



DIALOGUE & OUTREACH Department

OIC Islamophobia Observatory

Monthly Bulletin – September 2017

MANIFESTATIONS OF ISLAMOPHOBIA:

A. In the United States and Canada:

Canada: Canada continues to be shaken by intensified anti-Muslim attacks— Six months after a deadly shooting at a Quebec City mosque, its president's car was deliberately set on fire. These incidents come as nationalist or right-wing extremists in the Canadian province had become more vocal against immigration and Muslim community. The fire was set on 6 August and police was investigating. The Canadian statistical agency found that there was a 60 percent increase of reported hate crimes against Muslims in Canada since 2014.

See: Daily Sabah News' entry, in: <https://www.dailysabah.com/americas/2017/09/01/canada-continues-to-be-shaken-by-intensified-anti-muslim-attacks>, retrieved on 1.9.2017

US: How Muslim Americans are fighting Islamophobia and securing their civil rights — According to a July 2017 Pew survey, 48 percent of Muslims report experiencing at least one incident of discrimination in the past 12 months. The Council on American-Islamic Relations and other Muslim advocacy organizations found these trends were particularly intense during the 2016 campaigns and the early months of the Trump presidency. While the survey showed that Americans report warmer feelings toward Muslims today than they did in 2014, Muslims continued to be the most negatively rated religious group – followed closely by atheists. In fact, about half of Americans (49 percent) believed that at least some Muslim Americans were anti-American.

See: San Francisco Chronicle News' entry, in: <http://www.sfchronicle.com/news/article/How-Muslim-Americans-are-fighting-Islamophobia-12172459.php>, retrieved on 5.9.2017

US: Hate incidents against California Muslims on the rise: report— Hate incidents in California reported to a Muslim civil rights group went up almost 50 percent between 2015 and 2016, according to a new report, to 89 from 60, continuing a trend from previous years. Between 2014 and 2016, hate incidents more than tripled. The report, released in September by the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) California offices, detailed civil rights issues that were reported to the four offices in the state in 2016. At 182 hate-related issues, including hate incidents, hate crimes and hate calls or mail, were the second most common type of issue reported in 2016 statewide. San Diego's office received 34 hate-related issues. Islamophobia, especially bullying in schools, had been a concern for several years. More than half of American Muslim students surveyed in California said they had been bullied because of their religion. This year, the local CAIR office collaborated with the San Diego Unified School District to bring new programs and policies to combat Islamophobia and bullying. The district was sued in May over the changes by several parents who believed the district was unfairly favoring Muslim students. The total number of issues reported to CAIR's local San Diego office in 2016 increased by 46 percent from 2015, to 175 from 120, according to local executive director Hanif Mohebi. Types of complaints ranged from bullying to employment issues and housing discrimination. One employment issue described in the report involved a man named Mohammed who was studying to be a chef through a program at a restaurant in downtown San Diego. Because of his faith,

Mohammed did not want to cook with alcohol, and the restaurant told him that it could not accommodate that need.

See: The San Diego Union Tribune News' entry, in: <http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/immigration/sd-me-cair-california-20170901-story.html>, retrieved on 3.10.2017

B. In Europe:

UK: Pig's head impaled on railings outside mosque— A pig's head was left on spiked railings outside a mosque just days before the festival of Eid, and police launched an investigation. Greater Manchester Police said they were treating the incident as a hate crime.

See: The Times News' entry, in: <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/pig-s-head-impaled-on-railings-outside-mosque-xg2pna5k8>, retrieved on 1.9.2017



Germany: The German far right is running Islamophobic ads starring women in bikinis— Germany's far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) party had launched a provocative ad campaign featuring a blend of Islamophobia and misogyny. The ads also revealed the AfD's decision to double down on its anti-immigrant stance. One poster showed two women, photographed from behind, dressed in skimpy two-piece bathing suits that barely cover their asses. The tagline reads, "Burkas? We prefer bikinis." Another read, "New Germans? We'll make them ourselves." The accompanying image featured a baby pig with the caption "Islam? It doesn't fit in with our cuisine" — a reference to the fact that observant Muslims do not eat pork.

