



ORGANIZATION OF ISLAMIC COOPERATION

Political Affairs Department

Islamophobia Observatory

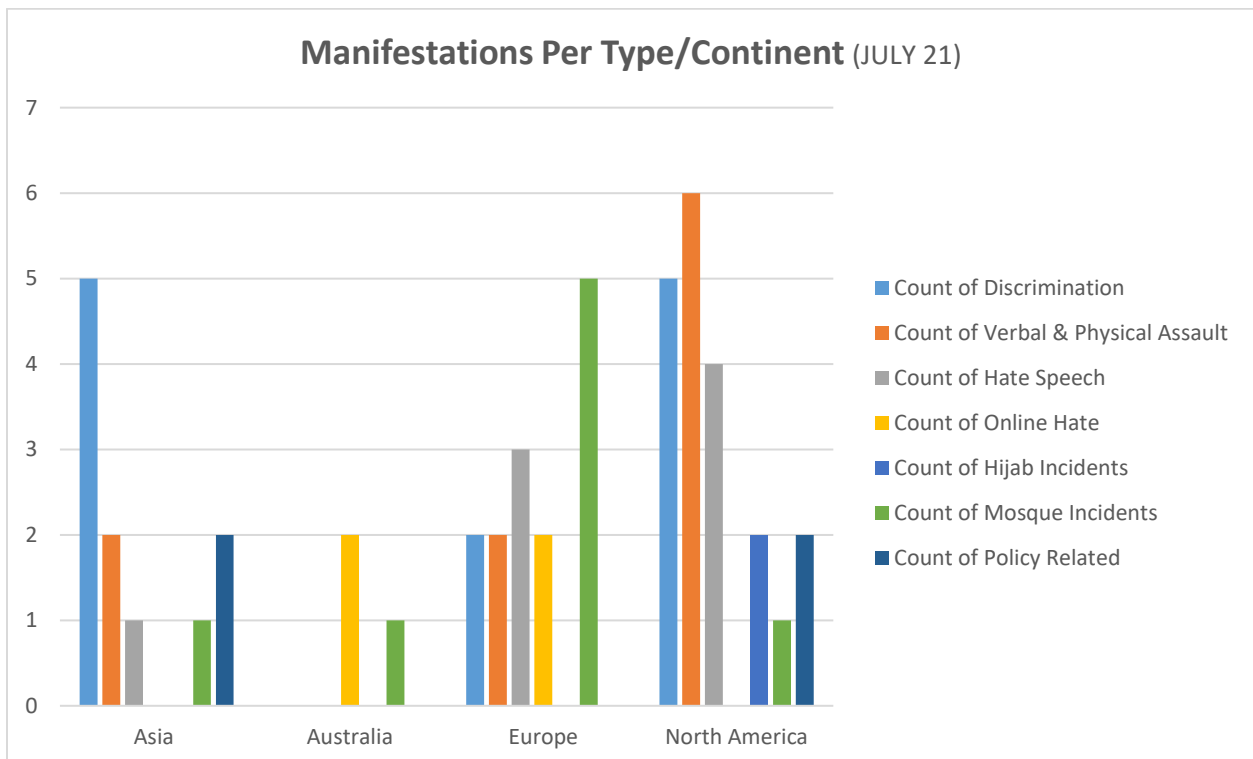
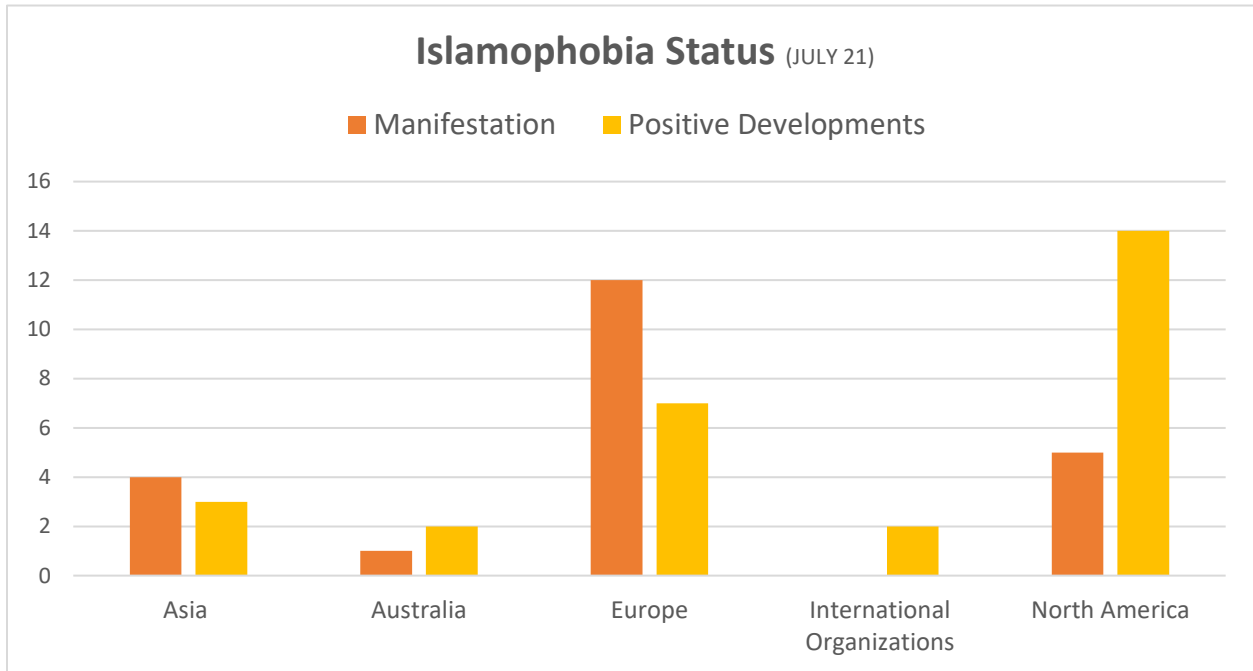
Islamophobia Monitoring

