist graffiti and racist and Nazi, including a Celtic Cross and a man making the Nazi salute, were painted in red on the front of a mosque that had been under construction in Montigny-en-Ostrevent, and two pig's heads were left at the site where another mosque was being built in Nanterre.

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/1/23/france-far-right-graffiti-on-mosque-and-pigs-heads-left-at-c.html>, other info translated from French in: <http://www.ajib.fr/2012/01/profanation-mosque-monitgny/> & <http://www.islamophobie.net/articles/2012/01/20/deux-tetes-de-cochon-chantier-mosquee-nanterre>, retrieved on 24.01.2012

**31. US-Virginia: mosque opening on hold after vandals smash windows** – On 29 January 2012 night, vandals downed alcohol, threw rocks and smashed the windows – along with over a decade of hard work, financial sacrifices and prayers – of a Chantilly mosque. The destruction at the construction site was estimated to cost up to \$60,000 to repair. The vandals took out most of the glass windows and doors on the first floor, and even two windows high on the second floor.



More upsetting than the financial damage, however, was the fact that the mosque's opening would then have to be delayed.

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/1/31/virginia-mosque-opening-on-hold-after-vandals-smash-windows.html>, retrieved on 01.02.2012

**32. Two more French mosques daubed with racist graffiti** – On 31 January 2012, a mosque in the Glonnières district of Le Mans was found covered with graffiti reading “Islam out of Europe”, “No Islam” and “France for the French”, which prompted the *Collectif Contre l'islamophobie en France* to observe: “It seems that not a week goes by without a new mosque desecration.”



On Saturday (28 Jan) a mosque in Miramas was also daubed with Islamophobic slogans along with the name of Front National presidential candidate Marine Le Pen. It was the second time in four months that the mosque had experienced such an attack.

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/2/1/two-more-french-mosques-daubed-with-racist-graffiti.html>, retrieved on 02.02.2012

**33. Australia: Man Goes on Rampage in Mosque Attack, Ripping Qurans and Flushing them Down the Toilet** – An Aussie “gentleman” went to a Bosnian mosque in Deer Park on a rampage ripping the Qur’ans (around 50) and flushing them down the toilet. *Loonwatch* described the man as “...a creep who hates Islam and Muslims and is willing to use violence to make his point, including intimidating elderly women. Of course, in the feverish minds of the Islamophobes this man was just practicing “free speech.” \*See Youtube post in: <http://talkbosnia.net/sydneyforum/?p=1067>

In: <http://www.loonwatch.com/2012/02/melbourne-man-goes-on-rampage-in-mosque-ripping-qurans-and-flushing-them-down-the-toilet/>, retrieved on 10.02.2012

**34. Belgium: Pig's mask hung on gate of mosque with slogan 'go back home'** – *Le Soir* reported on 20 February 2012 that someone hung a carnival mask representing a pig on the gate of the mosque at Marchienne-au-Pont on 17 February 2012 night, provoking the indignation of the local Muslim community. The act was carried out between 8pm and 11.45pm. The mask was of a pig on which the words “go back home” were written in black marker. This was the second incident in less than a year at this place of worship. On 25 July 2011, individuals broke into the building and desecrated it. The act also recalled a similar event in April 2011, at the site of a future mosque in Lodelinsart. A real pig's head had been left there and swastikas drawn. The investigation had never identified the perpetrators.

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/2/20/pigs-mask-hung-on-gate-of-belgian-mosque-with-slogan-go-back.html>, retrieved on 21.02.2012

**35. France: fascist graffiti and 'Stop Islamisation' sticker on mosque** – *AFP* reported that a swastika, Nazi symbols and an Islamophobic sticker were found on 26 February 2012 morning on the wall of the mosque in Escaudain, in northern France. The discovery was made by children who had come to take part in activities during school holidays. According to spokesperson Soufiane Iquioussen, the mosque had been desecrated with graffiti in 2004 and shots were fired at the building.



Meanwhile, there was a belief that it was the far-right racists who were responsible for both incidents.

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/2/26/fascist-graffiti-and-stop-islamisation-sticker-on-french-mos.html> & <http://islamineurope.blogspot.com/2012/02/france-retaliation-attack-against.html>, retrieved on 27.02.2012

**36. US: CAIR Seeks Bias Probe of Calif. Mosque Vandalism** – The Sacramento Valley office of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-SV) on 24 March 2012 called on the FBI and local law enforcement authorities to investigate a possible bias motive for vandalism targeting a West Sacramento mosque. Vandals reportedly threw three rocks through a window of the almost-completed Masjid Aisha (formerly the West Sacramento Islamic Community Center) on the previous night as two worshippers prayed inside. CAIR-SV Executive Director Basim Elkarra said: “Whenever a house of worship is targeted in this manner, the possibility of a bias motive must be considered.” In 2009, vandals broke into the back door of the previous mosque on the site and damaged religious wall hangings and a bookshelf that held Qurans. The vandals also stole items from the mosque.

In: <http://www.marketwatch.com/story/cair-seeks-bias-probe-of-calif-mosque-vandalism-2012-03-24>, retrieved on 26.03.2012

**37. Germany: Berlin's largest mosque targeted in hate crime attack** – Berlin's largest mosque had been targeted in an Islamophobic attack in the German capital's predominantly migrant district of Neukoelln. Unknown assailants threw several paint bombs at Sehlik mosque on 07 April 2012 night. They also placed an insulting anti-Islam picture at the entrance to the building. Berlin police said that a threatening letter had been sent to the mosque recently. The Sehlik Mosque had been the target of four arson attacks over since 2009. Berlin mosques had been the scene of at least seven fire bombings since June 2010.

In: <http://www.presstv.ir/detail/235438.html>, retrieved on 10.04.2012

**38. UK: Racist attacks on Islamic centre in Altrincham** – Hale’s Islamic Cultural Centre had been hit by a series of series of racially motivated attacks in March 2012. The Grove Lane site had had windows smashed four times overnight since 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012, with items as large as house bricks and coping stones. CCTV was installed in the hope of deterring more attacks at the Centre, home to an interfaith community group.

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/4/25/racist-attacks-on-islamic-centre-in-altrincham.html>, retrieved on 26.04.2012

**39. US: Threat letter to Islamic Center: We have no problem killing Muslims** – According to the Islamic Center of Charlotte’s director, Jibril Hough, the center received a letter threatening physical violence against Muslims. The letter was just one of several sent to Islamic centers around North Carolina. Charlotte police and the Federal Bureau of Investigations started investigating the letter, which, according to Hough, gave “...some very derogatory and racial epitaphs, using the ‘N’ word a couple of times in different phrases...And then it ends with the threat that if we decide for any kind of retaliation based on this letter – that they have no problem killing Muslims legally, if we tried anything, so consider yourselves advised.” The letter ends, in part, “**We are prepared for the Muslim war that is going on overseas to begin in the streets right here.**” It was signed, but Hough said he did not know if the name on the letter was actually the person who wrote it.

In: <http://www.islamophobiatoday.com/2012/04/25/threat-letter-to-islamic-center-we-have-no-problem-killing-muslims/>, retrieved on 26.04.2012, emphasis added.

**40. Nazi graffiti on mosque in south-west France** – On 21 May 2012 night, a swastika and Nazi symbols were sprayed at the mosque of the El Mouhsinine Muslim association in Tarascon-sur-Ariège. Police had launched an investigation. In fact, this was the third mosque that had been vandalized over the third week of May 2012.



Des croix gammées ont été taguées à l'entrée d'une salle de prière du culte musulman à Draguignan.

Racist insults and Nazi slogans were also scrawled on a mosque in the eastern city of Strasbourg on 22 and 23 May 2012 and in the southern town of Draguignan a mosque was vandalized 17 May 2012.

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/5/23/nazi-graffiti-on-mosque-in-south-west-france.html>, [http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/europe/3-french-mosques-vandalized-muslim-group-urges-politicians-to-speak-out/2012/05/24/gJQA2aDgmU\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/europe/3-french-mosques-vandalized-muslim-group-urges-politicians-to-speak-out/2012/05/24/gJQA2aDgmU_story.html) & <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/5/24/french-muslim-group-denounces-mosque-vandalism.html>, retrieved on 25.05.2012

**41. Spain: far right tries to exploit opposition to new mosque** – The mosque in Torrejón de Ardoz did not look much like a mosque. It occupied the ground floor of a drab block of flats near the main square in this town of 120,000 inhabitants just east of Madrid. But for the last decade and a half, it had been the only place of worship for Muslims here. After local Muslims had bought land for a new mosque, a dispute was taken on a national tinge during the months of June and July 2012, with the intervention of a far-right politician from Catalonia, several hundred miles to the northeast. Josep Anglada, leader of the Platform for Catalonia anti-immigration party, visited Torrejón at the end of

June, and staged a rally against the mosque and the “Islamisation” of Spain. He said: **“We don’t want any mosques in Torrejón or anywhere else in Spain...The mosque will bring degradation, violence, hate and fanaticism.”**

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/7/10/spain-far-right-tries-to-exploit-opposition-to-new-mosque.html>, retrieved on 10.07.2012, emphasis added.

**42. UK: Opponents Organize Petition against New Mosque in Sutton** – Plans for a new mosque in Worcester Park had been met with fierce opposition. Businesses and residents had joined forces to sign a petition to ensure the plans did not go ahead. Petitions had been seen in various shops along Central Road which claimed the increased traffic would bring the area to a standstill. One businessman said: “It’s not just the traffic but I’m being diplomatic. This cannot happen.” There was also, predictably, a *Facebook* page titled “Ban the Worcester Park, Green Lane Mosque”. Its wider objective was to “Ban the every growing building of Mosques in and around the surrounding area Epsom and Ewell”.

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/7/25/sutton-opponents-organise-petition-against-new-mosque.html>, retrieved on 28.07.2012



**43. France: Pigs’ heads and blood left at mosque** – Muslims attending morning prayers on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2012 were confronted by two pigs’ heads in the entrance to their mosque in Toulouse. The incident in Montauban was described as a “racist provocation” by a watchdog which monitors anti-Islamic actions in France and as an “odious and blasphemous act” by the Montauban mayor, Brigitte Bareges.

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/8/1/pigs-heads-and-blood-left-at-french-mosque.html>, retrieved on 02.08.2012

**44. UK: Vandals attack Islamic centre in Surrey** – Vandals had attacked an Islamic centre in Horley. The centre on the corner of High Street and Yattendon Road was vandalized in the early hours of 05 August 2012. Alcohol and eggs were thrown at the building and graffiti was sprayed across its main door. A police spokesman said the graffiti was later removed by people at the centre.

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/8/7/vandals-attack-islamic-centre-in-surrey.html>, retrieved on 07.08.2012

**45. US: On Heels of July 4<sup>th</sup> Arson Attack, Joplin Islamic Mosque Burned to the Ground in Second Fire** – The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) was offering a \$10,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of whoever may have caused the fire. The Washington-based Muslim civil rights organization was in touch with the FBI about the case. CAIR called for stepped-up police protection at Muslim institutions and other houses of worship throughout USA after hearing about the Joplin fire and after 05 August 2012’s deadly shooting at a Sikh temple in Wisconsin.



Mosque leaders said they were stunned by the fire, but were planning to continue their religious observances. Another fire, which was deemed arson, was reported at the same building on 04 July 2012. Authorities released surveillance video of the suspect, but no arrests had been made.

In: <http://www.islamophobiatoday.com/2012/08/06/on-heels-of-july-4th-arson-attack-joplin-islamic-mosque-burned-to-the-ground-in-second-fire/>, retrieved on 07.08.2012

**46. Charges against Morton Grove man in connection with shooting at mosque** - A 51-year-old



man, David Conrad, was charged with shooting at a mosque he lived near in north suburban Morton Grove, according to authorities who confiscated a “high-velocity air rifle” from his home. He was charged with three counts of aggravated discharge of a firearm and one count of criminal damage to property, all felonies. The FBI was not investigating the incident.

In: [http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/suburbs/morton\\_grove/chi-suburban-mosque-says-someone-shot-air-rifle-at-wall-20120811.0.4797145.story](http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/suburbs/morton_grove/chi-suburban-mosque-says-someone-shot-air-rifle-at-wall-20120811.0.4797145.story), retrieved on 13.08.2012

**47. Canada: Mosque Threats Terrify Victoria Muslims** - A commissioner for the Canadian city of Victoria Coast Guard threatened to blow up a new mosque in Victoria. The commissioner, identified as Dan Speed, wrote on *Facebook*: “I Love Downtown Victoria...That’s not good... Blast it with an 84 mm Carl Gustaf,” he said, referring to anti-tank artillery capable of firing explosives. He said the new mosque, set to open in November 2012, would cause “noise pollution for the neighborhood...Five times a day, I believe.” He ended his post with “A call to Allah (sic).”

In: <http://www.onislam.net/english/news/asia-pacific/458705-mosque-threats-terrify-victoria-muslims.html>, retrieved on 23.08.2012

**48. French Mosque Smearred With Excrement In Limoges** - The outside of a mosque in a French city had been smeared with excrement, the latest in a series of vandalism incidents involving Muslim places of worship in the country. The Limoges mosque in central France was vandalized in July 2012 with Nazi symbols scrawled on its doors. In the latest incident, excrement was smeared on the doors and elsewhere before dawn of 11 September 2012.

In: [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/09/12/france-mosque-attack-smeared-excrement\\_n\\_1878504.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/09/12/france-mosque-attack-smeared-excrement_n_1878504.html), retrieved on 13.09.2012

**49. France: Arson attack on mosque in Condé-sur-Escaut** - According to the CFCM (French Council of the Muslim Faith) the mosque at Condé-sur-l’Escaut in northern France was the victim of an arson attack on the night of 14 September 2012. When worshippers arrived for the morning prayer, two outbreaks of fire along with the remains of two fuses were discovered. Only the handles of two windows were burned.

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/9/15/arson-attack-on-mosque-in-conde-sur-escaut.html>, retrieved on 17.09.2012

**50. Russia: protest leads to cancellation of new Islamic centre** - On 19 September 2012, up to 2,000 people rallied in a Moscow neighborhood, Mitino, after local authorities announced the building of a Muslim cultural center and mosque in the area. The protest ended with officials being forced to cancel the planned construction. Disaffection towards Muslims was evidenced in some online comments on the event. For example, one of the comments read: “I am firmly against it! We are flooded with those aliens, and now they want to have this insult standing virtually under my window... Let them build it outside of Moscow. There is plenty space there, so they all shove off there.”

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/9/20/moscow-protest-leads-to-cancellation-of-new-islamic-centre.html>, retrieved on 22.09.2012

**51. France: Vandoeuvre mosque desecrated with Kahanist graffiti** - The Collectif contre L’islamophobie en France reported about a graffiti attack on a mosque at Vandoeuvre in north-eastern France.



The word “Israel” in Hebrew had been sprayed onto the doors along with a Star of David and “LDJ” – the initials of the Ligue de défense juive (Jewish Defence League), the extreme right-wing Kahanist movement.

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/9/28/vandoeuvre-mosque-desecrated-with-kahanist-graffiti.html>, retrieved on 29.09.2012

**52. UK: EDL members distribute anti-Islam pamphlets at Margate mosque** – Police were called to keep the peace after English Defence League (EDL) demonstrators targeted Muslim worshippers outside Margate mosque. Two men handed out anti-Islamic propaganda before Friday prayers on 21 September 2012, angering some members of the congregation who then reported the incident to police. Salah Ansari, the imam at Margate mosque, said worshippers complained of EDL members distributing offensive leaflets outside.

In: <http://www.thisiskent.co.uk/EDL-members-distribute-anti-Islam-pamphlets/story-17003588-detail/story.html>, retrieved on 29.09.2012

**53. UK: Racist vandals hit Muslim community centre** – Vandals struck at a Preston community centre and daubed the walls with racist graffiti, including the Nazi Swastika symbols. The Hamaara Centre, at the rear of Castleton Road, Deepdale, Preston, was broken into and windows and furniture were smashed by the offenders. The centre, run by Preston Muslim Forum, was used for English classes, youth clubs and mother and toddler groups.

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/5/28/racist-vandals-hit-muslim-community-centre.html>, retrieved on 29.05.2012

## II. Desecration of Muslim Graves:

**1. Racist slogans found on Muslim graves in French military cemetery** – About 30 Muslim graves had been desecrated in Carcassonne, south-west France. A legal inquiry had been launched to find the perpetrators and punish them. The caretaker of the military cemetery of Saint-Michel de la ville discovered racist and Nazi slogans daubed on the gravestones when he closed up on 17 September 2011. The graves belonged to Muslims killed fighting for France during World War I and were immediately repainted and restored. The graffiti were “really racist” and “particularly disgusting”, according to Carcassonne prosecutor Antoine Leroy, who had opened an inquiry into the incident.

In: <http://www.english.rfi.fr/france/20110918-racist-slogans-found-muslim-graves-french-military-cemetery>, retrieved on 19.09.2011

**2. France: Muslim war graves attacked** – Thirty war graves of Muslim soldiers who fought in World War I have been attacked and defaced in the southern city of Carcassonne. Racist insults and swastikas were painted on the graves, which are identified by the Islamic symbols of the star and crescent. Slogans including “France for the French” and “Arabs out” were painted on some of the gravestones, reported daily newspaper *Le Figaro*. The graves of Muslim soldiers in the same graveyard were attacked earlier in September 2011.



In: <http://www.thelocal.fr/2130/20111227/>, retrieved on 28.12.2011

**3. France: Muslim cemetery desecrated with swastikas and racist slogans** – The French press reported that a Muslim cemetery in Carros near Nice had been desecrated. Swastikas were sprayed on nine graves and the slogans “Arabs out” and “Long live Le Pen” on the cemetery wall.



In the first round of the presidential election the Front National candidate Marine Le Pen topped the poll in this Socialist-run commune with 27.12% of the vote, ahead of

Sarkozy on 26.97% and Hollande on 22.27%. Meanwhile a Front National spokesperson has claimed that the graffiti could well be the work of Muslim youth acting at the behest of politicians who wanted to discredit the FN.

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/4/30/france-muslim-cemetery-desecrated-with-swastikas-and-racist.html>, retrieved on 01.05.2012

**4. US: Muslim Graves Desecrated in the Chicago Suburb of Evergreen Park** - The hate attacks continued in the US. Below is the picture of a Muslim man's grave with the words "Raghaed killer!" vandalized by racist Islamophobes.

On 16 August 2012, a Palestinian American man went to pay respects to his deceased father at Evergreen Cemetery and was horrified to see anti-Muslim hate graffiti on a number of Muslim graves. Evergreen Cemetery is home to at least 500 Muslim graves. Cemetery officials and the police have been notified. The cemetery is located at 3401 West 87<sup>th</sup> Street, Evergreen Park, IL 60805.



The hate graffiti in the pics below reads "Mohamad is a liar & a Fagit We Whont Be taken Alive!"



In: <http://www.islamophobiatoday.com/2012/08/17/muslim-graves-desecrated-in-the-chicago-suburb-of-evergreen-park/>, retrieved on 18.08.2012

**5. UK: Racists vandalize Muslim graves in Leeds cemetery** - The grave of one of the London bombers was vandalized along with others in a cemetery in Leeds. The plot holding the remains of Hasib Hussain at Cottingley Cemetery was damaged and had racist graffiti scrawled on it. A number of graves in the Muslim section were damaged, prompting increased police patrols. Headstones were pulled over and offensive expressions scratched on to the stonework. Muslim graves in Cottingley Cemetery had been targeted by racists before, in April 2007.

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/6/16/racists-vandalise-muslim-graves-in-leeds-cemetery.html>, retrieved on 17.06.2012

### III. Political and Social Campaigns against Islam and Muslims:

**1. US, Temecula: Anti-Islam Group Descends on High School** - A Temecula-based anti-Islam group,



*Concerned Citizens for the First Amendment*, perched themselves on the sidewalk outside Murrieta Valley High School on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2011, handing out fliers to students walking by. A person unaffiliated with the group stood across the street from the high school, holding yellow signs that read, "Islam = Hate," and, "Say No 2 Islam."

The letter handed out was the same one the group gave to students outside Chaparral High School in January 2011. Seventh grade students in the Murrieta Valley Unified School District learn about the history of Islam as part of Social Studies. The letter accused teachers of

lying about Islam. The flier stated: “Did you know you were subjected to some really serious brainwashing when you were in the seventh grade, and that it is continuing even today?...That means you have been fed a bunch of lies. Lies can mess up your life forever. Do you like being lied to?”

