



DIALOGUE & OUTREACH DEPARTMENT

OIC ISLAMOPHOBIA OBSERVATORY

MONTHLY BULLETIN – OCTOBER 2016

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**MANIFESTATIONS OF ISLAMOPHOBIA:**

**A. In the United States and Canada:**

**US: Muslim man punched on his way to sermon**— Rashid Dar, a Muslim researcher in the US who was on his way to deliver Friday sermon wearing traditional attire was punched by an unknown man. He was walking along with his brother near Dupont metro station when a man approached him and punched him in the throat. Dar was donning a black overcoat often worn by imams and a hat for praying. Dar was quoted saying: "*I believe I was attacked for the way I was dressed. It is generally my habit to wear overtly Muslim clothing on my way to Friday prayer.*"

DNA India News' entry, in: <http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report-islamophobia-in-us-muslim-man-punched-on-his-way-to-sermon-in-the-us-2260704>, retrieved on 3.10.2016

**US: Man faces hate crime for anti-Islam graffiti**— Vincent Casella was arrested for defacing a light pole at the corner of Gramatan Avenue and West Grand Street in Fleetwood, Mount Vernon. He used a blue marker to write the phrase "F\*\*\* ISLAM" on the pole, hence police stopped him. Casella told officers that he was unhappy with the way the country was headed, and that too many terrorists were being allowed in. He was charged with third-degree criminal mischief as a hate crime, a felony, and unlawfully making graffiti, a misdemeanor.

Lohud.com News' entry, in: <http://www.lohud.com/story/news/crime/2016/10/06/anti-islam-graffiti/91656588/>, retrieved on 7.10.2016

**US: Tennessee mom opposes textbook that includes Islam**— A Tennessee mother was objecting to a social studies textbook used in her local school district, alleging that it promoted Islam. Speaking at a Sullivan County School Board meeting, Michelle Edmisten demanded that the district removed the textbook. Edmisten claimed that her seventh-grade daughter's personal religious beliefs were violated with lessons about Islam. Edmisten said that her daughter, who attended Bluff City Middle School in Blountville, took zeros on the section on Islamic history after a teacher didn't allow her to opt out of the curriculum and standards and do alternative studies. Director of Schools Evelyn Rafalowski and Board of Education Chairman Michael Hughes said the system was exploring a religious accommodation option since there was no opt out allowed in Tennessee. The school board said any replacement textbook would have to meet current state standards. According to the state board of education's website, those standards included educating students about Christianity, Judaism, Buddhism and Hinduism in the sixth grade, and Islam in the seventh grade. The National Council for the Social Studies called the study of religions an essential part of the curriculum.

AJC.com News' entry, in: <http://www.ajc.com/news/national/tennessee-mom-opposes-textbook-that-includes-islam/NIBN5jMIsMJ4fDiRMJpLAJ/>, retrieved on 8.10.2016

**US: Police chief under fire by Muslims for “bacon grease bullets” Facebook posts**— A Police chief in Alabama faced scrutiny after a Muslim rights organization called him out for his Facebook activity. The civil rights group released a statement about Chief Barry Pendergraft's Facebook posts regarding bacon grease covered bullets. Pendergraft posted a video of himself loading the bullets with the text, "100 more bacon grease covered bullets in the box! This relaxes me so!!" Few days later he uploaded a picture of a box filled with the ammunition. He posted, "Happiness is a couple thousand rounds in the ammo box! Bacon grease dipped of course!!" CAIR Executive Director Khaula Hadeed said the chief's posts supported a false belief that Muslims could not go to heaven if they were shot by the bullets. He stated: "We call on state and federal authorities to investigate whether the evident anti-Muslim bigotry expressed by Chief Pendergraft is acceptable for someone in his position, who is obligated to provide all citizens, regardless of faith or ethnicity, equal and fair treatment."



The Arab American News' entry, in: [http://www.arabamericannews.com/news/news/id\\_13042/Police-chief-under-fire-by-Muslims-for-bacon-grease-bullets-Facebook-posts.html](http://www.arabamericannews.com/news/news/id_13042/Police-chief-under-fire-by-Muslims-for-bacon-grease-bullets-Facebook-posts.html), retrieved on

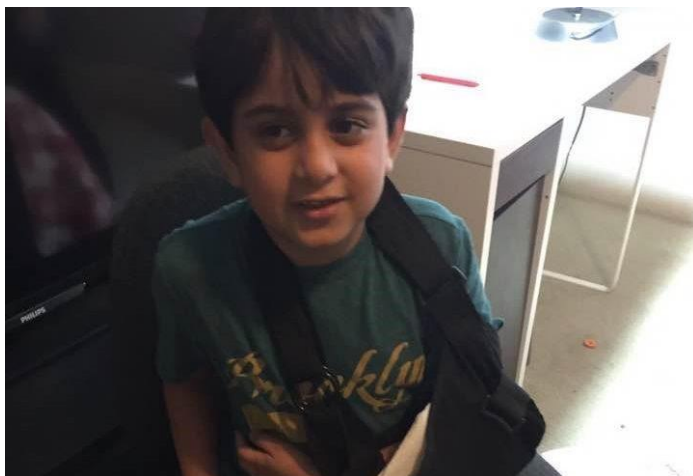
11.10.2016

**US: Guest pastor speaks out against Islam; protesters gather**— Shahram Hadian, an Iranian-born pastor who converted from Islam to Christianity in 1999, strove to drive home his point against Islam with statistics and scripture while protesters stood in silence outside. His event at the DoubleTree Inn in Missoula, "Unveiling the True Face of Islam: A Wake up Call for the World," brought about 90 people to the conference room. The event was sponsored by the Lake County chapter of American Congress of Truth for America. ACT for America formed in 2007, a hate group organization established on the pretext of promoting national security and defeating terrorism. Shouts of "Amen!" filled the room as Hadian outlined his views on the dangers of Islam.



Montana Standard News' entry, in: <http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2016/10/10/police-vow-to-catch-those-behind-cross-graffiti-on-mosque.html>, retrieved on 13.10.2016

**US: This Muslim boy's family is leaving the US because of bullying**—Zeeshan-ul-hassan Usmani and his



family had been victims of Islamophobia in the US. Usmani's youngest son, 7-year-old Abdul Aziz was beaten and bruised at his school in Cary, North Carolina after refusing to eat non-halal food. Following the incident, Usmani wrote in a Facebook post: "Welcome to the United States of America of Donald Trump. Meet my son Abdul Aziz. He is in grade 1, bullied and beaten by his own classmates in school bus for being a Muslim. Five classmates ganged up on the 1st grader. They taunted him about his name, and then got physical. They punched him in the face, kicked him in the stomach, and twisted his arm whole calling him 'Muslim' again and again." Usmani himself is a two-time Fulbright Scholar and

an award-winning computer scientist to combat terrorism. He had developed a software that models the damage of suicide bombings. He fought terrorism for a living, and this was how his family got repaid for it. This was not the first time Usmani's family faced prejudice. His two other boys were also victims of bullying. The classmates called their father a terrorist for having a beard. The family's neighbor had a history of harassing them with racial slurs and threatening Usmani's wife.