Month: July 2021



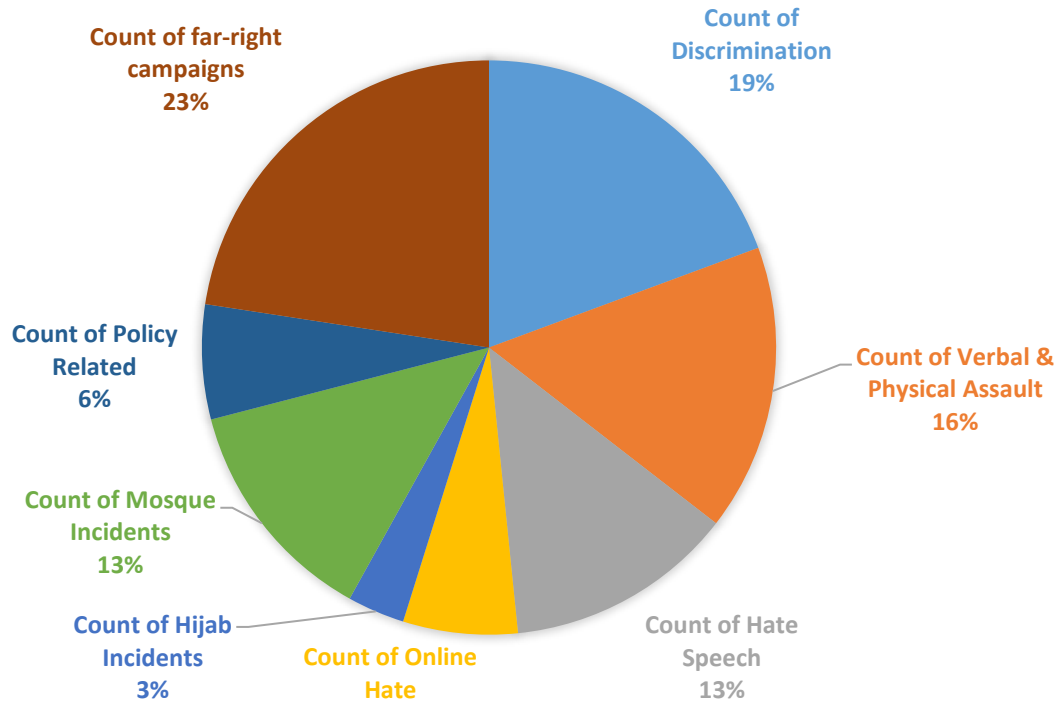
OIC Islamophobia Observatory

Issue: July 2021



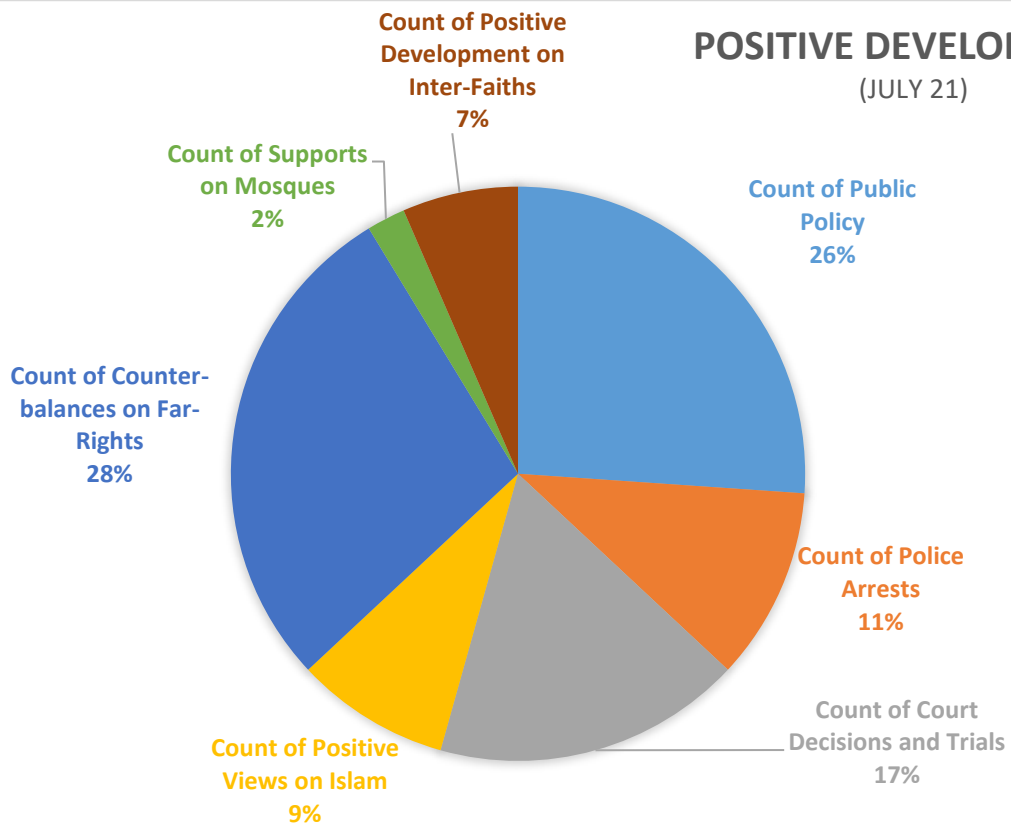
MANIFESTATION

(JULY 21)



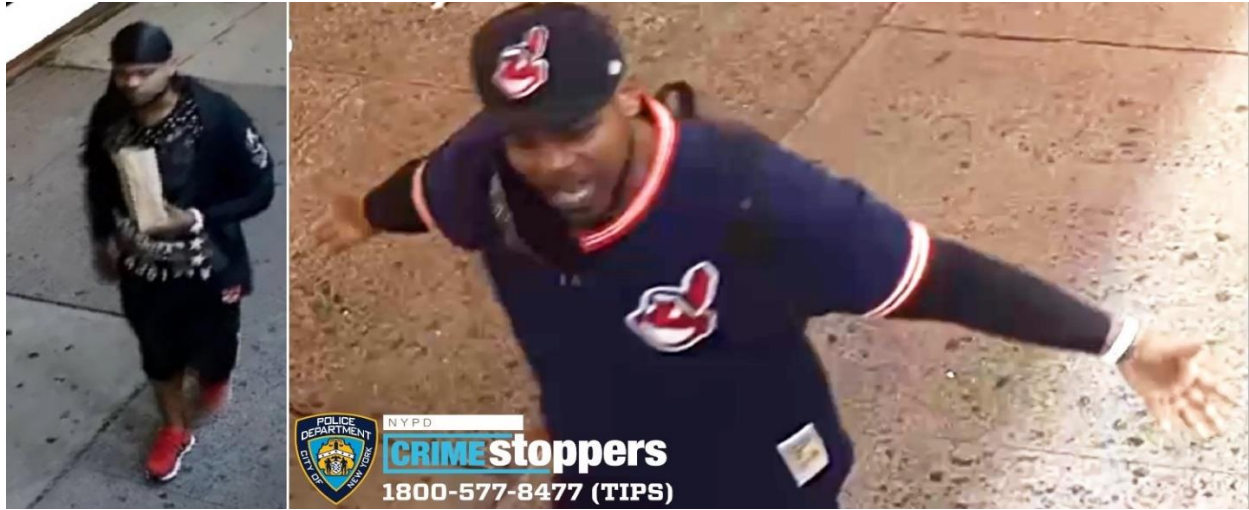
POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT

(JULY 21)



MANIFESTATIONS OF ISLAMOPHOBIA

NORTH AMERICA



IsP140352-US: NYPD Releases New Surveillance Video of Suspect in Anti-Muslim Attacks— Police had released a surveillance video of the suspect in two anti-Muslim attacks in Queens. Police said, a man made anti-Muslim statements while following a Muslim couple near Liberty Avenue and Lefferts Boulevard. Police had released another surveillance video of the suspect in two anti-Muslim attacks in Queens that happened on June 20, 2021. The man allegedly punched the man in the back, then tugged on the woman’s hijab and punched her in the arm. About an hour later, the same man allegedly made anti-Muslim statements while he followed a 64-year-old man and a woman near Inwood Avenue and Liberty Avenue. Police said the man punched the 64-year-old in the face multiple times before he ran away. The victim was taken to a local hospital to be treated for a fractured nose and small cuts to his head and face.

See: CBS New York News’ entry, in: <https://newyork.cbslocal.com/2021/07/01/queens-anti-muslim-attacks-new-surveillance-video/>, retrieved on 26.07.2021



IsP140353-Canada: Muslim Man Stabbed, Has Beard Cut as Assailants Yelled About His Clothing, Religion— A Muslim man said he was stabbed and had his beard cut by assailants as

they yelled about his religious clothing in an unprovoked attack. Muhammad Kashif said he was attacked in an alley on June 25 morning in Saskatoon, Canada. He said he was near his parked car when another car drove up behind him. "They attacked... on my back with a knife or something," Kashif told the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. "Using F-word and saying 'Why you are here? We don't like you are Muslim, why are you wearing this dress? And then one guy held my hands and the other guy cut my beard," he added. He said he was stabbed in the arm and knocked unconscious after been hit over the head with a cane he walked with. When he regained consciousness, Kashif said his attackers were gone and so were his keys and phone. He eventually flagged down a car and had the driver call authorities. Kashif was taken to a local hospital where he received 14 stitches to close the wound on his arm and police came to take a statement from him. Saskatoon police said in a statement "The Serious Assault Unit is investigating with support from the Equity and Cultural Engagement Unit," "The investigation is in its preliminary stage". Kashif said "I am 12 years old when I came to this country and they are telling me, 'why you are here?'" "Why do they have to cut my beard?" he told CBC.

See: Newsweek Magazine News' entry, in: <https://www.newsweek.com/muslim-man-stabbed-has-beard-cut-assailants-yelled-about-his-clothing-religion-1604809>, Image Source: <https://thestarphoenix.com/news/local-news/i-hate-muslims-attackers-stab-taunt-cut-beard-of-saskatoon-man>, retrieved on 12.07.2021

IsP140354-Canada: A Muslim former intelligence officer says systemic racism at CSIS is a threat to national security— A Muslim woman who worked as a senior intelligence officer at the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) said the systemic racism and lack of diversity she experienced firsthand at CSIS constitute a national security threat. Huda Mukbil, said she was treated as an insider threat and interrogated about her religion during her 15-year career at CSIS. Mukbil said she was forced to cut ties with Muslim organizations, ostracized at work and treated like a second-class citizen. She left the intelligence agency in 2017 after she helped to launch a civil lawsuit against CSIS over claims of discrimination. "It's the reason why individuals in the Muslim community don't feel they can trust the organization to tackle far-right threats ... The lack of trust is because of the lack of diversity. We don't have officers like me who are going out and speaking to people who can relate to their experiences. There's a moment now to do something." Mukbil told CBC News. The spy agency's director David Vigneault admitted, the year before, that CSIS had an internal racism problem. "Yes, systemic racism does exist here, and yes there is a level of harassment and fear of reprisal within the organization," he said, based on a transcript of a 2020 meeting. Mukbil said she went to work in CSIS's counter-terrorism section in 2002. She said she was, to her knowledge, CSIS's first ever hijab-wearing Black-Arab intelligence officer. Initially, she said, she was well received at Ottawa headquarters. But two years into her job, she said, everything changed. The perceived source of the terrorist threat in Canada in 2004 shifted from al-Qaeda to young, second- and third-generation Canadian Muslims, she said. Mukbil said she suddenly found herself treated as an insider threat as well. "I myself felt like I was being targeted at CSIS" she said.

