



ORGANIZATION OF ISLAMIC COOPERATION

Political Affairs Department

Islamophobia Observatory

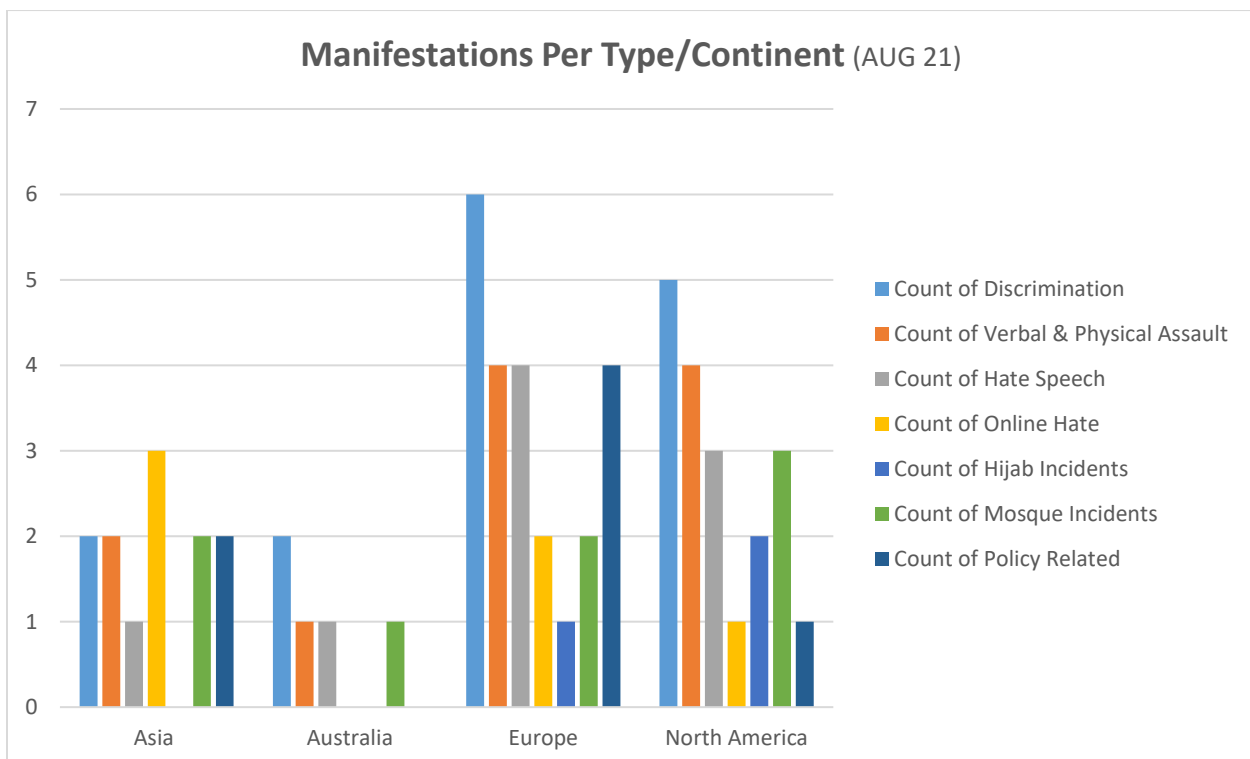
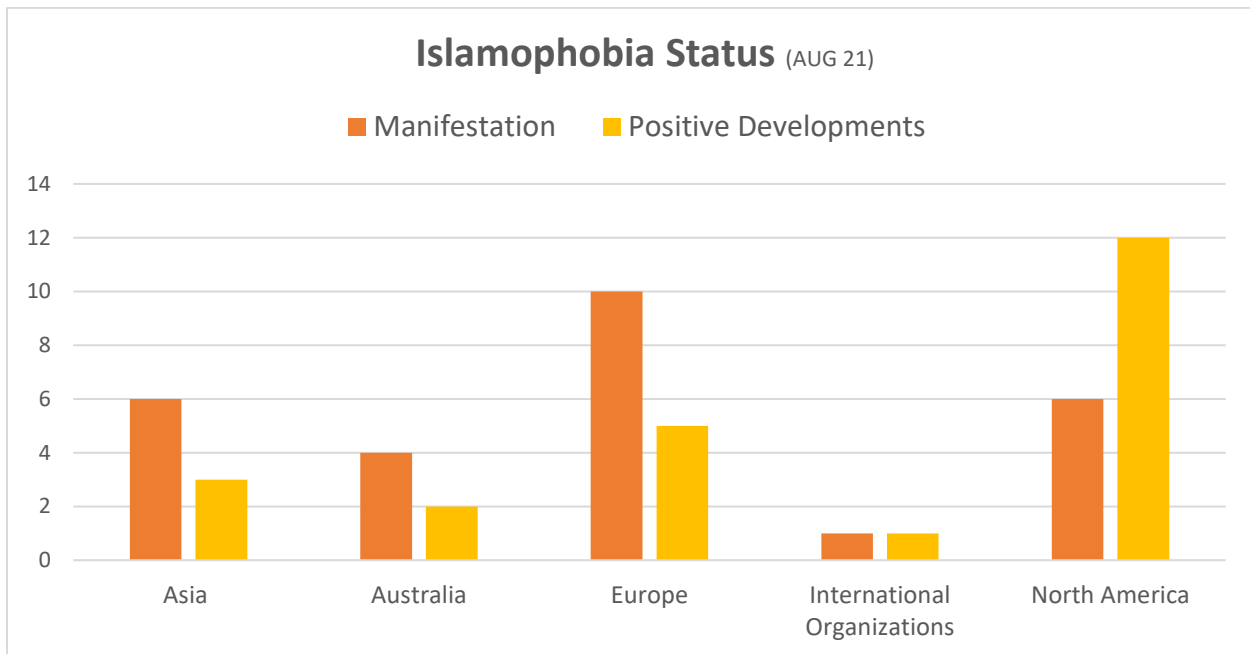
Islamophobia Monitoring