See: Vox.com News' entry, in: <https://www.vox.com/world/2017/8/31/16234008/germany-afd-ad-campaign-far-right>, retrieved on 1.9.2017

UK: Racist woman caught on camera leaning out of car window to scream offensive slurs at group of Muslims— A woman was caught on camera leaning out of a car window to launch an offensive tirade at a group of Muslims walking along the street. The video showed the

woman in the passenger seat of a small red car, screaming foul-mouthed racist abuse at the Asian men. The woman yells: "F*** off you British, f***** p***." She then screamed: "F***** black b*****" and encourages the men to film her rant, which took place outside Dewsbury Cemetery. The woman was seen leaning out of a car window, shouted foul-mouthed abuse at the group of Muslim men.

See: Mirror.co.uk News' entry, in: <http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/racist-woman-caught-camera-leaning-11098904>, retrieved on 3.9.2017

Netherlands: Islamophobic attack targets mosque in Netherlands— An under-construction mosque in southeastern Netherlands was targeted by a group of far-right extremists as the far-right 'Identitair Verzet' movement hanged anti-Islam banners at the roof of Tevhid mosque. The group, which claimed the responsibility for the incident, draped banners reading "Stay away. The Netherlands belongs to us. We don't want mosque and Muslims in our neighborhood" both in Turkish and Dutch. They also shared the photos of banners on social media, and claimed they "occupied" the mosque.



See: World Bulletin News' entry, in: <http://www.worldbulletin.net/europe/193603/islamophobic-attack-targets-mosque-in-netherlands>, retrieved on 4.9.2017

UK: Ukip leadership hopeful: It's not outrageous to call Islam evil— Anne Marie Waters, a Ukip leadership candidate, said that calling Islam evil was not an outrageous thing to say and a lot of British

people agreed with her view that Islam was evil. Prompted to address her previous statement that Islam was evil, Anne Waters told BBC Newsnight: “Yes, and I don’t see why that’s an enormous or outrageous thing to say. We ought to be able in this country to say whatever we like about a religion and the problem we have got is that we pussyfoot around, we spend so much time agonizing over not saying the wrong thing, and this is what’s putting the public off. But this is how millions of people in this country feel and they are waiting for someone to articulate it for them.” Anne Waters, who co-founded a UK wing of German anti-Islam movement Pegida with Steve Robison, said she would leave it up to party members to decide if the former EDL leader could join Ukip if he expressed that desire.

See: The Herald News’ entry, in:

http://www.heraldsotland.com/news/15514897.Ukip_leadership_hopeful_it_s_not_outrageous_to_call_Islam_evil/, retrieved on 6.9.2017

Scotland: Anger as vandals attack Perth mosque site

— Anti-Muslim graffiti appeared at the city’s Jeanfield Road on land earmarked for a £1 million place of worship. The development was at the centre of a political row, when the far right Scottish Defence League organized a protest in the city centre. The far-right group claimed it was rallying against concerns about limited parking near the mosque. At the gathering, SDL members were vastly outnumbered by counter-protesters, including members of anti-fascist groups from around Scotland. Police Scotland is investigating the “No Muslims” graffiti and urged any witnesses to get in touch.