Step Feed News' entry, in: [http://stepfeed.com/more-categories/big-news/this-muslim-boys-family-is-leaving-america-because-islamophobia/#.WBXqN\\_I96M8](http://stepfeed.com/more-categories/big-news/this-muslim-boys-family-is-leaving-america-because-islamophobia/#.WBXqN_I96M8), retrieved on 14.10.2016



**US: Iowa mosque vandalized—**

The name 'Trump' was spray-painted in red on the outside wall of a mosque in Waterloo, Iowa. Police were investigating.

WOWT News' entry, in: <http://www.wowt.com/content/news/iowa-mosque-vandalized-397242621.html>, retrieved on 17.10.2016

**US: Kansas bomb plot highlights growing danger to American mosques—** Three Kansas men were facing domestic terrorism charges after allegedly planning to bomb an apartment complex that was home to more than 100 Somali refugees. The men were arrested with a stockpile of firearms and ammunition while officials said they planned to carry out the attack on the complex which also a mosque the day after the election to wake people up. One of the men reportedly saying, "The only good Muslim is a dead Muslim." The foiled plot highlighted a troubling trend in the US since the rate of attacks on mosques was increasing.

Newsy News' entry, in: <http://www.kjrh.com/newsy/kansas-bomb-plot-highlights-growing-danger-to-american-mosques>, retrieved on 18.10.2016

**Canada: Mosque vandalized for second time in a row—**



The glass on the front door of the Ranchlands Mosque in Calgary, Alberta was smashed, and a sign indicating that the mosque was open during construction was also thrown in the parking lot. A similar incident happened a week before at the southeast Islamic centre in Queensland, where the glass on the entrance was smashed and the Holy Quran desecrated. A Muslim, Beenish Khurshid said it was disappointing to see the damage at the mosque, but said she was not afraid. She said that the majority of Canadians were quite welcoming and the Muslim community had enjoyed the love and respect they receive. The two incidents were part of a series of attacks on religious groups in Alberta. Earlier within the month, about 40 anti-Muslim posters were put up around the University of Calgary campus.

The Express Tribune News' entry, in: <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1201720/canada-mosque-vandalised-second-time-row/>, retrieved on 19.10.2016

**US: Trump's campaign manager touts his 'five point plan to defeat Islam'**—Donald Trump campaign

manager Kellyanne Conway touted her candidate's plan to defeat a major world religion with 1.6 billion followers. Conway made the comments on MSNBC, as part of a point to complain about how the media covers Trump. She said, "He's giving plans. He gave a... five point plan to defeat Islam." Conway might have been trying to say "radical Islam," but the comments were still frightening coming from the head of a campaign that had repeatedly demonized Islam and Muslims. Trump had made banning Muslims from the country a central focus of his campaign—which at one point included U.S. citizens living abroad. He had also called for killing Muslims with bullets dipped in pig blood to combat terrorism, registering all Muslims in a federal database, and putting all mosques in the country under surveillance. He had repeatedly said that Muslims knew of attacks before they happen and were failing to report them, thus allowing them to take place. During a Republican debate in March, he said that "Islam hates us," and after being asked whether he meant the world's entire Muslim population, he said, "I mean a lot of them." Conway's comments also pointed to the dangers of blaming attacks committed by Muslims on "radical Islam." As ThinkProgress' Jack Jenkins has noted, referring to radical Islam to explain such attacks does nothing to help stop them from taking place:



Think Progress News' entry, in: <https://thinkprogress.org/conway-trump-defeat-islam-36e37c212358#.i4o3r4qmy>, retrieved on 20.10.2016

**US: Islamophobic hate note left at Dundalk family's home** —The Council on American-Islamic Relations, called on state and federal law enforcement authorities to investigate a note left at the family's Dundalk home of a family of Iraqi Muslim refugees. CAIR said the hate message, left on the door of the family's home, said, "Terrorist, Leave, No one wants you here, Your kind is a disgrace, 9/11 was your fault." The message also included a crude drawing of a Muslim woman wearing a head scarf and holding a bomb, with the comment, "Take that off your head." The victim's father, who's family recently found refuge in the US and speaks very little English, said he's worried about his family's safety after his 11-year-old daughter received the note.

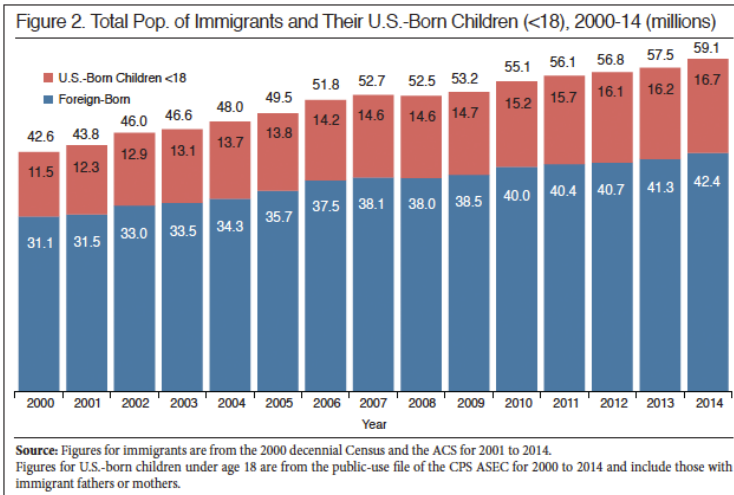
WBALTV News' entry, in: <http://www.wbaltv.com/article/islamophobic-hate-note-left-at-dundalk-familys-home/7025809>, retrieved on 22.10.2016

**Canada: Islamophobic posters distributed in Edmonton neighborhoods** — The Alberta Muslim Public Affairs Council said that for the third time in October, three neighborhoods with large Muslim presence: Millwoods, Calder, and Evansdale had received offensive posters against their religion.

