

Organization of Islamic Cooperation

**SIXTH OIC OBSERVATORY
REPORT ON
ISLAMOPHOBIA**

October 2012 – September 2013

PRESENTED TO THE

40TH COUNCIL OF FOREIGN MINISTERS

Conakry, Republic of Guinea

9–11 December 2013



Original: English

SIXTH OIC OBSERVATORY
REPORT ON
ISLAMOPHOBIA

October 2012 – September 2013

PRESENTED TO THE
40TH COUNCIL OF FOREIGN MINISTERS

Conakry, Republic of Guinea

9–11 December 2013

TABLE OF CONTENTS

FOREWORD by the OIC Secretary General	1
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	3
INTRODUCTION	7
1: ISLAMOPHOBIA, INTOLERANCE AND DISCRIMINATION AGAINST MUSLIMS	10
2: MANIFESTATIONS OF ISLAMOPHOBIA	12
2.1. <i>Islamophobia in USA</i>	12
a) <i>Islamophobia during the US Presidential Campaign</i>	13
b) <i>Islamophobic Ads by Pamela Geller</i>	15
c) <i>Islamophobia in the aftermath of the Boston Bombings</i>	17
2.2. <i>Islamophobia in Europe</i>	19
a) <i>Highlight of Islamophobic trends in Europe</i>	20
b) <i>Islamophobia in the Post- Woolwich murder attack</i>	23
2.3. <i>Islamophobia in the Media</i>	25
3: SOME POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS	27
4: OIC Initiatives and Activities to Counter Islamophobia	29
4.1. <i>Brainstorming Session at the 39th CFM</i>	29
4.2. <i>Panel of Eminent Persons for combating discrimination against Muslims</i>	30
4.3. <i>Istanbul Process Follow-up</i>	31
4.4. <i>Istanbul International Conference on Islamophobia</i>	31
CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	33
ANNEXES	36
A: SOME ISLAMOPHOBIC INCIDENTS	36
I. <i>Incidents Related to Mosques</i>	36
II. <i>Desecration of Muslim Graves</i>	53
III. <i>Political and Social Campaigns against Islam and Muslims</i>	54
IV. <i>Intolerance against Islam and its Sacred Symbols</i>	63

V. <i>Discrimination against Muslim Individuals in Educational Institutions, Workplaces, Airports, etc</i>	71
VI. <i>Incidents Related to Hijab (Veil)</i>	79
B: CFM RES. NO 41/39-P ON AN OIC APPROACH FOR COMBATING DISCRIMINATION AND INTOLERANCE AGAINST MUSLIMS	84
C: STATEMENT BY H.E. THE OIC SECRETARY GENERAL, PROF. EKMELEDDIN IHSANOGLU, AT THE 3RD ISTANBUL PROCESS MEETING ON THE FOLLOW-UP OF IMPLEMENTATION OF UN HRC RESOLUTION 16/18	87

FOREWORD by the OIC Secretary General

It is a matter of personal gratification that the OIC Observatory is presenting its Sixth Annual Report. Since the day I commissioned the Observatory at the OIC General Secretariat in Jeddah in 2007, it has remained focused and diligent in monitoring incidents of slandering and demeaning Muslims and their sacred symbols including attacks on mosques, verbal abuses and physical attacks against adherents of Islam, mainly due to their cultural traits. The preceding five Annual Reports of the Observatory have been objective and credible in covering Islamophobic incidents all of which are available in the public domain. The present Sixth Annual Report, which has maintained this approach, reconfirms the OIC's legitimate concern regarding the rise of Islamophobia. The progress achieved in raising awareness against Islamophobia and coming out forcefully in condemnation of hatred and racial discrimination against Muslims, has to a large extent been influenced by the vigilance of the OIC Islamophobia Observatory.

The first year of my tenure as Secretary General of the OIC in 2005 coincided with the worldwide provocation caused by the publication of the nefarious caricatures of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) by a Danish cartoonist in the *Jyllands-Posten* newspaper on September 30, 2005. This irresponsible act of abusing freedom of expression by a single individual that was among the first of many that were to follow in humiliating and negatively stereotyping Muslims, effectively contributed towards developing a culture of intolerance of Islam and Muslims in the West. The perpetrators of Islamophobia, who seek to propagate irrational fear and intolerance of Islam, have time and again aroused unwarranted tension, suspicion and unrest in societies by slandering the Islamic faith through gross distortions and misrepresentations and by encroaching on and denigrating the religious sentiments of Muslims.

The aftermath of this mischief, as the world has witnessed, has been tragic and alarming causing loss of numerous innocent lives, damage to property and creating an uneasy state of mistrust between Muslims and non-Muslims in the Western societies. The infamous production of the anti-Muslim Film "Fitna", which compared the Holy Qur'an to Hitler's "Mein Kampf", together with the constitutional amendments imposing a ban on construction of minarets of Mosques in Switzerland, encouraged the bigoted radical extremists to keep the momentum of rising Islamophobia going. The most recent in the string of events such as the film, "Innocence of Muslims", the publication and reprints of provocative materials by several European newspapers including the most recent one entitled "Tyranny of Silence, the infamous "Burn A Quran Day" move by a Florida Pastor, the Congressional hearings by the Chairman of the US House of Representatives Committee on Homeland Security on the "radicalization of American Muslims" in Washington DC on March 11, 2011, together with the anti-Muslim rhetoric by some right-wing conservative politicians and new emerging Islamophobes, have contributed enormously to snowball Islamophobia and manipulate the mindset of ordinary Western people to develop a "phobia" of Islam and Muslims.

Today, the perpetuation of Islamophobia, both in terms of the phenomenon's momentum and outreach, is disquieting. It is particularly alarming that what had initially started as mere exploitation and abuse of freedom of expression by some extremist elements, gradually found resonance in political spheres, ultimately leading to the institutionalization of Islamophobia, such as banning of minarets in Switzerland and other laws, in some European countries, that prohibit wearing Muslim

attires in public spaces. It is crucial to address the issue on these three distinctive levels, which are the exploitation, politicization and institutionalization of Islamophobia at various levels. In the present globalized world, peaceful and harmonious coexistence among diverse religions and cultures is not an option but the only means to enduring human cohabitation. The objective of the protagonists of Islamophobia is none other than to create division between the West and the Muslim World. In doing so, they are pushing the world towards the dangerous precipices of conflagration and destabilization. Islamophobia has emerged as a new form of racism characterized by xenophobia, negative profiling and stereotyping of Muslims bearing strong similarities to apartheid. It has always been my firm belief that like apartheid, the challenge for the international community is to dismantle Islamophobia completely and prevent its spread before it gets out of hand and jeopardizes global peace and security.

One of the most daunting and challenging tasks reposed on me by our leaders at the 3rd Extraordinary Islamic Summit in Makkah in 2005 was to combat and counter the absurd and abhorrent campaign of Islamophobia. I took this responsibility to heart and used every option available to bring the international community to a common position so that its perpetrators find no abettors in society to perpetuate their agenda of hate and intolerance. Over these past nine years, I have never failed to raise the concern of Islamophobia in all my interactions with the leaders of Western countries, as well as with academics and civil society representatives. I have underscored, time and again, the extreme gravity of Islamophobia as a major impediment to the objectives of the UN Charter, including the overarching goal that people should practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another. I have been consistent in my insistence that addressing this malaise can be successful through a collective stance and effort of the international community.

I believe that the OIC's outcry against Islamophobia as an affront to human rights and human dignity has had a positive impact on stakeholders in the West. The leaders of Western Governments and regional organizations such as the EU, the Council of Europe, renowned scholars and media personalities and the Vatican have publicly condemned Islamophobia. The historic consensual adoption of the OIC sponsored UN Human Rights Council Resolution 16/18 entitled "Combating Intolerance, Negative Stereotyping and Stigmatization of, and Discrimination, Incitement to violence, and Violence against persons based on Religion or Belief" on March 21, 2011 as well in the subsequent sessions of the Council and the UN General Assembly, has effectively broken the myth of the global community's inability to take a unified and determined stand to combat intolerance and hatred based on religion and belief.

It is my earnest hope that the 40th Council of Foreign Ministers will take due note of the contents and recommendations of the Sixth Annual Report and that the Member States will fulfill their pledge to strengthen the Observatory. I would also like to reiterate my appeal to the Member States to strongly convey our grave concerns on growing Islamophobia to our western counterparts within the ambit of their bilateral consultations and to impress upon them that the sanctity of freedom of expression and freedom of religion cannot be allowed to be endangered by those few radical extremists who are determined to create unrest and divisions in our present day world of diversity by giving them a free hand in fomenting Islamophobia.

Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Sixth Annual report of the OIC Islamophobia Observatory covers the period from October 2012 to September 2013. The report contains five main chapters in addition to some annexes. The first chapter on “*Islamophobia, Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims*” describes the general trend of intolerance and discrimination against Muslims. It reveals that the rise of Islamophobia continues unabated in some Western countries thereby exacerbating tensions at all levels and constituting additional obstacles to the diversity and multicultural fabrics of the societies. A number of independent reports by credible institutions in the West vindicated the Observatory’s *position* that anti-Muslim rhetoric has become increasingly widespread, which, in turn, has caused an increase in the actual number of hate crimes committed against Muslims. These crimes range from the usual verbal abuse and discrimination, particularly in the fields of education and employment, to other acts of violence and vandalism, including physical assaults, attacks on Islamic centres and the desecration of mosques and cemeteries. It is also shown that Muslim women and girls are amongst the most affected by discrimination and hatred, notably due to their religious attire.

The chapter further underscores that increased hate speech and discrimination against Muslims is a major factor behind the rise of the phenomenon of Islamophobia. In this context, acceptance of various forms of intolerance, including hate speech and the propagation of negative stereotypes against Islam and Muslims in some western countries contribute towards proliferation of intolerant societies. This process is further supported by three main manifestations, namely: the exploitation of freedom of expression and perpetuation of an ideological context advocating an inescapable conflict of civilizations; the right wing parties have politicized Islamophobia and instrumentalized fear in the context of growing socio-economic instability as well as the erosion of human rights in the name of national security and the fight against terrorism.

Chapter 2 of the report deals with various “*Manifestations of Islamophobia in the West*”. The number of Islamophobic incidents continues to rise in the US, as a result of anti-Muslim propaganda. It is particularly alarming that anti-Muslim sentiments are taking deeper roots infiltrating further in the educational system. Notable among several other worrying trends/cases are: the initiatives taken by a leading and powerful US legislator to convene special Congressional Hearings on Radicalization of Islam in the US; the tensions in some states over building of Mosques and the subjecting of Muslims to extra surveillance, including tapping of telephones, all of which have spread anxiety among American Muslims. In the same vein, the Republican Party in the recent 2013 US Presidential elections also used the anti-Islam card as a strategy.

Furthermore, the report notes with deep concern the rise of virulent anti-Muslim preachers such as Pamela Geller who surpassed Robert Spencer and Daniel Pipes in demonizing Islam as recently demonstrated by her active involvement in the placing of Islamophobic ads in the transit systems of New York City, Washington, and San Francisco. Her exuberance and her high profile acceptance in the Republican Party campaign during the US Presidential elections stand in clear contradiction to the ethos and principles of US politics and culture. Another important incident showing how Islam is being amalgamated with terrorism is that of the Boston bombings, which demonstrated, yet again, how the media is quick in associating terrorist acts with Islam and Muslims. This sort of stereotyping

has direct adverse effects, as shown by the increased number of Islamophobic incidents that took place in the immediate aftermath of the bombings.

With regard to Islamophobic trends in Europe, various reports and polls have revealed growing misperception *vis-à-vis* Islam and Muslims. Among the most common and recurring of these are the ideas that Muslims are inclined to violence including revenge and retaliation; that Islam is an inherently expansionist religion, which strives for political influence, and whose followers are obsessed with proselytizing others, and more generally that Islam deprives women of their rights and encourages religious fanaticism and radicalism. According to the same polls, only a minor portion of the public tends to see Islam in a more positive light, as being a religion of peace that preaches love for neighbors, charity, openness and tolerance. Studies in Europe have also revealed that Islamophobia is most visible in the media and in the discourse of right wing political parties and groups who tend to take advantage, and build on the general fear of Islam. It was noted that from a sociological and psychological point of view, Muslims who live in xenophobic environments are more exposed to daily stress and other forms of moral prejudice.

In this context, a significant rise in the hate crimes against Muslims in a number of European countries in the wake of the brutal Woolwich Murder Attack has been noted. This criminal act by a single individual was unambiguously and strongly condemned by the OIC and the Muslim world. The Report underlined that the particular manner in which the case was handled by certain quarters of the media helped further propagate negative stereotypes about Islam and Muslims and gave Islamophobes added vigor to escalate their hatemongering. On this account, the OIC Islamophobia Observatory noted with grave concern the central role that a number of Western media outlets continue to play in propagating fear and negative stereotypes against the Islamic faith and its followers, notably by acting as a platform for widespread dissemination of anti-Muslim rhetoric.

Chapter 3 of the report highlights “*Some Positive Developments*” in terms of initiatives and other steps and positions taken against Islamophobia. The Observatory was satisfied to note the condemnation of anti-Muslim hate speech by various quarters, including non-Muslim religious leaders; the barring from entry of certain Islamophobes to a number of countries where they intended to take part in anti-Muslim rallies or deliver inflammatory lectures; the recognition of Muslim holidays and other strict sanctions taken against acts of manifest religious intolerance. It was noted with satisfaction that a number of international organization, including UNSECO, the OSCE and the Council of Europe, have recognized the danger posed by Islamophobia and have taken concrete steps to combat it, notably by laying down Guidelines for Educators on Countering Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims.

Under the title “*OIC Initiatives and Activities to Counter Islamophobia*”, chapter four mentions some of the steps and initiatives taken by the OIC to counter Islamophobia. In November 2012, a special ministerial barnstorming session was convened on the sidelines of the 39th session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers, which aimed at devising an OIC Approach for Combating Discrimination and Intolerance against Muslims. The session was *inter alia* prompted by the release of the provocative and insulting film “Innocence of Muslims” on YouTube and called for constituting a panel of eminent persons including renowned legal experts and human rights practitioners to offers its expert view on the issue of religious intolerance and incitement to hatred to

the 12th Islamic Summit. The panel, which was held in Istanbul, in January 2013, expressed support for the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) Resolution 16/18, on combating intolerance, discrimination, incitement to violence and violence on the basis of religion or belief, as being the least common denominator reflecting international consensus on this issue. The Panel also recommended that relevant stakeholders continue to address the information, interpretation and implementation gaps within the framework of the Istanbul Process and that the OIC should continue to collect data on new forms and manifestations of Islamophobia, while enhancing cooperation with international intergovernmental organizations as well as civil society organizations.

The OIC also hosted the 3rd Meeting of International Experts on the Implementation of UNHRC Resolution 16/18, under the framework of the Istanbul Process for combating intolerance, discrimination and violence on the basis of religion or belief. The meeting was attended by delegations from over sixty countries and addressed three out of the eight points for action provided by Resolution 16/18, namely, "Speaking out against intolerance, including advocacy of religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence"; "Adopting measures to criminalize incitement to imminent violence based on religion or belief"; and "Recognizing that the open, constructive and respectful debate of ideas, as well as interfaith and intercultural dialogue at the local, national and international levels, can play a positive role in combating religious hatred, incitement and violence". The meeting reaffirmed the international community's commitment to Resolution 16/18 and the need to focus on its implementation. Furthermore, the OIC in partnership with the Republic of Turkey organized an *International Conference on Islamophobia: Law and Media*, held in Istanbul in September 2013. The Conference, inter alia, endorsed a creation of an Advisory Media Committee under the umbrella of the newly established OIC Media Forum, to be headquartered in Istanbul, with a view to contributing to efforts in building an effective media strategy to combat Islamophobia.

The last chapter of the report introduces a set of conclusions and recommendations that include:

- (i) a reminder that the stability and cohesion of societies is based not only on the rule of law but also on the necessity of maintaining bonds of fraternity, understanding and respect between people of different faiths and cultures.
- (ii) The clear and present dangers posed by widespread intolerance and racist rhetoric make it incumbent on governments in the West to strictly enforce applicable hate crime and discrimination laws.
- (iii) Maintaining an open and constructive international dialogue is crucial to furthering understanding of new forms and manifestations of intolerance in order to better address their wider adverse effects in a globalized world.
- (iv) Underscoring the importance to act through concerted international action, based on internationally recognized human rights principles and standards.
- (v) Implementation of provisions of UNHRC Resolution 16/18 through the Istanbul Process mechanism as it offers a positive platform for debate, exchange of best practices and maintaining of a common and unified stance.
- (vi) Ensuring that Muslims are properly integrated in society and are not subjected to racial profiling and other forms of institutionalized discrimination.

- (vii) Incorporation of comprehensive educational strategies and with a view to raising awareness and exchange best practices.
- (viii) Relevant stakeholders should continue to collect and maintain reliable data and information about hate crimes inspired by anti Muslim sentiments.
- (ix) The Media exercise responsibility and refrain from serving as a platform for the dissemination of hate speech and ought to present the true positive nature of Islam.
- (x) Take into account the the recommendations laid out in the European Network against Racism (ENAR) Shadow Report on racism in Europe that include a special focus on Muslim communities.

The Report has its annexes a) Compilation of Islamophobic; b) CFM Res. No 41/39-P on an OIC Approach for Combating Discrimination and Intolerance against Muslims Incidents; and c) Statement by H.E. the OIC Secretary General, Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, at the 3rd Istanbul Process Meeting on the follow-up of Implementation of UN HRC Resolution 16/18.

INTRODUCTION

The Sixth OIC Observatory Report on Islamophobia, covering the period from October 2012 to September 2013 offers a comprehensive picture of Islamophobia, as it exists mainly in contemporary Western societies. The main objective of the Report is to underline the sources and consequences of this phenomenon, which is taking root in the popular mindset of the West and to provide recommendations to combat it at regional and international levels. The Report is a sequel to the earlier five Annual Observatory Reports and highlights various instances of intolerance as well as other efforts and campaigns that target and marginalize Muslims, and distort the image of Islam. The incidents of hatred and intolerance of Muslims that have been recorded in this Report and references made to quotes and utterances of individuals and groups offer credible evidence of efforts aimed at manipulating the mindset against Islam and Muslims.

The scourge of Islamophobia has emerged as one of the most daunting challenges for Muslims and non-Muslims alike because it aims to destabilize social cohesion by fomenting hate and intolerance. The ugly face of Islamophobia became more visible and pronounced in the aftermath of the terrible terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. This unjustifiable act of terrorism attack, involving extremist radical elements, was rejected and condemned by the entire Muslim world on the ground that terrorism stands in total contradiction to the core values and principles of Islam. Unfortunate but true, 9/11 came as a long awaited opportunity for the anti-Islam and anti-Muslim elements in the West to set in motion their well orchestrated plan to slander Islam and target Muslims by equating terror with Islam and Muslims.

Islam and Muslims have increasingly been portrayed as representing violence and terror that seek to threaten and destroy the values of Western civilization and that the Muslim way of life is incompatible with Western values of human rights and fundamental freedoms. For Muslims, Islamophobia is a deliberate scheme to distort the teachings and principles of peace and moderation engrained in Islam. As part and result of this scheme, Muslims tend to be collectively accused for any violence that erupts in society and are seen as *ipso facto* potential suspects well ahead of any investigation. This negative stereotype causes Muslims to be subjected to indignity, racial discrimination and denial of basic human rights.

The Sixth Report reveals that despite efforts to speak out against Islamophobia, the trend has still been on the rise. The phenomenon has been allowed to amplify as a result of unrestricted campaigns in the United States and Europe in by extreme right-wing individuals and groups who have earned notoriety for harboring virulent anti-Islam and anti-Muslim sentiments, and for carrying forth their agenda through hatemongering utterances in public gatherings, as well as in writings and broadcasts in electronic and social media. The outcry against these extreme radicals may be universal but little could be done to contain them as they enjoy a free hand in inciting intolerance of Islam and Muslims under the pretext of freedom of expression. The trends and incidents observed during the period under review range from the usual vandalism of cemeteries and Islamic places of worship (Mosques and/or Islamic Centers), to trivialization of any Islamic-related issue, be it halal food or Muslim headscarf, or personal appearance (wearing a beard).

The Report mainly focuses on Islamophobia in the United States and in Europe. In the case of the US, a country that takes pride in being a land of immigrants and tolerant of peoples of all faiths and beliefs, the Report identifies individuals and groups who are self-proclaimed anti-Islam campaigners. These individuals use their high profile connections including US legislators and media personalities to propagate negative stereotypes about Muslims, which leads to increased discrimination against them. In Europe, a deep identity crisis is being fueled by a continued instrumentalization of anti-Islamic rhetoric by certain quarters in the Media as well as for political ends. This identity crisis is threatening the values of multiculturalism and diversity which characterize today most Western societies. As shown in this Report, such climate which favors negative views of Islam, and promotes the exclusivity of one culture over the others, leads to increasing number of attacks and discrimination against Muslims. In the wake of Boston (US) Bombings in April 2013 and Woolwich (London) Attack in May 2013 anti-Muslim sentiments escalated and Islamophobic incidents reached a higher level.

The Report reiterates the OIC's firm opposition to and condemnation of acts of violence and killing of innocent people as well as other forms of inciting communal hatred based on belief.

To combat Islamophobia effectively the OIC has engaged with the leaders and civil society institutions of the West to sensitize them to the gravity of unbridled Islamophobia and its potential threat to global peace and security. The OIC remained relentless in keeping Islamophobia in the agenda of international relations and in seeking a common strategy to defeat the few but strong and influential groups and individuals who continue to foment hate against Muslims.

Today hate speech, as well as discrimination and violence based on religion or belief is high on the agenda of international diplomacy including the OIC Summit and Ministerial Meetings, the UN Human Rights Council, the UN AoC, the EU and other regional bodies as well as worldwide seminars and workshops organized by reputed think tanks. The OIC Observatory on Islamophobia takes some satisfaction that as a result of its committed efforts; the overwhelming majority of the world community has shunned Islamophobia. Regretfully this awareness that is now seen has not yet been effective in the face of intolerance, which is slowly but surely eating away the values of tolerance and diversity of the present day world.

At the OIC level, the 39th CFM, held in the Republic of Djibouti, in November 2013, convened a closed Ministerial Brainstorming/Thematic Session on "An OIC Approach for Combating Discrimination and Intolerance against Muslims". The session served not only to update OIC Foreign Ministers on actions taken by the General Secretariat but also to obtain the views and recommendations of the Ministers to supplement the action program of the Secretariat. One of the main mandates given to OIC Secretary General by this brainstorming session was the convening of a panel of eminent persons including legal experts and human rights practitioners the conclusions of which were submitted to the 12th Islamic Summit, held in Cairo in February 2013.

Beyond the OIC track, the Organization hosted the 3rd Istanbul Process Meeting on the follow-up of implementation of HRC Res. 16/18, in Geneva in June 2013. The meeting reiterated the need for the international community to take a common stand and work together to combat discrimination and intolerance based on religion or belief. The meeting further insisted on the importance of each

of the action points contained in the Resolution, including the need to criminalize incitement to imminent violence. In this regard, the platform set up by the continued consensual adoption of Human Rights Council Resolution 16/18, both in Geneva and New York, provides with an optimism that perhaps in a near future an agreement could be reached on the threshold of criminalization, which would be an important step in the long way of combating all forms of discrimination and intolerance based on religion and faith, including Islamophobia.

1: ISLAMOPHOBIA, INTOLERANCE AND DISCRIMINATION AGAINST MUSLIMS

Islamophobia and discrimination against Muslims particularly in the West, remains a major source of concern of the OIC Observatory as the phenomenon continues to rise, taking further root and comfort in the public mindset. This discrimination and hatred towards Muslims, or perceived Muslims, continued to manifest itself during the period under review in different forms including through mounting intolerance, explicit and open rejection of Muslim identity signs such as increased opposition to the building of Mosques and other Islamic centers as well as direct attacks against Islamic buildings and cemeteries as well as physical assaults against Muslims. In this context media and social media also continued to fuel the growth of the phenomenon. The findings of the OIC Observatory were vindicated by various reports worldwide.

For instance, in the US, the International Religious Freedom Report, released in May 2013 asserts, *“Anti-Muslim rhetoric and actions were clearly on the rise...Government restrictions, which often coincided with societal animosity, resulted in anti-Muslim actions that affected everyday life for numerous believers...The impact ranged from education, to employment, to personal safety within communities...Government restrictions on religious attire also remained an issue, as Muslim women faced increasing restrictions on head coverings in schools, in public sector employment, and in public spaces.”*¹

In Europe, a Report prepared on behalf of the European Network Against Racism (ENAR)², which included a special focus on Muslim communities, indicated that prejudice towards Muslims is often greater than that experienced by other religious or ethnic minority groups. It was also noted that Muslim women and girls are amongst the most affected by religious discrimination and hatred due to their religious attire, especially the veil (hijab). It was also found that the media, including social media contributed to the rise of Islamophobia because of its tendency to propagate negative stereotypes about Islam notably through the emphasis put on certain individual cases and incidents involving Muslims.

Similarly, in Australia, a Parliamentary Report published in March 2013³ warns that growing anti-Muslim sentiments are jeopardizing values of multiculturalism and tolerance in that country. The Report, inter alia indicated: *“The committee’s analysis has revealed that the perception of Islam as a threat has led to serious concerns within the community, which in turn is sometimes used as a justification for aggressive racist attacks and intensifying the marginalization of Muslims. (...) This results in and springs from a consolidation of conservative attitudes both within Islamic communities and across the mainstream, with public discussion entrenching fear and alarmist views.”* In this regard, and citing this Parliamentary Report, *“mistrusting Muslims or multiculturalism would never lead to a stronger, richer or safer community”*; therefore, there is a need to advocate a *“supportive and flexible approach by respecting other cultures, languages and*

¹ See onislam.net’s entry “Islamophobia Increases Worldwide: Report”, available at: <http://www.onislam.net/english/news/americas/462801-islamophobia-increases-worldwide.html>, retrieved on 22.05.2013

² See: *Racism in Europe*, ENAR Shadow Report 2011-2012, p.13, available online in: http://cms.horus.be/files/99935/MediaArchive/publications/shadow%20report%202011-12/shadowReport_EN_LR%20%283%29.pdf

³ See onislam.net’s entry “Islamophobia Hurts Aussie Multiculturalism”, in: <http://www.onislam.net/english/news/asia-pacific/461883-islamophobia-imperils-aussie-multiculturalism.html>, retrieved on 20.03.2013

practices”, as well as “...measures to foster understanding and liberal debate on Islam”. Finally, the Report concluded, “...the message conveyed should be that multiculturalism is an inclusive policy which values and respects diversity and promotes inclusiveness and engagement within the framework of Australian laws.”

The Common trend observed in the above Western countries, and others as will be shown by the present Report, is that Muslims are facing an increasingly hostile environment that favors discrimination and bigotry towards them. A sign of this is that Muslims’ religious appearance and symbols, their traditions and culture are being more and more rejected. However, the most striking and worrying manifestation of this mounting intolerance against Muslims is the increased trivialization of hate speech based on race, religion or nationality.

According to Doudou Diene, former UN Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, three main factors allow the trivialization of anti-Muslim hate speech. These are the instrumentalization and the political erosion of human rights in the name of national security or the fight against terrorism; the dominant ideological context marked by a long dated rhetoric of conflict of civilizations that is built on certain ideas of racial, cultural and religious superiority; and lastly, but not least, the deep identity crisis that has emerged as a result of the contradiction between rigid historical identity perceptions and the dynamics of modern day societies, which are becoming increasingly multicultural as a result of economic, social and cultural globalization.

Another evident factor that favors the climate of intolerance is the negative role played by major Media outlets who not only propagate stereotypes and misperceptions about Islam, but also undermine and usually keep shadowed any meaningful instance of individuals or groups speaking out against intolerance, including advocacy of religious hatred and violence. This bias approach of the Media has helped drawing an emphatically demonized, sometimes dehumanized, image of Muslims in the minds of a certain class of people which is predisposed to xenophobic feelings due to the increasingly dire economic situation, or the simply to the irrational fear of the other.

Along the same line of ideas, Jack Shaheen, a former CBS news consultant on Middle East affairs and author of *Reel Bad Arab*, during an interview with Press TV’s US Desk on 12 March 2013⁴, explained that silence is the most important factor causing the rise of Islamophobia. He mentioned that ignorance, T.V. and the movie industry play an equally important role in the rise of Islamophobia, adding: “*The leadership of the country (American) needs to speak out and to say that there is nothing wrong with the Muslims, that Muslims are part of the American fabric as are Christians, Jews and other people but it needs to come from the top.*” The same should also be addressed in other societies where Islam and Muslims are being stereotyped and progressively alienated from society.

The above-mentioned are some of the root causes of the growing intolerance against Muslims witnessed in a number of Western societies. It is particularly regretful that the issue of Islamophobia continues to be instrumentalized by a number of politicians and right wing groups, who, even while promoting prejudice against Muslims, end up finding resonance in the democratic institutions of

⁴ See Press TV’s entry “Silence most important factor behind Islamophobia: Jack Shaheen”, in: <http://www.presstv.ir/usdetail/293222.html>, retrieved on 13.03.2013

State such as government or parliament. The intellectual legitimization of Islamophobia that follows, and which is further comforted by the general trend of negative stereotypes propagated by the Media, has done nothing but to thinner the line between those who entertain Islamophobic feelings and the actual crimes or cases of discriminations that take place. The following chapter of the Report highlights various forms and manifestations of Islamophobia, both in terms of the deliberate efforts made by certain individuals and groups but also in terms of the general trend of intolerance that has given rise to discrimination and violence against Muslims.

2: MANIFESTATIONS OF ISLAMOPHOBIA

Discrimination against Muslims and denigration of Islam, particularly in the West emerged stronger than before in different forms and manifestations. The phenomenon not only remained unabated but also gained further support in various circles of the society. Reports show its further increase in the US and in Europe in many areas and through various means and platforms.

2.1. Islamophobia in the United States of America

Anti-Muslim hate crimes and other incidents of discrimination against Muslims remained prevalent in the US. Furthermore, Anti-Muslim sentiments were particularly reflected during the US Presidential Elections and in the aftermath of the Boston bombings, which generated further Islamophobic rhetoric and discriminatory behavior towards Muslims, or perceived Muslims.

With regard to statistics of hate crimes against Muslims, the FBI released, on December 10 2012, figures for the year 2011⁵, which showed that hate crimes against perceived Muslims, which jumped up 50% in 2010 largely as a result of anti-Muslim propagandizing, remained at relatively high levels in 2011. The bureau reported 157 anti-Muslim hate crimes in 2011, down slightly from the 160 recorded in 2010. The 2011 crimes occurred during a period when Islam-bashing propaganda, which initially took off in 2010, continued apace. It was, however, mentioned that the FBI statistics, which were compilations of state numbers, were notoriously understated. Two Department of Justice studies had indicated that the real level of hate crimes in America was some 20-30 times the number reported in the FBI statistics, in part because some 56% of hate crimes were never reported to police and more than half of those that were mischaracterized as non-hate crimes. Nevertheless, the FBI statistics could be used to get a sense of general trends.

Among other worrying manifestations of Anti-Muslim prejudice and denigration of Islam was the rise of Islamophobia in educational institutions particularly in some schools targeting Muslim students. Few of the many incidents reported in schools were listed as below by Teaching Tolerance⁶:

- In Oklahoma, a student was suspended after wearing a hijab, or headscarf, at school on September 11, although she had worn it for weeks before.

