



MANIFESTATIONS OF ISLAMOPHOBIA:

A. In the United States and Canada:

US: Police seek man they believe desecrated 2 Brooklyn mosques— A community came together in November 2017 in a show of solidarity, after a Brooklyn mosque was desecrated. Police said the same man desecrated another mosque on the same day. A hammer-wielding man was seen on video breaking a door of the Beit El-Maqdis Islamic Center in Sunset Park, smashing five windows, and damaging a security camera. The attack occurred at a little before 5:30 p.m. Saturday. Police said the man ran off on 62nd St. Police believed the same man used the hammer 30 minutes later to vandalize a second Brooklyn mosque on 8th Ave. near 60th St.

See: NY1 News' entry, in: <http://www.ny1.com/news/2017/11/13/brooklyn-mosque-vandalized.html>, retrieved on 14.11.2017

US: DHS official who made islamophobic comments resigns. Another remains in a senior role.— Rev. Jamie Johnson, a senior official at the Department of Homeland Security, had once said that Islam had given the world only “oil and dead bodies.” He had also argued that Jews became disproportionately wealthy through hard work while African Americans turned cities into “slums because of laziness, drug use, and sexual promiscuity.” Hours later, Johnson resigned as the head of DHS’s Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships. However Frank Wuco, a senior White House adviser at DHS who had made similarly inflammatory comments about Muslims and other groups, was still working at the department in a role with significant implications for Muslims in America and abroad.

See: Mother Jones News' entry, in: <https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2017/11/dhs-official-who-made-islamophobic-comments-resigns-another-remains-in-a-senior-role/>, retrieved on 18.11.2017

Canada: Far-right protest, counter-demonstration underway in Quebec City— Quebec's largest far-right groups staged a demonstration in November 2017 in the provincial capital, where police were working to keep them apart from a counter-demonstration by anti-racism and anti-capitalism activists. Around 300 members of far-right groups, including La Meute and Storm Alliance, marched towards a convention centre where the governing Quebec Liberals were holding a major policy meeting. Leaders of La Meute and Storm Alliance accused the Liberal government of being too tolerant of the cultural practices of minorities. Outside the convention centre, police placed themselves between the far-right groups and the counter-protesters.



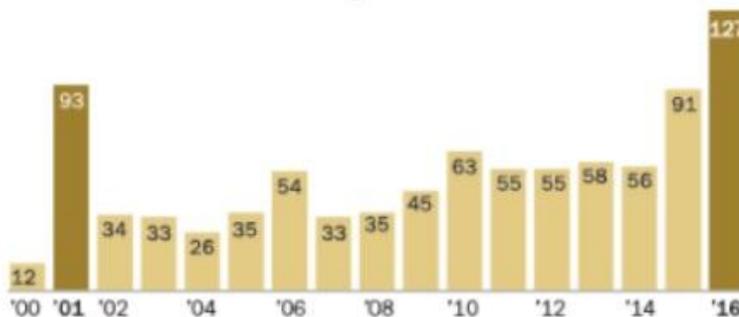
See: CBC News' entry, in: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/quebec-city-police-arrest-44-at-far-right-protest-and-counter-demonstration-1.4419752>, retrieved on 23.11.2017