CTV Canada News' entry, in: <http://edmonton.ctvnews.ca/mobile/islamophobic-posters-distributed-in-edmonton-neighbourhoods-1.3128062>, retrieved on 24.10.2016

**US: Muslim students say Islamophobia is frequent, underreported on campus**— One day before the 15th anniversary of 9/11, a Muslim couple was harassed at a downtown restaurant on State Street. According to LSA senior Jennifer Alpert, a witness to the incident. A man — who she described as a white male in his late 30s — shouted at the couple while they were leaving Noodles & Company, cursing and relating the couple and Islam to the devil. Alpert said everyone was in shock — no one reacted at first. The woman then began to cry. Moments later, Alpert said someone approached the couple and offered words of comfort. The restaurant manager said the couple quickly left the property. No employees witnessed the incident, the police were not called and life carried on. The incident at Noodles & Company was one, isolated moment. For many Muslim students on campus, these stories were not surprising and they said they were more frequent than others in the campus community likely realize. Nationwide, rhetoric around Islamophobia had heightened in the past year. According to the FBI, hate crimes had decreased for every group except for Muslim-Americans since 2013, and according to a recent YouGov poll, 55 percent of Americans view Islam unfavorably.

Michigan Daily News' entry, in: <https://www.michigandaily.com/section/crime/clear-reflections-growing-national-islamophobia-seen-campus>, retrieved on 11.10.2016



**US: Record 42.4M immigrants, 23% of school kids, Muslims biggest jump—** At 42.4 million, there were now more immigrants in America than ever before, fueled by a massive flood from Muslim nations, and the growing numbers were substantially impacting public services like public

schools, according to a weighty new analysis of Census Bureau data. There were 10.9 million students from immigrant households in public schools, accounting for 23 percent of all public school students, according to the Center for Immigration Studies. While the doors remained open on the US-Mexico border, the biggest percentage increase in immigration were all from largely Muslim nations. According to Steven A. Camarota, director of research, and Karen Zeigler, a demographer: "The sending countries with the largest percentage increases in immigrants living in the United States from 2010 to 2014 were Saudi Arabia (up 93 percent), Bangladesh (up 37 percent), Iraq (up 36 percent), Egypt (up 25 percent), and Pakistan, India, and Ethiopia (each up 24 percent)." The report broke down the Census immigration reports of the last two years to determine information such as where the immigrants were from, where they lived, what they did, how much they made, their education and how births were adding to the population.

Washington Examiner News' entry, in: <http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/census-record-42.4m-immigrants-23-of-school-kids-muslims-biggest-jump/article/2603543>, retrieved on 5.10.2016

## B. In Europe:

**Netherlands: Islamic immigration is conquering the West—**The Netherlands' Party of Freedom founder, Geert Wilders, issued a warning to those living in the Western world that their safety, values and way of life would come to an imminent end if national leaders continued to accept millions of Muslims immigrants. He insisted that Islamization was not an isolated event in his country, in Europe, the Western world, or the world. He said "Maassluis is just one of the many Dutch towns and neighborhoods terrorized by Moroccan or Turkish youth gangs. Others are Schilderswijk, Oosterwei, Kanaleneiland, Zaandam, Helmond. Not surprisingly, a poll shows that 43 percent of the Dutch people want fewer Moroccan immigrants in our country." Pointing to the recent global wave of terrorism at the hands of jihadists, Wilders argued that world leaders must stop ignoring the obvious threat and take aggressive steps to prevent isolated terrorist cells from springing up in migrant Muslim communities in dozens of nations. He said: "2016's Black Summer of Jihad, with terror attacks all over the free world, teaches us that the enemies of freedom are already among us. The ruling elites all over the Western world have accepted millions of people into our countries without demanding that they assimilate."

Onenewsnow.com News' entry, in: <http://www.onenewsnow.com/national-security/2016/10/02/wilders-islamic-immigration-is-conquering-the-west>, retrieved on 3.10.2016

Table 1. State Immigrant Population 2014 by Year of Arrival (thousands)

State	Immigrant Share of Population	Total Immigrant Population	Year of Arrival <sup>1</sup>				Average Length of Residence in the U.S. (years) <sup>2</sup>
			2010-2014	2000-2009	1990-1999	Pre-1990	
California	27.1%	10,512	908	2,553	2,592	4,460	20.8
New York	22.6%	4,465	537	1,188	1,139	1,601	21.4
New Jersey	21.9%	3,961	238	580	487	655	20.9
Florida	20.0%	3,974	514	1,128	901	1,430	21.4
Nevada	19.4%	532	49	158	140	205	21.7
Hawaii	17.6%	250	28	69	54	99	22.7
Texas	16.8%	4,522	578	1,383	1,175	1,386	19.6
Massachusetts	15.7%	1,060	176	307	237	340	19.8
Maryland	14.9%	890	128	298	211	254	18.7
D.C.	14.0%	92	20	33	16	24	16.7
Illinois	13.9%	1,784	179	468	509	628	22.0
Connecticut	13.7%	492	70	146	113	163	20.7
Arizona	13.7%	920	107	250	237	326	21.5
Rhode Island	13.4%	141	20	34	31	56	22.2
Washington	13.4%	945	140	283	246	275	19.4
Virginia	12.1%	1,006	148	336	242	279	17.9
Colorado	10.0%	538	65	168	154	151	19.7
Oregon	9.9%	394	52	107	110	124	20.6
New Mexico	9.9%	206	17	62	50	76	22.2
Georgia	9.9%	995	120	345	281	248	18.1
Delaware	8.6%	80	12	28	16	24	19.7
Utah	8.5%	250	33	82	72	63	18.3
Minnesota	7.8%	428	73	144	111	100	16.8
North Carolina	7.7%	764	99	290	216	158	17.1
Alaska	7.7%	55	6	18	12	19	19.6
Kansas	7.0%	204	33	68	57	46	17.8
Nebraska	6.7%	125	23	44	33	25	16.3
Pennsylvania	6.4%	822	144	259	179	240	19.3
Michigan	6.4%	637	112	172	148	205	20.5
New Hampshire	6.0%	80	12	23	16	29	23.1
Idaho	6.0%	97	11	29	25	32	20.0
Oklahoma	5.8%	227	38	80	54	55	17.2
Iowa	4.9%	153	41	42	37	33	15.7
Tennessee	4.9%	321	53	127	72	69	16.9
Wisconsin	4.9%	280	42	89	68	81	20.3
Indiana	4.8%	320	55	116	76	72	17.6
South Carolina	4.7%	229	38	77	55	59	18.5
Arkansas	4.7%	140	19	50	36	34	17.3
Louisiana	4.2%	194	39	65	34	55	18.3
Ohio	4.2%	482	97	152	93	140	19.6
Vermont	4.1%	26	5	7	5	9	20.6
Wyoming	3.8%	22	3	8	5	6	19.3
Maine	3.7%	50	11	11	7	20	24.5
Missouri	3.7%	225	39	72	58	56	18.0
Kentucky	3.7%	162	32	68	35	27	15.5
North Dakota	3.3%	24	6	9	5	4	12.7
Alabama	3.2%	157	22	61	37	37	18.6
South Dakota	2.9%	25	6	9	4	5	14.8
Montana	2.3%	24	4	6	4	10	25.5
Mississippi	2.2%	65	11	23	14	18	19.2
West Virginia	1.4%	25	6	6	4	9	21.0
Nation	13.3%	42,392	5,221	12,131	10,517	14,522	20.8

