



MANIFESTATIONS OF ISLAMOPHOBIA:

A. In the United States and Canada:

US: Anti-Islam flyers, graffiti spotted on Western's campus— Islamophobic flyers and graffiti were found at least three times since August at Western Washington University, with messages that expressed hatred. It was said that the University Police Department records found instances of flyers posted in residence halls and graffiti scrawled across other posters with hateful messages. Flyers included an image of a demonstration with words that called for the extermination of "Islam-Nazi scum," and also discussed desiring free speech. The first flyers were spotted on 10 August, with more found two days later. Even more were spotted on 29 September, days after fall quarter began. The University Police Department was investigating the flyers and graffiti.

See: Seattle-PI News' entry, in: <https://www.seattlepi.com/local/article/Islamophobic-flyers-graffiti-found-on-Western-s-12256521.php>, retrieved on 6.10.2017

Canada: Police investigate stickers depicting Prophet Muhammad in Toronto apartment building— An Islamophobic stickers were found in October 2017 around an apartment building in Flemingdon Park. The stickers depicted the Prophet Muhammad, beside the cartoon representation are the words: "Feminism is cancer" and "wage gap is a myth." Toronto police was investigating the incident.

See: CBCNews News' entry, in: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/flemingdon-park-islamaphobia-police-1.4349393>, retrieved on 13.10.2017



B. In Europe:

UK: Someone Dressed Their Kid As A 'Mosque' For Halloween And The Rest Kinda Freaked Out— A 7-year-old kid attended his school Halloween party dressed as a 'mosque' and created a lot of trouble. The child, who attended school at St. Philip Neri's Primary School in Rochdale had to leave soon after the party started. As the kid entered, a lot of parents felt outraged and disturbed with the costume. They then asked school teachers to intervene in the matter and handle it. Despite that, some of the parents began smashing the dome with toffee apples. Parent told media that she had felt compelled to act in order to defend her "British values". She said: "I'm not a racist but I don't see why he couldn't have come dressed as a British building, like a pub or a MacDonald's."

See: India Times News' entry, in: <https://www.indiatimes.com/news/world/someone-dressed-their-kid-as-a-mosque-for-halloween-and-the-rest-kind-a-freaked-out-332473.html>, retrieved on 28.10.2017

UK: Man filmed smearing sausage meat on mosque door and urinating outside—



Jamie Mullins was seen outside the Fiveways Centre in Sherwood, which was used for Islamic prayer, on 18 June during Ramadan. Mullins was wearing a football shirt, drinking from a can of beer and carrying a St George's flag when he committed the offence. He then smeared pork sausage meat on the mosque. Mullins admitted two charges – one of racially or religiously aggravated harassment, alarm and distress, and one of racially or religiously aggravated criminal damage. He was accompanied by Matthew Sarsfield, of Sherbrook Road Daybrook, who admitted one charge of causing

racially or religiously aggravated harassment, alarm or distress. Both were sentenced at Nottingham Magistrates Court in October.

See: Metro News' entry, in: <http://metro.co.uk/2017/10/27/man-filmed-smearing-sausage-meat-on-mosque-door-and-urinating-outside-7032606/>, retrieved on 28.10.2017

Czech: Czech Republic politician calls for ban on Islam—

Andrej Babis and his populist ANO (Yes) movement were expected to cruise to victory – but it remained to be seen by how much, and what kind of a coalition he would put together. Like Donald Trump in the United States and Silvio Berlusconi in Italy, this owner of the sprawling Agrofert chemicals, food and media conglomerate and second-wealthiest Czech had transformed himself from an entrepreneur into a politician. Surprisingly, his staunchly anti-Islamic rhetoric had won him popularity in a country where there were hardly any Muslims. He had also called for a ban on Islam in the Czech Republic, insisting that its Sharia law was incompatible with European law.