In: <http://www.islamophobiatoday.com/2011/05/04/temecula-anti-islam-group-descends-on-high-school/> retrieved on 05.05.2011

**2. France: Far-right anti-Islam protestors in Lyon** – AFP reported that nearly 500 far-right activists gathered in Lyon on 14 May 2011 to protest against halal meat and the “Islamisation of France”. The *Bloc Identitaire* had originally intended to hold a “March of the Pigs” through the city but after that had been banned they had to settle for a static “rally for freedom” instead. *Bloc Identitaire* president Fabrice Robert told the protestors that “Islamisation is a reality in France” while the crowd chanted “Islam out of Europe”, threw smoke bombs and vandalized a kebab restaurant.

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2011/5/14/far-right-anti-islam-protestors-in-lyon-outnumbered-by-count.html> retrieved on 15.05.2011

**3. Islam a threat to Western freedom, Wilders tells Toronto audience** – Geert Wilders told a packed house on 9 May 2011 night in Toronto that the presence of Muslims in Canada threatened the country’s freedoms and democracy, and only if immigration from Islamic countries was suspended could the cultural deterioration of the country be stopped, adding: “Our Western culture is far superior to Islamic culture...And only once we are convinced of this will we be able to defend our civilization.”

The event, held at the Canadian Christian College in north Toronto, marked Mr. Wilders’ second stop on a three-city tour. The visit, his first to Canada, was sponsored by the *International Free Press Society*. Charles McVety, president of the Christian College, introduced Mr. Wilders to an ebullient crowd as a man with “a prophetic message”.

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2011/5/10/islam-a-threat-to-western-freedom-wilders-tells-toronto-audi.html> retrieved on 11.05.2011

**4. Israeli deputy minister joins with Belgian far right to warn against ‘growing Islamisation of the West’** – Belgian Jews reacted with surprise at news that a member of the Israeli government met in the first week of June 2011 with a leader of the Flemish extreme-right party *Vlaams Belang* in Antwerp. Ayoub Kara, a Druze and Deputy Minister for the Development of Galilee and the Negev, met with Filip Dewinter who hosted him in the Flemish parliament followed by a meeting with other European extreme-rightist politicians and a visit to the heavily Muslim populated area of Antwerp North. According to the Flemish party, the visit came several months after a visit of Dewinter in Israel. At a joint press conference Dewinter explained the need to warn against the growing Islamization of the West.



In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2011/6/4/israeli-deputy-minister-joins-with-belgian-far-right-to-warn.html>, retrieved on 05.06.2011

**5. US: Pastor Terry Jones fights sharia in Dearborn** – In order to save America from Muslim takeover, Mr. Jones suggested the American government to implement a five-point plan. As he said, it would allow the country to escape the darkness, obscurantism and negative energy that were being implanted in America. The elements of Jones’ “Five-fold Plan to Save America and Create a Better World” included:

1. Demand freedom of speech, civil and human rights from all Muslim countries, or require their immediate removal from the U.N.

2. The immediate end of Muslim immigration and the removal of all illegal aliens from the United States.
3. Monitor mosques to ensure that they are places of worship, not of Islamic propaganda.
4. Positions of authority and decision making in US embassies in Islamic countries must be held by non-Muslims.
5. A ban on sharia everywhere in the United States.

In: <http://communities.washingtontimes.com/neighborhood/eye-storm/2011/jun/9/pastor-terry-jones-fights-sharia-dearborn/> retrieved on 11.06.2011

**6. UK: Baroness Cox introduces anti-Sharia bill** - A new Bill was introduced to the British Parliament to tackle the problem of Sharia courts in England and Wales. Under the Bill, it would become a crime punishable by up to five years in prison to falsely claim legal jurisdiction over criminal or family law. The Bill was introduced to Parliament on 7 June 2011 by Baroness Cox who said: "Equality under the law is a core value of British justice. My Bill seeks to preserve that standard...I am deeply concerned about the treatment of Muslim women by Sharia courts. We must do all that we can to make sure they are free from any coercion, intimidation or unfairness." The Bill was supported by a wide range of groups, including *The Christian Institute* and the *National Secular Society*.

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2011/6/8/baroness-cox-introduces-anti-sharia-bill.html> retrieved on 11.06.2011

**7. UK: EDL thugs stage anti-Islam protest** - The racist and fascist group, the English Defence League (EDL), staged a protest against Islam in four towns and cities across Britain. The anti-Islam group's largest protest happened in Cambridge, where they opposed the plans to build a mosque in the Mill Road area.



While the English Defense League claimed on their *Facebook* page to "protect and promote the Human Rights" and "promote Democracy and the rule of law by opposing Sharia", analysts attributed the sudden formation and rise of the racist group to mounting support from politicians and the media for Islamophobia in Britain. Consequently, insulting, ignoring, and caricaturing Islam and Muslim communities was considered as acceptable, since these defaming ways were judged as part of culture, not symptoms

of racial discrimination. Critics complained that the EDL was openly intimidating the Muslim residents across Britain with impunity, with the British government allowing the blatant provocation under the pretext of freedom of speech.

In: <http://www.presstv.ir/detail/188414.html>, retrieved on 11.07.2011

**8. Right wing warns against threat of 'Islamisation' in the Czech Republic, where Muslims are 0.1% of the population** - The twin terror attacks in Norway had refocused attention on Islamophobia in Europe and in Czech Republic were sparking questions about a recent decision to use taxpayer money to fund an anti-Islamic campaign group. Imrich Dioszegi, a spokesman for the Hradec Králové Regional Authority, said: "I can confirm it...The council supports two [campaign] groups of a similar name with a total amount of 15,000 Kč [= 620.5 EUR]."



Those groups, both going by the name AntiMešita, or anti-mosque and headed by Valentin Kusák, who said their goal was to "fight against the Islamization of the Czech Republic," adding: "A month ago, we got a financial gift for our activities from the Hradec Králové region, which really delighted us...This gift will help us to cover our expenses."

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2011/7/28/right-wing-warns-against-threat-of-islamisation-in-the-czech.html> retrieved on 29.07.2010

9. **US: Joe Lieberman Says U.S. Should Cut Social Security to Pay for Fighting ‘The Islamist Extremists’** – In April 2011, right-wing war hawk John Bolton suggested during an interview on *Fox News* that the United States should cut Social Security and Medicare to finance the defense budget. During debate over the debt deal on 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2011 on the Senate floor, Sen. Joe Lieberman (I-CT) appeared to endorse this call. Lieberman explained that he was working with Sen. Tom Coburn (R-OK) on a Social Security spending reduction plan and that “we can’t protect these entitlements and also have the national defense...to protect us...with Islamist extremists”, adding: “I want to indicate today to my colleagues that Senator Coburn and I are working again on a bipartisan proposal to secure Social Security over the long term, we hope to have that done in time. To also forward to the special committee for their consideration. **So, bottom line, we can’t protect these entitlements and also have the national defense we need to protect us in a dangerous world while we’re at war with Islamist extremists who attacked us on 9/11 and will be for a long time to come.**”

In: <http://www.islamophobiatoday.com/2011/08/02/joe-liberman-says-u-s-should-cut-social-security-to-pay-for-fighting-%E2%80%98the-islamist-extremists%E2%80%99/>, retrieved on 03.08.2011, emphasis in the original.

10. **US: Group Sues Rick Scott to Prevent Pro-Islam, Anti-Evolution Bias in Public School Textbooks** – *Citizens for National Security*, a Boca Raton (Miami)-based group dedicated itself to identifying pro-Islam bias in textbooks, had filed suit against the state of Florida, Gov. Rick Scott, and the state’s Department of Education, claiming that a new law concerning the review of textbooks would not do enough to make sure that Florida students did not get any sort of funny ideas that Islam is not dangerous. Oddly, the group was also concerned that the same textbooks may try to ignore evolution. *Citizens for National Security*’s main goal seemed to be keeping pro-Islam material out of schools. Their website claimed they had undertaken a 14-month investigation of textbooks in Florida, and “...found and documented numerous passages in a variety of history and geography textbooks that blatantly enhance Islam while demeaning Christianity and Judaism... [and]... have identified more than 80 textbooks that contain clearly offensive passages of this nature.”

In: [http://blogs.miaminewtimes.com/riptide/2011/08/group\\_sues\\_rick\\_scott\\_to\\_preve.php](http://blogs.miaminewtimes.com/riptide/2011/08/group_sues_rick_scott_to_preve.php), retrieved on 11.08.2011

11. **Canadian PM says ‘Islamicism’ biggest threat to Canada** – In an exclusive interview with *CBC News*, Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper said the biggest security threat to Canada a decade after 9/11 was Islamic terrorism. In a wide-ranging interview with *CBC* chief correspondent Peter Mansbridge, Harper also said Canada was safer than it was on Sept. 11, 2001, when al-Qaeda attacked the U.S., but that “the major threat is still Islamicism...There are other threats out there, but that is the one that I can tell you occupies the security apparatus most regularly in terms of actual terrorist threats.” Harper said terrorism by Islamic radicals was still the top threat, though a “diffuse” one, adding: “When people think of Islamic terrorism, they think of Afghanistan, or maybe they think of some place in the Middle East, but the truth is that threat exists all over the world,” citing domestic terrorism in Nigeria. The prime minister said home-grown Islamic radicals in Canada were “also something that we keep an eye on.”

Harper said his government would bring back anti-terrorism clauses that were brought in 2001 but were sunset in 2007 amid heated political debate. There were two clauses at the heart of the debate:

- One allowed police to arrest suspects without a warrant and detain them for three days without charges if police believed a terrorist act may have been committed.
- The other allowed a judge to compel a witness to testify in secret about past associations or perhaps pending acts under penalty of going to jail if the witness didn’t comply.

Neither clause was used by police or prosecutors in the five years before they expired. In October 2006, a parliamentary committee recommended extending the two provisions. The Conservatives put forward a proposal to keep the measures in place for three more years, but the three opposition parties united to defeat the proposal in February 2007 by a 159-124 vote. The rest of the legislation remained in force. When asked by Mansbridge if he would try to bring those laws back, Harper replied: “That is our plan... We think those measures are necessary. We think they’ve been useful... And as you know ... they’re applied rarely, but there are times where they’re needed.”

In: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/story/2011/09/06/harper-911-terrorism-islamic-interview.html>, retrieved on 12.09.2011

**12. UK: Fascists promote petition to ban sharia law** – The British National Party was promoting an e-petition calling on the government to ban sharia law in the UK. BNP leader Nick Griffin was quoted as saying: “The Muslim community are pushing ahead with setting up sharia law in parts of Britain and are banking on little opposition because of people’s fears of being branded ‘racists’ if they dare to voice their objections. It is important that the Government know that the British people will not allow Sharia Law to be established in Britain through the back door.”

The petition read:

*The tacit acceptance of Sharia Law into the United Kingdom threatens the rights and freedoms of all citizens. Sharia Law is barbaric, oppressive and demeaning. The laws under which the citizens of the United Kingdom are expected to live are enacted by our elected representatives at Westminster. No individual, nor any group should be allowed to introduce Sharia Law in any area of the country without the full approval of all UK citizens. Until the citizens of the United Kingdom give their approval to introduce Sharia Law, by voting for it via the ballot box, the Government should end their current acquiescence on this subject and take all necessary measures to uphold the law of the land.*

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2011/11/23/fascists-promote-petition-to-ban-sharia-law.html>, retrieved on 24.11.2011

**13. Sweden: Sweden Democrats adds opposition to Islam to party program** – The Sweden Democrats had singled out Islam as the religion which clashed most with Swedish culture. This was the first time the party stated its opposition to Islam in its party program. The new program said, in part, as follows:

*Islam and particularly its strong political and fundamentalist branch is, according to the view of the Sweden Democrats, a **religious ideology** which has proven itself to have the **most difficulty to harmoniously coexist with Swedish and Western culture**. Islamism’s impact on Swedish society should therefore be **counteracted** as much as possible and **immigration from Muslim countries** with strong elements of fundamentalism should **be severely limited**.*

In: <http://islamineurope.blogspot.com/2011/11/sweden-sweden-democrats-adds-opposition.html>, retrieved on 28.11.2011, emphasis added.

**14. Brussels/Turkey: Minister goes ballistic against far-right MEP in caricature row** – A gathering of Turkish and European parliamentarians in Brussels turned eventful on 29 November 2011 when a far-right Dutch deputy lambasted Islam and Turkey and then attempted to present a caricature deemed criminal by Turkish prosecutors as a “gift” to a Turkish minister.

Barry Madlener, a Dutch politician from the Party for Freedom (PVV), first caused tensions when he said at a meeting of the European Union-Turkey Joint Parliamentary Committee that Turkey did not belong to Europe because it has a “backward Islamic ideology” that does not fit with European values. Madlener said: “Islam and freedoms cannot coexist.”

In: <http://islamineurope.blogspot.com/2011/11/brusselsturkey-minister-goes-ballistic.html>, retrieved on 01.12.2011

**15. US: Companies pull ads from Muslim reality TV show** – Lowe’s, the US national hardware chain, had pulled commercials from future episodes of “All-American Muslim,” a TLC reality-TV show, after protests by Christian groups. *The Florida Family Association*, a Tampa Bay group, had led a campaign

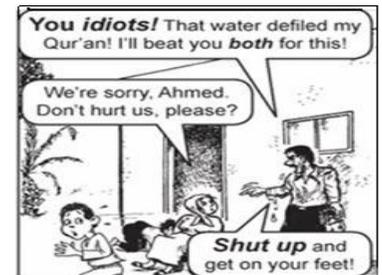
urging companies to pull ads on “All-American Muslim.” The FFA contended that 65 of 67 companies it had targeted had pulled their ads, including Bank of America, the Campbell Soup Co., Dell, Estee Lauder, General Motors, Goodyear, Green Mountain Coffee, McDonalds, Sears, and Wal-Mart. The Florida group asserted in a letter it asked members to send to TLC advertisers:

*‘All-American Muslim’ is propaganda clearly designed to counter legitimate and present-day concerns about many Muslims who are advancing Islamic fundamentalism and Sharia law...The show profiles only Muslims that appear to be ordinary folks while excluding many Islamic believers whose agenda poses a clear and present danger to the liberties and traditional values that the majority of Americans cherish.*

Lowe had acknowledged pulling commercials from “All-American Muslim” following consumer complaints, but denied they came from one group.

In: [http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/on-faith/companies-pull-ads-from-muslim-reality-tv-show/2011/12/09/gIQANywmIO\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/on-faith/companies-pull-ads-from-muslim-reality-tv-show/2011/12/09/gIQANywmIO_story.html), retrieved on 11.12.2012

**16. Australia: Anti-Muslim leaflets distributed in Canberra** – Leaders of Canberra’s Muslim community were surprised and saddened by offensive anti-Islamic pamphlets distributed to homes throughout Queanbeyan over the Christmas holidays. Householders in Queanbeyan received the material depicting a Muslim man physically abusing a woman and a child and an Islamic elder condoning the violence as acceptable to his faith.



In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/1/3/anti-muslim-leaflets-distributed-in-canberra.html>, retrieved on 04.01.2011

**17. US: Virginia Anti-Shari’ah Bill Irks Muslims** – The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) criticized a new proposed Virginia bill to ban courts from considering any religious codes in litigation, confirming that the bill was a new step towards effort to stigmatize Muslims and undermine their religious traditions. CAIR confirmed that the bill was drafted by anti-Islam activist David Yerushalmi, a 56-year-old Hasidic Jew with a history of controversial statements about race, immigration and Islam, managed to gain the support of prominent Washington figures.

Titled Morris’ HB631, the new bill was introduced by Virginia General Assembly Delegate Rick L. Morris (R-House District 64) on 11 January 2011. The anti-Shari’ah new proposed law would ban courts from applying religious traditions to proceedings, such as the execution of a will among Muslims.

In: <http://www.onislam.net/english/news/americas/455487-virginia-anti-shariah-bill-irks-muslims.html>, retrieved on 22.01.2012

**18. Belgian politician risks Muslim backlash after using teenage daughter dressed in burka and bikini for campaign against Islam** – A Belgian politician had risked causing uproar among Muslims after starting a “Women Against Islamization” campaign featuring his 19-year-old daughter wearing a burka and a bikini. Filip Dewinter, leader of the far-right Vlaams Belang party, used a shot of his daughter An-Sofie Dewinter in the dark blue bikini for the political campaign. The glamorous teenager donned a burka that covered her head and face, while the rest of the Muslim garment was draped over her back. The provocative image was likely to inflame tensions among Islamic groups and nationalists in the racially-divided country. The poster showed the words “Freedom or Islam?” written on a red bar across Ms Dewinter’s breasts. Further down the poster a black panel with the words “You choose!” is seen covering the teenager’s crotch.

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/2/3/belgian-politician-risks-muslim-backlash-after-using-teenage.html>, retrieved on 04.02.2012

**19. US: right-wing Islamophobe trains deputies** – A group that stated on their website that the “Islamic Movement” was a “threat to our civil liberties” was training deputies in Rutherford County on the 3<sup>rd</sup>

week of February 2012. Deputies from the Rutherford County Sheriff's Department were getting three days of training from *Strategic Engagement Group*, a Washington-based nonprofit that said its purpose was to counter the Unified Islamic movement in the United States.

The debate concerning construction of an Islamic Center in Rutherford County had been the subject of much debate over the last few years. The project's faced a court fight, vandalism and arson. Tennessee Freedom Coalition, which openly opposed the new mosque, hired the Washington-based nonprofit. On 13 February 2012, *Strategic Engagement Group* held a free seminar for the community, John Guandolo, the vice president of the *Strategic Engagement Group*, spoke at the event about Hamas and its plan to destroy Western civilization from within, and spoke of Islamic centers as potential military compounds. The event was held at the World Outreach Church in Murfreesboro, which had been a vocal opponent of the new Islamic Center being built in Rutherford County.

In: <http://www.islamophobiatoday.com/2012/02/16/murfreesboro-right-wing-islamophobe-trains-deputies/>, retrieved on 17.02.2012

**20. CAIR asks FBI to probe anti-Muslim Facebook death threat** – The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) on 19 Feb called on the FBI to investigate a death threat posted on its *Facebook* page by a person claiming to be in the U.S. military.

A man who says he was an “M1 Abrams Armor Crewman” who lived in Colorado Springs, Colo., threatened to kill others who commented on an article posted on 18 February 2012 on CAIR's *Facebook* page. In a series of comments on CAIR's page, “Edward Veal” wrote: “no more islam! i will kill any who try to make my country muslim!...especially repliers to this post...all muslims are terrorists, they should have no rights at all...if i find out who you are, i will find you...and remove you!” [Grammatical errors maintained.]



CAIR National Communications Director Ibrahim Hooper said: “Death threats like those posted on CAIR's *Facebook* page should be taken seriously by the FBI and by local law enforcement authorities, particularly given the access the person who allegedly made the threat would have to military-grade weapons.” Hooper added that CAIR would also report the threat to relevant Pentagon officials.

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/2/19/cair-asks-fbi-to-probe-anti-muslim-facebook-death-threat.html>, retrieved on 19.02.2012

**21. UK: Meet the British lawyer fighting Islam, one parking ticket at a time** – The *Mosquebusters*, or the Law and Freedom Foundation as they came to be officially known, became a part of a new wave of anti-Islamic campaigners in England with links to more established anti-immigrant groups such as *England Is Ours* and *Stop Islamisation of Europe*. Bobby, known as The Lawman, launched the *Mosquebusters* website in 2011, but the group had been working behind the scenes for longer. It offered legal expertise, pro bono, to anyone disputing the construction of a mosque in England, and it had a growing web presence. Until mid-February 2012, the *Mosquebusters* advertised for volunteers, under a campaign called “No More Mosques”, on the website of the ultra-nationalist English Defence League (EDL), a group that had been organizing anti-Islamic street marches that often descended into brawls, riots, and arrests.

In: <http://islamineurope.blogspot.com/2012/02/uk-meet-british-lawyer-fighting-islam.html> & [http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2012/02/22/inside\\_the\\_mosquebusters](http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2012/02/22/inside_the_mosquebusters), retrieved on 25.02.2012

22. **US-Florida: anti-Sharia propaganda circulated in Senate** – Anti-Sharia flyers and booklets were circulating the Senate hallways as lawmakers prepared for a possible vote on a measure that would ban foreign law in Florida courts. The materials presented Islam as a threat to the United States, and invoked lawmakers to pass legislation to “save us from an internal attack” and “protect our freedom”. One booklet, distributed by Sen. Alan Hays, R-Umatilla, sponsor of SB 1360, was called “Shari’ah Law: Radical Islam’s threat to the U.S. Constitution”. He said his intent was to educate people on Islam and Sharia Law.

**SHARI'AH LAW: RADICAL ISLAM'S THREAT TO THE U.S. CONSTITUTION**

ACLU American Center for Law & Justice

**Students for the Constitution**

Save us from the persecution of Islam and Shariah Law!