Source: 2014 ACS from American FactFinder at Census.gov.  
<sup>1</sup> Based on when immigrants in 2014 indicated they came to the United States.  
<sup>2</sup> Average length of residence from 2014 public use file of the ACS.

**France: National Front leader Marine Le Pen is the most popular right-wing politician in France**—National

Front leader Marine Le Pen was the most popular right-wing politician in France according to the results of a new opinion poll. The controversial far-right leader had stronger poll figures than former president Nicholas Sarkozy, who hoped to run against his socialist rival Francois Hollande next year. An opinion poll for France 2 television said almost three quarters of conservative voters want Le Pen to have more influence and power, with half of the population viewing her favorably. Only one-third of voters have a similar view of Sarkozy, with Hollande languishing on 27 per cent. Most French voters



believed either Sarkozy or Hollande would make a bad president. Former French Prime Minister Alain Juppe had support of 72 per cent of people who believed he should be given more power. It was likely that he and Sarkozy would battle for the Republican nomination for next year's election. However, a poll claimed Hollande's distant prospects of winning a second term as French president were further dented when a poll suggested he would not even win the endorsement of his own Socialist Party's supporters. Opinion polls had for many months shown Hollande losing the May presidential election. The new poll pointed to him being defeated in the party's candidate selection process by former Industry Minister Arnaud Montebourg who made his mark by espousing a markedly leftist line, announced that he would take part in the January pre-selection contest. The BVA-Salesforce poll showed him winning the left-wing primary with 52 per cent of votes versus 48 per cent for Hollande. Montebourg made his mark in 2011 by winning a surprisingly large 17 per cent of votes in the primary where Hollande secured the Socialist Party ticket, after which he went on to beat Sarkozy in the May 2012 ballot. The election was to come down to a second round battle between the centre-right party, former prime minister Alain Juppe or former president Nicolas Sarkozy - and far-right National Front leader Marine Le Pen.

Dailymail.co.uk News' entry in: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3820001/National-leader-Marine-Le-Pen-popular-right-wing-politician-France-survey-finds.html>, retrieved on 4.10.2016

**Germany: Another Mosque Attack Raises Concerns over Muslims' Safety in Germany** — Two Polish men

caused uproar a mosque when they pelted worshippers with bacon just before evening prayers. The men, Piotr Czak-Zukowski and Mateusz Pawlikowski also threw rashers at the shoe rack of the Al-Rahman Mosque in Camden, and a piece landed inside a shoe. The pair were remanded in custody until their sentencing over fears for their safety if they were bailed.

Mirror News' entry, in: <http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/men-pelt-worshippers-mosque-bacon-8984499>, retrieved on 6.10.2016

**UK: Man dubbed himself 'holy crusader,' threatened to blow up mosque and said 'death will come to all Muslims,' court told**—

A man had been charged with sending offensive emails to an anti-hate crime organisation including threatening to blow up a mosque. John Nimmo from South Shields was accused of sending the messages to Faith Matters, a non-profit group that focuses on cohesion and countering extremism. The emails allegedly contained references to him being a 'holy crusader' while saying "death will come to all Muslims".

Sunderlands Echo News' entry, in: <http://www.sunderlandecho.com/news/crime/man-dubbed-himself-holy-crusader-threatened-to-blow-up-mosque-and-said-death-will-come-to-all-muslims-court-told-1-8166441>, retrieved on 7.10.2016

**Germany: Another Mosque Attack Raises Concerns over Muslims' Safety in Germany** — Three attacks

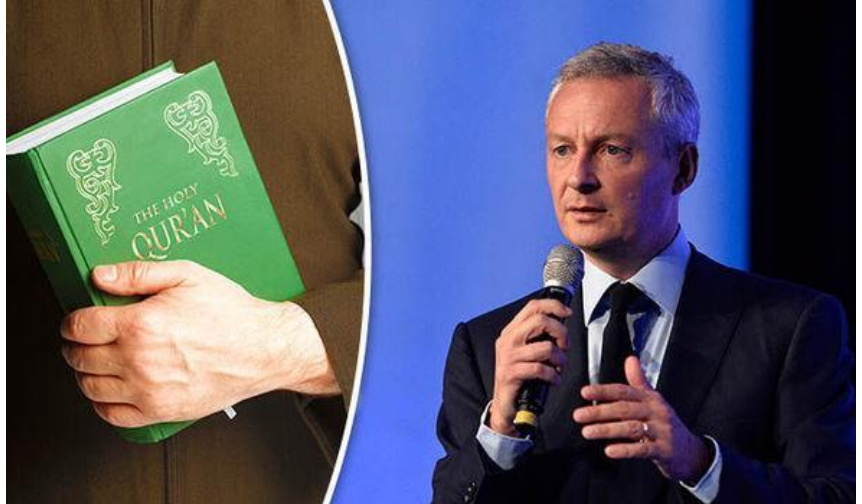
targeting Turkish-run mosques in Germany since September triggered concerns on rising Islamophobia in the country where xenophobic and Islamophobic movements had gained popularity since a recent influx of refugees. The latest target of unknown assailants was a mosque under construction in Herringen, a small town in the North Rhein Westphalia state. Suspects sprayed painted anti-Islamic and anti-Turkish slogans on the walls of the unfinished mosque being built by the Turkish-Islamic Union for Religious Affairs which also run

mosques in Dresden and Bebra. A swastika was also painted on the walls next to slogans reading, "Get out of Germany," "Center of Terror" and "Put Turks in Gas Chambers." Although mosque attacks were common in Germany, the recent rise in figures raised alarm among Muslims, especially in the Turkish community, which constitutes the largest Muslim community in the country.