See: The Courier.co.uk News’ entry, in: <https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/local/perth-kinross/511330/anger-vandals-attack-perth-mosque-site/>, retrieved on 22.9.2017

Europe: Two in five European Muslims have felt discriminated against

— Discrimination against Europe’s Muslims was increasing, with two in five (40%) saying they had faced unfair treatment when job- or house-hunting or accessing public services such as education or healthcare, according to a recently released report by EU’s Fundamental Rights Agency. Nearly 30% of respondents in a survey said they had been insulted or called names and 2% had been physically assaulted in the previous 12 months. The survey was carried out in late 2015 and early 2016 and involved 10,500 Muslims in 15 countries including France, Germany, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden and the UK. Most of those who had been treated unfairly in the five years before the survey said they felt it was because of their name, skin color or appearance. About 17% said they felt discriminated against directly because of their religious belief. Nearly 40% of women who wore a headscarf or niqab in public felt that was why they had faced discrimination when applying for a job. More than 30% of women wearing traditional or religious clothing said they had been harassed, most often through offensive gestures or comments. Only 12% of all Muslims who experienced discrimination, and 9% of those who faced harassment, said they had bothered to report it. The survey found that 47% of men who had been stopped by the police said they felt it was because they were wearing traditional clothing. The report said Europe’s Muslims, who make up about 4% of the continent’s population, retained an above-average level of trust in institutions such as the police and legal system of their country. A large majority, 78%, said they had a “strong attachment” to their country of residence and felt broadly integrated into their communities, and 92% said they felt comfortable living next to neighbours of a different religious background.

See: The Guardian News’ entry, in: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/sep/21/two-in-five-european-muslims-have-felt-discriminated-against-survey>, retrieved on 22.9.2017

Germany: Far-right Afd expected to make major gains in German elections

— Alternative for Germany (Afd) was set to enter the German Parliament, the Bundestag, and this would be the first time when a far-right party be represented in the German Parliament in the post-war era. The Afd, which was formed in 2013, centred its campaign opposing the huge refugee influx and German Chancellor Angela Merkel's

"Open Door" policy. Pollsters had predicted a fourth term for Chancellor Angela Merkel but her party, the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) was expected to get lesser number of seats this time. German Chancellor came under severe criticism from the far-right for her 2015 open-door policy allowing over a million refugees from war-torn countries in West Asia and North Africa into Germany. Afd campaigned against Merkel's liberal immigration policy, and its anti-European Union and anti-immigration stand had resonated with voters who felt left out due to Merkel's policies.

See: Economic Times-India Times.com News' entry, in: <http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/international/world-news/far-right-afd-expected-to-make-major-gains-in-german-elections/far-right-on-the-rise/slideshow/60807154.cms>, retrieved on 24.9.2017

C. In the Rest of the World

China: Xinjiang man jailed for 2 years for teaching family, friends about Koran on WeChat— A man in Northwest China's Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region was sentenced to two years in prison after illegally teaching people about the Koran in a WeChat group, according to a verdict published on China Judgments Online run by China's Supreme People's Court. Huang Shike was found guilty of illegally using information and the Internet, said the verdict released by the Ili Kazak Autonomous Prefecture branch court of Higher People's Court of Xinjiang. Huang, by preaching and teaching the Koran at non-religious venues, had been considered as disturbed the administrative order of normal religious activities, severely violated China's laws on regulating religious affairs and greatly harmed society. Huang established a WeChat group in June 2016, and taught its roughly 100 members, mostly his friends and family members, how to pray via voice messages. Huang then explained the Eid al-Adha festival in another WeChat group in August 2016. This WeChat group also had more than 100 members, according to the verdict. To regulate social media groups, including WeChat, QQ and Weibo groups, the Cyberspace Administration of China (CAC) recently issued a new regulation which would take effect on October 8.

See: Global Time News' entry, in: <http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1065885.shtml>, retrieved on 12.9.2017

POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS:

A. In the United States and Canada:

Canada: Trudeau marks Eid al-Adha: Prime minister urges Canadians to fight Islamophobia— Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said that Canadians must stand together against racism and Islamophobia. Trudeau made the comments in Saskatoon while delivering remarks recognizing the beginning of Eid al-Adha. Trudeau told the crowd as quoted: "Whether we are in a big city or a small town, we must continue to stand together, united against racism, hatred and Islamophobia. This is just who we are as Canadians. We are there for each other. We stand up for each other."