Our religious, political, & peaceful way of life is under attack by Islam and Shariah Law. Save my generation from this ideology that is invading our country and masquerading as a 'religion.'

It's **SEDITION**: They are determined to overthrow our State and our Country.

You're our parents!!

Save us from this internal attack.

**ARTICLE VI: One law of the land: Constitution!**

Islam and Shariah are one and inseparable! They are foreign agendas determined to destroy our Constitution & way of life. It is an enemy of the United States & does not tolerate any other way of life unless it is in submission to this Totalitarian Bulldozer! **Go USA**

No Shariah!

**I Don't Want Islamic Shariah Law in my country because...**

**Today's P.I.**

**Under Shariah law, women**

- have half the rights of men (Sura 2:282)
- must veil themselves in public (Sura 24: 31)
- are inferior to men. (Sura 2: 228)
- may be beaten by their husbands. (Sura 4:34)

**Under Shariah law, sons and daughters**

- do not have religious freedom (Sura 3:19)

**Under Shariah law, non-Muslims**

- have to pay a poll tax to support Islam. (Sura 9:29)
- are subject to banishment, amputation, and death (Sura 5:33)

**No thanks!! And No way!!**

*I may be young, but I'm smart, and I know that these Islamic laws violate American Constitutional law. I am counting on the adults in my family, in my state, and in my country to protect me and my freedom.*

Sincerely,  
The Next Generation of Americans

This is not the fringe but the norm of Tsunami Islam. It hates democracy. Save it! Yes, we go to school and we can read the signs, websites, emails and sensitivity training propaganda!

**SOAR: P.I.**  
Students On Assignment Revealing: Propaganda and Infiltration  
soarplamerica@gmail.com

Hays's bill would ban courts or other legal authorities from using religious or foreign law as a part of a legal decision or contract. For example, Florida law would trump foreign law in marriage, divorce and custody cases. The companion bill passed on 1<sup>st</sup> Mar 2012 in the House by a 92-24 vote.

n: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/3/6/florida-anti-sharia-propaganda-circulated-in-senate.html>, retrieved on 07.03.2012

23. **Norway: Town's police chief warns of the bad sides of Islam** – The newly appointed police chief of Sandnes (Rogaland), Steinar Langholm, said that threats and pressure on Christian converts showed Islam's bad sides. He had previously written letters to the editor to *Aftenbladet* about Islam, saying that protected dhimmis had less rights than Muslims, while the 'unprotected' would be killed if they did not become Muslims. Hamzah Ahmed Rajpoot, a political scientist who thought Langholm spread lies about Islam, said: “This is nonsense and the allegations have no basis, neither in the Koran nor the practice of the Prophet Muhammad.”

Langholm, also a deputy of Progress Party in the Stavanger city council, said he saw in Islam something he did not like, adding: “Islam is a lot. From one extreme to the other. But there are sides of Islam which are problematic in our democracy.”

In: <http://islamineurope.blogspot.com/2012/03/norway-towns-police-chief-warns-of-bad.html>, retrieved on 06.03.2012

24. **US: Tennessee Freedom Coalition Hosts, “The Dangers of Islam” Event** – *The Tennessee Freedom Coalition*, (a group known for its rampant Islamophobia), held a training seminar for law enforcement led by the Strategic Engagement Group the same group that believed there was an “Islamic insurgency” about to take off in the USA. More than 100 Tennessee law enforcement officers, including deputies with the Rutherford County Sheriff's Office, were being trained in the first week of March 2021 in Murfreesboro at the World Outreach Church on New Salem Highway. The Tennessee Freedom Coalition (TFC) and its Director, Lou Ann Zelenik, had been outspoken opponents of plans by the Islamic Center of Murfreesboro to build a new Mosque in Rutherford County.

In: <http://www.loonwatch.com/tag/tennessee-freedom-coalition/>, retrieved on 14.03.2012

**25. French government will bar entry to Qaradawi, says Sarkozy aide** – Henri Guaino, a close aide to President Nicolas Sarkozy, said on 25 March 2012 that the French government would deny entry to an influential Egyptian preacher, Sheikh Yousef al-Qaradawi, if he accepted an invitation from Union of French Islamic Organisations (UOIF), a Muslim umbrella group, to visit France in April 2012. Guaino added: “The French government does not want any extremist preachers entering its territory.”

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/3/25/french-government-will-bar-entry-to-qaradawi-says-sarkozy-ai.html>, retrieved on 26.03.2012

**Related: France bars four more Islamic preachers from entry** – France barred four Islamic preachers - Ikrima al-Sabri, former Grand Mufti of Jerusalem and the Palestinian territories, Egyptian preacher Safwat al-Hijazi, Saudi self-help preacher Ayedh al-Qarni and Saudi imam and Koran reciter Abdallah Basfar - from entering the country on 29 March 2012 after banning prominent preacher Sheikh Youssef al-Qaradawi and another Egyptian cleric who wanted to attend a Muslim conference in Paris. Foreign Minister Alain Juppe and Interior Minister Claude Gueant said in a joint statement the four preachers “call for hate and violence ... and, in the current context, present a strong risk of upsetting public order”.

The Union of French Islamic Organisations (UOIF), considered close to the Muslim Brotherhood, which invited the clerics to an 6-9 April 2012 conference, said it was surprised and hurt by the government’s “manifest determination to prolong a polemic ... based on total ignorance”. The UOIF added that the bans “risk deepening the feeling French Muslims have of being blacklisted and treated with prejudice”. The four preachers - The UOIF said none of them advocated violence. The ministers regretted the UOIF had invited Swiss-born Tariq Ramadan, who teaches at Britain’s Oxford University, but they did not bar him.

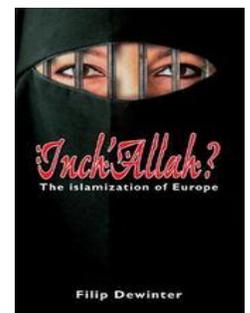
In: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/sns-rt-us-france-islam-bansbre82s15t-20120329.0.7633193.story>, retrieved on 31.03.2012

**26. US: Waukesha, Wisconsin: 200 attend anti-Islam rally** – With the name draw of Walid Shoebat, more than 200 people gathered at the Waukesha Expo Center Saturday on 14 April 2012 night to hear the message that Islam was a growing threat to law and peace in the United States. The rally was an especially strong draw for Brookfield residents who opposed a mosque proposed for the city by the Islamic Society of Milwaukee. Shoebat, who said he was an ex-terrorist, had been confronted about his past by media outlets like CNN, who reported they could find no evidence to support his background story. But he stood by his case that day, saying the media were the real frauds, adding: “Heck, sometimes even FOX News doesn’t even like what I have to say, because I say Islam is not a peace-loving religion...It’s not the mosque I have a problem with...It’s, where is the funding coming from, and will the mosque sign and swear that they will never be sharia?”

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/4/15/waukesha-wisconsin-200-attend-anti-islam-rally.html>, retrieved on 16.04.2012

**27. BNP and Vlaams Belang leaders hook up to produce book on the ‘Islamization of Europe’** – The British National Party had announced that they were selling a “great new book on the Muslim tide, and how to turn it”. The book titled *Inch’Allah? The Islamization of Europe*, authored by Belgian Vlaams Belang leader Filip Dewinter, had the English version translated and edited by none other than the BNP’s own would-be führer Nick Griffin. Indeed, it would appear that Griffin’s role in the production of the book went even further than that – he boasted about the new sections he introduced to improve Dewinter’s original text.

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/4/20/bnp-and-vlaams-belang-leaders-hook>



[up-to-produce-book-on-the.html](http://up-to-produce-book-on-the.html), retrieved on 21.04.2012

28. UK: UKIP candidate: “Koran is worse than Adolf Hitler’s *Mein Kampf*” – A candidate for UKIP compared Islam’s holiest book to Adolf Hitler’s *Mein Kampf*, *Political Scrapbook* could reveal. Academic Julia Gasper – a former Westminster hopeful and current council candidate in Oxford – said the Koran was “fascist” and compared those who defend Islam to holocaust deniers. To compound matters, the rant comes to light as another UKIP candidate was suspended for expressing sympathies with Norwegian mass-murder Anders Breivik.

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/5/1/ukip-candidate-koran-is-worse-than-adolf-hitlers-mein-kampf.html>, retrieved on 02.05.2012, emphasis in the original.

29. US: Israeli candidate running for Congress in Texas pledges to ‘stop Islamization of America’ –



On 29 May 2012, Itamar Gelbman decided to run in the Republican Primary in Texas’s Sixth Congressional District, outside Dallas. He received national attention when Muslims in his district were offended by his campaign flyer in which vowed to “fight the Islamization of America.”

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/5/7/israeli-candidate-running-for-congress-in-texas-pledges-to-s.html>, retrieved on 08.05.2012

30. US: Tea Party candidate for candidate for state rep. compares Muslim women to garbage bags –

In Minnesota, a Tea Party candidate for state representative Cindy Pugh used her Facebook profile to defend Scott Walker, criticize Barack Obama, and boast about her ongoing campaign to defeat incumbent state Rep. Steve Smith, a Republican from Mound. But she also used it recently to compare Muslim women and children clad in traditional Islamic garb to garbage bags. Pugh shared the above photo on 21 May 2012 with the following commentary: “Disturbing ... that women & little girls are OK with dressing like this!!! What will it take for these women to stand up and say, ‘NO’!? Wondering if they will ever do that!” The photo was originally uploaded by “Proud to be an Infidel”, a Muslim-bashing page with the following slogan: “It’s not Islamophobia when they are really trying to kill you.”



In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/6/8/minnesota-tea-party-candidate-for-candidate-for-state-rep-co.html>, retrieved on 09.06.2012

31. Belgium: Vlaams Belang thugs intimidate students at school BBQ – The Belgian press reported that three Vlaams Belang politicians staged a protest at a school in Schoten, where many of the students are Muslims, because it had organised a barbecue that included halal meat. The protestors climbed over the wall into the school grounds and, according to deputy head Jacques Gits, “intimidated the children and pushed pork sausages down their throats”. One of the students, who were aged between 12 and 14, added: “They said that halal meat is not real food and that our stomachs needed filling”. Vlaams Belang claimed that they were responding to objections by parents to the “halal barbecue”, although the school itself said that the only complaint it received was one anonymous phone call. In:

### Vlaams Belang shockeert met varkensworsten

Vl'ers vallen binnen op vermeende halal barbecue



<http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/6/15/vlaams-belang-thugs-intimidate-students-at-school-bbq.html>, retrieved on 16.06.2012, emphasis added.

### 32. US: Anti-Islam protest at Arab International Festival –



On 15 June 2012, Bible Believers staged an anti-Islamic protest at the Arab International Festival in Dearborn. The group, armed with signs preaching messages against Islam, stayed for about an hour and a half. Bottles were thrown, swear words were shouted and obscene gestures were made while the police routinely stepped in to separate the groups. Midway through the affair, four mounted police officers were brought in to quell the crowd. In total, the festival stretched several blocks and the protestors

affected only a small area of the event. Nonetheless, two festival attendees were detained and issued citations for disorderly conduct, according to Wayne County Deputy Chief Mike Jaafar.

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/6/16/anti-islam-protest-at-arab-international-festival.html>, retrieved on 17.06.2012

### 33. Germany: German Defence League and Pro-NRW Duisburg Demo –

The German website *Politically Incorrect* reported that a demonstration was held in the German city of Duisburg on 15 June 2012 by the Pro-North Rhine Westphalia Movement and the German Defence League. About 40 protesters turned out to demonstrate against the construction of the largest mosque in the city – which also turned out to be the largest mosque in Europe – in the Marxloh District.

In: <http://durotrigan.blogspot.com/2012/06/german-defence-league-and-pro-nrw.html>, retrieved on 18.06.2012



34. US: GOP Colorado State Senator On Banning Mosques: They're Not 'Places of Worship' – in the last weekend of June 2012, the Dutch Islamophobic politician Geert Wilders spoke to a conservative conference hosted by a Christian university in Colorado. The anti-Muslim firebrand served up his usual fare: Islam is not a religion but a “totalitarian ideology,” multiculturalism must be stopped, U.S. courts must end immigration from Muslim countries and mosque construction must be banned. The Republican State Senator Kevin Grantham took on Wilders’ message that the West “should forbid the construction of new mosques.” Asked about the proposed ban, Grantham told the *Statesman* he was for considering it: “You know, we’d have to hear more on that, because, as he said, mosques are not churches like we would think of churches. **They think of mosques more as a foothold into a society, as a foothold into a community, more in the cultural and in the nationalistic sense. Our churches – we don’t feel that way, they’re places of worship, and mosques are simply not that,** and we need to take that into account when approving construction of those.”

In: <http://thinkprogress.org/security/2012/07/06/512320/gop-colorado-state-senator-mosques-islamophobia/>, retrieved on 08.07.2012, emphasis in the original.

35. US: Louisiana state legislator retracts support for voucher program because of Muslim school inclusion – *Livingston Parish News* reported that Louisiana Rep. Valarie Hodges, R-Watson, was retracting her support for Gov. Bobby Jindal’s voucher program, after realizing the money could be applied to Muslim schools. Hodges initially supported the governor’s program because she mistakenly

equated “religious” with “Christian”, according to the report. Jindal’s reform package allowed state education funds to be used to send students to religious schools. Hodges was quoted as saying in the *Livingston Parish News*: “Unfortunately it will not be limited to the Founders’ religion...We need to insure [sic] that it does not open the door to fund radical Islam schools. There are a thousand Muslim schools that have sprung up recently. I do not support using public funds for teaching Islam anywhere here in Louisiana.”

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/7/7/louisiana-state-legislator-retracts-support-for-voucher-prog.html>, retrieved on 09.07.2012

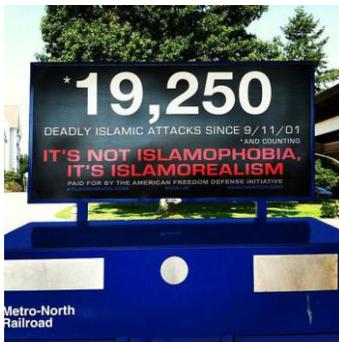
**36. UK: Ukrainian feminists arrested in Olympics protest over Islam, Sharia regimes** – Several Ukrainian feminists were arrested at the 2012 London Olympics on 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2012 in a topless protest over Islam’s influence at the Summer Games. After shouting anti-Sharia law protests, four women were taken into custody over disorderly conduct. *Femen* released a statement on its website after the arrest of the Ukrainian feminists at the Olympics: “*Femen* requires the states that apply the laws of sharia be shut out of the Olympic games, because of the inhumanity of these laws, which are in total contradiction with Olympic principles that are peace and philanthropy...*Femen* accuses these states of simulating democratic changes regarding the position of women.” In the end, the topless Ukrainian feminists wanted Islam and Sharia to give inclusive rights to women who were currently denied an even playing field.

In: <http://www.examiner.com/article/ukrainian-feminists-arrested-olympics-protest-over-islam-sharia-regimes>, retrieved on 04.08.2012

**37. US: Muslims denounce Rep. Walsh’s remarks** – Muslims in Chicago denounced Republican Congressman Joe Walsh’s comments to a town hall meeting that there were radical Muslims in US who were “trying to kill Americans every week,” saying on 10 August 2012 that such remarks inspired hate crimes against minorities.

In: <http://www.nwherald.com/2012/08/10/muslims-denounce-rep-walshs-remarks/az55uv5/?page=1>, retrieved on 12.08.2012

**38. US: Anti-Islamic ad causing controversy** – An anti-Islamic advertisement paid for by the American Freedom Defense Initiative of Pamela Geller along a train line was stirring up a bit of controversy. It reads “It’s not Islamophobia, it’s Islamorealism.”



One marketing expert said the growing trend of anti-Islamic ads like this one were not helpful. Timothy de Waal Malefyt, marketing professor at Fordham University, said: “It’s speaking to the individual, and it’s asking people to react in a certain way - with hate, with fear and to think out of context.” The Metro train authority said while it did not endorsing the views, it did not stop advertisers from displaying their message, no matter how controversial. However, the authority was reviewing its policy.

In: <http://www.kplctv.com/story/19309670/anti-islamic-ad-in-ny-causing-controversy>, retrieved on 19.08.2012

**39. ‘Ban Islam in Sweden’: Sweden Democrat** – Pär Norling, group leader of the Sweden Democrats (SD) in Bollnäs, in an interview with national broadcaster *Sveriges Television* said: “Ban Islam in Sweden and deport those who persist in believing in the religion.”. The neo-nazi Swedish Resistance Movement (Svenska Motståndsrörelsen) marched in the central Swedish town of Bollnäs earlier in 2012 summer, after a controversial rape case had rocked the community. On 25 August 2012 they marched again and anti-racist protests were held nearby. Swedish Democratic Norling said he

disapproved of Nazism, but by and large considered it a by-product of immigration. He also agreed with the neo-nazi movement that Islam had no place in Sweden.

In: <http://www.thelocal.se/42828/20120826/>, retrieved on 27.08.2012

**40. Anti-Muslim Subway Posters Prompt NYPD to Increase Security in Stations** – The arrival of an anti-Muslim advertising campaign in New York City subways on 24 September 2012 had prompted the NYPD to increase security throughout ten stations where the controversial ads had been posted. According to *The New York Post*, the department had quietly deployed additional police officers at stations with the 46- by 30-inch ads, contrary to prior reports denying the NYPD would be adding any extra security measures. The MTA initially rejected the provocative posters-which read, “In any war between the civilized man and the savage, support the civilized man. Support Israel. Defeat Jihad”~ but a federal judge ruled the campaign was protected by First Amendment rights, forcing the MTA to reverse its decision. The ads were financed by the American Freedom Defense Initiative. Executive director Pamela Geller dismissed fears the posters could stir acts of violence similar to protests seen in response to the film “Innocence of Muslims.”



In: [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/09/25/anti-muslim-subway-posters-nypd-increase-security\\_n\\_1912239.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/09/25/anti-muslim-subway-posters-nypd-increase-security_n_1912239.html), retrieved on 26.09.2012

**Related:** **Activist arrested in New York for defacing anti-Muslim poster** – Mona Eltahawy, the prominent Egyptian-American writer and activist, had been arrested in New York after spraying paint over a controversial poster on the subway that had been condemned for equating Muslims with “savages”. Eltahawy was arrested after a supporter of Geller’s initiative attempted to prevent her defacing the sign with a purple aerosol. In a video posted online of the incident by the *New York Post*, Mona Eltahawy was asked by Pamela Hall: “Mona, do you think you have the right to do this?” Eltahawy replied: “I do actually,” adding: “I think this is freedom of expression, just as [the ad] is freedom of expression.” As the scuffle continued, two police officers appeared to then arrest Eltahawy, who said: “This is what happens in America when you non-violently protest.” Eltahawy was later charged with “criminal mischief” and “graffiti”.

In: <http://www.islamophobiatoday.com/2012/09/26/activist-arrested-in-new-york-for-defacing-anti-muslim-poster/>, retrieved on 27.09.2012

**41. Australia: Far right and atheists hold small anti-Islam protest in Melbourne** – The cancellation of 22 September 2012’s planned rally in Melbourne against Islamophobia did not prevent people turning up to denounce Islam. The small anti-Islam protest brought together atheists brandishing signs reading “(Like all religions) Islam is false” and fascist thugs wearing SS insignia. The latter included Nationalist Alternative, a neo-Nazi group who rejected opportunist attempts to win popular support by targeting Islam alone and uphold the right of white Australians to abuse and insult Muslims and Jews equally.



In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/9/23/far-right-and-atheists-hold-small-anti-islam-protest-in-melb.html>, retrieved on 24.09.2012

**42. Finland: Finns Party candidate called for Muslims to be cooked alive because he was ‘extremely concerned about the spread of extreme Islam’** – Local Police were looking into whether or not to launch an inquiry into Facebook posts made by Finns Party municipal election candidate Amon Rautiainen. Among the more inflammatory comments allegedly made by the Finns Party standing for election in the southeastern municipality of Kotka was a call for Muslims to be cooked alive. He was also said to have written that it would be “patriotic” to execute Prime Minister Jyrki Katainen and Finance Minister Jutta Urpilainen, leaders of the National Coalition and Social Democratic parties respectively.