US: Assaults against Muslims in U.S. surpass 2001 level— A report released in 2017 said that the number of assaults against Muslims in the United States rose significantly between 2015 and 2016, easily surpassing the modern peak reached in 2001, the year of the September 11 terrorist attacks, according to a Pew Research Center analysis of new hate crimes statistics from the FBI. In 2016, there were 127 reported victims of aggravated or simple assault, compared with 91 the year before and 93 in 2001. But assaults were not the only form of hate crime carried out against Muslims and other religious groups. The most common was intimidation, which was defined as reasonable fear of bodily harm. Anti-Muslim intimidation also increased in 2016, with 144 reported victims, compared with 120 the previous year. These numbers, however, were still dwarfed by the 296 victims of anti-Muslim intimidation in 2001. Certain types of crimes that damaged or destroyed property, including vandalism, also had risen, from 70 cases against Muslims in 2015 to 92 in 2016. Overall, there were 307 incidents of anti-Muslim hate crimes in 2016, marking a 19% increase from the previous year. This rise in hate crimes built on an even sharper increase the year before, when the total number of anti-Muslim incidents rose 67%, from 154 in 2014 to 257 in 2015. As in previous years, the largest number of all types of hate crime incidents against religious groups targeted Jews. In 2016, there were 684 anti-Jewish hate crime incidents, marking a slight increase from 664 in 2015. By comparison, in 2016, there were 62 hate crimes against Catholics and 15 against Protestants. Amid the rise in incidents of hate crimes, most Muslims in the U.S. said their community faced discrimination. In a Pew Research Center survey conducted in early 2017, three-quarters of Muslim American adults (75%) say there was a lot of discrimination against Muslims in the U.S., a view shared by nearly seven-in-ten adults in the general public (69%). In addition, half of U.S. Muslim adults (50%) said that in recent years it had become more difficult to be a Muslim in the U.S., with 10% of this group attributing this to discrimination, racism and prejudice. In general, nearly a quarter of U.S. Muslim adults (23%) viewed discrimination, racism or prejudice as the most important problem facing American Muslims today.

See: The Financial News' entry, in: <https://www.finchannel.com/world/america/69675-assaults-against-muslims-in-u-s-surpass-2001-level>, retrieved on 27.11.2017

Anti-Muslim assaults exceed 2001 total

Anti-Muslim assaults in U.S. reported to the FBI



Note: Includes simple and aggravated assaults.
Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Canada: Hate crimes against Muslims are down as overall number of hate crimes increases— The number of police-reported hate crimes specifically targeting Muslims went down since 2017 after spiking by over 250 per cent in the four years prior.



According to Statistics Canada data released in November 2017, police across the country recorded 139 hate crimes against Muslims in 2016, down from 159 in 2015. In 2012, that number stood at just 45, and the National Council of Canadian Muslims had said they feared the numbers would only continue to go up with each passing year. Statistics Canada cautioned that there were almost always other factors at play, beyond a simple increase or decrease in hateful acts. Overall, police reported 1,409 hate crimes in Canada in 2016, 47 more than in 2015. That was an increase of three

per cent, which could be attributed to more hate crimes targeting South Asians, Arabs, West Asians, the Jewish population and members of the LGBTQ community. Hate crimes against Jewish people saw the largest spike in 2016, from 178 incidents reported to police in 2015 to 221 reported in 2016. These increases were recorded mainly in Ontario, Quebec and Manitoba.

See: GlobalNews News' entry, in: <https://globalnews.ca/news/3884829/hate-crimes-against-muslims-down/>, retrieved on 29.11.2017

B. In Europe:

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 3.11.2017

UK: Islamophobia in the UK increasing, Tell MAMA report claims— Tell MAMA received 1,223 reported of street-based and online incidents in 2016 - with 953 of those verified. Its annual report showed that the majority of incidents were "offline" - rising from 437 to 642 the year before. The charity's director, Iman Atta, criticised social media platforms in the report - saying they had become "conveyor belts of hate" which potentially contributed to an increase in attacks on the street. Tell MAMA used data from 18 police forces plus reports from victims and members of the public to compile a picture of Islamophobic activity in the UK.

See: SKY News' entry, in: <https://news.sky.com/story/islamophobia-in-the-uk-increasing-tell-mama-report-claims-11109524>, retrieved on 3.11.2017

UK: Up to 1,000 far-right supporters flock to launch of EDL founder Tommy Robinson's book 'Why Muslims Kill For Islam'— As many as 1,000 far right supporters descended in November in Manchester for the launch of EDL founder Tommy Robinson's book Why Muslims Kill For Islam. Crowds started to gather outside Castlefield Bowl for a chance to get their hands on a copy of the book and to listen to a Q and A with the EDL founder.