See: CBC News' entry, in: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/racism-desecrimination-claims-canadian-security-intelligence-service-1.6083353>, retrieved on 11.07.2021

IsP140355-Canada: Muslim mother, daughter victim of hate-motivated harassment at Kingston Canadian Tire: police— A verbal racist attack against two Muslim people had come to light in the Kingston area, according to the family victimized and local police. Jena Badawi, who was 13 years old, was with her mother at the Canadian Tire on Division Street when they were harassed by a white customer. Jena, said she's still shaken after been verbally attacked by the stranger while she waited in line for a curbside order at the Canadian Tire on Division Street. "She turned to me she started calling us names, saying we are not white, why are we over here, we don't belong here," Jena said. Both Jena and her mother wear a hijab and are visibly recognized as Muslim. The Kingston incident was reported to police, who had charged the woman in question

and determined the incident was motivated by hate. “We take this seriously ... We are treating this as a hate crime. We have a dedicated officer from the core office who is assigned to equity diversity and inclusion.” said Sgt. Steve Koopman.

See: Global News entry, in: <https://globalnews.ca/news/7958035/muslim-mother-daughter-hate-harassment-kingston-canadian-tire/>, retrieved on 11.07.2021

IsP140356-Canada: 130 Canadian civil society groups call to halt prejudiced targeting of Muslim charities — More than 130 Canadian civil society groups, charities and Muslim institutions had called for a probe into what they describe as “Islamophobic” tax audits that unfairly target Muslim charities. “Targeting Muslim charities on the basis of terrorist financing suspicions simply because of the religion they uphold is Islamophobic and prejudiced,” they said in a letter, sent to the Ottawa government. The letter called on the government to issue a review of the Canada Revenue Agency’s (CRA) audit processes related to charitable organizations to ensure a lack of bias or racial prejudice. “Not only are Muslim organizations being targeted by the government with questionable and unfounded allegations of promoting radicalization, the process of an audit, and possible revocation, creates a chilling effect that can cripple the Canadian Muslim charitable community,” the letter read. The letter also called on Ottawa to undo “systemic racism” in government policies in the name of “national security.”

See: AhlulBayt News Agency entry, in: <https://en.abna24.com/news/130-canadian-civil-society-groups-call-to-halt-prejudiced-targeting-of-muslim-charities-1154186.html>, retrieved on 13.07.2021

EUROPE

IsP140357-UK: Moment 'ignorant clown' proclaims 'I hate Islam' in shocking racist rant in Sheffield street— A man who stated “I hate Islam” and branded it a “scummy race” had been called out by passers-by and those lived in Sheffield as he spouted his ignorant beliefs in the street. The video, uploaded onto Instagram on June 11, had amassed 16,000 views. It was claimed that shortly before it was recorded, he shouted “I hate all p***s.” The woman reacted and said:

“It’s like me saying I don’t like all white people because one called me a n*****. “You don’t know every single Pakistani person to be saying you hate them all. It’s disgusting.” He replied by saying: “I hate Islam then. What a scummy race.” The woman added: “It’s not a race. It’s a religion.”



See: EXAMINER LIVE News’ entry, in: <https://www.examinerlive.co.uk/news/local-news/moment-ignorant-clown-proclaims-i-20800552>, retrieved on 01.07.2021

IsP140358-UK: Shock rise in school kids being monitored over far-right extremism— High numbers of youngsters were been monitored over right-wing extremism. Home Office statistics obtained by The Sun on June 13 show most of the right-wing cases referred to Government deradicalisation programmes came after concerns were raised by teachers or police. Of 302 people identified in 2019-20, 70 were 14 or younger while 105 were aged between 15 and 20. That was a 200 per cent increase in just four years. In the same period, figures for those at risk of Islamist radicalisation had fallen from 190 under 20s to 110. Nigel Bromage, founder of Exit UK, which helped people leave far-right sects, said extremists saw the internet as their “number one recruitment ground”. He added: “The far-right and other extremists are speaking to our children on their phones and in their bedrooms and the vast majority of parents have no idea what is going on.”

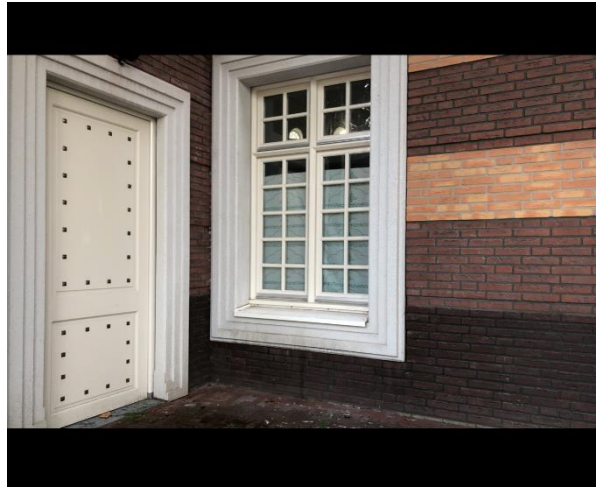
See: The Sun newspaper entry, in: <https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/15330298/shock-rise-in-school-kids-far-right-extremism/>, retrieved on 06.07.2021

IsP140359-UK: 'This should shame us all': Sarwar condemns Islamophobia as four-fifths of Muslims experience abuse— A report published on June 29, had concluded that, four-fifths of Muslims in Scotland had directly experienced Islamophobia. The Scottish Parliament's Cross-Party Group (CPG) on Tackling Islamophobia organised the first public inquiry into Islamophobia in Scotland and gathered 447 responses. Of those, 83% of Muslim respondents said they experienced Islamophobia directly with Muslim women more likely to encounter it than men. The inquiry also found 75% of Muslims said Islamophobia was a regular or everyday issue in Scottish society with 78% believed it was getting worse. That figure increased to 82% of Muslim respondents with a Glasgow postcode. Individuals warned that verbal and physical assaults had intensified, particularly on public transport. Asked about where Islamophobia took place, the street was the most common answer ahead of public spaces such as shops or restaurants and public transport, then at work and places of education. Just under a third (31%) said they had experienced Islamophobia at work, 18% at school and 13% at college or university. The report had made a series of recommendations, which included, that the Scottish Government should adopt a formal definition of Islamophobia. It also called to adopt a "no tolerance" approach; support initiatives to recruit more police officers from within Scotland's diverse communities; integrate an understanding of Islamophobia into compulsory components of the Scottish education curricula and teacher training education; and fund and support initiatives that educate the people of Scotland about the damage that Islamophobia would do to Scottish society. CPG chairman and Scottish Labour leader Anas Sarwar said: "We pride ourselves on being a welcome and tolerant country... There are people in Scotland who feel scared to leave their homes for fear of verbal or physical attack; are withdrawing from public services with devastating knock-on consequences on their health and education; and feel they are outsiders in their own country. This should shame us all." The report was authored by Professor Peter Hopkins of Newcastle University, He said: "Islamophobia permeates all domains of Scottish society; it is not only restricted to one context. It threatens education, limits employment prospects, and impacts everyday issues including health, wellbeing and housing. It is time to address the issue of Scotland's Islamophobia rather than denying its existence." A Scottish Government spokeswoman said: "We are committed to tackling hate crime and prejudice, including Islamophobia in all its forms and we will carefully consider this inquiry's recommendations.... we will consider the need to define Islamophobia, including consideration of the UK's All-Party Parliamentary Group's definition."

See: The Herald Scotland newspaper entry, in: <https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/19405791.islamophobia-scotland-report-reveals-four-fifth-muslims-experience-abuse/>, Full Report: <https://secureservercdn.net/160.153.137.40/13n.f55.mvftpupload.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Islamophobia-public-inquiry-report-1.pdf>, retrieved on 14.07.2021

IsP140360-Netherland: Mosque in Netherlands vandalized for second time— On July 4, The

Hagia Sophia Mosque in the Netherlands' Amsterdam was vandalized for the second time since last year. According to the National Vision Federation, the windows of the mosque, which was affiliated with the federation, were broken with a beer bottle. In December 2020, a masked assailant threw rocks at the windows of the mosque shortly after the evening prayers and escaped under the cover of darkness. The statement called on security forces and the country's administration to oppose such racist attacks without discrimination and to take the necessary precautions. "We expect security forces



and politicians to take deterrent measures against such attacks," Gazi Cırık, chairperson of the board of the Hagia Sophia Mosque Foundation, told Anadolu Agency (AA).