See: Express Tribune News' entry, in: <https://tribune.com.pk/story/1537419/3-czech-republic-politician-calls-ban-islam/>, retrieved on 22.10.2017

Germany: Far-right AfD debuts as Germany's new Parliament sits—

Dozens of lawmakers from the far-right AfD party made their debut in October 2017 at the first sitting of Germany's newly-elected Parliament, an unprecedented showing for a nationalist force since World War II. A record 709 MPs would gather for the session, with all eyes on the 92 members from Alternative for Germany (AfD), which took 12.6 per cent of the vote in September's watershed elections and became the country's third biggest party. The AfD's arrival in the Bundestag unleashed a political earthquake in post-war Germany, as leading figures in the party had repeatedly smashed through their claims on German identity or by challenging Germany's culture of atonement over World War II and the Holocaust. Two days ahead of the session, thousands of people holding up "Stop AfD" signs demonstrated outside the Parliament building in Berlin.

See: The Strait Times News' entry, in: <http://www.straitstimes.com/world/europe/far-right-afd-debuts-as-germanys-new-parliament-sits>, retrieved on 25.10.2017

Germany: Report reveals increase in anti-Muslim sentiment across Germany—

A report by the Foundation for Political, Economic and Social Research (SETA) revealed rising anti-Muslim sentiments across Germany in the fields of education, the media, law, and the internet. According to a report written by Alexandra Lewicki, an expert in political sociology, anti-Muslim tendencies in Germany had been gradually increasing since 2015 and are affecting a variety of Muslims, as the number of attacks on Muslims and refugee shelters had quintupled since 2015. Stating that even though the German Federal Police announced that the number of attacks on Muslim foundations was approximately one to two per week, the report said the actual number of attacks against Muslims was higher since the exact number of attacks

were reported. The report said: "While German authorities recorded 17 attacks per week, German media outlets published approximately 37 news of attacks weekly." The report went on to say that "Every other person in Germany - 50 percent of the German population - indicated that they feel alone in their country due to the 'Muslim population getting crowded,' while 40 percent of the population said "They will prohibit Muslims from taking shelter in Germany." The report revealed that people who exhibit Islamophobia aimed to turn their thoughts into actions, stating: "Those who support Islamophobia had clearly expressed that they want to turn their opinions into physical action." The report asserted that the negative stance toward Muslims was the product of institutions, saying that prejudices shown towards various groups had gained high acceptance in certain periods of history. The report also revealed that German public opinion widely placed false blame on Muslims regarding crimes, despite lack of proof, causing further prejudice towards Muslims.

See: Daily Sabah News' entry, in <https://www.dailysabah.com/islamophobia/2017/10/25/report-reveals-increase-in-anti-muslim-sentiment-across-germany>, retrieved on 25.10.2017

UK: Anti-Islam extremist who says 'all Muslims are jihadis' is keynote speaker at event in Parliament hosted by Tory MP— A TORY MP hosted a meeting in Parliament addressed by an anti-Islam activist who thinks "all Muslims are jihadis". Anti-Islam activist Tapan Ghosh spoke at an event in Parliament which sparked outrage among Muslim groups and MPs because of the speaker's track record of inflammatory rhetoric. Mr Ghosh had called on the UN to stop Muslims having children and blamed the Rohingya of Burma for their own genocide. Harrow East MP Bob Blackman refused to apologise for hosting the meeting. See: The SUN News' entry, in: <https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/4765206/anti-islam-extremist-who-says-all-muslims-are-jihadis-is-keynote-speaker-at-event-in-parliament-hosted-by-tory-mp/>, retrieved on 26.10.2017

Germany: Pig's head thrown at Turkish mosque site in Germany— Muslim community near Frankfurt found a severed pig's head at a construction site where a mosque is being built. Police spokesman said the incident was the latest in a series of provocations by residents opposed to the construction of the mosque, which is being overseen by the Turkish-Islamic Union for Religious Affairs (DITIB). Mosques in Germany were occasionally subject to attacks that range from Molotov cocktails to pig's heads. Turkish-Germans, who comprised one of the largest minorities in the country with more than 3 million people, had been frequent targets of bigoted attacks in the formerly Nazi-ruled Germany. The trend of attacks targeting mosques re-emerged in recent years with the rise of the far right in the country.