See: The Mirror News' entry, in: <https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/up-1000-far-right-supporters-11463972>, retrieved on 4.11.2017

UK: Manchester Didsbury Mosque panic after a 'threatening letter containing white powder' was delivered— Worshippers fled Didsbury Mosque and Islamic Centre after staff received in November 2017, a threatening letter containing white powder. Dozens of young children were attending morning classes at the Islamic school when staff discovered the hand-delivered note, which reportedly included an image of a skull and crossbones. The spokesman for Didsbury Mosque told media that the white substance was later identified as baking powder. He said it was the latest in a string of attacks aimed at the mosque, after a box of pork meat was delivered two weeks before. Officers put a cordon around the building and firefighters in protective suits were pictured at the scene as they worked to assess the powder.

See: The Sun News' entry, in: <https://wwwthesun.co.uk/news/4843056/manchester-didsbury-mosque-suspicious-white-powder-letter/>, retrieved on 7.11.2017



Germany: Over 200 attacks reported on refugee shelters in Germany— Hate crimes against migrants in Germany continued as more than 200 attacks on refugee shelters were reported across Germany. According to Federal Criminal Police (BKA) statistics published by the Neue Osnabrucker Zeitung, 226 attacks were registered so far in the country. According to report, more attacks had been counted in 2017 than before the refugee crisis began in 2014, when there were only 199 reported cases for the entire year. The reports suggested that most offenses had a right-wing radical background. Far-right offenses in Germany spiked to their highest level since 2001, amid growing anti-refugee and migrant sentiment in the country triggered by propaganda from far-right parties. Accommodations for asylum seekers had frequently been the target of arson and hate crimes in Germany. The number of crimes against accommodation centers in Germany was almost a third higher in the first 10 months of 2016 than in the same period last year, according to data released on 5 November 2016, despite a drop in the number of refugee arrivals. The Federal Statistics Office (Destatis) said those seeking protection in Germany surged to 1.6 million by the end of 2016, a rise of 113 percent from 2014, and equivalent to 16 percent of the number of foreigners in the country. More than half of the 1.6 million arrivals had been granted permission to stay in Germany, the Destatis said, about half of those were from Syria with 455,000, 191 from Afghanistan and 156,000 from Iraq. The number of new arrivals in Germany had fallen sharply since the start of the year after European Union member states stepped up action to trim the flow of refugees and migrants into the EU. However, about 158,000 of those living in Germany were rejected asylum seekers, despite Berlin's efforts at deporting those without any legal right to be in the country.

See: Daily Sabah News' entry, in: <https://www.dailysabah.com/europe/2017/11/07/over-200-attacks-reported-on-refugee-shelters-in-germany>, retrieved on 7.11.2017

UK: Disgust as Swastika and anti-Islam slurs sprayed on Newcastle walls— A Newcastle councillor warned that religious hatred was on the rise as Nazi symbols were found daubed in a Newcastle street. Vile graffiti, which read "f*** Muslims", next to a Swastika symbol, was discovered on a street in Sandyford, east of the city centre. Councillor said the disgusting image was flagged up to him by concerned residents. It was an extreme symptom of the Islamophobia and anti-Semitism which had increased over recent years. Many people had been targeted as a result of their religion, some of whom were too afraid to tell the police. Police were investigating the incident, while the obscenities were set to be cleaned away.



See: Chronicle Live News' entry, in: <https://www.chroniclelive.co.uk/news/north-east-news/disgust-swastika-anti-islam-slurs-13868859>, retrieved on 8.11.2017

France: Tensions as Paris suburb tries to stop Muslim street prayers— Tensions erupted as French officials and residents of a Paris suburb tried to block Muslims from praying in the street — a dispute that reflected nationwide problems with mosque shortages. No one was hurt in the skirmishes in Clichy-la-Garenne, but both sides appeared to be digging in their heels in the dispute over prayer space in the town. Carrying a large banner reading "Stop Illegal Street Prayers," Mayor Remi Muzeau led more than 100 demonstrators in November in a show of force to dissuade Muslims from praying on the town's market square. Worshippers had been praying there every Friday for months to protest the closure of a prayer room. A few dozen worshippers tried to pray anyway but retreated to a less visible spot, seeking to avoid



confrontation with the protesters. But the demonstrators squeezed them toward a wooden wall. As worshippers chanted "Allahu akbar," Arabic for "God is great" the larger group of demonstrators loudly sang the French national anthem. Some held French flags and a crucifix aloft. Amid pushing and shoving, a banner the worshippers were carrying reading "United for a Grand Mosque of Clichy" was torn down. Police with shields then formed a human barricade between the groups and Muslims eventually unrolled their rugs on the pavement, took off their shoes and held their prayers.