Iqna News' entry, in: <http://iqna.ir/en/news/3461129/another-mosque-attack-raises-concerns-over-muslims-safety-in-germany>, retrieved on 10.10.2016

**France: Islam is like 'gangrene' and wearing burka is 'serious crime', says presidential candidate—** Mr Le Maire, the Republican and former Agriculture Minister, called on all disillusioned Socialists to vote for him

in the first and most decisive round of the French elections, to be held on November 20 and 27. He told French magazine that political Islam had been gnawing away at France's secular values for years; and Islamic institutions were being run from afar by powerful religious leaders based in more radical Muslim nations, including Saudi Arabia and Qatar. He said: "Political Islam is like gangrene. It's an infection which has caused France's liberal traditions to slowly rot away. There is an urgent need to regain control and to reorganize the way in which Islamic institutions based in this country are run. The French Council of the Muslim Faith (CFCM) and has helped give Salafi-jihadist leaders and militants a voice. The council must become more transparent and secular if it is to succeed in helping Muslims integrate into French society."



Sunday Express News' entry, in: <http://www.express.co.uk/news/world/719641/Islam-like-gangrene-wearing-burka-serious-crime-says-presidential-candidate-Bruno-Le-Maire>, retrieved on 11.10.2016

**France: Hollande: 'France has a problem with Islam'**— President Francois Hollande stated that France had 'a problem with Islam' and there were too many immigrants arriving in the country who shouldn't be there.



Hollande said: "It's true that there's a problem with Islam. No one doubts it. It's not that Islam poses a problem in the sense that it is a dangerous religion, but in as far as it wants to affirm itself as a religion of the Republic." Hollande added: "I think there are too many arrivals of immigration that shouldn't be there." Immigration and national identity had been key themes in campaigning for 2017 presidential election. A string of attacks in France in the past two years, coupled with the Europe-wide migrant crisis, had stoked anti-immigration sentiment. A heated debate about Muslim integration in staunchly secular

France came to a head over the summer when about 30 towns banned the body-concealing 'Burkini' swimsuit. France's highest administrative court later ruled that such a ban was a serious violation of basic freedoms. The deeply unpopular Hollande had not yet declared whether he intended to stand for re-election. But his arch-rival Nicolas Sarkozy, bidding for the Centre-right nomination, was campaigning heavily on populist anti-immigration themes. The French government's policies - particularly in the wake of the 2015 Paris attacks and the subsequent declaration of a state of emergency - had come under harsh criticism from rights groups for having of Muslims through detainment and harassment.

Aljazeera News' entry, in: <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/10/hollande-france-problem-islam-161013073501962.html>, retrieved on 14.10.2016

**Norway: Muslims call for Norway minister to resign after pork post**— Norwegian Integration Minister, Sylvi Listhaug, wrote in a post that was liked by 20,000 people saying: *“I think those who come to Norway need to adapt to our society. Here we eat pork, drink alcohol and show our face. You must abide by the values, laws and regulations that are in Norway when you come here.”* Omar Gilani Syed, a criminologist who worked with integrating refugees, asked whether Listhaug could continue to be responsible for integration in the country while making such statements. He said: *“If she does not understand the complexity and does not have the expertise to deal with these social issues in a good way, it’s time to ask: should Listhaug reconsider her position?”* Zaineb Al-Samarai, a politician from Norway’s Labour Party, accused Listhaug of deliberately seeking to divide Muslim immigrants from the rest of Norwegian society. She said: *“I do not believe that Norwegian culture is so weak that it’s going to lay down and die if someone chooses to wear a hijab as their national costume. Norwegian culture is not as weak or in danger as you believe. And Norwegian culture is about a lot more than pork and headgear.”*

The Local News’ entry, in: <https://www.thelocal.no/20161020/muslims-call-for-norway-minister-to-resign-after-pork-post>, retrieved on 21.10.2016

**UK: Hundreds turn out to protest against plans for Islamic centre in Trafford suburb** — More than 300



people held protest against proposals for a huge Islamic community centre in a leafy Trafford suburb. The protesters carried banners that said: ‘No more mosques’, while others held placards calling for protection to greenbelt land. Mark Bowker, who lived in Timperley, said: *“If something has to be built on there why not something for everyone, not just for Muslims. Following the protest, a spokesperson for the Altrincham and Hale Muslim Association said: “The Muslim community in the Altrincham and Hale area has grown substantially over the past decade, and our existing facilities are no longer fit for purpose.”*

Manchester Evening News’ entry, in: <http://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/greater-manchester-news/hundreds-turn-out-protest-against-12063895>, retrieved on 23.10.2016

## POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS:

### A. In the United States and Canada:

**US: Man Accused of Torching Orlando Shooter’s Mosque Charged with Hate Crime**—Trump supporter, Joseph Schreiber, was arrested for allegedly torching a Florida mosque attended by the Orlando nightclub shooter and was being charged with a hate crime. The mosque was once attended by Omar Mateen, who killed 49 people in the June massacre, as well as Moner Mohammad Abu Salha, an American who killed several Syrian government soldiers in a 2014 suicide bombing in Jabal al-Arbaeen after joining the Taliban. Much of the mosque was gutted by the September 11 fire. Congregants have since held prayer services in a part of the mosque that wasn’t destroyed by fire as the imam said the public had donated about \$80,000 to help rebuild the facility. In a statement released, the St. Lucie County Sheriff’s Office said: *“Schreiber is known to law enforcement and as such qualifies as a prison release re-offender that would impose a 30-year minimum mandatory sentence. He also qualifies as a habitual felony offender and could ultimately be sentenced to life in prison.”*

World Inside News’ entry, in: <http://www.insideedition.com/headlines/19225-man-accused-of-torching-orlando-shooters-mosque-is-charged-with-hate-crime>, retrieved on 14.10.2016



**US: Man arrested over deliberate fire at Bishopbriggs mosque**— A man was arrested in connection with a deliberate fire at a mosque in the wake of the Paris terrorist attacks. The blaze was set at Bishopbriggs Cultural Centre in Auchinairn Road in the East Dunbartonshire town in November last year. No-one was injured but thousands of pounds of damage was caused to the building. Police said that a 41-year-old man had been arrested in connection with the incident.