See: Daily Sabah newspaper entry, in: <https://www.dailysabah.com/politics/eu-affairs/mosque-in-netherlands-vandalized-for-second-time>, retrieved on 05.07.2021

IsP140361-Netherland: Dutch Airline KLM Investigates Racist Comments Against Moroccans—Dutch carrier airline KLM had opened an investigation after a viral video surfaced online which showed individuals were insulting Moroccans at a Netherlands airport. The video

showed people who were celebrating as a flight which belonged to Moroccan flag carrier Royal Air Maroc were taking off. "Yes, yes, there goes another plane full of Moroccans going back to Morocco. Give them all a single ticket, f*** off," one of the individuals said. Only one person appeared in the video, wore a KLM uniform. After the video went viral online, KLM issued a press release to apologize, and promised to take legal measures against the perpetrators. "We are horrified to learn of this video and KLM rejects these images and statements," the airline said in a press release.

See: Morocco World News entry, in: <https://www.moroccoworldnews.com/2021/07/343310/dutch-airline-klm-investigates-racist-comments-against-moroccans>, retrieved on 11.07.2021

IsP140362-Germany: Far-right abuse: Racism case seen as threat to whole German army—

The German defence minister had told the armed forces that reported racist and sexual abuse in a German platoon based in Lithuania had put their entire reputation at risk. The 30 soldiers had been recalled. Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer said the scandal was a "slap in the face" for all those serving in the Bundeswehr (armed forces). The reports spoke of a sexual assault, bullying, anti-Semitism and Nazi songs. The platoon was part of a NATO mission. "Through their behaviour these soldiers frivolously put the whole Bundeswehr's reputation at risk," she addressed a Bundeswehr officers' academy in Hamburg. The allegations, first reported by Der Spiegel news, relate to a party held at a hotel in Lithuania at the end of April. Members of the platoon allegedly filmed an incident of sexual assault and sang anti-Semitic songs. Later more allegations emerged of sexual and racial abuse in the platoon, including soldiers singing a song to mark Adolf Hitler's birthday on 20 April.

See: BBC News' entry, in: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-57525971>, retrieved on 08.07.2021

IsP140363-Cyprus: Cyprus Elections: Greek Neo-Nazi Far-Right Party Doubles Voter Turnout— Far-right party with a link to The golden dawn of the late Greek neo-Nazis Doubled

their support in Cyprus after widespread dissatisfaction with the corruption scandal dominated

Sunday's (July 1) new parliamentary elections. The National People's Front (Elam) gained 6.8% of the votes, narrowly replaced the Movement for Social Democracy (Edek) and became the fourth largest political force in the island's Greek Cyprus party system for the first time in 45 years. "The neo-Nazi party was clearly the winner of today's election, securing two more seats out of 56 seats," said Christophorus Christophorou, an analyst who specializes in election campaigns,

See: Illinois News Today News' entry, in: <https://illinoisnewstoday.com/cyprus-elections-greek-neo-nazi-far-right-party-doubles-voter-turnout-cyprus/229977/>, retrieved on 12.07.2021

IsP140364-Poland: Poland's Law And Justice Signs Joint Declaration With Euroskeptic Parties

— Jarosław Kaczyński, the leader of Poland's ruling Law and Justice (PiS) party, had announced that he had signed a joint declaration with several other European right-wing parties aimed at "protecting the sovereignty" of EU member states. The signatories of the document include Marine Le Pen, the President of the National Rally in France, Viktor Orban, the Hungarian PM and President of Fidesz, Matteo Salvini, the head of the Italian right-wing Liga, Giorgia Meloni of Brothers of Italy, and Santiago Abascal, the leader of Vox, as well as a number of other conservative parties from across the continent. According to Kaczyński, the declaration came about in response to what he believes were "unclear objectives and structure" of the Conference on the Future of Europe, which began last month and aimed to define a new vision for the union. The former Polish prime minister said the EU was attempting to carry out a cultural revolution aimed at "destroying the current social structures".

See: Forbes News' entry, in: <https://www.forbes.com/sites/lidiakurasinska/2021/07/02/polands-law-and-justice-signs-joint-declaration-with-euroskeptic-parties/>, retrieved on 25.07.2021

IsP140365-France: racist tags on a training center for imams – RT in French

— The facade of an imam training center was covered with racist and Islamophobic inscriptions in Martigues, in the Bouches-du-Rhône. The Tags included: "Muslim = pig", "Dehors les Bougnoules", and called for justice for the victims of the Bataclan, Nice or Samuel Paty attacks... Dozens of similar tags were discovered on the morning of July 4 on several walls, windows, shutters and bins of the imams training center, as reported by Provence. "We are a little shocked by this bad surprise", the director of the center Azeddine Djaghballou told the regional newspaper. He rejected any anger nonetheless, and said: "We remain peaceful because more serious things are happening. Living well together remains our objective and this kind of gesture is that of a small minority". Police officers started a neighborhood investigation, a police source told AFP. The mayor of Martigues, Gaby Charroux, went to the institute and expressed his support for the Muslim community, according to the regional newspaper, he also condemned "with the greatest firmness these stupid and senseless actions".

See: Good Word News entry, in: <https://goodwordnews.com/racist-tags-on-a-training-center-for-imams-rt-in-french/>, retrieved on 28.07.2021

IsP140366-France: France's far-right National Rally party reelects Le Pen as its leader

— On July 4, The French far-right party, Rassemblement National (RN) re-elected Marine Le Pen as its leader. Her re-election, with more than 98 percent of the vote, was likely to help her in the next election. Le Pen received congratulations and praise on Twitter from other far-right European organizations and individuals which included Katalin Novak of Hungary's Fidesz party and Italian nationalist group Fratelli D'Italia.

See: Saudi Gazette newspaper entry, in: <https://www.saudigazette.com.sa/article/608478/World/Europe/Frances-far-right-National-Rally-party-reelects-Le-Pen-as-its-leader>, retrieved on 27.07.2021

IsP140367-France: Muslim institute in France vandalized with Islamophobic slurs

— A Muslim institution in the French capital Paris was vandalized with Islamophobic and racist graffiti, a report said on July 4. Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin condemned the act as "unacceptable degradation" and promised to find the perpetrators of these acts. The incident took place at the Al Ghazali Institute of the Grand Mosque of Paris campus in the southern city of Martigues. The

Great Mosque of Paris strongly expressed "concern over the increase in acts of intolerance" and urged the "authorities to reinforce in a concrete and consistent way the security of religious places in France."

See: Daily Sabah News' entry, in: <https://www.dailysabah.com/world/islamophobia/muslim-institute-in-france-vandalized-with-islamophobic-slurs>, retrieved on 29.07.2021



IsP140368-Spain: Mosque vandalized in latest anti-Muslim attack in Spain's Murcia— A mosque was vandalized in Murcia on July 7. The mosque in the Cabezo de Torres town, inaugurated in 2018, was spray-painted with the phrases "no to Islam," "stop the invasion" and "Spain's sovereignty cannot be negotiated." The vandals also left a pig's head with a knife in it outside of the mosque.

See: Daily Sabah News' entry, in: <https://www.dailysabah.com/world/europe/mosque-vandalized-in-latest-anti-muslim-attack-in-spains-murcia>, retrieved on 30.07.2021

ASIA



IsP140369-Sri Lanka: Sri Lanka investigates troops over 'humiliation' of Muslims— Sri Lanka's military had launched an investigation after social media posts showed soldiers were forcing minority Muslims to kneel on the streets as a punishment because they allegedly broke the lockdown rules. Armed soldiers ordered Muslim civilians to hold their hands in the air while

kneeling on a road in the town of Eravur, about 300km (190 miles) east of the capital Colombo, AFP news agency reported on June 20. Officials acknowledged that troops had no power to mete out such punishments. The victims were on their way to two restaurants to buy food. “An initial Military Police investigation has already commenced after certain photos went viral depicting an alleged harassment in the Eravur area,” the army said in a statement. It said the officer in charge had been removed and the soldiers involved ordered to leave the town.