See: Los Angeles Times News' entry, in: <http://www.latimes.com/world/la-fg-france-muslims-street-prayer-20171110-story.html>, retrieved on 11.11.2017

Netherlands: Mosque Attacked With Pig's Blood By Far Right Anti-Islam Group Pegida— Members of a far-right, anti-Islam group attempted to prevent the construction of a mosque in the Netherlands by dumping pig's blood on the site. Dressed as a priest, a member of the extremist group Pegida planted a wooden cross on the site of a new mosque in the Dutch municipality, and then proceeded to rub the cross with pig's blood, as reported by media. This most recent crime was captured on video and spread across social media. Pegida is a far-right group that emerged in 2014 in the poorest region of East Germany in response to the government's open-door policy toward Muslim refugees. Shortly thereafter, the group opened chapters in the Netherlands and staged protests in Amsterdam and The Hague.

See: Newsweek News' entry, in: <http://www.newsweek.com/far-right-anti-islam-pegida-mosque-netherlands-pigs-blood-europe-hate-crimes-711435>, retrieved on 15.11.2017

Hungary: Hungarians walk to overcome fears of Muslims — Budapest-based tour operator Setamuhely (Budapest Walkshop) run 30 different walks taking visitors around the city's architectural and cultural sites and the Jewish and Muslim communities. Anna Lenard, who runs the business, told media: "Most people have never met a Muslim in their life and this... together with what they hear every day in the media causes a lot of tension and stress in daily life. I think this is the main reason why people are coming now." Most of the people on the four-hour walk had a college degree, and two-thirds were women, she said. Hungary's Muslim community, estimated to number about 40,000, grew with the migration crisis of 2015, though most of them arrived earlier to study at Hungarian universities.

See: New Europe News' entry, in: <https://www.neweurope.eu/article/hungarians-walk-overcome-fears-muslims/>, retrieved on 19.11.2017

Sweden: Sweden Democrat calls Muslims 'not completely human'— Strid, a local politician from the town of Borlange, told the audience at the party's national conference in Norrkoping that there was a



"scale of 1 to 100. On one end of the scale you are 100 percent human, a person, everything that's part of that concept. At the other end, you are 100 percent Mohammedan." Strid continued by saying that "all Muslims are somewhere on that scale" and that members of terror group ISIS "are close to being 100 percent Mohammedan...If you are an ex-Muslim you have come quite far towards being fully human," Strid continued.

See: The Local News' entry, in: <https://www.thelocal.se/20171126/sweden-democrat-calls-muslims-not-completely-human-speech>, retrieved on 27.11.2017

C. In the Rest of the World

Myanmar: Myanmar's Aung San Suu Kyi wins Islamophobia Award 2017— Myanmar's foreign minister and de facto leader Aung San Suu Kyi was announced the 2017 International Islamophobe of the Year. Her atrocities targeting Myanmar's Muslim minority were so egregious that she shot past other

nominated international Islamophobes, U.S. President Donald Trump, French far-right party National Front leader Marie Le Pen, far-right Dutch party Freedoms Party leader Geert Wilders. Between 2,000 and 3,000 Muslims were killed in Myanmar's Rakhine state in November, according to the European Rohingya Council, and more than 617,000 Rohingya Muslims were forced to take shelter in neighboring Bangladesh. The annual Islamophobia Awards by the London-based Human Rights Commission. In the "United Kingdom" category, the Islamophobe of the year was announced as Tommy Robinson – the former leader of the fascist English Defense League (EDL) – who is infamously known by his anti-Islam views. The other candidates in this category were TV presenter and columnist Katie Hopkins, former leader of the populist UK Independence Party (UKIP) Nigel Farage, far-right For Britain Party founder Anne Marie Waters and British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson.

See: AA News' entry, in: <https://aa.com.tr/en/europe/myanmars-aung-san-suu-kyi-wins-islamophobia-award-2017/980387>, retrieved on 28.11.2017

Australia: Why do 25 per cent of Australians feel negativity towards Muslims?— A report on social cohesion had shed light on the number of Australians reporting racism and how some feel about Muslims.



