



ORGANIZATION OF ISLAMIC COOPERATION

Political Affairs Department

Islamophobia Observatory

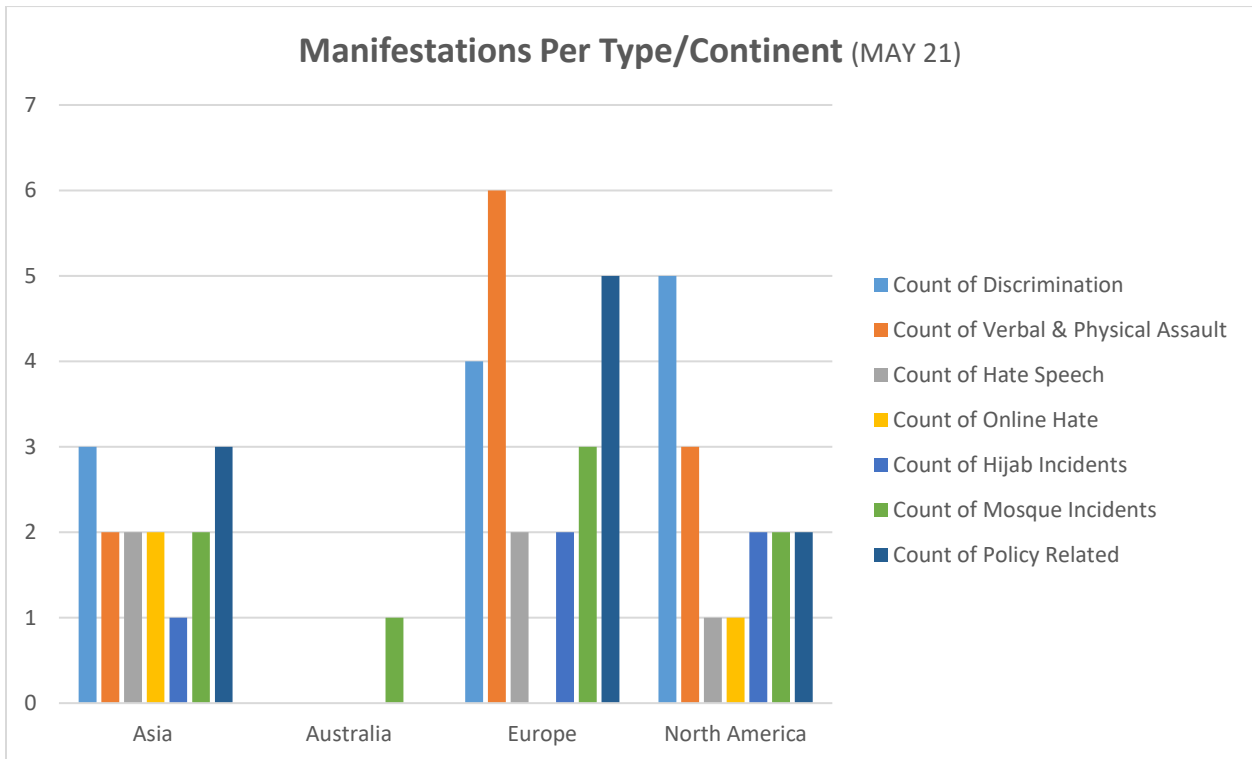
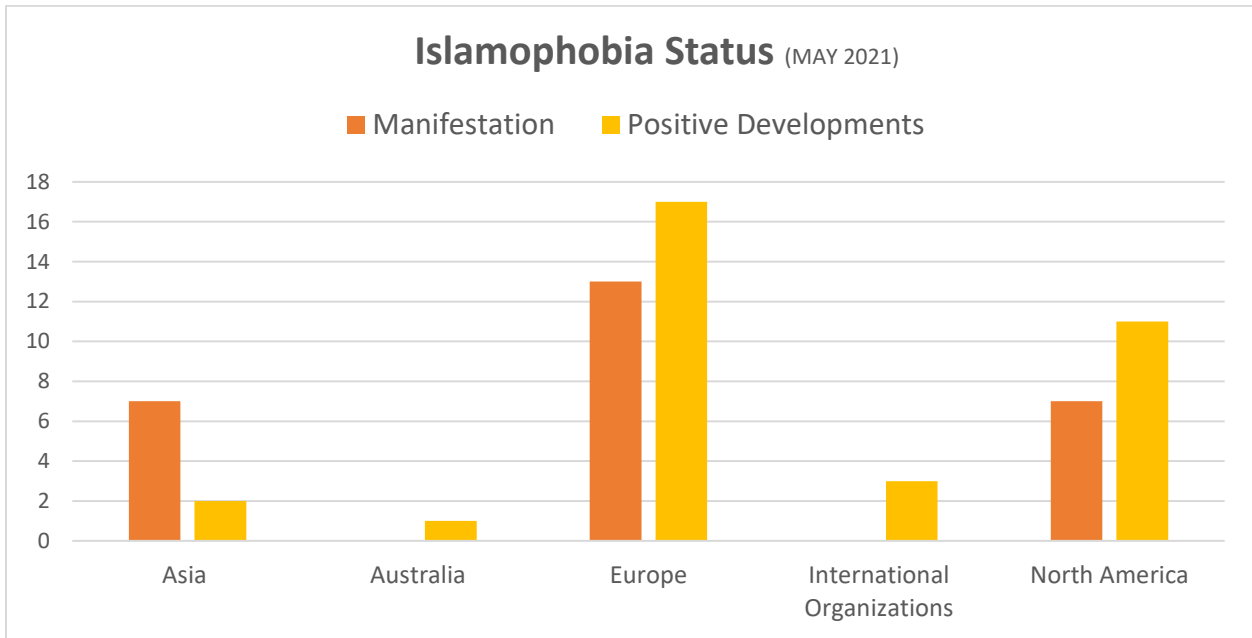
Islamophobia Monitoring