Month: August 2021



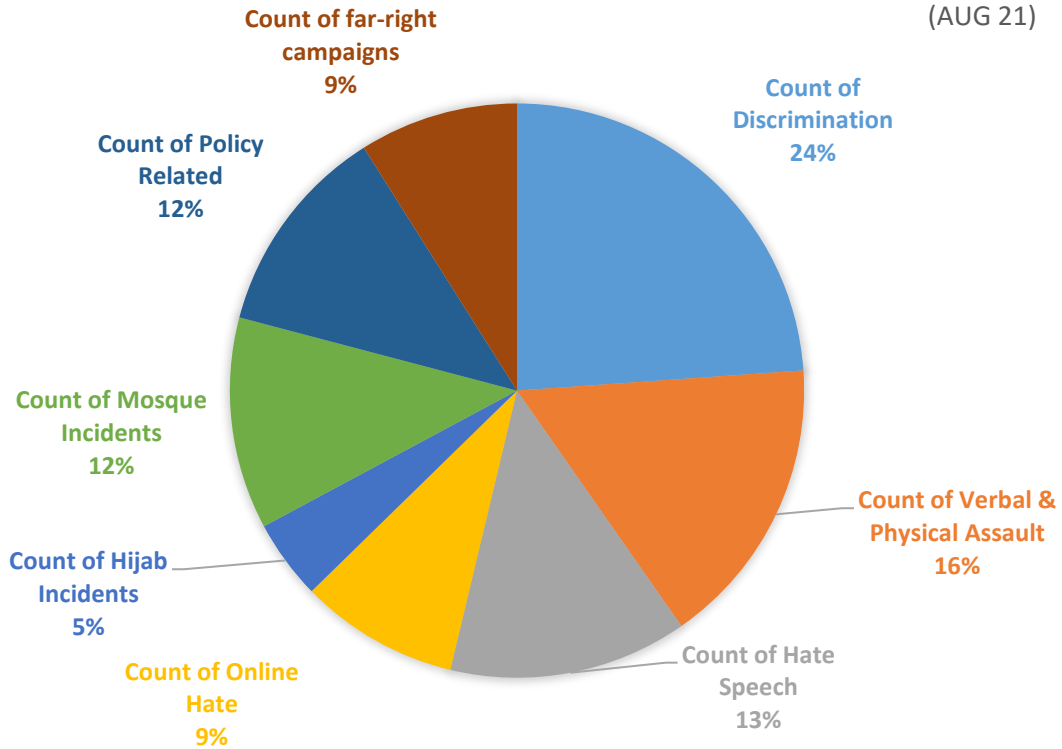
OIC Islamophobia Observatory

Issue: August 2021



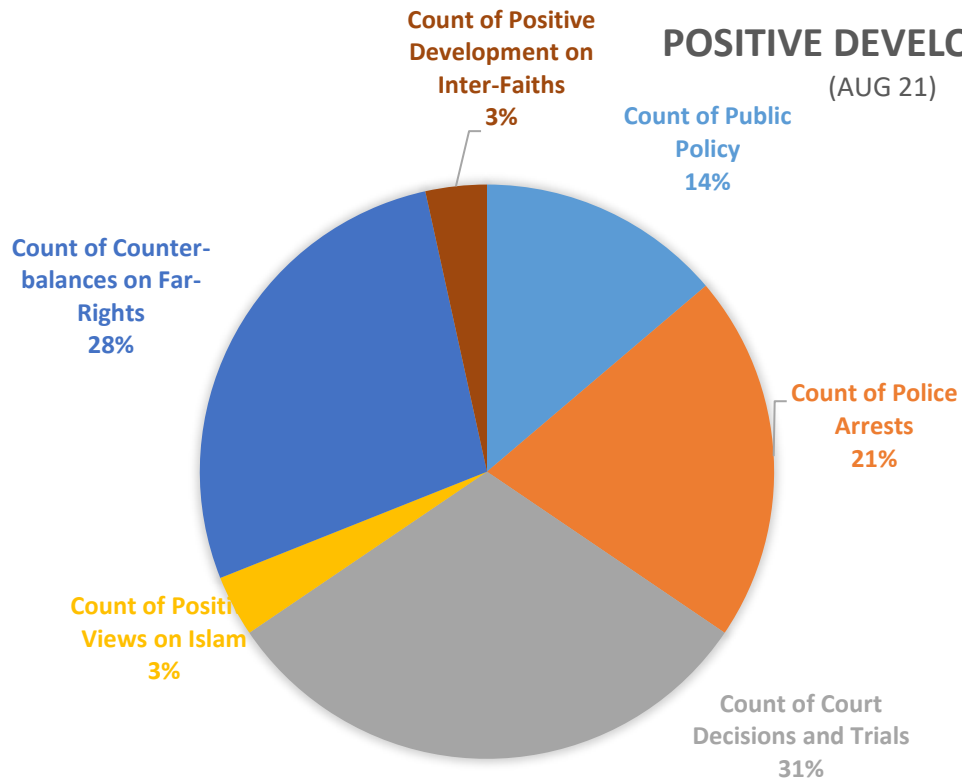
MANIFESTATION

(AUG 21)



POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT

(AUG 21)



MANIFESTATIONS OF ISLAMOPHOBIA

NORTH AMERICA

IsP140402-US: Utah Muslim sues his ex-employer, alleges a boss said he'd be 'cast into outer darkness'— Allan Goodson, from Utah had sued a Cedar City car dealership, where he accused his former employer of discrimination and dismissal because of his Muslim faith. When Goodson was hired as a mechanic at Bradshaw Chevrolet two years before, he was a Christian. He converted to Islam few months later, after which his supervisors denied his requests to take prayer breaks at work, the lawsuit said, and his colleagues began to harass him. Goodson sued Bradshaw Chevrolet over alleged violations of the Civil Rights Act's Title VII, which prohibited employment discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex and national origin. The federal lawsuit was filed on August 2 on Goodson's behalf in U.S. District Court in Utah by a Salt Lake City law firm, as well as the Council on American-Islamic Relations, based in Washington, D.C.



See: The Salt Lake Tribune newspaper entry, in: <https://www.sltrib.com/religion/2021/08/05/utah-muslim-sues-his-ex/>, retrieved on 09.08.2021



IsP140403-US: CAIR-MN Calls For Investigation After Car Was Vandalized Outside Mankato Mosque— The Minnesota Chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations had called on authorities in southern Minnesota to investigate a possible bias crime on July 31 which targeted worshippers at a Mankato mosque. According to CAIR-MN, officials with the Mankato Islamic Center reported that two vandals spray-painted offensive words on a car belonging to one of the mosque's members. Surveillance video captured the vandalism. According to the Mankato Islamic Center's Facebook page, the footage showed a man and a woman were vandalizing the car. The video was turned over to law enforcement.

See: CBS Minnesota News' entry, in: <https://minnesota.cbslocal.com/2021/08/02/cair-mn-calls-for-investigation-after-car-was-vandalized-outside-mankato-mosque/>, retrieved on 11.08.2021

IsP140404-US: Advocacy group publishes mid-year report highlighting spike in anti-Muslim crimes and bias— On July 21, The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) had released a mid-year report highlighting serious cases of anti-Muslim incidents that occurred in the United States during the first seven months of 2021. CAIR, typically published an annual report which track hate crimes and bias incidents. However, the organization decided to release a mid-year "snapshot report" because of a spike in May and June, Robert McCaw, CAIR's government affairs director, told CNN. The report, highlighted 38 of the hundreds of anti-Muslim bias incidents documented by the organization this year, CAIR said in a news release. The incidents include hate crimes, harassment, school bullying, discrimination and hate speech. The report was based on incidents directly reported to CAIR's national office and chapters across the United States, as well as the media. CAIR documented a spike in anti-Muslim incidents in May and June, which included four at mosques in May alone. Those cases involved vandalism, harassment towards women who wore hijab or headscarf and an attempted stabbing, Huzaifa Shahbaz, CAIR's national research and advocacy coordinator, told CNN The spike coincided with renewed violence in the Middle East between Israelis and Palestinians.

See: The WTVA 9 News' entry, in: <https://www.wtva.com/content/national/574918352.html>, Also See Full report in: https://www.cair.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Anti-Bias-Incident-Report-2021_online.pdf, retrieved on 11.08.2021

IsP140405-US: 'Muslim ban' harmed health of Muslim-Americans: Study— When former US President Donald Trump issued an executive order in 2017 which banned Muslims from selected countries from travelling to the US, the decree quickly rippled down to affect health outcomes for Muslim-Americans, according to a study published in the journal JAMA Network Open. The researchers examined more than 250,000 adult patients treated at a Minneapolis-St. Paul HealthPartners primary care clinic or in emergency departments in 2016 and 2017. The researchers, indicated that a significant number of people in the Muslim community in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area skipped their primary care appointments after the ban. There was also an increase in their visits to the emergency department, found the study. Before the ban, primary care visits and diagnoses of stress for individuals from Muslim-majority nations were on the rise, the researchers said. In the year which following the ban, however, there were approximately 101 missed primary care appointments beyond what would have been expected among people from Muslim majority countries not named in the ban. "This offers support to the thesis that the Islamophobia fostered by former President Trump affected the health of Muslim-Americans in the US and that immigration policies can have indirect and unexpected consequences for those targeted by such actions," said researcher Gregg Gonsalves from the varsity.