Clyde.com News' entry, in: <http://www.clyde1.com/localnews/man-arrested-over-deliberate-fire-at-bishopbriggs-mosque/>, retrieved on 21.10.2016

## **B. In Europe:**

**Germany: Merkel ally promotes 'German Islam' as means to integrate refugees into liberal EU society**— Wolfgang Schaeuble wrote in an editorial in German newspaper Welt am Sonntag. The minister urged his countrymen to understand what was important to them and how they wanted to live in a society which needs to integrate millions of refugees. He wrote: "Without a doubt, the growing number of Muslims in our country today is a challenge for the open-mindedness of mainstream society. We should not, in this more tense situation, allow an atmosphere to emerge in which well-integrated people in Germany feel alien." At the same time, the minister rejected xenophobic attacks against refugee camps and widespread anti-migrant feelings in Germany. Schaeuble wrote that despite a presence of xenophobia the majority of Germans would say: "Yes, we want you [migrants] to be among to us." The Minister acknowledged that while many Muslims were completely non-religious, yet 'German Islam' was a possibility in citing the 10-year-old work of the German Islam Conference, which seeks to erase cultural and religious divides within German society. According to revised statistics, 890,000 asylum seekers arrived in Germany in 2015, while previous estimations put the number at 1.1 million.

RT.com News' entry, in: <https://www.rt.com/news/361400-german-islam-refugee-integration/>, retrieved on 4.10.2016

**Germany: German president apologizes to Turkish imam for mosque attack** — As Turkey's concerns grew over Islamophobic and xenophobic attacks in Germany, the country's president and chancellor hosted Hamza Turan, the imam of a Turkish-run mosque in Dresden. Turan and his family met President Joachim Gauck and Chancellor Angela Merkel and after the meetings the imam told the Turkish media that Gauck apologized for the attack and expressed failure to provide protection for them. Turan said Joachim Gauck met him and his family, expressed his sorrow over the attack and apologized. The attack followed the firebombing of the Mimar Sinan Mosque in Hessen. Unidentified suspects hurled Molotov cocktails in the non-lethal attack targeting the mosque in the city of Bebra. The incidents came in the wake of defamation campaign by German politicians. Mosques in Germany, where anti-Muslim sentiment accompanying the influx of Muslim refugees rises, were occasionally subject to attacks, ranging from Molotov cocktails to tossing of pig's heads. A Turkish parliamentary committee was investigating the targeting of mosques found some 297 attacks against mosques between 2001 and 2014 and they mostly targeted Turkish mosques.

Daily Sabah News' entry, in: <http://www.dailysabah.com/nation/2016/10/06/german-president-apologizes-to-turkish-imam-for-mosque-attack>, retrieved on 5.10.2016

**Netherlands: Dutch politician Geert Wilders to go on trial for inciting hatred**— A Dutch court in The Hague ruled that Party for Freedom (PVV) leader Geert Wilders would be tried for inciting hatred based on a speech he made in 2014, during which the Dutch politician asked the crowd whether they want fewer or lesser Moroccans in the Netherlands, to which the crowd replied, "Fewer! Fewer! Fewer!" More than 6,400 complaints were filed against Wilders due to the incident, and the trial should have begun in 2014 but was suspended. A judge ruled that the trial could proceed again, in which he would be tried on the "*suspicion of insulting a group of people based on race and inciting discrimination and hatred.*" Wilders was tried previously for calling for the ban of the Quran and comparing it to Hitler's Mein Kampf. He won the case in 2011 when a court ruled that the justice system should allow for the free expression of political ideas even those which were deemed repulsive. His accusers were now arguing that the speech he made in 2014 did not deserve the same protection because it was directed against an ethnic group rather than a religion. Media reported that PVV had been ahead in most opinion polls and was predicted to take 35 of the 150 available seats in the Dutch parliament, and Wilders promised to remove Holland from the European Union if he would be elected.

**UK: Louis Smith braced for punishment over Islamophobic 'Allahu Akbar' video** — British Gymnastics was preparing to act against Louis Smith after concluding an investigation into a video that saw the four-time Olympic medallist insulted the religion of Islam. The 27-year-old chanted "Allahu Akbar" during an alcohol-fuelled video leaked to The Sun via Whatsapp. While partying in the early hours at the wedding of friend and teammate Daniel Keatings in Kettering, Smith began filming himself and Carson in the hotel. The footage also included now retired gymnast Luke Carson who removed a rug from a wall and began an imitation of a Muslim praying. Smith's commentary included references to Islamic chants and "60 virgins", while he also dismissed complaints from an elderly lady in the vicinity, who warned the former reality TV star: "you are not funny.....you're taking the p\*\*s actually". The Peterborough-born gymnast responded "yes it is," before continuing to film.

International Business Times News' entry, in: <http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/louis-smith-braced-punishment-over-islamophobic-allahu-akbar-video-1587673>, retrieved on 25.10.2016

### C. Rest of the World:

**Taiwan: Mayor says Taipei should fund, build larger mosque**—Taipei Mayor Ko Wen-je said the Taipei City Government should fund the building of a bigger mosque to signal the city's friendliness to Muslims. Ko made the remarks in response to queries about Taiwan's inclusion in a US-led multinational coalition to fight the Islamic State group. Such a statement was said before reiterated his commitment to running an inclusive and friendly city, and touting Taipei's various Muslim-friendly facilities, including the establishment of prayer rooms at city hall. Ko said he had been invited to attend a service at a Taipei mosque during Ramadan and found that overcrowding was a problem, therefore he came to conclusion saying: "The city should use its budget to build "a bigger mosque, preferably close to Mass Rapid Transit station". When asked for comments, Taipei City councilors appeared to be surprised by Ko's remarks, with many decrying the timing or propriety of the proposal. Democratic Progressive Party Taipei City Councilor Ho Chih-wei said the mayor's suggestion needed to be proof-read for logic, adding that the government had almost no history of giving financial aid for the construction of religious buildings, regardless of faith or creed. Ko said his comments were prompted by a desire to alleviate overcrowding at the Taipei Grand Mosque in Daan District, which had been serving a large congregation of Muslim migrant workers that its facilities were not spacious enough to accommodate. He added that when visited the Taipei Grand Mosque during Ramadan and had inspected Taipei Railway Station at the weekend, where he found that more than 10,000 Muslim migrant workers congregated.

Taipei Times' News entry, in: <http://www.taipeitimes.com/News/taiwan/archives/2016/10/04/200365648Z>, retrieved on 5.10.2016

**Australia: As Donald Trump questioned Muslims, Turnbull and Shorten did something remarkable** — Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and Opposition Leader Bill Shorten rose in Parliament to back a bipartisan



motion calling for a respectful and unified Australia. It highlighted Indigenous people, refugees and Muslims, reaffirming commitment to equal rights, a non-discriminatory immigration policy, reconciliation, multiculturalism and denouncing racism. Mr Turnbull said: "Australia is an immigration nation. Today, almost half of us have a parent born overseas and more than a quarter of Australians were born overseas themselves. Australia and the world faces the threat of terrorism perpetrated and promoted by extremists

who claim to be fighting and killing for Islam. Now the object of these terrorists is to divide Islam by driving a wedge of violence between Muslims, between Sunni and Shia and to turn Muslims against the West and the West

against Muslims. The resolution of this conflict within Islam will ultimately depend on Muslims, but in the meantime the Islamist terrorists have succeeded in raising levels of anxiety about Muslim immigration, about the role of Islam itself within Australia."