Month: May 2021



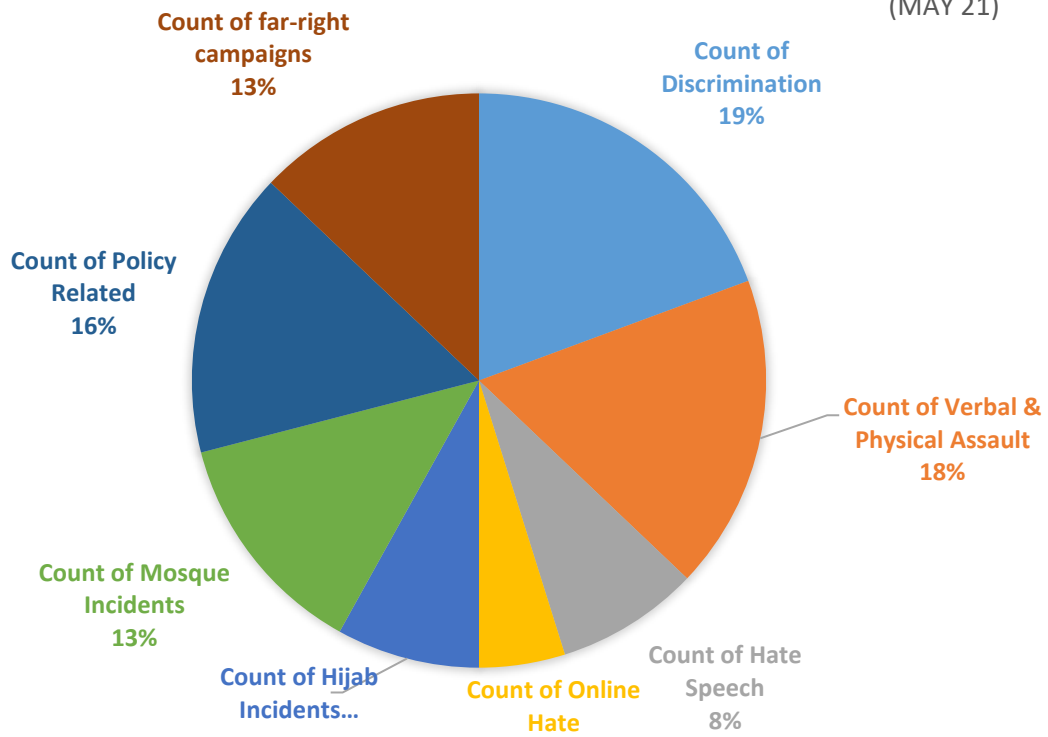
OIC Islamophobia Observatory

Issue: May 2021



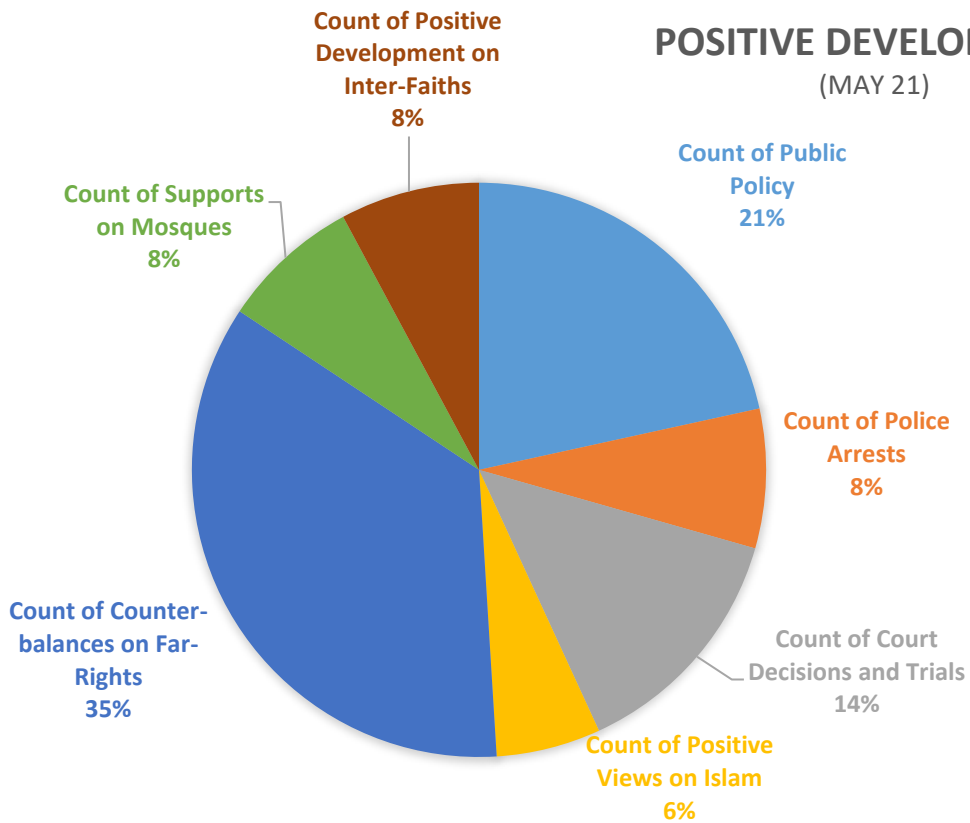
MANIFESTATION

(MAY 21)



POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT

(MAY 21)