See: Aljazeera News’ entry, in: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/6/21/sri-lanka-investigates-troops-over-humiliation-of-muslims>, Image Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/sri-lanka-to-probe-army-attack-and-humiliation-of-muslims/article34871262.ece>, retrieved on 07.07.2021

IsP140370-India: Muslim man attacked, India police charge journalists for tweets— Several press bodies had condemned police in the northern Uttar Pradesh state for the cases against journalists and a news portal for their tweets and reports on the attack of an elderly Muslim man. On June 5, Abdul Samad Saifi, a 72-year-old resident of Uttar Pradesh’s Ghaziabad, an industrial town on the outskirts of capital New Delhi, was reportedly offered a ride in an auto rickshaw by some men, then he was taken to an isolated spot and allegedly beaten for hours as he crouched on a cot, squirmed in pain. The men also allegedly forced him to chant Jai Shri Ram (hail Lord Ram) and Vande Mataram (I praise thee, Mother), which are rallying calls for Hindu far-right groups, who enjoy patronage from the governing Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and frequently target India’s Muslim minority. In a two-minute video clip that was widely shared on social media, the men could also be seen when they cut the elderly man’s beard with scissors. However, the Uttar Pradesh police denied the attack was motivated by religious hatred and said Saifi was beaten because he had sold the men an amulet that did not work. Saifi’s family had contested the police claim and said it was a hate attack. A police officer in Ghaziabad, on condition of anonymity, told Al Jazeera on Friday that nine people, had been arrested so far while police were looking for two more suspects. But the police action against the journalists – all Muslims – had outraged press bodies across the world, who demanded an immediate withdrawal of the FIRs against them. In a statement on June 15, the Editors Guild of India (EGI) said it “condemns the filing of the FIRs by the Uttar Pradesh government against The Wire and several journalists” for their tweets on the June 5 assault.

See: Aljazeera News’ entry, in: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/6/18/ghaziabad-muslim-man-attacked-india-police-journalists>, retrieved on 08.07.2021



IsP140371-India: How Zee News used pictures of Muslims to spread rumours on population growth in India— As the Uttar Pradesh election was getting closer, TV news channels were getting ready to attract the viewer’s attention. According to newslaundry, the assumption was that

the viewers wanted to watch Hindus who were screeching “Hum khatre mein hai” – “we are in danger” – and Muslims been blamed for it. The Indian media watchdog said, Zee News made one such attempt on their 5 pm “debate” programme Taal Thok Ke, which indicated that Muslims wanted to produce many children in an effort to take the country backward.

See: News Laundry News’ entry, in: <https://www.newslaundry.com/2021/06/28/bloodlust-tv-how-zee-news-used-pictures-of-muslims-to-spread-rumours-on-population-growth-in-india>, retrieved on 15.07.2021

IsP140372-India: New Report from Open Doors USA Details 'Imminent Threat' for Christians, Muslims in India— On July 1, a research from the London School of Economics and Political Science, found that Christians and Muslims who were living in India were facing "imminent existential threat;" and Open Doors USA was calling on the Biden administration and the international community to hold India's government accountable for the violence and discrimination against religious minorities. "We urge the Biden administration to immediately convene an international fact-finding commission to investigate these acts of violence and other human rights violations against religious minorities in India," said Open Doors USA President & CEO, David Curry. Commissioned by persecution watchdog organization Open Doors, the report featured eight case studies of violence and discrimination against Christians or Muslims in India, which ranked #10 on Open Doors' 2021 World Watch List. Data showed vigilante mob attacks, state harassment, attempt to drive Muslims and Christians from their land and their homes, and censorship were metamorphosed in alarmed ways, and – most disturbingly – these attacks were undergirded by support from unjust government officials who look the other way or refuse to acknowledge the atrocities. Researchers found that various officials such as district administrators, lower court judges, police and local government bureaucrats used loopholes and misused procedural provisions to harass religious minority groups. The report cites dozens of specific examples of harassment, violence and perversion of justice against Christians and Muslims, which included:

- Collusion of local law enforcement with lynch-mobs from the Hindu community.
- Use of legal means to threaten or arrest Christian and Muslim victims/survivors of Hindu mob attacks.
- Demand that evidence of attacks be provided by the victims/ survivors even when the attackers had filmed the entire sequence and/or uploaded it to social media.
- Refusal by police and law enforcement to arrest or deter mobs from the physical intimidation and violation of the properties and persons of Christians and Muslims.
- Arson against places of worship for Christians; arson against the possessions – for instance books and religious texts – of Christians and Muslims.
- Intimidation and death threats against Christian and Muslim victims of Hindutva violence in order to prevent them from justice.

See: Yahoo News’ entry, in: <https://finance.yahoo.com/news/report-open-doors-usa-details-171400956.html>, retrieved on 28.07.2021

AUSTRALIA

IsP140373-New Zealand: Fresh threats against Al Noor Mosque as country debates hate speech laws— As the country prepared to debate proposed hate speech reforms, Al Noor Mosque was targeted with fresh threats of violence. Police had received three reports related to the Christchurch mosque that a senior minister describes as "serious". The matters were reported to police either at or from a representative of Al Noor Mosque, said Canterbury metro area commander superintendent Lane Todd. He said all three reports were been "actively followed up". They were not connected to one another. Federation of Islamic Associations chair Abdur Razzaq was responsible for one of the reports after he drew police attention to an offensive image on the

online forum 4chan. The image was a selfie of a masked man posed in a car parked outside Al Noor Mosque, with comments that threatened violence to those inside. "Immediately we contacted the police, the police were onto it within eight minutes. ...So we are happy with that kind of quick response time but [racism is] still there, it's still there." The image first appeared on the encrypted app, Telegram, and was no longer available on the 4chan website.

See: The New Zealand Herald newspaper entry, in: <https://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/fresh-threats-against-al-noor-mosque-as-country-debates-hate-speech-laws/USQ2EJSC3PG24VM2NBCMPCAZZY/>, retrieved on 14.07.2021

POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

IsP140374-ECCAR: ECCAR to collect best practices on tackling anti-Muslim racism by European cities— In order to support the member cities of ECCAR (European Coalition of Cities against Racism) to tackle anti-Muslim racism, ECCAR established a permanent working group led by the City of Heidelberg in December 2020 that had received funds from the European Commission for the year 2021. In June 2021, ECCAR hired Ms. Linda Hyökki as the coordinator of the working group. Ms. Hyökki was writing her Ph.D. thesis on anti-Muslim racism in Finland with the Ibn Haldun University and had previously worked as an expert with academic and public institutions. Together with ECCAR's member cities, researchers, and civil society actors, Ms. Hyökki would work to analyze how local governments could act against anti-Muslim racism in their capacities as democratic institutions, employers, service providers, and public contractors. The project reflected the EU Anti-Racism Action Plan 2020-2025, which pointed out the important role played by cities and local governments in the fight against racism and discrimination. In the context of the International Day against Anti-Muslim Racism, ECCAR had launch the project with the member cities on June 30. At the end of the project, the policies would be collected, reviewed, categorized, and made freely accessible online.

See: ECCAR News' entry, in: <https://www.eccar.info/en/news/press-release-eccar-collect-best-practices-tackling-anti-muslim-racism-european-cities>, retrieved on 15.07.2021

IsP140375-UNGA: UNGA calls for addressing emerging terrorist threats on basis of Islamophobia— The UN General Assembly had unanimously adopted the revised Global Counter Terrorism Strategy (GCTS) and called on the international community to take appropriate measures to address terrorist threats on the basis of xenophobia, racism and Islamophobia. It also called on the UN Secretary General to report on the threat posed by such extremist and Islamophobic terrorist groups. The initiative for the recognition of Islamophobia as an emerging terrorist threat under the GCTS was spearheaded by Pakistan, together with other OIC countries.

See: Radio Pakistan News' entry, in: <https://www.radio.gov.pk/02-07-2021/unga-calls-for-addressing-emerging-terrorist-threats-on-basis-of-islamophobia>, retrieved on 25.07.2021

NORTH AMERICA

IsP140376-US: US court to hear case on surveillance of Muslims by FBI— The US Supreme Court had agreed to hear a case which involved a group of Muslim Americans who accused the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) of illegal surveillance. On June 7, the court issued a statement which said that it would look at the FBI's use of an informant to collect information from several Los Angeles and Orange County mosques for more than a year. The Courthouse News, a daily which focused on civil litigation, reported that the court case would start in October. The FBI argued that their primary responsibility was to protect national security and it used this and other methods to collect sensitive information. The case involves three Californian Muslims

who allege the FBI paid a confidential informant to spy on Muslims in Orange County during 2006 and 2007. The Council on American-Islamic Relations, which represents a southern California imam and two other Muslims in one of several cases, rejected this argument. “The FBI infiltrated several mosques in southern California, planted informants, and targeted Muslim Americans for illegal spying solely because of their religion,” Hussam Ayloush, executive director of CAIR Los Angeles, said in a statement on June 7.