See: Daily Sabah News' entry, in: <https://www.dailysabah.com/europe/2017/10/26/pigs-head-thrown-at-turkish-mosque-site-in-germany>, retrieved on 27.10.2017

UK: Anti-Muslim threat found in Kent high-school bathroom— Threatening anti-Muslim graffiti found in a girls bathroom at Kent-Meridian High School. The graffiti read: "All Muslims dead on 10/30," which also included swastikas and the hashtag "MAGA" — commonly used to refer to the Trump campaign slogan, "Make America Great Again." Kent police were investigating and don't yet know whether the threat, found Tuesday, is real, said Cmdr. Jarod Kasner. District called police immediately and started its own investigation, wanted to communicate in a thoughtful way that balanced informing and alarming.

See: Seattle Times News' entry, in: <https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/crime/anti-muslim-threat-found-in-kent-high-school-bathroom/>, retrieved on 28.10.2017

UK: Man jailed for threatening to stab Muslims and blow up mosques— Paul Hepplestone wore a plastic grenade and brandished a sword in the footage that made Muslims in Britain and beyond fear for their safety. The man recorded the video two weeks after the Manchester Arena suicide bombing and a day after the London Bridge



terror attack. In the shocking clip, he said: 'This is a quick message to Muslims, p***s and terrorists, you can't call yourself terrorists, cowards is what I want to call youse. Yeah, you run in with bombs strapped to youse and blow yourself up, where there's a bunch of innocent kids. There is nothing terrorising about that. Let me tell you, I will get people to run in your mosques with pineapples [a reference to grenades], blow your mosques off this f***ing planet. Yeah, I will cut each one of your ears off with a sword, I will cut your fingers, your toes, I will cut you a thousand times until you bleed out.' The footage was quickly shared on social media and left Muslims in Merseyside, Bristol, Newcastle, and Scotland terrified.

See: Metro News' entry, in: <http://metro.co.uk/2017/10/27/man-jailed-for-threatening-to-stab-muslims-and-blow-up-mosques-7031552/>, retrieved on 28.10.2017

Europe: Most Racist Islamophobic European Countries towards Muslims— Insider Monkey had published a report about Islamophobia in Europe enlisting the most racist Islamophobic European countries towards muslims, of which three were taken and presented here. The first country was the United Kingdom, where 47% of the people who participated in the survey agreed that they did not want Muslims to inhabit their country. There were things that provoked such a narrative, and one of them was the London Bridge attack that occurred in June 2017. The second country was Italy where 51% of the respondents would reject Muslim immigration to this country. However, Italy did not have any unpleasant situations or attacks in the past. Then Germany, where 53% of the people who responded agreed that they would not like more Muslims in their country, and that being more than a half was a little bit worrying.

See: Stock Review News' entry, in: <https://www.stocktalkreview.com/11-most-racist-islamophobic-european-countries-towards-muslims/22408/>, retrieved on 29.10.2017

Germany: German groups mobilise against rise of far right— German civil rights organisations were mobilising against the newly elected far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) party and other more hardline groups, vowing to avert the even stronger rightward lurch seen in neighbouring countries. Thousands of protesters were present in the eastern city of Dresden when the anti-Islam Pegida movement celebrated its third anniversary. Pegida - Patriotic Europeans Against the Islamisation of the West - had seen dwindling crowds since early 2015, with the AfD absorbing some of its supporters. The AfD railed against what it called the "Islamisation of Europe". It won almost 13 per cent of the vote in the Sept 24 national elections, making it the third-largest party in the Bundestag, or Lower House of Parliament, and the first far-right party to win seats in more than half a century. Police data showed a 14 per cent rise in right-wing extremist violent acts in 2016, and that anti-Semitic crimes rose 4 per cent to 681 in the first eight months in 2017.