According to which one in four Australians held a negative attitude towards Muslims and more people were reporting racism, but the number of people who wanted migrants to be rejected from coming to Australia based on their race had dropped. The Scanlon Foundation's Mapping Social Cohesion survey polled 1,500 people between June and July 2017, asked respondents 77 questions on a range of issues including immigration,

democracy, the economy and society. The annual survey found the number of people reporting experience of discrimination because of skin colour, ethnic origin or religion, had more than doubled - from nine per cent in 2007 to 20 per cent in 2017. Asked whether they felt positive, negative or neutral towards Muslims, 25 per cent of those polled felt 'very negative' or 'somewhat negative'. In comparison, six per cent of people felt negatively towards Buddhists. The report said the findings might be influenced by perceptions that some sections of the Muslim population rejected Australia's secular democratic values. The report's author and Monash University professor Andrew Markus said concerns about women's rights and feelings of a lack of integration often come up in focus group discussions around Muslims. The survey found 28.3 per cent of respondents felt positive towards Muslims, while the majority were neutral.

See: SBS News' entry, in: <https://www.sbs.com.au/news/why-do-25-per-cent-of-australians-feel-negativity-towards-muslims>, retrieved on 30.11.2017

POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS:

A. In the United States and Canada:

US: Tillerson 'deeply concerned' about violence against Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar— U.S. Secretary of state Rex Tillerson stated that he was deeply concerned about the continuing atrocities involving the Rohingya Muslim minority in Myanmar's Rakhine State. His comments came during a press conference with Burmese De-Facto civilian head of state, Aung San Suu Kyi, in November in Myanmar. The ethnic group had faced oppression in the predominantly Buddhist area for years. Since the 25 August

2017 attacks by Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army on security forces and Muslim minorities, over 600,000 Rohingya had fled to Bangladesh. An unknown number from multiple ethnic groups remain internally displaced with limited access to food, water and shelter. As a result, Tillerson announced an additional \$47 Million in humanitarian assistance for refugees, bringing the American response to the Rakhine State crisis in Myanmar and Bangladesh to more than \$87 million since August of 2016. A week before, the United Nations Security Council slammed called upon the government of Myanmar to ensure no further excessive use of military force in Rakhine State, to restore civil administration and apply rule of law, and to take immediate steps in accordance with their obligations and commitments to respect human rights.

See: KTIC Radio News' entry, in: http://kticradio.com/abc_world/tillerson-deeply-concerned-about-violence-against-rohingya-muslims-in-myanmar-abcid35997770/, retrieved on 16.11.2017

US: Cop To Be Disciplined For Islamophobic Twitter Account— A Durham detective who used slurs, called Islam “the religion of violence,” and shared police information on Twitter was facing professional discipline over his online comments.



Detective Constable Richard Cain pleaded guilty to one count of professional misconduct earlier 2017 in connection with posts on his personal Twitter account. Cain scrubbed the account, but several tweets were quoted in an agreed statement of facts from an ongoing disciplinary hearing. Among his provocative online statements: “The religion of violence #islam. #Mohamedwasapedophile”; “Prophet Muhammad. Police be upon him.”;

“Export islam back to where it came from. #bruxelles.” In one post, Cain referred to actor Chris Burke, who had Down syndrome, as a “gimp.” Others were the kind of statements common among the breed of right-wing Twitter user convinced of Islam’s supposedly dangerous and creeping influence. Cain tagged the Gatestone Institute and The Rebel, whose former staffer Faith Goldy was fired after appearing on a neo-Nazi podcast.

See: Vice News' entry, in: https://www.vice.com/en_ca/article/evb977/cop-to-be-disciplined-for-islamophobic-twitter-account, retrieved on 17.11.2017

B. In Europe:

UK: Britain's Prince Charles attends interfaith dialogue with religious leaders and young people—

Britain’s Prince Charles spent hour discussing interfaith issues with over 30 religious leaders, students and youth volunteers in Singapore. Together with Minister-in-charge of Muslim Affairs Yaacob Ibrahim, he attended a dialogue at the Harmony Centre in Bishan, where he heard ideas on promoting religious harmony, ranging from ensuring there were no religious enclaves to organising school visits to different places of worship. He was also shown translations of the Quran and books on interfaith efforts while on a tour of the Harmony Centre.