See: Ummid News' entry, in: <https://ummid.com/news/2021/august/01.08.2021/impact-of-trumps-ban-on-muslims-on-health-of-american-muslims.html>, retrieved on 11.08.2021



IsP140406-Canada: "Islam is evil" graffiti spotted in Surrey's Newton neighbourhood: RCMP— Surrey RCMP had been investigating multiple instances of anti-Muslim graffiti found in central Newton. There had been several reports of incidents related to these hate graffiti since July 5, and the RCMP believe that the incidents were linked. On July 14, members of the public spotted graffiti on a refuse bin, on business property, as well as on a utility pole near a mosque in the area of 72 Avenue and King George Boulevard. "Islam is evil" could be seen spray-painted on the refuse bin. "Hate crimes and hate-motivated criminal activity has no place in Surrey, and our officers are working diligently to identify those responsible for these incidents," added Cst. Sangha. Surrey RCMP officers were under the impression that the same person or people were behind the different incidents.

See: The Daily Hive newspaper entry, in: <https://dailyhive.com/vancouver/anti-muslim-graffiti-under-investigation-surrey-rcmp>, retrieved on 04.08.2021

IsP140407-Canada: Muslim Mother and Daughter Hid in Bushes After Driver Threatened to Kill Them: Police— A Muslim mother and daughter in Hamilton, Ontario hid behind bushes after police said a man threatened them with Islamophobic slurs and later threatened to kill them . In a news release, Hamilton police said a mother and daughter were walking through a parking lot on July 12 when a driver nearly hit one of them with his vehicle while he was pulling out of a parking spot. The driver then threatened the pair using slurs, prompted the women to run across the street and hide behind bushes, police said. "He eventually located them and threatened to kill them. One of the victims ran screaming for help and witnesses intervened as the suspect fled the area," the release said. Soon after, police reported that they arrested a man and charged him with three counts of uttering threats, two counts of assault with a weapon, dangerous operation of a motor vehicle, and failure to comply with probation. The incident was also been investigated as a hate crime.

See: Vice magazine News' entry, in: <https://www.vice.com/en/article/k78pgz/muslim-mother-and-daughter-hid-in-bushes-after-driver-threatened-to-kill-them-police>, retrieved on 03.08.2021

IsP140408-France: Dramatic increase in Islamophobic acts— Anti-Islam acts in France had increased by 52 per cent during 2020 compared with 2019, according to a human rights committee report issued on July 9. This came in report No.30 on racism, anti-Semitism and xenophobia, released by the French National Consultative Committee on Human Rights (CNCDDH). The report pointed out that 59 per cent of respondents to an online survey conducted on March "consider Islam a threat to French identity." Meanwhile, 72 per cent of respondents expressed their belief that immigrants came to France only to benefit from social protection. The report indicated a 22 per cent decrease in racist acts during 2020, with 888 racist incidents been recorded. The report stated that anti-Semitic acts dropped by 51 per cent during 2020 compared with 2019, while anti-Islam acts increased by 52 per cent during the same period.

See: Middle East Monitor News' entry, in: <https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20210710-france-dramatic-increase-in-islamophobic-acts/>, retrieved on 01.08.2021

IsP140409-France: France's lower house approves anti-separatism bill— On July 23, The French National Assembly approved a controversial "anti-separatism" bill despite strong criticisms from parliamentarians from the Left and the Right. After an acrimonious seven-month debate, the anti-separatist bill was approved by 49 votes to 19. There were five abstentions. France's main opposition parties, including the Socialists (PS) and the centre-right Les Républicains, along with the French Communist Party, voted against the bill for different reasons. Only three parties in the National Assembly – the ruling La République en marche (LREM) party and two allies – voted for the law. The far-right National Rally, led by Marine Le Pen, abstained from the vote.

See: France24 News' entry, in: <https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20210723-france-s-lower-house-approves-separatism-law-to-battle-islamist-extremism>, retrieved on 05.08.2021

IsP140410-France: France's anti-separatism bill deemed constitutional with only minor changes— On August 13, the French constitutional watchdogs had validated most of the provisions of the anti-separatism bill, Officially known as the law comforting the principles of the republic, the draft law was approved in parliament in July. But around 100 MPs raised doubts over whether the law could come into force and called on the Constitutional Council to give a verdict. The council modified only two provisions as it gave the green light to the bill. The council's decision meant the bill would become a law. The Council censured just two measures. One concerned the residence permits for foreigners. Under Article 26, non-French citizens who manifested a rejection of the principles of the Republic could have had their residence permits withdrawn or refused. The council deemed the notion of rejecting principles of the Republic was not precise enough to justify such a decision. The other significant change concerned associations, some of which had been accused of fostering extremist ideology. The proposed law gave the authorities the power to suspend associations if they were facing an emergency dissolution procedure. As the procedure could take up to six months, the council deemed that "the legislator has infringed the freedom of association in a way that is not necessary, appropriate and proportionate".

See: Radio France Internationale (RFI) News' entry, in: <https://www.rfi.fr/en/france/20210814-france-s-anti-separatism-bill-deemed-constitutional-with-only-minor-changes-islamism-secularism>, retrieved on 08.08.2021

IsP140411-France: Imam in France fired over verses recited during Eid prayers— An imam of a mosque in France's Loire region was fired after verses and hadiths he recited during his Eid al-Adha prayer sermon which were considered "contrary to the values of the Republic" by Interior Minister Gerald Darmain. Mmadi Ahamada, the imam of the Great Mosque of Saint-Chamond, who was of Comoros origin, shared a hadith and Surah Ahzab verses which addressed the wives of the Prophet Muhammad in his sermon. After Isabelle Surply, a member of the Municipal

Council of the Republican Party, shared a video of the sermon online, Darmanin asked the Loire Governor's Office to dismiss the imam and ensure that his residence permit was not renewed, on the grounds that "he finds these statements unacceptable" and "sees them against gender equality." Ahamada, told the Le Progres website, that some of the statements and verses in the sermon were taken and used out of context. In a message on social media, the mosque administration announced that the imam had been dismissed. The Loire Governorate said that they were working on not renewing the imam's residence permit. Another imam sacked in Hauts-de-Seine Imam Mahdi, whose criticism of the dressing style of some Muslim women in a sermon he gave on June 4 at the Gennevilliers Mosque in the province of Hauts-de-Seine was also terminated by Darmanin's order. See: The Daily Sabah newspaper entry, in: <https://www.dailysabah.com/world/europe/imam-in-france-fired-over-verses-recited-during-eid-prayers>, retrieved on 08.08.2021