See: The Strait Times News' entry, in: <http://www.straitstimes.com/world/europe/german-groups-mobilise-against-rise-of-far-right>, retrieved on 30.10.2017

C. In the Rest of the World

China: Muslims were forbidden to keep the Koran— Chinese police, under threat of severe punishment, ordered Muslims to give up all copies of the Koran and prayer mats, as reported by the publication Yenicag.Ru who cited a message from Uighur activists. According to the activists, officials in the North-Western region of Xinjiang had warned of a mosque that the Muslim families from ethnic minorities should convey the objects of worship, including the Koran and prayer rugs. In case of detection of their objects of worship, the authorities had threatened to punish their owners. A week before, a similar message was

received from residents of Kashgar, Khotan and other regions of China. The speaker of the world Congress of Uighurs Dilhat Raxit stated that they received a notification according to which each ethnic Uighur shall transmit to the authorities any objects associated with Islam. According to local officials, the authorities of Xinjiang confiscated all Korans published more than five years ago, because of their “extremist”. Chinese officials said that they stopped illegal propaganda, religious activities, religious instruction and prohibited items which could become instruments of terrorism, including flammable objects and knives.

See: The MiceTimes of Asia News’ entry, in: <http://micetimes.asia/in-china-muslims-were-forbidden-to-keep-the-koran/>, retrieved on 10.10.2017

Myanmar: Aung San Suu Kyi unveils relief plans for Rohingya Muslims— Myanmar’s de facto leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, announced in October 2017 her plans to set up a civilian-led agency, with foreign assistance, to deliver aid and help resettle Rohingya Muslims in Rakhine state. A close adviser of Aung San Suu Kyi said the proposed body had been long planned, and was part of an attempt to show the civilian government she lead, rather than the Burmese military could deliver humanitarian relief, resettlement and economic recovery. The Nobel laureate had been criticised for failing to denounce a brutal army crackdown on the Rohingya in Rakhine state, which forced hundreds of thousands to flee to neighbouring Bangladesh. Thousands of refugees continued to arrive in in October 2017 from across the river separating the two countries, even though Myanmar insisted military operations ceased on 5 September. Aid agencies estimate that 536,000 people had arrived in Cox’s Bazar district in Bangladesh, straining scarce resources of aid groups and local communities. About 200,000 Rohingya were already in Bangladesh after fleeing persecution in Myanmar, where they had long been denied citizenship and faced restrictions on their movements and access to basic services. In a speech carried by state TV in the month, Aung San Suu Kyi said: “There has been a lot of criticisms against our country. We need to understand international opinion. However, just as no one can fully understand the situation of our country the way we do, no one can desire peace and development for our country more than us.”

See: The Guardian News’ entry, in: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/oct/13/aung-san-suu-kyi-unveils-relief-plans-for-rohingya-muslims-myanmar>, retrieved on 14.10.2017

POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS:

A. In the United States and Canada:

US: New York City Muslims and Jews March to Support the Rohingya— A few hundred people marched down Madison Avenue in September for the 32nd Annual Muslim Day Parade. For the first time in its history, a rabbi served as the honorary grand marshal at the parade. Imam Shamsi Ali, President of the Muslim Foundation of America—the group that organizes the annual event, invited Rabbi Marc Schneier in order to send a message of unity. Imam Ali said that he and Rabbi Schneier, who was the President of the Foundation for Ethnic Understanding, had had a long working relationship speaking against religious persecution, specifically against Islamophobia and Anti-Semitism. Rabbi Schneier’s presence at the parade reflected the theme of the 32nd Annual Muslim Day Parade: Building Bridges. Imam Ali urged for communities of different faiths to connect and help fight each other’s battle. At the year’s parade, the Muslim community was fighting for the rights of a specific people: the Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar. Participants carried signs that read “We Are All Rohingya” and “Stop Genocide,” some of which contained graphic images of murdered Rohingya children. As the Muslim community walked to express their solidarity with the Rohingya people in Myanmar, individuals from other religious groups walked to express their solidarity with the Muslim community. The presence of the Jewish community at the parade extended beyond Rabbi Schneier’s role as a grand marshal. Different Jewish organizations marched alongside Muslim men and women. One of these groups was Congregation Beit Simchat Torah (CBST). Its representative explained that the synagogue’s participation was an outgrowth of a relationship with the mosque that developed after the November, 2016 presidential election. She said: “We wanted them to feel like they were not alone. We feel that Muslims are an important part of our community, an important part of our country. We refuse to let the administration in Washington change those realities.”