⁵ See Salon's entry "FBI: Anti-Muslim hate crimes still up", in:

http://www.salon.com/2012/12/10/fbi_anti_muslim_hate_crimes_still_up/, retrieved on 11.12.2012

⁶ Quoted by *Islamophobia Today* Blog in: <http://www.islamophobiatoday.com/2012/12/15/texas-school-district-investigates-muslim-bias-in-school-finds-christian-bias-instead/>, retrieved on 17.12.2012

- In Massachusetts, when a Cambridge store burned down, Muslim high school students were asked by classmates if they bombed the store.
- In New York, four high school students were charged with a hate crime after spending more than a year bullying a Muslim classmate, occasionally beating him and calling him a terrorist.

It may be noted that already in a 2011 report⁷ published by the Institute for Social Policy and Understanding (ISPU) titled, “Global Battleground or School Playground: The Bullying of America’s Muslim Children”, it was found that bullying against Muslim children was on the rise in American schools. According to the report: “the reasons why Muslim children are being bullied vary: the American mainstream’s limited knowledge, pervasive misperceptions, and negative stereotypes about Muslims. Little is known about Islam and Muslims, and little is being done to redress this situation.” Today, an increasing number of Muslim children continue to be bullied in schools by their classmates.

In one of Gallup’s important reports on Islamophobia⁸, it was stated: “Research shows that the U.S. identified more than 160 Muslim-American terrorist suspects and perpetrators in the decade since 9/11, just a percentage of the thousands of acts of violence that occur in the United States each year. It is from this overall collection of violence that “an efficient system of government prosecution and media coverage brings Muslim-American terrorism suspects to national attention, creating the impression - perhaps unintentionally - that Muslim-American terrorism is more prevalent than it really is.” Never mind that since 9/11, the Muslim-American community has helped security and law enforcement officials prevent nearly two of every five al Qaeda terrorist plots threatening the United States.”

a) Islamophobia during the US Presidential Campaign

The Observatory noticed that the anti-Islam and anti-Muslim agenda is being increasingly instrumentalized for political gains, benefiting far-right politicians, including Republicans in the US. In fact, when the presidential campaign of 2012 was on its initial stages, Kelley B. Vlahos Washington, D.C.-based freelance reporter and columnist for Antiwar.com, published an article⁹ looking at how Republicans were eager to exploit Islamophobia to obtain electoral gains. She emphasized: “Looking at the smoldering post-election landscape and the long presidential campaign trail ahead, it’s clear that Islamophobia as a political tool is here to stay – wielded by Republicans who use it to excite and galvanize the right wing, embarrass their opponents and sow the seeds of fear and paranoia in everyone else. And it’s so damn effective!”

⁷ See Pia Rebello BRITTO, “Global Battleground or School Playground: The Bullying of America’s Muslim Children”, ISPU, Available online at: http://www.ispu.org/pdfs/ISPU_Policy%20Brief_Britto_WEB.pdf, retrieved on 17.12.2012

⁸ Cf. Gallup, *Islamophobia: Understanding Anti-Muslim Sentiment in the West*, in: <http://www.gallup.com/poll/157082/islamophobia-understanding-anti-muslim-sentiment-west.aspx>

⁹ Kelley B. Vlahos, 2012: *Exploiting Islamophobia to Win Big*, in: <http://original.antiwar.com/vlahos/2010/11/08/2012-exploiting-islamophobia-to-win-big/>, retrieved on 11.11.2011

Within the same context, Deepa Kumar, author of the Islamophobia and the Politics of Empire, told AlterNet¹⁰ via email, *“Most of the GOP presidential candidates used Islamophobia during the primaries because appeals to racism have always been useful for the GOP. Anti-Muslim racism comes with an added bonus in that it helps position one as being ‘tough on terror.’”* Kumar called the GOP tactic of appealing to anti-Muslim sentiment the Republican Party’s “new Southern Strategy”, referring to the tactic of appealing to anti-black racism among white voters in the South.

In fact, as pointed out in an AlterNet article, the political debate over Islam in the United States reached its height during the Republican presidential primaries in 2011 when Herman Cain expressed Islamophobic remarks, during a debate in New Hampshire¹¹, which drew controversy: *“I would not be comfortable [appointing a Muslim to the presidential cabinet] because you have peaceful Muslims and then you have militant Muslims – those that are trying to kill us.”*

Among some of the examples of bigotry, ignorance and hate during the presidential campaign are those listed by salon.com, on October 20, 2012.¹² These include the following:

- Florida Republican Allen West has particularly targeted Muslims. He commemorated 9/11 by screening an anti-Islamic film and expressed the view that *“George Bush got snookered into going into some mosque, taking his shoes off, and then saying that Islam was a religion of peace.”*
- David Ramadan, a Muslim Republican Party activist, was subject to Islamophobic slander when he ran for a seat in the Virginia House of Delegates in 2011 which he won. Pamela Geller called him an “Islamic supremacist,” David Horowitz warned Virginia Republicans not to *“lie down in the camel’s bed,”* and Frank Gaffney accused him of having ties to Hezbollah.
- Nezar Hamze, a Republican from Florida who tried to join the Broward County Republican Executive Committee got turned down by a vote of 158 to 11. While he met all the requirements, people in his own party had distributed pamphlets labeling him a “terrorist” because he was head of the local chapter of the Council on American- Islamic Relations (CAIR).
- Republican Diane Black was among those raising their voice against building of the planned mosque in Murfreesboro, which had already become a lightning rod for anti-Muslim sentiment in the area and across the country. Black argued that communities need to protect themselves from the “jihadist viewpoint.” Moreover, Lou Ann Zelenik, the executive director of the reliably Islamophobic Tennessee Freedom Coalition, thought Black’s stance didn’t go far enough, firing back: *“I will work to stop the Islamization of our society, and do everything possible to prevent Shariah law from circumventing our laws and our Constitution.”*

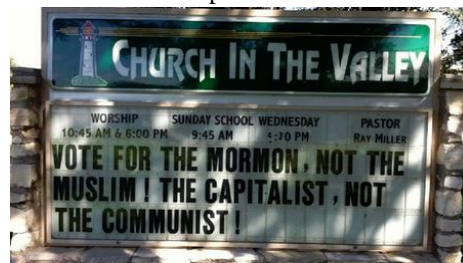
¹⁰ See AlterNet’s entry “Romney Campaign’s Ugly Anti-Muslim Strategy to Win Cash and Votes”, in: <http://www.alternet.org/election-2012/romney-campaigns-ugly-anti-muslim-strategy-win-cash-and-votes>, retrieved on 25.08.2012

¹¹ “Romney Campaign’s Ugly Anti-Muslim Strategy to Win Cash and Votes”, *op.cit.*

¹² See Salon.com’s entry “The 10 most Islamophobic moments in the 2012 elections”, in: http://www.salon.com/2012/10/20/the_10_most_islamophobic_moments_in_the_2012_elections/singleton/, retrieved on 21.10.2012

- Republican Joe Walsh, the Tea Party darling poised to lose his seat in November, warned in August, “a radical strain of Islam in this country ... trying to kill Americans every week.” “It’s here. It’s in Elk Grove. It’s in Addison. It’s in Elgin. It’s here,” he added. Hours later, a man shot at a mosque in the district, narrowly missing a security guard outside as 500 people prayed inside.

It should also be noted that throughout America there were several examples of citizens and churches joining in the Islamophobic race of the presidential campaign. For instance, Pastor Ray Miller caused commotion in his Texas town because of a politically motivated church marquee.¹³ The Church banner read: “VOTE FOR THE MORMON, NOT THE MUSLIM! THE CAPITALIST, NOT THE COMMUNIST!” The sign was an obvious reference to President Barack Obama, who conservatives claimed was a secret Muslim even though he said he was a Christian and attended church with his family.



A September 2011 poll conducted by the Public Religion Research Institute¹⁴ found, “47 percent of Americans agree that Islam is at odds with American values.” That number grows even higher when looking exclusively at Republicans and Tea Party supporters. According to the article, “Nearly two-thirds (63 percent) of Republicans and Americans who identify with the Tea Party movement (66 percent) agree that the values of Islam are at odds with American values”. The Institute states that Forty-five percent of Republicans and 54 percent of those who identify with the Tea Party believe, “American Muslims are trying to establish Shari’a law in the U.S.”

b) Islamophobic Ads by Pamela Geller

The American Freedom Defense Initiative of Pamela Geller paid to have Islamophobic ads run on the transit systems of New York City, Washington, and San Francisco in October 2012.¹⁵ The ad approved to run on the New York City subway and San Francisco buses read: “In any war between the civilized man and the savage, support the civilized man. Support Israel. Defeat Jihad.”

The hateful nature of the ads prompted several reactions from all walks of the American society. For instance, Rep. Mike Honda (D-Calif.) issued a statement on 10 October 2012,¹⁶ stating, in part: “The right to free speech is a right I will defend to my grave. I understand why the US District Court is forcing

¹³ See *Islamophobia Today*’s entry “Texas church urges Americans to ‘Vote for the Mormon, not the Muslim’”, in: <http://www.islamophobiatoday.com/2012/10/22/texas-church-urges-americans-to-vote-for-the-mormon-not-the-muslim/>, retrieved on 23.10.2012

¹⁴ Cf: *Pew Poll* “Little Voter Discomfort with Romney’s Mormon Religion”, in: <http://www.pewforum.org/Politics-and-Elections/Little-Voter-Discomfort-with-Romney%E2%80%99s-Mormon-Religion-1.aspx>

¹⁵ See *Kansas City*’s entry “Judge Says DC Metro must allow anti-jihad ads”, in: <http://www.kansascity.com/2012/10/05/3848836/pro-muslim-ads-going-up-by-nyc.html>, retrieved on 06.10.2012

¹⁶ See *Huffingtonpost*’s entry “D.C. Metro Anti-Muslim Ads Spur Rep. Mike Honda to Call for Boycott”, in: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/10/10/dc-metro-anti-muslim-ads-mike-honda_n_1955092.html, retrieved on 11.10.2012

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, against their will, to run the ad equating Muslims to savages. These are rights, however, that come with great responsibility and I hope that Americans will always use them responsibly. The right to not support hate speech is also a right, which is why I encourage people to boycott, if possible, WMATA (and in other places, like NYC, where the ad is running) until the ad buys are finished. We do not have to support hate speech”.

Similarly, a coalition of 157 religious groups across the DC Metro-area signed and addressed a letter to the Washington Metro Area Transit Authority,¹⁷ pressing them to take stronger steps against hate speech. In the same vein, the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) on 13 October 2012¹⁸ unveiled counter ads featured a verse from the Quran stating: “Show forgiveness, speak for justice and avoid the ignorant.” (The Holy Quran, 7:199). The CAIR’s 16-foot banner ads, which were scheduled to go up after few days and stay up for a month in stations featuring the hate ads (Glenmont, Georgia Avenue/Petworth and U Street), also directed metro riders to the organization’s “Explore the Quran” initiative. This coalition of Christian, Jewish and Muslim groups gave a press conference on 15 October 2012 in which a letter signed by 168 religious clergy members was issued. The letter stated, in part, “ads espouse inaccurate and inflammatory stereotypes about American Muslims.

Lisa Burr, a teacher at the Metropolitan State University, believes that there is a connection between Islamophobia in the US and pro-Israeli lobbies and influential groups, including with respect to the above mentioned Ads case.¹⁹

Despite overwhelming condemnation, Pamela Geller continued the ad campaign with new banners appearing in November 2012 quoting a verse of the Quran out of its context accompanied by an image of the 9/11 plane crashing into the World Trade Center. Among those who condemned the ads was the coalition of Jews against Islamophobia (JAI). Rebecca Vilkomerson, Director of JAI, found, “...shocking the blatant Islamophobia in the ads and strongly condemn this vicious hate speech...” Another JAI Coalition member, Jon Moscow, said: “Geller’s ads contribute to creating an even more hostile climate than already exists for the Muslim community, many of whom are already living in fear of street harassment, bullying, and other forms of verbal and physical violence...We all have a responsibility to make sure this does not continue. We call on New Yorkers to respond individually and collectively to repudiate this vicious attempt to divide our city and to strongly condemn these ads.”



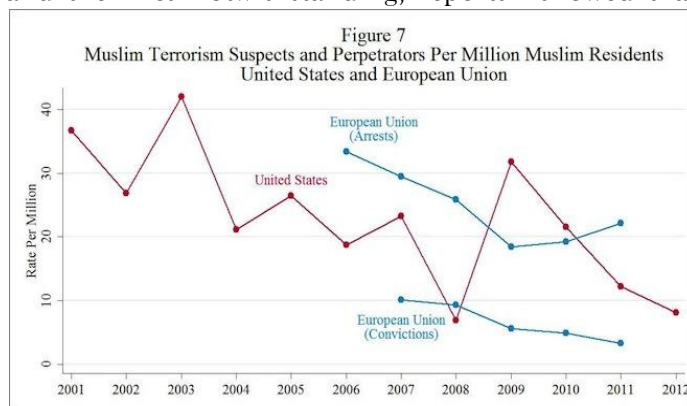
This is a paid advertisement sponsored by American Freedom Defense Initiative. The display of this advertisement does not imply MTA's endorsement of any views expressed.

¹⁷ See *Islamophobia Watch Blog's* entry “Religious groups counter anti-Muslim ad campaign in DC”, in: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/10/11/religious-groups-counter-anti-muslim-ad-campaign-in-dc.html>, retrieved on 12.10.2012

¹⁸ See *Islamophobia Watch Blog's* entry “CAIR unveils advertising campaign to counter Geller’s ‘savage’ ads”, in: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/10/13/cair-unveils-advertising-campaign-to-counter-gellers-savage.html>, retrieved on 13.10.2012

¹⁹ Liza Burr, *The Purposeful Creation of Islamophobia*, in: <http://readersupportednews.org/pm-section/125-125/17133-liza-burr-the-purposeful-creation-of-islamophobia>, retrieved on 28.04.2013

The anti-Muslim mindset of Pamela Geller and the likes notwithstanding, reports²⁰ showed that terrorism incidents involving American Muslims were in decline for the last three years. Only 14 people out of a population of millions were indicted for their involvement in violent terrorist plots in 2012. According to data tracked by the Triangle Center on Terrorism and Homeland Security in North Carolina released on 1st February 2013, there were nine terrorist plots involving American Muslims in 2012. Only one of them, the attempted bombing of a Social Security office in Arizona, actually led to any violence. And the Triangle study tracks indictments, not convictions.



c) *Islamophobia in the aftermath of the Boston Bombings:*

On 15 April 2013 bombings at Boston Marathon, allegedly committed by Dzhokhar and Tamerlan Tsarnaev, resulted in several deaths and injuries of innocent people including children. These two individuals having their origins in the Russian Federation were allegedly brainwashed by Islamic extremist to carry out the bombing. While the two individuals acted on their own, a section of the American people was quick to put the blame collectively on all Muslims. This spontaneous blame game vindicates the fact that anti Muslims feelings are taking root in American society.

Major Muslim organizations in the US released prompt statements²¹ condemning the bombings, and expressed their anger over the Boston explosions, condemning its perpetrators and calling for their swift apprehension. The OIC Secretary General Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu also condemned²² in the strongest terms the incident. However, a surge in Islamophobia followed suite, starting with Fox News in which one of its contributors, Erik Rush, referring to Muslims tweeted,²³ “Yes, they’re evil. Let’s kill them all.” Rush later deleted his tweet, calling it “sarcasm”. In subsequent tweets, he called critics of the “kill” comment “idiots”, “Islamic apologist worms” and “vermin”.

Following are some Islamophobic incidents that took place in the aftermath of the Boston bombings:

²⁰ See *Islamophobia Watch Blog*’s entry “Report: U.S. Muslim terrorism was practically nil in 2012”, in: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2013/2/3/report-us-muslim-terrorism-was-practically-nil-in-2012.html>, retrieved on 04.02.2013

²¹ Find statements of The Islamic Society of Boston Cultural Center (ISBCC), The Muslim American Society (MAS), Islamic Society of North America (ISNA), and The Islamic Circle of North America (ICNA) here: In: <http://www.onislam.net/english/shariah/special-coverage/462287-boston-islam-bombs-terrorism-isna-icna-mas-isbcc.html>, retrieved on 18.04.2013

²² Cf. http://iqna.ir/en/news_detail.php?ProdID=1213787, retrieved on 18.04.2013

²³ See *Al Arabia*’s entry “‘Kill all Muslims’: Fox News pundit’s ‘sarcastic’ Boston bomb tweet”, in: <http://english.alarabiya.net/en/business/media/2013/04/16/-Kill-all-Muslims-says-Fox-News-pundit-in-sarcastic-Boston-bomb-tweet.html>, retrieved on 17.04.2013

- On 17 April 2013, Heba Abolaban of Malden was punched in the shoulder and screamed curses by an angry-faced man who also shouted: “(Expletive) you. (Expletive) you Muslims, You are terrorists, you are the ones who made the Boston explosion’.”²⁴
- A Bangladeshi man was beaten hours after the Boston bombing by attackers who called him “a f*cking Arab”. The victim was punched in the head and body, resulting in a dislocated shoulder.²⁵
- A 10-year-old boy, identified as Yusef, said that when he arrived at his Ohio school after the attack, he was asked questions by classmates regarding his family. During a class discussion on the attacks, another student asked whether Yusef would blow up the school. The teacher, who did not understand Yusuf’s reply, pulled him aside and held him back until his school locker was checked.²⁶
- Christian Right leader Bryan Fischer, of the American Family Association, announced on his radio show on 19 April 2013 a proposed change to US immigration policy, “It is very brief: Ask the question, “Do you believe that the Qur’an is the holy book of God?” If they say “Yes,” don’t allow them in”. Regarding those who accept the Qur’an, Fischer added: “We can’t invite that kind of cancer into our culture because Boston is what you get when you do that.”²⁷
- Republican Peter King, chair of the House subcommittee on Counterterrorism and Intelligence, urged authorities to beef up their surveillance of Muslims in the US following arrest of bombing suspect Dzhokhar Tsarnaev on 19 April 2013, adding that police must, “realize that the threat is coming from the Muslim community and increase surveillance there.” King was not the only Republican employing Islamophobic rhetoric. South Carolina’s Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham told Fox News on 20 April 2013 that the Tsarnaev brothers were on a “jihad mission”, adding, “...Every day we face threats from radical Islamists and they are coming through our back yard and trying to radicalize American citizens.”²⁸
- Appearing on Fox News talk show “Hannity” on the night of 22 April 2013, right-wing columnist Ann Coulter said that she would like to see the alleged bomber’s widow in jail too, not for committing a crime but for “wearing a hijab.”²⁹
- The Oklahoma chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-OK) said that the American Muslim Association building in Oklahoma City was vandalized with

²⁴ In: <http://www.boston.com/metrodesk/2013/04/18/malden-woman-attacked-man-accusing-muslims-marathon-bombings/gol1fmyQzBwjbt728pqqdK/story.html>, retrieved on 19.04.2013

²⁵ In: <https://www.cair.com/press-center/press-releases/11844-hate-crimes-in-ma-ny-follow-boston-bombings.html>, retrieved on 19.04.2013

²⁶ In: <http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L4369675,00.html>, retrieved on 20.04.2013

²⁷ In: <http://www.patheos.com/blogs/friendlyatheist/2013/04/19/christian-right-leader-on-immigrants-if-they-accept-the-Qur'an-as-a-holy-book-they-cant-enter-our-country/>, retrieved on 21.04.2013, emphasis in the original.

²⁸ In: <http://tv.msnbc.com/2013/04/20/after-boston-we-should-put-muslims-under-surveillance-says-rep-king/>, retrieved on 21.04.2013

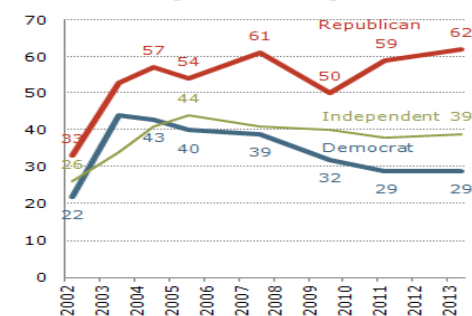
²⁹ In: <http://www.islamophobiatoday.com/2013/04/23/coulter-boston-suspects-widow-ought-to-be-in-prison-for-wearing-a-hijab/>, retrieved on 24.04.2013

obscenities early on 27 April 2013. The FBI said the incident was being investigated as a possible hate crime.³⁰

Meanwhile, a survey conducted by the Pew Research Center³¹, on 1-5 May 2013, among 1,504

Most Republicans Say Islam is More Likely to Encourage Violence

Percent saying the Islamic religion is more likely than others to encourage violence among its believers



PEW RESEARCH CENTER May 1-5, 2013.

adults, found sizable demographic and religious differences in attitudes toward Islam and violence, while public's views of Islam encouraging violence more than other religions had changed little in the aftermath of the Boston bombings. The survey shows that 42% said Islam was more likely than other religions to encourage violence among its believers, while 46% said that Islam did not encourage violence more than other religions. The same survey mentioned that these were similar to opinions about Islam and violence for most of the past decade however, in March 2002, six months after the 9/11 attacks, just 25% said Islam was more likely to encourage violence while 51%

disagreed, and the partisan gap was as large as ever: 62% of Republicans said that Islam encouraged violence more than other religions, compared with 39% of independents and just 29% of Democrats. The survey also found that Muslim Americans were seen as facing more discrimination than some other groups in society.

2.2. Islamophobia in Europe

Anti-Muslim sentiments and intolerance have continued to gain ground in Europe. This is especially the case when it comes to the instrumentalization of Islamophobia for political means, notably by far right political parties and politicians who threaten peaceful coexistence and cause tensions between Muslims and other citizens. Indeed, the negative stereotyping of Muslims and the deceptive association of Islam with the actions of a few extremists and terrorists has not only supported anti-Muslim sentiments but has also provided the media with biased information and hate rhetoric.

Negative views of Islam and Muslims in Europe have generally reached higher degrees. In April 2013, according to an online blog called "Hate Speech Watch"³², the following general trend was highlighted regarding Islamophobia in Europe:

A new wave of anti-Muslim intolerance and antagonism is sweeping Europe. The far right political gains seen in some parts of the continent are alarming. Anti-immigrant, anti-Muslim and extreme

³⁰ in:

http://www.cairoklahoma.com/blog/cair_oklahoma_asks_fbi_to_probe_okla_mosque_vandalism_as_part_of_boston_b_acklash.html, retrieved on 24.04.2013

³¹ See People Press' entry "After Boston, Little Change in Views of Islam and Violence, 45% say Muslim Americans Face 'A Lot' of Discrimination", in: <http://www.people-press.org/2013/05/07/after-boston-little-change-in-views-of-islam-and-violence/1/>, retrieved on 07.05.2013

³² See: "A new wave of Islamophobia sweeping Europe", in: <http://www.nohatespeechmovement.org/hate-speech-watch/focus/a-new-wave-of-islamophobia-sweeping-europe>, retrieved on 08.05.2012

right parties seem to be cashing in on economic hardship and austerity measures. In a blinkered world of “us” and “them” they have found in Europe's Muslim citizens the ‘others’.

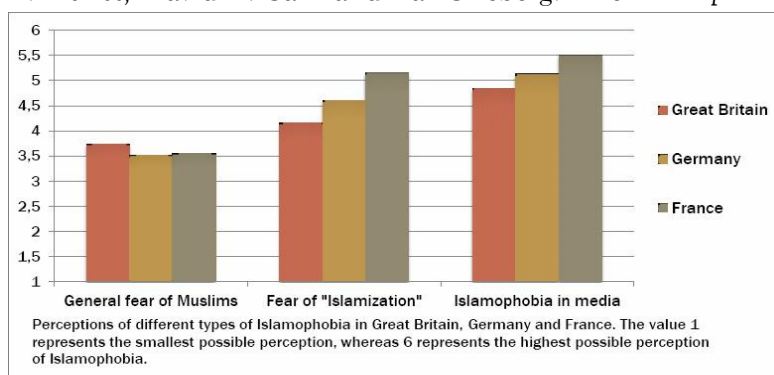
The disadvantaged position of Muslim minorities, evidence of a rise in Islamophobia and concern over processes of alienation and radicalization have triggered an intense debate in the European Union regarding the need for re-examining community cohesion and integration policies.

The central question is how to avoid stereotypical generalizations, how to reduce fear and how to strengthen cohesion in our diverse European societies while countering marginalization and discrimination on the basis of race, ethnicity, religion or belief. European Muslims are a highly diverse mix of ethnicities, religious affiliation, philosophical beliefs, political persuasion, secular tendencies, languages and cultural traditions, constituting the second largest religious group of Europe's multi-faith society. In fact Muslim communities are no different from other communities in their complexity.

a) Highlight of Islamophobic trends in Europe

The above-mentioned assessment presented by *Hate Speech Watch*, was unfortunately vindicated by various reports and polls conducted in some European countries as well as through a number of incidents including the following. Many of the incidents and other hate crime committed in violation of the rights of Muslims were often conducted by far-right movements who were busy spreading distorted fact about Islam aiming to generated even more anti-Muslim sentiments.

To measure perceptions of Islamophobia and to relate these perceptions to Muslims' well-being and experience of discrimination, a cross-cultural study³³ was conducted in three European countries (France, Germany and UK) by Jonas R. Kunst, David L. Sam and Pål Ulleberg. The *Islamophobia Watch Blog*, reporting on the study, mentioned that in all countries, participants perceived the highest degrees of Islamophobia in the media³⁴. They also witnessed the manifestation of Islamophobia in other areas of the society. It was shown that French Muslims were subject to the highest degree of Islamophobia. It was also shown that Muslims, who live in a xenophobic environment where people fear Islam, are more exposed to stress and psychological problems. The authors concluded that laws against discrimination might not be sufficient to protect Muslim communities from the negative impact of anti-Muslim sentiments. In this context, the study highlighted, “*political and media campaigns scrutinizing and refuting negative clichés about Muslims and Islam might constitute a vital approach to leading people to question or even to discard their negative views and sentiments*”.



³³ The article “Perceived islamophobia: Scale development and validation”, can be consulted here: http://www.academia.edu/2239932/Perceived_islamophobia_Scale_development_and_validation.

³⁴ See *Islamophobia Watch Blog*'s entry “German bigotry shifting from race to religion”, in: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2013/1/8/german-bigotry-shifting-from-race-to-religion.html>, retrieved on 08.01.2013

In the **Netherlands** a poll conducted³⁵ by the research bureau of Maurice de Hond (the Dutch equivalent of Gallup), commissioned by the PVV of anti-Islam politician Geert Wilders found that more than three quarters of the Dutch believe that Islam is not an added value to the country. More than two-thirds (68%) said that Islam had grown enough 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 included:

- A majority of 55% favors stopping immigration from Muslim countries.
- 63% would oppose the building of mosques.
- 72% favor a constitutional ban on Sharia law in the Netherlands.
- 64% say that Muslim immigrants do not benefit the Netherlands.
- Nearly three-quarters (73%) of all Dutch see a relationship between Islam and the recent terror acts in Boston, London and Paris.

In **Germany** a study entitled “Fear of the East in the West”³⁶ showed that more than half of the German population believed that Islam was prone to violence (64%); had a tendency toward revenge and retaliation (60%); was obsessed with proselytizing others (56%); and strives for political influence (56%), and more than 80% of Germans believed that Islam deprived women of their rights, and 70% said Islam was associated with religious fanaticism and radicalism. By contrast, only 13% of Germans associated Islam with love for neighbors, 12% with charity and 7% with openness and tolerance. The study, which corroborates the conclusions of other recent surveys, concludes that the image of Islam in Germany was “devastating”.

Another study³⁷ warned that Islamophobia in **Germany** was becoming culturally acceptable, as bigotry left the confines of ethnicity and moved towards religious bias against Muslims. Wilhelm Heitmeyer, head of the institute for research of interdisciplinary conflict and violence at Bielefeld University told the *Neue Osnabrücker Zeitung* on 07 January 2013: “It’s no longer ‘the Turks’ but ‘the Muslims’.” Research had led him to be concerned that general xenophobia had given way to a growing rejection of Islam in Germany. Heitmeyer also found that Islamophobia does not only concern far-right groups and parties, but is also present in more left-leaning and centrist circles. The sentiment was identifiable throughout the country, from the highest echelons of society to the lowest. Neo-Nazi expert from Düsseldorf’s technical university Alexander Häusler told the newspaper that while discriminating against an entire ethnicity was a taboo, religion-based racism was generally considered to be exercising freedom of opinion.

³⁵ See Geert Wilders website’s entry “Reaction Geert Wilders to Islam poll: “The Netherlands has had enough of Islam”, in: <http://www.geertwilders.nl/index.php/in-english-mainmenu-98/in-the-press-mainmenu-101/77-in-the-press/1828-reaction-geert-wilders-to-islam-poll-the-netherlands-has-had-enough-of-islam>, retrieved on 03.06.2013

³⁶ See: Soeren Kern, *Germany: Islam Becomes Campaign Issue*, in: <http://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/3666/germany-islam-elections>, retrieved on 12.04.2013

³⁷ See *Islamophobia Watch Blog*’s entry “German bigotry shifting from race to religion”, in: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2013/1/8/german-bigotry-shifting-from-race-to-religion.html>, retrieved on 08.01.2013

In the **United Kingdom**, it was reported ³⁸ that almost 500 anti-Muslim attacks took place since March 2012, more than half of linked to supporters of far-right groups. Figures from the interfaith conflict resolution organization *Faith Matters* showed that there were 496 self-reported Islamophobic incidents across Britain from March to December 2012. Nearly two-thirds of these were against women while in one out of ten cases the attack was directed against mosques. Fascism expert Professor Nigel Copsey told *The Independent* [quoted by *Press TV*] that the electoral decline of the British National Party (BNP) and the spreading of street-based protest organizations like the English Defence League (EDL) had created a potentially dangerous political vacuum on the far-right. Copsey added that the far-right groups managed to spread their Islamophobic ideas online, which radicalised thousands of racists in the country to seek new and more violent ways to attack Islam.

In **France**, according to a report by the Collective Against Islamophobia in France (CCIF), ³⁹ French Muslims are living an environment of increased Islamophobia, including insult, discrimination and physical violence. Incendiary statements by politicians have also been on the rise over the past years. The report highlighted the fact that racism against Muslims was increasing alarmingly in France. It noted that over the course of 2012 there were 418-recorded cases of Islamophobic acts against individuals while 40 Mosques have been targeted. It was also shown that women are the primary victims of Islamophobia, with a staggering 85% of acts taking place against them. This manifestation of Islamophobia vindicated the findings of Ipsos as it reported that 74% of the people polled by it thought that Islam was an “intolerant” religion, incompatible with the values of French society. An even more radical figure, 8 out of 10 French people thought that the Muslim religion sought “to impose its way of life on others”.

Among grave Islamophobic incidents that took place in **France** are the following:

- In October 2012, about 70 activists of Generation Identitaire (GI) occupied the site of the unfinished Poitiers Grand Mosque. They unfurled a banner that read, “732 Generation Identitaire”, and asked for a referendum on halting Islam and immigration into France. The action was not without precedent, nor was it without warning.⁴⁰
- From February to March 2013, pork-filled Envelopes were sent to a number of mosques.⁴¹ Among the mosques documented to have received pork packages are Meximieux mosque, in Ain; Mulhouse, As-Salam and Al-Nour mosques; Brest mosque, the mosque of Mandelieu-la-Napoule, near Nice; a mosque located 130 boulevard de la Madeleine in Nice and mosque of the Fraternity, in Aubervilliers, in Paris.