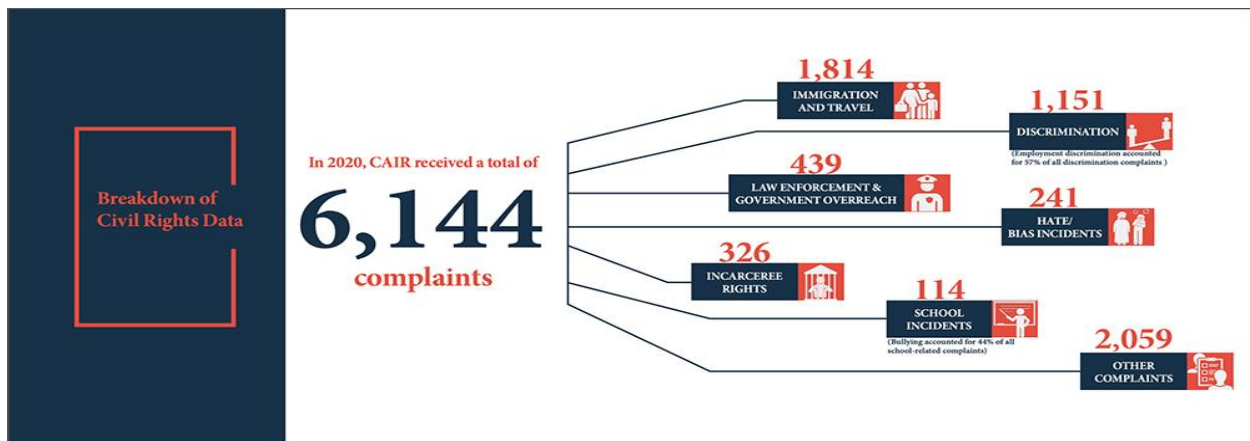
MANIFESTATIONS OF ISLAMOPHOBIA

NORTH AMERICA



IsP140243-US: Moorhead, Minnesota Mosque Vandalized With 'Death to Islam'— On April 24, In the middle of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, the Islamic Society of Fargo-Moorhead, a mosque located in the city of Moorhead - Minnesota State, was vandalized with anti-Muslim graffiti. According to a press release from the Moorhead Police Department, officers found hate messages directed toward the Islamic faith and its followers spray-painted on several areas of the building's exterior. Such messages include "Death to Islam," "F**k Islam" and a Nazi swastika symbol. A suspect wore a camouflage jacket, dark ski mask, hat, and sunglasses which appeared on the surveillance footage. Jaylani Hussein, executive director of the Minnesota chapter of the Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR-MN said:"[North Dakota] White supremacist militia groups in 2016 actually put out a video of them shooting at a replica mosque... So there are threats from white supremacy militia groups from that region that have been active and ongoing ... I'm not sure the FBI actually does investigations of these hate crimes seriously unless there's public pressure," he said. Moorhead Police Captain Deric Swanson told Newsweek that the community was very supportive and "behind the department" on this investigation, which remained "very open and active ... This is the most attention any crime in the area has received," he said.

See: The Newsweek Magazine entry, in: <https://www.newsweek.com/moorhead-minnesota-mosque-vandalized-death-islam-1586518>, retrieved on 05.05.2021



IsP140244-US: Report details discrimination faced by American Muslims— On April 26, The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), had published a report on the civil rights of American Muslims, which noted a rise in complaints about bias directed at the American Muslims.

The report detailed incidents that the nation's largest Muslim advocacy organization had addressed over the year 2020. The report, titled "Resilience in the Face of Hate: Civil Rights Report 2021," found a 9% increase in complaints in 2020, even as hate crimes fell by 20%. The authors gave no reason for the increase in complaints but suggested that the decrease in hate crimes was due indirectly to COVID-19 lockdowns that kept people at home. The report detailed 6,144 civil rights complaints that CAIR received, either at its national headquarters in Washington, D.C., or through the organization's affiliates around the nation, in 2020. CAIR identified seven categories of complaint: Besides immigration and travel issues, the organization tracked law enforcement surveillance and overreach issues, prisoner rights issues, incidents involving educational facilities, outright discrimination, hate and bias incidents, and "other" incidents. Of the more than 6,000 complaints, 2,069 incidents were classified as "other," which indicated the amorphous nature of anti-Muslim hate and discriminatory practices. Examples given in the report ranged from overt acts of bias, such as an Oklahoma business that put up a sign saying it would not serve Muslims, to more subtle incidents in which Muslims received unexpected delays or other disruptions in business or public service transactions. Some 1,814 complaints regarded immigration and travel-related issues; discrimination — more than half of which was reported as employment discrimination — accounted for 1,151. Those included incidents at some of the nation's largest employers, such as Walmart and McDonald's franchises. Other incidents ranged from individuals being denied access to concealed weapons licenses to multiple examples of a denial of religious accommodation for Muslim inmates held in various county- and state-run correctional facilities. Of the 114 incidents related to educational institutions, some 44% involved incidents of bullying of employees or students.

