



MANIFESTATIONS OF ISLAMOPHOBIA:

A. In the United States and Canada:

US: Supreme Court allows full enforcement of Trump travel ban— The Supreme Court allowed in December 2017 the Trump administration's policy to fully enforce a ban on travel to the United States by residents of six mostly Muslim countries. This was not a final ruling on the travel ban since challenges to the policy were winding through the federal courts, and the justices themselves ultimately were expected to rule on its legality. But the action indicated that the high court might eventually approve the latest version of the ban, announced by in September 2017. Lower courts had continued to find problems with the policy. See: CNBC News' entry, in: <https://www.cnbc.com/politics/?redirect=1>, retrieved on 5.12.2017

US: Missouri man indicted for allegedly threatening Augusta mosque— A federal grand jury in Savannah indicted Preston Q. Howard of Missouri for threatening members of the Islamic Society of Augusta. The indictment against the man alleges he made numerous calls to the mosque threatening to "kill", "shoot", "behead", "slaughter", "execute", "light on fire", "murder", "hunt down", "zone in" on Muslims and to "blow up the mosque". Howard might face up to five years imprisonment on each count.

See: WRDW News' entry, in: <http://www.wrdw.com/content/news/Missouri-man-indicted-for-allegedly-threatening-Augusta-mosque--463987863.html>, retrieved on 14.12.2017

US: Hate crime probe urged after post suggests Wichita mosque as shooting range— The Council of American-Islamic Relations' Kansas chapter was calling for a hate crime probe after a threatening Facebook comment was made about a Wichita mosque. The comment included a picture of the Islamic Society of Wichita in answer to a question about where to find a shooting range in Wichita. Moussa Elbayoumy, chairman of CAIR-Kansas, said: "Given the tragic mass shooting incidents nationwide, we believe this apparent threat to an American house of worship should be investigated as a possible hate crime. We urge local law enforcement authorities to work with Muslim community leaders to increase security in the area of the mosque."

See: The Wichita Eagle News' entry, in: <http://www.kansas.com/news/local/article190442969.html>, retrieved on 19.12.2017

US: Man pleads guilty to vandalizing northern Colorado mosque— A former Army medic has acknowledged breaking windows and throwing a Bible into a Colorado mosque. The media reported that Joseph Giaquinto pleaded guilty to a felony charge of criminal mischief and a misdemeanor charge of bias-motivated crime, or a hate crime. A plea deal stipulated that he be sentenced to three years of wellness court. People referred to wellness



court receive therapy and psychiatric treatment while under supervised probation rather than serving time in prison. Police said Giaquinto threw two large rocks through windows of the Islamic Center of Fort Collins, as well as a New Testament Bible, on 26 March 2017. The Bible was found among the shattered glass in the mosque's prayer room.

See: Associated Press News' entry, in: <https://www.denverchannel.com/news/local-news/man-pleads-guilty-to-vandalizing-northern-colorado-mosque>, retrieved on 20.12.2017

US: Key Trump adviser regularly promoted far-right conspiracy theories: report— Senior White House adviser at the Homeland Security Department repeatedly pushed a number of far-right conspiracy theories in radio appearances before joining the Trump administration. CNN's K-File reported that Frank Wuco, who was charged with helping enforce President Trump's executive orders, regularly propagated unfounded and outlandish claims, including many about former Obama administration officials. Among them was the claim that former President Obama's memoir was actually penned by anti-war activist and radical Bill Ayers, as well as claims that former Attorney General Eric Holder had once been a member of the Black Panthers and that former CIA Director John Brennan had converted to Islam.