See: The Daily Courier News' entry, in: http://www.kelownadailycourier.ca/news/national_news/article_8772f11d-963a-5d47-a4a9-fbd13b4146a1.html, retrieved on 3.9.2017

US: Milo Yiannopoulos' 'Free Speech Week' At Berkeley Falls Apart, Organizers Say— 'Free Speech Week', a four-day right-wing rally at the University of California, Berkeley, had been called off, and far-right activist Milo Yiannopoulos reportedly held a press conference formally canceling the event. The event fell apart after the co-organizers — The Berkeley Patriot and Yiannopoulos — failed to confirm the guest list and book multiple indoor venues on campus. Tensions and confusion mounted on the week ahead of the event, which organizers said was planned in response to Berkeley's efforts to shut down conservative speakers. A fierce debate about free speech on campus ignited in February when the university canceled an appearance by former Breitbart editor Yiannopoulos because of security concerns. Steve Bannon, former adviser to President Trump, and conservative commentator Ann Coulter were reportedly scheduled to speak at this event, but their appearances were never confirmed. Coulter had also been scheduled to appear at Berkeley last April, but her speech was also canceled.

See: Kuow.org News' entry, in: <http://kuow.org/post/why-potential-free-speech-week-berkeley-causing-stir>, retrieved on 22.9.2017

B. In Europe:

Germany: Angela Merkel defends refugee policy, says Islam belongs to Germany— Angela Merkel, German Chancellor and leader of the conservative Christian Democratic Union (CDU) party said, “*Although radical Islamists are perpetrating acts of terror in Europe, she still believed that “Islam belongs to Germany”*”. Merkel made the remarks on a TV duel with Martin Schulz, chancellor candidate of the Social Democratic Party (SPD), her major rival in the federal elections, as refugee and immigration issues were some of the prime focuses in the debate. Both Merkel and Schulz saw no issue with Muslim immigration to Germany, but Merkel said the 2015 refugee crisis had left Germany with a difficult task of integrating new arrivals into society, making sure they found places in educational institutions and the labor market. Merkel also called for cooperation with Turkey, Libya, Niger and other countries in solving refugee and immigration issues, and in the meantime opening channels for legal immigration. She also urged to better screening asylum seekers on for what reasons they come to Germany. The SPD chairman Schulz criticized that Merkel had not voted with the European partners at the beginning of the refugee crisis in autumn 2015, however, Merkel defended her decision of two years ago to allow over about 1 million refugees to enter Germany, mostly from war-torn Middle East and North Africa, that she could not act otherwise.



See: The Indian Express News' entry, in: <http://indianexpress.com/article/world/angela-merkel-defends-refugee-policy-says-islam-belongs-to-germany-4827524/>, retrieved on 5.9.2017

UK: Man who called for all British Muslims to be killed after Manchester attack on Facebook jailed for a year— Keegan Jakovlevs who posted a Facebook message calling for all British Muslims to be killed in the wake of the Manchester attack had been jailed for a year. He was sentenced at Mold Crown Court for the crime, which was made illegal by the Public Order Act 1986. Prosecutors said Jakovlevs posted his message shortly after the bombing at Manchester Arena on 22 May and that it was taken down shortly afterwards. Jakovlevs's Facebook message expressed sympathy for the families of those caught up in the bombing but then, using racist and offensive language, he called for every Muslim in the country to be killed. The prosecution argued that Jakovlevs's single message was particularly serious because it was posted so soon after the Manchester bombing when public emotions were running high. The Government has launched enhanced efforts to tackle extremist material online amid increasing warnings over the threat posed by the far-right.