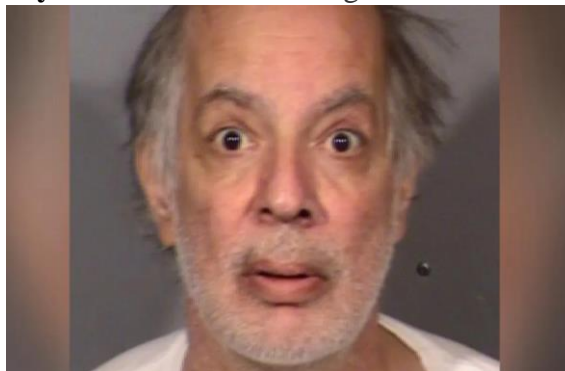
See: Dawn News’ entry, in: <https://www.dawn.com/news/1628357>, retrieved on 05.07.2021

IsP140377-US: Pelosi creates committee to probe Jan. 6 riot, links to ‘white supremacy,’ ‘Islamophobia’— On June 22, US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi announced that she was creating a select committee to investigate the causes of the Jan. 6 riot at the U.S. Capitol and recommend ways to prevent it. Mrs. Pelosi said the committee would in part examine the root causes of that day, which included “White supremacy, antisemitism and Islamophobia”.

See: The Washington Times newspaper entry, in: <https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2021/jun/24/pelosi-creates-committee-probe-jan-6-riot-links-wh/>, retrieved on 25.07.2021

IsP140378-US: A Muslim family tried to befriend their neighbor – he ended up smearing bacon on their house and screaming at their security cameras— A Las Vegas man had been

arrested on charges of harassment, after allegedly he smeared bacon on the house of a neighboring Muslim family and screamed at their security cameras. Local news outlets KLAS and KTNV reported that Ricky Uwich was accused of the harassment of the family, which included their two young children, in an apparent hate crime. The Muslim family said that they attempted to befriend Uwich several months ago, and even cooked him meals. However, he "was not happy with the efforts." Uwich reportedly told police that the



family was "constantly" bothering him. The family showed police surveillance camera footage of Uwich when he smeared their door, doorknob, handrails and wall with raw bacon on June 19. A few days later, Uwich allegedly placed a piece of bacon on the family's car. Uwich told police that he did not like the family because they are Muslim and accused them of been terrorists.

See: The Raw Story News’ entry, in: <https://www.rawstory.com/anti-muslim-hate-crime/>, retrieved on 26.07.2021

IsP140379-US: 'Muslim-free' gun range closes in Oklahoma— Owners of an Oklahoma gun range that once claimed to be "Muslim-free" had announced that they would sell the property after they faced a lawsuit from a local Muslim resident that had lasted several years. In a Facebook post, the owners of Save Yourself Gun Club announced the sale of their two-acre property located in Muskogee County. The shooting range first gained national attention in 2015 when it posted a sign stating, “This privately owned business is a Muslim free establishment!!! We reserve the right to refuse service to anyone!!! Thank you!” Raja’ee Fatihah, a local Muslim man, filed a lawsuit against the business's owners several months later, and claimed that he was turned away when he attempted to shoot there, according to Star-Telegram.

See: The Hill News’ entry, in: <https://thehill.com/homenews/state-watch/565011-muslim-free-gun-range-closes-in-oklahoma>, retrieved on 27.07.2021

IsP140380-Canada: Canada's Ontario assembly passes motion condemning Islamophobia—

A day after Canadian lawmakers passed a motion to convene an emergency summit on Islamophobia, the Ontario government condemned Islamophobia on June 12. The actions by both levels of the federal and provincial government were spurred by the horrific murder on June 6 of four members of a Muslim family in London, Ontario, a city of 400,000 southwest of Toronto.

The four died when a pickup truck drove into them in what police said was a premeditated hate crime in which they were targeted because of their religion. In the Ontario legislature, members of the provincial parliament passed a motion which condemned Islamophobia. "In the opinion of the house, the Legislative Assembly of Ontario condemns all acts of violence and terrorism against people of the Muslim faith and reaffirms its condemnation of all forms of Islamophobia and its support for the Anti-Racism Directorate," Kaleed Rasheed, a member of provincial parliament for Mississauga East-Cooksville, read out in the legislature. It passed unanimously.

See: Anadolu Agency News' entry, in: <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/americas/canadas-ontario-assembly-passes-motion-condemning-islamophobia/2271663>, retrieved on 04.07.2021

IsP140381-Canada: More than 60 Manitoba interfaith leaders sign letter denouncing Islamophobia after London, Ont., attack— After what police believe was an attack fueled by hate that left four members of a Muslim family dead in London, Ont., more than 60 Manitoba faith leaders and members had signed a statement where they expressed their unified support against Islamophobia. "As leaders and members of various local faith communities, we are shocked and distressed about the hate-provoked, targeted attack on the Muslim family in London," the statement says. "We stand with Muslim communities both in grief and in resolve to do all that we can to counter Islamophobic hate and violence." Authored by Loraine MacKenzie Shepherd, the reverend at Westworth United Church in Winnipeg, the signatories to the statement include representatives from various Christian denominations as well as Jewish, Buddhist, Sikh, and Hindu and Jain leaders. MacKenzie Shepherd said she and many other faith leaders felt compelled to show unified support for the Muslim community.

See: CBC News' entry, in: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/interfaith-letter-support-muslim-london-attack-1.6060713>, retrieved on 04.07.2021

IsP140382-Canada: For the first time, Canada applies terrorism charges to acts of Islamophobia—Nathaniel Veltman had been charged with murder in the case of the Azfaal family in London, Ontario. Veltman deliberately rammed his truck into them when they were out for a stroll in early June in what police called a premeditated attack. For the first time in Canada, prosecutors said they planned to charge a person with terrorism in a case that involved an alleged Islamophobic act. Some legal experts said the terrorism charge signals a shift in how Canada prosecute those accused of terrorist activity. Canadian Muslims welcomed the news that Veltman would be charge with terrorism. "It says to the Muslim community, we value the Muslim community and we will push for accountability," said Nawaz Tahir, a spokesperson for the London mosque. Terrorism had been a criminal offense in Canada since the 9/11 attacks on the United States. The law had been used almost exclusively to prosecute people with ties to Islamist groups.

See: Dawn News' entry, in: <https://www.pri.org/stories/2021-06-21/first-time-canada-applies-terrorism-charges-acts-islamophobia>, retrieved on 06.07.2021

IsP140383-Canada: Case surrounding London, Ont. attack on Muslim family held over to Aug. 25— On July 29, Nathaniel Veltman, the man accused in June's targeted vehicle attack in London, Ont., made another virtual court appearance. Veltman, was accused of four counts of first-degree murder and one count of attempted murder, and Crown prosecutors allege that each charge constituted an act of terrorism. He remained in custody at Elgin-Middlesex Detention Centre (EMDC), a jail in the south end of London, but made his latest court appearance via video conference. In a brief appearance, Christopher Hicks, said: "We are now requesting an adjournment of four weeks, to August the 26, to continue reviewing that disclosure and for continued discussions with the Crown, please". The court ruled in favour and adjourned the matter until Aug. 25.

See: The Global News entry, in: <https://globalnews.ca/news/8069854/case-london-ont-attack-muslim-family-held-over-aug-25/>, retrieved on 29.07.2021

IsP140384-Canada: ‘Islamophobia is real.’ Trudeau attends vigil for Muslim family killed in targeted attack— Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and the leaders of Canada’s federal parties traveled to a mosque in London, Ontario, on June 8, and joined thousands at a vigil for a Muslim family run down on June 6 by a driver in a pickup truck. “Islamophobia is real. Racism is real,” Trudeau told the crowd about the hit and run that killed three generations of a family. Leaders from all levels of government attended the vigil, and listened to members of the city’s Muslim community express frustration over the lack of action to address Islamophobia. Mustafa Farooq, chief executive officer of the National Council of Canadian Muslims, urged all levels of government to organize a national summit on Islamophobia. Trudeau and his federal counterparts each took turns where they addressed the crowd, and expressed solidarity in their grief.