IsP140412-Germany: Muslims face increase in online attacks in Europe— Anti-Muslim sentiment and antisemitism had become an everyday occurrence in Germany. The country's Interior Ministry registered 1,026 anti-Muslim attacks in 2020. It is suspected that many more had occurred but had not been reported. This is not a purely German phenomenon, said the Council of Europe's Special Representative on Antisemitic and Anti-Muslim Hatred, Daniel Hölzgen. The results were not comprehensive, but they were the basis for further research and need to be followed up by authorities in the respective countries. The victims describe online hatred and threats to be just as real as everyday discrimination and verbal attacks on the streets said Hölzgen. He added "These are criminal actions. This has nothing to do with the right to free speech". The chairman of the Council of Muslims in Germany, Aiman Mazyek, agreed that online hatred was a "new phenomenon." But the number of cases had skyrocketed. In 2020 alone there were more than 1,000 criminal incidents and almost 150 physical attacks on mosques across Germany. Mazyek hoped the Council of Europe's survey would give fresh momentum to more decisive action against this kind of aggression. Hölzgen stresses that the Council of Europe had probed only eight of the 47 Council members — but these eight countries were among those with the largest Muslim communities: Germany, France, UK, and Austria. The European Commission on Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) was planning to publish concrete political recommendations within the next few months to give politicians guidelines for combatting antisemitism and anti-Muslim sentiment. See: DW News' entry, in: <https://www.dw.com/en/muslims-face-increase-in-online-attacks-in-europe/a-58201471>, retrieved on 03.08.2021



IsP140413-UK: Northumbria Police investigating 'Islam is Evil' and 'funds terror' graffiti— Anti-Muslim and Islamophobic graffiti that re-appeared on a charity bin in Fenham, close to Nuns Moor Park, was a subject to a police investigation after a member of the public contacted Tell

MAMA. The graffiti identified read “Islam is evil”, and below was written “and funds terror”, which the member of the public lamented as ‘depressing’ to see such harmful remarks appear in the area again. Tell MAMA had reported the incident to Northumbria Police to investigate.

See: Tell Mama UK News’ entry, in: <https://tellmamauk.org/northumbria-police-investigating-islam-is-evil-and-funds-terror-graffiti/>, retrieved on 11.08.2021

IsP140414-UK: Racist dog walker targeted Muslim joggers in Hounslow — Two Muslim women were out jogging in a park in Feltham when a racist woman targeted them with abuse and set their dog towards them. The attack occurred on the evening of July 20. Sahar, who contacted Tell MAMA and wanted to go public about this anti-Muslim and Islamophobic attack, described the fear for her friend, who was wearing hijab. Her friend was left shaken in the immediacy of the attack but felt better after that. They described the perpetrator as a white woman in her mid-to-late fifties.

See: Tell Mama UK News’ entry, in: <https://tellmamauk.org/racist-dog-walker-targeted-muslim-joggers-in-hounslow/>, retrieved on 15.08.2021

IsP140415-UK: Humza Yousaf reports nursery over discrimination fears— The Scottish Health Secretary Humza Yousaf had reported a nursery to care watchdogs over concerns it discriminated against his daughter. Mr Yousaf said Little Scholars in Broughty Ferry claimed it had no availability when his wife applied for a space for two-year-old Amal. But he said applications submitted by friends and family for "White Scottish-sounding names" were accepted. The nursery had denied any allegations of discrimination. Following the initial concerns from Mr Yousaf and his wife Nadia El-Nakla, a Daily Record investigation submitted applications with identical requirements to the nursery under the names Aqsa Akhtar and Susan Blake. The newspaper said Aksa Akhtar had her application rejected, but Susan Blake's was accepted and offered spaces.

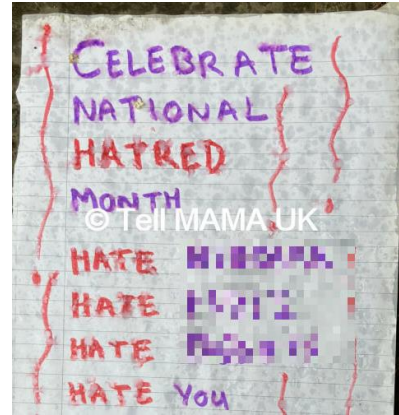
See: BBC News’ entry, in: <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-tayside-central-58056234>, retrieved on 16.08.2021

IsP140416-UK: Home Office records 70 racist incidents by far right at asylum accommodation— The Home Office had recorded 70 racist incidents by far-right supporters against asylum seekers in barracks and hotel accommodation, according to a freedom of information response obtained by the Guardian. The data, which covered 1 January 2020 until 13 July 2021, involved incidents in the much-maligned Napier and Penally barracks. In Napier barracks, four incidents were recorded between September and December 2020 while 12 incidents had occurred so far this year. This was despite the barracks been temporarily emptied in April after the coronavirus outbreak. The number of incidents recorded in hotels had tripled this year, with 40 examples reported, up from 13 the year before. On Saturday 7 August, the far-right organisation Britain First posted a video on its website headlined “Britain First exposes an illegal immigrant hotel in Hull” in which members of the organisation said they posed as journalists to confront asylum seekers. One asylum seeker from Yemen experienced two incidents which involved far-right protesters at his Home Office-provided hotel on the outskirts of London. “They were driving around the hotel recording us on video...They were insulting us, swearing at us and screaming things like ‘go out from our country, why are you eating our food, go away from us, you are strangers here’. We were too scared to go outside the hotel and felt like it was a prison we had to stay inside.” he said.

See: The Guardian newspaper entry, in: <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/aug/08/home-office-records-70-racist-incidents-far-right-asylum-accommodation>, retrieved on 17.08.2021

IsP140417-UK: Outrage at racist and homophobic hate letter calling for violence found pinned up in public in Sheffield—

The A4 leaflet, found in the Crookes suburb of the city, contained racial epithets and homophobic slurs while it called for a white supremacist “summer of violence” and a “national hate month”. The despicable message appeared on a piece of paper torn from a notepad in what appeared to be wax crayon or marker pen, with hate written in red and the harmful and hateful slurs written in purple. In a joint statement, Crookes’ three city councillors – Ruth Milsom, Mohammed Mahroof and Tim Huggan – condemned the letter and said it “does not speak for Crookes”. Hate speech action group TellMAMA, reported the letter to South Yorkshire Police after it was discovered on July 4.



See: The Star newspaper entry, in: <https://www.thestar.co.uk/news/people/outrage-at-racist-and-homophobic-hate-letter-calling-for-violence-found-pinned-up-in-public-in-sheffield-3298722>, retrieved on 18.08.2021

ASIA

IsP140418-India: Muslim women ‘put up for sale’ online decry Islamophobia in India—

Delhi police on July 10 said they were investigating online harassment which involved hundreds of Muslim women, who were put up “for sale” on a now-defunct app and website titled “Sulli Deals,” many of whom also received rape and death threats. The women, who were active on social media platforms such as Twitter, found their profile pictures displayed on GitHub, a web platform that hosted the open-source app, as the “Sulli Deal of the day,” where it offered people the chance to “bid” on them in a mock auction. GitHub immediately shut down the website for “violating its policies,” but several of the women said the app’s purpose was to degrade and humiliate them. The term “sulli” was a derogatory slur for Muslim women in India, commonly used by Hindu nationalists.

See: Arabnews newspaper entry, in: <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1892031/world>, retrieved on 01.08.2021



IsP140419-India: Mosque in Indian capital’s Rohingya camp bulldozed—

Police and civil authorities in the Indian capital had demolished a makeshift mosque in a Rohingya camp, said the refugees, weeks after a massive fire had engulfed the settlement. The mosque, made up of tarpaulin sheets and bamboo sticks, was bulldozed on July 22, at the camp located in New Delhi’s Madanpur Khader area in the city’s south, which bordered Uttar Pradesh state. Nearly 300 refugees, most of whom fled a brutal military crackdown in Myanmar, told Al Jazeera the structure was demolished despite their appeals to the authorities not to do so. The Muslim-majority Rohingya said they had been left without a place to worship.

