I. Manifestations of Islamophobia:

1. **US: CAIR Seeks Hate Crime Probe of Texas Mosque Vandalism** – The Dallas-Fort Worth chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-DFW) on 3rd June called on state and national law enforcement authorities to investigate a paintball attack on a mosque in that state as a possible hate crime. Officials with the McKinney Islamic Association in McKinney, Texas, told CAIR that up to two dozen paintballs were fired at the mosque sometime between 11 p.m. on Saturday (1st June) and 5 a.m. on Sunday (2nd June). A vehicle owned by a member of the mosque’s congregation was also hit by a paintball after he left the facility. Worshippers had reportedly been verbally harassed recently by young people who gathered near the mosque. Local police told mosque officials that they would recommend stepped up patrols in the area. CAIR-DFW President Amina Rab said: “If a bias motive is proven in this case, the perpetrators should be prosecuted to the full extent of the law, including appropriate hate crime enhancements. Local, state and national leaders should acknowledge the growing Islamophobia in our nation that can lead to such attacks.” A week earlier, CAIR urged a similar hate crime probe of vandalism targeting a Georgia mosque.


2. **US: Owatonna mosque targeted by vandals** – Officials at Owatonna (Minnesota)’s Muslim Society Center were looking for answers after a window was broken at their location on 12th Street Northeast. Center officials said that it was the second time in two weeks and third time in a year that a window had been broken at the facility. The most recent damage was done about 1 a.m. Saturday (1st June). Ali Farah, one of the leaders at the mosque, said they did not understand why they were being targeted. The building had been monitored by security cameras, but Ahmed said whoever was breaking the windows knew the layout of the building and was moving the cameras in order to obscure the acts. The Owatonna Police Department had no leads in the case, said Capt. Eric Rethemeier, who noted that many property damage crimes could not be cleared by police because often there were not any witnesses to the crimes.

3. Russia Detains 300 Muslims during Prayer – In a new crackdown on Russian Muslims, Moscow police detained more than 300 worshippers after rounding them up during prayer at a Muslim prayer room in the Russian capital. President Vladimir Putin told a meeting of security force officers, Reuters reported on Friday, 7 June 7: “The situation in the North Caucasus should be kept under particular control...The policy in the fight against corruption, crime and the insurgency has to be carried out harshly and consistently.”

In a raid carried on Friday, the forces detained 300 Muslims, including 170 foreigners, without disclosing reasons behind their arrest. The forces, led by Federal Security Service (FSB), also confiscated Islamic literature to check its content. Friday (7 June)'s raid was the third targeting Muslim places of worship in Moscow or St Petersburg in 2013. It came as Russia prepares for 2014's Winter Olympics in the Black Sea resort of Sochi. The Russian Federation has been home to some 23 million Muslims in the north of the Caucasus and southern republics of Chechnya, Ingushetia and Dagestan. Islam became Russia’s second-largest religion representing roughly 15% of its 145 million predominantly Orthodox population.


4. US: Women’s Group Adopting Pro-Israel Agenda Has a History of Anti-Islam Activism – In the first week of June 2013, the Washington Post's Jennifer Rubin hailed the arrival of “a strong new player in the pro-Israel community,” Concerned Women for America. Rubin wrote that it was “music to the ears of Israel and her friends that a 500,000-strong conservative group that has mostly focused on social and economic issues has adopted defense of Israel as part of its core mission.” What Rubin did not mention was that, in addition to a number of other very right-wing causes, CWFA had a history of anti-Muslim activism. In particular, the group pushed the “creeping sharia” conspiracy theory, which held that Islamic religious law represented an imminent threat to the United States, and which was debunked by Matt Duss and his colleague Wajahat Ali in a 2011 brief.

An announcement for a CWFA event in Iowa in November 2013 claimed: “Islam is more than a religion; it is a military strategy and a political and socio-economic system,” and asked: “Would you recognize Sharia Law in your community? Can we coexist like the bumper stickers suggest? Can true freedom survive if Islam thrives?” A recent CWFA podcast on “Confronting the threat of Islam” — not “Islamism” or “Islamic extremism,” but Islam itself — featured Tom Lynch, Director of Mission Advancement for the Thomas More Law Center, another organization with a history of anti-Muslim activism. Lynch said: “Today the Trojan horse is Islam. It’s entered America disguised as a religion. It’s ultimate objective is political, and that’s to destroy America and establish an Islamic nation under Allah and sharia law.” Thanks to “unprincipled career politicians that are corrupting our government,” Lynch warned, Islam threatened to corrupt America’s vital essence. “If you expect to remain free, it’s out duty as Americans, and the duty of everyone, to become informed about the threat of Islam within our gates.”

CWFA had been at active in lobbying for anti-sharia legislation, most recently in North Carolina, where they promoted “American Laws for American Courts,” template legislation created by attorney David Yerushalmi, who had advocated making it “a felony punishable by 20 years in prison to knowingly act in furtherance of, or to support the, adherence to Islam.” In an op-ed in North Carolina’s News Observer in the first week of June 2013, Faiza Patel and Amos Toh of the Brennan Center for Justice wrote that the
measure would “create a series of damaging, unintended consequences for North Carolinians of all
faiths.”

Missouri Governor Jay Nixon recently vetoed a nearly identical measure, saying it “seeks to solve a
problem that does not exist.” Christian and Jewish groups had also opposed the measures on the grounds
that they infringed religious liberty, particularly for religious minorities. Supporters of Israel might want to
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In: http://thinkprogress.org/security/2013/06/10/2125361/cwfa-israel-anti-islam/, retrieved on 11.06.2013

5. US: Allen West: Muslims Are All ‘Honor Killings, Beheadings, Suicide Bombings’ – Former
Rep. Allen West (R-Fla.) boiled down the entire religion of Islam to “honor killings, beheadings [and]
suicide bombings” in a message tweeted Monday night (10 June) in response to a column by comedian
Bill Cosby, who wrote an op-ed in the New York Post encouraging African American communities to
abandon apathy in an effort to better raise the next generation. In one passage, Cosby suggested that some
parents could take cues from Muslims: “I’m a Christian. But Muslims are misunderstood. Intentionally
misunderstood. We should all be more like them. They make sense, especially with their children. There is
no other group like the Black Muslims, who put so much effort into teaching children the right things,
they don’t smoke, they don’t drink or overindulge in alcohol, they protect their women, they command
respect. And what do these other people do? They complain about them, they criticize them. We’d be a
better world if we emulated them. We don’t have to become black Muslims, but we can embrace the
things that work.”

West responded in a tweet ignoring the values that Cosby had chosen to highlight. Here's how he
explained Muslim behavior instead: “2day in NY Post, Bill Cosby said we should b more like Muslims. U
mean honor killings, beheadings, suicide bombings? Hope ur kidding sir.”

West was an outspoken critic of Islam and Muslims throughout his short tenure in Congress. In 2011, a
member of the Council on Islamic-American Relations questioned the tea party-backed congressman,
asking him clarify an earlier claim that the Quran commands Muslims “to carry out attacks against
Americans and innocent people.” West appeared upset at the man’s defense of moderate Islam, telling
him not to “try to blow sunshine up my butt”. West had long contended that CAIR had ties to extremist
groups. CAIR got the last laugh earlier in 2013, however, when the organization auctioned off a letter
written by West to its Florida chapter for more than $2,500.

In: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/06/11/allen-west-muslims_n_3422471.html, retrieved on 12.06.2013

6. US: GOP Congressman: American Muslim Leaders Are ‘Potentially Complicit’ In Terrorist
Acts – A Republican congressman claimed on the House floor on Tuesday (11 June) that members of Muslim communities in the United States had not
condemned acts of Islamic extremist terrorism against the U.S. and therefore
were complicit in those and any future attacks.

Noting that it has been two months since the Boston Marathon bombing, Rep.
Mike Pompeo (R-KS) said the supposed silence from Muslim leaders on
terrorism is “deafening,” adding that it’s “sad, but perhaps most importantly it’s
dangerous.” Listing off a number terrorist acts committed by Islamic extremists, including the 1993 World
Trade Center bombing and several more recent failed plots, Pompeo blamed the leaders of the Islamic
community for not doing more to prevent these actions, hinting that they could be complicit in the deaths
they’ve caused. “Instead of responding, silence has made these Islamic leaders across America potentially
complicit in these acts, and more importantly still, in those that may well follow,” Pompeo accused.
“I know not all Muslims support these actions,” Pompeo said, but lamented that “the silence in the face of extremism coming from the best funded Islamic advocacy organizations and many mosques across America is deafening.” But Muslim leaders the U.S. had been anything but silent in the face of extremism. Immediately after the identity of the alleged Boston bombers was revealed, the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) issued a statement in response condemning terrorism. “As Americans, we are a united force against any form of tyranny, whether it be in the form of terrorism or otherwise,” CAIR executive director Basim Elkarra said. “Terrorism has no allegiance to faith or ethnicity, and we have been witness to that over the past few years. What happened in Boston and Watertown last week does not reflect on anyone except for those who carried it out. It is not a reflection of ethnic identity, religion, or national affiliation.”