³⁸ See *Press TV*'s entry “UK far-right Islamophobia raises alarm”, in: <http://presstv.com/detail/2012/12/29/280672/uk-farright-islamophobia-raises-alarm/>, retrieved on 30.12.2012

³⁹ See Collectif Contre l'Islamophobie en France (CCIF), Annual Report 2013, Available online at : http://www.islamophobie.net/sites/default/files/file_attach/RAPPORT-ANNUEL-CCIF-2013.pdf

⁴⁰ See SBS' entry “Occupy le mosque: France's new far-right nativism”, in: <http://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/1708467/Occupy-le-mosque-Frances-new-far-right-nativism>, retrieved on 07.11.2012

⁴¹ See Islamophobia Watch Blog's entry “Pork-filled Envelopes Sent to mosques”, in: <http://www.islamophobiatoday.com/2013/03/20/pork-filled-envelopes-sent-to-mosques/>, retrieved on 21.03.2013

- Similarly, twenty five physical assaults, including 23 on women, 66 verbal assaults and insults, including 58 on women and children, and 10 threats at residential houses, one of which was covered with Celtic crosses and hostile messages were reported. It was also reported that a family discovered a dead boar's head in the stroller of their child.⁴²

In **Sweden**, a report⁴³ submitted to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) by the Network of Swedish Muslims found that Sweden was failing to properly address discrimination against Muslims. One of the report's main conclusions is that Islamophobia has "*been allowed to creep into the political mainstream*". The report urged research into prejudices that ethnic Swedes who convert to Islam face, in many cases from their own families. The report called on the government to examine the potentially negative effects of Sweden's anti-terror law, including the extended surveillance rights accorded to security agencies. It noted that out of 26 known arrests using the 2003 law change, all cases targeted Muslims. The report also addressed the issue of the representation of Muslims by the Swedish media and urged that greater attention should be paid to how news channels report on matters pertaining to minority communities, in this case Muslims.

In **Scotland**, statistics of 2012-2013 showed⁴⁴ a rise in anti-Muslim hate crimes compared to the preceding year. The figures were revealed in a series of reports on religiously motivated hate crime as well as in the first annual statistics pertaining to the *Offensive Behaviour Act*. A total of 80 anti-Muslim hate crimes were registered in 2012/13 compared with just 19 the previous year.

b) Post Woolwich Murder Attack

The Murder of a British army soldier, Lee Rigby, by two Muslim men in Woolwich, South-East London on 22 May 2013, was reported by witnesses as serving to avenge the killing of Muslims by the British military. Muslim leaders in the United Kingdom and in Woolwich condemned the killing. The OIC also condemned the killings in the strongest terms.⁴⁵

The following incidents occurred in the immediate aftermath of the brutal killing, as a backlash against Muslims:⁴⁶

According to a representative of "Hope not Hate", the number of phone calls it has received concerning anti-Muslim incidents greatly increased after the murder. Hope not Hate reported 193 Islamophobic incidents, including attacks on 10 mosques, as of 27 May [2013].

On 1 June [2013], Tell Mama, a government-funded project, reported 212 anti-Muslim incidents, including: 125 online incidents, 17 incidents involving physical attack, and 11 attacks on mosques.

⁴² See Collectif Contre L'Islamophobie en France (CICF), Annual Report 2013, op. cite., p. 20

⁴³ See *The Local*'s entry "Muslim discrimination 'too common' in Sweden", in: <http://www.thelocal.se/46618/20130308/#.UTriwDdvBMg>, retrieved on 09.03.2013

⁴⁴ See Herald Scotland's entry "Hate crime in Scotland: rise in anti-Islam, disabled, gender offences", in: <http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/hate-crime-in-scotland-rise-in-anti-islam-disabled-gender-offences.1371208850>, retrieved on 15.06.2013

⁴⁵ See the OIC statement here: http://www.oic-oci.org/oicv2/topic/?t_id=8092&ref=3271&lan=en&x_key=Woolwich

⁴⁶ See Wikipedia's entry "Death of Lee Rigby", in: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Death_of_Lee_Rigby, retrieved on 16.07.2013

On 9 June [2013] it was reported that government funding for Tell Mama would not be renewed, due to concern over the reliability of data reported by the organisation, although the decision predated Rigby's death.

Incidents ranged from verbal abuse to physical assaults in which women's headscarves were pulled off. Graffiti was scrawled over mosques and Muslim-owned businesses. Hope not Hate said online activity suggested some of the attacks on Muslims were coordinated. At least seven people have been arrested for a range of social media-related issues.

On 23 May [2013], two mosques were attacked. In Braintree, Essex a man entered a mosque with two knives, threatened the congregation, and threw an explosive device. Witnesses say the explosive device was a grenade or gas canister. In Gillingham, Kent, a man ran into a mosque and smashed windows and bookcases, specifically targeting those containing copies of the Quran. Two men were arrested in connection with the attacks. On 26 May [2013], several petrol bombs were thrown into a mosque in Grimsby. No one was injured and the fires were rapidly extinguished. Two former soldiers were arrested in connection with the attack.

On 5 June [2013], the Al-Rahma Islamic Centre in Muswell Hill, which was used by children after school, was destroyed by a fire. The building had been sprayed with graffiti making reference to the English Defence League. The fire investigation is being conducted by Scotland Yard's counter-terrorism command, because of a possible link to domestic extremism. On 8 June [2013], a fire at Darul Uloom School, an Islamic boarding school in southeast London, forced the evacuation of 128 students and teachers. Police said they feared the incident may have been a revenge attack.

On 10 June [2013], a senior Metropolitan Police officer confirmed there had been an eight-fold increase in the number of Islamophobic incidents since Rigby's death, and the real figure could be higher due to widespread under-reporting.

The backlash reached the US where *Fox News* assumed its usual role in demonizing Islam.⁴⁷ Fox & Friends co-host Brian Kilmeade claimed the London attacker was inspired by the Quran, saying: "So they looked at the Quran and said grab a meat cleaver and hack somebody up. Fantastic." [Fox News, Fox & Friends, 23/5/13]. In the same vein, Fox News contributor Allen West tweeted "Religion of peace: Somali Islamists behead UK soldier on London street. See what appeasement gets you? Horrific", and Fox News Radio reporter Todd Starnes tweeted, "Islamic fanatics butcher British soldier... Just remember folks – it's a peaceful religion"

⁴⁷ See Mediamatters' entry "Fox News Responds to London Attack with Islamophobia", In: <http://mediamatters.org/research/2013/05/23/fox-news-responds-to-london-attack-with-islamop/194195>, retrieved on 24.05.2013

Many highlighted the increase in anti-Muslim incidents after this incident. For example, the chart taken from *The Guardian*, identifies anti-Muslim attacks across the UK in the aftermath of the Woolwich murder.⁴⁸



Furthermore, in a report published by Mail Online⁴⁹ it was noted: “research by the *Independent* newspaper found almost a tenfold increase in attacks against mosques 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”. The report’s author, Professor Nigel Copsey of Teessid University said, “what is significant for our analysis is the extent to which the far right is implicated in anti-Muslim hate crime”. It was added, “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”.

2.3. Islamophobia in the Media

The OIC Observatory found out that some quarters of Western media continue to fuel Islamophobia through associating Islam and Muslims to terrorism and oppression. For example, the veil worn by Muslim women is often depicted as a sign of their oppression and inferiority in Islam. It is omitted that the veil, just as wearing any other religious symbol, forms integral part of one’s individual right to freedom of faith and religion. In the US, *Fox News* has been spearheading the anti-Muslim campaign including by regularly hosting personalities known for their open hostility to Islam such as Pamela Geller, Robert Spencer, Frank Gafney and the likes.

In this regard, North Carolina Professor Christopher A. Bail presented a study⁵⁰ that used “anti-plagiarism” software to examine the coverage of Muslims in the mainstream American press. The study, which was based on material collected during the 7 years following the 9/11 attacks, surveyed more than 1,084 press releases about Muslims produced by 120 civil society organizations to 50,407 newspaper articles and television transcripts. Bail’s main conclusion is “Americans are exposed to anti-

⁴⁸ See *The Guardian*’s entry Attacks on Muslims: numbers in detail, in:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/news/datablog/2013/may/28/attacks-on-muslims-numbers-detail>, retrieved 30.05.2013

⁴⁹ Quoted by the *Daily Mail*, “Research reveals HALF of all Britain’s mosques have been attacked since 9/11 as anti-Islam violence spreads”, In: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2351470/Research-reveals-HALF-Britains-mosques-attacked-9-11-anti-Islam-violence-spreads.html>, retrieved on 30.06.2013

⁵⁰ See *Think Progress*’ entry “Study: Anti-Islam Messages Dominate Media Coverage”, in:

<http://thinkprogress.org/security/2012/12/01/1268001/study-anti-muslim-group-dominate-coverage/?mobile=nc>, retrieved on 02.12.2012, emphasis in the original

Muslim messages in the media and elsewhere. The danger, I believe, is that many Americans have not been exposed to the positive messages of moderate Muslim organizations because they receive so little media coverage. Perhaps because of this distorted representation, we have seen a recent increase in anti-Muslim attitudes within the United States – even though anti-Muslim attitudes briefly decreased after the September 11 attacks.”

Furthermore, on 12 March 2013, Nat Sowinski, an American School of Arts and Sciences senior majoring in Middle Eastern studies and minoring in philosophy, published an article titled, ‘*New media enables rampant Islamophobia*’ in the *Daily Targum*⁵¹. The following excerpts from the article are revealing:

On the Internet, we discover that often, speculation and opinion are touted as fact. Nowhere is this more apparent than in U.S. scholarships, literature and formal and informal news media surrounding “Islamic radicalism,” “Islamism” and the notion of jihad. The post-Sept. 11 world has seen the emergence of a widespread strain of xenophobia and racist fear, particularly targeted toward Muslims, Arabs and Arab-Americans.

There has been growing sense of trepidation among many Web authors regarding a possible “Islamization of America.” The Internet provides Islamophobic pundits favorable conditions for their message – and agenda – to disseminate and gain readership.

Possibly the most dangerous facet of this rise of Web anti-scholarship is its manifestation of anti-Islamic messages, which carry with them strong suggestions for directing American foreign policy...I believe this spurious pseudoculture of demonizing Muslims [has] contributed deeply to racist sentiment against Muslims in the United States and [has] brought about concrete consequences. The New York Police Department’s recent spying of our very own MSA is, I think, a testament to this.

I’d rebut that Geller and Horowitz are not unique. They are simply members of a larger national effort to justify hateful attitudes toward Muslims in the United States – and to justify intervention abroad. It is crucial that we raise our voices and speak out against this kind of racist, anti-Muslim hatred in the United States and on campus at the University.

In the same vein, a report⁵² by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on freedom of opinion and expression found that journalists and media organizations have a responsibility to avoid promoting rhetoric of hate by acting as a platform for its widespread dissemination, as was the case in 2010 when the U.S. pastor that threatened to burn copies of the Qur’an became infamous. In the example of Pastor Jones, the report noted, “*media played a negative role in unnecessarily drawing attention to the story. (...) Had greater care been taken in reporting on the incident, some of the violence that ensued might have been averted (...) If the media are to fulfill their primarily role of informing society, which is a crucial prerequisite in combating hate speech, a principled return to ethical journalism is urgently required.*”

⁵¹ Available in: http://www.dailytargum.com/opinion/columnists/new-media-enables-rampant-islamophobia/article_ade3b684-8abf-11e2-9ace-0019bb30f31a.html, retrieved on 13.03.2013

⁵² See Knightcenter’s entry “Coverage of U.S. pastor’s Qur’an-burning threats showed need for press to help stem hate speech, UN report says”, in: <http://knightcenter.utexas.edu/blog/00-12252-coverage-us-pastors-Qur'an-burning-threats-showed-need-press-help-stem-hate-speech-un-r>, retrieved on 04.12.2012.

3: SOME POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS

During the period under review, and in contrast with the xenophobia and racism to which Muslim have been subjected, the Observatory was pleased to note that many in the West continue to take clear positions and positive steps to counter hate speech and religious intolerance, including against Muslims. Among positive steps noted by the Observatory is the condemnation of Islamophobic speech, the barring from entry of certain Islamophobes and the cancelation of their lecture, the recognition of Muslim holidays as well other sanctions taken against acts of religious intolerance.

The following examples are worthy to note:

- On 11 October 2012, Qur'an-burning U.S. pastor, Terry Jones, was barred from entering Canada where he intended to attend a debate with an Imam, a Sikh leader and a Muslim in Toronto.⁵³
- In December 2012, the Sydney Administrative Decisions Tribunal (ADT) ordered broadcaster Alan Jones to apologize on-air for comments he made in 2005, on his 2GB Breakfast Radio Show, describing Lebanese Muslims as "vermin" and "mongrels".⁵⁴
- On 13 May 2012, the Toronto Board of Rabbis denounced Pamela Geller. The Board, which included President Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl, Vice-President Rabbi Debra Landsberg, Secretary Rabbi Martin Lockshin, Treasurer Rabbi David Seed, Executive Director Rabbi Michal Sheke, issued the following statement⁵⁵:

The Toronto Board of Rabbis (TBR) expresses its profound disappointment that a local Jewish organization has extended an invitation to Pamela Geller, a blogger who is known for her extreme criticism of Muslims in language that is intended to shock and ridicule.

The TBR is a strong supporter of freedom of speech for all, including Ms. Geller. Ms. Geller's voice and message are already well known here in Canada and beyond. There was no sense in inviting her here to Toronto to speak before a Jewish audience. Sadly the only sure result of this event will be increasing tensions within the Jewish community and between Jews and Muslims in Toronto.

The TBR, which represents rabbis from all denominations of Judaism, wishes to make clear to all that it finds the invitation distasteful, just as it finds Ms. Geller's views distasteful. We dissociate ourselves from the actions of the radical fringe Jewish group that extended the invitation. We call for more events here in Toronto that will build up friendship and understanding between local Jews and Muslims.

⁵³ See Koran-burning U.S. pastor barred from entering Canada for debate, Available at: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/10/12/us-jones-blocked-idUSBRE89A1MA20121012>, retrieved on 13.10.2012

⁵⁴ See Australian broadcaster ordered to read on-air apology to Muslims, Available at: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/12/13/australian-broadcaster-ordered-to-read-on-air-apology-to-mus.html>, retrieved on 14.12.2012

⁵⁵ See Toronto Board of Rabbis Denounce Pamela Geller, Available at: <http://www.islamophobiatoday.com/2013/05/14/toronto-board-of-rabbis-denounce-pamela-geller/>, retrieved on 15.05.2013

- On 14 December 2013, Karen Sawyer, a legislative staffer, resigned after an ethics panel recommended that she be fired after it found she used state resources to help an anti-Islamic group. Sawyer had allowed David Heckert with Stop Islamization of America, to use the Wasilla legislative information office and equipment for work related to his organization. The panel also recommended that she be banned from governmental work in the future.⁵⁶
- On 16 April 2013, Randolph Linn, 52 years old, pleading guilty to hate crime charges, received a harsh sentence of 20 years in prison for having set fire to a prayer rug in an Ohio mosque on 30 September 2012. The US Attorney for the northern district of Ohio, explained: *"Hate crimes like this seek to damage more than buildings, they take aim at our American way of life...But today's 20-year prison sentence and the coming together of this community to support our Muslim neighbors show that our freedoms are stronger and more resilient than this man's hatred."*⁵⁷
- On 26 June 2013, Robert Spencer and Pamela Geller, who founded the organization Stop the Islamization of America, were banned from entering the UK following reports they were planning to attend an English Defense League march on 29 June 2013 to mark Armed Forces Day in London neighborhood where soldier Lee Rigby was killed in May 2013. The authorities' position was that Spencer and Geller would not be allowed to enter on the grounds that their presence is not conducive to the public good.⁵⁸
- On 2nd of July 2013, the European Parliament voted to waive immunity from prosecution for far-right French MEP Marine Le Pen. This renders her liable to be prosecuted under French law for "inciting racial hatred" for remarks she made in a 2010 comparing Islamic immigration in France to Nazi occupation. The European Parliament's Judicial Affairs Committee confirmed this decision on 19 June 2013, hence backing the recommendation to remove her immunity.⁵⁹
- On 30 November 2012, the region of Bremen in northern Germany, after Hamburg, was the second of the country's 16 states to recognize Muslim holidays. This allows Muslims to take days off, although unpaid, during their religious celebrations.⁶⁰
- In the Netherlands, Arnoud van Doorn, a former member of the anti-Islamist Dutch politician Geert Wilders' party and personal friend of his, declared his conversion to Islam.

⁵⁶ In: <http://www.sfgate.com/news/article/Legislative-aide-quits-over-anti-Islam-group-link-4119971.php>, retrieved on 15.12.2012

⁵⁷ In: <http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5iiTzQF5EB7mNPuUZZr5brUUML29Q?docId=CNG.c77762a22eb623db3fd3e431ba825491.391>, retrieved on 17.03.2013

⁵⁸ In: <http://www.foxnews.com/world/2013/06/26/american-anti-islam-activists-banned-from-entering-uk/>, retrieved on 27.06.2013

⁵⁹ In: <http://www.france24.com/en/20130702-european-parliament-vote-lift-immunity-french-far-right-fn-le-pen>, retrieved on 03.07.2013

⁶⁰ In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/12/2/second-german-region-recognises-muslim-holidays.html>, retrieved on 03.12.2012

He said that he had made a fresh start by announcing his decision to the world and taking his Shahadah [Testimony of Faith] on his Twitter.⁶¹

It is worth mentioning that positive steps and actions were also taken by various international organizations on the issue of Islamophobia. For example, the UNESCO has focused on fighting against Islamophobia in Schools. Along with the OSCE and the Council of Europe, it has worked on laying down Guidelines for Educators on Countering Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims. The basic principle is, *“mutual understanding and respect for diversity, along with countering all forms of intolerance and discrimination, must today, more than ever, be absolute priorities for international community, in order to maintain peace and stability at both the global and regional levels.”*⁶²

It is also worth mentioning that in the UK, labour MP Keith Vaz tabled an Early Day Motion on “Recording Islamophobia as a crime”. The Early Day Motion, which represents a formal motion submitted for debate in the House of Commons, was jointly sponsored by fellow Labour MP John McDonnell and Conservative MP Peter Bottomley. It stated the following: *“this House notes the recognition of anti-Muslim sentiment and hate crime in the Department for Communities and Local Government's document Creating the Conditions for Integration; further notes that the document acknowledges the limited collection of data on anti-Muslim hate crime; recognizes that currently only the Metropolitan Police Service specifically records this hate crime under the definition Islamophobia as a specific crime flag, similar to anti-Semitism, racism and others, whereas the recording of this crime outside of London is under different recording flags in different constabularies; and believes that all police constabularies should record this hate crime under the same flag, which will bring national uniformity in the recording of this crime and enable authorities to gather data that will aid in tackling this issue.”*⁶³

4: OIC INITIATIVES AND ACTIVITIES TO COUNTER ISLAMPHOBIA

During the Period under review, the OIC continued to take steps, organize activities and engage with the international community in a positive and constructive manner with a view to finding satisfactory and common solutions to fight against the growing trend of religious intolerance, especially towards Muslims, worldwide. OIC's main activities during the period include the following:

4.1: Brainstorming Session at the 39th CFM

On 16 November 2012, during the 39th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM), in Djibouti, a Ministerial Brainstorming/Thematic Session was convened on OIC Approach for Combating Discrimination and Intolerance against Muslims. The session aimed at obtaining the views and recommendations of the Ministers on how best can OIC counter Islamophobia notably after the release of an obnoxious film titled ‘Innocence of Muslims’. In his intervention, the OIC Secretary General, Prof Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu referred to the importance of the OIC sponsored UN

⁶¹In: <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/former-far-right-dutch-politician-converts-to-islam.aspx?pageID=238&nID=42372&NewsCatID=351>, retrieved on 06.03.2013

⁶² In: <http://www.openequalfree.org/unesco-fighting-against-islamophobia-in-schools/17636>, retrieved on 10.11.2012

⁶³ In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2013/1/22/edm-calls-for-police-to-record-islamophobia-as-a-crime.html>, retrieved on 23.01.2013

Human Rights Council Resolution 16/18, which marked as a triumph of multilateralism and stated that there was a need to draw a roadmap indicating measured steps towards evolving legally entrenched and politically sustainable parameters of a unified OIC approach for combating intolerance and discrimination against Muslims.

The ministers took note of the concept paper entitled, “An OIC Approach for Combating Discrimination and Intolerance against Muslims”, presented by the OIC General Secretariat to the Brainstorming Session. The ministers agreed on the suggestion therein to initiate a stepwise process, starting by convening a panel of eminent persons including legal experts and human rights practitioners to offer its expert view on the matter to the 12th Islamic Summit.

Finally, the Session adopted Resolution No 41/39-P on an OIC Approach for Combating Discrimination and Intolerance against Muslims, annexed to the present Report, which *inter-alia* condemned incitement to hatred against Muslims, including the release of the film “Innocence of Muslims” on YouTube.

4.2. Panel of Eminent Persons for combating discrimination against Muslims

On 7-8 January 2013 at IRCICA premises in Istanbul, the Secretary General, in implementation of Resolution 41/39-POL, constituted and convened a panel of Eminent Persons, including legal experts and human rights practitioners, to lend the Member States the benefit of expert advice entrenched in international law by elaborating and examining the whole range of available options for a unified OIC position for combating discrimination and intolerance against Muslim.

The Core Panel which consisted of Mr. Cherif Bassiouni, Emeritus Professor of Law at DePaul University College of Law; Mr. Ahmar Bilal Soofi, Member of the UN Advisory Committee on Human Rights and Former Law and Justice Minister of Pakistan; Mr. Doudou Diène, Former UN Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance; OIC Group coordinators for human rights issues in New York, Ambassador Ambassador Mootaz Ahmadein Khalil. OIC Permanent Observer in Geneva, Ambassador Slimane Chikh, Mr. Wael Attiya, Commissioner from the OIC Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission (IPHRC) and Ambassador Omur Orhun, Secretary General’s Special Envoy on Islamophobia, insisted on a number of important elements and aspects related to combating discrimination and intolerance against Muslims. Among these is the need for the international community, as a whole, to adopt a unified stance in order to isolate extremist acts and discourse from both the Muslim and Western sides. It was also reminded that in order to combat the growing trend of Islamophobia, the international community needs not only to concentrate on the political and legal fronts, but also promote and raise awareness as to the ethical and cultural dimension inherent to the issue. Efforts should also be made to promote tolerance and diversity at the level of education, media and other areas that influence public opinion.

The Panel came up with a number of conclusions and recommendations. It expressed support for the approach signified in UN HRC Resolution 16/18, which represents the least common denominator affording the opportunity of discussion on the real issues. The Panel encouraged relevant stakeholders to continue addressing the interpretation, implementation and enforcement

gaps within the framework of the Istanbul Process. The panel recommended that OIC should continue to collect data and information on Islamophobic incidents, and reinforce its cooperation with international intergovernmental organizations as well as civil society organizations in that regard.

4.3. Istanbul Process Follow-up

The OIC hosted the 3rd meeting of international experts on the implementation of UN Human Rights Council Resolution 16/18 on combating intolerance and incitement to hatred on religious grounds. The three day meeting was held in Geneva from on 19-21 June 2013 within the framework of the Istanbul Process launched by the OIC Secretary General and former US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in July 2011. The Meeting was attended by delegations from over 60 Countries, International organizations, NGOs and other interested guests. Its setting consisted of a panel of 9 experts offering their views and recommendations on each of the points under consideration. This enabled open and frank discussions to take place among participants aimed at sharing views and best practices as well as ideas on how best to combat religious intolerance and continue building on the consensus reflected in HRC Res. 16/18. The Secretary General of the OIC addressed the meeting and his statement is annexed to this report

Two expert events in the framework of the Istanbul Process were held earlier in Washington D.C., in December 2011 and in the Wilton Park event in London in December 2012. Discussions at the third expert meeting focused on implementation of points 5, 6 and 8 of Resolution 16/18, namely, “Speaking out against intolerance, including advocacy of religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence”; “Adopting measures to criminalize incitement to imminent violence based on religion or belief”; and “Recognizing that the open, constructive and respectful debate of ideas, as well as interfaith and intercultural dialogue at the local, national and international levels, can play a positive role in combating religious hatred, incitement and violence”.

The Meeting agreed on a number of key points to combat Islamophobia and other cases of religious intolerance. It was recognized that action needs to be taken to criminalize incitement to violence; however, most western states insisted that only cases of imminent violence should be criminalized. For its part, the OIC emphasized the fact that criminalization should extend to acts or speech that denote manifest intolerance and hate so as to ensure the preservation of an environment conducive to mutual understanding, cohabitation and respect in line with the principles of the UN Charter. The Meeting also insisted on the need for dialogue to reach all levels of society and to be grounded in collaborative projects aimed at solving common problems. The importance for governments to enter into direct dialogue with national religious communities and help solve their problems was also underscored.

4.4. Istanbul International Conference on Islamophobia

The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in partnership with the Republic of Turkey organized an *International Conference on Islamophobia: Law and Media*, held on 12-13 September 2013 in Istanbul. The conference aimed at shedding light on Islamophobia as one of the main issues which the OIC monitored and sought solutions to. The conference, in five main sessions, discussed a

number of topics such as the relationship between Islamophobia on one hand and democracy and multiculturalism on the other, the role and responsibility of the media, human rights, and media-government cooperation to counter this phenomenon. The conference brought together a constellation of scholars, thinkers and researchers from the Muslim world and the West.

The OIC Secretary General, Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, delivered a speech focusing on the OIC's international efforts and contributions, especially at the legal and media level, to address this phenomenon. He, inter alia, noted that since he took office in 2005, relentless efforts continued to be exerted by the OIC to contain and combat Islamophobia, which was being fueled mainly by radical and extremist elements whose aim is to distort the image of Islam and Muslims. He stated that the efforts of the OIC only were not enough to combat Islamophobia. Concerted efforts and proactive stance on the part of the Member States on combating Islamophobia were also imperative.

Ihsanoglu also noted that, besides the numerous initiatives and conferences organized by the OIC, the efforts of the Organization and its continued engagements with various international and regional organizations, governments of non-OIC members particularly Western countries, human rights institutions, interfaith and faith based organizations and civil society had paid well in terms of raising awareness in the West. Ihsanoglu also shed light on the OIC media strategy in combating Islamophobia and on the role of media. The Secretary General also noted that the OIC had successfully managed to put Islamophobia on the agenda of international relations, and hoped that beginning with this First International Conference, convening of this Conference would be institutionalized and be held periodically.

It is worth to mention that the Conference endorsed the formation of an Advisory Media Committee to meet under the umbrella of the newly established OIC Media Forum to be headquartered in Istanbul. The Committee would be tasked, among other things, to examine further the recommendations of the Conference on how to better deal with the issue of Islamophobia from various viewpoints including media and legal perspectives.

This Conference came in support of the OIC efforts to launch a Campaign to correct the image of Islam and Muslims in Europe and North America, which had been approved by the 9th Session of the Islamic Conference of Information Ministers, 39th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers and the 12th OIC Islamic Summit Conference.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Given the unabated rise of Islamophobia, western Governments must be made to have more appreciation and understanding of OIC concerns that Islamophobia, which manifests itself under various forms of discrimination and intolerance against Muslims, carries potentially dangerous consequences that will deeply and adversely impact international relations and imperil the internal stability and social cohesion of western societies. The west needs to have a clear understanding that Islam is not a contender of Judaism or Christianity but that it is another Abrahamic faith that flowed from the preceding faiths of Judaism and Christianity.

The support of a section of political leaders and inaction on the part of governments to take legal action against the perpetrators of Islamophobia in the west makes it raise and gain strength. Western Governments should take necessary measures to counter the propagation of negative stereotypes about Islam and Muslims. Many distorted facts and ill conceived ideas about Islam continue to be accepted and justified despite the clear danger they represent in societies. These include the perception that Islam is linked to terror; that it is intolerant of other religious beliefs, that its values and practices are incompatible with modern democratic systems; that it favours repression of freedom of expression and undermining human rights and other misperceptions.

In order to combat Islamophobia and foster tolerance and mutual understanding based on international human rights standards, States, international organizations and non-state actors should:

- Take all necessary measures within their power and legal/jurisdictional systems to ensure a safe environment free from Islamophobic harassment, violence and discrimination in all walks of life;
- Develop and implement comprehensive educational strategies and programmes for combating Islamophobia in education, particularly at the school level, with a view to promoting interfaith, understanding and harmony.
- Create, whenever necessary, specialized bodies and initiatives in order to combat Islamophobia;
- Include in their integration policies programmes and activities addressing Islamophobia and its roots causes;
- Collect and maintain reliable information and statistics about Islamophobic hate crimes committed within their territory/area of responsibility and make such reports publicly available;
- Combat Islamophobic hate crimes, which can be fuelled by Islamophobic hate speech in the media and on the Internet;

- Take all necessary measures to ensure that the Media assumes its responsibility to portray positive initiatives at all levels of society and refrains from associating extremism and terrorism to Islam, and Muslims.
- Take all necessary measures in order to prevent racial/religious profiling and other forms of institutionalized Islamophobia;
- Conduct public awareness campaigns and specific programmes for governmental officials and also for citizens in order to combat Islamophobia;
- Strive to develop necessary mechanisms and standards to increase international co-operation in combating Islamophobia.
- Encourage and support intergovernmental human rights agencies and non-governmental organizations dealing with Islamophobia;
- Encourage and support the Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission (IPHRC) in playing an active role in the combat against Islamophobia and discrimination against Muslims.
- Encourage political and religious leaders to take the lead in speaking out against acts of religious intolerance and discrimination against Muslims.
- Raise awareness as to the need to share and disseminate good practices at all levels.

The Observatory further supports the recommendations laid out in the European Network Against Racism (ENAR) Shadow Report on racism in Europe, which included a special focus on Muslim communities:

- States should take a range of positive steps to enable immigrants and citizens of immigrant descent, including Muslim communities, to integrate into society through non-discriminatory access to employment, education, vocational training, housing and public services. The engagement and active participation of immigrants and people with an immigrant background in society also need encouragement and support from the whole of society, which must do more to accommodate diversity and remove barriers to integration.
- act strongly against discrimination in all areas;
- act resolutely against hate speech and all other forms of behaviour which run counter to core human rights and democratic values, even when their authors seek to justify them on religious grounds;
- combat all forms of cultural or religious relativism which justify discriminatory practices and human rights violations, particularly those directed at women or other groups in society;

- ensure the strictest compliance with human rights and the rule of law in the enforcement of anti-terrorist measures;
- EU institutions should recognize Islamophobia as a specific form of racism.
- EU institutions should undertake consultation with experts and civil society on religion and belief discrimination in employment and develop guidelines on “reasonable accommodation” of religious and cultural diversity in the workplace.
- EU Member State governments should take a courageous approach to tackling hate speech and racist rhetoric in the public discourse and adopt a zero tolerance policy to stigmatizing comments and terminology likely to incite violence, racism or other forms of discrimination
- EU Member State governments and employers should ensure that any restriction on the wearing of religious and cultural symbols and dress at work is limited to very narrow circumstances, pursues a legitimate goal and represents a proportionate requirement, in accordance with international human rights standards including European Court of Human Rights case-law.