See: Thee Hill News' entry, in: <http://thehill.com/homenews/administration/365949-key-trump-adviser-promoted-far-right-conspiracy-theories-report>, retrieved on 22.12.2017

B. In Europe:

UK: 'Hundreds' apply to join far-right group Britain First after Donald Trump tweets— The far-right group Britain First had boasted of gaining hundreds of new membership applications after Donald Trump shared anti-Muslim videos it had posted online, sparking a transatlantic row with Theresa May. Britain First leader Paul Golding also said the group's Facebook posts were reaching hundreds of thousands more users. UK Prime Minister has said Mr Trump was "wrong" to retweet videos posted by Britain First's deputy leader Jayda Fransen, which she condemned as a "hateful organisation" dedicated to spreading division and mistrust. The extraordinary flare-up between the two key allies came after Mr Trump responded directly to her assertion - originally made through her official spokesman - that his re-postings had been wrong.

See: BreakingNews News' entry, in: <https://www.breakingnews.ie/world/hundreds-apply-to-join-far-right-group-britain-first-after-donald-trump-tweets-816637.html>, retrieved on 2.12.2017

Poland: Extreme right wing movement gains momentum in Europe, echoes heard around the world— Thousands of right-wing nationalists descended upon what was supposed to be a celebration of Poland's independence day in Warsaw. Official ceremonies and patriotic songs were drowned out by demonstrators who chanted slurs such as "Pure Poland. Refugees get out." Some even paraded signs that read "White Europe" and "Clean Blood." This march represented one face of a growing nationalist movement that had swept across Europe. Emboldened by a surge in anti-immigrant sentiments following the refugee crisis, ultra-conservative rhetoric was now seeping out of the fringes and into the mainstream. Many in these movements said they were battling what they claim was a trend of multiculturalism threatening the traditional identity and heritage of their countries.

See: KTICRadio News' entry, in: http://kticradio.com/abc_world/extreme-right-wing-movement-gains-momentum-in-europe-echoes-heard-around-the-world-abcid36004679/, retrieved on 4.12.2017

UK: Britain First follower vowed to kill Muslim in Finsbury Park attack— A supporter of the far-right group Britain First who said he was going to "kill a Muslim" before driving a van at the manager of an Indian restaurant had avoided prosecution for attempted murder. Marek Zakrocki was



convicted of dangerous driving after shouting “white power” and giving a Nazi salute before narrowly missing his target. Zakrocki was carrying a knife and a Nazi coin when he was arrested in Harrow, north London, in June 2017, four days after a terrorist attack near Finsbury Park mosque left one Muslim worshipper dead. In his house police officers found leaflets and newspapers promoting Britain First.

See: The Times News’ entry, in: <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/britain-first-follower-vowed-to-kill-muslim-in-finsbury-park-attack-wtp8zj2sl>, retrieved on 6.12.2017

Czech Republic: Geert Wilders calls for Trump-style Muslim travel ban in Europe— Dutch Freedom party leader told far-right gathering in Prague that European countries should adopt Donald Trump-style travel bans to counter a wave of Islamisation supposedly sweeping the continent. He also urged Europe to adopt Australia’s tactics in turning back migrant boats and to build new border walls, as Trump had vowed to do along the US frontier with Mexico. Wilders was flanked during his press conference by France’s Front National leader, Marine Le Pen, and Tomio Okamura, the leader of the Czech Freedom and Direct Democracy party (SPD), which finished joint third in recent parliamentary election with nearly 11% of the vote. Wilders, who was convicted in 2016 by a Dutch court for incitement against Moroccans, cited US research he claimed showed that the Czech Republic would be bordered to the north, south and west by countries that were more than 20% Muslim by the middle of the century if current demographic trends continued.