7. **US: Anti-Islam protests force cancellation of Michigan Arab fest** – The 2013 Arab International Festival, scheduled for the weekend of 15-16 June in Dearborn, Mich., had been cancelled. For years, anti-Muslim organizations had demonstrated at the event, even though it was not a celebration of Islam. The festival was not a religious event because not all Arabs are Muslim. Instead, it was a cultural celebration. In 2013, Pastor Terry Jones, the man widely known for burning the Qur'an, promised to attend. Repent Amarillo, a group likened to the Westboro Baptist Church, and representatives of the Bible Believers, were also to be on hand, according to the anti-Islam group Stand Up America Now. Organizers of the Arab festival and the City of Dearborn decided in April 2013 to relocate the event. The idea was to move the festival from an open street to a park that could be secured and where admission could be charged. But organizers said that, in the end, there was not enough time to get things ready.


8. **Hate crime in Scotland: rise in anti-Islam, disabled, gender offences** – While there was an overall reduction in racial and religious hate crime in 2012/13, statistics showed a rise in anti-Islamic charges and those relating to disabled people, compared with 2011/12. The figures were revealed in a series of reports on hate crime, religiously aggravated offending and the first annual statistics from the Offensive Behaviour Act.

Charges where conduct was derogatory towards Islam totaled 80 in 2012/13 compared with just 19 the previous year, however 57 of these were from one event, the Campaign to Welcome Refugees march in Glasgow, where there was a counter demonstration by the Scottish Defence League (SDL). The figures were published as Alex Salmond held talks with representatives of the Muslim Council, where they discussed the latest findings and the First Minister reaffirmed the Scottish Government’s commitment to tackling racial and religious hatred and all forms of prejudice.

Overall, the reports showed there had been a 15% reduction in offences involving religious hatred on the previous year, while charges for race crime had fallen by 12% to 4,012. Community Safety Minister Roseanna Cunningham said: “Any form of attack or discrimination based on the assumption of someone’s religion, race or cultural background is completely unacceptable. While the decrease in both racist and religiously aggravated offending are to be welcomed, it is concerning to note the rise in charges directed towards the Islamic community and towards those with disabilit.”

9. **US: Muslim, Arab-American Groups Say Banks Closing Accounts without Explanation** – Two groups were seeking answers to what they said was a growing practice of Muslim and Arab-American groups having their bank accounts closed without cause or explanation.

The Council on American-Islamic Relations—Michigan was asking the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, part of the U.S. Department of the Treasury, to investigate the complaints and the Arab-American Civil Rights League in Dearborn was pursuing a lawsuit against major banks. Dawud Walid, executive director of CAIR–MI, said Wednesday (12 June): “We see a type of pattern taking place in the Muslim/Arab community…Bank accounts are being closed with no real justification … so it appears on the surface that there could be some sort of bias involved.” One of the latest reported incidents, according to CAIR–MI, involved Alif Arabic, a business described as teaching Arabic to American citizens online. Officials there were notified 30 May by JPMorgan Chase their bank account would be terminated within 10 days. JPMorgan Chase officials did not detail why, according to the letter. When an Alif Arabic employee asked the bank for clarification, they were told an analytical tool “alerted them that Alif’s account could pose a possible risk,” the letter read. Walid said such a move could suggest discrimination based on religion and ethnicity. “We need answers and the bank is not giving answers,” he said.

Emily Smith, a JPMorgan Chase spokeswoman, said privacy reasons prevent the company from discussing details of its customer relationships. However, “on occasion, Chase determines it can no longer maintain a customer’s account but those decisions are not based on the customer’s religion, ethnicity or any other similar basis.” Bryan Hubbard, a spokesman for the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, said: “We have just become aware of the letter and have not had a chance to review. We will look into these allegations.”


10. **US: 2 accused of plot to kill Muslims with X-ray weapon** – Federal authorities announced Wednesday (19 June) that a Ku Klux Klansman working for General Electric and an accomplice were facing terrorism charges in Upstate New York for allegedly planning to build a mobile X-ray weapon to kill Muslims and other “enemies of Israel”. Glendon Scott Crawford, 49, of Galway, N.Y., and Eric J. Feight, 54, of Hudson, N.Y., were charged with conspiracy to provide material support to terrorists, which carried a maximum prison term of 15 years, U.S. Attorney Richard Hartunian said. They were due in federal court in Albany on the same day.

Crawford, an industrial mechanic with GE, claimed the “Hiroshima on a light switch” device could fit in a van, be triggered remotely and deliver lethal doses of ionizing radiation that would kill its targets as they slept, the complaint stated. Feight allegedly agreed to build the electronic controls. Their target was the Muslim community, the complaint stated, and they had successfully tested the remote trigger from about a half-mile away. The criminal complaint said Crawford, a married father of three, was a member of the United Northern and Southern Knights of the Ku Klux Klan. In disrupting the alleged plot, undercover agents posed as Klansmen in North Carolina who offered to finance and buy the device, which the FBI said was constructed but never operable or a public danger. Glendon Scott Crawford was listed as ‘coordinator’ of the Tea Party group Americans Demanding Liberty and Freedom, which was founded in 2009 in Galway, N.Y.

Feight worked for a GE contractor in Columbia County, authorities said. He formerly was employed as a computer software expert and project engineer for Smith Control Systems, in Hudson, the Albany Times-Union reported in its detailed account. Up to six unidentified people, including another GE employee, were assisting Crawford, and some may have known his intentions, according to an FBI affidavit. GE said in a statement that the company had “no reason to believe the act took place on GE property nor is there
any information indicating that our employees’ safety was ever compromised. Since this incident, Mr. Crawford has been suspended. We are cooperating fully with the authorities on their investigation.”

In April 2012, authorities were notified that Crawford had gone to an Albany-area synagogue and and contacted a local Jewish organizations seeking out individuals who might offer assistance in helping him with a type of technology that could be used against people he perceived as enemies of Israel” and the United States. He called these perceived enemies and Muslims “medical waste” and “scumbags”. Crawford told an informant he planned to buy or build a battery-powered, industrial-strength X-ray device and hoped to land a part-time job in a metal shop with X-ray tubes, according to the complaint.

A year later -- April 15, the day of the Boston Marathon bombings -- Crawford said in an e-mail exchange monitored by the FBI that he had found a power supply. He railed against President Obama, whom he derided as “your treasoness bedwetting maggot in chief,” for “bringing the muzzies here without background checks.” Crawford was aware that authorities might monitor his cellphone, e-mail and text messages -- which they did with search warrants -- so he used pseudonyms and code words. Hartunian, the U.S. attorney, said the case “demonstrates how we must remain vigilant to detect and stop potential terrorists, who so often harbor hatred toward people they deem undesirable.”


11. US: Florida professor’s terrorism class: Muslims taught to hate ‘from the cradle’ – The University of Central Florida was doing its students a disservice by allowing anti-Muslim professor Jonathan Matusitz to spew bigoted and hateful Islamophobic propaganda in the classroom. He was facing a formal complaint after he claimed that Muslims were taught to hate “from the cradle” in a class on terrorism.

In a letter to the University of Central Florida, the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) called for the school to review terrorism courses taught by Professor Jonathan Matusitz, which the group said “includes inaccurate information, anti-Muslim bigotry and hostility in the form of hate speech toward Islam and Muslims.” CAIR cited a January 2013 seminar titled “How Culture Shapes Terrorism” in charging that Matusitz had a “blatant disregard for distinguishing between terrorists and the Muslim population as a whole.” According to excerpts from the professor’s seminar, he claimed that England welcomed Muslims and had to “say yes to polygamy and honor killings…Imagine that symbolic interaction that from the cradle until you are an adult you are taught to hate…I would rather take a chance and resist what is our enemy that just give up and embrace these foreign cultures.” In an interview with WFTV on Wednesday (19 June), Matusitz shrugged off the complaint, adding: “They’ve never been in my classes…They don’t know the context of my classes. I think they’re wrong…I think they’re afraid of truth-tellers and they want to stifle free speech.” For its part, the university said that Matusitz had a right to his opinion. A UCF spokesperson told WFTV: “He was not speaking on behalf of the university and we do not endorse his views.”


12. UK: Mosque sprayed with swastikas in racist attack – A mosque in Worcestershires had been sprayed with racist graffiti including swastikas after a break-in during the early hours of the morning of Wednesday (26 June). The vandals daubed graffiti onto walls and at least half a dozen windows using paint taken from builders’ cabins on the site, which is under construction. The initials EDL, NF, KKK and other racist language were also sprayed across the building. West Mercia Police said the damage at Redditch Central Mosque in Jinnah Road was caused between 2am and shortly before 4.30am on that day when it was discovered by a targeted police patrol. Entry to the site was forced via a gate and the intruders then broke into the main building. It was not known at this stage whether anything had been stolen.