See: Aljazeera News’ entry, in: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/7/22/mosque-in-india-capitals-rohingya-camp-bulldozed-refugees>, retrieved on 08.08.2021

IsP140420-India: Delhi rally sees anti-Muslim sloganeering, calls for violence; citizens horrified— On August 8, A video went viral which showed a mob who raised provocative anti-Muslim slogans in Delhi. As per a report by the Indian Express, a rally was called by Supreme Court lawyer and former Delhi BJP spokesperson Ashwini Upadhyay, inflammatory, anti-Muslim slogans were allegedly raised at Jantar Mantar during a march “against Colonial-era laws” in the country. In the video, a mob could be seen chanting slogans like, "Jab mulle kaate jayenge, Ram-Ram chillayenge (Muslims will chant Ram-Ram when they will be slaughtered)." Another slogan raised was "Hindustan me rehna hoga, Jai Shree Ram kehna hoga (You will have to chant Jai Shree Ram if you want to live in India)."

See: Free Press Journal News' entry, in: <https://www.freepressjournal.in/viral/watch-video-delhi-rally-sees-anti-muslim-sloganeering-calls-for-violence-citizens-horrified>, retrieved on 16.08.2021

IsP140421-India: UP: Right-wing group threatens Muslims working for Hindu shops— On August 10, Members of right-wing extremist outfit Kranti Sena told the local businesses and people to not work with Muslims and appealed to people to “not allow Muslim men to apply mehndi on the hands of Hindu women as they indulge in love jihad”. The incident came to light when Alishan Jafri, a journalist who document anti-muslim violence in India, put out a video on his social media account, where some men were seen conducting a drive to ‘check’ the shops in the main markets of Muzaffarnagar. According to a report by The Times Of India, the outfit’s general secretary, Manoj Saini, said, “On the pretext of these odd jobs, Muslim youths entice Hindu girls and trap them in love jihad.” Rajesh Kashyap, one of the members of the outfit wrote on his social media, “If Muslim men are found working as Mehendi artists on Hariyali Teej (a Hindu Festival), then Kranti Sena would teach them a strong lesson in our style,”

See: The Siasat Daily newspaper entry, in: <https://www.siasat.com/up-right-wing-groups-threaten-muslims-working-for-hindu-shops-2176426/>, retrieved on 19.08.2021

IsP140422-India: Assam passes cattle slaughter prevention bill: Muslims can't consume beef in front of Hindus, Sikhs— On August 13, The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government in Assam passed the Cattle Slaughter Prevention bill. The bill would prevent slaughter, sale, purchase of beef within five-kilometre radius of any temple or monastery. Additionally, it would prohibit Muslims from consuming beef in the presence of non-beef-eating people. The Opposition had a period of 30 days to recommend amendments to the bill, but they could not back their suggestions with proper facts, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said.

See: Money Control News' entry, in: <https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/india/assam-passes-cattle-slaughter-prevention-bill-muslims-cant-consume-beef-in-front-of-hindus-sikhs-7334111.html>, retrieved on 22.08.2021

IsP140423-Russia: Police arrest 600 Muslims at mosque in Moscow— On August 20, Security forces released approximately 600 Muslims who were arrested at a mosque in Moscow. "All those arrested have been released," lawyer Mariya Krasova told the Russian TASS news agency. They were detained for passport checks and biometric data collection in the Moscow region town of Kotelniki, lawyers told state media late Friday. "According to my knowledge, around 600 people were detained. These people were detained at the mosque in Kotelniki," said Anasova, who added that the detainees were taken to the Lyubertsy Police Station. Other outlets, which cited eyewitnesses and lawyers, said officers interrupted Friday prayers on August 20 and blocked worshippers inside the mosque, in some cases asked for money in exchange for their release.

See: Anadolu Agency News' entry, in: <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/world/police-arrest-600-muslims-at-mosque-in-moscow/2341828>. Also: See: Russian News Agency TASS News' entry, in: <https://tass.ru/proisshestvija/12184065> and <https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2021/08/23/news-from-russia-what-you-missed-over-the-weekend-125-a74866>, retrieved on 23.08.2021

IsP140424-Australia: Australia’s far right uses Google ads and cryptocurrency to fund their hate— Australian right-wing extremists were making thousands of dollars to support their activities using a smorgasbord of online fundraising tools, according to a new report. Despite been chased off many of the major platforms, far-right extremists had access to a network of lightly or unmoderated digital platforms that allowed them to make money from the attention they earned online. Australian Strategic Policy Institute analyst Ariel Bogle’s *Buying and selling extremism: New funding opportunities in the right-wing extremist online ecosystem* examined how a sample of these groups, organised through the Telegram messaging platform, used different online tools to raise money . What Bogle found was that far-right funding had moved from been structured around groups — i.e. charging membership dues — towards an individual creator model, not unlike that of an Instagram influencer. Individual right-wing extremists solicited donations or earned money through creating engaging and credible content. This arrangement, Bogle argued, could also incentivise people to make right-wing extremist content to earn money rather than making content to support their beliefs. The report documented more than 20 tools used to solicit donations, facilitate transactions, and earn and store money. These range from major platforms like Google and Amazon advertising programs used on far-right websites to niche “alt-tech” platforms which offered alternatives to popular streaming or video platforms. The report noted that these platforms were generally opaque, which made it difficult to ascertain how much money was changing hands between Australian right-wing extremist creators and their audiences.

See: Crikey News’ entry, in: <https://www.crikey.com.au/2021/08/19/australias-far-right-using-online-tools-to-fund-their-hate/>, Also: See Full report, in: <https://www.aspi.org.au/report/buying-and-selling-extremism>, retrieved on 22.08.2021

IsP140425-Australia: Majority of Australian Muslims experience discrimination: report— A vast majority of Muslims in Australia had experienced discrimination, the Australian Human Rights Commission had found. According to a report published by the Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) on July 19, 80 percent of Islamic people in Australia had faced prejudice or discrimination. Half of 1,000 respondents to the survey said they were discriminated against by law enforcement and 48 percent said they were targeted in workplaces or while they were looking for work. One in every four said they were too scared to speak up when they - or someone they knew - experienced discrimination.

See: Xinhua News’ entry, in: http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/asiapacific/2021-07/19/c_1310069809.htm, retrieved on 05.08.2021

IsP140426-New Zealand: Muslims abused on outreach mission on New Zealand streets— Muslims who took to the streets in a bid to educate Kiwis about their faith had copped verbal abuse. Representatives of the Discover Islam NZ project had been visiting New Zealand towns to talk to everyday Kiwis and break down Muslim stereotypes. In Tokoroa on July 8, project member Haris Ahmed said “We were down in Whanganui and this couple came up to myself and one of my colleagues [who was] holding a board that said ‘Meet a Muslim’. They were about 45-50 years old ... The guy said: ‘You know why the Christchurch attack happened ... because you Muslims choose to come to our country, that is why you guys got killed, if you guys weren’t here, this wouldn’t have happened.’ The group had similar experiences in Huntly and Raglan, with comments such as “Go back to your country, I don’t want to see you Muslims,” Ahmed said. But for Mirza Ahmab and campaign organiser Imam Sabah Al-Zafar, the handful of incidents was outweighed by the 90-95 per cent who “encourage us and try to hug us, and support our campaign”.