See: NY City Lens News’ entry, in: <http://nycitylens.com/2017/10/muslim-day-parade/>, retrieved on 2.10.2017

US: Florida man pleads guilty after threatening to shoot Muslims at mosque—

Gerald Wallace pleaded guilty to threatening to attack a mosque and shoot its members. He admitted to one count of obstructing the free exercise of religious beliefs after leaving a hate-filled and profanity laden message against Islam, the prophet Mohammed, and the Koran, during which he threatened to go to the mosque, and stated, "I'm gonna shoot all y'all," the U.S. Department of Justice said in a statement. According to the indictment, Wallace called the mosque on 19 February 2017 and left a message in which he said, "I hate you Muslims, you Muslims are terrible. I hate you people. I'm gonna go down to your center, I'm gonna shoot all y'all. I hate your Allah, I hate your Koran, I hate everything about Islam. You people are worthless. Go to hell you."

See: Newsline News' entry, in: <https://newsline.com/florida-man-pleads-guilty-after-threatening-to-shoot-muslims-at-mosque/>, retrieved on 23.10.2017



US: Columbia Professor: Speech from right-wing politician constituted 'an act of violence'—

A professor at Columbia University argued that he was justified in shutting down a speech by a far-right British politician because his speech represented an act of violence. Tommy Robinson, co-founder and former leader of the anti-immigration and anti-Islam English Defense League, previously served as a leader in Britain's far-right British Freedom Party. Columbia University College Republicans invited Robinson to give a talk on "The Fall of Europe: Mass Immigration" via Skype in October 2017. Media reported that the speech was immediately interrupted and shut down by shouting left-wing protesters. Many of the protesters carried signs reading "hate speech = violence."

See: Washington Free Beacon News' entry, in: <http://freebeacon.com/politics/columbia-professor-speech-right-wing-politician-constituted-act-violence/>, retrieved on 24.10.2017

US: After Charlottesville, white supremacists abandon their own Tennessee rally—

A coalition of neo-Nazis and white nationalists suffered a setback in Tennessee on October when the larger of two planned rallies for the day was abruptly canceled in the face of massive local counter-protests. The back-to-back



rallies in Shelbyville and Murfreesboro were planned as the first joint event for extremist groups with racist, anti-Semitic and pro-Nazi views including the League of the South, the Traditionalist Worker's Party, National Socialist Movement, Vanguard America and Anti-Communist Action since the August rally in Charlottesville, Virginia that resulted in a riot with dozens of injuries, one dead counter-protester and two police officers killed in a helicopter crash. At the morning rally in Shelbyville, roughly 350 counter-protesters gathered to wait in 30

degree weather for the white supremacists to arrive. Most were local, hailing from Shelbyville or as far away as Nashville. Hundreds of police officers patrolled the area and kept the counter-protesters back about fifty yards from the designated demonstration zone. Approximately 200 protesters finally showed up at an hour and a half late.

See: Daily Beast News' entry, in: <https://www.thedailybeast.com/after-charlottesville-white-supremacists-abandon-their-own-tennessee-rally>, retrieved on 29.10.2017

B. In Europe:

UK: Man sentenced to community service for smearing sausage meat on front door of Nottingham mosque— Jamie Mullins had been given 40 hours of unpaid work after he admitted smearing pork sausage meat over a lock on the front door of a mosque. He went to the Sherwood Education and Culture Centre in Nottingham on 18 June and CCTV footage presented to magistrates showed him wipe his hand on his trousers after smearing the meat on the lock. The man then draped an English flag over a flowerpot outside the building and took selfies in front of it. Mullins also admitted religiously aggravated criminal damage.