13. **Sweden: Femen stages topless protest in Stockholm mosque** – Three feminist activists from the radical protest group Femen staged a topless protest inside a Stockholm mosque on Saturday (29 June) before they were led away by police. The women burst into the mosque and tore off their black robes to bare their breasts, which were emblazoned with slogans such as “No sharia in Egypt and the world” and “My body is mine, not somebody’s honor”. The women shouted “Free Women”, “No Sharia” and “No Oppression”.

The mosque was largely empty at the time apart from a couple of employees and some members of the press who had been told of the planned protest in advance. Mosque employees called police who removed the women from the scene. The women did not explain why they wanted to protest inside an empty mosque. Police commander Jonas Svalin told reporters: “They’re suspected of disorderly conduct and abuse,” adding that the mosque employees had accused the women of shoving them. The women were reportedly from Egypt, Tunisia and Sweden, although police were not immediately able to confirm their identities or nationalities.


14. **US: CAIR Calls for Hate Crime Probe of New Jersey Mosque Vandalism, Nazi swastika spray-painted on outside door of Islamic Center of Morris County** – The New Jersey chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-NJ) on 29 June called on state and federal law enforcement authorities to investigate vandalism of a mosque in that state as a possible hate crime. An official with the Islamic Center of Morris County in Rockaway, N.J., told CAIR that someone spray-painted a Nazi swastika on an exterior door of the mosque Friday (28 June) evening. The alleged perpetrator was caught on surveillance video entering the mosque and then going out to a vehicle and returning to spend time at the site of the graffiti. Rockaway Borough Police are investigating the incident as “criminal mischief”. The mosque had faced opposition several years ago when it was in its planning stage. CAIR-NJ Civil Rights Director Khurrum Ali said: “Because of the nature of this incident and because of other recent incidents targeting American mosques, we urge local, state and federal law enforcement authorities to investigate a possible bias motive.”


I.I. On Islamophobic Behavior by US Military & Police:

1. **New York police sued over surveillance of Muslims** – The New York Civil Liberties Union filed a lawsuit on Tuesday (18 June) against the New York Police Department over its surveillance of Muslim communities, accusing the police of trampling on religious freedoms and constitutional guarantees of equality.

The surveillance by the NYPD’s intelligence division had extended beyond New York City’s five boroughs into neighboring New Jersey and other nearby states. The police department said that surveillance of Muslims was legal under an earlier federal court order. The lawsuit was the latest skirmish in an ongoing battle between the NYPD and civil liberties advocates over the department’s aggressive policing tactics - including its stop-and-frisk practices, which were the subject of a separate federal lawsuit.

The lawsuit, filed in U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York, in Brooklyn, sought to put an end to the NYPD’s surveillance of Muslims, the destruction of all records on individuals created as a result of the program and the appointment of an independent monitor to oversee the department. Hina Shamsi, director of the American Civil Liberties Union National Security Project, said: “When a police department turns law-abiding people into suspects because they go to a mosque and not a church or a synagogue, it violates our Constitution’s guarantees of equality and religious freedom.” She called the NYPD monitoring
“suspicionless surveillance” and “religious profiling”. The lawsuit was filed on behalf of Muslim New Yorkers, including Asad Dandia, 20, a college student from Brooklyn who helped found a local Muslim charitable group that he said was infiltrated by an NYPD informant.

NYPD chief spokesman Paul Browne said on the same day all the department’s counter-terror tactics were lawful, and would continue, adding: “Critics who suggest that it is unlawful for the police department to search online, visit public places, or map neighborhoods either haven’t read the guidelines or are intentionally obfuscating their meaning…Those criticisms … will not deter the NYPD protecting the public from those intent on killing more New Yorkers.”

In: http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/06/18/us-usa-newyork-nypdsurveillance-idUSBRE95H15020130618, retrieved on 19.06.2013

I.II. On Geert Wilders:

1. Reaction Geert Wilders to Islam poll: “The Netherlands has had enough of Islam” – Reacting to a poll conducted by the research bureau of Maurice de Hond (the Dutch equivalent of Gallup), commissioned by the PVV, Geert Wilders said that the Netherlands had enough of Islam, as more than three quarters of the Dutch (77%) believed that Islam was no enrichment for that country. More than two-thirds – 68% – said that there was enough Islam in the Netherlands. It was striking that a majority of voters among a representative sample of over 1,900 people from all political parties (from PVV to VVD, CDA, D66, PvdA, SP and 50plus) shared this view.

Other striking results:

- A majority of 55% favors stopping immigration from Islamic countries.
- 63% say: no new mosques.
- 72% favor a constitutional ban on Sharia law in the Netherlands.
- 64% say that the arrival of immigrants from Islamic countries has not been beneficial to the Netherlands.

PVV leader Geert Wilders: “The results are very clear. The Netherlands has had enough of Islam. The majority do not want new immigrants from Islamic countries, nor any new mosques. They think that Islam is no enrichment for the Netherlands and say: Enough is enough. I will confront the Dutch government with these findings and demand that we finally stop the Islamisation of the Netherlands. For a long time is has been claimed that anti-Islamic opinions are extremist. It is clear now that they a majority of our people supports them!”


II. Positive Developments:

1. UK: American anti-Islam activists banned from entering UK – Two American anti-Islam activists were banned Wednesday (26 June) from entering Britain following reports they were planning to speak at a far-right rally on the following weekend. Robert Spencer and Pamela Geller, who founded the organization Stop the Islamization of America, had been planning to attend an English Defense League march Saturday (29 June) to mark Armed Forces Day in London neighborhood where soldier Lee Rigby was killed in May 2013.
The Home Office said in a statement that Speller and Geller were “subject to an exclusion decision” and would not be allowed to enter the U.K, and “The Home Secretary will seek to exclude an individual if she considers that his or her presence in the U.K. is not conducive to the public good.” According to the letter sent to Geller, the Home Secretary’s exclusion decisions were reviewed every three to five years. Spencer said in an email that the Home Office’s decision amounted to “craven capitulation”. EDL leader Tommy Robinson tweeted his disappointment: “I am embarrassed of our country banning Geller and Spencer for daring to speak against Islam.”

Matthew Collins, a spokesman from anti-racism campaigners Hope Not Hate, who had opposed Spencer and Geller entering the Britain, said his group was “absolutely delighted” by the Home Office’s decision because “Free speech doesn’t give you a right to incite hatred against people.”

In: http://www.foxnews.com/world/2013/06/26/american-anti-islam-activists-banned-from-entering-uk/, retrieved on 27.06.2013

III. On Muslims in US and Americas:

1. Obama to Muslims: Tell me what you want – A series of Muslim Outreach Summits were planned coast-to-coast by the Obama administration to get feedback from Muslims on how the government could better serve them and their specific desires. The president’s adopted home town of Chicago would be the first stop. The services were specific to information being assembled by the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, or WHIAAPI, which Obama created via executive order in 2009. Upon closer inspection, however, WND learned that the Education Department explicitly would direct the selected contractor to chronicle findings and recommendations gleaned from the Muslim Outreach Summits. The White House viewed 2013’s venues as an extension of a previous outreach to “new immigrants and refugees – some of the most underserved in the AAPI community,” according to a document titled “WHIAAPI 2013 Faith-Based and Community Engagement.”

Complementing the prior effort would be the three “regional convenings,” tentatively scheduled June 15 in Chicago, June 22 in San Francisco and June 29 in New York City. According to a related document: “These cities are main AAPI immigrant hubs and entry points for new immigrants/refugees…Questions Received from Vendors: Development and Preparation of the AAPI Annual Report to the President...Each convening with [sic] include panel discussions/workshops with federal officials on key issues impacting the community and also an open-dialogue session to hear directly from the community about issues of concern.”

One vendor submitted a question to the Education Department asking, “Is there separate authorizing legislation for the Muslim Outreach Summits, or is it included in the AAPI EO [Executive Order]?” The department, in response, acknowledged that separate authorizing legislation did not exist. Rather, it said that Obama crafted the initiative solely through executive order, which it justified because the endeavor’s goal was to “improve the quality of life of AAPIs through increased participation in federal programs in which AAPIs may be underserved.” The vendor-question document further stated that Obama’s “faith-based outreach summits” would help the government to provide federal resources to “underserved AAPIs” while determining their ongoing needs. Sometime after the three Muslim Outreach Summits, the chosen contractor would develop and then present its summary report to the president and to newly appointed WHIAAPI commissioners.