See: Stuff News’ entry, in: <https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/125700960/muslims-abused-on-outreach-mission-on-new-zealand-streets>, retrieved on 02.08.2021

IsP140427-New Zealand: Teacher makes 200 job applications, but still can't get permanent work: 'Is it because I'm Muslim?'— Primary school teacher Mazlinah binte Haji Mohamad Noor never thought she would struggle to find work when she moved to Wellington in 2017 - especially when New Zealand was facing a teacher shortage. But after she applied for more than 200 roles, Mazlinah, had little interest from employers and managed to only get five interviews and no offer of a permanent job. Her husband David Blocksidge, got her to ask schools for the reasons for not been shortlisted - and concluded the responses show "a toxic mix of institutional bias, Islamophobia and unconscious bias". Mazlinah, a Muslim who wore hijab, said at one school the interviewer rolled her eyes when she walked in and before she could even say a word. "I tried to stay calm and professional, but I was feeling 'what's the point'. I am already being judged by my name and what I wear, and I'm not going to make it again," she said. Originally from Singapore, Mazlinah taught primary school students aged between 7 and 12 for nearly 20 years and was the school's art coordinator, before she moved to Auckland at a time of reported teacher shortages in 2009.

See: The New Zealand Herald newspaper entry, in: <https://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/teacher-makes-200-job-applications-but-still-cant-get-permanent-work-is-it-because-im-muslim/DMP7VI67AUV62GSBEIQ5RIOXEA/>, retrieved on 04.08.2021

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

IsP140428-EU: Top EU court rules hijab can be banned at work— On July 15, The European Union's top court had ruled that employers might forbid the wearing of visible symbols of religious or political belief, such as headscarves. But the Luxembourg-based tribunal said that courts in the bloc's 27 member states should weigh up whether the ban corresponded to a "genuine need" on the part of the employer. The court said: "A prohibition on wearing any visible form of expression of political, philosophical or religious beliefs in the workplace may be justified by the employer's need to present a neutral image towards customers or to prevent social disputes...However, that justification must correspond to a genuine need on the part of the employer and, in reconciling the rights and interests at issue, the national courts may take into account the specific context of their Member State and, in particular, more favourable national provisions on the protection of freedom of religion.". The case was brought to court by two women in Germany who were suspended from their jobs after they started to wear a hijab. Both Muslim women – a special need carer at a childcare centre in Hamburg run by a charitable association, and a cashier at the Mueller pharmacy chain – had not been wearing headscarves when they started in their jobs, but decided to do so years later after they returned from a parental leave. They were told by their respective employer that this was not allowed, and were at different points either suspended, told to come to work without it or put on a different job, according to court documents.

See: Aljazeera News' entry, in: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/7/15/top-eu-court-rules-hijab-can-be-banned-at-work>, retrieved on 04.08.2021

POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS

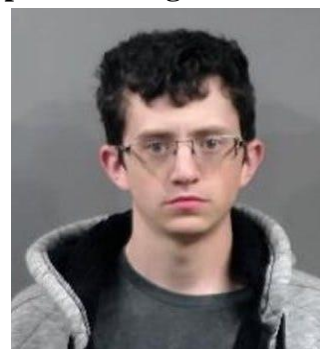
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

IsP140429-OSCE: assembly adopts resolution against anti-Muslim hatred— The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Parliamentary Assembly (OSCE PA) had adopted a draft resolution against anti-Muslim hatred at a plenary session, the head of the Turkish OSCE PA delegation, Selami Altınok, said on July 8. The two-day plenary session of the OSCE PA, began on July 5 in Austria's capital, Vienna. Mr. Altınok said "In the text, we placed phrases on fighting against anti-Muslim hatred. We removed any misconceptions about genocide. Indeed, we ensured that a draft resolution passed at the plenary session as desired by Turkey and the Islamic world".

See: Daily Sabah newspaper entry, in: <https://www.dailysabah.com/politics/diplomacy/osce-assembly-adopts-resolution-against-anti-muslim-hatred>, retrieved on 01.08.2021

NORTH AMERICA

IsP140430-US: Man rubbed ham on Quran, cartoons of Muslim prophet he hung at Wichita Islamic sites— A local man who took a gun to a Wichita mosque and yelled Islamophobic comments at a Muslim man pleaded guilty to two misdemeanor counts of disorderly conduct over the incident where he also rubbed ham on cartoonish posters of the Prophet Muhammad and a copy of the Quran. Dustin Arterburn was immediately sentenced to probation with an jail term of 90 days after he entered the plea on May 25, Sedgwick County District Court records show. The plea came ahead of the bench trial. Arterburn was required to write letters to the Islamic Society of Wichita and a Muslim man, to apologize for his actions and "any fear he caused or disrespect shown" when he went to the Masjid An Noor Mosque and the Islamic Society of Wichita on Oct. 30, 2020, court documents show.



See: The Wichita Eagle newspaper entry, in: <https://www.kansas.com/news/local/crime/article252040128.html>, Image Source: <https://www.kake.com/story/42854152/police-man-velled-racial-comments-showed-gun-outside-wichita-mosque>, retrieved on 02.08.2021

IsP140431-US: Moorhead man sentenced to community service for defacing mosque— Benjamin Stewart Enderle, a Moorhead man, was sentenced in Clay County District Court on July 30, to 40 hours of community service that would benefit a minority group after he earlier pleaded guilty to a charge of felony harassment where he vandalized a mosque in April. Enderle, said during the hearing that spray-painting racist graffiti on the Moorhead Fargo Islamic Community Center was the "stupidest thing I've ever done in my life" and he asked for forgiveness. Otoo Haarun, president of the mosque, provided a victim-impact statement, and stated that the vandalism had caused fear and paranoia among mosque members. He added, "We have forgiven you and hope it (the incident) is a turning point in your life." Prosecutor Pam Foss told Judge Tammy Merkins that a restorative justice sentence was unusual in an adult case, but she said she supported the plea agreement after meeting with mosque members. "I was amazed in meeting with those individuals at their capacity for forgiveness to Mr. Enderle and their willingness to be part of the process," Foss said.

See: The Duluth News Tribune newspaper entry, in: <https://www.duluthnewstribune.com/news/crime-and-courts/7134161-Moorhead-man-sentenced-to-community-service-for-defacing-mosque>, retrieved on 03.08.2021

IsP140432-US: Omar leads lawmakers in calling for US envoy to combat Islamophobia— Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-Minn.) and other Democratic lawmakers had signed onto a letter to Secretary of State Antony Blinken where they urged him to appoint a special envoy to monitor and combat Islamophobia. In the letter sent on July 20, Omar and two dozen other lawmakers cited the spike in Islamophobia seen in recent years as well as the “persecution of Muslims manifesting itself around the world.” The lawmakers also pointed to a recent annual report released by the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF), in which the office identified multiple countries with “patterns of mistreatment and human rights violations against either their entire Muslim populations or particular sects of Muslims.”

See: The Hill News’ entry, in: <https://thehill.com/homenews/house/564030-omar-leads-lawmakers-in-calling-for-us-envoy-to-combat-islamophobia>, retrieved on 05.08.2021



IsP140433-US: Man charged in connection with 3 alleged anti-Muslim hate crimes, NYPD says— On July 27, The New York City Police Department arrested and charged a man in connection with three anti-Muslim incidents in Queens. Naved Durni, faced charges of assault as a hate crime, criminal possession of a weapon and two counts of aggravated harassment, according to the NYPD. The hate crimes took place over the course of about five weeks, according to the NYPD. On June 20, an individual allegedly followed a man and woman in Queens and made anti-Muslim statements before he punched the man in the back and pulled the woman's hijab while he punched her in the arm, police said. An hour after that incident, police said the individual allegedly followed a 64-year-old man and woman in Queens and made anti-Muslim statements before he punched the woman in the face and head several times. The woman had a fractured nose, and cuts to her head and face and was taken a local hospital for treatment, police said. The third incident took place on July 25 when an individual allegedly followed a woman and pulled out a knife before he threatened her and made anti-Muslim statements, police said.