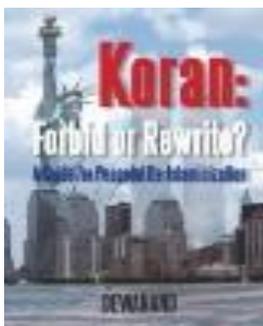
In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/9/27/finns-party-candidate-called-for-muslims-to-be-cooked-alive.html>, retrieved on 29.09.2012

**43. Stop Islamisation of Norway demonstration faces counter-protest in Oslo** – Socialist youth movement Blitz demonstrated against SIAN’s demonstration in front of the parliament building on Saturday (29 Sept). On one occasion, two groups attempted to confront, but police stopped them quickly and arrested four people. While 20 people turned up to support SIAN, almost 40 attended to the anti-SIAN demonstration. SIAN had announced on its website before the demonstration that the Muslim prophet would be both “insulted” and “offended” at the ceremony. SIAN had boasted that their demonstration, which was called in protest against Muslim opposition to so-called freedom of expression, would establish a “sharia-free zone”. SIAN leader Arne Tumyr was quoted as stating that his organization had worked out 5,000 kroner for an advert in the national daily *Dagbladet* and that lots of people would be coming.

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/9/30/oslo-stop-islamisation-of-norway-demonstration-faces-counter.html>, retrieved on 01.10.2012

#### IV. Intolerance against Islam and its Sacred Symbols:

**1. Koran: Forbid or Rewrite? A Guide for Peaceful De-Islamicization provides an inside look into the Muslim religion** – *Koran: Forbid or Rewrite? A Guide for Peaceful De-Islamicization* provided an inside look into the Muslim religion. Raised as a Muslim, Hindu writer Dewanand answered many of the questions asked about the religion. His book was written to commemorate the Islamic attack on the Twin Towers in 2001, and to reconsider how best to tackle terrorism. Some of the questions tackled: Why is the Koran the deeper abstract cause of terrorism, and what can Muslims and non-Muslims do about it? How can we help liberate Muslims from medieval ways of thinking? What is a real Muslim and how should we define an anti-Muslim?



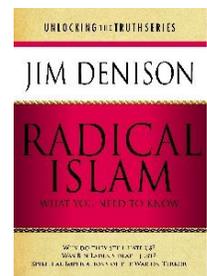
In: <http://www.prlog.org/11477494-koran-forbid-or-rewrite.html>, retrieved on 07.05.2011

**2. Belgium: Store stops selling toilet paper with ‘Allah’, ‘Mohammed’ zodiac design** – In Belgium the Carrefour chain stopped selling *Renova* brand toilet paper featuring the zodiac symbols, because the designs for Virgo and Capricorn resemble the Arabic calligraphy for Allah and Mohamed. On 16 May 2011, the issue was raised in two mosques in Molenbeek (Brussels), where the Muslims turned to their imam to ask whether it was true and deliberate. There has been no criticism in Carrefour stores, but the Belgian management decided to avoid any controversy and withdraw the product from the shelves. According to the official version, sale of this product was dropped in 2009, following similar questions raised in France.



In: <http://islamineurope.blogspot.com/2011/05/belgium-store-stops-selling-toilet.html>, retrieved on 26.05.2011

**3. US: New Radical Islam Book Declares: ‘This is the War of Our Generation!’** – On the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001 author and educator Jim Denison, a former senior pastor of Park Cities Baptist Church, a 10,000-member congregation in Dallas, explained in his new book, *Radical Islam: What You Need to Know*, that the greatest threat American children had ever faced was Muslim extremism, adding: “The battle waged against the West by radical Muslims is the war of our generation...Killing bin Laden doesn’t end this war.”



In: <http://www.christiannewswire.com/news/7996317434.html> retrieved on 27.07.2011

**4. US: Geller Says If You Follow “Pure Islam, Then You Support Jihad”** – Pamela Geller was not backing down from her Islamophobic hate speech. In the last week of July 2011, she joined Larry O’Connor on his radio show, *The Stage Right Show*. Geller made clear that she did not believe that a believer in what she termed “pure Islam” could be peaceful: “No. I don’t believe that. But I do believe that if you’re a follower of traditional Islam, of pure Islam, then you support jihad.”

Geller had been trying to scrub some of the more incendiary parts of her record in response to the bombing in Norway, which she initially blamed on Muslims. But apparently, when given an engraved invitation to declare that she did not, in fact, believe that devout Muslims could be peaceful, she could not bring herself to accept it.

Meanwhile, in her new book titled “Stop the Islamization of America: A Practical Guide to the Resistance,” she discussed what she said were ways in which the United States was under attack by “Islamic supremacists” and “Shari’ah”.

In: <http://mediamatters.org/blog/201108010030>, retrieved on 03.08.2011 & <http://www.presstv.ir/detail/192246.html>, retrieved on 05.08.2011

**5. US: No such thing as good Islam, Baptist theologian argues** – In his column for the *Florida Baptist Witness* newspaper, religion professor Mark Coppenger, professor of Christian apologetics at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, discussed the two schools of thought on Islam: one that saw Islam as a “great religion with awesome accomplishments” and the other as a “false and dangerous ideology.” Of those two schools, Coppenger argued: “I’m urging folks to matriculate in the later. In fact, I’m not convinced the former should be accredited.” He discounted the fact that majority of Muslims were not aggressive and oppressive: “You don’t define a faith by the behavior of its slackers or its observants who lack the numbers and power to fully advance their agenda, as is currently the case with Muslims in the West...When you start with an adulterous warrior-profit, who is literally anti-Christ (though touting a

non-biblical version of Jesus), mix in generous helpings of totalitarianism and the marginalization/persecution of women and non-Muslims, and cultivate tribalism, legalism, and victimism, you have a recipe for disaster.”

In: <http://blogs.orlandosentinel.com/features-the-religion-world/2011/09/19/no-such-thing-as-good-islam-baptist-theologian-argues/>, retrieved on 20.09.2011

**6. US: Debbie Schlusel: “If Steve Jobs Had Been Raised As An Arab Muslim, There Would Be No Apple”** – In a post on her personal website, conservative blogger Debbie Schlusel used the death of Apple founder Steve Jobs, who she called a “genius”, to make a wide-ranging attack on Islam and Muslims. Responding to emails she said she’s been getting claiming that “Steve Jobs was a Muslim”, Schlusel, inter alia responded: *It’s a safe bet that if Steven Jobs had been raised as an Arab Muslim, there would be no Apple. Not even Al-Apple. And a lot of great inventions that made our lives better and more enjoyable would never have happened. Jobs’ story is the success of American capitalism. And it’s about the kind of innovation and technological spirit that only happens in two countries in the world: the U.S. and Israel. This story would never have happened in Syria, pre- or post-Arab Spring.*

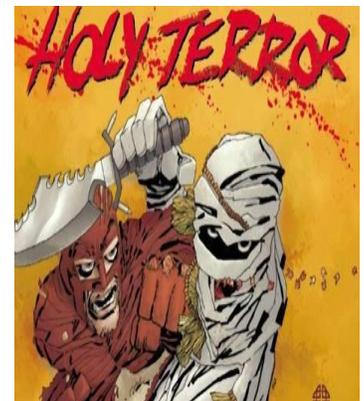
In: <http://mediamatters.org/blog/201110060030>, retrieved on 08.10.2011

**7. UK: Richard Dawkins claims Muslim schools are teaching ‘alien rubbish’ ... but says CofE schools are OK** – Richard Dawkins claimed Muslim schools were having a “pernicious” influence on children who were having their minds “stuffed with alien rubbish” such as claims the world was only 6,000 years old. The author of *The God Delusion*, who had previously described religious education provided by faith schools as a form of child abuse, said that the effect was “utterly deplorable” especially as it lasted until their university years. The well-known atheist said he could live with some faith schools that were vaguely religious and saved his fire for the schools that were teaching “total nonsense”.

The pervasive influence attributed to Muslim faith schools by Dawkins would certainly surprise anyone who knew anything about the education system in the UK, given that very few such schools existed and if Muslim children did attend faith schools they were overwhelmingly Christian ones.

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2011/10/8/richard-dawkins-claims-muslim-schools-are-teaching-alien-rub.html>, retrieved on 09.10.2011

**8. US: Holy Terror comic is ‘Islamophobic’, say critics** – There was nothing subtle about Frank Miller’s newest graphic novel, *Holy Terror*. The book opened with the quote: “If you meet the infidel, kill the infidel”, which Mr Miller attributed to the Prophet [Muhammad]. From there the jingoism, violence and Islamophobia took off. Miller was no stranger to controversy. His stories regularly explored the darker corners of society amid shades of moral grey. Any nuance, however, was all but absent in his latest work. Originally envisioned as a Batman tale after September 11 attacks on the US, the comic features heroes *The Fixer*, and thief-come-love interest, *Natalie*, as they joined forces to stop an Al Qaeda plot on Empire City, a thinly veiled New York City. In a post on his website dated September 23, Miller unapologetically defended *Holy Terror* as a piece of “naked propaganda”, but propaganda in a “virtuous” sense. Miller, a New Yorker, wrote: “Three thousand of my neighbours were murdered. My country was, utterly unprovoked, savagely attacked...I wish all those responsible for the atrocity of September 11 to burn in hell. I’m too old to serve my country in any other way...Otherwise, I’d gladly be pulling the trigger myself.” *Holy Terror* was, in Mr Miller’s eyes, his contribution to the fight against terrorism.



In: <http://www.thenational.ae/thenational/news/worldwide/holy-terror-comic-is-islamophobic-say-critics>, retrieved on 26.10.2011

9. **Islamists main threat to Norway: intelligence** - Norwegian intelligence service PST said on 17 January 2012 that radical Islamists posed the biggest threat to Norway even though it was a right-wing extremist who carried out the twin attacks in July 2011 that killed 77 people.

In: <http://www.thelocal.no/page/view/islamists-main-threat-against-norway>, retrieved on 18.01.2012

10. **Anti-'Islamisation' float on German carnival parade** - A papier-mache frog with the text



“Islamisation” on its tongue and a butterfly with “Arab Spring” - a float on the traditional Rose Monday carnival parade in the western German city of Düsseldorf on 20 February 2012. Evidently there was something of a tradition of Islamophobic carnival floats in Germany, as in

2007 some two million people took to the streets of Germany’s Rhine region for the climax of the carnival season Monday (19 February 2007) but Muslim representatives were angered by floats featuring bearded men in turbans and explosives belts. The depiction of Islam was “barefaced lies” and the float was “using negative images to seek attention”, the Central Council of Muslims’ secretary general Aiman Mazyek had said on the occasion.

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/2/20/anti-islamisation-float-on-german-carnival-parade.html> & <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2007/2/20/muslims-angered-at-depiction-in-german-carnival.html>, retrieved on 22.02.2012

11. **Counterjihadist websites appeal to over-65s** - *Klassekampen* write it used Alexa to examine eight



sites that allegedly inspired Anders Behring Breivik and his manifesto. It claimed its investigations revealed readership groups to websites *Gates of Vienna*, *Jihad Watch*, *The Brussels Journal*, *Islam Watch*, *Atlas Shrugged*, *Tundra Tabloid*, *Vladtepesblog* and *The Green Arrow* showed a clear pattern.

When presented with the results, Andreas Malm, journalist and author of the book *The Hate Against Muslims*, told the paper: “The typical profile of conspiracy theorists are elderly, lonely men, who become obsessed with a particular question, and who may be attracted to anti-Islamic conspiracy theories...There is a preponderance of older men, often unemployed, who may feel ostracized from society, and seeking for an explanation and a scapegoat.”

Tor Bach, editor of the magazine *Vepsen*, was not surprised. He added that the anti-Islam organizations’ groups of older members shared a common “mistrust of society and the democratic system, sincerely believing someone wishes them harm...These people [also] fully believe in the existence of a conspiracy, where the Arab world will take over the European one.”

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/4/25/counterjihadist-websites-appeal-to-over-65s.html>, retrieved on 26.04.2012

12. **Israel: IDF radio host: ‘Islam is most terrible disease in the world’** - *Loonwatch* drew everyone’s attention to a comment made by one Avri Gilad on a talk show he hosted on the Israel Defense Forces station Army Radio, during a discussion about violent racist backlash against black African migrants in Israel that had been going on in his country. Gilad stated: ... *let us not forget that those knocking on our doors belong to Islam, and Islam today is the most terrible disease raging around the world. It poisons its believers and poisons every place it reaches. The people that come here, especially the South Sudanese,*

are very moderate people, the real beautiful face of Islam ... the problem is that when you carry the virus, you don't know when it will explode inside you ... every Muslim who enters here might become the flag carrier of the global Islam ... and therefore we must take care of our lives.

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/6/15/idf-radio-host-islam-is-most-terrible-disease-in-the-world.html>, retrieved on 16.06.2012

**13. Amazon makes money selling Islamophobic ebooks** - Amazon had been accused of making money selling offensive, racist and potentially dangerous ebooks on subjects ranging from bomb-making to drug growing. One ebook, *Prophet Muhammad: Monster of History*, included images of a Koran being burned and a woman being hanged. The author, Jake Neuman, said of its content on his own website: "The writings contained in this book are now illegal in most Western countries." But users of *amazon.co.uk* could access his work at the click of a mouse. The Muslim Council of Britain had then called for Amazon to "take proper responsibility" for the content of the books on its site, adding: "Freedom of expression should not be unlimited, and publications that cause anti-Muslim hatred, anti-Jewish hatred or homophobic hatred should not be allowed."

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/6/26/amazon-makes-money-selling-islamophobic-ebooks.html>, retrieved on 27.06.2012

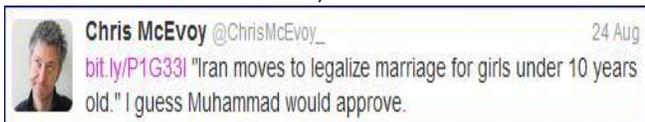
**14. US: CAIR Asks Pentagon Not to Use Target of Muslim Woman, Quran in SEAL Training** -



The Washington-based Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) on 29 June 2012 called on Pentagon officials not to use a target depicting a Muslim woman wearing a religious head scarf (hijab) and verses from the Quran in combat scenarios for training Navy SEALs at the new close quarters combat range at Joint Base Fort Story in Virginia Beach. CAIR said that military facility, referred to as a "kill house", featured a number of combat scenarios, including a mosque and a movable target of a Muslim woman wearing hijab and aiming a handgun. Verses from the Quran, Islam's revealed text, were also displayed behind the target.

In: <http://www.marketwatch.com/story/cair-asks-pentagon-not-to-use-target-of-muslim-woman-quran-in-seal-training-2012-06-29>, retrieved on 30.06.2012

**15. South African 'lefty' embraces anti-Muslim bigotry** - Women24, which billed itself as South



Africa's largest online women's community, had posted a piece by a Cape Town writer named Chris McEvoy (not a woman, judging by appearances) entitled "I'm Islamophobic". "And

no, I'm not being ironic", he assured his followers on *Twitter*. Anyone who had been following McEvoy's tweets would probably had guessed that already.

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/8/31/south-african-lefty-embraces-anti-muslim-bigotry.html>, retrieved on 01.09.2012

**16. Germany: Prophet Depictions Shown in Mosque Demos** - Members of a small far-right group



had displayed caricatures of the Prophet Muhammad during demonstrations outside mosques in Berlin, but officials said their protests had gone peacefully. Police said that 18 August 2012's demonstrations by the Pro Deutschland group – held under the slogan "Islam does not belong in Germany – stop Islamization" was attended by a group of up to 70 supporters of Pro Deutschland, while a few hundred counterdemonstrators protested against them.

There was a heavy police presence.

In: <http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/prophet-depictions-shown-mosque-demos-17033745#.UDYOhCp2So>, retrieved on 19.08.2012

**17. UK: Islam Documentary on U.K.'s Channel 4 Draws Complaints** – About 1,200 people criticized British Channel 4's documentary "Islam: The Untold Story", in which a historian **Tom Holland** argued that there was little contemporary evidence about the Prophet Mohammed, among other things, that there was little contemporary evidence about the Prophet Mohammed, among other things.

In: <http://www.hollywoodreporter.com/news/uk-islam-tv-documentary-complaints-392018>, retrieved on 05.09.2012

## V. Discrimination against Muslim Individuals in Educational Institutions, Workplaces, Airports, etc:

**1. US: Muslim waiter suing hotel for being forced to change name badge** – A Muslim waiter at a Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York was forced to change his name badge while working in the hotel. The Moroccan born Mohammed Kotbi, according to the *New York Post*, stated that after 9/11, he was asked to change his name badge to John and he agreed as he was in a state of shock. The name badge was later changed to Edgar. Kotbi, who had been working in the hotel since December 1984 complained to the hotel management and the reply he got, was "we don't want to scare our guests with your Islamic identity". Further, he was also told "it's better to be Edgar than Mohammed today". Kotbi had accused the hotel for creating a hostile work environment and is now suing the hotel on charges of religious and racial discrimination. He also alleged in the court documents that he was repeatedly called a terrorist and Al Qaeda boy.

In: <http://www.sahilonline.org/english/news.php?cid=6&nid=10909>, retrieved on 03.05.2011

**2. US: Teacher Asks Muslim Student, "Are You Sad Your Uncle [Osama] Died?"** – The aftermath of Osama Bin Laden's death had undoubtedly amplified ignorant thoughts and feelings of paranoia against Muslims in US. Earlier in the first week of May 2011, a ninth grade algebra teacher disrespected an American-born Muslim student when he asked her if she was grieving because her "uncle" had died, referring to Osama Bin Laden. The teacher, whom school officials did not identify, allegedly made the remark to his student during class at Clear Brook High School in Friendswood, a city located 23 miles southeast of Houston, Texas. School officials were notified about the teacher's unprofessionalism when another student repeated the remark to her mother. Clear Creek school district spokeswoman Elaina Polsen said that the teacher had been placed on leave pending an investigation into his comment. Polsen said that the teacher's remark did not reflect the school or district staff attitudes.

In: <http://atlantapost.com/2011/05/06/teacher-asks-muslim-student-are-you-sad-your-uncle-osama-died/>, retrieved on 07.05.2011

**3. US: Two Muslims bounced from Memphis flight, despite extra screening** – The two men – one an adjunct professor of Arabic at the University of Memphis and the other an imam at the Islamic Association of Greater Memphis – were already in their seats on 6 May 2011 and the plane of *Atlantic Southeast Airlines*, a regional partner of *Delta*, pulled away from the gate when they were asked to deplane. The men, who were on their way from Memphis to North Carolina for a conference of North American imams conference on "Islamophobia", cooperated with authorities, were rescreened, and booked on a later flight. According to a *Reuters* report, one of the travelers, Prof. Masudur Rahman, said that *Delta* officials reported that the pilot, not fellow passengers, was the one who was uncomfortable with his presence and that of his colleague, as the pilot was reported to have refused to allow the two Muslims to reboard the plane after additional screening and left without them.

Meanwhile, other two Imams, Al Amin Abdul Latif, 61, a South Carolina native, and his son, Abu Bakr Abdul Latif, 35, were also removed from a Charlotte-bound flight and later one of them was

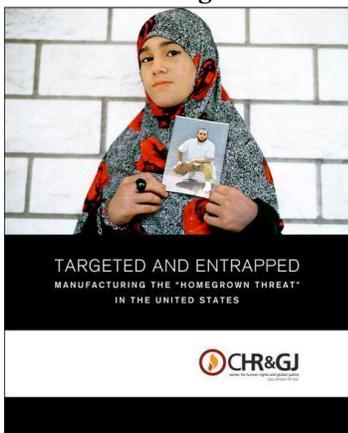
never permitted to board at all. Their Charlotte attorney, Mo Idlibi, was also representing two Memphis imams who were removed from another flight on their way to the same conference. Idlibi said he planned to press American Airlines for answers about the alleged discrimination against the New York-based imams, who are African-American. He said the Latifs were both cleared by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) to board American Airlines Flight 4584 - a 7 May 2011 night flight from New York's LaGuardia Airport to Charlotte-Douglas International Airport. Then, Idlibi said, American Airlines removed the son from the Charlotte flight and denied the father a seat Friday (May 6) night and again Saturday (May 7) morning.

In: [http://www.csmonitor.com/USA/2011/0507/Two-Muslims-bounced-from-Memphis-flight-despite-extra-screening\\_retrieved\\_on\\_08.05.2011](http://www.csmonitor.com/USA/2011/0507/Two-Muslims-bounced-from-Memphis-flight-despite-extra-screening_retrieved_on_08.05.2011) & <http://www.charlotteobserver.com/2011/05/10/2285349/2-other-imams-forced-to-miss-flight.html#ixzz1LxR1B3n4>, retrieved on 11.05.2011

**4. US, O'Reilly: Half the World's Muslims Don't Want Democracy and Human Rights** - Bill O'Reilly (Fox News Presenter) calculated that half of the world's Muslims wanted to "blow the hell" out of Muslims who wanted democracy and human rights. O'Reilly—who had long maintained that there was a so-called "Muslim problem" in the world, something he said during the opening of 19 May 2011 show—was speaking to two guests about President Obama's Middle East speech on the same day. Towards the end of the discussion, one of them said that Obama needed to stress more that "there are Muslims who want liberty." O'Reilly responded: "For every Muslim in the world who wants democracy and human rights, there's one who doesn't...And the one who doesn't, doesn't have any rules, and he'll blow the hell out of the one who does. So that silences the good Muslims who see the danger from the Muslim world."