In conclusion the Observatory would like to submit that the challenge for the OIC and Muslims is to work out a common strategy that would effectively expose the abhorrent scheme of the proponents of Islamophobia and its perilous implications on all peace loving people of the world. This strategy would also have to confront Islamophobia by raising awareness, in the West, as to the core principles of peace, moderation, tolerance, benevolence that are engrained in Islam. A robust media campaign to remove the misgiving in the western mindset of the utterly ridiculous and erroneous propaganda of Islam and Muslims being “sponsors or patrons” of terrorism and violence is a priority need and Member States must come up with the required recourses to support the General Secretariat to achieve this.

The aims and goals of the strategy would have to be based on engagement and dialogue involving all stakeholders in the west to establish the reality that the activities of anti-Islam elements serve no purpose other than to stymie inter-communal harmony and peaceful coexistence among people of diverse faiths and belief. It is time for the OIC to conduct a credible research on the individuals and on their agenda of intolerance of Islam and Muslims and disseminate the findings through all available means, in particular the social media.

The OIC and the Member States should not be complacent in underscoring the fact that our present day world is gradually being driven towards the dangerous precipices of growing intolerance of religious and cultural diversity. This is the clear and present danger that the OIC has been consistent in warning the international community against. The sooner the phenomenon of Islamophobia is addressed, the better it is for ensuring peaceful coexistence of the present as well for the future generations to come.

~~~~~

## ANNEXES

### A: Some Islamophobic Incidents

---

#### I. Incidents Related to Mosques:

1. **Bulgaria: far-right party demands moratorium on new mosques** – Bulgarian xenophobic party Ataka (Attack) wanted the Parliament to pass a moratorium on the construction of mosques in the country. In a statement sent to the media, the marginal ultra-nationalist formation had reminded that Bulgaria had the highest number of mosques per capita in Europe. The party further claimed that the ruling centrist-right GERB would “side with Islamism and terrorism” if it did not endorse the moratorium on mosques.

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/10/1/bulgarian-far-right-party-demands-moratorium-on-new-mosques.html>, retrieved on 02.10.2012

2. **Canada: ‘Defeat jihad’ posters, gas bottle left at P.E.I. mosque** – The small Muslim community in Prince Edward Island, Canada (P.E.I.), was on edge after a bottle of gas and posters that read “Defeat jihad” were found on the doorstep of a mosque in Charlottetown - the latest in a string of vague threats. Members of the Masjid Dar as-Salam Mosque discovered the posters and gas on the morning of 27 September 2012, and called police. In 2011, while the building was under construction, a pig head was found nailed to a post on the site, and later in the summer, a contractor’s truck parked at the mosque was torched.

In: <http://www.torontosun.com/2012/10/01/defeat-jihad-posters-gas-bottle-left-at-pei-mosque>, retrieved on 03.10.2012

3. **Russia: Nationalists say ‘No need for new mosques’**– A Russian nationalist organization criticized a proposal to construct more mosques in Russia to accommodate an influx of immigrants arriving from Muslim countries in search of employment. Aleksander Belov, chairman of the Russkiye national movement, told reporters on 16 October 2012: *“This approach is not totally correct...It is necessary to decide once and for all whether Russia will turn into an Islamic state or it will remain a secular state, where foreign immigrants arrive, find jobs and leave after their work is finished...If immigrants...want to build a mosque in my yard, this approach is certainly wrong.”*

In: <http://rt.com/politics/russia-mosques-muslim-nationalists-moscow-538/>, retrieved on 17.10.2012, emphasis added.

4. **France: Far right protesters storm mosque** – Dozens of far right extremists stormed atop an unfinished mosque in western France on 20 October 2012 to show their hostility toward it and denounced immigration that had brought millions of Muslims into the country.

In: [http://seattletimes.com/html/nationworld/2019478154\\_apeufrancemosqueprotest.html](http://seattletimes.com/html/nationworld/2019478154_apeufrancemosqueprotest.html), retrieved on 21.10.2012

5. **US: Arrest made in arson fire at Ohio mosque** – Authorities confirmed an arrest in a fire inside a landmark mosque in Ohio that investigators said was intentionally set. The blaze broke out on 30 September 2012 at the Islamic Center of Greater Toledo and caused both smoke and water damage on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the mosque. *The Blade* reported on 02 October 2012 that an arrest was made near Fort Wayne, Ind. Shane Cartmill, investigators believed the suspect was the same person captured by a surveillance camera outside the center. The affidavit stated that Randy Linn torched mosque in retaliation for U.S. embassy attack, deaths of U.S. military personnel in

the Middle East, he was charged with a felony hate crime for damaging religious property, and he had been transferred to federal custody in Ohio and was being held on \$400,000 bond.

In: <http://www.sfgate.com/news/article/Investigators-say-fire-at-Ohio-mosque-was-arson-3910249.php>, retrieved on 03.10.2012 & <http://www.nydailynews.com/news/crime/man-charged-ohio-mosque-blaze-article-1.1176966>, retrieved on 08.10.2012

**6. UK: Pig's head found outside Newbury Mosque** – Police launched a 'hate crime' investigation on 23 October 2012 after the discovery of a pig's head outside the Newbury Mosque. Officers were called to the mosque in Pound Street at around 9.30am and cordoned off the area while they spent the morning examining the scene.

In: <http://www.newburyandthatchamchronicle.co.uk/news/newbury/articles/2012/10/23/63723-pigs-head-found-outside-newbury-mosque/>, retrieved on 24.10.2012

**7. UK: Fourth far-right protest at Sunderland mosque site** – A fourth protest at the site of a new



mosque in Sunderland ended with no violence and with only two arrests. Around 40 officers policed the demonstration on St Mark's Road in Millfield. Between 50 and 60 protesters gathered and one man was arrested for breach of the peace and another for racial chanting. Police said that organizers from newly-formed far-right group the Northern Patriotic Front assured them there would be no trouble.

The group was founded in August 2012 and made up most of the right-wing presence at the latest demonstration. A counter-protest was also held by anti-fascist groups and members of the Muslim community.

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/11/17/fourth-far-right-protest-at-sunderland-mosque-site.html> & <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/11/14/fascists-to-hold-another-protest-against-sunderland-mosque.html>, retrieved on 18.11.2012

**8. US: Man stabbed outside mosque, attacker screamed anti-Muslim rant, say cops** – NYPD said that a Queens man was stabbed repeatedly outside a mosque by a would-be killer who shouted anti-Muslim comments. The victim, identified by friends as Bashar Mohammad, 57, was attacked from behind while opening the Masjid Al-Saaliheen mosque for prayer around 4:45 a.m. The attacker, described as a Hispanic man in his 40s, stabbed Mohammad repeatedly while shouting anti-Semitic and anti-Muslim slurs. A friend, Mohammad Omar, who visited Mohammad at Queens General Hospital where he was treated and released said: "The person told him that he doesn't like Muslims...That person was trying to kill him."

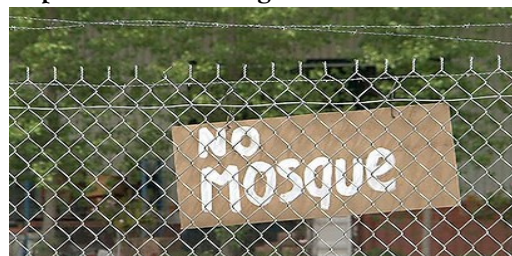
In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/11/19/new-york-man-stabbed-outside-mosque-attacker-screamed-anti-m.html>, retrieved on 19.11.2012

**9. Italy: Pig's head found in Islamic prayer centre in Milan** – A pig's head was found on 24 November 2012 at the PalaSharp Arena in Milan where the local Islamic community held weekly prayers. Local authorities had vigorously condemned the incident. Vice-Mayor Maria Grazia Guida called it "intolerable", adding: "It is light years away from this city of dialogue, of tolerance we are building."

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/11/24/pigs-head-found-in-islamic-prayer-centre-in-milan.html>, retrieved on 26.11.2012



**10. Australia: Daniel Nalliah fights Melbourne mosque plan – on the grounds that Islam ‘doesn’t value freedom of religion’** – Australian Anti-Islam crusader Daniel Nalliah and his evangelical Christian church were set to fight a plan to build a mosque in the same street. He learnt of a planning application by an Afghan community group to build the Omar Farooq Mosque next door. The church, along with more than 100 petitioners including adjoining residents, was to formally object to Casey Council over the mosque proposal. Mr Nalliah said: **“We don’t approve of Islam as a religion...It is a religion that doesn’t value freedom of religion. Having those same teachings right under our noses is counter-productive to our church.”** He said that homes vacated by “fed-up” neighbours would be bought up by Muslims, creating a “sharia zone”.



In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/11/26/daniel-nalliah-fights-melbourne-mosque-plan-on-the-groundst.html>, retrieved on 27.11.2012, emphasis added.

**11. France: Another mosque desecrated with racist and fascist graffiti** – On the morning of 24 November 2012, Muslim worshippers at Villefontaine in northern Isère discovered racist graffiti on the walls of their mosque when they arrived for their morning prayer.



The clearly Islamic slogans “Islam out of Europe” and “This is our home” had been written in black spray paint.

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/11/26/another-french-mosque-desecrated-with-racist-and-fascist-gra.html>, retrieved on 27.11.2012

**12. Botswana: Christians and Muslims condemn Mosque graffiti** – Botswana Christian and Muslim groups expressed complete disapproval of an incident in which the walls of Gaborone Main Mosque were defaced. It was reported that the spray paintings praised Jesus Christ and urged Muslims to convert to the Christian faith. The incident raised fears that it could create intolerance between the two religious groups.

In: [http://www.gazettebw.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=15688:christians-and-muslims-condemn-mosque-graffiti&catid=18:headlines&Itemid=2](http://www.gazettebw.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=15688:christians-and-muslims-condemn-mosque-graffiti&catid=18:headlines&Itemid=2), retrieved on 28.11.2012

**13. UK: Boy held after ham thrown at Crawley mosque** – A 16-year-old boy was arrested by police investigating a hate crime after pieces of ham were thrown at a mosque on 20 November 2012. The teenager was held on suspicion of a religiously aggravated public order offence by officers called to Broadfield Mosque in Crawley, West Sussex.

In: <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/boy-held-after-ham-thrown-at-crawley-mosque-8360239.html>, retrieved on 28.11.2012

**14. US: Man Arrested for Terroristic Threat on Mosque** – San Antonio police said they were able to stop a man determined to harm a religious group. According to an affidavit, 44 year-old Christopher Bane made a statement threatening a mosque located near the Medical Center. Detectives said a witness reported the threat on 6 November 2012 and said Bane told them he had

intentions of going to a mosque that was in the Medical Center area, and he was going to shoot as many people as possible, and then kill himself. According to the warrant, the suspect also told the witness he had a .45 caliber handgun and ammunition. Police were able to locate the suspect and arrest him late on 27 November 2012.

In: [http://www.foxsanantonio.com/newsroom/top\\_stories/videos/vid\\_12985.shtml](http://www.foxsanantonio.com/newsroom/top_stories/videos/vid_12985.shtml), retrieved on 30.11.2012

**15. France: Swastika painted on Muslim prayer hall in Nice** - Early on the morning of 29 November 2012, a swastika was found on the front of the Muslim prayer hall in the Rue de Suisse in the centre of Nice.

In: <http://www.islamophobiatoday.com/2012/11/30/swastika-painted-on-muslim-prayer-hall-in-nice/>, retrieved on 01.12.2012

**16. US: Dead pig dumped at mosque** - On the night of 04 December 2012, several Muslims who came to pray at the Islamic Outreach Center near Cypress, Texas found a dead pig on the outside deck next to the entrance of the center.

In: <http://www.ksdk.com/news/article/350887/28/Muslim-prayer-service-interrupted-by-gruesome-discovery>, retrieved on 08.12.2012

**17. UK: Man charged after pig head found at Newbury mosque** - A man had been charged with racially aggravated harassment after a pig's head was found outside a mosque in Berkshire. Thames Valley Police said that the animal's head was discovered outside the mosque on Pound Street in Newbury on 23 October 2012.

In: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-20694254>, retrieved on 13.12.2012

**18. US: Police: Man threatens to shoot worshippers in Fremont mosque** - After a man entered a Fremont (San Francisco) mosque on 12 December 2012 and shouted that he was armed and was going to shoot worshippers there, an American Muslim group was calling for police to thoroughly investigate the incident and for houses of worship nationwide to tighten security measures.

In: [http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci\\_22193636/police-man-threatens-shoot-worshippers-fremont-mosque](http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci_22193636/police-man-threatens-shoot-worshippers-fremont-mosque), retrieved on 15.12.2012

**19. France: Swastika graffiti on a mosque** - The *Collectif contre l'Islamophobie en France* reported that on 11 December 2012 six swastikas were found on the walls of the mosque in the Penhars neighbourhood of Quimper, in the Finistère department of Brittany in north-west France. The CCIF pointed out that this was not the first time that the mosque had suffered such acts of vandalism. In September 2006 similar graffiti were found, and the mosque was the victim of an attempted arson attack.

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/12/16/swastika-graffiti-on-french-mosque.html>, retrieved on 18.12.2012

**20. US: Woman Arrested for Bringing Sword to Orlando Mosque: Authorities** - A 47-year-old woman, Dominique Vianneyte Eloi, was under arrest after she entered the campus of a mosque and school in Orlando carrying a 2-foot-long sword. On 17 December 2012, she was charged with possession of a weapon on school grounds, disrupting a school function and aggravated assault with a weapon. No one was injured.

In: <http://www.nbcmiami.com/news/weird/Woman-Arrested-for-Bringing-Sword-to-Orlando-Mosque-Authorities-184199961.html>, retrieved on 22.12.2012

**21. Spain: Threatening graffiti on Mallorca mosque** – The Balearic Islands daily *Última Hora* reported that a mosque in the Mallorca town of Sa Pobla had been sprayed with graffiti featuring a picture of an explosive device accompanied by the word “bomb”.



The entrance to the building had also been marked with an “X” on the ground.

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/12/19/threatening-graffiti-on-mallorca-mosque.html>, retrieved on 22.12.2012

**22. France: Another mosque desecrated with fascist graffiti** – The *Collectif contre l'Islamophobie en France* reported that on the night of 20 to 21 December 2012 four swastikas along with racist slogans riddled with misspellings were sprayed on the wall of the As-Salam de Tomblaine mosque in the Lorraine region of north-east France. (The slogan “Bougnouille de mourt” would appear to mean something like “death to wogs”.)

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/12/21/another-french-mosque-desecrated-with-fascist-graffiti.html>, retrieved 22.12.2012

**23. Scotland: Man who threatened to blow up Glasgow Central Mosque is jailed** – A man threatened to blow up a Glasgow mosque and claimed he had a bomb in his backpack and also shouted that he had a gun and threatened to shoot those near him. Fraser Rae was jailed for two years and four months after pleading guilty to the incident at the city’s Central Mosque on 20 December 2012.

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/12/20/man-who-threatened-to-blow-up-glasgow-central-mosque-is-jail.html>, retrieved on 22.12.2012

**24. UK: Three arrested in Thurnby Lodge religious incident investigation related with pig’s head found in a Mosque** – Police had arrested three people in connection with an investigation into a religiously motivated incident, which happened in Thurnby Lodge on Boxing Day, 26 December 2012. Officers were called at approximately 7.30am on that day, after a pig’s head was found outside a door leading into the Community Centre, in Thurncourt Road. The centre was being used by a local Muslim group the day the head was left. Three people, a woman age 40-years-old and two men aged 37 and 46, were arrested in connection with the incident on 28 December 2012, and were put under police custody.

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/12/28/three-arrested-in-thurnby-lodge-religious-incident-investiga.html>, retrieved on 29.12.2012

**25. South-west France: Arson attack on Muslim prayer hall previously targeted by fascists** – *Sud Ouest* reported that a Molotov cocktail had been thrown at Muslim prayer hall at Le Barp in south-west France, which had already suffered three racist graffiti attacks by fascists in September 2012:



In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/12/31/south-west-france-arson-attack-on-muslim-prayer-hall-previou.html>, retrieved on 01.01.2013

**26. Far-right graffiti attack on Contrexéville mosque** – *France 3* reported that on the night of 04 January 2013, a new mosque at Contrexéville in north-east France was sprayed with swastikas, along with slogans against Islam and in support of the far-right Front National and its leader Marine Le Pen. The report noted that the As-Salam de Tomblaine mosque, also in the north-east, was similarly targeted by fascists in December 2012. *Vosges Matin* added that the graffiti in Contrexéville included homophobic abuse.



In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2013/1/7/far-right-graffiti-attack-on-contrexeville-mosque.html>, retrieved on 08.01.2013

**27. UK: ‘Mosque buster’ lawyer gives free advice on how to block worship** – A self-styled “mosque buster”, who boasted that he had blocked plans for 16 mosques across Britain, was once linked to the far-right English Defence League (EDL) and claimed that Islam encouraged pedophilia, sexual abuse and pimping. Gavin Bobby, a planning lawyer from Bristol, had been urging his followers to undermine planning applications for mosques by raising their opposition with councils.

In the guide, reproduced in the 1<sup>st</sup> week of January 2013 on the far-right blog *Gates of Vienna*, Bobby said: “Let councils know that they’re on the hook for their decisions. Be relentless. Push.” He also suggested opposing a proposed Islamic community and welfare centre in Leeds on the grounds of “parking congestion”, “disturbance” and “community relations”. He advises emphasizing that the proposed project would “cause unacceptable pollution” from traffic, was “not a community facility” because it was for “a specific purpose” and was a hazard to local schoolchildren as it would “bring in outsiders with no connection to the area”.

In a video interview on *YouTube*, Bobby said: “...In order to stop the Islamic doctrine, which is the root of this problem, you have to prevent further mosques from being built.”

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2013/1/13/mosque-buster-lawyer-gives-free-advice-on-how-to-block-worsh.html>, retrieved on 14.01.2013



**28. France: Another mosque suffers far-right graffiti attack** – A mosque at Val-de-Reuil in Normandy in north-western France was sprayed with far-right graffiti on the night of 09 January 2013. Slogans included “Anti-Islam”, “Long live the FN” and “France, love it or leave it”.

As the *Collectif contre l'Islamophobie en France* pointed out, these days every week brought new acts of Islamophobic vandalism.



In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2013/1/13/another-french-mosque-suffers-far-right-graffiti-attack.html>, retrieved on 14.01.2013

**29. Netherlands: “Every mosque that we can stop is a victory”** – PVV leader Geert Wilders launched a new website: MoskNee (MosqNo [www.mosknee.nl](http://www.mosknee.nl)), a self-help program for people who did not want a mosque next to their home. The site had gone on air at 6am of 25 January 2013, prior to the start of Wilders’ mosque tour in Enschede. He said: “To those who do not agree, I say you can start your own website MoskJA (MosqYes).” Earlier, the PVV tried to ban the construction of minarets, the construction of mosques, and, in its latest election program, the construction of mosques in residential areas. So far, all these legal initiatives were unsuccessful. Then, Wilders took a different approach: a guide for people who want to use the existing regulations in order to postpone the building of a mosque indefinitely.

In: <http://www.geertwilders.nl/index.php/in-english-mainmenu-98/in-the-press-mainmenu-101/77-in-the-press/1816-every-mosque-that-we-can-stop-is-a-victory>, retrieved on 26.01.2013

**30. French mosque vandalized with anti-Islam graffiti** – Officials said that vandals had targeted a French mosque in a graffiti attack, tagging the worship centre with swastikas and anti-Islam slogans. The attack was discovered by worshippers arriving for morning prayer at the mosque in Ozoir-La-Ferrière, a small town 35 kilometres (20 miles) east of Paris on 03 February 2013. In the eastern city of Besançon, two mosques were also vandalized, where the Star of David had been painted on the walls. Interior Minister Manuel Valls condemned the attacks “with the utmost severity” and called them “foul and hateful”. According to statistics from an Islamic monitoring organization, 201 anti-Islam attacks were recorded in France last year, up 28% on 2011.



In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2013/2/3/french-mosque-vandalised-with-anti-islam-graffiti.html>, retrieved on 04.02.2013

**31. Scotland: Three in court after ‘bacon thrown at Central Mosque’** – Two men and a woman had appeared at Edinburgh Sheriff Court after bacon was allegedly thrown at and stuck to the Central Mosque, in Potterrow, on 31 January 2013. Douglas Cruikshank, 37, Chelsea Lambie, 17, and Wayne Stilwel, 24, were charged with a racially prejudiced offence. All were released on bail with the special condition that they do not go within 100 meters of any mosque.

In: <http://www.scotsman.com/news/scottish-news/top-stories/three-in-court-after-bacon-thrown-at-central-mosque-1.2774793>, retrieved on 05.02.2013

**32. France: Swastikas daubed on mosque in latest attack** – Six swastikas were drawn on the front of the mosque at Provins, in the Seine et Marne department outside the French capital. The attack came just a week after several mosques across France were also targeted with similar Islamophobic graffiti. The symbols at the Provins mosque were discovered by worshipers when they turned up for morning prayers on 09 February 2013. A complaint was immediately filed with police.

In: <http://www.thelocal.fr/page/view/swastikas-daubed-on-mosque-in-anti-islam-attack#.URNhovKuu1w>, retrieved on 12.02.2012

**33. US: Nashville mosque vandalized for second time** – Police told WTVF-TV that windows were broken at the Al-Farooq Mosque at around 3:30 a.m. on 11 February 2013. Two funeral cars in the parking lot also had their windshields broken. Mosque member Hassam Mohamed told the station a man went through a window to get inside and demolished property there. The same mosque was vandalized in 2010 when someone spray-painted the words “Muslims Go Home” on the building. A profanity-laced note was left behind. Meanwhile, police said they had arrested a 27 year old man Kyler Wilson, who was charged with burglary and felony vandalism in connection with the damage at the Al-farooq Islamic Center

In: <http://www.wate.com/story/21099562/nashville-mosque-vandalized-for-second-time>, retrieved on 12.02.2013 & <http://www.wrcbtv.com/story/21132673/arrest-made-in-mosque-vandalism>, retrieved on 13.02.2013

**34. UK: Racial abuse shouted in Hartlepool mosque** – Police were hunting two men and a woman who burst into a mosque and shouted racial abuse. The incident happened at the Nasir Mosque on Brougham Terrace, in Hartlepool, at around 7.45pm on 5 February 2013.

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2013/2/16/racial-abuse-shouted-in-hartlepool-mosque.html>, retrieved on 16.02.2013

**35. UK: City University London removes Muslim Friday prayer room** – City University had been accused of discrimination by a group of Muslim students after it closed a dedicated room used for Friday prayers. A group of students had formed Muslim Voices on Campus, calling on the university to reverse its decision. City said it acted because students had refused to submit the proposed content of sermons to the university before prayers to check its “appropriateness”.

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2013/2/22/city-university-london-removes-muslim-friday-prayer-room.html>, retrieved on 23.02.2013

**36. France: Mosque in Alsace is sent letter containing ham** – The *Collectif contre l'Islamophobie en France* reported that a mosque at Mulhouse, in Alsace, was the victim of an Islamophobic act earlier in the last week of February 2013. Exactly as happened at Meximieux in the previous month, officials at the place of worship were mailed an envelope containing ham. The CCIF added that, as was also the case with the Meximieux mosque, this was not the first time that the Mulhouse mosque had been targeted in an act of hatred.

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2013/3/1/mosque-in-alsace-is-sent-letter-containing-ham.html>, retrieved on 02.03.2013

**37. Russia: Moscow mayor says no to more mosques in the city** – The Mayor of Moscow said there were no plans to build a new mosque in the city, and said the “excessive” number of economic migrants was a “harmful thing”. Sergey Sobyenin said in an interview with Moscow’s Echo radio: “It has turned out that the praying Muslims are not at all Russian citizens and they are not Moscow residents. They are labor migrants. There are only 10 percent of Moscow residents among them and building mosques for everyone who wants it – I think this will be over the top.”

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2013/3/1/moscow-mayor-says-no-to-more-mosques-in-the-city.html>, retrieved on 02.03.2013



### 38. UK: BNP member calls for Swansea Mosque & Islamic Community Centre to be burnt down

- A BNP member was being investigated by police after calling for a South Wales mosque to be burnt down. Joshua Wren, a BNP member from the Swansea area posted a photograph last night of the Swansea Mosque & Islamic Community Centre on his Facebook page adding "Burn down this devil centre". Wren removed the photograph later, but not before *Hope not Hate* took a screenshot and reported the matter to South Wales Police.



In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2013/3/4/bnp-member-calls-for-swansea-mosque-islamic-community-centre.html>, retrieved on 05.03.2013

39. **Canada: Hate crimes unit called in to investigate graffiti on Guelph mosque** - Guelph police had their hate crimes unit investigating after racial graffiti was discovered on a mosque. Numerous spray-painted graffiti markings were discovered on the outside of the Guelph Muslim Society's mosque at 286 Water Street early 06 March 2013. The graffiti contained derogatory references to Muslims along with inflammatory and threatening language. A security camera outside the mosque was able to capture two suspects.

In: <http://kitchener.ctvnews.ca/hate-crimes-unit-called-in-to-investigate-graffiti-on-guelph-mosque-1.1185883>, retrieved on 08.03.2013

40. **Georgia: Local nationalists protest against new mosque** - A group of Georgian nationalists outside the government's house organized a protest rally having the main slogan as "Let's say no to Turkish religious and economic expansion!" Members of the non-governmental organization named "National Front" staged the protest against construction of a new mosque in the sea-side city of Batumi near the Turkish border. Protesters called on the government to annul agreements with Ankara for construction of the new mosque, as well as stop accommodating Turkish citizens in the coastal region of Adjara, which stipulated revision of visa relations with Turkey.

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2013/3/14/georgian-nationalists-protest-against-new-mosque.html>, retrieved on 16.03.2013

41. **Sri Lanka's Buddhist extremists vow to remove Muslim mosque in Kuragala** - Having announced that they had concluded the fight against the Halal victoriously, the Sri Lanka Sinhala Buddhist extremist organization Bodu Bala Sena announced on 17 March 2013 that they would not talk about Halal issue. Instead they would then take up the issue of removing a mosque from Kuragala Buddhist monastery complex in the central hills.

In: [http://www.colombopage.com/archive\\_13A/Mar18\\_1363584917CH.php](http://www.colombopage.com/archive_13A/Mar18_1363584917CH.php), retrieved on 19.03.2013

42. **Netherlands: Dutch Nationalists Cheer Mosque Arson in Enkhuizen** - A mosque that had seen repeated attacks in the past was the scene of another arson attack on 06 April 2013. A police spokesman on the following day said that it was almost certain that the fire the morning before in a mosque in Enkhuizen was lit. How the arson was carried out, the police did not disclose. It was

**not yet clear in which way the perpetrators must be sought.** In 2011 the mosque was also the target of arson. Then burning material was thrown over the fence. The mosque was at the Tureluurshof of the Islamic Foundation Netherlands. The mosque administration had plans in 2012 to move to a larger vacant school in Enkhuizen to Reigerweg. This building, however, was in July 2012 destroyed by a fire that presumably was lit. The arson attack created quite a bit of [enthusiasm and cheer](#) in right-wing Dutch Nationalist quarters.

In: <http://www.islamophobiatoday.com/2013/04/08/dutch-nationalists-cheer-mosque-arson-in-enkhuizen/>, retrieved on 10.04.2013

**43. France: Racist graffiti targets future Paris-region mosque** – The building site of a future mosque in the city of Coulommiers, east of Paris, was defaced with racist graffiti – including Nazi swastikas – over the weekend of 13-14 April 2013. Abdallah Zekri, president of France’s Observatory of Islamophobia told the AFP news agency: “A pig’s head and Nazi tags were found inside the site. It’s the same thing every time,” said of the act of vandalism, calling on harder sanctions for those found guilty of racially-motivated crimes.

In: <http://www.france24.com/en/20130415-france-mosque-graffiti-coulommiers-nazi-hate-crimes>, retrieved on 16.04.2013

**44. US: Second hate crime targets Kew Gardens Hills mosque** – Police said that a Kew Gardens Hills mosque was the target of another hate crime on 12 April 2013, just five months after a 57-year-old man was stabbed at the same site in an early morning anti-Muslim attack. In the latest incident, a man left the Masjid al-Saaliheen mosque, located at 72-55 Kissena Blvd., at about 8 p.m. when he noticed someone following his car in a dark SUV. When the mosque-goer stopped for a red light at the corner of Union Turnpike and 199<sup>th</sup> Street, the suspect pulled up beside him in an SUV and flashed a firearm while shouting death threats and anti-Muslim statements, according to police. The suspect then fled the scene.

In: [http://www.timesledger.com/stories/2013/16/antimuslimthreat\\_web\\_04\\_16\\_q\\_2013\\_16.html](http://www.timesledger.com/stories/2013/16/antimuslimthreat_web_04_16_q_2013_16.html), retrieved on 17.04.2013

**45. US: AFDI Calls for Closure of Mosques That Breed Jihad Terror** – The human rights organization American Freedom Defense Initiative (AFDI) had called upon government and law enforcement authorities to close three U.S. mosques that they established as breeding grounds for jihad terror. The call follows the issuance in mid-April 2013 of AFDI’s 18-point Platform for Defending Freedom, which offered practical steps to protect the nation from jihad terror in the wake of the Boston jihad bombings. Those 18 points included a call for “immediate investigation into foreign mosque funding in the West and for new legislation making foreign funding of mosques in non-Muslim nations illegal,” as well as for “surveillance of mosques and regular inspections of mosques in the U.S. and other non-Muslim nations to look for pro-violence materials. Any mosque advocating jihad or any aspects of Sharia that conflict with Constitutional freedoms and protections should be closed.” AFDI Executive Director Pamela Geller said in a statement: “In accord with those calls for responsible law enforcement regarding subversive activities in U.S. mosques, we are asking that government and law enforcement officials launch immediate investigations into the Islamic Society of Boston, the Dar al-Hijrah Mosque of Fairfax County, Virginia, and the Noor Center of Columbus, Ohio.” Geller emphasized: “These mosques are not unique. There are many others like them. But they are the tip of the spear. It is time that our officials demand that they obey American laws, or be held accountable for not doing so.”

In: <http://www.sacbee.com/2013/04/29/5379377/afdi-calls-for-closure-of-mosques.html>, retrieved on 30.04.2013

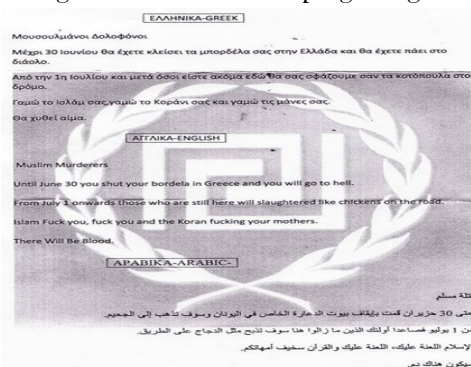
**46. US: Oklahoma City mosque targeted by vandals** – The FBI said it was investigating vandalism at an Oklahoma City mosque as a possible hate crime after profanities were spray painted on the building on 27 April 2013. *The Oklahoman* of Oklahoma City said that vandals sprayed “Hale Satan” and other profanities.

In: [http://www.upi.com/Top\\_News/US/2013/04/28/Oklahoma-City-mosque-targeted-by-vandals/UPI-34181367174333/](http://www.upi.com/Top_News/US/2013/04/28/Oklahoma-City-mosque-targeted-by-vandals/UPI-34181367174333/), retrieved on 30.04.2013

**47. US: Pastor Speaks Out Against Proposed Edmond Mosque** – A local pastor, Paul Blair, stirred up controversy during a hearing about a proposed mosque in Edmond, as he spoke out against the mosque, making some serious allegations against the group trying to get it built, stating: “The Islamic Society of North America, which is one of the applicants and North American Islamic Trust, which is also an owner of the property were both listed and proven by the United States Federal District Court in the holy land trials to be a proven affiliates of the Muslim Brotherhood and in particular with Hamas.”

In: <http://www.news9.com/story/22211725/pastor-speaks-out-against-proposed-edmond-mosque>, retrieved on 10.05.2013

**48. Greece: Athens Mosque Irks Greek Neo-Nazis** – Accelerating their hostile campaigns against Muslims, a neo-Nazi party had threatened to fight against plans to build a long-sought mosque in the Greek capital. Ilias Kasidiaris, spokesman for the far-right Golden Dawn party, told supporters at a rally late on 19 May 2013, *Agence France-Presse* (AFP) reported: “If a mosque is constructed for Islamist criminals in Greece, a front of 100,000 Greeks headed by Golden Dawn will be created.”



The threat came days after the far-right party had given a one-month ultimatum for Muslims to leave Greece. In a letter sent to the Muslim Association in Greece from Golden Dawn threatened to “slaughter like chickens” any Muslims who did not leave the country by 30 June 2013. Police said they were examining the threatening letter, which was written in Greek, English and Arabic.

Meanwhile, members of the ultra-right National Front had led dozens of protesters in a march against the Greek government’s plans to build the first state-funded mosque in Athens, the capital. The protesters, including a woman dressed in nun’s clothing, waved Greek flags at the rally on 26 May 2013 as they shouted: “We don’t want sharia, we want Greece and Orthodoxy” and “No to mosques, give money to the schools.”

In: <http://www.onislam.net/english/news/europe/462798-athens-mosque-irks-greek-neo-nazis.html> & <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2013/5/18/golden-dawn-letter-demands-muslims-leave-greece.html>, retrieved on 20.05.2013, & <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/europe/2013/05/2013526234115105760.html>, retrieved on 28.05.2013

**49. German Mosque Attacks Draw Muslims Ire** – Leaders of the German Muslim community had urged the government to take stronger measures against far-right groups after several mosques had come under Islamophobic attacks during two last weeks of May 2013. Four mosques in different German states had been attacked after the trial of the terrorist National Socialist Underground (NSU) group began. The trial, in which neo-Nazi suspect Beate Zschäpe and four alleged supporters of the NSU terrorist group stand accused of 10 murders, started earlier in May 2013, bringing back the issue of Islamophobia to light. In the period between 10-20 May 2013, the KRM had announced that mosques in Bullay, in the Rhineland-Palatinate state, as well as its capital, Mainz; the town of

Lengerich in the Steinfurt district and the town of Düren in the district of the same name in North Rhine-Westphalia were attacked. The attackers wrote on the door of the mosque in Düren on 20 May that, "The NSU is alive and you will be the next victims." In Mainz, another attack occurred on 18 May 2013, when two unidentified assailants hung anti-Islamic posters on the walls of the mosque.  
In: <http://www.onislam.net/english/news/europe/462843-german-mosque-attacks-draw-muslims-ire.html>, retrieved on 25.05.2013

**50. US: Vandals target Islamic mosque in Alpharetta** – Alpharetta police were investigating after someone vandalized the Islamic Center of North Fulton in Atlanta on 27 May 2013. *Channel 2 Action News* obtained photos of the sign outside of the mosque on Rucker Road. Vandals sprayed the words "London Justice" and some other similar phrases on the building.

In: <http://www.wsbtv.com/news/news/local/vandals-target-islamic-mosque-alpharetta/nX5FM/>, retrieved on 28.05.2013

**51. 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 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2013 called on state and national law enforcement authorities to investigate a paintball attack on a mosque in that state as a possible hate crime. 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.

In: <http://www.sacbee.com/2013/06/02/5465558/cair-seeks-hate-crime-probe-of.html>, retrieved on 04.06.2013

**52. UK: Mosque sprayed with swastikas in racist attack** – A mosque in Worcestershire had been sprayed with racist graffiti including swastikas after a break-in during the early hours of the morning of 26 June 2013. The vandals daubed graffiti onto walls and at least half a dozen windows using paint taken from builders' cabins on the site, which was 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.

In: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/crime/10142874/Mosque-sprayed-with-swastikas-in-racist-attack.html>, retrieved on 27.06.2013

**53. 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 2013 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".

In: <http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/world/2013/06/29/Femen-stages-topless-protest-in-Stockholm-mosque.html>, retrieved on 30.06.2013

**54. 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 2013 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 on the evening of 28 June 2013.

In: <http://www.sacbee.com/2013/06/29/5533636/cair-calls-for-hate-crime-probe.html>, retrieved on 01.07.2013



**55. UK: 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.

In: <http://www.asianimage.co.uk/news/10455871.Racist-graffiti-daubed-on-Muslim-cemetery-prayer-building/>, retrieved on 01.06.2013

**56. UK: 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 30 May 2013 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

**57. UK: London Mosque Fire: Police Investigate Cause** – Counter-terrorism officers were investigating whether a fire which destroyed an Islamic community centre on 05 June 2013 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.

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