See: Religion News Service news' entry, in: <https://religionnews.com/2021/04/29/report-details-discrimination-faced-by-american-muslims/>, Also See: Full Report, in: <https://www.cair.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/CAIRReport.pdf>, retrieved on 05.05.2021

IsP140245-US: Fake Incident Report At State Prison Reveals Islamophobic Sentiment— The Connecticut chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations had alerted state officials to an act of anti-Islamic hate speech at the Cheshire Correctional Institution. CAIR-CT sent a letter to Department of Correction Commissioner Angel Quiros Sunday and copied it to the Office of the Attorney General. In the letter, CAIR-CT said that the month before several copies of a fake incident report were found in a printer at the state prison in Cheshire. Hateful language in the report was directed at Shem Brijbilas, a Muslim correctional officer. Farhan Memon, chairman of CAIR CT, said the document "... contains both offensive language and it also includes coded references to neo-Nazi and white supremacist language." A copy of the fake report provided to Connecticut Public includes Islamophobic and homophobic slurs as well as a condemnation of Muslims in America. In his letter, Memon said the incident created a hostile workplace that was unsafe for both Muslim people who were incarcerated and staff worked in the correctional facility. He said the fake incident report could constitute a hate crime. In a letter to Memon Monday, Department of Corrections Commissioner Angel Quiros stated that the "incident was immediately referred to [the DOC's] Security Division which conducts investigations for the most serious of allegations." Quiros added that the Affirmative Action Unit would also be involved. Quiros said that he viewed the fake report as "...unacceptable and does not represent the correctional professionals that approach public service with dignity, fairness, and inclusion." Additionally, he instructed leadership at Cheshire Correctional Institution to support Brijbilas throughout the process. The Office of the Attorney General said in a statement that it was aware of the letter and was "deeply troubled by its contents."

See: Connecticut Public Radio News' entry, in: <https://www.wnpr.org/post/fake-incident-report-state-prison-reveals-islamophobic-sentiment>, retrieved on 18.05.2021

IsP140246-US: 60% of Muslim youths in Mass. survey report being mocked, harassed or physically abused— Sixty percent of Muslim youths surveyed in Massachusetts reported been mocked, verbally harassed or physically abused because of their Islamic faith, the state’s chapter of Council on American-Islamic Relations said in a report released on May 4. The Muslim civil rights and advocacy organization said about one-third of students also altered their appearance, behavior, or names to hide the fact that they were Muslim. And about 17% reported other forms of physical harassment, which included their hijab been pulled. “The report demonstrates that we are in the midst of a crisis among Muslim youth in our state,” the organization said on its Facebook page. “We hope that it helps serve as a catalyst for urgently needed change by showing the full scale of the issue.” The organization said the results came from their first-ever survey of Islamophobia in Massachusetts public schools. The survey was modeled after similar ones conducted every two years by the organization’s California chapter. Between July 2019 and January 2020, nearly 200 public school students enrolled in grades 6 through 12 were surveyed in Massachusetts, according to the organization. One 14-year-old student living in the Boston-area said she stopped wearing her hijab after been harassed in high school. She said students spread rumors about her been in ISIS, and when she tried to report a student that called her a terrorist, she faced retaliation from students on the football team. Students also shouted “Allahu akbar” at her in the cafeteria. A 13-year-old Boston-area Muslim student cited in the report said during a class assignment about building types, one of his classmates drew a picture of the World Trade Center towers and depicted him as one of the terrorists. Districts should require teachers and staff members to participate in cultural competency trainings, as some 40% of survey respondents said those school officials also made offensive comments about Islam or Muslims, the organization said.