See: Newsweek News' entry, in: <http://www.newsweek.com/anti-islam-far-right-geert-wilders-vlaams-belang-697023>, retrieved on 1.11.2017

Belgium: Far-Right 'Islam Safari' Through Jihadi-Linked Brussels Suburb Not Welcome, Mayor Says—

Françoise Schepmans, the mayor of the Brussels suburb of Molenbeek said that far-right politicians seeking to stage an “Islam safari” in the area were not welcome. The statement referred to the visit planned by the Dutch anti-Islam Freedom Party leader Geert Wilders and the right-wing Flemish nationalist politician Filip Dewinter. Mayor Schepmans said, “In Molenbeek, more than 100,000 people live. The vast majority are democratic. Those people do nothing wrong and just want to live together peacefully.”

See: Newsweek News' entry, in: <http://www.newsweek.com/anti-islam-far-right-geert-wilders-vlaams-belang-697023>, retrieved on 1.11.2017

France: Even France's Far-Right Doesn't Like Trump— President Donald Trump was once a beacon for French far-right leaders, who pointed at his election victory as a taste of the coming populist uprising that would sweep them into power. But among France's far-right voters, there had been a growing dislike of Trump ever since he took office. Supporters of France's anti-immigrant, anti-Islam National Front — a party whose platform can often resemble Trump's — had an increasingly unfavorable opinion of the U.S. president. In a new poll released in November 2017, only around 20 percent of National Front voters said they had a positive outlook on Trump, while 37 percent saw him in a negative light. The remaining 43 percent of those voters said they had neither a negative nor positive view of Trump. The number of National Front supporters who did not view Trump favorably was up around 11 percent since a similar poll from February 2016, suggesting that the more familiar these voters had become with Trump, the less they cared for him. Although Trump had higher unfavorable ratings among French centrist and left-wing voters, the YouGov poll conducted for Le HuffPost between Oct. 25 and 27 showed that the country as a whole viewed him in an increasingly poor light. It was an interesting result, given that National Front leader Marine Le Pen's campaign for president seemed to mimic Trump's election run in a number of ways, and it highlights just how unpopular Trump was abroad.

See: The Huffington Post News' entry, in: https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/france-trump-far-right_us_59fb4c67e4b0415a420a4211, retrieved on 4.11.2017

Belgium: Geert Wilders cancels Molenbeek 'safari of Islam'— Geert Wilders, the head of the Dutch far-right Party for Freedom (PVV), canceled a visit to Molenbeek, Belgium after local officials banned him from organizing an event he had called "a safari of Islam." Brussels Mayor Philippe Close and Françoise Schepmans, the mayor of Molenbeek, issued an order forbidding Flemish far-right groups and the Dutch far-right leader from visiting the Brussels neighborhood, home to many of those behind the Paris and Brussels terrorist attacks. Mr Close said: "We do not want Mr. Wilders to export his message of racist hatred on the territory of Brussels." Speaking at a press conference Friday with Flemish nationalist Vlaams Belang party member Filip Dewinter, Wilders said he would appeal against the ban, saying he "finds it unacceptable that parts of our cities are not accessible to parliamentarians." Dewinter added he had wanted to bring Wilders on a tour of "Europe's capital of jihad."

See: Politico News' entry, in: <https://www.politico.eu/article/geert-wilders-cancels-molenbeek-safari-of-islam/>, retrieved on 4.11.2017

Austria: Candlelight Protest Against The Far Right — At least 3,000 people formed a chain of light in Austria's capital Vienna to protest against the formation of a government that included the far-right Freedom Party. Demonstrators held candles, torches and bicycle lamps encircled the government district. Spokesman for SOS Mitmensch, one of the human rights groups which organized the demonstration, said: "Our republic's most powerful political offices should be exclusively reserved for trustworthy people who are not in the slightest connected to right-wing extremists." It was the biggest protest in Austria since coalition talks between the conservative People's Party (ÖVP) and the Freedom Party (FPÖ) started. Organizers estimated the number of people taking part at 8,000 to 10,000, the police at around 3,000.