**58. 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”. 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.”

In: <http://www.scotsman.com/news/pupils-withdrawn-from-trip-to-edinburgh-mosque-1-2954768>, retrieved on 06.06.2013

**59. UK: 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 2013. 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.

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

**60. UK: 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 2013. 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.

In: [http://www.yourlocalguardian.co.uk/news/local/epsomnews/10475148.Racist\\_vandals\\_paint\\_swastika\\_on\\_proposed\\_mosque\\_site/](http://www.yourlocalguardian.co.uk/news/local/epsomnews/10475148.Racist_vandals_paint_swastika_on_proposed_mosque_site/), retrieved on 12.06.2013

**61. UK: 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 2013, while racist graffiti was found early on 08 June 2013. A piece of meat, thought to be bacon, was received by the mosque on 10 June 2013. Police were investigating whether the incidents were prompted by the killing of soldier Lee Rigby in London.

In: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-berkshire-22877208>, retrieved on 13.06.2013

**62. UK: Mosque set on fire in Gloucester: Man arrested** – A mosque was set on fire in the early hours of the morning of 18 June 2013 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. 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.

In: <http://metro.co.uk/2013/06/18/man-caught-on-cctv-pouring-petrol-around-mosque-door-before-setting-it-on-fire-3845804/>, retrieved on 18.06.2013

**63. UK: 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 2013, 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. The judge said that the offences were aggravated by his previous convictions, which included two previous convictions for religiously or racially aggravated offences.

In: <http://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/wales-news/former-soldier-banned-every-mosque-4687458>, retrieved on 22.06.2013

**64. US: Swastika sprayed on Islamic center** – Police were still investigating the vandalism as what appeared to be a swastika was spray painted on the Islamic Center of Morris County, and whether it was a hate crime, said Kyle Schwarzmann, Rockaway Borough detective sergeant. Security footage showed a woman driving her car into the parking lot at 1 Mannino Drive, getting out and then spray painting the symbol on a glass door around 7 p.m. on 21 June 2013. She then got back into her car and drove away.

In: [http://www.nj.com/morris/index.ssf/2013/07/swastika\\_spray\\_painted\\_on\\_islamic\\_center\\_disgraceful\\_leader\\_says.html](http://www.nj.com/morris/index.ssf/2013/07/swastika_spray_painted_on_islamic_center_disgraceful_leader_says.html), retrieved on 10.07.2013

**65. Scotland: Vandals target mosque** – Witnesses were being sought after a Scottish mosque was vandalized with offensive graffiti at the start of Ramadan. Police were appealing for information after “Muslims will perish by JC” was daubed at the Fife Islamic Centre in Kirkcaldy. Several cars were also damaged by red paint. Crosses were painted on number plates, windows and on a bonnet. Police in Kirkcaldy put on extra patrols in the area and spoke to the centre management about improving their security, as well as they appealed to members of the public to report any information or suspicious behaviour in the area.



In: <http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/vandals-target-scottish-mosque-21574160> & <http://www.fifetoday.co.uk/news/local-headlines/kirkcaldy-muslim-centre-targeted-in-hate-crime-1-2996242>, retrieved on 12.07.2013

**66. US: Man Yells “Terrorist Rats” in Mosque** – San Diego police arrested a man after he entered a mosque at the Islamic Center on Eckstrom Avenue around 4:30 a.m. on 15 July 2013 during early-morning prayer, yelled “terrorist rats” and made death threats. Imam Taha Hassane said the man was noticed for wearing shoes on the carpet prayer. Mosque members asked if the man needed any help but the man told them to “get lost”. Witnesses told police the man yelled, “You terrorist rats, I’m going to kill you all.” 52-year old Larry Rodgers was later arrested by San Diego police. The center had reported previous phone calls threatening to blow up the center and its school. Investigators were looking into whether Rodgers was also responsible for those.

In: <http://www.nbcsandiego.com/news/local/Mosque-San-Diego-Death-Threats-Clairemont-Islamic-Center-215988691.html>, retrieved on 19.07.2013

**67. UK: Ukrainian charged over UK mosque bombs** – A court heard on 23 July 2013 that Pavlo Lapshyn, a 25-year-old postgraduate student from the Ukrainian city of Dnipropetrovsk, was charged with the “terrorist-related” murder of an elderly Muslim man, a 82-year-old grandfather Mohammed Saleem, who was stabbed in the back in Birmingham, central England, on 29 April 2013 as he walked home from prayers, and had also been charged over three mosque bombings in central England.

Westminster Magistrates’ Court in London was told on the same day that Lapshyn was also charged with carrying out a series of acts with the intention to commit acts of terrorism. The offences related

to three explosions in the central English towns of Walsall, Wolverhampton and Tipton in June 2013. The charges included purchasing batteries, a lunch bag, a clock and a container as part of the construction of an explosive device. He was also accused of purchasing chemicals to make explosive devices, modifying mobile phones to act as detonators, and carrying out internet research.

In: <http://www.news24.com/World/News/Ukrainian-charged-over-UK-mosque-bombs-20130723>, retrieved on 25.07.2013

**67. Sri Lanka: Buddhist mob attacks mosque, 12 injured** – During evening prayers on 10 August 2013, a Buddhist mob attacked a mosque in Sri Lanka's capital by throwing stones and at least 12 people were injured, the latest in a series of attacks on the minority Muslim community by members of the Buddhist majority. Police appealed for calm and imposed a night-time curfew in the area. There had been increasing violence against Muslims in Sri Lanka since 2012, mirroring events in Buddhist-majority Myanmar, which has also seen a surge of attacks by members of the majority community against Muslims.

In: <http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/buddhist-mob-attacks-mosque-in-sri-lanka-injured/1/299055.html>, retrieved on 12.08.2013

**68. UK: Neath mosque attack is condemned** – Four windows were smashed at the Tonna Mosque on St Anne's Terrace in the early hours of 10 August 2013. The vandalism of a mosque in a village outside Neath had been condemned by race relations campaigners.

In: <http://www.thisissouthwales.co.uk/Mosque-attack-condemned/story-19646374-detail/story.html#axzz2ctBCiA4a>, retrieved on 13.08.2013

**69. UK: 'Disgusting' Islamophobic DVDs sent to London mosques** – Mosques and Muslim organizations in London had been sent Islamophobic DVDs containing highly offensive material. These were received around the time of the Muslim holiday Eid and contained a mixture of insults to the Prophet Muhammad, a pornographic film and news footage about extremism. Some of the DVDs were addressed to His Wonderous Cleric of Islam, making it appear to contain something positive. The Metropolitan Police said forensic teams were examining two of the discs.

In: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-23808038>, retrieved on 23.08.2013

**70. UK: Muslims 'saddened' by overnight mosque attack in Essex** – Members of an Islamic centre in Britain which suffered a suspected overnight arson attempt had said they were "very saddened" by what appears to be an anti-Muslim attack. Police believed the incident at Harlow Islamic Centre in Paringdon Road, Harlow, Essex, took place between 10.30pm and 4am on 26 August 2013. There had been a "concerted effort" to start the blaze by sealing entrances with foam so the fire would take hold.



In: <http://www.irishexaminer.com/breakingnews/world/muslims-saddened-by-overnight-mosque-attack-in-essex-604836.html>, retrieved on 27.08.2013

**71. Georgia: Muslims Protest Minaret Removal** – Hundreds of Georgian Muslims gathered in Tbilisi to protest the removal of a mosque's minaret in the Samtskhe-Javakheti province. Local authorities removed the minaret in the village of Chela on 26 August 2013. A group of Muslims tried to block the work, but police forcefully dispersed the protesters, arresting 21 of them. The Finance Ministry said the minaret was removed for inspection to verify if the materials used to build it were properly declared when they were imported into



Georgia from Turkey in July 2013. The grand mufti of the Georgian Muslims' Directorate, Jemal Paksadze, condemned the minaret's removal, calling it a violation of Georgian citizens' rights. Paksadze is based in the capital of Georgia's southeastern Autonomous Republic of Ajara.

In: <http://www.rferl.org/content/georgia-protest-minaret-muslims/25087349.html> & <http://www.onislam.net/english/news/europe/464240-minaret-removal-draws-georgia-muslims-ire.html>, retrieved on 27.08.2013

**Related: Protesters in Georgia try to stop construction of minaret** – A group of Orthodox Christians blocked a road in Georgia on 29 August 2013 to prevent the return of the metal skeleton of a minaret to the village from where it had been removed for an alleged customs formality. One of the protesters, Oleg Sandroshvili, told reporters: "In many democratic countries it is forbidden to put up minarets, from which a mullah calls Muslims to prayer for the entire neighborhood to hear. Why shouldn't there be such a ban in Orthodox Georgia? There should be a referendum on the issue of construction of minarets in Georgia. No one should be allowed to put them up at their homes if they like to."

In: <http://www.interfax-religion.com/?act=news&div=10735>, retrieved on 30.08.2013

**72. Canada: Mosque in Saguenay vandalized, possibly splattered with pig blood** – Police in Quebec's Saguenay region had been called in after a local mosque was vandalized over the weekend of 31 August 2013– splattered with what could be pig blood. Denis Harvey, lieutenant in the Saguenay police service, said inciting hatred against a religious group was prohibited by the Criminal Code – and that incident would be investigated.

In: <http://www.ctvnews.ca/canada/mosque-in-saguenay-vandalized-possibly-splattered-with-pig-blood-1.1436691>, retrieved on 03.09.2013

**73. UK: Three held over mosque arson attack** – Three teenagers had been arrested by police investigating an arson attack on a mosque at the Harlow Islamic Centre in Essex in August 2013 after locals discovered evidence of the attempt when they attended morning prayers. Two 16-year-old boys and one aged 17, all from Harlow, have been arrested on suspicion of arson and bailed until 30 October 2013 pending further inquiries. A 28-year-old man from Harlow had previously been arrested on suspicion of arson in connection with this incident and was also on police bail.

In: <http://www.thestar.co.uk/news/national/three-held-over-mosque-arson-attack-1.6028554>, retrieved on 10.09.2013

**74. France: Mosque in Montrouge Attacked with dog excrement** – After pig meat, dog poo. In the afternoon of 23 September 2013, while the faithful were performing afternoon prayers, around 1400hrs, dog excrement was thrown against the door of the prayer hall of the city of Montrouge, near Paris.

In: <http://www.loonwatch.com/2013/09/france-mosque-in-montrouge-attacked-passengers-kicked-off-plane-for-speaking-arabic/>, retrieved on 26.09.2013

**75. US: Parents End Mosque Field Trips Because "Pushing Tolerance" Is Bad** – Thanks to the watchful stepfather of a Henderson High School student in Hendersonville, Tennessee, teachers would no longer be "pushing Islamic tolerance" on the students in the form of religious field trips. Mike Conner, concerned his stepdaughter would be exposed to knowledge in a 36-week world studies course, got angry at back-to-school night when he heard of a planned 04 September 2013 field trip to a mosque and a Hindu temple. So he spoke up because, you know: "If we as parents don't begin speaking up, no one will." And he won by force. On 17 September 2013, the school system issued a statement: *After receiving a parent complaint regarding field trip locations, our district has reviewed*

the practice and decided to eliminate field trips to religious venues from this class, as it does not provide equal representation to all the religions studied in the course unit.

In: <http://gawker.com/parents-end-mosque-field-trips-because-pushing-toleran-1374513673>, retrieved on 26.09.2013

**76. Norway: Police on Alert for Mosques** – According to TV2's report, World Islamic Mission Mosque received an email on 18 September 2013: "*Before 2013 is over, all mosques in Norway will be burned to the ground. We are a group of men who have planned this for seven years.*" In the morning of 20 September 2013, a sausage banner was hung at a mosque in Fredrikstad with an insulting message against the religious members. Also, a cut pig head was found outside the Norway's largest mosque in Oslo on 21 September 2013. After the incidents, Oslo police had several meetings with the Islamic Council of Norway. Police confirmed to TV 2 that they looked the issue very seriously.

In: <http://www.tnp.no/norway/panorama/3991-norwegian-police-is-on-alert-for-mosques>, retrieved on 26.09.2013

**77. US: NYPD Secretly Branded Mosques "Terrorism Enterprises"** – It was recently revealed that the NYPD branded certain New York mosques "terrorism enterprises" in order to be able to investigate any attendee of said mosque at will, without charging them with a crime. These details came from the same Pulitzer Prize-winning AP probe that previously revealed that the NYPD specifically targeted the Muslim community. But had targeting mosques actually helped to protect New Yorkers? After all, the NYPD itself admitted that its investigation into the Muslim community produced zero leads. And there was compelling evidence that mosque attendance actually helped prevent terrorism. Despite all this, a great part of Islamophobic rhetoric continued to be obsessively fixed on the mosque. High-profile Islamophobes like Peter King, Frank Gaffney, and, most recently, Montana senate candidate [Liz Cheney](#), regularly asserted that mosques were the epicenter of radicalization.

In: [http://www.religiondispatches.org/dispatches/guest\\_bloggers/7279/nypd\\_secretly\\_branded\\_mosques\\_terrorism\\_enterprises/](http://www.religiondispatches.org/dispatches/guest_bloggers/7279/nypd_secretly_branded_mosques_terrorism_enterprises/), retrieved on 04.09.2013

## II. Incidents Related to Muslim Cemeteries:

**1. US: Plan for Muslim Cemetery Rejected in Kentucky** – After residents voiced strong opposition to a proposed Islamic cemetery in a rural part of unincorporated Bullitt County Thursday night (14 February), the county's Board of Adjustments voted 4-1 to deny the request to loud applause from the crowd of more than 110. The Louisville Islamic Center had requested a conditional-use zoning change to buy 10 acres of land near Mount Washington and build a cemetery. The land had been zoned agricultural. Some residents cited traffic concerns on narrow Hubbard Lane and expressed no malice to the Islamic faith. *Several told the board that the United States was built on Christian principles and that the Islamic Center should go where it is more welcome.*

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2013/2/15/kentucky-plan-for-muslim-cemetery-rejected.html>, retrieved on 16.02.2013, emphasis added.

**2. France: Vandals desecrate Muslim cemetery in Paris** – Islamophobic incidents continued to occur in France as vandals in Paris had desecrated on 28 April 2012 some 20 Muslim graves at a cemetery in the Val-de-Marne suburb. It was reported that the marble headstones were broken and ornaments thrown about. President of the French Observatory against Islamophobia Abdellah Zekri said that there had been already 50 reported cases of Islamophobic incidents in 2013, making it a 25-percent increase in the first half of the year, compared to 40 for the first six months of 2012.

In: <http://www.presse.fr/detail/2013/04/29/300871/paris-vandals-profane-muslim-cemetery/>, retrieved on 30.04.2013



3. **UK: Muslim graves at Christchurch Cemetery, Newport, desecrated by racist vandals** – Muslim graves at a Newport cemetery had been desecrated with racist graffiti on 30 June 2013. The vandals used white paint to write “Lee Rigby murder”, “white power” and drew swastikas on four gravestones at Christchurch Cemetery. They also wrote the initials of the British National Party (BNP), the UK Independence Party (UKIP) and the National Front (NF).



In: <http://www.islamophobiatoday.com/2013/06/30/muslim-graves-at-christchurch-cemetery-newport-desecrated-by-racist-vandals/>, retrieved on 03.07.2013

4. **Australia: Pig carcass dumped at Islamic burial site in Rockingham** – In the morning of 15 July 2013, animal carcasses had been found dumped at a burial site for Islamic families in Rockingham, south of Perth.



In: <http://www.perthnow.com.au/news/western-australia/pig-carcass-dumped-at-islamic-burial-site-in-rockingham/story-fnhocxo3-1226680236633>, retrieved on 18.07.2013

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

1. **UK: Anti-halal campaign comes to Bournemouth** – A man was calling for all Bournemouth cafes and takeaways to be obliged to say whether their meat was slaughtered by Muslim rules. Animal rights campaigner Gary Hazel claimed some of the methods used were “very cruel” and people should be able to make an informed choice. Jewish and Muslim communities were exempted from a law that required animals to be stunned before their throats were cut. Gary Hazel, 37, a chef and publican from Bournemouth town centre had written to the council and Bournemouth West MP Conor Burns about the issue. It was however notable that anti-halal campaigners like Hazel rarely have anything to say about shechita, the Jewish method of ritual slaughter, which requires that *all* animals should be killed without stunning. There is a parallel here with the Islamophobes who bang on about Sharia tribunals constituting a parallel legal system but ignore the existence of Beth Din courts in the Jewish community.

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/10/19/anti-halal-campaign-comes-to-bournemouth.html>, retrieved on 20.10.2012

2. **France: Islamophobes protest in Paris** – On 10 November 2012, hundreds of French nationalists demonstrated in Paris against Islamist extremism, chanting the French anthem and saying the religion had no place in the country. Protester Romain Cyril said: “France was always a welcoming country, but for the first time we have to deal with a religion which can’t and doesn’t want to integrate



itself.”

The protest was organized by a nationalist group called the Republican Resistance, (Résistance Républicaine) a front organization for Riposte Laïque, a rabidly Islamophobic website that was founded by an ex-Trotskyist named Pierre Cassen who with and another Riposte Laïque contributor received heavy fines in March 2012 after being convicted of inciting hatred against Muslims. Despite the leftist origins of some of its leading members, Riposte Laïque had been notorious for working with sections of the far right on the basis of a common hatred of Islam. In July 2012, Cassen was a featured speaker at the International Civil Liberties Alliance conference at the European Parliament, along with Stephen Lennon of the English Defence League.

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/11/10/islamophobes-protest-in-paris.html>, retrieved on 11.11.2012

**3. Sweden: Sweden Democrats send members anti-Islam mag** – Some 6,000 members of the Sweden Democrats were to receive an anti-Islam newspaper at the end of the month [November 2012], courtesy of the party. MP and editor in chief for the Sweden Democrat paper *SD-Kuriren*,

Richard Jomshof, told local paper *Sydsvenskan*: “*Dispatch International* is a paper that plays an important role in the societal debate.”

**Dispatch International**  
 "Freedom of the press cannot be limited without being lost." – Thomas Jefferson  
 Thursday, August 30, 2012  
 Published every Thursday in Danish, Swedish, English and German  
 English edition

**MUSLIM POPULATION IN SWEDEN AND DENMARK DOUBLED IN 14 YEARS**  
 Denmark's right-wing newspaper publishes new figures on the Muslim population in Sweden and Denmark. The number of Muslims in Sweden has doubled in 14 years, from 100,000 in 1998 to 200,000 in 2012. In Denmark, the number has also doubled, from 100,000 in 1998 to 200,000 in 2012. The figures are based on data from the Danish and Swedish governments.

**Left extremism: The sure way to get ahead in Denmark**  
 The Danish government's policy of welcoming refugees and immigrants is a sure way to get ahead in Denmark. The government's policy is based on the idea that more immigrants will bring more economic growth and jobs to the country.

**UN Climate Panel in big trouble**  
 The UN Climate Panel is in big trouble. The panel's report on climate change is being questioned by many scientists and politicians. The panel's report is based on outdated data and is full of errors.

The publication, connected to the Swedish anti-Islam group “Freedom of the Press Society” (Tryckfrihetssällskapet), recently featured an article where a professor argued that the Muslim call to prayer should not only be seen as that but also as a threat. The International Free Press Society, publisher of *Dispatch International*, headed by Lars Hedegaard, the notorious Danish Islamophobe who

was convicted of inciting racial hatred as a result of an interview in which he described Muslims as morally depraved rapists.

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/11/22/sweden-democrats-send-members-anti-islam-mag.html>, retrieved on 23.11.2012

**4. Anti-Islam groups rally in Norway** – About 40 people gathered for an anti-Islam demonstration in Oslo, and were met with jeers and chants of “no Nazis on our streets” from a larger group of counterdemonstrators. The protest was staged by the Norwegian Defence League, a group inspired by the larger English Defence League, which had carried out rowdy anti-Islam protests in Britain. The defense leagues said they were not racists but “patriots” opposing a perceived Islamization of Europe. The anti-Islam gunman who killed 77 people in Norway in 2011 expressed support for the English Defence League and similar groups, though most denounced his attacks.

In: <http://www.foxnews.com/world/2012/12/15/anti-islam-groups-rally-in-norway/>, retrieved on 17.12.2012

**5. Australia: Australian Party candidate rejects halal meat, doesn't want his money to 'go to the Muslim community'** – A candidate for Bob Katter's fledgling political party declared his preference for buying "guaranteed non-halal meat" so his money did not "go to the Muslim community". Jamie Cavanough, standing for Katter's Australian Party in Sydney's most marginal federal seat, Greenway, was under fire for the apparently divisive comments he made to a community forum in one of the city's most ethnically diverse areas. Mr Cavanough made his comments on 19 January 2013, less than a fortnight after controversy in the Greenway community over plans for a supposed Muslim enclave, dubbed "Halal housing", in Riverstone.

In: <http://www.islamophobiatoday.com/2013/01/25/australian-party-candidate-rejects-halal-meat-doesnt-want-his-money-to-go-to-the-muslim-community/>, retrieved on 26.01.2013



**6. Sri Lanka: "We are Sinhalese" Group Protests Muslims and Halal Meat, Burn Effigy of "Allah"** – Sri Lanka had over the past few years seen a resurgence in Sinhalese and Buddhist chauvinism particularly targeting the Muslim populace of the island nation. Anxiety over halal meat did not only affect Islamophobes in the West. Groups in Sri Lanka, such as *Sinhala Api* (We are Sinhalese) were also hoping to transform the subject of "halal meat" into a broader culture war. In a protest on 24 January 2013 led by *We are Sinhalese*, demonstrators shouted anti-Islam/Muslim slogans and carried effigies of a pig with the word "Allah" and "Halal" written on it in Arabic which they later burnt.



The banner said boycott Halal

A Buddhist monk addresses the protest

Burning the "Allah" effigy

In: <http://www.islamophobiatoday.com/2013/01/26/sri-lanka-we-are-sinhalese-group-protests-muslims-and-halal-meat-burn-effigy-of-allah/>, retrieved on 27.01.2012

**7. Israel: Israeli deputy foreign minister stars in anti-Islam film** – The Israeli daily, *Yedioth Ahronoth*, reported on 30 January 2013 that the Israeli Foreign Ministry had produced a film called 'The fact about Jerusalem' which contained "provocative content" about the Al-Aqsa Mosque. The film would not be published, the newspaper said, for fear of causing a "wide wave of anger" among Muslims around the world. The Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Danny Ayalon, played a main role in the film the newspaper claimed. Throughout the film he gave a "distorted" historical narrative about the holy city and at one point was seen standing in front of the Dome of the Rock. He also spoke about the relationship between Jerusalem and Jews.



In: <http://www.middleeastmonitor.com/news/middle-east/5120-israeli-deputy-foreign-minister-stars-in-anti-islam-film>, retrieved on 31.01.2013



**8. UK: Conservative councillor suspended for alleged racism against Muslims** – A Conservative councillor from Enfield, north London had been suspended and was under investigation after allegedly making anti-Muslim comments and sectarian remarks on a social media website. Chris Joannides's *Facebook* page contained material comparing Muslim women who wore the burqa to rubbish bags. His fellow Conservative councillors decided to suspend Joannides over the comments.

In: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2013/feb/01/conservative-councillor-chris-joannides-facebook>, retrieved on 02.02.2013

**9. New Zealand: MP Richard Prosser says Muslims should be banned from flights on Western airlines** – Richard Prosser, of the New Zealand First party, also labeled Islam a “stone age religion” in a magazine column, claiming that most terrorists were “angry young Muslim men who hate the West”. He wrote: *If you are a young male, aged between say about 19 and about 35, and you're a Muslim, or you look like a Muslim, or you come from a Muslim country, then you are not welcome to travel on any of the West's airlines...I will not stand by while my daughters' rights and freedoms, and those of other New Zealanders and Westerners, are denigrated by a sorry pack of misogynist troglodytes from 'Wogistan'.* Mr Prosser had previously called for the burqa to be banned.

In: <http://www.news.com.au/travel/news/nz-mp-richard-prosser-says-muslims-should-be-banned-from-flights-on-western-airlines/story-e6frfq80-1226576581643>, retrieved on 13.02.2013

**10. US: Interfaith Group To GOP Congressman: Stop Demonizing Islam** – An interfaith group had been speaking out against Rep. Louie Gohmert's (R-TX) claim on 21 February 2013 that Americans needed the Second Amendment's protection in order to shield the nation from Sharia Law. Speaking on a radio show called *The Voice of Freedom*, Gohmert insisted that “We've got some people who think Sharia Law should be the law of the land, forget the Constitution. But the guns are there... to make sure all of the rest of the Amendments are followed.”

In response, Rev. Dr. C. Welton Gaddy, President of the Interfaith Alliance, sent a letter to Gohmert, protesting his “continued demonization of Islam”, and adding, in part: *I feel compelled to again remind you that the continued demonization of Islam and disenfranchisement of the American Muslim community is not only uncalled for, it is a dangerous affront to the religious freedom upon which this nation was founded and it must end.*

Gohmert had been in trouble before with the Interfaith Alliance, having also received a letter from them during his partnership with Rep. Michele Bachmann (R-MN) to persecute Muslim-American government officials. Gohmert had also during his time in Congress called for hearings on the dangers of Sharia and claimed that President Obama went to war in Libya to help Al Qaeda spread across the Middle East.

In: <http://thinkprogress.org/security/2013/02/22/1628061/interfaith-gohmert-islam/?mobile=nc>, retrieved on 23.02.2013, emphasis in the original

**11. Norway: Far-rightists Profile Muslims** – Resorting to Nazis tactics, a Norwegian anti-Islam group had published a list of Muslim companies and organization in the western European country, a list that had only been made once before in Norway by Nazis to profile Jews in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. LIM Network (Equality, Integration, Diversity) wrote in a message published on *Facebook* and cited by *The Nordic Page* magazine on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2013: “NDL has made a list of Muslim organizations in Norway and companies run by people with Muslim names...We cannot see that this has something with “Islam criticism” to do.” The list had been published by Norwegian Defence League (NDL) had been compiled on the basis of listings in the Public Entity Registry. Lars Johnny Aardal, deputy leader of

the NDL, said that it was published “to show the extent of Islam and Muslims in Norway.” NDL wrote in the prologue of the list: “The list is far from complete, and a longer list can be prepared with multiple keywords or keyword changes we have used...We have only included entries under the keywords “Islam, Kurdish, Turkish, Muslim, Iranian, Iraqi, Somali, Pakistani, Arabic, Mohammed, Ali and Hussein.”

In: <http://www.onislam.net/english/news/europe/461599-norway-far-rightists-profile-muslims.html>, retrieved on 03.03.2013

**12. US: AIPAC gives its seal of approval to Islamophobe Steven Emerson** – The annual Israel lobby confab had once again put its seal of approval on Islamophobia. A key member of what had been termed the “Islamophobia network” appeared on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2013 at an officially scheduled session at the American Israel Public Affairs Committee’s (AIPAC) annual conference.



Steven Emerson, the head of the Investigative Project on Terrorism, had been a lead pusher of anti-Muslim sentiment in the U.S. since the 1990s. On that day afternoon, he led a session at AIPAC titled “The Threat From Within: Islamic Radicalism in the United States.”

In: <http://www.islamophobiatoday.com/2013/03/06/aipac-gives-its-seal-of-approval-to-islamophobe-steven-emerson/>, retrieved on 07.03.2013

**13. US: Islamophobia still has its place at CPAC** – Though, for the most part, the fringe conservatives were shut out of the *Conservative Political Action Conference* (CPAC) in 2013’s meeting, one unofficial panel hosted by *Breitbart.com* did not disappoint, bringing out “The Uninvited” anti-Islam activists for a panel on national security. Speaking to a packed room, Pamela Geller, Frank Gaffney, and former Attorney General Michael Mukasey, talked of the Muslim Brotherhood’s infiltration of America, and, more imminently, of the CPAC conference. Rep. Steve King, R-Iowa, who introduced the panel on 16 March 2013 and called the speakers “the world experts on global jihad,” bemoaned that the FBI had “scrubbed out” derogatory references to Islam or Muslims because their Muslim advisers told them they had to.

In: [http://www.salon.com/2013/03/16/islamophobia\\_still\\_has\\_its\\_place\\_at\\_cpac/singleton/](http://www.salon.com/2013/03/16/islamophobia_still_has_its_place_at_cpac/singleton/), retrieved on 17.03.2013

**14. Germany: Rightists Use German Identity to Fight Islam** – Campaigning to preserve the German identity against Islam, a right-wing group started using social websites to spread anti-Muslim sentiments among the youth in the European country. Alexander Hausler, an expert on right-wing extremism at University of Applied Sciences in Dusseldorf, told *Deutsche Welle*: “They are clearly racist...They are making a major affront on Germany's multicultural society, composed of immigrants. They mostly criticize the alleged Islamization of Germany.”

The group’s logo shows the Greek letter lambda on a yellow background, like one from the 300 Spartan soldiers. Right-wing movement *die Identitare Bewegung* (The Identity Movement) had been using social websites to spread anti-Islam sentiments among young Germans. Putting German identity as its fixed point, the right-wing group focused on spreading its message mostly on the internet via *Facebook* and *YouTube*. “We are the identity-generation,” the group said, while declaring itself a protector against the threat of Islam, adding: “100 percent identity - 0 percent racism,” and calling for “the protection of [its] continent from infiltration by foreigners, mass immigration and Islamization.” These posts on the right-wing movement’s website, however, had revealed a racist agenda. The movement’s *Facebook* page reached more than 4,000 fans.

In: <http://www.onislam.net/english/news/europe/461932-anti-islam-rightists-target-german-youth.html>, retrieved on 24.03.2013

**15. US: Florida State Senator: We Need to “Vaccinate” Against Shariah** – Florida had emerged as sort of the Thunderdome of the anti-Shariah movement, with a host of lawmakers at the municipal, state, and federal level working hand-in-hand with a dedicated group of activists to combat the invisible specter of Islamic law. Shariah was not coming to South Florida, but that had not stopped the state legislature from trying—again—to ban it from being used in state courts. By all accounts, Hays considered the threat posed by Islamic law quite dire. The *Miami Herald* reported earlier in March 2013 that the senator had distributed anti-Shariah literature in the halls of the state capitol. Per the *Herald*, the fliers “present 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.”

In: <http://www.islamophobiatoday.com/2013/03/31/fla-state-senator-we-need-to-vaccinate-against-shariah/>, retrieved on 03.04.2013

**16. Topless protests against Islamism staged across Europe** – Bare-breasted activists staged rallies in front of mosques and Tunisian embassies across Europe on 04 April 2013 against what they called an Islamist crackdown on Arab women’s rights. Protesters from the Ukrainian women’s power group *Femen* held “International Topless Jihad Day” in capitals such as Berlin, Kiev and Paris and painted their torsos with slogans including “Bare breasts against Islamism”.

In:

[http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5iDlMt2g2mshd9Dc\\_ka53FCzQ0QAA?docId=CNG.b731fbf3e0f95c167d536e90ee175296.8f1](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5iDlMt2g2mshd9Dc_ka53FCzQ0QAA?docId=CNG.b731fbf3e0f95c167d536e90ee175296.8f1), retrieved on 06.04.2013

**17. US: Family Research Council’s Boykin: Bachmann and Gohmert on mission from God to hunt Muslims** – The Family Research Council’s President Jerry Boykin said in the first week of April that U.S. Reps. Michele Bachmann (R-MN) and Louis Gohmert (R-TX) were “standing on the word of God” in their mission to find and punish Muslims and Muslim supporters in the U.S. government. [According to Right Wing Watch](#), Boykin made the remarks at a panel discussion at National Religious Broadcasters conference featured Boykin alongside alleged former Islamic terrorist Kamal Saleem. The panel was moderated by Christian radio host Janet Parshall. After portentously warning that the U.S. justice system had already been infiltrated and overcome by Sharia law, Boykin called on Americans to support Bachmann, Gohmert and Rep. Ted Franks (R-AZ) for their efforts to drive Muslims out of the U.S. government.

In: <http://www.islamophobiatoday.com/2013/04/05/family-research-councils-boykin-bachmann-and-gohmert-on-mission-from-god-to-hunt-muslims/>, retrieved on 10.04.2013

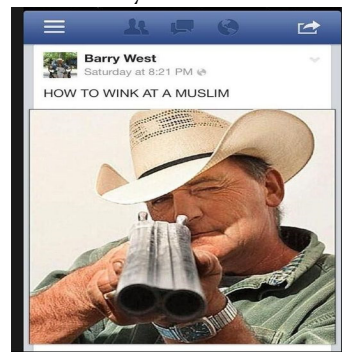
**18. US: CAIR Asked Senate to Drop Israel Visa Waiver Exemption Making U.S. Muslims ‘Second-Class Citizens’** – On 15 April 2013, Washington-based Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) urged Americans concerned about equality under the law to contact their congressional representatives and ask them to drop a provision from the U.S.-Israel Strategic Partnership Act of 2013 that would make American Muslims and Arab-Americans “second class citizens” who could legally be subject to Israel’s policy of ethnic and religious profiling. The bill, which had 17 Senate co-sponsors, granted Israel entry into the 37-nation visa waiver program provided only that Israel “has made every reasonable effort, without jeopardizing the security of the State of Israel, to ensure that reciprocal travel privileges are extended to all United States citizens.” No other nation had been granted a similar exemption to the equal treatment of American citizens regardless of faith or ethnicity.

In: [http://online.wsj.com/article/PR-CO-20130415-908827.html?mod=googlenews\\_wsj](http://online.wsj.com/article/PR-CO-20130415-908827.html?mod=googlenews_wsj), retrieved on 16.04.2013

**19. US: GOP Congressman Says Islam Will ‘Motivate People To Murder Children’** – Rep. Dana Rohrabacher (R-CA) during a hearing on 26 April 2013 said that he believed that Islam as a whole was a threat to the United States, labeling it as a religion that would “motivate people to murder children.” During a [hearing](#) he chaired on “Islamist Extremism in Chechnya: A Threat to the U.S. Homeland?” Rohrabacher continually referred to the 2004 Beslan hostage situation – in which Chechen extremists took control of a school in Russia resulting in the death of more than 180 children – as an example of the threat that Islam posed.

In: <http://thinkprogress.org/security/2013/04/26/1928321/rohrbacher-boston-islam/>, retrieved on 27.04.213.

**20. US: Tenn. Lawmaker’s Facebook post frightens Muslims** – A Coffee County commissioner’s Facebook post suggesting Muslims were best greeted from behind a rifle barrel was prompting demands for an apology. Commissioner Barry West’s post followed a string of anti-Muslim acts throughout Middle Tennessee in recent years, including at least four incidents of mosque vandalism. Opposition to a new mosque in Rutherford County was so strong it took federal Justice Department intervention to open it in 2012. West played no active role in any of those incidents. He just put an image on his Facebook page, which showed a man aiming a shotgun under the phrase “How to wink at a Muslim”. But even that put a chill through Muslims in Middle Tennessee.



In: <http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2013/05/01/commissioner-anti-muslim-facebook-post/2125953/>, retrieved on 02.05.2013

**21. US: Missouri Lawmaker’s Email Attacking Muslims Drawing Fire** – An e-mail from a powerful Missouri lawmaker attacking Muslims was drawing fire from Christian pastors in the lawmakers St. Louis County hometown. State Representative Rick Stream of Kirkwood chaired the house budget committee. He sent out an e-mail from his official state account in the first week of May 2013, quoting an 1899 speech from Winston Churchill attacking Muslims and Islam. It read, in part quoting Churchill: “Individual Muslims may show splendid qualities, but the influence of the religion paralyzes the social development of those who follow it. Islam is a militant faith. Churchill saw it coming.”

In: <http://fox2now.com/2013/05/07/missouri-lawmakers-email-attacking-muslims-drawing-fire/>, retrieved on 09.05.2013

**22. US: North Carolina: Politicians Who Wanted to Make Christianity the State Religion Want to Ban “Shariah”** – It was not looked at whether every NC politician who supported making Christianity the state religion also voted in favor of banning Sharia but both of the representatives who first proposed the legislation, Rep. Carl Ford and Rep. Harry Warren both voted “[Aye](#)” in favor of the ban. North Carolinians like Rep. John Blust and Rep. Larry Pittman thought some form of Taliban-esque Shariah with a southern drawl was already there and on the verge of taking over the USA.

In fact, a proposal to ban the recognition of Islamic Sharia law in North Carolina courts was headed for the Senate after winning final House approval on 16 May 2013. Bill sponsor Rep. Chris Whitmire, R-Transylvania, said: “Take it as fact that this is a very, very present threat that must be dealt with...We are making sure that the most fundamental basis on which we exist is protected.”

In: <http://www.islamophobiatoday.com/2013/05/16/north-carolina-politicians-who-wanted-to-make-christianity-the-state-religion-want-to-ban-shariah/>, retrieved on 22.05.2013