See: The Guardian News’ entry, in: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/dec/17/geert-wilders-calls-for-trump-style-muslim-travel-ban-in-europe>, retrieved on 18.12.2017

Austria: Austrian right-wing coalition takes office promising anti-migrant policies— Austria’s new coalition government, led by the conservative People’s Party and the far-right Freedom Party was sworn in, making the country the only one in Western Europe to have a far-right party in power. In the recent national election, the Freedom Party won third place on a wave of anti-migrant sentiment. The party had been allotted control of the country’s security, obtaining the posts of foreign, defence and interior ministries. As such, it was likely that the new government would push stricter caps on the number of migrants allowed to enter Austria and reduce benefits received by asylum seekers. Though the Freedom Party had traditionally been highly Eurosceptic, Sebastian Kurz, leader of the People’s Party and Austria’s new chancellor, sought to assuage concerns of Vienna’s commitment to the EU by affirming the new government’s “pro-European orientation.” With nationalism and xenophobia surging through Europe, the presence of another right-wing EU government will undoubtedly give momentum to the far-right nationalist parties battling for electoral victories in 2018 in countries like Hungary, Italy, Sweden, Finland and Belgium.

See: Foreign Brief News’ entry, in: <http://www.foreignbrief.com/daily-news/austrian-right-wing-coalition-takes-office-promising-anti-migrant-policies/>, retrieved on 18.12.2017

Austria: Austrian Muslims express concern over minister’s anti-headscarf remarks— Remarks by Austria’s newly appointed Education Minister Heinz Fassmann against the headscarf has raised concerns for Muslims living in the country. Fassmann’s interview published in local newspaper quoted him saying “*teachers should not wear a headscarf.*” When asked about his opinion on the headscarf ban, Fassmann said: “*Yes, I have a sympathy for the secular state and find that teachers should not wear a headscarf, except religious and private school teachers.*” The coalition government formed by Austrian People’s Party (ÖVP) and the far-right Freedom Party (FPÖ) earlier in the month, had an anti-Islam and anti-immigrant stance.

See: Daily Sabah News’ entry, in: <https://www.dailysabah.com/islamophobia/2017/12/26/austrian-muslims-express-concern-over-ministers-anti-headscarf-remarks>, retrieved on 27.12.2017

Sweden: Police investigate Swedish mosque bomb attack as hate crime— Police were investigating an attack on a mosque with a homemade bomb as a hate crime. The attack on the Islamic Cultural Center in Saffle, left ball-bearings lodged in the walls of the center’s prayer room. Media reported that police had completed a preliminary investigation and were treating the attack as a hate crime. Sweden is a strong draw for many migrants and an estimated 100,000 ethnic Turks live in the Nordic country.

See: MuslimNews News’ entry, in: <http://muslimnews.co.uk/news/islamophobia/sweden-police-investigate-swedish-mosque-bomb-attack-hate-crime/>, retrieved on 28.12.2017

Austria: The far right is now in power in Austria— Europe’s newest right-wing government took office on 18 December 2017, this time in Austria. The two parties that form the government were the Freedom Party and the People’s Party. During the fall campaign, they vilified refugees, attacked Vienna (the country’s liberal big-city capital), and promised major tax cuts for the rich. This won them a combined 57.5 percent of the vote. Austria thus appeared to be the newest member in the Central European club of “illiberal democracy,” as Hungary’s authoritarian leader Viktor Orban proudly called it. The Freedom Party developed the hallmarks of its current style: scare tactics about refugees; attacks on bien-pensant urban intellectuals, artists, and the media; and pledges to reduce taxes.

See: The Nation News’ entry, in: <https://www.thenation.com/article/the-far-right-is-now-in-power-in-austria/>, retrieved on 30.12.2017

C. In the Rest of the World

India: Video emerges of minister’s anti-Islam remarks— A video was tweeted on controversial BJP leader and minister Anantkumar Hegde’s hate speech against Islam at a party rally in 2016. The video showed Hegde saying, “As long as there is Islam in the world, there will be terrorism. Until we uproot Islam, we can’t remove terrorism.” Hegde also said, “If there is opportunity in the media – write exactly this. Telecast exactly this. Islam is a bomb for world peace. There will be no peace in the world as long as Islam is there.”