See: The Politico News entry, in: <https://www.politico.com/news/2021/06/09/islamophobia-trudeau-vigil-muslim-attack-492435>, retrieved on 05.07.2021

IsP140385-Canada: Alberta speeds up security grants for sites facing hateful violence and vandalism— Alberta, a province in western Canada, was speeding up the rollout of grants for security at facilities which served some vulnerable Albertans after the rise in hate-motivated violence and vandalism across the province. Not-for-profit organizations could apply for a one-time emergency grant of up to \$12,000, the province announced on July 6. Funds were made available after “recent multiple acts of vandalism at places of worship and the suspected arson that burned a church to the ground,” said a news release. Justice Minister Kaycee Madu said Albertans from all backgrounds should feel free to worship free of violence, and the grant would protect those most at risk. Premier Jason Kenney said been able to exercise freedom of religion in peace and security was essential. “We must all condemn hate-motivated acts of violence and vandalism,” Kenney said in the release. “That’s why we introduced the security infrastructure program ... and why we are making help available immediately for those at risk of hate-motivated crimes.”

See: The Edmonton Journal News’ entry, in: <https://edmontonjournal.com/news/politics/alberta-speeds-up-security-grants-for-sites-facing-hateful-violence-and-vandalism>, retrieved on 07.07.2021

IsP140386-Canada: Canada Has Added More US Far-Right Extremists To Its List Of Banned Terrorists — On June 25, Canada’s government added more American neo-Nazis to the list of banned terrorist groups. The additions follow Canada’s designation of the Proud Boys and other US-based far-right extremist groups as terrorists in February. The newly prohibited groups include: The Three Percenters, an American anti-government militant group with a presence in Canada, James Mason, a Colorado-based neo-Nazi who had advocated for lone actor attacks against the US government to foment a white revolution, the Aryan Strikeforce, a UK-based white supremacist group with chapters in Canada and the US that advocated for violence to overthrow governments and an ISIS affiliate based in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Bill Blair, Canada’s minister of public safety and emergency preparedness, said in a statement the designations were an important tool to help authorities keep pace with evolving threats and global trends. “Recent events should remove any doubts about the serious threat posed by ideologically-motivated violent extremism,” Blair said. Nazis

See: Yahoo News’ entry, in: <https://www.yahoo.com/lifestyle/canada-added-more-us-far-200917061.html>, retrieved on 13.07.2021

IsP140387-Canada: Police arrest two after Toronto mosque staff threatened — Toronto police had arrested two people who allegedly tried to enter a Toronto mosque and threatened staff on June 15, according to a press release. A man and a woman tried to enter the main and side door of the Islamic Institute of Toronto in Scarborough, but both doors were locked, according to Fared

Amin, chair of mosque's board of directors. They threatened to detonate a bomb and shoot people, Amin said he was told by two staff members who worked on the lawn. Amin commended the police, both the man and women were arrested, according to Toronto police. "They were believed to be under the influence of illicit drugs," according to a police press release.

See: The Star newspaper entry, in: <https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2021/06/15/police-arrest-two-after-toronto-mosque-staff-threatened.html>, retrieved on 14.07.2021

IsP140388-Canada: Ontario gives \$300K to Muslim organizations to help combat Islamophobia in schools— On June 29, Ontario province announced to provide funds for educational programs to help fight Islamophobia. Education Minister Stephen Lecce said \$225,000 was for the Muslim Association of Canada to create digital resources for educators, students and parents to raise awareness about Islamophobia. He said \$75,000 would be sent to the National Council of Canadian Muslims to help Muslim newcomers navigate their new country and to help those new students prepare for school in the fall.

See: Yahoo News' entry, in: <https://ca.news.yahoo.com/ontario-300k-muslim-organizations-help-145723916.html>, retrieved on 15.07.2021

IsP140389-Canada: The Government of Canada Concludes National Summit on Islamophobia— On July 22, the Government of Canada held a virtual National Summit on Islamophobia. Organized by the Federal Anti-Racism Secretariat, and convened by the Honourable Bardish Chagger, Minister of Diversity and Inclusion and Youth, the summit provided a national platform for Muslim communities to identify concrete ways to combat Islamophobia across the country. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau reiterated the government's solidarity with Muslim communities across Canada and the government's commitment to combat and denounce Islamophobia and all forms of racism and discrimination. During the summit, federal ministers, Members of Parliament, and officials from provincial and municipal governments, listened to the lived experiences of Muslim Canadians from across the country. Attendees identified ways the federal government should work with Muslim communities to implement federal anti-racism initiatives that address Islamophobia and hate-fueled violence. During the summit, the Government of Canada had committed to engage with Muslim communities on the government's next Anti-Racism Action Plan, and the Minister of National Revenue, had requested that the Taxpayers' Ombudsperson to conduct a systemic study to address the concerns of Muslim led charitable organizations. Minister Chagger also announced 8 projects through the Anti-Racism Action Program that address Islamophobia and aimed to remove systemic barriers faced by Muslim communities. In addition, Minister of International Trade and Minister of Small Business and Export Promotion, announced \$6 million of funds allocated for 150 projects which would support communities at risk of hate-motivated crime through the Communities at Risk: Security Infrastructure Program (SIP).

See: Government of Canada Press Release entry, in: <https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/news/2021/07/the-government-of-canada-concludes-national-summit-on-islamophobia.html>, retrieved on 30.07.2021

EUROPE

IsP140390-Germany: German police unit disbanded over suspected far-right chats— An elite German police unit would be disbanded over suspicions that officers exchanged far-right content in online chat groups. Members of Frankfurt's SEK commando unit were suspected of exchanging Nazi imagery. The case was the latest in a series of extremism allegations in the ranks of the German police and military. "During an evaluation of the suspect's mobile phones, several chat groups where criminal content was shared by members were identified," senior prosecutor Nadja Niesen said. Seventeen officers were suspected of sharing neo-Nazi images or content that incited racial hatred. Three senior officers were accused of obstruction of justice because they

allegedly failed to intervene or sanction those involved. Of the 20 suspects, nineteen were active police officers and one was retired. The active officers had been temporarily relieved of their duties. The “unacceptable conduct” of some SEK officers made the unit’s dissolution inevitable, said Hesse state interior minister Peter Beuth. He said an “entirely new leadership culture” was needed in the Special Forces.

See: The National News newspaper entry, in: <https://www.thenationalnews.com/world/europe/german-police-unit-disbanded-over-suspected-far-right-chats-1.1239456>, retrieved on 01.07.2021

IsP140391-Germany: German woman planning attack on Muslims gets 6 years in prison—

On July 30, A court sentenced a German woman to six years in prison for after she sent threats to local politicians and planned a firebomb attack against the Muslim community. The court in Munich found that the woman, an alternative medicine practitioner, had threatened the mayor and a local official in her messages. She also procured weapons and materials to construct an incendiary bomb. The activities, which were motivated by right-wing ideas, relate to the period between 2019 and 2020. The woman had been "firmly determined" to build an incendiary device and to set it off, judge Richter Michael Hohne said. Her target had been a Muslim cleric or a member of the Muslim community.

See: Daily Sabah newspaper entry, in: <https://www.dailysabah.com/world/europe/german-woman-planning-attack-on-muslims-gets-6-years-in-prison>, retrieved on 30.07.2021

IsP140392-UK: Stirling man left abusive messages and 'dirty toilet paper' at city mosque—

A man placed rocks with offensive messages, on top of ‘dirty’ toilet paper, at the entrance to Stirling’s Islamic Centre. Dean McGowan had appeared at Stirling Sheriff Court on June 16. Fiscal deputy Rebecca Reid told the court that a witness had been walking along Burghmuir Road on August 26, 2020 when he spotted two similar rocks on walls, one of either side of the entrance to the centre. The witness noticed that scrawled on one rock was ‘F*** off’ and ‘B*****’ and that each had circles, marked in white, with crosses to represent a shooting target, said Ms Reid. The court heard they had been placed on what was perceived to be dirty toilet paper but analysis of the paper had not yet been carried out. When police recovered CCTV from the Islamic Centre, it showed McGowan was placing the rocks on the walls. Sheriff Robertson deferred sentence on McGowan, of Beatty Avenue, Stirling, for a week to allow enquiries to be made. He said: “I want to be certain what I am dealing with here. This is strange, bizarre, behaviour”. On June 23, Sheriff Robertson sentenced McGowan to 200 hours of unpaid work as a direct alternative to custody, and placed him under social work supervision for 18 months.

See: The Daily Record News’ entry, in: <https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/local-news/stirling-man-left-abusive-messages-24342760>. Also: <https://www.thescottishsun.co.uk/news/scottish-news/7305148/paranoid-vob-sweary-targets-mosque/>, retrieved on 07.07.2021

IsP140393-UK: Schoolboy set up far-right chat group and encouraged terrorist attacks, court hears —

A schoolboy from Derbyshire, England, had set up a far-right chat group which encouraged fellow teenagers to launch terrorist attacks, a court had heard. The youth, set up and managed the channel on messaging app Telegram. The channel was said to be of an extreme right-wing and "openly racist nature" and the youth boasted online that his criminal record would be cleared when he reached 18. He vetted like-minded individuals before he allowed them entry to private chat groups where there was discussion about "doing something" against ethnic minorities and talk about weapons, prosecutors said. The 15 years old, admitted at Westminster Youth Court one offence of encouragement of terrorism, one of dissemination of a terrorist publication and possession of information useful for terrorism. They would be sentenced in August.