**23. 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 had 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

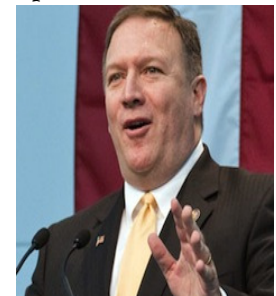
activism. In particular, [the group pushed](#) the “creeping sharia” conspiracy theory, which held that Islamic religious law represented an imminent threat to the United States, and which was debunked by Matt Duss and his colleague Wajahat Ali in [a 2011 brief](#).

In: <http://thinkprogress.org/security/2013/06/10/2125361/cwfa-israel-anti-islam/>, retrieved on 11.06.2013

**24. 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 in the night of 10 June 2013 in response to a column by comedian Bill Cosby, who wrote an [oped 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.”

In: [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/06/11/allen-west-muslims\\_n\\_3422471.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/06/11/allen-west-muslims_n_3422471.html), retrieved on 12.06.2013

**25. US: GOP Congressman: American Muslim Leaders Are ‘Potentially Complicit’ In Terrorist Acts** – A Republican congressman [claimed](#) on the House floor on 11 June 2013 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 was “deafening,” adding that it was “sad, but perhaps most importantly it’s dangerous.” Pompeo blamed the leaders of the Islamic community for not doing more to prevent terrorist actions, hinting that they could be complicit in the deaths they’d caused.



In: <http://www.islamophobiatoday.com/2013/06/12/gop-congressman-american-muslim-leaders-are-potentially-complicit-in-terrorist-acts/>, retrieved on 13.06.2013

**26. US: Anti-Islam protests force cancellation of Michigan Arab fest** – The 2013 Arab International Festival, scheduled for the weekend of 15-16 June 2013 in Dearborn, Mich., had been cancelled due to anti-Muslim organizations’ protests, even though it was not a celebration of Islam. 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.

In: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/windsor/story/2013/06/14/wdr-dearborn-arab-festival-cancelled-pastor-terry-jones.html>, retrieved on 15.06.2013

**27. Australia: Ed Husic attacked on Facebook over Koran** – On 1<sup>st</sup> July 2013, Labor MP Ed Husic was sworn in as Australia's first Muslim frontbencher. In the following day, he brushed off the racial abuse saying it was a “natural part of democracy” that people would not always agree, adding: “There are people that are definitely extreme inside my faith and outside it and they will always seek ways to try and divide people.” Mr Husic had copped a spate of online abuse over his decision to be sworn in on the Koran at a ceremony at Canberra's Government House. Hundreds of users posted negative comments on his official Facebook. One person posted: “Labor you are disgusting, undermining our culture and country and constitution in this way.” Another posted: “I am totally disgusted!! Sharia Law next on your agenda is it?”. On social networking site Twitter, many users had leveled vile abuse at the Western Sydney MP: One user said “OK that's wrong right there” when a reporter posted that Mr Husic would be sworn in on the Koran. Another said: “Rudd, the Muslim Brotherhoods Man in Canberra ... Rudd is about to --- Aust!”

In: <http://www.news.com.au/national-news/ed-husic-attacked-on-facebook-over-koran/story-fncynjr2-1226673070543>, retrieved on 03.07.2013

**28. US: Fox News host Says Ban new mosques until we find out 'who is not a terrorist'** – On 09 July 2013's *The Five*, host Greg Gutfeld pointed out to Bob Beckel that a “Muslim gang” had killed at least 28 students at a boarding school in Nigeria over the weekend. Beckel had previously called to [block all Muslims students](#) from traveling to the United States, and suggested that the slaughter was a reason to stop building mosques in the U.S. Beckel explained: “They are a bunch of thugs, murderers and they go after schools, Christian schools...They've done this, they've burned them down. We don't do that here. If we burned down your mosque here, you'd be really upset...Now, I've already got enough mail from you all, that you don't like what I say about not letting your students come here...**If it were up to me, I would not have another mosque built in this country until we got it worked out who was not a terrorist...**And by the way, is any Muslim out there, any Muslim cleric, any Muslim leader said anything about this? No! You're cowardly! Because you're afraid they're going to put a – what do they call it? – a fatwa on you. Well, fatwa this!”

In: <http://www.rawstory.com/rs/2013/07/10/fox-news-host-ban-new-mosques-until-we-find-out-who-is-not-a-terrorist/>, retrieved on 12.07.2012, emphasis added

**29. Iceland: A Mosque in Reykjavík Threatens Icelandic Culture** – Former mayor of Reykjavík claimed that a mosque would threaten Iceland's culture and safety. *Eyjan* reported that Ólafur F.



Magnússon, who was mayor for little less than 7 months in 2008, was highly pessimistic about plans of a mosque being built in the open space of in the eastern part of Reykjavík. City council approved of the plans in the first week of July 2013, after Muslims in Iceland having waited 13 years to get a property to raise the first mosque in Iceland. Ólafur wrote in *Morgunblaðið* on 14 July, expressing his concern about the matter: “It is

worrying that Muslims here don't seem to have any difficulties financing the project, receiving aid from Muslim organizations abroad. Those organizations might want to increase the influence of Islam in Iceland, as well as in other countries.” Instead of a mosque, Ólafur suggested a temple of

the Nordic gods to be built in the plot, as “Such a cultural gem would bring joy to the majority of the city’s residents, as well as other Icelanders, and wouldn’t be as out of place as a mosque would.”

In: <http://www.islamophobiatoday.com/2013/07/14/a-mosque-in-reykjavik-threatens-icelandic-culture/>, retrieved on 17.07.2013

**30. UK: EDL member sports tattoo of mosque being blown up** – These images surfaced over the weekend of 20-21 July 2013 from the EDL demo in Birmingham. Imagine if that were a Muslim with a tattoo (though it could also be paint) that advocated blowing up churches. He’d be picked up by the police within minutes.

In: <http://liberalconspiracy.org/2013/07/23/edl-member-sports-tattoo-of-mosque-being-blown-up/>, retrieved on 24.07.2013

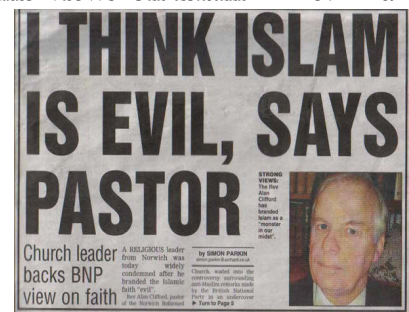
**31. Australia: Oz politician brands Islam ‘religion from hell’ and building mosques ‘high treason’** – An Australian politician branded Islam as a ‘religion from hell’ and claimed that building mosques in the country was high treason. The candidate for the Prime Minister’s seat of Griffith Sherrilyn Church, from the Rise Up Australia Party, said her top policy priority in the election was to ban the building of mosques in the electorate, south of Brisbane. According to the *Courier Mail*, Church said that Islam was not primarily a religion but a system of law because to the Islamic mind the existence of a mosque in an area meant they believed that Sharia law applied and the Islamic flag must fly. The 61-year-old said she believed the Muslim faith and democratic citizenship were fundamentally incompatible.

In: <http://www.newstrackindia.com/newsdetails/2013/08/16/191-Oz-politician-brands-Islam-religion-from-hell-and-building-mosques-high-treason-.html>, retrieved on 17.08.2013

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

**1. UK: Right-wing Christian bigot says EDL ‘rightly’ endorse his views on Islam** – Rev Alan Clifford backed British National Party leader Nick Griffin in 2004, a minister whose ban by a council sparked the English Defence League (EDL) to organize a march had denied having links to the right-wing group. The city council barred the Reverend Alan Clifford from a stall on Hay Hill because it was believed he was promoting leaflets against Islam. In a statement to the *Evening News*, Mr Clifford, from the Norwich Reformed Church, denied having any kind of links to the group. He said: “I have no connection with either the EDL or the BNP. My objections to Islam are ideological not racial.” But he added the EDL “rightly” endorsed his views on Islam.

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/10/2/right-wing-christian-bigot-says-edl-rightly-endorse-his-view.html>, retrieved on 03.10.2012



**2. US: ‘Draw Mohammed’ protest sparks dialogue** – Drawings of the Prophet Muhammad became sparking dialogue between two University of Minnesota student groups. On 27 September 2013 evening the University of Minnesota Campus Atheists, Skeptics, and Humanists (CASH) got together for the controversial “Everybody Draw Mohammed Day,” which sparked both safety precautions and campus discussion. The University’s Muslim Students Association (MSA) was hoping to talk with CASH afterwards about how the event affected them. Christopher Nolting, physics junior and co-chair of CASH, said that his association’s members chalked drawings of Muhammad on sidewalks throughout campus on 27 September 2012 to raise awareness that



“people’s freedom of speech shouldn’t be censored because of other people’s religious affiliations.” But members of the MSA did not agree with the group’s approach. Chemical engineering junior Omar Alamy, spokesman for MSA, said: “It just wasn’t the right way to go about this.”

In: <http://www.mndaily.com/2012/10/01/%E2%80%98draw-mohammed%E2%80%99-protest-sparks-dialogue>, retrieved on 02.10.2012

### 3. UK: “There’s no God and Islam is evil” speech earns Richard Dawkins standing ovation –

Renowned atheist Professor Richard Dawkins received a surprise standing ovation in the traditionally Christian community of Stornoway on 05 November 2012 night, following a two-hour speech in which he said there was probably no God. In his talk delivered on Lewis during the Hebrides Book Festival, the 71-year-old described Islam as “one of the great evils of the world” in his lecture, *The God Delusion*. Members of the audience cheered loudly as Prof Dawkins used the appearance to attack Islam.

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/11/6/theres-no-god-and-islam-is-evil-speech-earns-richard-dawkins.html>, retrieved on 07.11.2012

### 4. Ireland: Gardai hunt Irish racists who burned the Qur’an –

A top Muslim association had appealed for calm after a vile hate video was posted online by bigots in Galway. Then, Gardai (Irish police) were probing the six-minute clip of racists burning the Qur’an. The “nationalist” nuts, proclaimed themselves as anti-Muslim, anti-Jew, anti-gay, wanted to end all immigration into Ireland. As of 06 November 2012, the book-burning had amassed just a few hundred hits on *YouTube*. The video began with a declaration that the Nazi-style book-burning was a protest against Islam – which it warned was not welcome in Ireland. *And the clip, which appears to have been shot in a fireplace, is blacked out in places to protect the identity of the cowards who made it.*

In: <http://www.thesun.co.uk/sol/homepage/irishsun/irishsunnews/4629210/Gardai-hunt-Irish-racists-who-burned-the-Qur'an.html>, retrieved on 07.11.2012, emphasis in the original.

### 5. US: Anti-Islam ads on RTD buses condemned –

The Anti-Defamation League released a statement condemning ads that had been placed on a few RTD buses in metro Denver. The ads read: “19,757 Deadly Islamic Attacks Since 9/11/01. It’s Not Islamophobia, It’s Islamorealism. This Ad Paid For By The American Freedom Defense Initiative [of Pamela Geller].” RTD said it appeared on 10 buses and would be there through late November 2012.

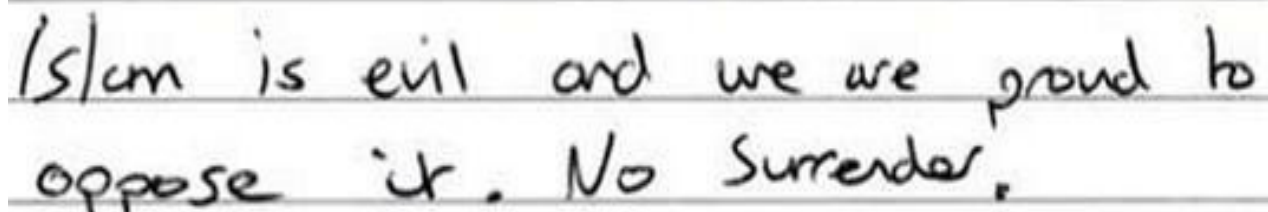
In: <http://kdvr.com/2012/11/14/anti-islam-ads-on-rtd-buses-condemned/>, retrieved on 15.11.2012

### 6. US: Traverse City church defends Muslim call ban at Vets Day concert –

Leaders of a northern Michigan church were defending their decision to ban a Muslim call to worship that was part of the planned program for a Veterans Day concert by public high school and community college vocal groups. The call to prayer was part of a performance of “The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace”. A video would run during the singing, showing graphic war scenes followed by people from different faiths drawing together. At a point in the video where Muslim worshippers were shown, there was silence rather than the call to prayer. Rev. David Walls, senior pastor of Traverse City’s First Congregational Church, said leaders of his congregation feared causing offense to those at the concert, as “We were concerned that there was potential that some of our active military personnel, military families with sons or daughters in Iraq, who have even lost their lives there, would find it much too hard to handle...A prayer in Arabic, addressed to Allah, with references to Muhammad for an event that was intended to honor veterans.” Doug Bishop, vice president of the First Congregational Church council said: “We are clearly a Christian church and we don’t apologize for that...We have the right to control our content.”

In: <http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20121119/METRO/21190365/1361/Traverse-City-church-defends-Muslim-call-ban-at-Vets-Day-concert>, retrieved on 20.11.2012

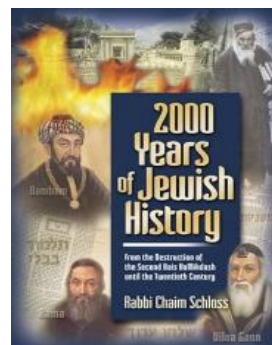
**7. UK: A message from ‘Tommy Robinson’** – The English Defence League had posted the latest missive from their imprisoned leader Stephen Lennon. It concluded with the following message, which provided a good illustration of how the EDL’s initial claim to be protesting against “Islamic extremism” later evolved into the position that it was Islam as a whole that needed to be fought.



Islam is evil and we are proud to oppose it. No Surrender.

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/11/21/a-message-from-tommy-robinson.html>, retrieved on 23.11.2012

**8. Canada: CAIR challenges use of anti-Muslim textbook at Toronto school** – A Canadian Islamic organization was accusing a Toronto-area Jewish day school of using a textbook that vilified Muslims. In a letter dated 19 November 2012 to Jewish groups, the Canadian Council on American-Islamic Relations, or CAIR-CAN, charged that a textbook used at the Joe Dwek Ohr HaEmet Sephardic School employed “inflammatory and hateful terms in describing Muslims.” CAIR-CAN alleged that the book, *2000 Years of Jewish History*, described Muslims as “rabid fanatics” with “savage beginnings”. “The entire chapter devoted to Islam presents a pernicious and extreme portrayal of Muslims and the Islamic faith. The material further denigrates the Prophet Muhammad as a ‘rabid Jew-hater’, and falsely portrays Islam as inherently anti-Semitic and devoted to hating Jews.”



In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/11/23/cair-challenges-use-of-anti-muslim-textbook-at-toronto-school.html>, retrieved on 24.11.2012

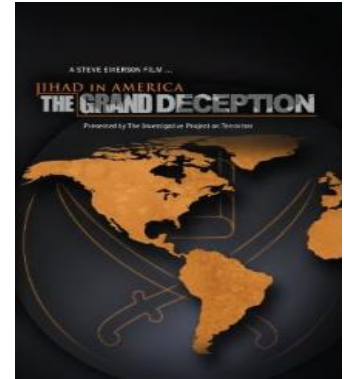
**9. UK: Atheist Peter Crawford in court for ripping up Qur’an at stall in Leicester** – Peter James Crawford (52), an atheist, shocked Muslim volunteers at a stall promoting Islam when he ripped out pages from the Qur’an and threw the holy book onto the ground and told them: “Your religion is a load of b\*\*\*\*\*s.” He was on trial at Leicester Crown Court accused of causing religiously aggravated intentional harassment, alarm or distress, by demonstrating hostility based on membership of a particular religious group, Islam. He denied the charge. The incident happened at the Islamic Information Centre’s stall, near the Clock Tower in Leicester city centre, on a busy Saturday afternoon, on 12 May 2012.

In: <http://www.thisisleicestershire.co.uk/Atheist-Peter-Crawford-court-ripping-Qur'an-stall/story-17629232-detail/story.html>, retrieved on 21.12.2012

**Related: Protester who tore up Qur’an has case dropped at Leicester court** – A man who was put on trial after staging an anti-religion protest by ripping out pages from the Qur’an in front of Muslims had had the case against him dropped. A jury at Leicester Crown Court failed to reach a verdict in the case against Peter James Crawford in December 2012. The case was dropped against Mr Crawford, 52, when the prosecution offered no evidence against him at a hearing – a move described by Mr Crawford’s advocate as “sensible”.

In: <http://www.thisisleicestershire.co.uk/Protester-tore-Qur'an-case-dropped-Leicester-court/story-17819452-detail/story.html>, retrieved on 13.01.2013

10. US: **Fox News promotes Islamophobic film** – *News Hounds* reported that *Fox News*' latest contribution to the incitement of Islamophobia was its promotion of an Islamophobic documentary film called *Jihad in America: The Grand Deception*, a film produced by the Investigative Project on Terrorism, headed by Steve Emerson (listed in an August 2011 as one of the "leading lights of the Islamophobia network"). It claimed to expose: "the covert structure and growing influence of the Muslim Brotherhood and Islamist groups, masquerading under the false moniker of being apolitical religious groups or civil rights groups in the United States, specifically how they are infiltrating or intimidating major societal institutions from Congress to Hollywood, from the mainstream news media to federal law enforcement, from the publishing industry to museums".



In: <http://www.islamophobiatoday.com/2013/01/09/fox-news-promotes-islamophobic-film/>, retrieved on 10.01.2013

11. US: **The Reviews are in and 'Zero Dark Thirty makes me hate Muslims'** –The film *Zero Dark Thirty* that was being shown in theaters nationwide in January 2013 prompted the following reactions on social networks. Here are some collected on the tumblr site [dapsandhugs](http://dapsandhugs.tumblr.com):



**Tanner Bridges** @bridges\_tanner 19h  
Zero Dark Thirty makes me want to shoot at Arabs with assault rifles  
Expand



**Evan Linares** @EvanLinares 7h  
Just saw zero dark thirty. Arab guys on the bus making me nervous, should I water board him? Is that racist?  
Expand



**Dalton Rowe** @dalt\_rowe 13 Jan  
I wanna go shoot brown people now while wearing night vision goggles. just because of how b.a. zero dark thirty was. #merica @jc\_satterfield  
Expand



**Colton Wingrove** @ColtonWingrove 12 Jan  
Zero Dark Thirty makes me hate muslims  
Expand



**Kelley Marie** @kellzmarie15 10 Jan  
That awkward moment when you're sitting in the movie theater for zero dark thirty and the back 2 rows are filled with Arabs #DontKillMe  
Collapse Reply Retweet Favorite



**Isabella Pellien** @BellaPellien 23h  
Omg zero dark thirty... Best movie ever. Have a whole new hatred for muslims and a whole new appreciation for navy seals.  
Expand



**Ian Leja** @Ian\_Leja 11 Jan  
Just saying this is not racist or ignorant. Watching 'Zero Dark Thirty' with 5 Arab guys in front of you is a bit unsettling. With @J\_Fegan



**Reagan Thomas** @reagan\_thomas13 11 Jan  
Watching zero dark thirty & there is a Arab family sitting behind us #sketched  
Expand



**Kevin Dietrich** @KevDietrich22 12 Jan  
Zero dark thirty made me want to shoot any Arab in the face. #patriot  
Collapse Reply Retweet Favorite

18 RETWEETS

6 FAVORITES



3 FAVORITES



As [Deepa Kumar](http://www.loonwatch.com/2013/01/the-reviews-are-in-zero-dark-thirty-makes-me-hate-muslims/) wrote the film promoted extra judicial killing and the drone warfare that had become the hallmark of the Obama administration's "war on terror."

In: <http://www.loonwatch.com/2013/01/the-reviews-are-in-zero-dark-thirty-makes-me-hate-muslims/>, retrieved on 23.01.2013

**12. France: Lorraine School principal threatened over class on history of Islam** – *The Collectif contre l'Islamophobie en France* reported that the Notre-Dame Catholic primary school at Saint-Mihiel, in the la Meuse department of Lorraine in north-eastern France, had been subjected to a campaign of Islamophobic harassment. In late December 2012, as part of the French national curriculum which required pupils to receive a basic grounding in the history of the three main monotheistic faiths, the school taught a class on the origins of Islam, just as it did on those of Christianity and Judaism. A handout that included quotations from the Qur'an and named the architectural features of a mosque was given to students.

Early in January 2013 the principal of Notre-Dame, Christelle Lainet, was accosted in the schoolyard by the mother of one of the pupils vehemently objecting to her offspring being taught about Islam, using what Lainet described as "very racist" language. The father then paid a visit to Lainet at her office, expressing similarly extreme views and demanding the right to withdraw his child from the course on Islam, which Lainet agreed to. (The CCIF noted that one of the common themes of Islamophobic propaganda in France was scaremongering over often dubious reports of Muslims withdrawing their children from classes in history, biology and sport. Such behaviour was held to demonstrate that Islam was incompatible with the secular principles of French society. But apparently it was OK when anti-Muslim racists did it.)

On 29 January 2013 the far-right secularist website *Riposte Laïque* published an article on the case, which claimed that pupils at Notre-Dame de Saint-Mihiel were being "punished" because their parents had refused to allow them to learn a chapter from the Qur'an. As a result, Christelle Lainet told the *Républicain Lorrain*, she had received threatening phone calls from people who treated her like dirt and her inbox was filled with three hundred messages containing personal insults and threats. Lainet also stated that the allegations in the *Riposte Laïque* article were "pure imagination". With the support of the school administration, she had filed a complaint for defamation.

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2013/2/8/lorraine-school-principal-threatened-over-class-on-history-o.html>, retrieved on 09.02.2013

**13. Italy: Muslim convert quits Catholic Church, says it's too weak against Islam** – A high-profile Italian Muslim who converted to Catholicism and was baptized by Pope Benedict XVI announced on 25 March 2013 that he would leave the church to protest its soft stance against Islam. Egyptian-born Magdi Cristiano Allam, 61, a prominent journalist and outspoken critic of Islam, publicly entered the Catholic Church on 22 March 2008 during an Easter Vigil service, receiving baptism directly from Benedict. After his conversion, Allam founded a small right-wing political party that lost badly in Italy's general elections in April 2012.

Allam, who had called Islam an "intrinsically violent ideology," said his main reason for leaving the church was its perceived "religious relativism, in particular the legitimization of Islam as a true religion." He warned: "Europe will end up being subjugated to Islam," unless it "finds the courage to denounce Islam as incompatible with our civilization and fundamental human rights," and to "banish the Quran for inciting hatred, violence and death towards non-Muslims." Europeans also need to "condemn Sharia as a crime against humanity" and to "stop the spread of mosques." Allam said he would remain a Christian but that he did not "believe in the church anymore."

In: [http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/on-faith/muslim-convert-quits-catholic-church-says-its-too-weak-against-islam/2013/03/25/1e7f8d0c-9581-11e2-95ca-dd43e7ffe9c\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/on-faith/muslim-convert-quits-catholic-church-says-its-too-weak-against-islam/2013/03/25/1e7f8d0c-9581-11e2-95ca-dd43e7ffe9c_story.html), retrieved on 26.03.2013



**14. Anti-Islam Pastor Plans to Burn 2,998 Qur'ans to Mark 12<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of 9/11 – Anti-Islam advocate Terry Jones was upping the ante on his attacks on the Muslim faith. Rather than burning a Qur'an to mark the 12<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 9/11, Jones had another plan: He explained to *TheBlaze* the plan to torch 2,998 copies of the holy book. According to a press release put out by the pastor's organization, *Stand Up America!*, on 11 September 2013, Jones and his followers would “send Islam a very clear warning,” by holding an “International Burning of 2,998 Qur'ans.” And he would gather the books from around the world. This number was not chosen without reason, as it was the figure Jones gave for the Americans who were killed during the nation's most horrific terror attack. The release read:**

In: <http://www.theblaze.com/stories/2013/04/08/anti-islam-pastor-plans-to-burn-2998-Qur'ans-to-mark-12th-anniversary-of-911-and-he-explains-it-to-theblaze/>, retrieved on 10.04.2013



**15. US: Muslim Terrorist Doll: Card Painting Hijab-Wearing Girl as Suicide Bomber Angers Civil Rights Group – A member of a Chicago-area civil rights group made a disturbing discovering when she found a neighborhood card and novelty shop selling a card that depicted a young hijab-wearing Muslim girl – as a terrorist. The Chicago Monitor, a website associated with the Chicago chapter of the Council on American Islamic Relations, reported the card featuring the smiling cartoon girl is covered with messages like, “She'll love you to death!” and “She'll blow your brains out!” Inside, the card reads, “Hope your birthday is a blow out!”**



Ahmed Rehab, CAIR-Chicago executive director, called the card “moronic” according to CBS Chicago and said he had heard from plenty of people decrying the card as offensive and feeding into negative stereotypes about Muslims. Rehab told CBS: “The woman in Massachusetts just two weeks ago that was punched while walking her kids for no other reason than wearing a hijab on her head, was because someone thought that because she wears it, she is a terrorist.”

In: [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/05/06/muslim-terrorist-doll-card\\_n\\_3222996.html?utm\\_hp\\_ref=chicago](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/05/06/muslim-terrorist-doll-card_n_3222996.html?utm_hp_ref=chicago), retrieved on 09.05.2013

**16. 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. 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: <http://www.loonwatch.com/2013/06/florida-professors-terrorism-class-muslims-taught-to-hate-from-the-cradle/>, retrieved on 21.06.2013

**17. French satire magazine *Charlie Hebdo* insults Muslims again in honor of Ramadan** - In yet another anti-Islamic move, the French magazine *Charlie Hebdo* had chosen the first day of Ramadan to publish images on its front cover that desecrated the Quran, featuring the recent anti-Muslim Brotherhood protests in Egypt. In the cover, they printed: 'The Quran is s\*\*\*. It does not stop bullets.' Islamic organizations in France called on Muslims to exercise restraint over the sacrilegious move and remain calm to defuse the magazine agenda. *Charlie Hebdo* had previously insulted Muslim sanctities several times publishing sacrilegious cartoons depicting Islam's prophet Mohammed.

In: <http://boltonbnp.blogspot.ca/2013/07/woo-hoo-french-satire-magazine-charlie.html>, retrieved on 17.07.2013

**18. French satire magazine *Charlie Hebdo* insults Muslims again in honor of Ramadan** - In yet another anti-Islamic move, the French magazine *Charlie Hebdo* had chosen the first day of Ramadan to publish images on its front cover that desecrated the Quran, featuring the recent anti-Muslim Brotherhood protests in Egypt. In the cover, they printed: 'The Quran is s\*\*\* [expletive]. It does not stop bullets.'

In: <http://boltonbnp.blogspot.ca/2013/07/woo-hoo-french-satire-magazine-charlie.html>, retrieved on 17.07.2013

**19. France's Marianne muse stirs pot with anti-Islam tweet** - Inna Shevchenko, the leader of topless feminist group Femen and one of the inspirations for the new stamp depicting Marianne, the feminine symbol of France, created a mini-storm with a tweet slamming Ramadan and Islam in general. The "tweet" in question, published on 9 July 2013 read: "What can be more stupid than Ramadan? What can be more uglier than this religion?" Shevchenko's tweet had since been deleted - "by Mohamed or by mistake, that is the same", the feminist posted to her Twitter account.

In: <http://www.france24.com/en/20130717-marianne-inna-shevchenko-femen-tunisia-topless-feminist-amina-ramadan>, retrieved on 18.07.2013

**20. Australia: Muslims Denounce Anti-Halal Stickers** - A new sticker campaign linking halal food to terrorism had angered Australian Muslims, accusing rightist groups of spreading baseless misconceptions about a peaceful Muslim community. The Muslim uproar had been sparked by the discovery of a jar of coffee with its seal broken at a Woolworths supermarket at Underwood, south of Brisbane, earlier in the month of July 2013. The jar had a sticker saying "Beware! Halal food funds terrorists". After search, the stickers were found to be sold by Restore Australia, whose CEO, Mike Holt, had been the One Nation Party's candidate for the federal seat of Fairfax.

In: <http://www.onislam.net/english/news/asia-pacific/463703-aussie-muslims-denounce-anti-halal-stickers.html>, retrieved on 25.07.2013



**21. US: Islam bulletin board removed from Wichita school** – A bulletin board outside Minneha Core Knowledge Magnet Elementary, a fourth-grade classrooms at a Wichita elementary school, depicting the Five Pillars of Islam had been removed after a photo posted on *Facebook* page titled, “Prepare to Take America Back”, drew condemnation over what school officials called a misunderstanding.

In: [http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2013/08/20/630958ksislambulletinboardremoved\\_ap.html](http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2013/08/20/630958ksislambulletinboardremoved_ap.html), retrieved on 22.08.2013

**22. US: North Carolina governor allows anti-Sharia bill to become law** – North Carolina Governor Pat McCrory on 25 August allowed a bill that prohibited North Carolina judges from considering Islamic law in their decisions to become law. [House Bill 522](#) [text, PDF] prevented courts from applying foreign law in divorce, alimony and child custody actions, if doing so would violate a person’s federal or state constitutional rights. Anti-Sharia legislation had been proposed in 30 states and adopted by seven including North Carolina.

In: <http://www.islamophobiatoday.com/2013/08/28/north-carolina-governor-allows-anti-sharia-bill-to-become-law/>, retrieved on 29.08.2013

**23. US: Venice speakers denounce Islam and Muslims at 9/11 ceremony** – What was billed as a 9/11 memorial service took on elements of an anti-Islamic rally on 11 September 2013, including a lengthy speech by the leader of what had been labeled an anti-Muslim hate group.

An audience of about 500 people, including schoolchildren, gathered at Patriots Park heard three speakers criticizing Islam, taking city officials by surprise, including Venice Mayor John Holic, who called the message “extreme.” One speaker was Tom Trento, the head of an organization called *The United West*, which said its mission was to defend “Western Civilization against Shariah Islam.” *The United West*, based in Lake Mary, was classified as an “anti-Muslim hate group” by the Southern Poverty Law Center. Trento, whose speech lasted for nearly 30 minutes, told the audience: “I’m not talking about radical Islam or moderate Islam. I’m talking about all Islam. Their goal is to get every single one of us to convert to Islam. And they won’t stop until we do.”

In: <http://www.loonwatch.com/2013/09/venice-speakers-denounce-islam-at-911-ceremony/>, retrieved on 13.09.2013

**24. US: Burned pages from Quran found outside Tampa office of CAIR** – The executive director of the Council on American-Islamic Relations in Tampa, Hassan Shibly, told WMNF he found burnt pages from the Quran outside the CAIR Tampa office in the morning of 12 September 2013. He later posted a photo of the charred remains on *Facebook*. Another CAIR employee, Samantha Bowden, posted on *Facebook* that she found it when she stepped out of her car in the morning. She said a report was filed with the Hillsborough County Sheriff’s Office, but it was not yet considered a crime because it wasn’t burned on site.

In: <http://www.islamophobiatoday.com/2013/09/13/burned-pages-from-quran-found-outside-tampa-office-of-cair/>, retrieved on 14.09.2013



**25. Russia Bans Qur’an Translation** – One year after a controversial ban on classic Hadith collections and books on the Seerah (biography) of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), a Russian court had ordered the destruction of an interpretive translation of Qur’an, inviting a storm of fury from Russian Muslims. A court in Novorossiysk, a city in southern Russia, on 17 September 2013 ordered ban on the widely read translation of the noble Qur’an by Azeri theologian Elmira

Kuliyev. The court said that the text was outlawed under a Russian anti-extremism law that rights activists said had been abused by local officials out of prejudice or to persecute groups frowned upon by the dominant Russian Orthodox Church.

In: <http://www.onislam.net/english/news/europe/464563-russia-bans-quran-translation.html>, retrieved on 22.09.2013

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

1. **France: Halal butchers in Burgundy defaced with anti-Muslim graffiti** – The *Collectif contre l'Islamophobie en France* reported that on the night of 27 September 2012, a halal butcher at Chalon-sur-Saône in eastern France was defaced with Islamophobic graffiti. When the owners went to the police to file a complaint on the following morning they found that other businesses had been similarly targeted.



In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/10/1/halal-butchers-in-burgundy-defaced-with-anti-muslim-graffiti.html>, retrieved on 02.10.2012

2. **US: Speaker at Geller's New York conference advocated genocide against Muslims** – *Loonwatch* drew attention to an attack on Islam made by a Hindutva extremist named Babu Suseelan at the so-called "International Freedom Congress" in New York in September 2012 that was organized by Pamela Geller and Robert Spencer's Stop Islamization of Nations. Suseelan told the audience: "If we do not kill the bacteria, the bacteria will kill us." Otherwise, he warned, "Muslims will breed like rats and they will be a majority". But Suseelan finished on an upbeat note: "Islam can be stopped! And it can be wiped out."

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/10/7/speaker-at-gellers-new-york-conference-advocated-genocide-ag.html>, retrieved on 09.10.2012

3. **Cardinal causes uproar with "Muslim scare" video at Vatican** – A Roman Catholic cardinal had caused an uproar at the Vatican by screening a spurious *YouTube* video that made alarmist predictions about the growth of Islam in Europe. The seven-minute clip, called "Muslim Demographics", was the talk of an international gathering of bishops on 15 October 2012, two days after Cardinal Peter Turkson screened it during a free discussion period. The clip, which had been viewed over 13 million times on *YouTube* since it was uploaded by an anonymous user in 2009, combined dramatic music with skewed population statistics to make claims about various European countries such as "In just 39 years France will be an Islamic republic." Critics had pointed out that the fertility figures used in the video, which claimed French women had an average of 1.8 children while French Muslim women had 8.1 children, could not be genuine as France did not collect statistics by religion.

In: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/10/15/us-vatican-islam-idUSBRE89E1A220121015>, retrieved on 16.10.2012

**4. US: Police: Anti-Muslim bigot beat Sikh cab driver** – A Federal Way man accused of viciously beating a Sikh cab driver while shouting anti-Muslim slurs was facing a hate crime charge. King County prosecutors contend Jamie W. Larson attacked the cab driver during ride on 17 October 2012 after commenting on the man's turban. According to charging documents, Larson, 48, tore out chunks of the man's beard during the assault, which also loosened one of the driver's teeth. During the attack, Larson pulled out parts of the driver's beard and punched him repeatedly. Even after police arrived, Larson continued making bigoted comments about the driver, an immigrant from India. According to police, Larson referred to him derisively as Iranian and Iraqi, and used several anti-Arab slurs before also using an anti-gay slur. Writing the court, the Federal Way detective noted Larson's comments were not only hateful but based on his misperception of the driver's heritage. Larson was arrested at the scene and had since been charged with malicious harassment under Washington's hate crime statute. He remained jailed on \$60,000 bail.

In: <http://www.seattlepi.com/local/article/Police-Anti-Muslim-bigot-beat-Sikh-cab-driver-3985421.php>, retrieved on 29.10.2012

**5. US: thugs savagely attacked elderly man in New York after asking if he was Muslim** –The



whole incident apparently started with a simple question and answer, but it ended with the victim bloody and bruised from head to toe. It happened just before 5:30 a.m. on 24 November 2012 in Queens, and police wanted to know if it was an act of hate. Ali Akmal laid in his hospital bed in critical condition with wounds and bruises covering most of his body. The 72-year-old was savagely beaten after he went out for his early morning walk on 46 Avenue in Corona. Akmal's tongue was so badly swollen that he couldn't talk for two days. When he finally could, he told police that when he first encountered the two men, they asked him, "are you Muslim or Hindu?" He responded "I'm Muslim", and that's when they attacked. The beating was so savage and personal,

Akmal was even bitten on the nose. The crime has been assigned to detectives with the NYPD's Hate Crimes Task Force. Police said the suspects are both in their late teens or early 20s.

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/12/1/new-york-thugs-savagely-attacked-elderly-man-after-asking-if.html>, retrieved on 02.12.2012

**6. US: South Carolina: Walmart employee fired after abusing Muslim co-worker and threatening to cut her throat** – According to a local police report, a Rock Hill Walmart employee was fired on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2012 after police said she grabbed a co-worker's arm, threatened to cut her throat and called her an anti-Muslim, derogatory name. Police spoke with the victim, 23, who said she was on her break at the Walmart on Old York Road and tried to buy some items, according to a Rock Hill police report. While in the checkout line, a co-worker stepped behind her but tried to check out first by skipping in front of the woman and moving her items. The two employees began to argue before the co-worker called the victim a derogatory, anti-Muslim name. She grabbed the woman's arm twice and said she was going to cut her throat, the victim told police. The employee told her manager, who fired the employee, according to the report. No arrests were made.

In: <http://www.islamophobiatoday.com/2012/12/04/police-rock-hill-walmart-employee-fired-after-calling-co-worker-anti-muslim-name/>, retrieved on 05.12.2012

**7. US: Congressman's Restaurant Refused to Serve Muslim Couple** – On 21 November 2012, Mohammad Husain, with beard and wore a traditional Muslim hat, and his wife wearing a hijab, were told by an employee that they were not welcome at a Shreveport, La. sandwich shop owned by Rep. John Fleming (R-LA) because they were Muslims.

In: [http://tpmmuckraker.talkingpointsmemo.com/2012/12/john\\_fleming\\_muslim\\_subway.php](http://tpmmuckraker.talkingpointsmemo.com/2012/12/john_fleming_muslim_subway.php), retrieved on 05.12.2012

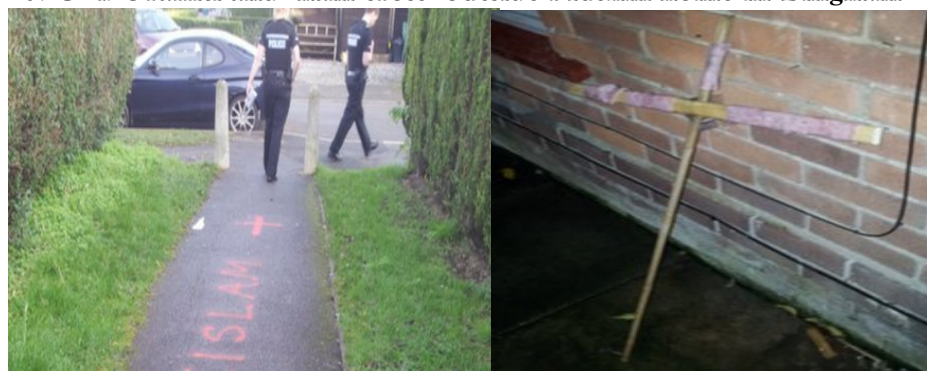
**8. US: All Saints Church, Hosting Muslim Public Affairs Council Convention, Receives Threats, Hate Mail** – For the first time in its history, the Muslim Public Affairs Council (MPAC) was holding its annual convention at a Christian church. But then the council's host, All Saints Episcopal Church in Pasadena, California, started facing vitriolic backlash. Rev. Susan Russell, senior associate for communications at All Saints said the church had received over 25 hate emails and threats since 30 November 2012. Emails started coming in after the Institute on Religion and Democracy (IRD), a conservative Christian group, published a criticism of the convention venue. The IRD wrote on its website: "Yet again, the Islamists are taking advantage of naïve Christians with a desire to show off their tolerance."

In: [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/12/05/all-saints-church-muslim-public-affairs-council\\_n\\_2245495.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/12/05/all-saints-church-muslim-public-affairs-council_n_2245495.html), retrieved on 06.12.2012