See: Kashmir Narrator News’ entry, in: <http://kashmirnarrator.com/video-emerges-ministers-anti-islam-remarks/>, retrieved on 9.12.2017

POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS:

A. In the United States and Canada:

Canada: Canadian judge strikes down ban on face coverings— A Canadian judge granted a temporary stay to a law that banned face coverings on those who provided or received public services in the province of Quebec. Justice Babak Barin ruled that the province could not order people to remove their face coverings until a provision was put into the law that allows for citizens to apply for religious accommodations. The law, called Bill 62, was seen by many as targeting Muslims because some Muslim women wear niqabs or hijabs. The province said the law was only to provide clear separation between state and religion, known as a state religious neutrality law. The National Council of Canadian Muslims (NCCM) and the Canadian Civil Liberties Association launched a court challenge to the law, arguing that it violated the freedom of religion and equality. They asked that the law be set aside until the court could rule whether it was unconstitutional. But the justice did not go that far and granted a temporary stay, until the provincial government provided a section to allow those who object to the law on religious grounds to file for exemption. Bill 62 did not have a clause giving people the right to file for religious accommodations, but that part of the legislation had yet to be put into force. As such, the justice ruled the law was incomplete.

See: MuslimNews News’ entry, in: <http://muslimnews.co.uk/news/islamophobia/canadian-judge-strikes-ban-face-coverings/>, retrieved on 3.12.2017

B. In Europe:

UK: British PM May issues rare rebuke of Trump for retweeting anti-Muslim videos— The British government delivered a rare rebuke of President Donald Trump for retweeting inflammatory anti-Muslim and anti-immigrant videos originally shared by a far-right U.K. political group. Trump shared three videos posted by Jayda Fransen, deputy leader of the fringe group Britain First, which opposed what it called the “Islamization” of Britain and had engaged in a series of stunts, including occupying mosques. Prime Minister Theresa May said in a statement: “It is wrong for the president to have done this.” Trump responded to the British leader with a heated tweet saying “Theresa @theresamay, don’t focus on me, focus on the destructive Radical Islamic Terrorism that is taking place within the United Kingdom. We are doing just

fine!" — but mistakenly directed that to an unrelated Twitter account. He later deleted that post and replaced it with a similarly worded tweet, but with May's correct handle. The first video Trump shared claimed to show a Muslim migrant beating up a Dutch boy on crutches. The second was captioned "Muslim destroys a statue of Virgin Mary," and the third read "Islamist mob pushes teenage boy off roof and beats him to death!"

See: NBCNews News' entry, in: <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/president-trump-retweets-anti-muslim-videos-posted-far-right-u-n824836>, retrieved on 1.12.2017

UK: Islamophobia? Muslim girl asked to remove hijab at London McDonald's— In a shocking incident, a staff at a London McDonald's asked a 19-year old Muslim student to remove her hijab or leave the restaurant. The victim captured the incident in a video, where the guard could be heard telling her: "It's only a matter of taking it off." She was heard responding, "I wear this for religious reasons and I'm not ashamed of it."

See: NewsBytes News' entry, in: <https://www.newsbytesapp.com/timeline/World/13478/69517/mcdonald-s-under-fire-for-mistreating-muslim-customer>, retrieved on 4.12.2017

Poland: A Mosque Attack in Warsaw Was the Latest Sign of Growing Islamophobia in Poland— On 26 November 2017, vandals attacked a Muslim cultural center and mosque in the Polish capital of Warsaw, smashing a dozen of its windows. Far from being an isolated incident, the attack came amid growing anti-Muslim sentiment in Poland, where the government had refused to admit refugees and asylum-seekers and far-right extremism appeared to be on the rise.