In: [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/05/20/oreilly-half-the-worlds-muslims-democracy\\_n\\_864597.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/05/20/oreilly-half-the-worlds-muslims-democracy_n_864597.html), retrieved on 21.05.2011

**5. Muslims targeted in US terrorism cases, report says** - according to a report released on 18 May 2011 by a human rights center at New York University's law school Center for Human Rights and Global Justice, the US government tactics in pursuing domestic terrorism cases targeted and entrapped Muslim community members and failed to enhance public safety.

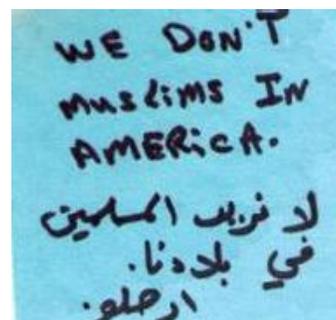


The Report went on to state that the US government's use of surveillance, paid informants and invented terrorism plots prompted human rights concerns. The authors examined three high-profile cases in New York and New Jersey that they said raised questions about the role of the FBI and New York Police Department in creating the perception of a homegrown terrorism threat.

In the cases, each of which resulted in convictions and lengthy sentences, informants pretending to be Muslims pushed ideas about violent jihad and instigated plots that law enforcement later foiled, the report says. The researchers urged the FBI and NYPD to revise guidelines that govern such investigations.

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2011/5/20/muslims-targeted-in-us-terrorism-cases-report-says.html>, retrieved on 21.05.2011

**6. US: Washington woman finds anti-Muslim note on car** - A woman said she found an anti-Muslim note on her car after she and her young daughter parked the vehicle briefly to go into a coffee shop in the Seattle suburb of Redmond. Seattle television stations said the note displayed for reporters said in English "We don't Muslims in America" and a message written in Arabic told the pair to leave.



In: [http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2015138763\\_apwaantimuslimnote.html](http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2015138763_apwaantimuslimnote.html) and <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2011/5/25/hate-message-left-on-us-muslim-familys-car.html> retrieved on 26.05.2011

**7. US: Robertson: Fighting Muslims Is Just Like Fighting Nazis** – On his show *700 Club* on 31 May 2011, Pat Robertson, founder of the *Christian Broadcasting Network* (CBN), the Christian Coalition, once again spoke out against American Muslims, singling out the construction of mosques and the purported threat of creeping Sharia law. Robertson likened critics of Muslims to opponents of Nazis and rejected claims that his opposition to rights for Muslims was bigotry, asking: “I wonder what were people who opposed the Nazis, were they bigots? Why is it bigoted to resist Adolf Hitler and the Nazis and to say we don’t want to live under Nazi Germany?” Robertson also said: “But oh it’s bigoted if we speak out against a force that slowly but surely is trying to exercise domination over the world.”

In: <http://www.rightwingwatch.org/content/robertson-fighting-muslims-just-fighting-nazis>, retrieved on 01.06.2011

**8. US closely monitors Ireland’s 40,000 Muslim community** – Leaked embassy cables revealed that the United States government closely monitored the country’s main mosques amid American concern over alleged Islamic ‘extremists’ operating in Ireland. The cables showed how keeping tabs on Ireland’s 40,000-strong Muslim community was a major priority for US diplomats posted there - with detailed dossiers frequently being compiled and sent to Washington. These dossiers contained information on suspected extremists and ‘radical’ Irish Muslims. They also provided extraordinarily detailed accounts on the leadership and membership of Dublin’s four main mosques. It was also clear from the cables that US officials feared young Muslims could become alienated from mainstream Irish society. One former American ambassador, Thomas Foley, also secretly told Washington that the government there was being complacent in its efforts to pursue alleged terrorists.

In: <http://www.independent.ie/national-news/wikileaks/us-closely-monitors-irelands-40000-muslim-community-2667286.html>, retrieved on 07.06.2011

**9. US: One in four New Yorkers suspicious of Muslim passers-by 10 years on from 9/11** – A revealing new poll by *The New York Daily News* showed that one in four New Yorkers were always or often suspicious of Muslims they passed in the street. With the ten year anniversary of 9/11 approaching, the results showed that the legacy of the Twin Towers reached deep into the collective memory of New Yorkers, with one third of those asked saying they knew someone who died in the terrorist attacks. The poll also highlighted the lasting sense of fear generated by the attacks, as more than half of New Yorkers said they still worried about future attacks often or all the time.

In: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2003073/14-New-Yorkers-suspicious-Muslim-passers-10-years-9-11.html>, retrieved on 14.06.2011

**10. US: Bigoted Pastor Alert: Rev. Keith Tucci Thinks All Terrorists are Muslim** – The Rev. Keith Tucci preaching from a pulpit more than an hour from Carnegie was concerned about a different religious community’s plans to relocate there. Tucci, pastor of the *Living Hope Church* in Latrobe, said he had “serious concerns” about members of a Muslim mosque who wanted to move to a former Presbyterian church in the heart of Carnegie’s business district. Tucci said he and members of his congregation would travel to Carnegie on 27 June 2011 to pass out “informational packets” about the Muslim faith.

Tucci, whose church is part of a national network of Bible-based churches with headquarters in Reserve (Los Angeles), said: “I have questions: Who are these people? Are they American citizens? Has anyone done a background check on them?...I’m not saying all Muslims are terrorists, but all terrorists are Muslims. We need more information about these people before they are allowed to move in and ruin a community.”

In: <http://www.islamophobiatoday.com/2011/06/26/bigoted-pastor-alert-rev-keith-tucci-thinks-all-terrorists-are-muslim/>, retrieved on 28.06.2011

**11. Profiling Scotland's Muslim Passengers** – *The Scotsman* reported on 13 July 2011 that Muslim passengers were complaining of racial profiling and harassment by security guards at Scotland's biggest airport. Speaking at a meeting between members of ethnic minorities, police and government figures, Humza Yousaf, a member of the Scottish parliament, said Muslim travelers often faced harassment at Glasgow airport. He said Muslims were often asked about their faith, family and religious rituals, adding: "The complaints generally fall into three categories...One is the questions asked. What mosque do you pray at? How many times a day do you pray? Does your wife wear a headscarf?"

The MEP also complained that the way Muslim passengers were being asked was humiliating, adding: "Second is the nature of the stop itself. Sometimes it is so blatant that it is literally making ethnic minorities queue up in a different line...I've been stopped twice myself and it's humiliating...The third point that people raise is the frequency with which it happens...One person said he had been stopped seven times in three months. If you've been cleared once, why must you continue to go through this?"

In: <http://www.onislam.net/english/news/europe/453012-profiling-scotlands-muslim-passengers.html>, retrieved on 14.07.2011

**12. Koran recitation on bus sparks bomb alarm in Germany** – On 30 July 2011, a man's whispered recitation of the Koran so unnerved a woman sitting near him on the bus that she reported a possible bomb on, creating a massive traffic jam on a major north German artery. Police spokesman Detlev Kaldinski in Rotenburg in the state of Lower Saxony, said: "She heard the mumbling of Koran surahs by her fellow passenger and took that as a threat." Her warning prompted the bus driver to pull over his vehicle, carrying 45 people from Copenhagen to Paris, in the middle of the night. Police later showed up with a team of 20 investigators, special forces and bomb sniffer dogs. A search of the man, a Tunisian, at a rest stop turned up neither weapons nor explosives. The highway was blocked for two hours and the rest stop unavailable for three. The woman heard the man use the word "Osama" during his prayers, said police. The man said he had the nickname Osama and sometimes speaks about himself in the third person.

In: <http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/world/koran-recitation-sparks-bomb-alarm/story-e6frf7lf-1226104700929>, retrieved on 30.07.2011

**13. US: American Muslim sues employer for firing over beard** – A Seattle-area Muslim man was suing his former employer, claiming he was fired as a security guard for refusing to shave the beard he wears for religious reasons. Abdulkadir Omar, 22, filed his federal lawsuit on 15 July 2011 in Seattle against Sacramento-based American Patriot Security, seeking back pay and unspecified damages for emotional pain and loss of enjoyment of life, among other reasons.

According to the lawsuit, Omar was hired by a local manager of the security company, American Patriot Security, in May 2009 and earned \$9 an hour guarding a FedEx warehouse in Kent, Wash. He said he started the same day he was hired, and was not told about the clean-shaven policy. In November 2009, a supervisor from headquarters told him he had to shave his beard because of company policy. Omar responded that his beard is part of his religious beliefs and refused. He was suspended, and then fired the following spring.

According to a press release by the Council for American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), Omar filed a complaint with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, which found that he was wrongfully terminated and had the right to sue.

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2011/8/4/american-muslim-sues-employer-for-firing-over-beard.html>, retrieved on 05.08.2011

**14. US: Muslim woman threatened with gun** – A 21-year-old Muslim woman said she was the victim of a hate crime as she drove along State Street on 07 August 2011 morning. The woman, who wore a

head scarf, or hijab, told Ann Arbor (Detroit) police that she was in her car at the intersection of State Street and Eisenhower Parkway when a driver in a black Dodge Ram truck behind her started honking and later pulled up beside her, where he hurled insults. The comments, she said, included “You don’t belong here”, “You are a terrorist” and “Your people need to be killed”.

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2011/8/8/muslim-woman-threatened-with-gun.html>, retrieved on 08.08.2011

**15. US: CAIR: Electrolux Again Denies Minn. Muslims’ Ramadan Rights** – For the second year in a row, the Minnesota chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-MN) was calling on Swedish appliance manufacturer Electrolux to grant legally-mandated religious accommodation to Muslim employees at its St. Cloud plant during the Ramadan fast, as Electrolux reduced the length of the lunch break for employees, and Muslim employees no longer had sufficient time to break their fast and complete prayers after sunset. Electrolux did not permit its employees to consume food on the production floor, and scheduled breaks were the only time during which Muslim employees were able to carry out their Ramadan requirements.

In: <http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/cair-electrolux-again-denies-minn-muslims-ramadan-rights-128193248.html>, retrieved on 23.08.2011

**16. Germany: ‘The problem is with the Muslims’** – Interview with Karl Albrecht Schachtschneider, Professor of Law at Erlangen-Nurnberg University:

**Question:** Multiculturalism has failed, say European leaders. But what are the actual consequences of that failure?

**KAS:** *If by multiculturalism you mean people from southern Europe, Germany, northern Europe, Hungary, Poland, Russia, all European nations, living together, then no, it has not failed. There is no problem at all.*

*The problem is with the Muslims. It’s not the people who constitute the problem, but Islam. And Islam comes with Muslim people. They build active groups that promote Islam and advocate the establishment of Sharia law. And Sharia law, particular its criminal section, is absolutely impossible for European relationships. We have religious pluralism in Europe and not a single religion is dominant. But Islam is the religion that tolerates another religion as long as it has no power.*

*Secularization was the biggest political event for Europe. It meant that state and church were divided and no one is entitled to impose its religion. I am determined against any tolerance of Sharia law. But it has nothing to do with tolerating Muslim people.*

In: <http://islamineurope.blogspot.com/2011/09/germany-problem-is-with-muslims.html>, retrieved on 09.09.2011

**17. France: Chef fired for preparing halal steak** – *Le Parisien* reported that a French chef Guillaume Chigot employed by the Avenance Elior catering company and working in the Hewlett-Packard (HP) cafeteria in Ullis (Ile-de-France), was laid off in August 2011 for making a halal steak by request of a Muslim employee. About 500 employees mobilized to defend the chef and signed a petition which would be presented to Avenance Elior’s management.



In: <http://islamineurope.blogspot.com/2011/09/france-chef-fired-for-preparing-halal.html>, retrieved on 15.09.2011

**18. US: Flying while looking like you might be Muslim: American woman hauled off plane in handcuffs, strip-searched and interrogated** – An airline that reported suspicious behavior by two men aboard a flight from Denver on the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 9/11 terror attacks said authorities in Detroit removed them – and a female passenger, half Middle Eastern, who claimed she was later strip-searched –

without consulting the pilots or crew. However, airport police and the Transportation Safety Administration said authorities responded after getting an in-flight alert from *Frontier Airlines* that three passengers were engaged in suspicious activity.

Authorities said fighter jets escorted the flight after its crew reported that two people were spending a long time in a bathroom – the two men sitting next to Shoshana Hebshi in the 12<sup>th</sup> row. The FBI had said the three did not know each other. One man felt ill and got up to use the restroom and another man in the same row also left his seat to go to the bathroom. The FBI said they never were inside together. Hebshi told the *AP* she did not notice how many times the men went to the bathroom, adding: “I really wasn’t paying attention.” After landing in Detroit, armed officers boarded the plane and ordered her and the men, whom she described as Indian, to get up. FBI spokeswoman Sandra Berchtold said the three passengers were questioned but not arrested before federal authorities determined there was no reason to suspect or hold them. She also said FBI agents who questioned the passengers were not involved in any strip searches.

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2011/9/15/flying-while-looking-like-you-might-be-muslim-american-woman.html>, retrieved on 15.09.2011

**19. US Muslim receives hate message with burger** – Tarek Ghalayani wanted to grab a meal at one of



his favourite Texas burger joints, but what he got was a sick joke about one of the darkest days in U.S. history. He said he went to Petrol Station, a Houston, Texas, bar on 11 September 2011 with a friend to watch the Dallas Cowboys-New York Giants game. But when they decided to watch the second half at home, he ordered a burger to go, and was shocked by what came out of the kitchen. Scrawled on the to-go box was a message that read “Happy September 11<sup>th</sup>” with a plane flying into two towers.

Mr Ghalayani, a Muslim, said he was working near the World Trade Center on the morning of September 11, 2001, and found the image disturbing. He told ABC 13 he demanded a refund, which he got from the manager – but without an apology or explanation. He also said he could hear someone behind the bar repeating “Allahu Akbar”.

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2011/9/14/us-muslim-receives-hate-message-with-burger.html> retrieved on 15.09.2011

**20. US school bans ‘Kismet’ after complaints because it’s about Muslims** – A western Pennsylvania school district had decided not to stage a Tony Award-winning musical about a Muslim street poet after members of the community complained about the play on the heels of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the September 11 attacks. *The Tribune Democrat* of Johnstown reported that Richland School District had planned to stage “Kismet” in February 2012 but Superintendent Thomas Fleming said it was scrapped to avoid controversy. Fleming told the newspaper that sensitivity was understandable in part because one of the hijacked planes crashed in nearby Shanksville. Music director Scott Miller said the play had no inappropriate content but he and other members of the performing arts committee decided to switch to “Oklahoma!” after hearing complaints.

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2011/9/20/us-school-bans-kismet-after-complaints-because-its-about-mus.html>, retrieved on 21.09.2011

**21. Australia: Schoolboy was beaten ‘for being a Muslim’** – Hamid Mamozai, 15, a schoolboy from Sydney’s north claimed that he was brutally bashed and verbally abused by more than 20 students for being Muslim. The boy was allegedly hit up to a dozen times by two fellow students at Asquith Boys’ High School on 21 September 2011 as several more cheered and hurled racial abuse from the sidelines.

Hamid told *Channel 10*: “[They were saying] hit him more, hit him more, he deserves it, you terrorists, go back to where you came from, go blow something up.” He said he was kneed in the face four of five times and hit up to 15 times in the face. Hamid was taken to hospital unconscious and with internal bleeding but suffered no serious injuries.

Najia, Hamid’s sister, said he had been subjected to racial abuse at the school for up to two years and was “emotionally and mentally sick” because of it. His mother, Hosna, who fled war-torn Afghanistan 20 years ago, said she had repeatedly complained to the school to no effect.

In response to inquiries from the *Herald*, a spokesman for the Department of Education said one student had been suspended for 20 days and the police had been informed.

In: <http://www.smh.com.au/nsw/schoolboy-was-beaten-for-being-a-muslim-20110922-1kncx.html>, retrieved on 25.09.2011

**22. Hertz fires 26 Muslim drivers in prayer break dispute** – More than two dozen Somali Muslim drivers for *Hertz* at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport were being fired after refusing to clock out for daily breaks during which they normally prayed. The 26 workers driving the company’s rental cars to and from the airport for cleaning and refueling were among 34 *Hertz* employees suspended on 30 September 2011 for failing to clock out before breaks.



Teamsters Local 117, representing the workers, said *Hertz* agreed during contract negotiations in 2010 that union members would not need to clock out during prayer breaks. But the company maintained workers were violating a settlement with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission reached in 2009. Union spokesman Paul Zilly said on 21 October 2011 that *Hertz* did not provide a verbal or written warning and jumped

right to suspension, asserting: “From our perspective, *Hertz* didn’t even follow their own internal policy...It was a huge disappointment and a tremendous frustration.” Company spokesman Rich Broome said in an email that eight of the 34 suspended workers signed the company’s new clock-out agreement and had returned to their jobs, and termination letters had been sent to the rest.

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2011/10/22/hertz-fires-26-muslim-drivers-in-prayer-break-dispute.html>, retrieved on 23.10.2011

**23. Canada: study suggests Muslims face negative perception** – A new Canadian national survey that tapped the level of “positiveness” that Canadians felt toward selected groups suggested that Muslims – significantly more than 10 other subsets of society – remained a magnet for negativity a decade after the 9/11 attacks on the U.S. Just 43% of the 2,345 people polled by the Montreal-based Association for Canadian Studies (ACS) expressed “very positive” or “somewhat positive” perceptions of Muslims, while atheists (60%) and aboriginals (61%) also drew relatively lukewarm responses. ACS executive director Jack Jedwab said the markedly more negative response to Muslims was matched by similar polling results in Britain and the U.S., making clear that the challenge of improving perceptions of the vast majority of Muslims who rejected Islamist extremism was a multinational task.

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2011/10/15/muslims-face-negative-perception-in-canada-study-suggests.html>, retrieved on 22.10.2011

**24. US: Texas handgun instructor who turned away Muslims in radio ad may lose state license over spot** – On a *YouTube* clip that had gone viral, brash Texas handgun instructor Crockett Keller defiantly told Muslims and non-



Christian Arabs he would not teach them how to handle a firearm. State officials saw the ad as possible discrimination, and might revoke Keller's instructor license. Tens of thousands of *YouTube* viewers had watched the \$175 ad for Keller's business in the small community of Mason, which said in the closing seconds: "If you are a socialist liberal and/or voted for the current campaigner-in-chief, please do not take this class...You've already proven that you cannot make a knowledgeable and prudent decision as required under the law. Also, if you are a non-Christian Arab or Muslim, I will not teach you this class. Once again, with no shame, I am Crockett Keller."

The Texas Department of Public Safety was investigating whether to revoke or suspend Keller's license to teach concealed handgun courses. The department said in a statement: "Conduct by an instructor that denied service to individuals on the basis of race, ethnicity or religion would place that instructor's certification by the Department at risk of suspension or revocation."

In: [http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/texas-handgun-instructor-who-turned-away-muslims-in-radio-ad-may-lose-state-license-over-spot/2011/11/01/gIQAPEyUcM\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/texas-handgun-instructor-who-turned-away-muslims-in-radio-ad-may-lose-state-license-over-spot/2011/11/01/gIQAPEyUcM_story.html), retrieved on 02.11.2011

**25. US: Tennessee GOP Rep.: There should be no Muslims in the military** - One would be hard pressed to find Tennessee State Rep. Rick Womick (R) having any Muslim friends. On Veterans' Day, Womick told *Think Progress* that troops who practiced Islam should not be allowed into the United States military. He told *TP* reporters Eli Clifton and Lee Fang: "Personally, I don't trust one Muslim in our military because they're commanded to lie to us through the term called Taqiyya...And if they truly are a devout Muslim, and follow the Quran and the Sunnah, then I feel threatened because they're commanded to kill me."

"You believe that should be forced out?" asked Clifton. Womack replied: "Absolutely, yeah." This was not the first time Womack had shown absolute hate towards Muslims. In July 2011, he warned his fellow colleagues in the Tennessee statehouse that Islam was a threat to their lives.