**9. UK: Parliamentary report exposes employment discrimination against Muslim women** – The All Party Parliamentary Group on Race and Community had expressed concern regarding high levels of Black, Pakistani and Bangladeshi female unemployment in its new report on the issue. The report followed a five month inquiry. The report and inquiry was written and undertaken in partnership with the Runnymede Trust, which acted a secretariat for the group. It argued that discrimination was present at every level of the recruitment process, and cited examples of women changing their names or removing religious dress, such as the hijab, for job interviews.

More in: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/12/7/parliamentary-report-exposes-employment-discrimination-again.html>, retrieved on 08.12.2012

**10. UK: Graffiti and 'ham cross' outside Muslim home in Bingham** – Offensive graffiti attacking



Allah and Islam had been painted outside a Muslim family's home weeks after a cross wrapped in ham was left by their door. The 31-year-old mother and two sons, eight and 10, said they had suffered five or six racist incidents since

they moved to Bingham, Notts, in October 2012. The graffiti was painted on their path on the morning of 08 December 201. A 13-year-old Bingham boy was arrested in connection with the ham-covered cross on 07 December 2012 and bailed.

In: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-nottinghamshire-20657244>, retrieved on 10.12.2012

**11. US: Texas School District Investigates Muslim Bias in School, Finds Christian Bias Instead** – Avi Selk reported on 15 December 2012: "Back in late October [2012], someone named Ginger Russell sent a chain email with the subject 'IRVING ISD INDOCTRINATING ISLAM' to school



board members and district officials” and other emails instructed Christians to “stand up against the pro Islamic teaching in our public schools.” The alleged indoctrination had to do with the fact that the district used a state-wide teaching program called CSCOPE, which was put together by the Texas Education Service Center Curriculum Collaborative, administered by an organization called Region 10. Selk wrote: “The director, Jan Moberly, said she hired a “very socially and fiscally conservative” former social studies teacher who “watches Glenn Beck on a regular basis” to seek out any Islamic bias in CSCOPE.” Guess what Moberly found? There was religious bias, but in fact it was a bias against Islam. Christianity got the highest billing, with twice as many mentions as any other religion in CSCOPE.

In: <http://www.islamophobiatoday.com/2012/12/15/texas-school-district-investigates-muslim-bias-in-school-finds-christian-bias-instead/>, retrieved on 17.12.2012

#### 12. Scotland: Dundee man jailed for throwing sword at Muslims – A Dundee man had been



jailed for almost two years for hurling a sword at three Muslim men after they escaped from a fire. Dundee Sheriff Court heard Grant Robertson also shouted racist abuse at the men as they waited for the fire service outside their flat on 26 January 2012.

Robertson pleaded guilty to a charge of acting in a racially aggravated manner. The 28-year-old also admitted a second charge of assaulting the three men. The court heard that when he was arrested Robertson told police: “I threw my sword out the window at them, I wish it got them in the throat.”

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/12/17/dundee-man-jailed-for-throwing-sword-at-muslims.html>, retrieved on 19.12.2012

#### 13. US: Woman who says she’s hated Muslims since 9/11 is charged with hate-crime murder of man pushed in front of New York subway – Prosecutors said that Erika Menendez was charged on 29 December 2012 with murder as a hate crime in correlation with the death of Sunando Sen, who was crushed by a 7 train in Queens on the night of 27 December 2012. Menendez, 31, told the police: “I pushed a Muslim off the train tracks because I hate Hindus and Muslims ever since 2001 when they put down the twin towers I’ve been beating them up.” She could face 25 years to life in prison if convicted.

In: <http://www.dallasnews.com/news/local-news/20121229-woman-who-says-she-s-hated-muslims-since-911-is-charged-with-hate-crime-murder-of-man-pushed-in-front-of-new-york-subway.ece>, retrieved on 30.12.2012, emphasis added.

#### 14. US: Cameron Mohammed: Armed hate crime victim doesn’t shoot back – Surveillance video captured the moment Mr Mohammed and his girlfriend were attacked at point-blank range outside a shopping centre parking lot in Florida around 3am on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2013. Police said that their alleged assailant, Daniel Quinnell, had approached the couple from behind, yelling racial slurs, before squeezing the trigger on his gas-propelled pellet gun as many as 20 times.

But Mr Mohammed kept his concealed gun in its holster throughout the attack – even though firing back may have been justified under Florida’s controversial stand-your-ground laws, which permits people to use deadly force when there is a reasonable belief of an unlawful threat. Quinnell, 25, had allegedly asked Mr Mohammed if he was Muslim or from the Middle East. When Mr Mohammed, who was born in Trinidad and raised in Tampa, said no, Quinnell began shooting him and his

girlfriend anyway, police said. Mr Mohammed was to have surgery to remove a few of the pellets. Quinnell was arrested a few days later and he would face court charged with aggravated battery.

In: <http://www.islamophobiatoday.com/2013/01/12/cameron-mohammed-armed-hate-crime-victim-doesnt-shoot-back/>, retrieved on 13.01.2013

**15. US: Michigan gun shop to stop selling target of skeleton dressed as Muslim** – the Council on American-Islamic Relations-Michigan said on 07 February 2013 that a Royal Oak gun shop would stop selling a target, distributed by Thompson Target of Canton of Ohio that depicted a skeleton clothed in traditional Muslim garb.



In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2013/2/7/michigan-gun-shop-to-stop-selling-target-of-skeleton-dressed.html>, retrieved on 09.02.2013

**16. US: University in New Jersey investigating anti-Muslim graffiti in student center** – On 08 February 2013, campus officials said that Montclair State University was investigating a bias incident in which someone drew a picture of planes hitting the World Trade Center on the door of the Office of the Muslim Student Association, which was found on 04 February 2013.

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2013/2/8/new-jersey-university-investigating-anti-muslim-graffiti-in.html>, retrieved on 10.02.2013

**17. UK: Tube worker posts offensive anti-Muslim taunts on Facebook** – British train engineer Martin Aitken used Facebook to insult Muslims, Asians and disabled people in a series of offensive posts. Aitken, who joined London Underground in 2013, was caught by the *Standard* following a tip-off and when confronted said: “Oh for f\*\*k’s sake – it’s going to jeopardise my job.” Aitken began posting the hateful messages online as far back as 2010. On 8 February 2013 he made a post equating Muslims with terrorism. A co-worker said: “The content posted on Mr Aitken’s Facebook timeline appears to demonstrate a deep seated hatred for anyone different to himself. He is using social networking sites to promote racism and his personal hatred of Muslims.” A spokesman for *Transport for London* said it was launching an investigation into the posts.

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2013/2/19/tube-worker-posts-offensive-anti-muslim-taunts-on-facebook.html>, retrieved on 20.02.2013

**18. Switzerland: Halal Pork Shocks Swiss Muslims** – The discovery of pork traces in halal food in several stores had shocked the Muslim community in Switzerland and ignited debates for launching a Swiss halal label. The Swiss Central Islamic Council (CCIS) said in a statement cited by *Agence France-Presse* (AFP) on 26 February 2012: “Sample analysis show a very low proportion” of pork meat, or less than 0.1 percent. The CCIS had found traces of pork in halal kebabs in famous meat stalls in several Swiss cities including Bern, Biel, Zurich, Winterthur, Basel, Lucerne, Kreuzlingen, Lausanne and Geneva. The test sampling was ordered by the Muslim group after being “alarmed by the scandal that recently erupted in Germany where 7 percent of pork meat was found in meat for kebabs.” The CCIS said it was “shocked” by the discovery that pork traces were confirmed in seven out of 20 Swiss kebab samples tested.

In: <http://www.onislam.net/english/news/europe/461548-pork-found-in-swiss-halal-kebabs.html>, retrieved on 27.02.2013



**19. Australia: Sydney suburb bombarded with anti-Muslim literature** – Residents had been bombarded with an anonymous anti-Islamic letter drop, protesting against the proposed development of 150 houses by Qartaba Homes in Riverstone and Schofields. Rivo Respect, Responsibility & Recognition founders Danielle Fragomeli and Carroline Parkes said hundreds of flyers titled “Future of Riverstone a Muslim enclave”, as well as an eight-page booklet titled “Islam Aggressive Religion, Totalitarian Political System” had been distributed.

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2013/3/1/sydney-suburb-bombarded-with-anti-muslim-literature.html>, retrieved on 02.03.2013

**20. US: Two Perham exchange students are kicked out of church** – Two exchange students, Elshan Mirzazade, from Azerbaijan, and Fikri Rahmat, from Indonesia, attending school in Perham, Minnesota said they were kicked out of a church there when they questioned a nationally known speaker who said “Islam equals terrorism”. The boys were kicked out of the Assembly of God church in Perham during a question answer period following a speech by Walid Shoebat, who said he was a former terrorist, and claimed to be an anti-terrorism expert, calling Islam the devil and touring the US speaking to churches and schools - even collecting fees from Homeland Security. CNN had exposed ShoebSat, calling him a fraud.

In: <http://www.wday.com/event/article/id/76361/>, retrieved on 06.03.2013

**21. France to ban website documenting police violence against Muslims** – Alleging defamation, France’s interior minister Manuel Valls was trying to shut down a website which gave a voice to the victims of police harassment. The site, started by Bentounsi the website in 2012, after her brother was reportedly shot in the back by a policeman, had become especially popular with France’s Muslim population, who often claimed that police targeted, harassed and even killed them with impunity. Statistics proved that non-whites justifiably felt under attack: Researchers said that Arabs and black Muslims composed up to 70% of France’s prisoners.

In: <http://www.presstv.ir/detail/2013/03/06/292118/france-to-ban-website-documenting-police-violence-against-muslims/>, retrieved on 07.03.2013

**22. Russian converts to Islam face persecution** – According to a statement made by human rights defenders in Dagestan, Russians in the region who accepted Islam were persecuted by employees of the security and intelligence services. The president of the “Pravozashita” organization, Gulnare Rustemova, explained that recent converts often asked for her help. Gulnare indicated that the homes of such people were continuously searched and they were interrogated by the police.

In: <http://www.worldbulletin.net/?aType=haber&ArticleID=106534>, retrieved on 13.04.2013

**23. US: Muslim Cabdriver, an Army Reservist and Iraqi veteran, assaulted for being Muslim** – Mohamed A. Salim, an Army reservist and Iraq veteran who worked as a cabdriver, said a passenger he picked up early on 26 April 2013 at a Northern Virginia country club accused him of being a terrorist because he was Muslim, then fractured his jaw in an attack being described by Islamic activists as a hate crime.

In: <http://www.islamophobiatoday.com/2013/05/01/muslim-cabdriver-an-army-reservist-and-iraqi-veteranassaulted-for-being-muslim/>, retrieved on 02.05.2013

**24. US: Islamic School of San Diego threatened: Authorities investigate threatening messages** – Investigators sought to determine who was responsible for several recent bomb threats directed at a Muslim school in Clairemont. Authorities reported that on 18 May 2013, a woman left three menacing telephone messages on an office answering machine at the Islamic School of San Diego.

Among other hostile statements, the anonymous caller said: "I'm going to throw a bomb in your (expletive) school." Authorities were treating the incident as a terrorist threat, but if more evidence came to light, it would then be treated as a hate crime.

In: <http://www.islamophobiatoday.com/2013/05/22/islamic-school-of-san-diego-threatened-authorities-investigate-threatening-messages/>, retrieved on 23.05.2013

**25. 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. In a raid carried on 07 June 2013, 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. This was the third raid targeting Muslim places of worship in Moscow or St Petersburg in 2013.

In: <http://www.onislam.net/english/news/europe/463038-russia-detains-300-muslims-during-prayer.html>, retrieved on 09.06.2013

**26. US: 2 accused of plot to kill Muslims with X-ray weapon** – Federal authorities announced on 19 June 2013 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.

In: <http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2013/06/19/terror-plot-arrest-radiation-device-x-ray/2438599/>, retrieved on 20.06.2013

**27. UK: Police seek racists who left pig heads in Bradford Muslim family garden** – In July 2013, members of the Ditta family were sickened to discover the pig heads on their front and back doorstep at their home in the Bolton area of the city. They later found another two in a bag, placed in bushes. The Muslim family had been living in the city for decades but had never been the target of racism in all those years. A spokesman for West Yorkshire Police confirmed that officers were investigating and that it was being treated as a racially-motivated hate crime.

In: <http://www.islamophobiatoday.com/2013/07/01/police-seek-racists-who-left-pig-heads-in-bradford-muslim-family-garden/>, retrieved on 03.07.2013

**28. UK: Horrific Attack on 55-year-old Muslim Woman** – A Muslim woman was brutally attacked in the early hours of 29 July 2013 in Mayfair, London as she was returning home after Suhur (closing fast) at a friend's house. A man grabbed her from behind and repeatedly punched her in the back of the head. She fell to the ground face first, he continued his attack with added profanities against Muslims, Ramadan and Islam. He then grabbed her headscarf that was around her neck and then dragged her along the pavement. The woman was bleeding and the attacker had her blood on his hands and clothes. In his final act of cowardice he slapped her across the face with his blood-stained hands leaving an imprint of it on her face. She fell unconscious as he ran away leaving her in the street. The victim was treated in hospital and needed surgery to her face.

In: <http://www.islamophobiatoday.com/2013/08/01/horrific-attack-on-55-year-old-muslim-woman/>, retrieved on 06.08.2013

29. **US: ‘No Muslim Parking’ Sign Angers US Muslims** – Signs banning Muslims from using a Houston shopping center parking lot mysteriously appeared in the week of 10 August 2013, generating massive Muslim outrage to the insensitive, discriminatory posters. Muslims heading to worship services said they were offended. The signs, written in black letters, read, “No Muslim parking in the Westview Shopping Center. Your car will be towed.” El Farouq Mosque sits across the street from the shopping center, in front of which the signs were put.



In: [http://onislam.net/english/news/americas/463916-no-muslim-parking-sign-angers-us-](http://onislam.net/english/news/americas/463916-no-muslim-parking-sign-angers-us-muslims.html)

[muslims.html](http://onislam.net/english/news/americas/463916-no-muslim-parking-sign-angers-us-muslims.html), retrieved on 11.08.2013

30. **UK: EDL supporter calls for shooting at Muslims, on Facebook** – An EDL supporter, angry about “the islamification of [his] country” called for people on the English Defence League’s page to shoot at Muslims. For that he got ‘Likes’ rather than having the comment deleted. What was ironic was that he did not even live in the UK, having moved to Thailand permanently.

In: <http://liberalconspiracy.org/2013/09/16/edl-supporter-calls-for-shooting-at-muslims-on-facebook/>, retrieved on 18.09.2013

31. **UK: One in four young people distrust Muslims and think Britain would be better off without them** – a new poll for *BBC Radio 1’s Newsbeat* had shown that around a quarter of young people in Britain distrusted Muslims and thought the country would be better off without them. The study also showed that 44% believed Muslims did not share the same values as the rest of the population.

Additional findings:

- Of the 18- to 24-year-olds polled, 26% said foreign terror groups were to blame for Islamophobia compared to 21% who thought the reason was UK Muslims who had committed acts of terror. But some 23% thought it was the media who were to blame for anti-Muslim feelings.
- Of 1,000 people interviewed for the study only one in three thought Muslims were doing enough to combat extremism in their communities.
- By and large, around half of those polled agreed Islam is a religion of peace, compared to 27 per cent who disagreed.
- Young people are divided over whether or not immigration was good for Britain overall with two-fifths saying it was a good thing but more than a third disagreed.
- Some 60% thought the British public had a negative image of Muslims.

Professor Matthew Goodwin, one of the members of the group, said: ‘Every survey that I have run, and surveys run by my academic colleagues, makes it quite clear that a significant proportion of the British population hold negative views of Islam, and by extension British Muslim communities.’

In: <http://metro.co.uk/2013/09/25/one-in-four-young-people-distrust-muslims-and-think-britain-would-be-better-off-without-them-4108190/>, retrieved on 26.09.2013

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

1. **French women demonstrate against discrimination** – Around 50 women gathered on 29 September 2012 afternoon outside the city hall at Rennes to denounce the Islamophobic discrimination faced by veiled women. The collective, made up of Muslims and non-Muslims, women veiled and non-veiled, sought by this action to call on public opinion to combat prejudice. On their placards were slogans such as “How can we claim to defend women by excluding some women?” or “No to a ban on the veil. No to the imposition of the veil. Freedom of choice for all women”.



They also denounced the draft law to ban the wearing of the veil by child minders, or the circular which prohibited veiled women from accompanying their children on school trips.

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/10/2/french-women-demonstrate-against-discrimination.html>, retrieved on 03.10.2012

2. **Outrage in Russia over hijab school ban** – Several Muslim families pulled their daughters out of schools in Russia’s south after the girls were told they were not allowed to wear their hijabs. On 15 October 2012, the Mufti of the southern Stavropol region Muhammad-Haji Rakhimov said he had received complaints from several parents whose daughters were for the first time not being allowed into their schools wearing their hijabs. The situation resembled a “stalemate” because both the Muslim parents and school authorities refused to budge, and several girls including second-graders had not been to school for two weeks by the time of this news.

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/10/16/outrage-in-russia-over-hijab-school-ban.html>, retrieved on 18.10.2012

3. **US: Okla. Muslim Told She Needs Bank Escort Because of Hijab** – The Oklahoma chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) was calling on Tulsa’s Valley National Bank to review its “inappropriate and discriminatory” policy that treated customers wearing religious head coverings differently than other patrons. CAIR-OK said a Muslim customer at a Valley National Bank branch in Tulsa reported that she was singled out by bank officials because of her religiously-mandated head scarf, or hijab. The Muslim customer was allegedly told she would not be able to enter the bank unless accompanied by a bank employee to and from the teller because of a “no hats, no hoods, no sunglasses” policy. Valley National Bank has confirmed in a letter to CAIR-OK that it was their policy to single out women who wore a head scarf, whether for religious reasons or otherwise.

In: <http://www.sacbee.com/2012/11/07/4968235/cair-okla-muslim-told-she-needs.html>, retrieved on 08.11.2012



**4. Russia: Stavropol student barred from school for wearing headscarf** – The parents of a schoolgirl living in the village of Privolny, Stavropol Territory, were complaining that their daughter had been barred from school for wearing a headscarf. The girl's father Rizak Rizakov told *Interfax* that the teachers were saying this decision had been made because of a decree issued by the governor. In the meantime, the press service for the territory's Education Ministry told *Interfax* these actions violated the school charter, which outlined requirements for students' appearance.

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/11/30/stavropol-student-barred-from-school-for-wearing-headscarf.html>, retrieved on 01.12.2012

**5. US: Philly security firm sued over Muslim head scarf** – The EEOC was suing ABM Security Services, which provided guards for the Pennsylvania Convention Center in Philadelphia, for religious discrimination after an employee claimed she was forced to choose between keeping her job and wearing her traditional Muslim head covering. ABM hired Tahira, a devout Muslim, and she reported for training wearing a *khimar*, a head covering worn by some Muslim women. Her trainer told her to take off the scarf, but she refused, explaining that her religion required it. An ABM representative told her that she could not work at the convention center while wearing the *khimar* and sent her home. Tahira filed an EEOC complaint, noting that ABM never discussed accommodations that would allow her to perform the job and observe her religious beliefs.

In: <http://www.businessmanagementdaily.com/33340/philly-security-firm-sued-over-muslim-head-scarf>, retrieved on 19.12.2012

**6. Russia: Putin opposes headscarves in Russian schools** – On 20 December 2012, President Vladimir Putin spoke against the wearing of hijabs at Russian schools saying that the practice ran counter to Russian traditions, adding: "Why should we adopt outside traditions?" Putin said during a marathon question-and-answer session with Russian and foreign reporters.

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2012/12/21/putin-opposes-headscarves-in-russian-schools.html>, retrieved on 22.12.2012

**7. UK: Muslim family taking school to High Court over hijab ban** – A Greek Orthodox school was being taken to the High Court for banning a Muslim pupil from wearing a headscarf. The nine-year-old girl's parents were so incensed at the decision they had pulled her out of St Cyprian's Greek Orthodox Primary Academy, in Thornton Heath. Now they have applied to the High Court in an attempt to force the school – the only one of its kind in the country – to reverse its ban on their daughter wearing a hijab.

In: <http://www.thisiscroydontoday.co.uk/story-17646844-detail/story.html>, retrieved on 22.12.2012

**8. Scotland - Woman jailed after pulling hijab from victim in racist attack** – A woman who launched a racist attack against a Muslim and pulled her hijab from her head as she robbed her of her phone had been jailed for more than two years. Eileen Kennedy, 28, and her 16-year-old niece Paige Bain assaulted Umaili Musa in Glasgow in September 2012. The teenager also assaulted Ms Musa's friend, Mary Marandran, who was five months pregnant with her third child. The victims were sitting in a playpark when they heard one of the accused make racist comments before they were attacked. The incident was captured on CCTV and the camera operator alerted the police as the incident happened.

In: <http://www.scotsman.com/news/scottish-news/top-stories/woman-jailed-after-pulling-hijab-from-victim-in-racist-attack-1-2713903>, retrieved on 03.01.2013



**9. Belgian Hema store wrong to sack headscarf-wearing worker** – A Belgian industrial tribunal ruled on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2013 that a Belgian branch of Dutch department store Hema was wrong to sack a woman worker for wearing a headscarf. The woman had worked for the store in Genk for two months wearing a headscarf but was then sacked for refusing to remove it after complaints from customers. The tribunal ordered Hema to pay the 21-year-old woman six month's salary – €9,000 – in compensation. The company had since drawn up formal clothing requirements for its Belgian stores.

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2013/1/3/belgian-hema-store-wrong-to-sack-headscarf-wearing-worker.html>, retrieved on 04.01.2013

**10. South Africa: School Hijab Ban Shocks Cape Town Muslims** – Two Muslim students had been traumatized after being kicked out from their Cape Town high school after refusing to remove Islamic headscarf, a right protected in the country's constitution. *Mail & Guardian Online* reported on 23 January 2013 that Nabila Dramat, the students' mother told *Die Burger* that Sakeenah Dramat, 16, and her brother Bilaal, 13, taking their first classes at Eben Dönges high school on 16 January 2013, teachers asked them to remove their headscarf and fez respectively. The mother confirmed that during an interview at the school in 2012, they were told that the children could wear their headgear, provided that was in school colors.

In: <http://www.onislam.net/english/news/africa/461020-school-hijab-ban-shocks-cape-town-muslims.html>, retrieved on 24.01.2013

**11. France: Frenchman convicted of veil assault** – On 13 March 2013, a Frenchman who ripped a Muslim woman's veil off her face as she strolled in a fairground was given a five-month suspended prison sentence and ordered to compensate his victim. The 30-year-old man, who admitted charges of aggravated assault, had justified the September 2012 attack at the time as an attempt to uphold a controversial law banning women from wearing niqabs, face-covering veils, in public. That defence was thrown out by public prosecutors, who accused him of acting as a vigilante and carrying out an assault motivated by his victim's religious faith.

In: <http://www.islamophobia-watch.com/islamophobia-watch/2013/3/13/frenchman-convicted-of-veil-assault.html>, retrieved on 14.03.2013

**12. France: 80% of French public favor tougher anti-veil laws** – Data from a front-page BVA survey in *Le Parisien* newspaper showed on 25 March 2013 that the Islamic veil was still very much a French national controversy. More than 80% of respondents favored toughening the country's 2004 law, which banned religious dress and insignia in schools, nurseries, and anywhere that involved the care and education of children. Another 83% was in favor of extending the ban to the private sector, and 16% was against. Socialists, intellectuals, politicians and humanitarian NGOs signed an online petition launched by *Marianne* weekly, calling on the government to enact a new, tougher law in defense of secularism, one that would explain with "pedagogy and clarity" where and when the principle of secularism was to be applied.

In: [http://www.ansamed.info/ansamed/en/news/nations/france/2013/03/25/Islam-80-French-public-favor-tougher-anti-veil-laws\\_8457461.html](http://www.ansamed.info/ansamed/en/news/nations/france/2013/03/25/Islam-80-French-public-favor-tougher-anti-veil-laws_8457461.html), retrieved on 26.03.2013

**13. UK: Knifeman ordered Bristol women to take off hijabs** – In September 2012, Drunken Norris, who was brandishing a six-inch knife told Miss Jama: "Take the hijab off. This is England, you are not allowed. Take the hijab off before I stab you." He then pointed the blade at Miss Jama and put the blade to the left and right of her throat. Later the same day Norris approached Iqbal Osman who was watching her four-year-old play in Barton Hill Urban Park. He asked her why she was wearing too many clothes and accused Muslims of "taking over" his country. He again

brandished the knife before leaving. Recorder Nicholas Rowland made Norris, of Canterbury Street, Barton Hill, subject to a two-year community order with two years supervision and a six-month alcohol treatment requirement.

In: <http://www.thisisbristol.co.uk/Knifeman-ordered-Bristol-women-hijabs/story-18717677-detail/story.html#ixzz2QfXvFVND>, retrieved on 17.04.2013

**14. France: Muslim woman loses baby after veil attack** – A young pregnant Muslim woman, who was allegedly attacked in the street for wearing a veil had lost her baby, her lawyer announced on 17 June 2013. 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 2013. Four days later, the 21-year-old's lawyer Hosni Maati told AFP that the woman had since suffered a miscarriage.

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

**15. 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 18 June 2013, when a federal judge in California pressed attorney Mark Knueve, who was representing Abercrombie, if he or any of his witnesses had financial records to show the woman's hijab hurt sales, Knueve 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]?" On 20 June 2013, 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](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/06/19/abercrombie-headscarf-hani-khan-hijab-lawsuit_n_3466226.html), retrieved on 20.06.2013

**16. Russia: Supreme Court upholds ban on Muslim headwear in schools** – On 10 July 2013, a branch of Russia's Supreme Court rejected an appeal by a group of Muslims for the right of schoolgirls to wear traditional religious attire, specifically the hijab, in classrooms. The appeal was made by a group of citizens of Muslim faith from southern Russia's Stavropol Region. They complained that a decree by the local administration ordering all schoolchildren to appear in classes only in regular secular clothes, which came into force in January 2013, infringed their freedom of faith as guaranteed by the constitution. At the Supreme Court session, the representative of the Stavropol administration reiterated the position that the school regulations concerning dress did not prevent Muslims from believing in God and were therefore not infringing anyone's rights. The defense team said they would then appeal the case in the Supreme Court Presidium, the final right of recourse within Russia.

In: <http://rt.com/politics/hidjab-russian-court-ban-878/>, retrieved on 11.07.2013

**17. US: Muslim woman asked to remove headscarf during bar exam in Springfield** – On 31 July and 01 August 2013, law school graduates aspiring to practice in the Commonwealth gathered in Boston and Springfield to take the 16-hour bar exam, broken into several parts. During the morning

portion of the test on 01 August, recent graduate of the University of Michigan Law School Iman Abdulrazzak was handed a note from an exam proctor asking her to remove her headscarf.

Though it was clear that prior approval was needed for headwear, Abdulrazzak said her request to wear the hijab was approved on 29 July 2013. Additionally, it was unclear why the proctor gave her the note during the exam instead of waiting until the lunch break. During the break for lunch, Abdulrazzak called the Bar office to request she be allowed to take the exam in the afternoon with her hijab on, which happened.

In: <http://www.islamophobiatoday.com/2013/08/02/muslim-woman-asked-to-remove-headscarf-during-bar-exam-in-springfield/>, retrieved on 06.08.2013

**18. France: In a ‘Climate of Islamophobia’ Two attackers rip veil off French girl** – A 16-year old girl was attacked by two “European looking” men, one of whom was also described as having a shaven head in Paris suburb (Trappes) and had the Islamic veil she was wearing torn from her face. Her assailants then shouted anti-Muslim and racist abuse at her while brandishing a box cutter, before tearing off her veil, pushing her to the ground and hitting her. The victim was driven to hospital in Trappes where she was treated for “light scratch marks” on her face and throat.

In: <http://rt.com/news/france-anti-muslim-attacks-460/>, retrieved on 15.08.2013

**19. Islamophobia in Quebec [Canada]: Veiled Woman Verbally Assaulted inside a Mall** – *Badia Senouci, a resident of Quebec for over 10 years, was recently a target of hateful and discriminatory comments for her choice to wear the Islamic veil in public.* Senouci, Algerian by birth, was going about her daily business in Quebec while fielding comments from strangers calling on her to change her religion, hounding her for wearing the veil, and using the new Charter of Values as a reminder that “the government will force [her] to remove [the veil].”

When Senouci’s son and husband tried to defend her, they were met with equally vulgar behavior—spitting and being hit with a woman’s handbag. Because of the disturbance, local security was called to the scene and Senouci’s family was accused of causing public disturbance.

In: <http://www.moroccoworldnews.com/2013/09/105013/islamophobia-in-quebec-veiled-woman-verbally-assaulted-inside-a-mall/>, retrieved on 18.09.2013

**20. Swiss region votes to ban full-face Muslim veils** – Voters in southern Switzerland had backed a ban on full-face veils, following similar laws implemented in France and Belgium. Activists argued that the law discriminated against the fundamental rights of Muslims. The new law would still need federal approval, after receiving two-thirds of public support in the Italian-speaking Swiss canton of Ticino. This was the first time that such a ban had been passed in a Swiss canton.

The creator of the proposal, Giorgio Ghiringhelli, argued that the ban was aimed at sending a message to “Islamist fundamentalists” in his district and all across the country because “Those who want to integrate are welcome irrespective of their religion...But those who rebuff our values and aim to build a parallel society based on religious laws, and want to place it over our society, are not welcome.”

In: <http://rt.com/news/swiss-region-bans-veils-212/>, retrieved on 24.09.2013

**B: CFM Res. No 41/39-P on an OIC Approach for Combating Discrimination and Intolerance against Muslims**

---

**RESOLUTION No.41/39-P  
ON AN OIC APPROACH FOR COMBATING DISCRIMINATION AND INTOLERANCE  
AGAINST MUSLIMS**

*The Thirty-ninth Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers, (Session of Solidarity for Sustainable Development), held in Djibouti, Republic of Djibouti, from 1-3 Muharram 1434H (15-17 November 2012),*

*Reaffirming* the commitment made by all States under the Charter of the United Nations, and other relevant international instruments, to promote and encourage universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

*Reaffirming* the objectives of the OIC, in particular to protect and defend the true image of Islam, to combat defamation of Islam and encourage dialogue among civilizations and religions,

*Reaffirming* also OIC resolutions on Combating Islamophobia and Eliminating Hatred and Prejudice Against Islam and on Combating Defamation of Religions,

*Reaffirming* further the resolutions of the UN General Assembly and the Human Rights Council on Combating Defamation of Religions, and resolution 16/18 of the Human Rights Council on Combating Intolerance, Negative Stereotyping and Stigmatization of, and Discrimination, Incitement to violence, and Violence against Persons based on Religion or Belief, and subsequent adoption of corresponding Resolutions 66/167 and 19/25 at the 66<sup>th</sup> Session of UN General Assembly and 19<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council, respectively,

*Reiterating* the importance of promoting dialogue, understanding and cooperation among religions, cultures and civilizations for peace and harmony in the world and *welcoming* all international and regional initiatives and efforts in this regard,

*Stressing* the need to ensure that the right to freedom of expression should be exercised by all, with responsibility and in accordance with the relevant international human rights laws and instruments,

*Deeply concerned* at the inaction of some states in combating the burgeoning trend of defamation of Islam and the resulting discriminatory practices against Muslims,

*Noting with deep concern* the continuing instances of intolerance, discrimination, profiling, negative stereotyping, stigmatization, religious hatred and violence against Muslims occurring in many parts of the world,

*Reaffirming* the Declaration by the Annual Coordination Meeting of Minister of Foreign Affairs of OIC Member States to condemn the sacrilegious acts of release of defamatory video “Innocence of Muslims” and publication of offensive caricatures of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), held on the sidelines of the ongoing 67<sup>th</sup> United Nations General Assembly,

*Taking note* of the concept paper entitled, “An OIC Approach for Combating Discrimination and Intolerance against Muslims”, presented by the OIC General Secretariat to the Ministerial

Brainstorming Session held during the 39<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers, held in Djibouti in 2012,

1. **Condemns** in the strongest possible terms the reprehensible release of the film “Innocence of Muslims” on YouTube as a deliberate act of incitement to hatred that has deeply offended more than a 1,5 billion Muslims and all peoples of conscience around the world,
2. **Condemns** any advocacy of religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence, where it involves the use of print, audio-visual or electronic media or any other means;
3. **Acknowledges** that open and public discussion, further to the dialogue between religions and civilizations on the local, national, and international levels, constitute the best protection and practice against religious intolerance, and together they play a positive role in strengthening democracy and combating religious hatred; and expresses its confidence that continuing the dialogue on these issues would help eliminate prevailing wrong conceptions.
4. **Supports** the request made by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, to the UN to issue a resolution that condemns any state or group or individuals offending religions, prophets and messengers, Peace be Upon Them, and set up deterring sanctions.
5. **Calls** upon all the Member States and the international community to confront the production and promotion of media offensive to divine religions and religious symbols, through international institutions and mechanisms, to respect religious and cultural diversity, and to uphold the principles outlined in the initiative proposed by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah Bin Abdelziz Al Saud, to establish dialogue between religions and cultures, and which was adopted at the Madrid World Conference on Dialogue in 2008, to refrain from committing acts offensive to religions and religious symbols.
6. **Requests** the Secretary General to constitute and convene a panel of Eminent Persons, including Legal Experts and Human Rights practitioners, to lend the Member States the benefit of sound professional advice entrenched in international law by elaborating and examining the whole range of available options for a unified OIC position for combating discrimination and intolerance against Muslim;
7. **Further requests** the Secretary General to present the output of the panel of Eminent Persons preferably to the Senior Officials’ Meeting preparatory to the 12<sup>th</sup> Summit with a view to finalizing the parameters of a unified and politically tenable OIC position for combating discrimination, intolerance and bias against Muslims, as well as drafting an action plan for the Organization in this field;
8. **Requests** that the Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission to consider a set of available options to adopt a unified stance on combating discrimination and intolerance against Muslims. The Commission may, according to its statute, seek the expertise of professional high-level persons, and submit them to the Member States.
9. **Welcomes** the efforts exerted by the OIC Secretary General to work constructively with the political and ideological elite and influential public opinion centers, especially in the West, in order to combat Islamophobia through devising a comprehensive strategy that aims at preparing an



international environment leading to harmony among religions and civilizations, and requests the continuation of such efforts.

10. ***Requests*** the Secretary General to follow-up the implementation of this resolution and submit a comprehensive report thereon to the 40<sup>th</sup> Session of the CFM.