See: CNN News’ entry, in: <https://www.cnn.com/2021/07/27/us/new-york-anti-muslim-hate-crime/index.html>, Image Source: <https://nypost.com/2021/07/28/alleged-nyc-hate-crime-attacker-detained-pending-psych-evaluation/>, retrieved on 10.08.2021

IsP140434-US: PayPal to research transactions that fund hate groups, extremists— On July 26, PayPal Holdings Inc (PYPL.O) had partnered with non-profit organisation the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) to investigate how extremist and hate movements in the United States take advantage of financial platforms to fund their criminal activities. The initiative would be led through ADL's Center on Extremism, it would look at networks which had been spreading and profiting from antisemitism, Islamophobia, racism, anti-immigrant, anti-Black, anti-Hispanic and anti-Asian bigotry. The information collected through the initiatives would be shared with other firms in the financial industry, law enforcement and policymakers, PayPal said.

See: Reuters News' entry, in: <https://www.reuters.com/business/finance/paypal-research-blocking-transactions-that-fund-hate-groups-extremists-2021-07-26/>, retrieved on 10.08.2021

IsP140435-US: Big Tech's Task Force on Terrorism Tracks Far-Right Militias as Extremists— The tech industry's alliance against terrorism had announced that it would begin to track content from far-right organizations in a shared counter-terrorism database used by major tech companies. The Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism, a nonprofit organization founded by Microsoft, Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube, would add manifestos, posts and links from far-right militias flagged by U.N. antiterrorist group Tech Against Terrorism to a shared database, the counterterrorism forum told Reuters on July 26. The organization, known as GIFCT, would also share content flagged by Five Eyes, a global partnership between intelligence agencies in the U.S. and other countries, Reuters reported.

See: The Daily Signal News' entry, in: <https://www.dailysignal.com/2021/07/27/big-techs-task-force-on-terrorism-tracks-far-right-militias-as-extremists/>, retrieved on 10.08.2021

IsP140436-US: Far-right activist goaded into suing Muslim group ordered to pay \$125,000— Far-right Congressional candidate Laura Loomer and her company Illoominate Media had been ordered to pay nearly USD \$125,000 to the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) in what had been dubbed an "extraordinary self-own". The decision was made on the first week of August by a federal magistrate judge in Florida after the case was bought to them by Loomer following her suspension on Twitter in 2018 after she violated the company policies on hateful conduct. Loomer claimed that CAIR, had conspired with the social media platform to block her First Amendment rights. However, the allegation against CAIR was apparently based on a prank by right-wing media figure trolls, Nathan Bernard and Chris Gillen of Bernard Media, who got in touch with Loomer where they pretended to be Twitter employees and confirmed her accusations against the Muslim group. The pair hoped to expose Loomer for her false claims about the Muslim advocacy group, however were surprised when she took her story to the Wall Street Journal who then published it.

See: Alaraby News' entry, in: <https://english.alaraby.co.uk/news/far-right-activist-laura-loomer-ordered-pay-cair-125000>, retrieved on 18.08.2021

IsP140437-US: 10th Circuit reinstates First Amendment lawsuit of Muslim inmate forced to shave beard— On August 10, A federal appeals court based in Colorado had reinstated the lawsuit of a Muslim man against a state correctional officer after allegedly he forced him to shave his beard — despite a policy that allowed for beards as religious expression. A three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 10th Circuit concluded that if the claims of Tajuddin Ashaheed were true, Sgt. Thomas E. Currington infringed on Ashaheed's free exercise of his religion and acted contrary to the policy of the Denver Reception and Diagnostic Center. "When Sergeant Currington ignored the Center's religious exemption and forced Mr. Ashaheed to shave his beard, he violated clearly established law," wrote Judge Scott M. Matheson, Jr. in the panel's opinion.

See: Colorado Politics News' entry, in: https://www.coloradopolitics.com/courts/10th-circuit-reinstates-first-amendment-lawsuit-of-muslim-inmate-forced-to-shave-beard/article_a545827c-fa01-11eb-bcf8-8f0d79805a18.html, retrieved on 19.08.2021



IsP140438-US: Facebook bans far-right political figures Marzel, Ben Ari from its platforms— On August 11, Facebook said it had permanently banned far-right Israeli political figures Baruch Marzel and Michael Ben Ari from Facebook and Instagram, the platform cited “their ongoing support for Kach and Kahane Chai — groups deemed to be terror organizations by US and Israeli law.” The social media platform said that “in order to prevent actual harm, we do not allow organizations and people who declare violent goals or who deal in violence to be active on Facebook.” According to the Ynet news site, Facebook would also remove any content that was supportive of the two and/or their actions.

See: The Times of Israel newspaper entry, in: <https://www.timesofisrael.com/facebook-bans-far-right-activists-marzel-ben-ari-from-its-platforms/>, retrieved on 19.08.2021

IsP140439-US: TikTok Bans Far-right Jewish Supremacist Group— On August 2021, TikTok removed the account of Lehava, a far-right Jewish supremacist organization. This was the third time since 2020 that Lehava, an anti-assimilation group infamous for its firebrand racial politics. TikTok, which blocked the group’s account after a complaint was filed by a left-wing nonprofit, did not officially specify the reason for the decision. However, in its response to the group, Mehazkim, hinted that the decision was made because the leader, led by Bentzi Gopstein, incites violence against Arabs and uses TikTok to spread hate speech.

See: Haaretz newspaper entry, in: <https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/tech-news/.premium-tiktok-bans-far-right-jewish-supremacist-group-1.10122140>, retrieved on 22.08.2021

IsP140440-Canada: Opens discrimination probe after Muslim charities' complaints— Canada Revenue Agency’s (CRA) taxpayers’ ombudsperson launched a probe after Muslim and other minority charities submitted a complaint about been unfairly targeted for audits, the Canadian Press reported on August 6. Francois Boileau said he would address the issues and concerns expressed by Muslim charities and other charities led by people of color. The ombudsperson’s office asked the charities in question to share their experience with the CRA and the agency’s efforts to combat discrimination. His office was expected to provide National Revenue Minister Diane Lebouhiller an update by Jan. 1, 2022, the CP reported.

See: The Daily Sabah newspaper entry, in: <https://www.dailysabah.com/world/americas/canada-opens-discrimination-probe-after-muslim-charities-complaints>, retrieved on 16.08.2021

IsP140441-Canada: Hamilton man charged with promoting hate online against Muslim people: police—On August 16, a Hamilton man had been arrested after police said he promoted hatred against the Muslim community online. Police said the man targeted people on social media and promoted hatred against them after an attack in London, Ont., in June, where four members of a family were killed. Police said they were notified about the social media posts from the Hamilton man and investigated. He faced a charge for wilful promotion of hatred.

See: CBC News' entry, in: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/hamilton/muslim-hate-1.6145160>, retrieved on 23.08.2021

EUROPE

IsP140442-UK: Gloucestershire teenager sentenced for far-right terrorism offences— A teenager who downloaded manuals on how to make bombs and poisons had been sentenced to a 12-month referral order. The boy, from Gloucestershire, appeared at Bristol Youth Court on July 29 where he was given a 12-month referral order for offences he committed under the Terrorism Act. Far-right symbols such as swastikas were found scratched into a desk in his bedroom, Bristol Youth Court was told. Detailed guides which explained ways of killing someone were also found on his phone. Gloucestershire Police said the boy's electronic devices contained images of him performing Nazi salutes, posing with imitation firearms and memes of mass killers such as Norwegian terrorist Anders Breivik. The sentence would mean that the boy would take part in a programme of rehabilitation and would be subject to a number of strict conditions, monitored by the Probation Service and youth offending services.