See: Independent News' entry, in: <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/mosque-vandalism-sausage-meat-jamie-mullins-matthew-sarsfield-sherwood-education-culture-centre-a8021241.html>, retrieved on 27.10.2017

C. In the Rest of the World

Myanmar: India says Myanmar must take back Rohingya Muslims— India's foreign minister said that Myanmar must take back Rohingya Muslims to resolve one of Asia's largest refugee crises in decades. Bangladesh's government said that Indian Foreign Minister Sushma Swaraj conveyed this message during a meeting with Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who ordered border guards and her administration to accommodate hundreds of thousands of Rohingya Muslims to allow them to cross the border and shelter in makeshift camps in the coastal district of Cox's Bazar. More than 600,000 Rohingya Muslims have fled Myanmar's Rakhine state and arrived in Bangladesh to avoid persecution that the United Nations has called ethnic cleansing.

See: ABC News' entry, in: <http://abcnews.go.com/>, retrieved on 24.10.2017

ON BURQAH AND VEIL RELATED ISSUES:

Austria: Muslim woman harassed for wearing burqa in Vienna— At a Vienna metro station, two women aged 41 and 26 harassed a young Muslim girl on the grounds that she had violated the burqa ban law, effective 1 October 2017, as reported by Austrian media, and Police were called to the scene as confrontation became physical. Police spokesman said in a statement to the press that the covered woman did not resist the police and uncovered her face for identification. The police kept record of the woman as her refusal to comply with the law resulted in a public argument. According to the new law, those who do not comply with the burqa ban could be taken to police stations for identification. Those who refused to uncover their faces could be fined up to 150 euros. The ban was approved by Austrian parliament in May 2017. The outlawing of the burqa or other clothing concealing the face follows similar moves in other European Union countries, starting with France in 2011.

See: Daily Sabah News' entry, in: <https://www.dailysabah.com/europe/2017/10/06/muslim-woman-harassed-for-wearing-burqa-in-vienna>, retrieved on 7.10.2017

Switzerland: Switzerland to hold referendum on whether to ban burqa after successful far-right petition— Voters in Switzerland would decide whether to ban Muslim face veils including the burqa after a campaign by far-right groups to outlaw the garment which they said undermine the "dignity of women".

The public would get a chance to have its say in a referendum expected to be rolled out in 2018 in the country where less than 5 per cent were Islamic in the largely Christian nation. It was tabled after extremists gathered 100,000 signatures for the ballot, forcing officials to react under a rule in the country where voters decided the agenda in a system known as direct democracy.

If the measure went through, Switzerland would follow suit with other countries in Europe including France and Austria which cracked



down on full-face veils. The measure was proposed by a group including MPs from the nationalist Swiss People's Party (SVP) that was also behind a ban on building minarets in Switzerland.

See: Independent News' entry, in: <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/switzerland-burqa-referendum-vote-ban-muslim-veils-far-right-petition-a8001591.html>, retrieved on 16.10.2017

Switzerland: Switzerland to hold referendum on whether to ban burqa after successful far-right petition— Voters in Switzerland would decide whether to ban Muslim face veils including the burqa after a campaign by far-right groups to outlaw the garment which they say undermines the "dignity of women". The public would get a chance to have its say in a referendum expected to be rolled out in 2018 in the country where less than 5 per cent are Islamic in the largely Christian nation. It was tabled after extremists gathered 100,000 signatures for the ballot, forcing officials to react under a rule in the country where voters decide the agenda in a system known as direct democracy. If the measure goes through, Switzerland would follow suit with other countries in Europe including France and Austria which had cracked down on full-face veils.

See: Independent News' entry, in: <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/switzerland-burqa-referendum-vote-ban-muslim-veils-far-right-petition-a8001591.html>, retrieved on 16.10.2017

Canada: Quebec veil law Bill 62 sparks protests and confusion— Quebec's new law forcing women to unveil before getting public services was meeting with confusion, street protests and resistance from civic leaders, exposing the divisive impact of legislating on matters of faith and human rights in Canada. Bill 62 became law, but the largest cities and transit authorities said they would not yet put it into effect. The legislation required people receiving public services in Quebec – on buses, in a hospital, in daycares or in libraries – to show their faces, a rule that effectively singles out Muslim women who wear the face-covering niqab and burka. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau took aim at Bill 62 on Friday while campaigning ahead of a federal by-election in Quebec, although he stopped short of saying Ottawa would challenge the law's constitutionality in court.