~~~~~

C: Statement by H.E. the OIC Secretary General, Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, at the 3rd Istanbul Process Meeting on the follow-up of Implementation of UN HRC Resolution 16/18
Geneva, Switzerland, (19 – 21 June 2013)

Mr Director General of the United Nations in Geneva
Excellencies,
Distinguished Panelists,
Dear guests and colleagues,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you all to this 3rd Istanbul Process Meeting on the follow-up of Implementation of Human Rights Council Resolution 16/18 on Combating Incitement to violence, and Intolerance based on religion or belief.

I am grateful to all participants for their attendance, and particularly the distinguished panelists for sharing their valuable time and expertise. I would also like to thank all the esteemed State representatives and high officials from the UN and other international organizations for their participation.

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Combating discrimination and intolerance forms a most daunting challenge of our times. It constitutes a matter of vital concern at the OIC. Over the past decade, the debate over religious intolerance and its relationship with freedom of expression received greater attention in both the media and political discourse. Unfortunately, notwithstanding the exposure and recognition accorded to the core issue, divergences in approach prevented the enactment of effective and concrete remedial measures at the international level. It was in this context that, highly committed to the matter and determined to reach common ground, the OIC came up with an alternative approach reflected in the Resolution 16/18 on “*Combating Intolerance, Negative Stereotyping and Stigmatization of, and Discrimination Incitement to Violence, and Violence against Persons Based on Religion and Belief*”.

The consensual passage of HRC resolution 16/18 in March 2011 has been widely acknowledged as a positive development. It demonstrated OIC’s ability to forge consensus on the most sensitive of issues in contemporary international relations. The resolution codified the eight points identified in my address to the 15th Session of the Human Rights Council in September 2010. These points constitute areas of action at the national and the international levels. I am gratified that they could form the basis of consensus. It afforded the opportunity to focus on the real issues away from the politicization and polarization of a decade.

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

We did not stop at mere passage of a resolution. The Istanbul Process initiated with Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy,

Catherine Ashton to build further on the consensus building that went into resolution 16/18 must be carried forward. While the resolution forms a triumph of multilateralism, Istanbul Process must also be seen as a poster child of OIC-US-EU cooperation. Our meeting today is a part of this Process. I appreciate that this Process has come to be recognized as the way forward by all stakeholders. Its merit lies in acceptance as the least common denominator. 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. The consensus would, otherwise, be fragile. The approach signified by the resolution 16/18 is not an end in itself. It is a means to an end. We need to build on it.

To date, two expert meetings have already been held in the framework of the Istanbul Process in Washington D.C., in December 2011 and the Wilton Park event in London in December 2012. Each of these two experts meetings focused on specific action points contained in Resolution 16/18 with a view to assessing and promoting their implementation. Furthermore, both expert meetings offered significant contributions by first of all maintaining a live debate of ideas and keeping open channels of communications but also by compiling comprehensive reports, containing a set of recommendations and best practices from which all concerned parties can take stalk.

**Excellencies,
Distinguished panelists and participants,**

This third meeting of “Istanbul Process”, being held before the Geneva based diplomatic community, is of no lesser significance. It has brought the Istanbul Process to where it essentially belongs – the home ground of governing resolution. With the Geneva based experts from Member States and the distinguished panelists and participants in our midst, this meeting is perfectly poised – over the next three days-to address three important points that lie at the heart of the resolution 16/18. This is an opportunity for frank and candid debate particularly on the grey areas characterized by divergence of views. The significance and utility of the Istanbul Process lies in affording a forum for structured and open debate. Such debate must not, however, be sterile. It must generate ideas that can continue to feed the process of building on the consensus.

Let me briefly comment on each of the three substantive sessions.

In the first Session later this afternoon, distinguished panelists would lend the benefit of their perspectives and expert opinion on the importance and urgency of speaking out against intolerance, including advocacy of religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence. International community’s commitment to condemn intolerance and incitement to hatred on religious grounds is surely the most basic and simple step to be taken in implementation of HRC Resolution 16/18. It is essential for such condemnation to be strong, categorical and unified encompassing all aspects of the issue. The key message that must be consistently repeated, and which our meeting should echo loud and clear, is simple. In a world of increasing interconnectivity and multiculturalism, fast flow of information and human migration, Intolerance and incitement are not admissible. They continue to pose a clear and present danger to peace, security and stability at the national, regional and global levels.

The approach signified by resolution 16/18 has indeed been helpful to that end. The Joint Statement issued by the OIC, Arab League, the African Union and the European Union in September 2012 - in response to the reprehensible release of the highly provocative film “innocence of Muslims” on the Internet – forms a case in point. The joint statement condemned a clear act of advocacy to religious hatred that constituted incitement to hostility and violence. It also emphasized the need to respect believers’ legitimate and objective sensitivities with regard to the sanctity of religious figures and symbols, and that, irrespectively of their religious background. It is, of course, regrettable that acts of provocation often lead to violent reactions, which must not be condoned. The international community stands to gain from a unified and even handed approach in this regard.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Second Session of the Meeting touches upon a most important element of Resolution 16/18. It is most significantly characterized by divergence of views on the adoption of measures to criminalize incitement to violence based on religion or belief. It needs to be appreciated that there is sufficient clarity, at least in terms of the existing international law, on how to address advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence. However, progress with regard to concerted international action to that end, has been marred by extensive politicization and polarization of the issue.

Let me clearly reiterate that this is a matter of vital concern for OIC. The alternative approach signified by the resolution 16/18 was intended to move beyond the politicization and polarization with regard to content or title of the erstwhile resolution in addressing the real issues on a consensual basis. The increasing trend of Islamophobia is indeed ominous in a globalized world. There has been an alarming increase in intolerance and discrimination against Muslims. It must be appreciated that there is mounting public pressure on OIC Member States to take concrete action. Alarming increase in Islamophobic incidents like the Utoya massacre in Norway, the burning of Quran by the Florida Pastor and release the reprehensible trailer on You tube continue to hurt the religious sentiments of over 1.5 billion Muslims. The political leadership of OIC Member States has been calling for immediate remedial action. It was in this situation that OIC as a responsible International Organization constituted a panel of eminent lawyers and human rights practitioners to examine the issue from the international law perspective. The panel endorsed the 16/18 approach and the Istanbul Process as the avenues for engagement. It was agreed that there is no need to move towards an entirely new legal instrument. The provisions of existing instruments, including articles 19 and 20 of ICCPR, suffice in covering OIC’s concerns. It is the voids or gaps in interpretation, implementation and information that need to be plugged. There are differences that must be ironed out to develop a common understanding. Concerns of all parties must be understood and addressed in evolving a consensual solution. I believe according equal weight to the concerns on both sides could form a good point of departure. The Istanbul Process carries the necessary resilience in this regard. I am confident deliberations at this meeting will make an important contribution.

Distinguished colleagues,

The third substantive session at this important meeting would focus on the need to recognize that the open, constructive and respectful debate of ideas, as well as interfaith and intercultural dialogue

at the local, national and international levels can play a positive role in combating religious hatred, incitement and violence. This is a very important aspect of the larger discourse that requires careful consideration. I would like to emphasize here, at the outset, that religions are part of international heritage and have all along accommodated critical thinking as an important pillar of human evolution and progress. For instance in Islam, the concept of 'Ijtihad' forms a dynamic tool of jurisprudence that accommodates dissent and critical thinking. It is duly reflected in the admissibility of the different interpretations. Such dynamism, I believe, is a precondition to the progressive development of all legal systems.

Let us now focus on the word respectful. An open and constructive debate of ideas is indeed useful. It must be upheld as a matter of freedom of opinion and expression. It, however, transforms into a case of incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence when the freedom is abused to denigrate symbols and personalities sacred to one or the other religion. It needs to be understood as a matter of identity. It needs to be acknowledged that people in some parts of the world tend to identify themselves more with a particular religion than elsewhere. It is, therefore, essential to draw a line between free speech and hate speech - Hence the importance of interfaith and intercultural dialogue. OIC was the first to call for such a dialogue in 1998. We have seen that the dialogue has continued for a considerable time without much to show for result. What we need is a movement beyond event based calls towards a serious, structured and result oriented dialogue. Similarly, we could benefit from an integrated approach with regard to international efforts geared towards combating intolerance, discrimination and incitement to hatred. The Istanbul Process, I believe can serve as an avenue for such an integrated approach drawing on and lending a concrete shape to the understandings reached elsewhere.

**Excellencies,
Distinguished Guests,**

In a world faced with the menace of terrorism, incitement to hatred, discrimination, and violence, cannot and must not be ignored. We would, otherwise, be faced with the unaffordable risk of the agenda hijacked and set by radicals and non-state actors. We need to act to wrest the initiative away from the street to the table of meaningful and result oriented multilateral discourse. Events like this meeting are increasingly important. Our deliberations here must aim at squarely addressing interrelated issues with particular reference to the grey areas. We need to evolve approaches that can remove the gaps in interpretation, implementation or information on a consensual basis. I personally believe and propose that we may look into the prospect of developing soft law that could reflect the common understanding of international community on this important issue. It could be in the form of some principles, guidelines or a declaration. I would like to leave it for the collective wisdom and common understanding of the experts to enlighten us to that end. The Istanbul Process based on the shared objectives reflected in the consensual approach signified by the resolution 16/18 lends me with reason for optimism in this regard.

I thank you all and wish you success in the important deliberations over the next three days.

*Prepared by:
The OIC Islamophobia Observatory
October 2012 to September 2013*