See: Intelligencer Post News' entry, in: <https://www.intelligencerpost.com/austria-candlelight-protest-far-right/>, retrieved on 16.11.2017

UK: Bigot pays the price for planting hoax bomb at Paisley mosque— James Palmer, a bigoted drunk who planted a fake bomb outside a Paisley mosque had been caged for 32 months. He was motivated by religious prejudice after watching the London Bridge terror attacks on TV when he mounted the bomb hoax at the mosque in Wellmeadow Street. Worshippers had been inside during Ramadan on 4 June 2017 when the lout left the suspicious device, a bag containing two aerosol cans labelled 'strong adhesive spray' which were taped together with a wire, giving the impression it was a bomb. Palmer also attached a badly written note, which read 'Yous are next defo' on the package which was placed at the entrance to the mosque. The disciplinary proceedings reveal Cain's posts at a time of anti-Islamic fervour, both online and in public, as well as credible allegations of racial profiling by Ontario's cops.

See: Daily Record News' entry, in: <https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/local-news/bigot-pays-price-planting-hoax-11538546>, retrieved on 17.11.2017

Netherlands: Headscarf ban for on-duty police is discrimination: Dutch human rights council— A Dutch human rights council had ruled that hindering a Muslim female police officer from wearing a headscarf with her uniform was discrimination, since the officer had limited contact with the public. The ban for on-duty headscarves stemmed from a Dutch law prohibiting officers from wearing visible religious symbols, stating uniforms must be "neutral." After Rotterdam-based officer Sarah Izat lodged a complaint in May 2017, the Netherlands Institute for Human Rights ruled on the case, finding it discriminatory. Izat claimed the ban hindered her career progression as Izat chose to wear the headscarf, she could only come to work in plain clothes, whereas her non-Muslim colleagues wore uniforms. In the ruling, the Institute stated that since Izat's job as an administrative officer has limited interaction with the public and most of her work is completed over the phone, the headscarf ban was not justified. The human rights council added that as Izat was not authorized to make decisions on behalf of the police but only to take statements, the headscarf being seen would not affect her job performance.

See: Daily Sabah News' entry, in: <https://www.dailysabah.com/islamophobia/2017/11/21/headscarf-ban-for-on-duty-police-is-discrimination-dutch-human-rights-council>, retrieved on 22.11.2017

Europe: White nationalist Richard Spencer banned from 26 European nations— Poland's media report said Polish authorities banned Richard Spencer from entering 26 countries in Europe's visa-free Schengen area for five years. A source close to the Polish Foreign Ministry confirmed to the media that the ban had taken effect. Spencer previously was banned from the Schengen zone for three years after his 2014 arrest in Hungary, where he had planned to host a conference. Spencer popularized the term "alt-right" to describe a fringe movement that's a loose mix of racist, anti-Semitic and anti-immigration beliefs. In August, he was scheduled to speak at a white nationalist rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, where a car plowed into a crowd of counter-protesters, killing a woman.

See: Los Angeles News' entry, in: <http://www.latimes.com/world/la-fg-poland-spencer-ban-20171122-story.html>, retrieved on 23.11.2017

ON DIALOGUE:

Vatican: Pope Francis pushes Catholic Church towards interfaith dialogue on travels— In his first official speech in Myanmar in November 2017, the head of the Catholic Church cautioned that "every ethnic group" must be respected. Conflict, he said, must be resolved through dialogue, not violence. Prior to the remarks, Pope Francis met with various religious representatives in Rangoon, where he called for the "wealth of our differences" to be acknowledged in religious and ethnic questions. The 17 participants were present included six Christians, five Buddhists, three Muslims, two Hindus and a Jew. The pontiff was on his nineteenth foreign trip of his papacy. The common thread that brought them all together was interfaith dialogue, especially with Muslims.

See: DW News' entry, in: <http://www.dw.com/en/pope-francis-pushes-catholic-church-towards-interfaith-dialogue-on-travels/a-41571122>, retrieved on 29.11.2017



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