In: http://www.wnd.com/2013/05/obama-to-muslims-tell-me-what-you-want/, retrieved on 02.06.2013

2. Mosque bomb threat brings no jail time – A Texas man pleaded guilty Monday (03 June) to calling in a bomb threat against the Islamic Center of Murfreesboro in 2011 in exchange for no prison time. U.S. District Court Judge Aleta A. Trauger agreed and sentenced Javier Alan Correa, 25, to five years of probation provided that he pursue a GED to complete an education that stopped at 10th grade, get tested
for drugs and alcohol and seek treatment, participate in a mental health program and have home detention in Corpus Christi for the first eight months unless he has to go to the doctor or school. In addition to dropping what could have been a 20-year prison term, the judge also waived a $250,000 fine based on Correa’s inability to pay, but he would face a $100 fee and be expected to pay for his drug and alcohol testing and treatment and mental health treatment. He was expected to provide all his tax records to federal authorities, as well.

In: http://www.dnj.com/article/20130604/NEWS/306040029/Mosque-bomb-threat-brings-no-jail-time?nclick_check=1, retrieved on 05.06.2013

3. Vetoed Shari’ah Bill Delights US Muslims – American Muslims had hailed a decision by Missouri governor Jay Nixon to veto a bill that banned the use of Islamic Shari’ah in state courts, a legislation that would have made their life harder. Faizan Syed, director of St. Louis chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-St. Louis), said in a statement obtained by OnIslam.net: “We applaud Governor Nixon for taking this courageous and principled stance in defense of Missouri families and of the Constitution. The Missouri Muslim community and its interfaith and civil rights partners also deserve thanks for helping demonstrate the power of positive civic engagement on this issue.”

Commonly referred to as the anti-Shari’ah bill, the bill SB 267 was approved by the state senate on 11 May. The bill was meant to prohibit the use of foreign laws, including Islamic Shari’ah, in Missouri courts. But the draft had invited strong opposition for making life harder for Muslims in Missouri. Sensing the opposition, Missouri governor Nixon vetoed the bill.

He said in the statement: “This legislation seeks to solve a problem that does not exist, while creating the very real problem of jeopardizing Missouri’s families’ ability to adopt children from foreign countries. Here in Missouri, we believe in strengthening families and encouraging adoption. By placing additional barriers between couples who want to adopt and children who need loving homes, Senate Bill 267 is quite simply out of step with these basic values.” The governor warned that the bill, if approved, would create problems related to wills, marriage, divorce and trust decrees for different faiths in the US, which would be inconsistent with the American law, asserting: “Missourians deserve a judicial system that is both fair and predictable,” the governor said. Senate substitute for Senate Bill No. 267 fails to meet the very basic standard and does not receive my approval.”


4. Bill Cosby: We should all be more like Muslims – The iconic stand-up and star of the beloved sitcom The Cosby Show routinely weighs in on cultural matters. In the first weekend of June 2013, Cosby penned an op-ed for The New York Post in which he detailed some of the flaws in modern society. He also suggested we should take a page out of the Koran if we wanted to have healthier families, less crime and more productive people.

He said: “I’m a Christian. But Muslims are misunderstood. Intentionally misunderstood. We should all be more like them. They make sense, especially with their children. There is no other group like the Black Muslims, who put so much effort into teaching children the right things, they don’t smoke, they don’t drink or overindulge in alcohol, they protect their women, they command respect. And what do these other people do? They complain about them, they criticize them. We’d be a better world if we emulated them. We don’t have to become black Muslims, but we can embrace the things that work.”

In: http://www.islamophobiatoday.com/2013/06/11/bill-cosby-we-should-all-be-more-like-muslims/, retrieved on 12.06.2013
5. **Student pleads guilty in NYC cabbie attack** – A film student had pleaded guilty to hate-crime charges in what authorities called an anti-Muslim attack on a New York City cab driver in 2010. Michael Enright entered the plea Tuesday (11 June) in state court in Manhattan. He was expected to be sentenced to 9½ years in prison.

Prosecutors said that during a cab ride, Enright asked the driver if were Muslim. He then told him to “consider this a checkpoint” before cutting him with a folding knife. A defense lawyer had claimed that Enright had an alcohol problem and a post-traumatic stress condition from a trip to Afghanistan. His arrest came amid a debate over plans for an Islamic center and mosque two blocks from ground zero.


6. **Report: Mosque growth in U.S. tied to Muslims’ increasing influence** – according to a new report by the *Los Angeles Times*, the number of mosques in the U.S. more than doubled between 1994 and 2011, and “The majority of mosques in the United States are still existing buildings converted to an Islamic prayer space. But the number of newly built structures — such as the new Islamic Center of San Gabriel Valley — has doubled in the last decade, to 632 in 2011 from 314 in 2000, according to the American Mosque 2011 study. Among metropolitan areas, Southern California is home to 120 mosques, second only to the New York area, the study found. (Estimates of the Muslim American population vary, but a 2011 Pew Research Center study placed it at about 2.7 million nationwide and growing.)”

The number of Muslims and mosques has grown significantly in Minnesota over the past decade or so as well. As of 2013, there were about 150,000 Muslims in the state, with close to 40 mosques. According to the *LA Times* report, the growth in the number of mosques can be tied to Muslims’ increasing influence in the U.S.: “Over the last several years, new mosques have risen in Mission Viejo, Irvine, Anaheim, Reseda, Rancho Cucamonga, Rosemead, Diamond Bar and Tustin. Additional mosques are slated for Temecula, Ontario, Lomita and Corona…Strikingly, the new mosques have been funded entirely by local Muslims, who began settling in the region in the 1960s. Before 2001, new mosques were often funded by foreigners; the Saudis financed the King Fahad Mosque in Culver City, and Libyans helped build Masjid Omar near USC.”

According to Shakeel Syed, executive director of the Islamic Shura Council of Southern California: “Stricter government scrutiny of foreign investments from Islamic countries after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, along with reluctance by local Muslims about accepting foreign money, helped change the practices…Post 9/11, the dynamic completely changed…The Muslim community at large in North America realized it is better if we develop our own funding, however long it takes.” Syed said many Muslims had built successful businesses over the last few decades and are now positioned to give back. Some did relatively well during the recession, as they were able to buy undervalued properties while not taking on risky investments or interest-incurring debt, which was banned in Islam.


7. **DuPage Board reverses decision, approves mosque near West Chicago** – With a federal lawsuit hanging over their heads, DuPage County Board members Tuesday (25 June) reversed a resounding decision they made in 2012 and voted to allow an Islamic prayer center to operate in a single-family house near West Chicago. The 10-7 vote would permit the Islamic Center of Western Suburbs to use the house on Army Trail Road near Smith Road as a gathering place for up to 30 of its members at a time.

8. **FBI’s bus ads taken down over Muslim/terrorist stereotyping** – Officials said Tuesday (25 June) that after a wave of criticism from politicians, advocacy groups and the public, 46 bus ads featuring photos of wanted terrorists would be taken down within the next few weeks. The “Faces of Global Terrorism” ad was criticized for promoting stereotypes of Muslims and painting a broad brush against one group. The ad was part of a campaign launched earlier in June 2013 by the Puget Sound Joint Terrorism Task Force for the U.S. Department of State’s Rewards for Justice program. It featured 16 photos of wanted terrorists sandwiched between the taglines “Faces of Global Terrorism” and “Stop a Terrorist. Save Lives. Up to $25 Million Reward.”

According to King County Metro spokesman Jeff Switzer, Titan, the company that handled King County Metro bus advertising, received a request on the same day afternoon from the task force that the ads be taken down. King County Metro received a half-dozen complaints through the customer information line, Switzer said. Two different ads without photos would remain on billboards, light rail and at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport. FBI Special Agent Fred Guttenberg said that the decision to remove the bus ads was “a result of our continued engagement with the community and the feedback we are getting.”

U.S. Rep. Jim McDermott wrote a letter a week earlier to FBI Director Robert Mueller expressing concern over the ads, saying the ad would “only serve to exacerbate the disturbing trend of hate crimes against Middle Eastern, South Asian and Muslim-Americans.” McDermott, D-Seattle, said Tuesday (25 June): “When you start saying that this is the face of terrorism, you are really stigmatizing a whole group of people.”


### IV. On Muslims in the United Kingdom, Including Australia & New Zealand:

1. **Muslims and Sikhs feel more British than Christians and Jews, university study finds** – On 05 June, University of Manchester academics revealed that analysis of the 2011 Census showed that Muslims, Sikhs, Hindus and Buddhists felt more British than Christians living in the UK. Experts said that ethnic minorities were “less likely to take their Britishness for granted” when compared to white people in 21st Century Britain, and every other main religion in the UK felt more British than Christians. 62% of Sikhs, 57% of Muslims and 54% of Hindus described their national identity as British only. The figure was only 15% for Christians.