See: SKY News’ entry, in: <https://news.sky.com/story/schoolboy-set-up-far-right-chat-group-and-encouraged-terrorist-attacks-court-hears-12344042>, retrieved on 13.07.2021

IsP140394-UK: Tommy Robinson loses libel case brought by Syrian schoolboy— On July 22, Tommy Robinson had lost a libel case brought against him by a Syrian teenager who was filmed being attacked at school. The founder of the English Defence League – whose real name was Stephen Yaxley-Lennon – was sued by Jamal Hijazi, who was assaulted in the playground at Almondbury community school in Huddersfield in October 2018. Shortly after the video of the incident went viral, Robinson claimed in two Facebook videos that Jamal was “not innocent and he violently attacks young English girls in his school”. In the clips viewed by nearly 1 million people, Robinson, also claimed Jamal “beat a girl black and blue” and “threatened to stab” another boy at his school, allegations the teenager denied. At a four-day trial in April, Jamal’s lawyers said Robinson’s comments had “a devastating effect” on the schoolboy and his family who had come to the UK as refugees from Homs, Syria. The judgment delivered by Mr Justice Nicklin ruled in Jamal’s favour and granted him £100,000 in damages.

See: The Guardian newspaper entry, in: <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/jul/22/tommy-robinson-loses-libel-case-brought-by-syrian-schoolboy>, retrieved on 29.07.2021

IsP140395-Italy: Italian Muslim umbrella organisation launches crowdfunding for anti-Islamophobia network— The Union of Islamic Communities and Organizations in Italy (UCOII) had launched a crowdfunder to set up an Italian Anti-Islamophobia Network (NIA), to counter anti Muslim sentiment in the country. The network would collect reports of Islamophobia through an online portal and experts on the field. It would also launch communication campaigns and develop local training events against Islamophobia in Italy. According to a study quoted by UCOII, 65 percent of Italian Muslims claimed that they had suffered from violence, prejudice or discrimination. The same research showed that women were the most affected victims. “For example, if they wear religious symbols, they frequently become targets of verbal aggression in public and hate speech on social media. Plus, they experience difficulties in accessing the labor market,” it said.

See: ArabNews newspaper entry, in: <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1887356/world>, retrieved on 26.07.2021

IsP140396-Netherlands: Dutch court upholds populist Wilders' discrimination conviction— On July 6, The Dutch Supreme Court upheld politician Geert Wilders' conviction for discrimination after he insulted Moroccans at a campaign rally in 2014, in a defeat for the far-right populist known for his anti-Islam rhetoric. Wilders had demanded a retrial of his case, at which no fine or prison sentence was imposed, in which he argued that it was politically motivated. The Supreme Court said his remarks had been "unnecessarily hurtful" and had crossed the boundaries of free speech.

See: Reuters News' entry, in: <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/dutch-populist-wilders-discrimination-conviction-upheld-by-supreme-court-2021-07-06/>, retrieved on 28.07.2021

ASIA

IsP140397-India: AIMPLB files petition against mosque demolition in Barabanki— The All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) had filed a petition in the Allahabad High Court against the demolition of Masjid Garib Nawab, also known as Tehseel Wali Masjid, in Ram Sanehi Ghat area of Barabanki. The Sunni Central Waqf Board had also filed a writ petition in the Lucknow bench of the Allahabad high court against the demolition of the mosque on May 17. AIMPLB’s General Secretary Maulana Khalid Saifullah Rahmani said, “The action taken by the district administration and police in the dark of the night on May 17 was illegal. The mosque was registered under the UP Sunni Central Waqf Board. The mosque was on waqf land, therefore, no magistrate or any other officer can take indiscriminate action. The waqf board was formed through the Waqf Act and its matters have to be taken up by the waqf tribunal.”



IsP140398-India: In Indian Punjab, Sikh donates land for mosque— In the newly formed Malerkotla district, a Sikh man had donated his ancestral land to seven Muslim families to construct a mosque. The historic town of Malerkotla had been upgraded as the 23rd district of Punjab. In Moga district, Sikhs opened the doors of the local gurdwara to help Muslims organise the foundation stone laying ceremony of a mosque nearby. Pala Singh, the sarpanch of Bhaloor village in Moga district, told The Wire, that on June 13, when Muslim villagers had gathered to lay the foundation stone to rebuild the century-old, dilapidated mosque, it was raining. The mosque's premises were around 1.5 acres. "As it started raining, Muslims from the village approached Gurdwara Sri Satsang Sahib. There, they held the foundation stone laying ceremony. Villagers gathered within minutes and made all the necessary arrangements, including langar, and also raised funds to the tune of Rs 2 lakh on this occasion," Pala Singh said.

See: KMS News entry, in: <https://www.kmsnews.org/kms/2021/06/18/in-indian-punjab-sikh-donates-land-for-mosque.html>,
Image Source: <https://thewire.in/religion/punjab-sikh-muslim-harmony-malerkotla-moga>, retrieved on 08.07.2021

IsP140399-India: 'Anyone who says Muslims should not live in India is not Hindu': Mohan Bhagwat — On July 4, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat said there was a need to guard against fear-mongering that the Sangh was against minorities or that Islam was in danger in India. He Spoke at a book launch event organised by the Muslim Rashtriya Manch, the Muslim wing of the RSS, Bhagwat said the Sangh had always believed that the DNA of the people of India was the same and that both Hindus and Muslims were one entity. "When people speak about the need for Hindu-Muslim unity, we say we are already one, we are not separate... If anyone says that Muslims should not stay in India then he is not a Hindu," he said. He went on to add that his presence was not an attempt to get votes for the next elections. "We are not interested in party politics. We have a view but we are not in anyone's favour but in the country's favour. We support those who speak for the country. This is not a political exercise or vote bank politics. We can do this (politics), but we won't. There are some things that political parties cannot do," he said.

See: Hindustan Times newspaper entry, in: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/anyone-who-says-muslims-should-not-live-in-india-is-not-hindu-mohan-bhagwat-101625412723564.html>, retrieved on 27.07.2021

AUSTRALIA

IsP140400-New Zealand: NZ Human Rights Commission supports call to shut down Christchurch mosque attacks film They Are Us— The Human Rights Commission had backed members of New Zealand’s Muslim community and called for a film in development about the aftermath of the Christchurch Mosque attacks not to go ahead. “As a country, we have a responsibility to do all we can to ensure that Muslim New Zealanders are represented accurately in stories,” said chief human rights commissioner Paul Hunt. “We have an obligation to do all we can to ensure those stories come from a place of respect. It matters who is telling the stories and for whom those stories are being told, particularly when it is your story being told.” He echoed concerns raised by survivors and families of the 51 people killed in the terror attacks on March 15, 2019, particularly about a lack of consultation with the community and the “sidelining of those affected by focusing on the actions of the prime minister.... As the Human Rights Commission, we hear the Muslim community and we encourage others to hear them as well when they say this film should not go ahead,” Hunt said. The film’s announcement was met with outrage, with survivors and victim’s families said they had been “blindsided” and accused the producers of “white saviourism” in their concentration on the prime minister’s response to the attacks. Ardern herself expressed reservations about the film.

See: Stuff News’ entry, in: <https://www.stuff.co.nz/entertainment/film/300339261/human-rights-commission-supports-call-to-shut-down-christchurch-mosque-attacks-film-they-are-us>, retrieved on 06.07.2021

IsP140401-New Zealand: Authorities move to take down 'atrocious' Christchurch mosque attack material— Police and the internet watchdog were working to remove offensive material about the Christchurch mosque attacks from online platforms. The content included an animation and what appeared to be grabs from the mosque attack video, Netsafe's Martin Cocker said. They had contacted Facebook and Twitter and the provider of the GIF content, which he identified as Tenor, owned by Google. Police said they also contacted the platforms "to ensure it is removed". "We are undertaking inquiries into its origin," they told RNZ in a statement. The Chief Censor and Classification Office said the footage content was "a real concern" and "harmful", particularly for attack survivors, and people should not share it.

See: The New Zealand Herald newspaper entry, in: <https://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/authorities-move-to-take-down-atrocious-christchurch-mosque-attack-material/ASHP7JP7Z2GQFROLPHKUORYTFQ/>, retrieved on 12.07.2021