SMH News' entry, in: <http://www.smh.com.au/federal-politics/political-news/as-donald-trump-questioned-muslims-turnbull-and-shorten-did-something-remarkable-20161010-gryqxy.html>, retrieved on 10.10.2016

**Indonesia: Police vow to catch those behind cross graffiti on mosque**— Jakarta Police vowed to find the people responsible for painting a cross on Al-Falah mosque in Mampang Prapatan, South Jakarta. Police spokesperson Sr. Comr. Awi Setiyono said that the police regretted the incident and had meet representatives from the Indonesian Ulema Council (MUI) and clerics to discuss the matter. However, Awi still could not confirm whether the case was related to the upcoming gubernatorial election, and such a probability was still under investigation.

The Jakarta Post News' entry, in: <http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2016/10/10/police-vow-to-catch-those-behind-cross-graffiti-on-mosque.html>, retrieved on 11.10.2016

**Australia: Thousands demonstrate in Australia to welcome refugees and stand against far-right sentiment**— Thousands of Australians took part in a rally in a gesture to show they welcomed refugees and immigrants to the country, amid growing criticism against the alleged treatment of refugees by Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull's government. Over 20,000 people took part in the rally, including eminent political leaders, in around 25 cities across the country, in an attempt to encourage the government to take an empathetic approach towards accepting refugees and those seeking asylum.

International Business Times News' entry, in: <http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/thousands-demonstrate-australia-welcome-refugees-stand-against-far-right-sentiment-1587738>, retrieved on 23.10.2016



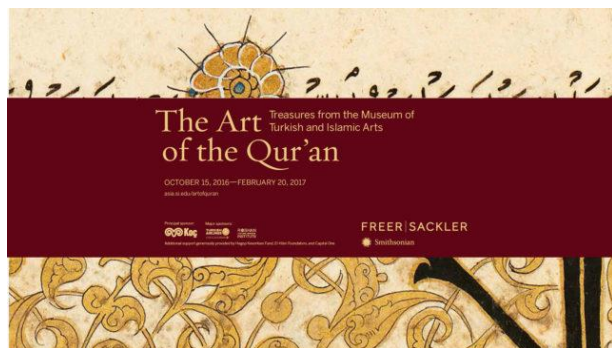
## SITUATION OF MUSLIMS

**US: Hijabi Awareness Week brings cultural diversity to campus**—Cultural awareness was brought to the Hilltop in the form of Hijabi Awareness Week, co-sponsored by the Muslim Student Association and Gender Studies department. The events of the week examined the role of perceptions of hijab in current Islamophobia which featured presentation, the film 'They Call Me Muslim' and discussion, covering topics such as current events and the wide range of meanings that hijab could have. Jennifer Thorn, the leader of the organizer said, "This week is prompted by three realities: the ways ideas about Muslims have figured in recent political rhetoric, the ways Syria; and Syrian people, are represented in the western media; and our own knowledge of cases of bullying and harassment of women wearing hijab here in New Hampshire and in the Boston area. In a school where so many of the students came from similar ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds, awareness of issues like these are vital." Senior Mina al Rais added, "I think this week is very important, because this event helps raise awareness of hijab, women, and Islam in general. Based on what is going on around us nationally and internationally such as political climate, the Syrian crisis, and the increased quantity of harassment and bullying, we decided to step up and create a hijab week on campus to correct the misjudgements that have been created by Islamophobic groups and individuals."



The Saint Anselm Crier News' entry, in: <http://criernewsroom.com/culture/2016/10/19/hijabi-awareness-week-brings-cultural-diversity-to-campus/>, retrieved on 20.10.2016

**US: Quran Exposition opens in Washington DC**—Freer Sackler, a museum of Asian art, organized series of events began on October 22 and run through 22 February 2017, exhibiting Qurans and Quranic manuscripts written between the 7th and 17th centuries. The manuscripts, whose dazzling designs reminisce about the Islamic civilization's artistic merit, were owned by Muslim leaders and were entrusted to Freer Sackler Museum by the Turkish and Islamic Art Museum in Istanbul. The exhibition, dubbed the Art of the Qur'an, hosted numerous activities, including Quranic recitations, presentations and talks by the exhibition curators, discovery tours around the Islamic Calligraphy Art, artistic performances.



Morocco World News' entry, in: <https://www.morocccoworldnews.com/2016/10/199572/quran-exposition-opens-washington-dc/>, retrieved on 23.10.2016

## ON BURQAH AND VEIL RELATED ISSUES:

**Bulgaria: Bulgaria is the latest country to ban the Burqa**— Bulgaria had outlawed the burqa and was imposing a hefty fine on those who broke the new rules. Women who flout the law would face a penalty of up to €770 and had their social security benefits temporarily suspended. The punishment was far bigger than in other countries, including France. Anyone caught wearing the burqa or niqab is fined €150. However Belgium, which introduced a similar ban shortly after France, goes even further – anyone caught wearing the veil risks being jailed for up to seven days and fined €1,378.

Emirates Women News' entry, in: <http://emirateswoman.com/bulgaria-is-the-latest-country-to-ban-the-burqa/>, retrieved on 5.10.2016

**Norway: Norway seeks ban on burqas in the classroom**— Norway's right-wing government announced plans to ban the full-face Islamic veil from classrooms and university lecture halls. Education Minister Torbjorn Roe Isaksen, quoted saying that the government was seeking national regulations prohibiting the full-face veil in schools and universities. Muslim women were rarely seen wearing such veils in Norway, let alone in schools. But the issue had come up recently in political debates, with less than a year to go before parliamentary elections. Several political parties including the opposition Labor Party had expressed support for such a ban. The Minister however stressed that the ban would not apply to Islamic headscarves that leave the face exposed such as the hijab. He told parliament "*I want a young Christian girl who wears a cross to be able to show it. I want a Jewish boy who wears a Kippa to be able to show it. And I do not want a ban on the hijab.*" The Norwegian plan came as several European countries had moved to ban the face-covering niqab and full-body burqa. Bulgaria banned women from wearing the full veil in public recently, and Switzerland's lower house narrowly approved a draft bill on a nationwide ban not long before that. In August Germany's interior minister came out in favor of a partial ban. France and Belgium have both banned the burqa and niqab in public, while French beach resorts sparked international controversy with local bans on the full-body Burkini Islamic swimsuit.