![Percentage of religious group population chart](http://seattletimes.com/html/localnews/2021268829_fbiadsxml.html)

**Picture of the UK:** Data harvested from the 2011 UK Census shows that Christians feel less British than any other main religious group. However, 65% of Christians and 54% of Jews said they felt English.
Dr Stephen Jivraj, who led the research, said: “Though the 2011 Census allowed people to report multiple identities from English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish, British and Other, nine in ten people reported a single national identity...Indeed, the distinction between British and English identities continues to confuse not only tourists, but policy makers - but it’s something we all need to understand more fully...If you believe what you read in the newspapers, Muslims are less likely to feel British than anyone else. In fact, the opposite is true. For many non white residents, including Muslims, this feeling of Britishness is probably partly a result of the citizenship process: they are surely less likely to take their Britishness for granted. Our findings are at odds with the present and previous Government's emphasis on encouraging ethnic minorities and new migrants to accept ‘British’ life and ‘British’ values.”

Ethnicity: Men and women from Bangladesh, Pakistan and India feel more British than any other group according to the Census, but in England, three-fifths of the population did not identify with a British national identity, and only saw themselves as English, whereas ethnic minority groups were much more likely to describe themselves as British, and Bangladeshis were more likely than any other ethnic group to say they were British only. Also according to the team, age was related to national identity in England. 70% of people aged 60 and above said they were English compared to 56% of those aged between 30 and 59. Those who referred to themselves as foreign were mainly in the 20 to 34 bracket, the typical age of recent international migrants. People in their 30s, 40s and 50s were more likely to report British identity than those older than them.

In: http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2336210/Muslims-Sikhs-feel-British-Christians-Jews-university-study-finds.html, retrieved on 06.06.2013

2. Research reveals HALF of all Britain’s mosques have been attacked since 9/11 as anti-Islam violence spreads – it has been revealed that about half of all mosques and Muslim centres in Britain had been subjected to Islamophobic attacks since 9/11. The figures, from the Islamophobia watchdog Tell Mama, found that between 40 and 60% of mosques and other Islamic centres - about 700 - had been
targeted in Britain since the 2001 attack on New York’s World Trade Center.

Report author Professor Nigel Copsey, of Teesside University, said: “What is significant about our analysis is the extent to which the far right is implicated in anti-Muslim hate crime.” Research by the Independent newspaper also found almost a tenfold increase in attacks in the days after Drummer Rigby’s death, with mosques being set alight and Muslims targeted at home. There were nearly nine attacks per day in the immediate aftermath of the killing, settling back to around two per day over in the following weeks. Professor Copsey said: “There has undoubtedly been a spike in anti-Muslim incidents since the Woolwich murder. An obvious concern now is whether the number of hate crime incidents return to ‘normal’ levels or whether Woolwich has been a game-changer in terms of increasing the underlying incidence of anti-Muslim hate over the longer term.”

Earlier in the last week of June 2013, swastikas and the letters ‘EDL’, ‘KKK’ and ‘NF’ were sprayed on the walls of a mosque in Redditch. There were also reports of pigs’ heads being left at Muslim families’ homes and other attacks against individuals. In addition, there was an attack on an Islamic centre in north London. Despite the warning signs, a senior Government adviser told the paper there remained a “lack of political will” to take on the issue and identified Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government Eric Pickles as one of the ministers slow to react to the problem. The adviser, who did not want to be named, said attempts to “tackle this issue – even before Woolwich – struggled to attract buy-in”. But Dr Matthew Goodwin, associate fellow at Chatham House and an expert on extremist groups,
said: “The broader picture is more positive than we think. Young people are more at ease accepting Muslims in society.”

A spokesman for the Department for Communities and Local Government said: “There is no place for anti-Muslim hatred or any kind of hatred in Britain, and we are committed to tackling this unacceptable scourge.”


**IV.I. On Woolwich Murder Attack:**

1. **Racist graffiti daubed on Muslim cemetery prayer building** – Racist graffiti had been daubed at Muslim cemetery section. Pictures of the racist graffiti were sent in by a reader. It showed anti-Islamic and racist graffiti written on the Muslim building used for funeral at Pleasington cemetery, Blackburn.

   ‘Pakis Out’ and ‘Islam murders scum’ was daubed on the building as well as other words. A headstone also had the words EDL written on it.


2. **Tony Blair says murder of Lee Rigby PROVES ‘there is a problem within Islam’** – Tony Blair on 1st of June made his most powerful political intervention since leaving Downing Street by launching an outspoken attack on ‘the problem within Islam’. The former Prime Minister addressed the shocking killing of Drummer Lee Rigby in Woolwich by going further than he – or any front-rank British politician – had gone before over the issue of Muslim radicalism. Writing in *Mail on Sunday* (1st June), he departed from the usual argument of Islam as a peaceful religion that should not be tainted by the actions of a few extremists.

   Instead, Mr Blair urged governments to ‘be honest’ and admit that the problem was more widespread. He wrote: “There is a problem within Islam – from the adherents of an ideology which is a strain within Islam…We have to put it on the table and be honest about it. Of course there are Christian extremists and Jewish, Buddhist and Hindu ones. But I am afraid this strain is not the province of a few extremists. It has at its heart a view about religion and about the interaction between religion and politics that is not compatible with pluralistic, liberal, open-minded societies…At the extreme end of the spectrum are terrorists, but the world view goes deeper and wider than it is comfortable for us to admit. So by and large we don’t admit it.”

The former PM’s remarks came as David Cameron prepared to make a Commons statement about the Woolwich murder on 2nd of June afternoon. The statement would come just hours after the first meeting of the Prime Minister’s Tackling Extremism and Radicalisation Task Force (TERFOR) – made up of senior Ministers, MI5, police and moderate religious leaders. Whitehall sources said that it would be a ‘preliminary meeting’ to draw up the agenda for a full meeting within days. The group, which the Muslim Foreign Office Minister Baroness Warsi, would examine new powers to muzzle hate preachers.

In his article, Mr Blair, suggested that ‘the problem within Islam’ could start to be tackled by ‘educating children about faith here and abroad’. Sir Malcolm Rifkind, a former Foreign Secretary and chairman of the Parliamentary Intelligence and Security Committee, said: “Much of what Tony Blair says is sensible.
The Islamic terrorists who kill people have the silent support of many more in their community who share their ideology, if not their methods. But even combined, they represent only a small minority of British Muslims, and we must never forget that. However, he appears to be still trying to justify the Iraq War rather than acknowledging that that war provided an unprecedented opportunity for the Sunni and Shia extremists to slaughter so many of their co-religionists.”


3. Huntingdon mosque attack: Man charged – A 45-year-old man had been charged with racial or religiously aggravated criminal damage over an attack on a mosque in Cambridgeshire. The man was arrested on Thursday (30 May) at the Islamic Education and Prayer Centre on Coneygear Road, Huntingdon. Police in Huntingdon said they were working with the mosque and the local community to provide reassurance following the attack.

In: http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-cambridgeshire-22745098, retrieved on 03.06.2013

4. Russell Brand- Muslims Shouldn't Be Blamed for Woolwich Murder; Some Disagree – The British comedian Russell Brand’s defense of Muslims following the beheading of soldier Lee Rigby in Woolwich, England had been controversial among various supporters and critics of the comedian. Though Brand labeled his initial response to the situation as too “glib” considering the public murder, he also insisted that Islam not be blamed for the actions of men who were “severely mentally ill” because “Islam, when practiced by normal people, is not an advocacy for violence.”

Russell Brand first addressed the violent act of the two murderers with a tweet: “That bloke is a nut. A nut who happens to be Muslim. Blaming Muslims for this is like blaming Hitler's moustache for the Holocaust.” Although Brand admitted in a op-ed for The Sun U.K. that his analogy was “imperfect”, he claimed he wanted to respond to the “negative and incendiary mood” of some Britons after the attack— many were horrified and angry following the seemingly arbitrary decapitation of Rigby and the killer's casual response caught on tape.

Brand wrote: “In my view that man’s severely mentally ill and has found a convenient conduit for his insanity— in this case the Koran. I’ve read some of the Koran, and nothing … has compelled me to do violence. Perhaps this is because I lack the other necessary ingredients for extreme anti-social behavior— mental illness and isolation, either economic, social or both.” Brand then compared the incident to John Lennon’s murder in 1980, which was influenced by novel “Catcher in the Rye”. He also compared it to the biblical stance that homosexuality is a sin, saying Christians relied on only a “piddling bit in Leviticus” for the stance the way Islamic extremists relied on certain Qu’ranic verse to justify violence.