See: boston.com News’ entry, in: <https://www.boston.com/news/local-news/2021/05/04/60-of-muslim-youths-in-mass-survey-report-being-mocked-harassed-or-physically-abused/>, retrieved on 18.05.2021



IsP140247-US: Instagram Labeled One Of Islam’s Holiest Mosques A Terrorist Organization— Instagram, had removed content about the Al-Aqsa Mosque, the site of clashes between Israeli police forces and Palestinian worshippers, after they associated the site with terrorism. The photo-sharing app, had removed posts and blocked hashtags about the Al-Aqsa Mosque, the third-holiest site in the Islamic faith, because the content moderation system

mistakenly associated the site with a designation the company reserves for terrorist organizations, according to internal employee communications seen by BuzzFeed News. The error, which was flagged internally by upset employees on May 11, caused Instagram to remove or block posts with hashtags for the Al-Aqsa Mosque Since Friday, May 7, the mosque had been the location of clashes between Israeli police forces and Palestinians, many of whom had visited the site to pray during the last days of Ramadan. In an attempt to draw attention to the violence, Instagram users posted videos tagged with the hashtag #AlAqsa or its Arabic counterparts #الأقصى or #الاقصى, only to find that their posts had been taken down or hidden from search results. Some notifications showed that Instagram, which is owned by Facebook, removed the posts because they were associated with “violence or dangerous organizations.” When employees learned of the removals and the justification behind them, some filed internal complaints. Facebook previously told Middle Eastern news outlet the National that posts with the Al-Aqsa hashtags “were restricted in error,” but an internal post obtained by BuzzFeed News on May 12 went further, noting that the content was taken down because Al-Aqsa “is also the name of an organization sanctioned by the United States Government.” In response, Guy Rosen, Facebook’s vice president of integrity, wrote a day later that the company had teams “triaging and unblocking any issues as they come up.” Others were less confident in Facebook’s internal explanation. Ashraf Zeitoun, who served as Facebook’s head of policy for the Middle East and North Africa region from 2014 to mid-2017, noted that the company employed some of the top terrorism experts in the world who could surely distinguish mentions of Al-Aqsa from the Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades. “For them to go and identify one word of a two-word name as associated with a terrorist organization is a lame excuse,” he said, noting that he was involved in drafting policies on how the company designated terrorist groups and their content. “They are more qualified than this and more competent than this.” Zeitoun cited an internal fear at Facebook of upsetting Israeli interests and over reporting of the content as potential reasons why the Al-Aqsa videos and images were removed.

See: BuzzFeed News entry, in: <https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/rvanmac/instagram-facebook-censored-al-aqsa-mosque/>, retrieved on 20.05.2021

IsP140248-US: Homecrest Mosque Tagged with Anti-Palestine Graffiti on Eid— On May

13, A Brooklyn mosque was vandalized with the words “Death 2 Palestine”, during the Eid-al-Fitr holiday that marked the end of Ramadan. Officers responded to a 911 call at the Tayba Islamic Center at 2165 Coney Island Avenue, NYPD spokesperson Detective Annette Shelton said. Upon arrival, they were informed that an unknown individual had spray painted the phrase near the front door of the mosque. The NYPD’s Hate Crimes Task Force was investigating the incident. The attack also attracted the attention of Mayor Bill de Blasio, who called it “an attack on all New Yorkers.”