See: The Globe and Mail News' entry, in: <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/in-quebec-veil-law-bill-62-sparks-protests-and-confusion/article36680954/>, retrieved on 21.10.2017

UK: Models in headscarves and Islamic robes take to the catwalk for the first London Modest Fashion Festival aimed at 'empowering Muslim women' worldwide— Models dressed in headscarves and Islamic robes took to the catwalk for the first ever London Modest Fashion festival with the aim of empowering Muslim women. Dozens of models took part in the inaugural event at London's Grosvenor House Hotel in October 2017 to showcase the leading designers of the 'modest fashion' world. The inaugural catwalk was hosted by Dr Myriam Francois-Ferrah, a Franco-British journalist who specialized in Islam in France and the UK.

See: Daily Mail News' entry, in: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5006171/London-Modest-Fashion-Festival-showcases-Islamic-dress.html>, retrieved on 24.10.2017

Canada: Legalized Islamophobia in Quebec— In October 2017 the Quebec National Assembly adopted Bill 62, making it illegal to wear a mask or any other clothing that covered the face when providing or receiving public services managed by the province or by municipalities. The law would primarily affect Muslim women who wear niqabs or a burqas. This was the first piece of legislation to be adopted in Quebec after 10 years of debates on the definition of secularism and religious diversity. As with similar debates in France, the notion of Quebec as a secular society, encapsulated in the phrase 'laïcité' had increasingly been used to primarily target the rights of Muslims.

See: Socialist Worker News' entry, in: <https://socialistworker.org/2017/10/23/legalized-islamophobia-in-quebec>, retrieved on 24.10.2017

Canada: OC Transpo won't follow new Quebec veil ban, Mayor Watson says — OC Transpo would not follow a new Quebec law that forced people receiving a public service to uncover their faces, with Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson dismissing the law as "a thinly-veiled appeal to populist sentiment." Watson wrote to Quebec Premier Phillippe Couillard, telling him that the premier should not expect the City of Ottawa to follow the new Quebec law. Speaking to reporters later, Watson expressed shock that the Quebec government would pass a law that compels people to remove their face veils to receive public services.

See: Ottawa Citizen News' entry, in: <http://ottawacitizen.com/news/local-news/oc-transpo-wont-follow-new-quebec-veil-ban-mayor-watson-says>, retrieved on 26.10.2017

Canada: Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has spoken out against a burqa ban— Canada became one of countries to prohibit the wearing of full-face coverings in public. The law, which was only passed in Quebec, would mean those wearing the niqab or burqa must unveil when riding public transport or offering and receiving government services in the province. It was expected to affect school teachers, hospital workers and police officers among others, though the law change did not specifically mention the Islamic veils. However the legislation had one particular critic in Canada's own Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau. He told media: *"I don't think it's the government's business to tell a woman what she should or shouldn't be wearing."*

See: Emirates Woman News' entry, in <http://emirateswoman.com/canadas-prime-minister-spoken-burqa-ban/>, retrieved on 26.10.2017

ON DIALOGUE:

Sweden: King of Sweden visits mosque gutted in arson attack— The King of Sweden, Carl XVI Gustaf, visited a mosque in Orebro gutted in an arson attack on 26 September 2017. He was in Orebro for a previously scheduled visit to the university, and paid a visit to the mosque afterwards on his own request. A 20 year-old man was arrested in connection with the arson attack on a mosque, the latest in a string of such incidents in recent years. The mosque was first targeted in 2014 when someone threw a bottle with flammable contents through a window.

See: MusimNews News' entry, in: <http://muslimnews.co.uk/newspaper/islamophobia/king-sweden-visits-mosque-gutted-arson-attack/>, retrieved on 27.10.2017

Compiled by:
Dr. Dodik Ariyanto
Islamophobia Observatory
Email: dariyanto@oic-oci.org