See: Independent.co.uk News' entry, in: <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/man-british-muslims-killed-manchester-attack-facebook-post-keegan-jakovlevs-jailed-wrexham-wales-a7933896.html>, retrieved on 8.9.2017

C. In the Rest of the World

Australia: Man arrested for leaving decapitated pig's head outside mosque— A pig head was left at the front gate of a mosque in Stockleigh, south of Brisbane, and a 23-year old man from Victoria Point had since been arrested. The man was arrested after photos were posted to social media showing two men outside the mosque's gate pulling shocking gestures. The incident sparked outrage among local Muslim community.

See: Metro News' entry, in: <http://metro.co.uk/2017/09/05/man-arrested-for-leaving-decapitated-pigs-head-outside-mosque-6904953/>, retrieved on 6.9.2017

Australia: Far-right trio convicted, fined \$2000 each, over mosque protest— Three far-right activists who staged a mock beheading in protest at plans to build a mosque had been found guilty, convicted and fined for a criminal offence under Victoria's racial vilification laws. United Patriots Front members Blair Cottrell,

Christopher Shortis, and Neil Erikson, were all found guilty by a magistrate of inciting contempt, revulsion or ridicule of Muslims. Magistrate John Hardy found the men guilty after a two-day contested hearing in Melbourne Magistrates Court. The trio were the first people convicted under Victoria's Racial and Religious Tolerance Act. The charge carried a penalty of up to six months in jail or fines of more than \$9000. In court, Mr Hardy told the trio they had "crossed the line" in staging a mock beheading outside the City of Bendigo offices on 4 October 2015, in protest against building a mosque in Bendigo. In the video, Cottrell spoke to camera about the mosque plans and directed Shortis - wearing a Middle Eastern-style head covering, and shouting "Allahu Akbar" - and Erikson to decapitate a dummy with a toy plastic sword. When the dummy was beheaded, red liquid spilled onto the footpath.

See: The Courier News' entry, in: <http://www.thecourier.com.au/story/4904313/far-right-trio-convicted-fined-2000-each-over-mosque-protest/?cs=7>, retrieved on 6.9.2017

Canada: Former Canadian religious envoy condemns Suu Kyi's silence on fleeing Muslims— Canada's former ambassador for religious freedom, Andrew Bennett, said that Myanmar's Aung Sang Suu Kyi had squandered her status by not standing up for persecuted Muslims in her country. Suu Kyi was facing calls for her Nobel Peace Prize to be taken away for not speaking out on behalf of the 125,000 ethnic minority Rohingya Muslims that had fled Myanmar's Rakhine province to neighbouring Bangladesh. Bennett said that he detected prejudice and suspicions about Muslims when he visited the predominantly Buddhist nation in 2015 in his previous job as Canada's religious freedom envoy. He said Rohingya Muslims had been the long-standing victims of systemic discrimination, and that they were herded into concentration camp-like settlements by the government.

See: rdnewsnow.com News' entry, in: <http://rdnewsnow.com/article/551062/former-canadian-religious-envoy-condemns-suu-kyis-silence-fleeing-muslims>, retrieved on 7.9.2017

South Africa: Desmond Tutu pleads for the protection of Muslims in Myanmar — Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu broke his "vow to remain silent on public affairs" to call on Myanmar de facto leader Aung San Suu Kyi to speak out about the Rohingya crisis. In a letter addressed to Suu Kyi, Tutu said it was not fitting for a symbol of righteousness such as Suu Kyi to lead a country where this kind of atrocity occurred. Tutu said: "My dear sister, if the political price of your ascension to the highest office in Myanmar is your silence, the price is surely too steep....A country that is not at peace with itself, that fails to acknowledge and protect the dignity and worth of all its people, is not a free country." Suu Kyi, who was awarded the Nobel peace prize in 1991, had been criticized for her lackluster response to the ongoing crisis.