See: Bklyner News’ entry, in: <https://bklyner.com/homecrest-mosque-tagged-with-anti-palestine-graffiti-on-eid/>, retrieved on 26.05.2021

IsP140249-Canada: Quebec top court upholds most of religious symbols secularism bill— A

Canadian court had largely upheld a controversial Quebec law - Bill 21 - which barred civil servants in positions of "authority" to wear religious symbols at work. But the province's top court struck down parts of the law that applied to English-speaking public schools. Adopted in June 2019, it had fuelled fierce debate throughout the country. The ruling would likely be appealed to the Canadian Supreme Court, local media said. On April 19, Quebec Superior Court Justice Marc-

André Blanchard said that under Canada's constitution, Quebec had the right to restrict the religious symbols donned by government employees. But Justice Blanchard ruled that this same ban could not be applied to English schools because of protections offered to minority language education rights under Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

See: BBC News' entry, in: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-56821752>, retrieved on 25.05.2021

EUROPE

IsP140250-France: Youth vote: "The RN does not offer anything, it picks up despair"—

According to Le Monde, Marine Le Pen would largely win the vote of 25-34 year olds. According to a file from Le Monde which revealed the figures of the Ipsos and IFOP institutes, 29% of 25-34 year olds would vote in 2022 for Marine Le Pen against 23% in 2017. The president of the RN, who was the favorite candidate of this age group, Emmanuel Macron, had fallen from 29% to 20%. But among the “first time voters”, the 18-24 year olds, the trend was reversed: the Head of State would win 29% of the votes, while Marine Le Pen would only reach 20%, i.e. the same height as the rest of the population. However, only 58% of the youngest citizens were intended to vote in 2022.

See: Translated from Publicsenat News' entry, in: <https://www.publicsenat.fr/article/politique/vote-des-jeunes-le-rn-ne-propose-rien-il-ramasse-le-desespoir-188464>, retrieved on 03.05.2021

IsP140251-France: New Islamophobic, Racist Graffiti on Muslim Center in Rennes Sparks Uproar in France—

Police opened an investigation after anonymous individuals put Islamophobic graffiti on the walls of the Avicenna Islamic Cultural Center in Rennes, northwest France. The incident took place on April 29. “We warned you... Immigration kills,” one of the graffiti sprayed on the wall of the center said. The graffiti also included #Rambouillet, a hashtag which referenced the murder of Stephanie Monfature, a policewoman who was fatally stabbed on April 23 in the Rambouillet police station on the



outskirts of Paris. The French Council of Muslim Worship (CFCM) in Rennes strongly condemned the Islamophobic attack against the Muslim center. “The CFCM strongly condemns the racist and Islamophobic inscriptions to which the Avicenna Muslim center in Rennes was once again a victim.” The incident comes after Muslims found Islamophobic graffiti just 15 days ago on the center’s walls. On April 11, members of the center discovered the graffiti that included Islamophobic attacks on the Prophet Muhammad and Islam.

See: Morocco World News entry, in: <https://www.morocccoworldnews.com/2021/04/341116/new-islamophobic-racist-graffiti-on-muslim-center-in-rennes-sparks-uproar-in-france/>, retrieved on 10.05.2021

IsP140252-France: 75,000 people sign Islamophobic letter to French government—

ABOUT 75,000 people had signed an Islamophobic letter written by French soldiers that threatened a civil war in France. The message, published in a right-wing magazine on May 10 and issued anonymously before been backed by members of the public, had accused the French government that it had granted “concessions” to Islamism. The number of, and the ranks, of the original signatories, remained unclear. The authors described themselves as part of a younger generation who served in Afghanistan, Mali and the Central African Republic, or who joined domestic anti-terrorism operations. A similar letter published, the month before, by retired top brass was condemned by the government. The May 10 message criticized the French government’s response

to the “elders” letter. The letter read “They gave their skin to destroy the Islamism to which you are giving concessions on our soil”.

See: Morning Star Online News’ entry, in: <https://morningstaronline.co.uk/article/w/75000-people-sign-islamophobic-letter-french-government>, retrieved on 20.05.2021

IsP140253-France: Le Pen candidate shown gaining control of Provence region in opinion poll— The far-right looked set to win control of the regional authority encompassing Provence and the French Riviera in elections in June, according to one poll which, if proven correct, would show momentum was building behind Marine Le Pen. Le Pen’s party, led by former conservative minister Thierry Mariani would come top in all alliance scenarios, according to the Ipsos Sopra Steria poll for France Television, with between 37% and 39% of the votes in the first round on June 20. In the second round of voting on June 27, Mariani would also come first. The scenario in which all parties rallied behind the best-placed one to defeat the far-right, a strategy known as the ‘Republican front’, was not tested. The win of Provence-Alpes-Cote d’Azur region around Marseille and Nice, the first time the far-right would take control of a French region, would give Le Pen a strong boost ahead of 2022 presidential elections.