See: BBC News' entry, in: <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-gloucestershire-58019540>, retrieved on 11.08.2021

IsP140443-UK: Labour suspend councillor over Islamophobia— A Walsall councillor had been suspended by Labour after been accused of Islamophobia. A complaint had been made against Blakenall ward member Ian Robertson. The Local Democracy Reporting Service was told a social media post by Councillor Robertson in which he posted a photo and full address of a house suspected of breaking Covid rules, before following up with a comment about muslims was what prompted the official complaint.

See: Eastern Eye News' entry, in: <https://www.easterneve.biz/labour-suspend-councillor-over-islamophobia/>, retrieved on 15.08.2021

IsP140444-UK: Police arrest teenagers after Islamophobic assault on Muslim family— Two teenagers were arrested in Wolverhampton, England after reports of an Islamophobic and racial attack on a Muslim family emerged on August 1, according to police. “We have arrested two teenagers tonight (Monday) following reports of a racial attack on a family at a park on Park Road West, Wolverhampton on Saturday evening,” West Midland Police said in a statement. The arrests came after a video went viral on social media which showed two teenagers verbally and physically attacked and threatened members of a Muslim family in a park. One of the teenagers was seen to have shouted “I will stab you myself,” he was heard in the video.

See: The Express Tribune newspaper entry, in: <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2314248/uk-police-arrest-teenagers-after-islamophobic-assault-on-muslim-family/>, retrieved on 15.08.2021

IsP140445-UK: Black woman who was called 'terrorist' in WhatsApp group is awarded nearly £25,000— A Muslim woman who was subjected to a string of vile racial slurs in a WhatsApp group following a work row about white privilege had been awarded nearly £25,000. Muna Abdi, wore a headscarf, was subject to 'extreme racism' when her colleagues called her a 'postbox' and 'terrorist' and said she smelled of curry in a WhatsApp group. The admin worker complained to her employers at Deltec International Courier Ltd, based in Middlesex, but resigned after management failed to deal with the racial abuse. At a tribunal hearing, Ms Abdi won her

claims of unlawful harassment on the grounds of religion, race and sex, and Deltec were ordered to pay her a total sum of £24,945.72 within 13 days.

See: The Daily Mail newspaper entry, in: <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-9770001/Black-woman-called-terrorist-WhatsApp-group-awarded-nearly-25-000.html>, retrieved on 17.08.2021



IsP140446-UK: Neo-Nazi Andrew Dymock jailed for terror and hate crimes— A neo-Nazi student who created two extremist groups and promoted a "distorted and wicked cause" had been jailed. Andrew Dymock, from Bath, led the outlawed groups System Resistance Network (SRN) and Sonnenkrieg Division. A judge said Dymock was "driven by an extremist mindset" and had taken the path of "total hatred and bigotry." He was convicted of 15 offences and jailed for seven years, with a further three years on extended license.

See: BBC News' entry, in: <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-somerset-57920928>, retrieved on 17.08.2021

ASIA

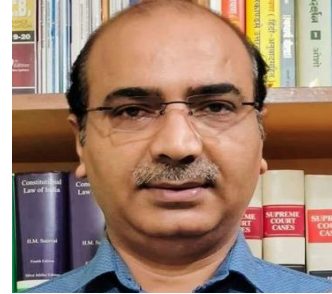
IsP140447-India: NCW writes to Delhi Police head over website 'auctioning' Muslim women— The National Commission for Women on July 8 wrote to the Delhi Police chief to seek a probe into a now-defunct website which allegedly uploaded pictures of many Muslim women where it had been put on "auction", the NCW said. The commission had asked for a detailed action taken report within 10 days, it said. NCW Chairperson Rekha Sharma had requested Delhi Police Commissioner Balaji Srivastava's intervention to investigate the website that put up pictures of many Muslim women with derogatory remarks. In a statement, the NCW said it had taken suo motu cognisance of a media report which mentioned that a website called 'Sulli Deals' on an internet platform named 'Github' was uploading pictures of many Muslim women which included journalists, activists, analysts, artists and researchers with derogatory remarks and had put them up for "auction".

See: The Tribune newspaper entry, in: <https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/delhi/ncw-writes-to-delhi-police-head-over-website-auctioning-muslim-women-280118>, retrieved on 02.08.2021

IsP140448-India: 2 Years of Meetings: How Muslims Gave Land for Varanasi's Kashi Viswanath Temple— The trust responsible for the Gyanvapi mosque in Varanasi and the Kashi Viswanath Temple Trust had gone for a land swap, which was the result of almost two years of negotiations between both the sides. Meetings between various Muslim leaders and representatives of the Kashi Viswanath Temple Trust (KVTT) began sometime around November 2019 and culminated in the land swap in July 2021. The Anjuman Intezamiya Masajid (AIM), the administrative body of the Gyanvapi mosque who were custodians of the land, gave the KVTT 1,700 square feet of land, in exchange they had got 1,000 square feet of land in the Bansphatak area of Varanasi.

See: The Quint News' entry, in: <https://www.thequint.com/news/india/gyanvapi-mosque-kashi-vishwanath-temple-dispute-what-it-took-to-give-1700-sqaure-feet-land>, retrieved on 09.08.2021

IsP140449-India: BJP leader among 6 arrested for anti-Muslim slogans— On August 10, The Delhi Police had arrested six people, which included advocate and former BJP spokesperson Ashwini Upadhyay, in connection with the anti-Muslim slogans allegedly raised during a protest at the Jantar Mantar here, officials said. "Six people have been arrested after an FIR was registered at the Connaught Place Police Station related to provocative sloganeering at a programme held near Bank of Baroda," Deputy Commissioner of Police (New Delhi) Deepak Yadav said. They were arrested from different parts of the Delhi-National Capital Region.



See: Rediff News' entry, in: <https://www.rediff.com/news/report/bjp-leader-among-6-detained-for-anti-muslim-slogans/20210810.htm>, retrieved on 18.08.2021

AUSTRALIA



IsP140450-Australia: Fraser Anning ordered to remove Facebook and Twitter posts that tribunal found vilified Muslims— Former Australian senator Fraser Anning had been ordered to remove 141 pieces of content from the internet after a Queensland tribunal found he breached anti-discrimination laws by vilifying Muslims. The material was mainly shared on Twitter and

Facebook, much of it while he was a senator for Queensland between 2017 and July 2019. Mr Anning had also been ordered to remove a press release issued on the day of the Christchurch massacre which blamed Muslim immigration for the bloodshed. The Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal (QCAT) found Mr Anning breached state laws that ban the incitement of hatred, serious contempt or severe ridicule on the grounds of religion. The legal action was launched by the civil rights organisation Australian Muslim Advocacy Network (AMAN) and the Islamic Council of Queensland.

See: ABC News' entry, in: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-08-03/tribunal-orders-fraser-anning-to-remove-posts-vilifying-muslims/100337536>, retrieved on 12.08.2021

IsP140451-Fiji: 3 people in custody for allegedly setting a shop and mosque on fire in Taveuni— Three people were in police custody for allegedly setting fire to a shop and mosque in Taveuni on July 24. Police confirm the three were been questioned for alleged arson.

See: The Quint News' entry, in: <https://www.thequint.com/news/india/gyanvapi-mosque-kashi-vishwanath-temple-dispute-what-it-took-to-give-1700-sqaure-feet-land>, retrieved on 09.08.2021