5. London Mosque Fire: Police Investigate Cause – Counter-terrorism officers were investigating whether a fire which destroyed an Islamic community centre on 05 June was started deliberately in a hate attack. Police confirmed they were treating the fire in Muswell Hill, north London, as suspicious and promised a “vigorous and thorough investigation”. They also revealed the letters ‘EDL’ - the initials of the English Defence League - were found scrawled on the outside of the Bravanese Centre, which was being used as a mosque.
However, Tommy Robinson, the leader of the EDL, denied one of the group’s supporters was behind the blaze. He said members had always been told not to attack mosques or places of worship and claimed there was a “nationwide campaign” to blacken the name of the group. Chief Superintendent Adrian Usher, of the Metropolitan Police, said: “At this stage, we don’t want to rule anything out. We have several lines of inquiry and we will pursue those and until we can determine whether a crime has been committed. We will then pursue any offenders and bring them to justice.”

Boris Johnson, the Mayor of London, said that if the fire was confirmed as an attack attack, it should be condemned as “cowardly, pathetic and utterly pointless”. Local MP Theresa Villiers said it would be “not just an attack on the Muslim community (but) an attack on all of us and our values. This looks very much like a hate crime. We’re very proud in Barnet, the constituency I represent, of our diverse community and our cohesion, so I utterly condemn what looks to be a disgraceful attack.”

In: http://news.sky.com/story/1099731/london-mosque-fire-police-investigate-cause, retrieved on 06.06.2013

Related: Anti-Fascists Hold Vigil at London Mosque – Offering support and solidarity to British Muslims, activist group Unite Against Fascism had organized a vigil outside Muswell mosque which was burnt to the ground in a racist arson attack, rejecting the new wave of anti-Islam hate campaigns across the UK. Abu Bakar Ali, who runs the Somali Bravanese Welfare Association in Muswell Hill, north London, was quoted by Asian Image newspaper on Friday, 7 June: “It shows that people are one and we are united together…There’s no particular color or particular religion.” Speaking at the event, Ali said the community’s response in the wake of the fire had been “overwhelming…I was shocked when it happened but today I can say people are behind me.”

Held on Thursday evening (7 June), the event was organized by Unite Against Fascism group to show solidarity with London Muslims, calling on people from all parts of the community to come together to show their support for the centre. Al-Rahma Islamic Centre in Muswell Hill in north London was totally destroyed in the previous day in a suspicious arson attack. A graffiti reading “EDL” was painted on the wall of the burned center, in reference to the far-right English Defence League. Police confirmed that the letters EDL were spray-painted on the center’s walls and are investigating any potential connection between the graffiti and the fire.

6. **Scotland: Pupils withdrawn from trip to Edinburgh mosque** – A race row had broken out after almost a third of the children due to take part in a school field trip to a city mosque were pulled out by their parents. Children from Newtongrange Primary visited the Central Mosque in Potterrow, but from an original group of 90 pupils, 28 were withdrawn. The trip had been organized to help educate the primary one, two and five pupils about other religions and cultures. But one parent on the day of the trip said they didn’t want their child “mixed up in the hate being preached in mosques”.

Religious leaders and Midlothian councillors condemned parents pulling their children out the trip, but one 42-year-old parent of a P2 pupil, who did not take part, said: “I don’t agree with sending my child to a mosque to learn about a religion that isn’t my own. It’s the hate that is being preached in these mosques that I don’t want my child mixed up in.” Another said: “If you don’t want your kids learning that kind of stuff, then you should be allowed to say ‘no’. Many of my friends are a different religion to me, but they don’t try to ram it down my throat.”

Dr Salah Beltagui, of the Muslim Council of Scotland, said education would help eradicate a “fear of the unknown”, adding: “These views are rather worrying as they are not based on fact but on fear of the unknown. They are an offshoot of the current hysteria surrounding Islam at the moment in the UK. What happened in Woolwich is in no way representative of Islam, we do not condone violence and we are part of this country too.” Dr Beltagui’s view was supported by Sean Swindells, parish minister of Newbattle Church in Newtongrange, who said: “I think children need to be aware of other faiths. A lot of the recent incidents have been hyped up and so it is understandable that people feel a level of discomfort.”

Newtongrange councillor Jim Muirhead said: “Unfortunately people equate recent incidents in Woolwich with religion when in my view such incidents are as far from religion as you can get.” However, Kenny MacDonald, Scottish regional organiser of the BNP, backed the parents. He said: “I applaud these parents in going against the wave of political correctness.”

7. **Mosque leaders: We are willing to sit down with EDL** – The words in this headline were spoken by Derby’s Jamia mosque secretary Nazir Hussain in the aftermath of the death of Drummer Lee Rigby in Woolwich on 22 May. Drummer Rigby’s killing, allegedly at the hands of two Muslim men, shocked the UK and prompted a series of protests from far-right groups. The English Defence League (EDL) held several events in towns and cities, with one of its members claiming “Islam in this country has gone radical”. And BNP leader Nick Griffin told TV news that, if people “believe the lie” that “Islam is a religion of peace” then “more lads will die like Lee Rigby”.

But, sitting in the Jamia Mosque’s business-like office, listening to Mr Hussain and imam Qazi Abdul Mateen, it seemed to be Mr Griffin who was guilty of fabrication. The message was clear – the Jamia Mosque in Rose Hill Street, Normanton, was open to everyone. And this was no knee-jerk reaction to a soldier’s tragic killing. Lists of visits, arranged through Derby Open Centre – an organization founded to promote understanding between different communities – showed that more than 700 children from schools and Cub Scout units came to visit the mosque in May 2013. These were often visits from places where Muslims were a rarity – Heanor and Matlock, for example.

And Mr Mateen, himself a force for community cohesion as the mosque’s first imam to teach and preach in English, was active in the city doing what he called “dispelling the myths” around Islam. He visited Derby schools and the University of Derby and, through his course on Islam, run at the Mosque, had, he said, changed several people’s views from “the stricter” to “the moderate”. Not that any of this stopped there from being concern when mosques were attacked following Drummer Rigby’s killing. Mr Hussain
said: “It came as a horrendous shock. The first thing that came to mind was sympathy for Drummer Rigby’s family. For parents to have to go through that is just horrendous. There was no justification for that kind of action to have happened. From our mosque’s perspective, the next thought was about reprisals on our community. Ten mosques were reported attacked. We were in a fear situation.”

In: http://www.thisisderbyshire.co.uk/Mosque-leaders-willing-st-EDL/story-19224887-detail/story.html#axzz2VhCiA7i6, retrieved on 09.06.2013

8. Ex-soldiers accused of Grimsby mosque attack in court – Two ex-soldiers accused of arson after a petrol-bomb attack on a Grimsby mosque had again been remanded in custody. Stuart Harness, 33, and Gavin Humphries, 37, both of the same address in Dixon Avenue, Grimsby, were charged with arson with intent to endanger the lives of others on 26 May.

The cases were adjourned for a plea and casement hearing on 30 August 2013 and there were no applications for bail. Father-of-two Humphries has served in the army but is now unemployed. His family live in Grimsby. Harness was born in New Holland and served in the army for 13 years, including in Iraq, Kosovo and Northern Ireland.

Meanwhile, the Islamic Association of South Humberside and North East Lincolnshire’s Muslim community thanked the community for the support they had given them – and renewed their condemnation of the “savage and inhumane” attack on Drummer Lee Rigby. A spokesperson said: “Our community in Grimsby has not experienced events like those of past weeks before. We have always enjoyed harmonious and peaceful relationships with all the peoples and communities of this town. We thank all our neighbours and all the people of North East Lincolnshire for their support. We extend our appreciation to all church leaders, the Mayor, leader of the council and other councillors, Austin Mitchell MP, and all faith and community groups, including Communities Together. Special thanks go to Humberside Police for their outstanding efficiency and to all the other organisations who have expressed their concerns to us. The support has been overwhelming and we believe it has brought this local mosque and all the local faith groups closer together.”

In: http://www.thisisgrimsby.co.uk/Ex-soldiers-accused-mosque-attack-court/story-19225302-detail/story.html#axzz2VhCneVRE, retrieved on 09.06.2013

9. Merseyside Police treating Anfield newsagent fire attack as a ‘hate crime’ – A city newsagents was torched by thugs who verbally abused the shopkeeper before setting his shop on fire. A police investigation was underway after the arson attack on Saturday (8 June) night which had left Robinson News on Priory Road in Anfield badly damaged and put the 48-year-old shopkeeper in hospital. Officers were treating the incident as a “hate crime”.


10. Islamic School, Shop Targeted in Hate Attacks – An Islamic boarding school was set alight by ‘intruders’ in a suspected arson attack, just days after an Islamic centre was burnt to the ground in London. About 130 children and staff were evacuated from Darul Uloom, a Muslim madrassa or religious school, in Chislehurst, Kent, just before midnight on Saturday. School principal Mustafa Musa said on 10
June that the fire was started in the teaching area and damaged about 10% of the building. Two boys had to be treated for smoke inhalation and police said they were treating the blaze as suspicious. Police were treating a fire at an Islamic school as suspected arson just days after an Islamic centre was burnt to the ground in London.