In: <http://www.rawstory.com/rs/2011/11/12/tennessee-gop-rep-there-should-be-no-muslims-in-the-military/>, retrieved on 13.11.2011

**26. US: Students at Indiana College protest against professor's anti-Muslim comments** - Associate Professor of Political Science at Purdue University Calumet (PUC), Maurice Moshe Eisenstein posted comments attached with a link to a *YouTube* video on his *Facebook* page on 6 November 2011, where he asked for justice for the killings of black Christians in Nigeria while lashing out towards Muslims. The video link was found by another PUC professor, which then started a heated debate between Eisenstein and PUC students via *Facebook*. On one of *Facebook* comments, Eisenstein wrote: "Muslims are barbarians and that they are nothing more to me than dogs." This led to campus-wide outrage and student protests. Energetic chants such as "No more Eisenstein, Eisenstein must go!" and "They say get back, we say fight back!" echoed throughout the courtyard between the Gyte and SUL buildings on 9-10 November 2011.

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2011/11/15/students-at-indiana-college-protest-against-professors-anti.html>, retrieved on 16.11.2011

**27. France: School tagged with graffiti** - A high-school in Toulous was tagged with racist and anti-Arab graffiti: "Arabs out of France", "Arabs get lost", and "Islam get out" (the latter in English) as well as Nazi symbols. Some parents said they had to explain the meaning of the symbols to their children. The Louis-Nicolas-Vauquelin school is located in the at-risk neighborhood of Mirail. One student said: "There are no problems of religion, everybody gets along There are Muslims, Catholics, everything, we don't even speak of it, it's not something that interests us."

In: <http://islamineurope.blogspot.com/2011/11/toulouse-school-tagged-with-anti-arab.html>, retrieved on 01.01.2012

**28. US: Fire at Ohio Muslims' house was arson** – Mohamed Soltan, a sixth-year in economics at Ohio State, and his roommate Ahmed Mahmoud, a third-year in finance, were victims of arson that caused hundreds of thousands of dollars in repairs in their Hilliard home on Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Doug Francis, chief of police for the city of Hilliard, said the origins of the fire seemed “suspicious”, due to the lack of burn patterns, the fire’s point of origin and the use of flammable materials, adding: “Our investigations show that there was in fact an accelerant utilized in the home, and they ruled out any natural cause of the fire, and so with utilizing their tools, they determined it was an arson.” Francis said that the FBI and the Norwich Township Fire Department were also involved in the investigation. Francis contacted the FBI because there had been previous reports of Soltan’s home and car being painted with anti-Arab and anti-Muslim slurs. Francis concluded: “We immediately brought in the FBI simply because if we did determine it was in fact an arson, we also wanted to look at it as a potential hate crime.”

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/1/31/fire-at-ohio-muslims-house-was-arson.html>, retrieved on 01.02.2012

**29. Canada: Muslim sales manager arrested as terrorist over call to ‘blow away’ the competition** – 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2012, the Muslim Council of Montreal said that Moroccan-born Saad Allami, a Muslim businessman in Canada, became a terror suspect for telling his sales staff in a text message to “blow away” the competition at a New York City trade show. Allami, a telecommunications company sales manager, was arrested three days after he sent the message in January 2012 and detained while police searched his home. Court filings in a lawsuit filed by Allami, cited by local media, stated: “The whole time, the officers kept repeating to the plaintiff’s wife that her husband was a terrorist,” although he was released after four hours of questioning. Some of his colleagues reportedly claimed they were also held for hours at the Canada-US border on account of the accusations made against their boss.

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/2/6/muslim-sales-manager-arrested-as-terrorist-over-call-to-blow.html>, retrieved on 08.02.2012

**30. US: Anti-Muslim graffiti scrawled on Brooklyn shop** – Bangladeshis in Kensington said they were living in fear after Muslim hate graffiti was found on a storefront in the neighborhood’s bustling shopping strip. The manager of TDS Insurance on Beverly Road near McDonald Avenue, came to work on 6 February 2012 and spotted a nauseating sight: “It was written on the outside – ‘Allah is s–t,’” said Abu Chowdhury, 51, who immediately called the cops, adding: “I have no enemies...We are not a religious business.”

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/2/10/anti-muslim-graffiti-scrawled-on-brooklyn-shop.html>, retrieved on 11.02.2012



**31. Sweden: Muslim Name Ruins Swedish Dream Holiday** – *The Local* reported on 14 February 2011 that a Swedish tourist became the latest victim of Islamophobia after being barred from a flight to his dream holiday in Mexico for having a Muslim name.

Abdifateh Ahmed Mohamed told the local daily *Aftonbladet*: “I was told that I couldn’t board the flight,” in Oslo airport, as “They said I was a terrorist...I’ve never been suspected of a crime in my whole life.” After pleading to know the reasons behind having him denied the flight, Mohamed only got the advice of airport officials to contact the American embassy to know why he was barred. It was unclear why American officials got involved in the case, as the passenger was heading elsewhere. US embassy officials

in Sweden said they were not aware of the incident. The Swedish tourist said that his two travelling companions, who did not have Muslim names, were allowed to continue their way to Mexico.

In: <http://www.onislam.net/english/news/europe/455806-muslim-name-shatters-swedish-dream-holiday.html>, retrieved on 15.02.2012

**32. France: ‘Suburbs becoming Muslim land’, says journalist** – French journalist and historian Alexandre Adler told *France Info French* that suburbs were becoming ‘Muslim land’. Adler also said that many French Muslims wanted this, and that he was concerned about the self-administration against the State in those neighborhoods. Adler said the violence in the banlieues could not be explained only as social problems, and that it was due to the Muslim doctrine that wherever Islam spreads was Muslim land. The banlieues could be compared to the Muslim areas of India, which eventually seceded and became Pakistan and Bangladesh.

In: <http://islamineurope.blogspot.com/2012/02/france-suburbs-becoming-muslim-land.html>, retrieved on 21.02.2012

**33. UK: Unions stand together in fight against Muslim private school** – The two biggest teaching unions had announced they would fight the setting up of a Muslim free school in Derby. Union leaders feared pupils at the planned school might not be taught by qualified teachers and were also concerned that, although it was planned to open in September 2012, it did not yet have a suitable building. They also said they were worried the school would not follow a “broad curriculum” and that it would harm the city’s state schools by attracting away Muslim pupils.

In: <http://islamineurope.blogspot.com/2012/03/derby-unions-stand-together-in-fight.html>, retrieved on 07.03.2012

**34. US: Houston Islamic school’s rejection from TAPPS resurfaces** – A Houston Islamic academy was denied membership to the Texas Association of Private and Parochial School (TAPPS) after being grilled about the Koran and the mosque located at Ground Zero.

Iman Academy applied for membership to TAPPS in 2010, but the association denied the school’s request. The Iman Academy received a provocative questionnaire and loaded questions, including how the school addressed Christmas, as part of their application to apply for the TAPPS. Among the questions sent to Iman Academy and the other Islamic schools that applied were:

- Historically, there is nothing in the Koran that fully embraces Christianity or Judaism in the way a Christian and/or a Jew understands his religion. Why, then, are you interested in joining an association whose basic beliefs your religion condemns?
- It is our understanding that the Koran tells you not to mix with (and even eliminate) the infidels. Christians and Jews fall into that category. Why do you wish to join an organization whose membership is in disagreement with your beliefs?
- How does your school address certain Christian concepts? (i.e. celebrating Christmas)
- Does your school teach that the Bible is corrupt? When was the Bible allegedly polluted? Does the Koran actually state that the Bible is polluted?
- What is your attitude about the spread of Islam in America? What are the goals of your school in this regard?

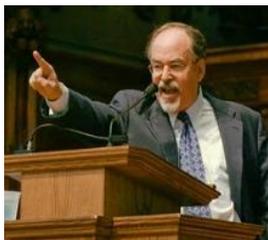
In 2004, two other Islamic schools applied for membership and received a response letter that they perceived as hostile to their faith. They chose not to answer the questions, but Iman Academy did. School officials were invited to an interview before the TAPPS board in November 2010, and Principal Cindy Steffens said one board member said he wanted to discuss the “elephant in the room.” She said the board asked questions that seemed irrelevant to joining an association to play sports, such as asking her opinion about the mosque located near Ground Zero in New York City. Steffens said another board member told her, “**I know all Muslims are not terrorists, but all terrorists are Muslims.**”

In: [http://blog.chron.com/newswatch/2012/03/houston-islamic-schools-rejection-from-tapps-resurfaces/?utm\\_source=twitterfeed&utm\\_medium=twitter](http://blog.chron.com/newswatch/2012/03/houston-islamic-schools-rejection-from-tapps-resurfaces/?utm_source=twitterfeed&utm_medium=twitter), retrieved on 07.03.2012, **emphasis added**.

**35. US: Eight cab drivers claim their boss made them choose between prayer and their job** – Mohamed BenHassine, a devout Muslim, which means praying five times a day for five to seven minutes, said he and seven other Star Taxi drivers claimed management threatened to fire them if they prayed while on the job. He added: “Either you practice your religion or you lose your job...I don’t think that’s fair in this country.” On 13 March 2012, BenHassine’s legal team filed a formal discrimination complaint with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission on behalf of eight Star Taxi drivers, all of whom claimed they had been threatened by management for praying.

In: <http://www.islamophobiatoday.com/2012/03/14/eight-cab-drivers-claim-their-boss-made-them-choose-between-prayer-and-their-job/>, retrieved on 15.03.2012

**36. US: University of North Carolina students walk out on David Horowitz as he compares Muslims to Nazis** – About 20 minutes after David Horowitz began speaking on 12 March 2012, nearly all the



students in attendance walked out of Hamilton Hall in protest. The action came in response to what participants said were slanderous remarks about Muslims and members of Arab nations. Committee for a Better Carolina, along with Christians United for Israel, sponsored Horowitz to speak at UNC in a lecture titled “Why Israel is the Victim in the Middle East”. Horowitz, a pro-Israel activist, in the said lecture, argued that Palestine was trying to destroy Israel and that Israel fought back only in self-defense. He also criticized groups

like the Muslim Students Association, linking them to various terrorist groups. He also compared Muslims to Nazis. He said: “There are good Muslims and there are bad Muslims...But there were good Germans too, and in the end they didn’t make a damn difference.”

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/3/14/university-of-north-carolina-students-walk-out-on-david-horo.html>, retrieved on 17.03.2012

**37. US: Iraqi mother, Shaima Al Awadi, dies days after being viciously beaten with tire iron** – Her daughter, Fatima Al Himidi, believed the killing was a hate crime. Shaima Al Awadi, found beaten with a tire iron in her home and targeted with racist threats died Saturday (24 Mar). CNN reported that Alawadi, a 32-year-old mother of five, came to the United States in the mid-1990s. El Cajon had been home to one of the US largest Iraqi communities.

The teenager told *KGTV 10 News*: “A week ago they left a letter saying this is our country not yours you terrorist, and so my mom ignored that thinking it was just kids playing a prank...But the day they hit her, they left another note again, and it said the same thing.”

Police would not reveal what was in the letter, but confirmed one was found with the body. Lt. Mark Coit of the El Cajon police said in a statement: “During the initial stages of this investigation, a threatening note was discovered very close to where the victim was found.” No suspects had been identified, and police were not saying whether or not the case will be treated as a hate crime. Coit said: “Evidence thus far leads us to believe this is an isolated incident.”

In: <http://www.nydailynews.com/news/national/iraqi-mother-found-beaten-unconscious-hate-filled-letter-dies-article-1.1050570>, retrieved on 26.03.2012

**38. US: Man pleads guilty to hanging camel with noose on Muslim’s apartment door in Cleveland** – A Middleburg Heights man, Christopher M. Sanford, 25, pleaded guilty to putting a plastic camel with a noose around its neck on the apartment door of a Muslim person. He entered a guilty plea to interfering with housing rights of another based on the victim’s race, religion or national origin.

The U.S. Department of Justice said that on the morning of 1<sup>st</sup> December 2009, Sanford took a plastic camel and a noose, and hung them on the door of the victim, identified only as A.F.A. The victim, a native of Jordan, an Arab and Muslim, lived in the Stonebridge Apartments in downtown Cleveland. Sanford said he used the plastic camel because of the victim's race and religion, Dettelbach said.

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/3/26/man-pleads-guilty-to-hanging-camel-with-noose-on-muslims-apa.html>, retrieved on 27.03.2012

**39. UK: Muslim man sacked from job over beard** – A Muslim man from Croydon became another victim to Britain's rising Islamophobia, as he had been sacked on the first day of his new job at a phone shop because of his beard. Shahid Saleem, bearded due to his religious beliefs, started a legal action after the discrimination he faced at Vodafone shop in Sutton High Street, London.

In: <http://presstv.com/detail/233815.html>, retrieved on 31.03.2012

**40. France: Girl sent home from school, skirt too long** – A student at the Edmond-Rostand secondary school at Saint-Ouen-l'Aumône near Paris was accused of wearing provocative clothing and sent back home. The school thought her skirt was too long, and conveyed religious values. The girl, Khadija, told the French daily *Le Parisien*: "Other students come dressed up as hippies or goths and nobody says anything...but I'm not even allowed to wear a gypsy skirt....If I had come to school wearing a veil I would have understood their reaction." On 26 March 2012, Khadija was sent home from school for wearing a long skirt that according to the school conveyed religious values. Khadija said: "It was a beautiful day, I wore a long skirt...the headmistress told me I was being provocative and sent me home."

An official belonging to the local academic authority however denied Khadija was expelled from the school and says the skirt had only been "commented on". The unnamed official in an interview with *Le Parisien* said: "She takes her veil off before entering the school, but it's our role to make comments to pupils who wear provocative clothes. We do the same with a girl who comes to school with a bare belly."

In: <http://www.thelocal.fr/2970/20120329/>, retrieved on 31.03.2012

**41. UK: Driver shocked to be asked by police officer if he supports al-Qaeda** – A driver was asked if he supported terrorists when he was pulled over by police. Mohammed Younis was told by the officer who stopped him along Huddersfield Road through Ravensthorpe (Dewsbury) that a black cloth he had fixed to the back of his car was a sign that he backed al-Qaeda. But the 29-year-old said the suggestion was nonsense and that the cloth was simply a good luck charm.

When Mr Younis asked the officer where he had heard that black cloths were a sign of supporting al-Qaeda, he was told that the officer had heard it from a former colleague. After leaving the petrol station, Mr Younis went to Dewsbury police station where he spoke to a senior officer about what had happened. Police said they had not yet received a formal complaint. A police spokesman said: "Once we receive a complaint from Mr Younis we will look into the matter."

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/4/5/driver-shocked-to-be-asked-by-police-officer-if-he-supports.html>, retrieved on 07.04.2012

**42. US: Muslim claims detention and torture by FBI** – A Muslim American claimed he was detained in the UAE in 2011 and tortured by FBI agents. He said that he was beaten, threatened with death and kept in solitary confinement for over three months before they let him go. Naturalized US citizen Yonas Fikre, seeking asylum in Sweden, said he was interrogated in connection with a terror plot in Portland, Oregon. He said that he had attended the same mosque in Portland as a man who had been charged in connection with a plot to detonate a bomb in the city in 2010.

The FBI refused to comment. Beth Anne Steele, a spokeswoman for the FBI office in Portland, said she could not talk about the specifics of the case. Fikre became the third Muslim man from Portland to publicly say he was detained while traveling abroad and questioned about Portland's Masjid-as-Sabr mosque.

In: <http://rt.com/news/muslim-man-tortured-fbi-422/>, retrieved on 20.04.2012

**43. Australia: Sydney suburb mayor warns of turning house into mosque if demolition not permitted** – A Sydney suburban mayor issued an ultimatum to his neighbors to let him tear down his house, or he would turn it into a mosque. Auburn mayor Romney Oueik issued the ultimatum as he wants to bring down the heritage-listed home he bought in 2009 and build a new one. His original application to demolish the historic house was unanimously rejected by the Strathfield Council in 2010, but he had been trying again and again. Oueik filed a new application after a fire ripped through the residence in January 2012, which Police had been investigating, though Oueik had denied any involvement in the incident.

Neighbors had said that Oueik held meetings with them in a bid to remove any objections to his plans, and had threatened to turn the building into a Muslim prayer hall if they objected. Marlene Doran, who had lived in Homebush for 60 years and is the archivist for the heritage society, said the threat to turn the house into a Muslim prayer hall was a disgrace.

However, **many neighbors are coming out in support of Oueik's application to demolish his house after seeing his showmen in traditional Muslim robes around the property.**

In: <http://www.newstrackindia.com/newsdetails/2012/04/22/142-Sydney-suburb-mayor-warns-of-turning-house-into-mosque-if-demolition-not-permitted.html>, retrieved on 23.04.2012, emphasis added.

**44. UK: Businessman launched bigoted rant against Muslim airport worker ... after reading article in *Daily Mail*** – A high-flying businessman was hauled before the court for a tirade of religious abuse at a Muslim immigration official waiting to check his passport. Anthony Holt, 65, had become wound up after reading an article in the *Daily Mail* about the “victimisation of Christianity” on a flight into Manchester. When he landed, the retired consultant refused to go through a desk where Sayima Mohammed was on duty. He astonished witnesses by pointing at her and saying: “I don't want to be seen by that. I don't want to be seen by any Muslim in a position of authority. I want to be seen by someone who's English. This is England. This is my country. I'm not into all this Islam.” The 15-minute row only ended when he was arrested. During a police interview Holt claimed the abuse was not “personal”. He said: “The problem I have is with Islam as a whole. It's threat to the British population and the British way of life. I wanted to take a stand.” Holt, of Railway Road, Urmston, pleaded guilty to using religiously aggravated threatening words or behaviour. He was ordered to pay £100 compensation and a £145 fine.

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/6/2/businessman-launched-bigoted-rant-against-muslim-airport-wor.html>, retrieved on 03.06.2012

**45. US: Tennessee anti-Islam Fanatics: Fire Muslim Economic Development Officer** – Tea party and anti-Muslim activists started taking aim at a recent hire by the administration of Gov. Bill Haslam (Tennessee), targeting one of its top economic development officers based on her religion and past work experience. The Center for Security Policy, a Washington, D.C., organization that frequently attacked Muslims for perceived ties to Islamist groups, and the 8<sup>th</sup> District Tea Party Coalition, an umbrella organization of West Tennessee tea party groups, had urged their members to pressure

Haslam and Economic and Community Development Commissioner Bill Hagerty to dump Samar Ali, an attorney appointed in May 2012 as the department's new international director. The groups depicted Ali as an Islamic fundamentalist with close ties to President Barack Obama.

In: <http://www.islamophobiatoday.com/2012/06/14/tennessee-anti-islam-fanatics-fire-muslim-economic-development-officer/>, retrieved on 15.06.2012

**46. US: Homeless Man Slashes Three Workers in anti-Muslim Fueled Hate Crime** – Police sources said, on 21 June 2012, that a homeless man slashed three Mott Haven workers with glass shards in 9/11- fueled hate crimes against Muslims. Alejandro Gonzalez, 19, claimed he was “fighting terrorism” when he attacked three Middle Eastern men in two stores. The first assault took place at 9:30 p.m. on 6 June, when Gonzalez confronted Adam Zandan in a bodega on Courtlandt Avenue and cut the victim's face. A day later, the attacker walked into a pizza parlor on East 158<sup>th</sup> Street and sliced Salem Salim across the forehead, then slashed Bilal Alsayedi on the right arm as Alsayedi came to Salim's aid. The victims were treated for non-life-threatening wounds. Gonzalez was arrested on 8 June.

In: <http://www.islamophobiatoday.com/2012/06/22/homeless-man-slashes-three-workers-in-anti-muslim-fueled-hate-crime/>, retrieved on 27.06.2012

**47. US: San Antonio (Texas) Muslim family targeted on Fourth of July** – Someone spray-painted the word “terrorist” on a Muslim family's home on 04 July 2012 morning and it did not stop there. The family said on the same day night someone rang their doorbell and started banging on the front door. The family told police they also heard fireworks being thrown at their door. San Antonio police were investigating the incident as criminal mischief, but the family, of Pakistani heritage, wanted more done. They were asking for the FBI to get involved.



In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/7/6/san-antonio-muslim-family-targeted-on-fourth-of-july.html>, retrieved on 07.07.2012

**48. US: Many Muslims join US military to kill fellow soldiers, says ‘terrorism expert’** – A terrorism expert and author was warning of what he perceived as a threat to the U.S. military, and suggesting to lower that danger, Muslims not be allowed to enlist in the ranks. “Muslim Mafia” co-author David Gaubatz said on a recent edition of his counterterrorism radio program that because of a Muslim's first allegiance to Shariah law, they were ill-fitted for the U.S. armed forces.

In: <http://www.islamophobiatoday.com/2012/07/11/many-muslims-join-us-military-to-kill-fellow-soldiers-says-terrorism-expert/>, retrieved on 12.07.2012

**49. French council sacks summer camp workers for observing Ramadan fast** – France's main Muslim body on 30 July 2012 angrily condemned a town council's decision to sack four summer camp workers for fasting during Ramadan as “arbitrary and discriminatory”. The four workers, who had been employed temporarily by the town of Gennevilliers in the Paris suburbs to help run a sports camp in southwestern France, were dismissed on 20 July 2012, the first day of Ramadan, after being told they were endangering children's safety by not eating or drinking between dawn and dusk.