Ynetnews.com News' entry, in: <http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-4864123,00.html>, retrieved on 9.10.2016

**Germany: Germany proposes ban on full-face veils for public officials** — The proposal, presented by the German Interior Ministry stated that the face veil hinders the possibility to get to know and evaluate someone's personality. The bill called on state officials to not wear clothing that makes open communication impossible or more difficult, including women employed as public officials. It further stipulated that women who wear the veil show their faces during passport control, court rulings, and at polling stations. German Interior Minister Thomas de Maiziere came in favor of a partial ban on the burqa in August amid a fierce national debate on integration.

i24news.tv News' entry, in: <http://www.i24news.tv/en/news/international/europe/128295-161022-germany-proposes-ban-on-full-face-veils-for-public-officials>, retrieved on 23.10.2016

## ON DIALOGUE AMONG CIVILIZATIONS:

**Azerbaijan: ‘No more violence in God’s name’, urges Pope from a mosque in Azerbaijan**—Pope Francis visited Heydar Aliyev a mosque in Azerbaijan and told leaders of all faiths that God should never be used to justify fundamentalism. He said: *“From this highly symbolic place, a heartfelt cry rises up once again: no more violence in the name of God! May his most holy name be adored, not profaned or bartered as a commodity through forms of hatred and human opposition.....God cannot be used for personal interests and selfish ends; he cannot be used to justify any form of fundamentalism, imperialism or colonialism.”*

Hindustan Times’ News entry, in: <http://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/no-more-violence-in-god-s-name-pope-urges-world-from-a-mosque-in-azerbaijan/story-t2iHA3zeLHicbs4FBLRrrL.html>, retrieved on 3.10.2016



**US: Local congregations rally around graffiti-marred mosque**—Some Waterloo-area congregations and members of the clergy had rallied in support of an Islamic center that was marred by graffiti. The Waterloo-Cedar Falls Courier reported that an interfaith prayer service was held on the steps of the Masjid Al-Noor Islamic Center in Waterloo saying "we want to be here and support you." Members of the Islamic Center and the other churches planted what they called a ‘peace tree’ in front of the building. The graffiti consisted of Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump's last name spray-painted in red letters on a brick wall of the center.

KCRG News’ entry, in: <http://www.kcrg.com/content/news/Local-congregations-rally-around-graffiti-marred-mosque-397360821.html>, retrieved on 18.10.2016

**US: Kansas churchgoers hold candlelit vigil in support of Muslim immigrants targeted by far-right terrorists** — Church-goers in a small city in southwest Kansas marched in support of the local Muslim community, after details emerged of a foiled plot by a far-right militia to bomb an apartment complex where many immigrants lived. Federal investigators announced the arrest of three men on 14 October, for involvement in a domestic terrorism plot. They had allegedly planned to blow up a suburban housing estate in Garden City where several African immigrant families lived, along with a community from Burma. Hundreds of predominantly Christian residents of the city gathered outside the apartment complex on 15 and 16 October to show support for the immigrant communities. Many also attended a candlelit unity walk vigil. Reverend Denise Pass, a Presbyterian Church pastor who organised the initial rallies, said she felt it was important to hold an event in solidarity with the families affected by the bomb scare. She said: *“When I heard this tragic news, it came to my mind that we — as members of this community and as Christians — should support and protect the local Muslim community.”*

Independent News’ entry, in: <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-christians-muslims-somali-refugees-rally-terror-plot-kansas-a7377306.html>, retrieved on 25.10.2016

## GENERAL ISSUES:

**Islam isn't just compatible with western values, it fully endorses them** (Excerpted from a media opinion by Atif Rashid)— Many of Westerners don't think Islam is compatible with Western values, while there exist nearly 3 million Muslims in the UK and 3 million in the US. This feeling of suspicion and anxiety towards the faith of Muslims was nothing new as Islamophobic sentiment continued to rise in the UK and is already rife in the US. Islam from its very outset advocated for complete freedom, justice and democratic values; and from the outset, Islam has always advocated for a democratic form of governance, leaving it to the people to decide how and by whom they should be led. So any Muslim demanding Shariah Law forcibly be imposed in the West is not only entirely ignorant of Islam but insolent towards the freedom and opportunities Western countries offer - by which they spout their false ideology. To illustrate Islam's support for a democratic government, verse 4:59 of the Holy Qur'an clearly outlines the basic and main requirements for democracy. The people must take their vote as a responsibility and thus choose the most appropriate and suitable person

to lead them. It then in turn exhorts those in authority to exercise justice. Further, it promotes dialogue and consultation to gauge public opinion and decide matters fairly as illustrated in 42:39. Muslims in the early era of Islam had this sense of responsibility. So when Islam itself supports a democratic form of governance and also requires Muslims to 'obey those in authority among them' (4:60), any Muslim speaking against the West while living amongst its freedoms is quite disingenuous. Qur'an strongly exhorts to absolute justice on more than one occasion (5:9, 6:153, 7:30) to the extent of saying 'Allah loves the just' (49:10). What hardline Muslims and the uninformed so inexplicably miss is how, when the Prophet of Islam was forbidden to compel anyone in matters of faith, can his followers then have the authority to impose their beliefs on others? Time and again Islam's teachings uphold religious and personal freedoms. If dictators in the Middle East or radical Muslim preachers oppose the Prophet Muhammad in their words and actions then they're solely to blame. It doesn't mean Islam is incompatible with freedom or human rights, it means, hate-preachers and unjust rulers who claim to be Muslims are at odds with not only Western values - but the true requirements of their faith. The categorical verse, 'there shall be no compulsion in religion' states that no Muslim has the permission to compel anyone to follow their way of thought. This is supported by the well-known teachings of Prophet Muhammad who declared all men were free - no one being superior to another except by way of righteous conduct. He further took great steps to abolish slavery and liberate women in Arabia whose status as chattel was wide-spread. In conclusion, Islam isn't just compatible with Western values, it even preceded it in establishing such values in the world.

The Huffington Post News' entry, in: [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/atif-rashid/islam-isnt-just-compatible\\_b\\_11061842.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/atif-rashid/islam-isnt-just-compatible_b_11061842.html), retrieved on 11.10.2016

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