11. Anti-Islamic graffiti scrawled outside Chater Infants School, in West Watford – Watford’s MP had written to the Home office after anti-Muslim graffiti appeared outside a West Watford infant school. The words “Quran is rubbish” have been scrawled on the pavement near Chater School, in Harwoods Road. The slur made reference to the central holy text of Islam. The act caused upset among some parents at the school with some contacting the town’s MP Richard Harrington, who described the act as appalling.

He said: “I just think it is appalling for ordinary Muslims and there is an excellent community in Watford.

“I have written to the minister (at the Home Office) as they are tracking patterns around the country. The authorities are looking at people who write the same stuff in the same style.” Mr Harrington commended Watford Borough Council for moving quickly to blur out the word Quran. He added: “I noticed it was spelt properly, which rules out some of the type of people who do this sort of thing.”


12. Racist vandals paint swastika on proposed mosque site in Green Lane, Worcester Park – The graffiti was painted onto the front door of the old Bank Chamber building, which was owned by an Islamic group that wanted to convert it into a mosque, in Green Lane, Worcester Park, between 8am and 11pm on 4 June. The attack came in the aftermath of the murder of soldier Drummer Lee Rigby. Vandals painted the red swastika - the emblem of the Nazi party - on the door of the building but it was quickly covered up by green paint. Police were investigating.

An organisation known as Worcester Park Islamic Community Centre bought the derelict building in 2010 and submitted plans to convert it into a mosque which were rejected by Sutton Council in 2013 on the grounds it would bring too much traffic to the area. The plans also met opposition from neighbours who signed petitions against them. In May 2013, a new planning application for a car-free mosque on the site was submitted to Sutton Council.


13. Holmanleaze mosque in Maidenhead was sent meat in post – Police condemned the attacks on the mosque in Maidenhead and called for information, as a mosque in Berkshire had been targeted three times in recent weeks with graffiti daubed on the wall and a piece of meat received in the post. A pane of glass was smashed at the Holmanleaze site in Maidenhead overnight on 22 May, while racist graffiti was found early on Saturday (08 June). A piece of meat, thought to be bacon, was received by the mosque on Monday (10 June). Police were investigating whether the incidents were prompted by the killing of soldier Lee Rigby in London.

14. Boxer who threatened Muslims with ‘insane violence’ while posing with a gun on day of murder of Lee Rigby is jailed – A boxer who threatened Muslims with acts of ‘insane violence’ on Facebook hours after Drummer Lee Rigby was hacked to death was jailed for four months on 12 June. Tony Perrin, 27, was arrested near his south London home after he posted his threats with a photo of himself wearing a balaclava and pointing a gun at the camera. Perrin, who used a Facebook page in the name of ‘Tony Croydon’, wrote on 22 May 2013, just after the Woolwich execution: ‘I will do a lot worse than what took place yesterday and I have like minded people behind me’. In the post, Perrin encouraged his ‘fellow countrymen’ and ‘my beloved EDL’ to follow his lead.

Image: Perrin had donned a balaclava and gripped an imitation weapon as he threatened Muslims with ‘revenge’ in a vile post put on Facebook after the death of Lee Rigby. He said: “You Muslims aren't the only people that make explosives and your (corr) not the only people willing to commit acts of insane violence.” He concluded his message with hate with a variation on the EDL slogan, ‘Never surrender’, adding: ‘Revenge will be taken!’

The judge conceded that ‘what happened in Woolwich a few weeks ago shocked the whole nation’ but he said Perrin’s case was ‘abhorrent’. Jailing Perrin for four months Judge Clark said the aggravating factors were his ‘glorification of firearms’ and the incitement of ‘revenge attacks’. Perrin admitted that the handgun was only a BB gun and that he was drunk when he made the offensive post. He had also engaged with a Muslim online soon afterwards - a conversation which led him to take down his post. But by this time it had already gone ‘viral’ and the damage had been done. Perrin lost his job as a scaffolder as a result of the publicity surrounding the case, the court heard.

Shameful: This is the grossly offensive message Perrin posted on Facebook in the 24 hours after Drummer Rigby died, which led to him being jailed on 12 June.

15. **Mosque Stabbings Add to UK Muslim Pains** – In the latest attack against Muslims, three worshippers and a police officer had been stabbed at a mosque in the British city of Birmingham, adding to the pains of the sizable minority. “The Ramadhan Foundation expresses its deep concern at the stabbing of three people and a police officer in the Ward End mosque in Birmingham last night...Our immediate thoughts are with the victims injured and their families.” chairman Mohammed Shafiq told *The Guardian* on Sunday, 16 June.

Three Muslim worshippers were stabbed at Washwood Heath Road in Ward End neighborhood in the East of Birmingham after the night prayers. A police man was also stabbed. Police said a 32-year-old suspect was arrested over the stabbings. A spokeswoman for West Midlands police said: “Police were called at 11pm on Saturday night to a mosque in Washwood Heath Road, Ward End, to reports of three men with stab wounds. Officers arrived at the incident and whilst the man was being detained, one police officer also suffered a stab wound. The three people and the officer have been taken to hospital, all are currently described as stable.”

The stabbings were the latest in attacks against Muslims since the machete killing of an army soldier by two converts in London in May 2013. Police said they were investigating the stabbings of the Muslim worshippers as a “hate crime”. The police spokeswoman said: “We don't know at the moment, it's very early stages in the inquiry...We can’t rule anything out at the moment.”


16. **Mosque set on fire in Gloucester: Man arrested** – A mosque was set on fire in the early hours of the morning on 18 June in Gloucester (South West of the Region of England) by a man caught on CCTV pouring petrol around its door before throwing a flaming rag at the fuel. Firefighters attended the mosque in Ryecroft Street at around 12.50am to extinguish the blaze. Only light damage was sustained to the mosque and no one was injured, but police said they were looking to identify a man caught on CCTV footage and a second suspect seen driving him away from the scene. Police later said a 37-year-old Gloucester man had been arrested on suspicion of arson. Chief Inspector for Gloucester Richard Burge said: “Gloucester has a wonderfully diverse and welcoming community and I know people will be upset and angry about this. In recent weeks I've been buoyed by the fact we haven’t seen any of the tensions there have been elsewhere in the country. I know now the community will come together, help us with our inquiries and show that it utterly rejects acts like this. We’ll be increasing community patrols in the area and I’m confident we’ll be able to find the offender swiftly.”


17. **Former soldier banned from every mosque in Wales and England over arson attempt** – A former soldier had been banned from every mosque in Wales and England after attempting to attack his local mosque following the murder of drummer Lee Rigby in Woolwich. The life-long ban was made as part of a CRASBO imposed on John Parkin, who drank 15 pints after he heard about the murder in London – then decided to try and burn down his local mosque.

Parkin stuffed tissue into a bottle of beer and attempted to light it at the mosque in Rhyl. On 20 June, he was jailed for 18 months and given an indefinite criminal anti-social behaviour order (CRASBO) was made under which he must not enter the mosque at River Street in Rhyl. It also banned him from entering the curtilage of any mosque in England and Wales.
Judge Niclas Parry told Parkin, 27, of Towyn Way West, Towyn, that he was “an inherent racist” who was prepared to act as such and was a high risk of harm, adding: “There was a depressing inevitability that people such as you would claim that the tragic events involving Lee Rigby would be some form of justification for what are nothing less than the acts of bigots and yobs.” He also said that Parkin’s disgraceful and sickening conduct was an affront to decent society, and those tempted to behave in such a shameful way had to be deterred. The judge told him: “You purchased a bottle, you purchased tissues, you inserted the tissues into the bottle and walked into the ground of the mosque where you made persistent but unsuccessful attempts to light the tissue…On arrest you began to abuse the police about the problems of this country, accusing them of betraying this country…You even had the temerity to suggest your example should be followed about how people should be taught about Muslims. You are an inherent racist prepared to act as that. You are a high risk of harm to a certain part of this community.” The judge said that the offences were aggravated by his previous convictions, which included two previous convictions for religiously or racially aggravated offences.


18. **Theresa May urged to ban “anti-Islam” campaigners entering UK to speak at EDL rally** – On 21 June, Homes Secretary Theresa May was urged to ban two US “anti-Islam” campaigners from entering Britain to speak at an English Defence League rally. Pamela Geller and Robert Spencer were due to join the march next that was to be held Saturday (22 June) in Woolwich, where Drummer Lee Rigby was killed.

Home affairs Committee chairman Keith Vaz said they should be denied visas as such incendiary speakers would fuel the fire of hatred. Mr Vaz said: “I am alarmed that the EDL is planning this type of march in Woolwich. It is clear that the location, motivation and attendees at this march will incite hatred. Adding incendiary speakers such as Pamela Geller and Robert Spencer just fuels the fire.”