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/7/31/french-council-sacks-summer-camp-workers-for-observing-ramad.html>, retrieved on 01.08.2012

**50. UK: Daily Mail identifies the culprits behind Olympic travel problems** – ENGAGE referred to *Islamophobia Watch Blog* to an article on the Political Scrapbook blog reporting the *Daily Mail's* attempt to blame travel problems during the Olympics on, yes you guessed, Muslims. Apparently they would cause chaos when they “squeeze

Find a Job | M&S Wine | Our Papers | Feedback Monday, Jul 23 2012 12PM 22°C

# MailOnline

Home | News | U.S. | Sport | TV&Showbiz | Femail | Health | Science | Money | RightMinds | Coffee Break | Tr

News Home | Arts | Headlines | Pictures | Most read | News Board

## Ramadan 'will cause even more transport chaos during the Olympics as worshippers squeeze on to non-Games lanes'

- Local councillor Abdal Ullah warned of 'traffic chaos'
- Area around Olympic Park has 250,000 Muslims and almost 100 mosques
- There will be 3,000 Muslim Olympians but many have special dispensation
- It is the first time Ramadan has fallen on an Olympics since Moscow 1980

into non-Games lanes to worship at the many mosques that surround the Olympic Park”.

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/7/24/daily-mail-identifies-the-culprits-behind-olympic-travel-pro.html>, retrieved on 25.07.2012

**51. South Africa: Man beaten to death over beard** – Former South African intelligence minister Ronnie Kasrils said on 08 August 2012 that the “savage” attack on two Muslim men, Fayaz Kazi and Ansaar Mahmood, in the North West carried “the stench of Islamophobia”. Kazi, 27, from Ventersdorp, was beaten to death in Magaliesburg, allegedly by two people who insulted him because of his beard, according to a family friend.

In: [http://www.thenewage.co.za/58527-1017-53-Man\\_beaten\\_to\\_death\\_over\\_beard](http://www.thenewage.co.za/58527-1017-53-Man_beaten_to_death_over_beard), retrieved on 09.08.2012

**52. US: Pig parts dumped as Muslims pray; hate crime probe urged** – Two women hurled hunks of pig carcasses on 07 August 2012 outside a San Bernardino County (California) home where Muslims prayed inside, prompting calls for a federal hate crime investigation and stoking tension within the area’s Muslim community.

In: <http://www.pe.com/local-news/politics/ben-goad-headlines/20120810-ontario-pig-parts-dumped-as-muslims-pray.ece>, retrieved on 11.08.2012

**53. US: (West Hartford, Connecticut) man charged with hate crimes against Muslim woman** – Michael John Germain, 68, of 725 Mountain Rd., for verbally insulting a 55-year-old woman because of her ethnicity and threatening to punch her while she was waiting in line for a prescription at the Walgreen’s pharmacy at 324 North Main St. was arrested on 15 September 2012 evening at his home and charged with hate crimes by West Hartford Police. He was observed making “rude, offensive, and obnoxious comments for no reason” to a woman, including obscenities which cannot be printed. Germain was also heard saying, “I don’t like Muslims ... get the hell out of here,” and also threatened to punch her. The man did not touch the woman, but he followed her out to the parking lot, still swearing and yelling to her, and got into his car and drove away before police arrived.

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/9/18/west-hartford-connecticut-man-charged-with-hate-crimes-again.html>, retrieved on 19.09.2012

#### IV. Incidents Related to Hijab (Veil):

**1. Belgium: Parliament votes for veil ban** – Late on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2011, the House of Representatives of the Belgian Federal Parliament overwhelmingly voted by a majority of 136-1 and only had two abstentions in favour of introducing legislation that would ban the burqa-type Islamic dress in public. Actually, the Lower House had already approved the bill sometimes in 2010, but the process was held up at the last moment when the government coalition collapsed.

Meanwhile, Belgian media said on 14 July 2011 that Belgium would enforce a burqa ban from 23 July 2011 with a fine and possible jail time for women wearing it, joining France as the second EU nation to forbid full veils. The new law was published on 13 July 2011 in the kingdom’s official journal after deputies approved it unanimously in parliament in April 2011.

In: <http://islamineurope.blogspot.com/2011/05/belgium-parliament-votes-for-veil-ban.html> retrieved on 02.05.2011 & <http://islamineurope.blogspot.com/2011/07/belgium-burqa-ban-starting-july-23rd.html> retrieved on 15.07.2011

**Related: EU: Human Rights Commissioner blasts anti-burqa legislation** – The Council of Europe, the oldest European institution specialized in human rights, on 20 July 2011 strongly criticized recent French and Belgian legislation targeting the burqa. Thomas Hammarberg, the Council of Europe’s commissioner for human rights, said on the same day in a written statement that penalizing women who wore the burqa did not liberate them. Instead, he insisted, that the way the dress of a small

number of women had been portrayed as a major problem requiring urgent discussion and legislation was “a sad capitulation to the prejudices of xenophobes”.

In: <http://islamineurope.blogspot.com/2011/07/eu-human-rights-commissioner-blasts.html> retrieved on 21.07.2011

**Related: Belgium: constitutional court refuses to suspend veil ban law** – Belgium’s highest court on 05 October 2011 refused to suspend a law banning the wearing of burqas, but said it was still examining whether the recently-adopted act was legal. The *Belga* news agency reported that the Constitutional Court ruled that there was no evidence that the two women who had appealed against the law have suffered serious discrimination, leaving no ground to suspend it.

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2011/10/6/belgium-constitutional-court-refuses-to-suspend-veil-ban-law.html>, retrieved on 07.10.2011

**2. French court bars Muslim woman from wearing headscarf, judge insults her faith** – The *Collectif contre l'islamophobie en France* reported on the disgraceful treatment of a Muslim woman in Béziers who attended a court hearing over the custody of her child. She was told by a police officer that she would have to remove her headscarf out of respect for the judge, by order of the court, otherwise the hearing would take place in her absence. When she tried to enter the courtroom wearing a headband rather than a scarf she was barred by the clerk who told her “no, no, veils are prohibited” and made her remove the headband before she was allowed in. **During the hearing the judge told the woman that she was a “bad mother” because she had allowed her son to convert to Islam, which the judge described as “an act of barbarism towards children”, adding “don’t tell me that the Muslim religion is better than any other religion”.** Despite the evidence that the child wanted to remain with his mother the judge stated that it was not for the child to “choose and lay down the law in this court”.

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2011/6/12/french-court-bars-muslim-woman-from-wearing-headscarf-judge.html> retrieved on 14.06.2011, emphasis added.

**3. Canada: Soccer referee banned for wearing hijab** – A former Lac St. Louis soccer referee was blowing the whistle on rules she said prevent her from practicing her religion. Sarah Benkirane, 15, was told after two years of refereeing for the soccer association that she was out of a job, after a complaint surfaced over her wearing her hijab while calling games.



In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2011/6/19/soccer-referee-banned-for-wearing-hijab.html> retrieved on 20.06.2011

**4. Muslim woman thrown off bus in New Zealand for wearing veil** – A Saudi Arabian student was left crying on the street after a bus driver refused to let her board because of her Muslim veil.

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2011/7/4/muslim-woman-thrown-off-bus-in-new-zealand-for-wearing-veil.html> retrieved on 05.07.2011

**5. Muslims in Australia face jail over veils** – Muslim women refusing to remove their veils for police would face jail under new laws in Australia’s largest state. The New South Wales government had rushed through legislation allowing police to force the removal of head coverings to identify suspected criminals. The laws were among the toughest in the world involving Islamic female dress.

In: <http://www.vancouversun.com/news/Muslims+Australia+face+jail+over+veils/5054076/story.html> retrieved on 07.07.2011

**6. Italy Approves Draft Law Banning Burqas** – An Italian parliamentary commission approved a draft law on 02 August 2011 which would ban women from wearing the veils that cover their faces in public, if passed by parliament in September 2011.

The draft law would forbid women from wearing a burqa or naqib, but also prohibit anyone from covering their faces with a motorcycle helmet or any material of “ethnic origins”. Although it was rare

to see women wearing burqas in the streets of Italy, those who breached the law would be fined, with heavy penalties ~ 30,000 Euros (\$42,000) and up to 12 months in jail ~ for third parties forcing women to cover their faces in public.

In: <http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5hHRDfHrrESOAUmrU-DTHPI2dDvNQ?docId=CNG.b5d6f26d26cde586fa7a9380cfa7a523.191> retrieved on 03.08.2011

**7. French court issues first fine over niqab ban** – A French police court on 22 September 2011 issued its first fines against two women charged with wearing the full-face covering Islamic niqab. Police had issued several on-the-spot fines since the ban came into effect in April 2011 but these were the first court-issued fines, with the women vowing to appeal their case all the way to the European Court of Human Rights. Hind Ahmas, 32, was ordered to pay a 120-euro fine, while Najate Nait Ali, 36, was fined 80 euros. The court did not order them to take a citizenship course, as had been requested by the prosecutor. One of the women had not been allowed into the court in May 2011 because she refused to take off her niqab to show her face.

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2011/9/22/french-court-issues-first-fine-over-niqab-ban.html>, retrieved on 22.09.2011

**8. UK: Muslim woman had head veil ripped from her face** – A woman admitted ripping the head veil off a devout Muslim woman in Halifax. Jacqueline Zaro, of East Street, Sowerby Bridge, pleaded guilty on the first day of her trial to intent to cause religiously-aggravated harassment, alarm or distress in the incident on June 11 at King Cross Road, Halifax. James Weekes, prosecuting, told Calderdale Magistrates' Court the victim had moved to this country six years ago and was a devout Muslim who wore the veil to cover her face. He said the victim said she had had sleepless nights since and felt vulnerable and too afraid to go out shopping on her own. The court heard Zaro told police she had drunk three litres of cider beforehand and when she was shown CCTV footage she accepted she had pulled off the headscarf. Magistrates gave Zaro a 12-month community order with supervision and six months' with an alcohol treatment team. They also ordered her to pay £100 prosecution costs and £100 compensation to the victim.

In: [http://www.halifaxcourier.co.uk/news/local/muslim\\_woman\\_had\\_head\\_veil\\_ripped\\_from\\_her\\_face\\_1\\_3834060](http://www.halifaxcourier.co.uk/news/local/muslim_woman_had_head_veil_ripped_from_her_face_1_3834060), retrieved on 04.10.2011

**9. Spanish girl thrown out of exam for wearing headscarf** – A Spanish schoolgirl had been expelled from school during an exam after refusing to remove her Islamic headdress or hijab, school officials said. She told *El Mundo* newspaper: "They told me to remove it... they humiliated me in front of my peers." The 14-year-old girl, living in Madrid, decided to wear hijab in the summer of 2011. Her parents became outraged by the expulsion and described it an "abuse", reporting the case to judiciary officials. This came while there were no clear guidelines prohibiting the wearing of headscarves in state schools in Spain.

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2011/10/8/spanish-girl-thrown-out-of-exam-for-wearing-headscarf.html>, retrieved on 09.10.2011

**10. French court backs private nursery over Islamic headscarf sacking** – A French court ruled that a private nursery had the right to fire an employee for wearing Islamic head-cover, leading its lawyer to hail an advance for secular forces in the country. An appeal court in Versailles backed up an earlier ruling by a labour court that the *Baby Loup* nursery in Mantes-la-Jolie was within its rights to sack Fatima Afif in 2008 for refusing to take off her headscarf. Afif, who was claiming 80,000 euros in compensation for unfair dismissal, had the right to appeal. The ruling created jurisprudence because it was the first time a private educational establishment had invoked its right to enforce "religious neutrality", the principle behind the 2004 French law which banned "ostentatious signs of religion" in state schools.

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2011/10/27/french-court-backs-private-nursery-over-islamic-headscarf-sa.html>, retrieved on 28.10.2011

**11. UK: Muslim woman, 52, racially abused by Telford gang** – A Muslim woman was spat at and abused by a gang of six teenagers in Telford who pulled off her religious headdress in a racially motivated attack. The gang, who were all male, surrounded the 52-year-old woman and started aggressively pushing and shoving her as she walked along a footpath by the skate park near William Reynolds Infant School in Woodside on 29 November 2011. Chris Ammonds, spokesman for Telford police, said the woman was abused between 6pm and 6.20pm.

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2011/12/2/muslim-woman-52-racially-abused-by-telford-gang.html>, retrieved on 03.12.2011

**12. Canada prohibits Muslim veil in citizenship ceremonies** – Canada, a country that prides itself on having one of the world's most liberal systems for immigration, just banned women from wearing veils while taking the oath of citizenship. Limited to citizenship ceremonies, Canada's new rules made it the second nation after France to ban face-covering garments in public, although there were a number of countries in Europe that had begun to target Islamic fashion and religious observance in the past few years. Canada's minister of citizenship and immigration, Jason Kenney, told reporters that he found it "bizarre" that Canada's rules had once allowed women to wear face-concealing garments during their citizenship ceremonies. Mr. Kenney was quoted by the *Guardian* newspaper as saying: "Frankly, I found it bizarre that the rules allowed people to take the oath with a veil on...It is a matter of deep principle that goes to the heart of our identity and our values of openness and equality."

In: <http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Americas/2011/1213/Burqa-ban-Canada-prohibits-Muslim-veil-in-citizenship-ceremonies-VIDEO>, retrieved on 14.12.2011

**13. Florida (US): Muslim woman refused service at gas station** – On 1<sup>st</sup> February 2012, La-Fleur Mohammed talked about her experience at the Boca Raton station in October 2011, where she said she was refused service because she was wearing a traditional Muslim headdress that covered almost all of her face. Ms Mohammed stated: "She took my money and said 'you can't come in here dressed like that'...I said, 'excuse me but this is my religious right'...She said, 'well, I need to see you'. I said, 'no, you don't. Please just give me \$20 on pump number one' and that's when she just threw my money back at me." Ms Mohammed said at that point she picked up her money, walked out, and called 911. A sheriff's deputy arrived and escorted Mohammed into the store again, but was still refused service.

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/2/1/florida-muslim-woman-refused-service-at-gas-station.html>, retrieved on 02.02.2012

**14. Israeli commercial ridicules veil, angers Muslims** – Hundreds of thousands of Muslim internet users were outraged by a commercial that made fun of the Muslim veil. The commercial, which was produced by Israelis, spread rapidly on the social networking website *Facebook* and the video sharing website *YouTube*. It depicted four male Mossad agents disguised as women wearing headscarves.

The four agents walked in the near a picture of the leader of the 1979 Islamic revolution, Ayatollah Khomeini, apparently in Iran. They walked towards another man sitting in a café across the street from a nuclear reactor. The man, who turned out to be a Mossad agent as well, pressed a button and the reactor was seen exploding. The video, which promoted attacking Iranian nuclear plants, outraged many Muslim viewers. The company that produced the commercial, according to Muslims who commented online, was insulting Islam through linking the Islamic dress code with the kind of actions that involved bombing and Israeli spies. They accused Israel of doing all it could to insult Islam.

In: <http://english.alarabiya.net/articles/2012/02/02/192110.html>, retrieved on 03.02.2012

**15. French draft law aims to ban hijab for child minders** – The controversy surrounding the Islamic headscarf in France was making headlines again as the French National Assembly studied a draft law that would ban religious symbols in all facilities catering for children, including nannies and childcare assistants looking after children at home. The draft law was approved by the French Senate with a large majority on 17 January 2012 and it was sent to the National Assembly to be ratified before being signed into law by the president. The text of the draft law introduced by Françoise Laborde, a senator from the Radical Party of the Left, read: “Unless otherwise specified in a contract with the individual employer, a childcare assistant is subject to an obligation of neutrality in religious matters in the course of childcare activity.”

In: <http://www.islamophobiatoday.com/2012/02/16/french-draft-law-aims-to-ban-hijab-for-child-minders/>, retrieved on 17.02.2012

**16. Ireland: Woman beaten and taunted as she wore hijab** – A young Muslim student was punched in the face and racially taunted as she walked down a Dublin street wearing a head scarf. A Dublin mother (23) had been convicted for assaulting the young Libyan, who was rescued by a passing motorist who stopped and helped her home. Helen Doran’s victim was wearing a traditional Muslim hijab or head scarf. Doran followed her across a road after assaulting her and continued to shout racist insults at her. Doran, of Castlecurragh Vale in Mulhuddart, admitted before Blanchardstown District Court to assaulting a 20-year-old Libyan student on November 2, 2011. Judge Anthony Halpin sentenced Doran to three months in prison, suspended for one year.

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/3/9/woman-beaten-and-taunted-as-she-wore-hijab.html>, retrieved on 10.03.2012

**17. France: referee refused to officiate women’s football match because some players wore headscarves** – A referee on 18 March refused to officiate a French women’s football match, when players for one of the teams took the pitch wearing Muslim headscarves, the club involved said. The official sent a report to the Languedoc-Roussillon league in the south of the country about the incident involving players from Petit-Bard Montpellier, who had been due to play Narbonne in the regional promotion tie. The league would decide whether to order the match to be replayed or to award a win to Narbonne. The 2 teams played a friendly match instead, with Narbonne winning 7-6.

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/3/18/france-referee-refused-to-officiate-womens-football-match-be.html>, retrieved on 19.03.2012

**18. UK: Muslim juror who refused to take veil off is ordered to stand down by judge** – A Muslim woman was barred from serving on a jury on 19 March 2012 because she refused to remove her veil. In an extraordinary ruling, a judge said she could not sit on an attempted murder trial because her full face covering, known as the niqab, concealed her expressions.

In: <http://islamineurope.blogspot.com/2012/03/uk-muslim-juror-who-refused-to-take.html>, retrieved on 21.03.2012

**19. France: young woman in veil assaulted, called ‘dirty terrorist’** – On 26 March 2012 at Juvisy-sur-Orge (in the Essonne department) a young woman wearing a veil was attacked. She was leaving a branch of the state employment agency Pole Emploi and returning to her car. She was violently assaulted, threatened with a knife and insulted as a “dirty terrorist” and “dirty Arab”, while the individual tried to tear off her veil and steal her watch. Although the attackers could be identified by a DNA test, the prosecutor refused, because it “costs too much money”.

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/4/6/france-young-woman-in-veil-assaulted-called-dirty-terrorist.html>, retrieved on 07.04.2012

**20. Hollande says he’ll retain French veil ban** – France’s socialist presidential candidate said that, if elected, he would not seek to overturn a law banning face-covering Muslim veils enacted by President

Nicolas Sarkozy's conservatives. On RTL radio Friday (27 April), Hollande said he would keep the ban, but "have it applied in the best way". He did not elaborate.

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/4/27/hollande-says-hell-retain-french-veil-ban.html>, retrieved on 28.04.2012

**21. US: Muslim woman told to remove niqab in mall** – On 19 May 2012, the American-born Wakeelah Salaam had been shopping by herself for less than ten minutes at the Bridgewater Commons Mall (New Jersey) when a security guard approached her and told her to remove her traditional Muslim face covering. Salaam said: "He said, 'ma'am, I'm telling you, you cannot wear that mask in here. He came as close to me as though he was going to kiss me, and then he made the hand gesture like he was going to lift it up for me.'" She eventually felt so uncomfortable that she called police.

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/5/21/new-jersey-muslim-woman-told-to-remove-niqab-in-mall.html>, retrieved on 23.05.2012

**22. Protest at Brussels police station after veiled woman arrested** – Belgian media reported that protesters hurled bins and metal barriers at a Brussels police station on 31 May 2012 night after a Muslim woman was arrested for refusing to remove a face veil. Six protesters were arrested, and the woman was released and expected to be questioned later. Belgium and France both banned people from wearing full face veils in public in 2011.

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/6/1/protest-at-brussels-police-station-after-veiled-woman-arrest.html>, retrieved on 01.06.2012

**23. Belgium: Vlaams Belang offers 'burqa bounty'** – Belgian right-wingers had offered to pay a 250 Euros (\$310) bounty to anyone who reported a veiled woman to police, they said on 05 June 2012, in the wake of face veil riots in Brussels. Filip Dewinter, a senior figure within Vlaams Belang, a right-wing party, told *Reuters* the riots had made police apprehensive about enforcing the burqa ban and that the payment should put pressure on authorities to further enforce it.

In: <http://www.islamophobiatoday.com/2012/06/05/vlaams-belang-offers-burqa-bounty/>, retrieved on 06.06.2012

**24. France: Police at Paris airport bar three Saudi women wearing face veil from entering France, citing ban** – A police union said three Saudi women who refused to remove their face veils at Paris' Charles de Gaulle airport had been barred entry to France on 11 June 2012 on a flight from Doha, Qatar, and they returned to Doha on the same night.