See: WPR News' entry, in: <https://www.worldpoliticsreview.com/trend-lines/23740/a-mosque-attack-in-warsaw-was-the-latest-sign-of-growing-islamophobia-in-poland>, retrieved on 5.12.2017

UK: British politicians call for more recognition of charity work done by Muslims at Christmas— A report titled 'A Very Merry Muslim Christmas' by the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on British Muslims said that charitable acts by the UK's Muslim community often went unnoticed because they were not considered "newsworthy". In a year which saw five terror attacks and the Grenfell Tower tragedy, Muslims had been at the frontline of providing aid to those affected. In the aftermath of the Manchester bombing, Muslims rushed to help by giving blood to hospitals, offering rides home and raising money for victims and their families. However, the British media willfully ignored the contribution made by charities, instead focusing on latent fears that Islamic charities were open to being abused to finance terrorism, despite evidence to the contrary. Anna Soubry, co-chair of the APPG and Conservative member of parliament, said the findings showed that Britain's three million-strong Muslim community were supporting the most deprived in their communities.

See: The National News' entry, in: <https://www.thenational.ae/world/europe/british-politicians-call-for-more-recognition-of-charity-work-done-by-muslims-at-christmas-1.689078>, retrieved on 20.12.2017

Switzerland: Swiss government opposes anti-burqa initiative and presents counter-proposal— Swiss voters would eventually be called to vote on the initiative 'Yes to a ban on face coverings' devised by the Egerkingen committee led by Walter Wobmann, a member of the populist rightwing Swiss People's Party (SVP). The initiative, which in September 2017 garnered more than the required 100,000 signatures to put it to a popular vote, called for it to be made illegal for anyone to cover their face in public, with some exceptions including for local customs, the weather and health and safety reasons. Such a law would effectively ban the burqa, though the committee said it was also targeting hooligans and others who covered their face for criminal intent. The Swiss Federal Council signalled its clear opposition to the so-called burqa ban initiative, and presented a counter measure to compete with it at the polls.

See: The Local News' entry, in: <https://www.thelocal.ch/20171221/swiss-government-opposes-anti-burqa-initiative-and-presents-counter-proposal>, retrieved on 22.12.2017

UK: Archbishop of Canterbury takes aim at Donald Trump in Christmas message denouncing 'populist leaders who deceive their own people'— The Archbishop of Canterbury used his Christmas Day sermon to reflect on the terrorist atrocities and deceitfulness of 'populist leaders' witnessed in 2017. The Most Rev Justin Welby told worshippers at Canterbury Cathedral that much could be learnt from the Nativity story, where Jesus was 'power seen in humility'. Preaching at the Sung Eucharist service, he made an apparent

jibe at US President Donald Trump by contrasting the son of God with 'populist leaders that deceive' their people. And in an echo of Pope Francis's address at Christmas Eve Mass in the Vatican, the Archbishop drew a parallel between the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem and the refugee crisis. He told the congregation: 'The nature of those who have power is to seek to hold on to it. The Archbishop in 2017 publicly spoke out against Mr Trump when he shared videos from far-right group Britain First via Twitter. He said at the time: "It is deeply disturbing that the president of the United States has chosen to amplify the voice of far-right extremists."

See: Mail Online News' entry, in: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5211551/Archbishop-Canterbury-takes-aim-Donald-Trump.html>, retrieved on 26.12.2017

C. In the Rest of the World

China: Chinese court jails ethnic Han for attacking Muslims online— A Chinese court had sentenced an ethnic Han to two years and six months in jail for attacking Islam and Muslims online. The Heping district People's Court in Shenyang in Liaoning Province in its verdict charged the man with inciting ethnic hatred after he set up a website and online chat groups and posted pictures and articles attacking Muslims from April 2009 to June 2016. The verdict delivered in November 2017 said that Li's behaviour violated the principle of ethnic equality and negatively impacted society. Li was detained in September 2009 for inciting ethnic hatred, but later released on bail. However, he was arrested again for the same charge in June 2016, the verdict read. China's top legislature adopted the Cybersecurity Law in 2016, which stated that any online activity that undermines national unity was prohibited. The law also forbid activities such as inciting ethnic hatred, discrimination and spreading violent and obscene content online.