See: News24 News' entry, in: <http://m.news24.com/news24/SouthAfrica/News/desmond-tutu-pleads-for-the-protection-muslims-in-myanmar-20170907>, retrieved on 8.9.2017

Myanmar: Protests across Asia over Myanmar's treatment of Rohingya Muslims— Thousands of people took to the streets across Asia to denounce Myanmar's treatment of its Rohingya Muslim minority. Protests took place in Malaysia, the Philippines, Indonesia, Pakistan and Bangladesh to urge Myanmar to 'stop committing genocide' and take back those who had sought refuge elsewhere.

See: CNN Asia News' entry, in: <http://edition.cnn.com/2017/09/08/asia/myanmar-rohingya-bangladesh-dhaka/index.html>, retrieved on 10.9.2017

Myanmar: Rohingya Crisis in Myanmar Is 'Ethnic Cleansing,' U.N. Rights Chief Says— The United Nations' top human rights official accused Myanmar of carrying out "a textbook example of ethnic cleansing" against Rohingya Muslims, hundreds of thousands of whom had crossed into Bangladesh since August 2017 to escape a military crackdown. Zeid Ra'ad al-Hussein, the United Nations high commissioner for human rights, said the military's brutal security campaign was in clear violation of international law, and cited what he called refugees' consistent accounts of widespread extrajudicial killings, rape and other atrocities. Mr. al-Hussein said the crackdown "resembles a cynical ploy to forcibly transfer large numbers of people without possibility of return," noting that Myanmar had progressively stripped its Rohingya minority of civil and political rights for decades. More than 300,000 Rohingya had fled to Bangladesh since August 2017, when armed Rohingya militants attacked police posts and a military base in the western state of Rakhine, which bordered Bangladesh. Since then soldiers along with some local residents had set fire to numerous villages and had butchered Rohingya men, women and children.

See: The New York Times News' entry, in: <https://mobile.nytimes.com/2017/09/11/world/asia/myanmar-rohingya-ethnic-cleansing.html?referer=https://www.google.com/>, retrieved on 12.9.2017

Myanmar: Dalai Lama: Buddha would have helped Burma's Rohingya Muslims— Speaking to the media, the Dalai Lama said that the suffering of Rohingya Muslims fleeing violence in Myanmar would have inspired Buddha to help. The world's most well-known Buddhist icon said the plight of the minority group made him very sad, as around 300,000 Rohingya had fled into Bangladesh following a security clampdown by the Burmese armed forces, prompted by Rohingya militant attacks on military posts in August. The Tibetan Buddhist spiritual leader said those who were harassing Muslims "*should remember Buddha*", as Buddha would have helped the Rohingya Muslims who were fleeing violence in Buddhist-majority Burma. The Dalai Lama said he had also delivered this message to Myanmar's leader Aung San Suu Kyi several years before.



See: The Independent.co.uk News' entry, in: <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/asia/dalai-lama-rohingya-muslims-buddha-burma-help-myanmar-buddhist-india-tibet-a7941101.html>, retrieved on 12.9.2017

China: China Bans Use of Anti-Islam Words on Social Media— The Chinese authorities had blocked Islamophobic terms used by internet users to stigmatize Muslims in order to prevent bias against Islam. As a result of the ban, searches for keywords often used by Internet users to refer to Islam showed no results on China's Weibo microblog. Posts containing the phrases could not be posted for it signifies "violations of Weibo's complaints related rules". Insults against Islam were also blocked in Weibo's search engine. China which had a booming internet population surpassing over 700 million, used massive firewalls to block any content the government deems offending, or not in the country's interests. China has over 21 million Muslims mostly the Uyghurs in Xinjiang and Hui community in Ningxia province. Discontent and fears of Muslims had been on the rise on China's Internet in recent years. Complainers target Chinese authorities' discrimination policies toward ethnic minorities, especially Muslim groups. Another positive gesture was seen as a report said that the Chinese government assisted 12,800 Muslims in making the pilgrimage to Mecca this year, and closed streets for Muslims to celebrate Eid ul-Fitr.