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/6/12/police-at-paris-airport-bar-three-saudi-women-wearing-face-v.html>, retrieved on 13.06.2012

**25. French Football Federation bans hijab despite green light from FIFA** – The French Football Federation (FFF) said 06 July 2012 that it would "not authorize players to wear a veil" while playing for France or in organized competitions, a day after world footballing authorities said the hijab could be worn on the pitch.

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/7/6/french-football-federation-bans-hijab-despite-green-light-fr.html>, retrieved on 07.07.2012

**26. Canada: girl banned from soccer game for refusing to remove hijab** – A nine-year-old Gatineau



(Ottawa) girl who refused to remove her headscarf was forced to stand on the sidelines on 07 July 2012 as her team played – and won – the final match of a soccer tournament. The order came just days after the International Football Association Board voted to lift its ban based on the fact that "there is no medical literature concerning injuries as a result of wearing a headscarf", the organization stated on its website. Rayane Benatti was told to take off her headscarf for safety reasons, but she refused. Until the international

organization approved a design, colour and material for headscarves during matches, “scarves of all sorts” would remain banned, said Gatineau’s director of tournaments Marc St-Amour.

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/7/9/ottawa-girl-banned-from-soccer-game-for-refusing-to-remove-h.html>, retrieved on 10.07.2012

**27. UK: ‘Trendy’ Oxford Street and Piccadilly retailer forced Muslim employee to resign over headscarf** – An employment tribunal had ruled that a London-based retailer forced a Muslim employee to resign after she wore a headscarf to work, because it wanted to retain its “trendy” image. Ms Farrah brought a claim for unfair dismissal and direct religious discrimination against her former employer, Global Luggage Co, after the company moved her to a different store to maintain its “trendy” image and later forced her to resign.

<http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/8/7/trendy-oxford-street-and-piccadilly-retailer-forced-muslim-e.html>, retrieved on 08.08.2012

**28. US: Ex-worker sues Disney, says company forbids Muslim head scarf** – A former Disneyland restaurant employee sued Walt Disney Co on 13 August 2012 for harassment and religious discrimination, saying she was fired because she wanted to wear a Muslim head scarf at work. Imane Boudlal, a 28-year-old Muslim, worked as a hostess at the Storytellers Cafe, a restaurant inside Disney’s Grand California Hotel & Spa at Disneyland in Anaheim, California, according to a complaint filed in federal court. A U.S. citizen who was born in Morocco, Boudlal said she was also subject to anti-Arab and anti-Muslim slurs, including being called “terrorist” and “camel” by co-workers and supervisors. She said she reported the incidents to managers but they took no action.



In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/8/14/ex-worker-sues-disney-says-company-forbids-muslim-head-scarf.html>, retrieved on 15.08.2012

**29. France: Socialist deputy mayor refused to marry Muslim woman who wore hijab** – The *Collectif contre l’Islamophobie en France* reported that on 6 September 2012 a young Muslim couple, Saad and Myriam, arrived at the town hall at La Seyne-sur-Mer in southeastern France to get married. However when Florence Cyrulnik, the Socialist Party deputy mayor who was to preside over their wedding, arrived she told Myriam abruptly that she would not proceed with the marriage unless the bride immediately removed her headscarf. Although Myriam was not wearing a face veil, illegal in France, she was informed that religious symbols were banned in public spaces according to a local secularist statute. Attempts to reason with Cyrulnik and her equally aggressive assistant Marc Vuillemot failed and Saad and Myriam were forced to call off their wedding.

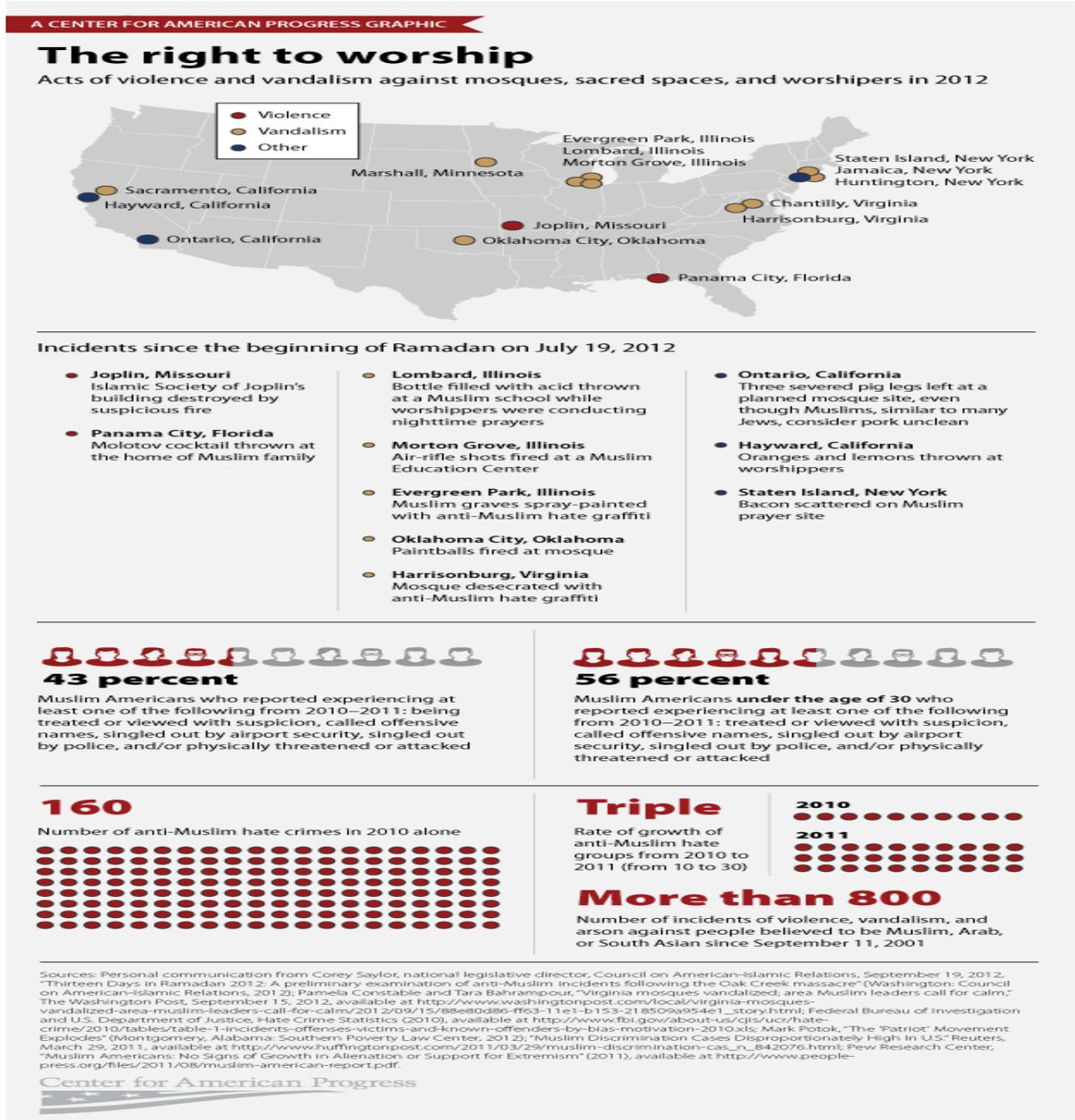
In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/9/18/france-socialist-deputy-mayor-refused-to-marry-muslim-woman.html>, retrieved on 20.09.2012

**30. Marine Le Pen calls for ban on Muslim and Jewish headwear** – French far-right leader Marine Le Pen called on 21 September 2012 for a ban on wearing Muslim veils and Jewish skullcaps in public, adding to religious tensions sparked by cartoons of the Prophet Mohammed. In an interview with the *Le Monde* newspaper, Le Pen called for religious headwear to be banned “in stores, on public transport and on the streets”.

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/9/21/marine-le-pen-calls-for-ban-on-muslim-and-jewish-headwear.html>, retrieved on 22.09.2012

**B: US: ISLAMOPHOBIC INCIDENTS HIT TEN YEAR HIGH<sup>64</sup>**

The days during 2012’s celebration of Ramadan—a holy month for Muslims which began July 20 and ended at sundown on August 18—saw one of the largest spikes in Islamophobic incidents in the United States in a decade. The incidents, which continued to occur, were widespread and often violent, and although some of the perpetrators had been apprehended and charged, most had not been caught. Many cases were still under investigation. The Center for American Progress had produced an infographic about the ongoing issue, seen below:



<sup>64</sup> See *Think Progress* in: <http://thinkprogress.org/justice/2012/09/26/916141/islamophobic-incidents-hit-ten-year-high/?mobile=nc>, retrieved on 29.09.2012

**C: JOINT STATEMENT BY CO-CHAIRS MINISTERIAL MEETING ON IMPLEMENTATION OF  
HRC RESOLUTION 16/18  
ISTANBUL, 15 JULY 2011**

---

The Secretary of State of the United States, the Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, and the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs, together with foreign ministers and officials from Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Egypt, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Pakistan, Poland, Romania, Senegal, Sudan, United Kingdom, the Vatican (Holy See), UN OHCHR, Arab League, and African Union, met on July 15 in Istanbul to give a united impetus to the implementation of UN Human Rights Council Resolution 16/18 on “[Combating intolerance, negative stereotyping and stigmatization of discrimination, incitement to violence, and violence against persons based on religion or belief.](#)” The meeting was hosted by the OIC at the OIC/IRCICA premises at the historic Yildiz Palace in Istanbul and co-chaired by the OIC Secretary-General H.E. Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu and U.S. Secretary of State H.E. Mrs. Hillary Clinton.

They called upon all relevant stakeholders throughout the world to take seriously the call for action set forth in resolution 16/18, which contributes to strengthening the foundations of tolerance and respect for religious diversity as well as enhancing the promotion and protections of human rights and fundamental freedoms around the world.

The participants, resolved to go beyond mere rhetoric, and to reaffirm their commitment to freedom of religion or belief and freedom of expressions by urging States to take effective measures, as set forth in Resolution 16/18, consistent with their obligations under international human rights law, to address and combat intolerance, discrimination, and violence based on religion or belief. The Co-Chairs of the meeting committed to working together with other interested countries and actors on follow up and implementation of Resolution 16/18 and to conduct further events and activities to discuss and assess implementation of the Resolution. Participants are encouraged to consider to provide updates, as part of ongoing reporting to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, on steps taken at the international level on the implementation of Resolution 16/18, building also on related measures in the other resolutions adopted by consensus on freedom of religion or belief and on the elimination of religious intolerance and discrimination.

Joint Statement by the Co-Chairs  
Istanbul, Turkey  
July 15, 2011

## D: OIC MEDIA STRATEGY IN COUNTERING ISLAMOPHOBIA<sup>65</sup>

---

Being concerned at the rising intolerance of Islam and Muslims in the west to a large extent proliferated by widespread reporting, writings, articles, interviews, commentaries, editorials, op-eds in some western print and visual media, including social media that has resulted in negative stereotyping and racial discrimination and victimization directed against Muslims and distortion of the Islamic faith which is based on the core values of Peace, Tolerance, Moderations and Peaceful co-habitation with all other religions and belief;

Noting that the above state of affairs pose a grave threat to global peace and security and endanger communal harmony, hindering the growth of a culture of mutual understanding and tolerance among diverse communities,

Taking into consideration the emergence of Islamophobia<sup>66</sup> as a “...contemporary form of racism and xenophobia motivated by unfounded fear, mistrust and hatred of Muslims and Islam... it manifested through intolerance, discrimination, hostility and adverse public discourse. Differentiating from classical racism and xenophobia, Islamophobia is mainly based on stigmatization of a religion and its followers. As such, Islamophobia is an affront to the human rights and dignity of Muslims.”

Para 180<sup>th</sup> of the final communiqué of the 11<sup>th</sup> Islamic Summit, held in Dakar in 2008, that recognized “...the need to further institutionalize cooperation among Member States to effectively combat Islamophobia, [and] requested for the preparation of a draft comprehensive strategy to combat Islamophobia,”

The pledge, made in the Dakar Declaration of the 11<sup>th</sup> Islamic Summit, to “...work harder to make sure that Islam’s true image is better projected the world over in line with the guidelines contained in the Ten-Year Programme of Action issued by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Extraordinary Summit of Makkah Al Mukarramah, which seek to combat an Islamophobia with designs to distort our religion,”

Para 17 of the 38<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council of Foreign Minister’s Resolution No. 34/ 38-POL, which “Requests the Secretary General to engage constructively with all stakeholders, and influential public opinion makers, particularly in the West, with a view to combating Islamophobia by evolving a comprehensive strategy taking into account the removal of social and economic imbalances in the interest of creating an international environment conducive to interfaith and inter-civilizational harmony,”

Para 06 of the Rabat Declaration of 8<sup>th</sup> Islamic Conference of Information Ministers which considered that “...efforts to restore the image of Islam in foreign media outlets, display its lofty values, its rich cultural heritage and ancestral civilization, and highlight its contribution in the long course of human history and its creative achievements, can only be fruitful by a wise media interaction with the outer world through adequate message and appropriate communication mechanisms,”

The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) has been consistently urging debate with and within the western media to show responsibility in combating prejudice against Islam and Muslim communities with a view to developing campaigns to foster respect for cultural and religious pluralism and diversity, while

---

<sup>65</sup> Adopted at the 9<sup>th</sup> Session of the Islamic Conference of Information Ministers, held in Libreville, Gabon, on 16-20 April 2012.

<sup>66</sup> In the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Report of the OIC Islamophobia Observatory Available online in:

[http://www.oic-oci.org/uploads/file/Islamphobia/2011/en/islamphobia\\_rep\\_May\\_2010\\_to\\_April\\_2011\\_en.pdf](http://www.oic-oci.org/uploads/file/Islamphobia/2011/en/islamphobia_rep_May_2010_to_April_2011_en.pdf)

raising awareness of the positive contributions of Muslims, in order to promote tolerance and understanding,

And **Taking into** account the recommendations and proposals made at the workshop on “Media Misrepresentations of Islam and Muslims”, held in Brussels on 15-16 February 2012, by several experts representing Muslim communities in Europe and United States, the 9<sup>th</sup> Islamic Conference of Information Ministers held in Libreville, Republic of Gabon, took the above in their deliberations and decided to adopt the following Strategy:

### *I. Short Term:*

1. *To raise funds for media campaigns to prevent and counter intolerance of Islam and discrimination against Muslims.* The results of the proposed campaigns should be measured in accordance with responses that would generate news, and the social media may be the right tool to quantify/qualify the success of the said campaigns. In this regard, OIC Member States are urged to sustain political and resource commitment for initiating, implementing and following-up these media campaigns.
2. *To increase the interaction with media outlets and professionals, while encouraging accurate and factual/portrayal of Islam.* It should be preferable directed at avoidance of any link or association of Islam with terrorism or the use of Islamophobic rhetoric in the war on terror, such as labeling criminal terrorists as “Islamic” fascists, “Islamic” extremists.
3. *To enhance the presence of Muslims on the internet, as the success of Islamophobes in the west is the failure of Muslims online.* However, extra care should be considered while investing on this enhancement, as there is a need to be aware of unintended consequences of the increased presence of Muslims on the internet. In addition, there is a need to identify and support bloggers, researchers outside the mainstream media positively disposed towards Islam and Muslims.
4. *To create powerful, appealing and strong content unrelated to Islam.* Muslims should be able to write or produce stories with media impact however having nothing to do with Islam.
5. *To develop Muslim’s own narrative on daily issues.* There should be stories giving the Islamic perspective on daily issues, such as, environment, climate change, social justice, development, poverty, etc.
6. *To encourage media outlets and professionals to report stories related to discrimination against Muslims from the victims’ perspective.* Such reporting, giving priority to grassroots’ stories, may take into consideration the abuse of Muslims’ human and basic rights, such as, xenophobic and discriminatory practices vis-à-vis Muslims in employment, housing, access to services, and other aspects of social life.
7. *To engage with professional survey researchers.* This engagement may be helpful in promoting media content from survey results that would support the media campaign.
8. *To address the “OIC-phobia,” a new ramification of Islamophobia, related to OIC efforts in countering this malaise.* In this regard, there is a need for a new public relations restructuring in the west with a view to disseminating the modern and moderate image of the OIC.

9. To devise a mechanism, within the OIC Information Department, for distributing, every morning, news reviews on Islam and Muslims to identified audience in the west.

10. To support publishing of books, memoirs, fictional materials, etc by Muslims and non-Muslims. Preference may be awarded to presenting Islam as a religion with values and principles applicable on sciences and other issues of concern to the west: human rights, democracy, good governance, etc.

## ***II. Medium Term:***

1. To implement media literacy programs in schools, particularly at the secondary level, to help develop a discerning and critical approach to news coverage by media consumers. The OIC Member States should devise initiatives to promote media awareness and development of Internet literacy to combat misperceptions, prejudices and hate speech.

2. To invite different scholars, academicians, and media professionals to form a pool of experts to be visible in the media. This group should not be necessarily composed of Muslims. It is also preferable, in order to secure diversity, that messages given on behalf of the OIC be inclusive of other Abrahamic religions, and, even beyond.

3. To cultivate relationships with media professionals and outlets through informal gatherings. These events may be OIC sponsored annual dinners that would be attended by journalists writing in western media with the objective of developing a confidence building between them and the OIC, as well as for them to be requested to pay unbiased attention to Islam and Muslims.

4. To use the success stories in the Muslim world as a mean to show that the interests of Muslims are similar to the rest of the world when it comes to democracy, good governance and human rights.

5. To develop a Rapid Media Response project for Muslims to react at serious manifestations and incidents of Islamophobia. This mechanism may also be responsible in disseminating articles on importance of Ramadan and Hajj when appropriate.

6. To promote, through media coverage, Muslim students' activities in western countries' campuses. The Islamic Awareness Week, being held annually in several US and UK campuses, may be one of those events to be highly promoted, as the diversity of themes would help displaying the real image of Muslims therein. In addition, there is a need to support websites run by students to counter Islamophobia.

7. To invite celebrities, Muslims and non-Muslims, who are sympathetic to Islam and its followers to be the face of media campaigns. These campaigns should be well designed providing a true picture about the different aspects of Islam and dispel any misconceptions and misinformation. In this regard, the heads of states and governments should play an important role accordingly.

8. To include other OIC institutions. Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO), IRCICA Research Center For Islamic History, Art and Culture, ICYFDC stands for Islamic Conference Youth Forum for Dialogue and Cooperation, International Islamic Fiqh Academy (IIFA), International Islamic News Agency (IINA), Islamic Solidarity Sports Federation (ISSF) or Islamic Union of Muslim Scouts may be among those initiating media campaigns on their own targeting their areas of activities.

9. To launch awards for excellence in unbiased journalism, reporting, photographing, and publishing. The prize may be awarded to articles, documentaries, series, photographic exhibition, and books on Islam and its followers.

## ***II. Long Term:***

1. *To call media professionals to develop, articulate, and implement voluntary codes of conduct. The OIC and its Member States should be vocal in calling media professionals to use the power they have with responsibly through accurate reporting.*
2. *To assess successful media campaigns with a view to understanding the strong factors to be replicated, and review the unsuccessful ones for avoiding the weak contents and procedures.*
3. *To engage with western governments in creating awareness against the dangers of Islamophobia by addressing the responsibility of media on the issue.*
4. *To encourage scholarship programs for westerners to study in the Muslim world and disseminate this information throughout media outlets. The scholarships should focus on Islamic education, and it is advisable that the same subject is funded in western universities.*
5. *To encourage reporter-exchange programs between the Muslim world and the West.*
6. *To encourage training programs to help Muslim civil societies in the west to understand journalistic critical international issues – particularly in those fields where politics and religion intersect – and enhance their capacity to inform the public accurately and in a balanced way.*
9. *To take into consideration the following proposals on media highlighted in the High Level Group Report on Alliance of Civilizations<sup>67</sup>:*
  - *A collaborative and reciprocal initiative for monitoring media coverage of Islamic-Western relations should be started to provide a comprehensive review of media outlets and to reward efforts that aim to improve coverage of relations between Muslim and Western societies. Critical reciprocal reviews and awards presented by a broadly representative coalition of monitoring agencies – such as those run by the European Union, the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation, and select civil society organizations - would generate a higher public profile and greater legitimacy than individual efforts that focus on only one community's media.*

\*\*\*\*

---

<sup>67</sup> The document was adopted at the United Nations General Assembly in November 2006 and it is available online in: [http://www.unaoc.org/repository/HLG\\_Report.pdf](http://www.unaoc.org/repository/HLG_Report.pdf)