Mr Spencer, who founded the website Jihad Watch, and Ms Geller, leader of the American Freedom Defence Initiative, were among three guest speakers. The third was Anders Gravers, from Stop the Islamisation of Denmark. Ms Geller said: “leftist thugs were strong-arming British authorities to ban us”. Scotland Yard said that it was aware of the march and would have an appropriate policing plan in place. A Home Office spokesman said that Mrs May would be “responding in due course”.


19. **Mosque package was home-made bomb** – A suspicious package found near a mosque was a small home-made explosive device, police have confirmed. West Midlands Police also said a loud bang heard by residents in the Caldmore area of Walsall late on Friday (21 June) “appeared to be consistent” with the device exploding. No one was injured and minimal damage was caused around the device, which was found by a local man on Saturday (22 June) in an alleyway adjoining the Aisha Mosque and Islamic Centre. Police were called to the mosque on Rutter Street at around 10.45pm on the same day following the discovery of the bomb, which had initially been taken home by a worshipper who failed to realize what it was.

Assistant Chief Constable Sharon Rowe said: “The force is taking this attack against the mosque very seriously and we have a major investigation under way. To that end, I have called in support from all over the force, including the West Midlands Counter Terrorism Unit, which has a number of experts supporting the inquiry. Specialist investigators have been working all day and continue to ensure that we maximise every opportunity from the crime scene…At this stage we are keeping an open mind on a motive, but have recorded it as a hate crime. A hate crime is any criminal act committed against a person or property that is motivated by the offender’s hatred of people because of their gender, race, religion, disability or sexual orientation.”
Zia Ul-Haq, acting spokesman for the mosque and also sat on its committee, thanked the police and the local council for their support following the discovery. Mr Ul-Haq told reporters: “We found this suspicious item which we didn’t consider to be very serious or very threatening, but as a precaution we thought that we would call the police and bring this to their attention. They have taken this very seriously and they have supported us wholeheartedly and we are very grateful to the police and the local authority.”

In: http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/local-national/uk/mosque-package-was-homemade-bomb-29365936.html, retrieved on 24.06.2013

V. On Burqa and Veil Related Issues:

1. France: Muslim woman loses baby after veil attack – A young pregnant Muslim woman, who was allegedly attacked in the street for wearing a veil has lost her baby, her lawyer announced on Monday (17 June). According to reports in the French media, the woman, who was four months pregnant, was assaulted in the Paris suburb of Argenteuil on 13 June. Four days later, the 21-year-old’s lawyer Hosni Maati told AFP that the woman had since suffered a miscarriage, adding: “Her husband called me this afternoon. She lost the baby,” before adding that the family were devastated by the tragedy and would not be making any further comment.

A police source involved in the investigation also confirmed the miscarriage to AFP but did not confirm that the attack was the cause of her losing the baby. In reporting the attack to police she described how she was set upon on that morning by two men in the middle of the street, just after she had finished talking to her mother on the telephone. She initially blamed the attack on two “skinheads”, saying the two men “ripped the veil” from her head and tore part of her clothing. The prosecutor for Pontoise, Yves Jannier, also said the woman had been kicked in the hip before she managed to flee.

In: http://www.thelocal.fr/20130618/muslim-woman-miscarries-after-veil-attack, retrieved on 19.06.2013

2. US: Abercrombie Struggling To Prove Fired Woman’s Hijab Hurt Sales: Report – Law360 reported that Abercrombie & Fitch was having a hard time proving in court that the Muslim headscarf worn by an employee who was fired in 2010 hurt the clothing company’s sales. On Tuesday (18 June), when a federal judge in California pressed attorney Mark Knuve, who was representing Abercrombie, if he or any of his witnesses had financial records to show the woman’s hijab hurt sales, Knuve said he didn’t. “A defendant says we’re harmed but provides no real evidence?” Judge Yvonne Gonzalez Rogers retorted, according to the report. “And you want me to grant summary judgment [in your favor]?”

The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) originally sued Abercrombie in 2011 on behalf of Hani Khan, the Muslim woman who said she was fired from a Hollister store in a California mall in 2010 because she wore a hijab to work. According to the EEOC’s lawsuit, Khan was wearing the religious garment when she interviewed for the job in October 2009 and during the first four months she worked at the San Mateo, Calif., clothing store. Yet in February 2010, when a visiting district manager saw her wearing it and spoke with one of the store’s human resources employees, they decided the headscarf violated the store’s controversial “Look Policy”, which critics had said was usually interpreted to mean white, muscular and thin.

On Wednesday (20 June), Abercrombie spokesman Mackenzie Bruce told The Huffington Post the company did not discriminate based on religion and that it granted religious accommodations, including for hijabs, when such accommodations were considered “reasonable”. The spokesman refused to comment on the pending litigation, as did the EEOC and the law firm representing Abercrombie (Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease LLP). This was not the first time Abercrombie had been in trouble over this issue. In 2009 the clothing store was found guilty of discrimination and ordered to pay $20,000 to a 19-year-old Muslim college student who was refused a job because her hijab violated the store’s “Look Policy”.

In: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/06/19/abercrombie-headscarf-hani-khan-hijab-lawsuit_n_3466226.html, retrieved on 20.06.2013
VI. On Dialogue among Civilizations:

1. Jews and Muslims Worldwide Attending the Event “Mission of Muslim Leaders and Jewish Leaders from Southern Hemisphere Countries” in Washington D.C. – With the U.S. State Department’s eye-opening Report on Religious Freedom showing that both Islamophobia and anti-Semitism were on the rise worldwide, the Foundation for Ethnic Understanding (FFEU), was spearheading a Mission to Washington of Muslim and Jewish Leaders from Australia, New Zealand and South Africa on June 4-5. The goal of the Mission, which FFEU was co-sponsoring with the Islamic Society of North America (ISNA), the largest Muslim-umbrella organization in North America, was to jump-start dialogue and cooperation between the Muslim and Jewish communities in those countries.

The Mission would acquaint the visiting leaders with the ‘American model’ for strengthening Muslim-Jewish relations, which FFEU, a New York-based not-for-profit devoted to strengthening relations between Muslims and Jews, had pioneered since 2007.

Participants in the Mission were to hold meetings with high-level officials at the White House and State Department and meet with Muslim and Jewish Congress people on Capitol Hill. They would visit the U.S. Holocaust Museum and the Washington Islamic Center, and be hosted at receptions at the Australian and South African Embassies. The Mission participants were being hosted at a Washington Nationals baseball game in the owners’ box at Nationals Stadium by the Lerner family, the owners of the team.

The Mission of Muslim Leaders and Jewish Leaders from Southern Hemisphere Countries was the third such initiative by FFEU with the support of ISNA, including a Mission of European Muslim and Jewish Leaders in 2009 and a Mission of Latin American Muslim and Jewish Leaders in 2012. Many of the ‘alumni’ of past missions had since initiated joint Muslim-Jewish events in their countries.

In: http://www.sacbee.com/2013/06/05/5472722/jews-and-muslims-worldwide-attending.html, retrieved on 06.06.2013

2. Muslim Clerics Who Visited Auschwitz and Dachau Slam Holocaust Denial – A group of imams who toured Auschwitz and Dachau said “denying the reality of the Holocaust” was “unacceptable.” The May 28 statement from 10 Muslim religious and intellectual leaders from the United States, Indonesia, Bosnia, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and India, said in part: “We bear witness to the absolute horror and tragedy of the Holocaust, where millions upon millions of human souls perished, more than half of whom were people of the Jewish faith…We acknowledge, as witnesses, that it is unacceptable to deny this historical reality and declare such denials or any justification of this tragedy as against the Islamic code of ethics.”

The May 18-24 trip, which was organized by the Center for Religious Understanding, also included top U.S. officials, including Ira Forman, who had just been appointed the State Department’s special envoy to combat anti-Semitism, and Rashid Hussain, the special envoy to the Organization of Islamic Cooperation. A 2010 visit organized by the Center for Religious Understanding, which hosted only U.S. imams, resulted in a similar statement.

VI. General Issues:

1. **Australian Muslims to launch TV ads to promote Prophet Muhammad** – Muslim activists were to launch the first TV commercial in Australia about the Prophet Mohammed in a bid to improve the religion’s battered image. The Islamic community had raised a war chest of “tens of thousands” of dollars to fund a series of 30-second commercials, due to air on the main television networks from 9 July 2013. They were the brainchild of the Mypeace organisation, based at Bankstown, which had been attempting to build bridges between the Muslim community and other Australians.

The prime-time ads, set to appear on Channels 7, 9, and 10, and SBS over several months, would feature major figures of history including Mahatma Gandhi and George Bernard Shaw extolling the virtues of the Prophet Mohammed. Mypeace founder Diaa Mohamed on 27 June said negotiations with the TV networks were being finalized for the commercials to run in breakfast, afternoon and evening time slots.


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