See: National Herald India News' entry, in: <https://www.nationalheraldindia.com/international/china-bans-use-of-anti-islam-words-on-social-media>, retrieved on 22.9.2017

Sierra Leone: Foremost Nigerian pastor arrested for making "outrageous comments" about Islam— A popular Sierra Leone-based Nigerian pastor, Victor Ajisafe had been arrested by the government after found to have made certain outrageous comments about Islamic religion during his Sunday sermon. Ajisafe, who was the founder and leader of the country's largest church, The Sanctuary Praise Church, while speaking to his congregants called Islam a "violent religion of lies and deceit," adding that Muslims had been responsible for "every terrorist act in the history of the world." Audio and video recordings of the sermon appeared online within three days, and were met with immediate and near-universal condemnation by both Muslims and Christians in the country. Sierra Leone's population is roughly 78% Muslim.

See: DailyPost.ng News' entry, in: <http://dailypost.ng/2017/09/29/foremost-nigerian-pastor-arrested-making-outrageous-comments-islam/>, retrieved on 30.9.2017

ON BURQAH AND VEIL RELATED ISSUES:

Austria: Austria to ban burqa from 1 October— New restrictions came into force in Austria on the 1st of October 2017 banning the wearing of the full Islamic veil and other items concealing the face in public places and buildings. The government said that Exemptions under certain conditions include items i.e. clown disguises at cultural events, work wear such as medical masks, and scarves in cold weather. Violations of burqa ban

would be punished with a fine of up to €150. The measures also applied to visitors/tourists holiday in the Alpine country.

See: Live Mint News' entry, in: <http://www.livemint.com/Politics/czSz6NdOAEPLh8EMIA5kWN/Austria-to-ban-burqa-from-1-October.html>, retrieved on 11.10.2017

ON DIALOGUE:

US: Jews are helping Muslims rebuild a mosque that was burned in a hate crime attack— After a Florida mosque burned down in an arson attack, Jewish people had launched and supported an online fundraiser to help rebuild it. The campaign to help restore the mosque, created by Adeel Karim, raised an impressive \$78,000 - well over the \$40,000 goal set by the Islamic Society of New Tampa. This community has held several events for outreach and the money will double down our efforts to ensure love, empathy, and compassion were instilled. Karim posted on Facebook at the time, when he realised people were donating wierd amounts to the crowdfunder. He wrote: *"I couldn't understand why people were donating in what seemed like weird amounts to the cause. There are sums of 18, 36, 72.00 dollars etc. then I figured out after clicking on the names Avi, Cohen, Gold-stein, Rubin, Fisher."* Jews donated in multiples of 18 as a form of what was called as 'Chai'. It wished for the recipient's long life.

See: indy100.com News' entry, in: <https://indy100.com/article/jewish-helping-muslims-rebuild-mosque-arson-attack-florida-7932926>, retrieved on 7.9.2017

Italy: Pope wears refugee ID bracelet in appeal for help for migrants— Wearing a plastic ID bracelet used by asylum seekers, Pope Francis urged governments and people to do more to help migrants and not to see them as enemies. Francis visited a drab refugee centre on the outskirts of Bologna known as 'The Hub', a home to about 1,000 asylum seekers, most of whom risked their lives crossing the Mediterranean from Africa and the Middle East. Many of the refugees and migrants were without documents and all wear a plastic yellow bracelet. The pope wore one bearing his name and the number 3900003 on his right wrist. Some 600,000 impoverished migrants and refugees arrived in Italy in less than four years, and more than 13,000 have died trying to cross the Mediterranean. Francis also condemned internet trolling against foreigners, saying they had been subjected to terrible phrases and insults. Francis called on more governments to facilitate initiatives backed by the private sector and community groups to set up humanitarian corridors for refugees in the most difficult situations.

See: Swiss Info News' entry, in: <https://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/pope-wears-refugee-id-bracelet-in-appeal-for-help-for-migrants/43562226>, retrieved on 2.10.2017

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