See: Outlook India News' entry, in: <https://www.outlookindia.com/newscroll/chinese-court-jails-ethnic-han-for-attacking-muslims-online/1212271>, retrieved on 19.12.2017

Australia: Tony Abbott: 'There is a problem within Islam'— The harrowing attacks in Melbourne's Flinders Street have left many wondering what was to blame, whether faith or mental illness. Former Prime Minister Tony Abbott spoke with Chris Kenny on why more accountability needs to be put on Islamic authorities. He said: "*The perpetrator has claimed that it was in some way because of alleged discrimination of Muslims in this country. No one is discriminated against in this country. I think it's just appalling that someone who came to this country as a refugee should've done something so terrible. There is a problem within in Islam... I think it's incumbent on all Islamic authority figures to say that it's never right to kill in the name of God.*"

See: 4BC News' entry, in: <https://www.4bc.com.au/tony-abbott-there-is-a-problem-within-islam/>, retrieved on 23.12.2017

Myanmar: UNGA resolution slams Myanmar crackdown on Rohingya Muslims— The United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution calling on Myanmar to end military operations that had led to the systematic violation and abuse of human rights of Rohingya Muslims in the country's Rakhine state. The resolution, which was tabled by the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, was adopted by a vote of 122 to 10 with 24 abstentions. China, Russia, Cambodia, Laos, the Philippines and Vietnam joined Myanmar in voting against the measure as did Belarus, Syria and Zimbabwe. It called for Myanmar to grant aid workers access, and to give Rohingya Muslims full citizenship rights. The resolution also called on UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres to assign a special envoy to the Southeast Asian country. Over the past three months more than 655,000 Rohingya Muslims fled to Bangladesh, after Myanmar military crackdown in late August 2017. Top UN officials have denounced the violence as a classic example of ethnic cleansing.

See: Pakistan Observer News' entry, in: <https://pakobserver.net/unga-resolution-slams-myanmar-crackdown-rohingya-muslims/>, retrieved on 27.12.2017

ON DIALOGUE:

UK: St Mary's University Welcomes Imams to Open Interfaith Prayer Room and Launch New Muslim Certificate in Religious Studies— Cardinal Vincent Nichols and two leading Muslim clerics joined together to launch a new Muslim Certificate in Religious Studies at St Mary's University, Twickenham. On the site of a



notable address delivered by Pope Benedict on faith relations in 2010, the religious leaders opened a new interfaith prayer room and announce the launch of the certificate as the newest product of their long-standing dialogue. The new certificate aimed to support the religious literacy of teachers and enhance the contribution that religion could make to the formation of British values as referenced in the Professional Standards for Qualified Teacher Status. Speaking about the launch, Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Chancellor of St Mary's University, said: *"I am delighted to welcome our distinguished guests to St Mary's and pleased that they can join us in celebrating our continued*

commitment to promoting interfaith dialogue in the UK and ensuring that our university provides the most welcoming environment for students of all faiths."

See: R-VisionTV News' entry, in: <https://www.stmarys.ac.uk/news/2017/12/muslim-certificate-2017>, retrieved on 6.12.2017

Vatican: Pope calls for two-state solution in Israel and Palestine— Pope Francis reinforced calls for a two-state solution to the decades-long conflict between Israel and the Palestinians in his traditional Christmas Day message delivered just over two weeks after the US president, Donald Trump, inflamed tensions in the region. Speaking before the faithful in St Peter's Square in Rome, Francis said the children of the Middle East continued *"to suffer because of growing tensions between Israelis and Palestinians"*. Earlier in the month, President Trump fulfilled his controversial election pledge by recognizing Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, enraging the Palestinians who also want the city to be the capital of their future state. As response, more than 120 countries backed a UN resolution urging the US to reverse its decision.

See: The Guardian News' entry, in: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/dec/25/pope-calls-for-two-state-solution-in-israel-and-palestine>, retrieved on 26.12.2017

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