See: KFGO-FM radio station News’ entry, in: <https://kfgo.com/2021/05/11/le-pen-candidate-shown-gaining-control-of-provence-region-in-opinion-poll/>, retrieved on 24.05.2021

IsP140254-France: Europe Macron's party pulls support for local election candidate over hijab—On May 10, French President Emmanuel Macron's ruling party had barred Sara Zemmahi, a Muslim woman,

to run as the party’s candidate in a local election after she wore an Islamic headscarf for a photograph that appeared on a campaign flier. La Republique en Marche (LaRem) said the party line was that in secular France there should be no place for the overt display of religious symbols on electoral campaign documents. "This woman will not be an En Marche candidate," Stanislas Guerini, the party's general secretary, told RTL radio. French law does not prohibit women to wear the hijab or other religious symbols in images that appear on campaign fliers. The episode illustrates just how sensitive a subject the place of Islam in French society had become ahead of 2022 presidential vote. The affair over the campaign poster erupted after Jordan Bardella, the number 2 in the far-right Rassemblement National party of Marine Le Pen, tweeted a copy of the flier with the message: "Is this how you fight separatism?" Guerini responded directly on Twitter, in which he demanded either the flier be withdrawn or the candidate to lose the party's support.



See: Reuters News’ entry, in: <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/macrons-party-pulls-support-local-election-candidate-over-hijab-2021-05-12/>, retrieved on 24.05.2021

IsP140255-France: Large Majority of Police Support Marine Le Pen for President— A poll had revealed that as much as 60 per cent of the French police support populist National Rally (RN) leader Marine Le Pen for president ahead of 2022 presidential elections. The data, which was part of a survey published by the Centre for Political Research of Sciences Po (Cevipof), revealed that in the first round of the presidential election, a plurality of 44 per cent of police and soldiers would vote for Ms Le Pen. In a second-round run-off vote against current French President Emmanuel Macron, the amount of support from the military and the police would rise to 60 per cent, according to the figures, which were first published by the newspaper L’Opinion. The figures were a slight increase for Le Pen from her second-place finish in the 2017 presidential election, in which she scored 57 per cent of the vote from the military and police. When broken down by active and retired police officers, the difference was stark. While 51 per cent of retired police said they would

vote for Le Pen, 74 per cent of active-duty police said they support the National Rally leader. Around half the police, 48 per cent, said they had a positive view of Le Pen and said she “understands the problems of people like us”, compared to just 13 per cent who said the same of President Macron. Forty-two per cent also state that Le Pen would do a better job than the current French president.

See: Breitbart News’ entry, in: <https://www.breitbart.com/europe/2021/05/13/large-majority-of-police-support-marine-le-pen-for-president/>, retrieved on 24.05.2021

IsP140256-Albania: Mosque Stabbing in Albania Raises Questions on Rise of Islamophobia— On April 19, A man attacked five Muslim worshippers in Albania’s Dine Hoxha Mosque in the capital city of Tirana. Rudolf Nikolli, entered the mosque after the end of the afternoon prayer and stabbed five men. All victims were immediately transported to a local hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. According to Tirana authorities, one victim had undergone surgery in his abdomen while the hospital had discharged the other four victims. In a statement to local media outlet Balkanweb, the suspect’s father stated that Nikolli had been depressed due to loss of opportunity caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. After the police apprehended Nikolli, he exclaimed, “All Muslims should be punished”.

See: Morocco World News’ entry, in: <https://www.moroccoworldnews.com/2021/04/340205/mosque-stabbing-in-albania-raises-questions-on-rise-of-islamophobia/>, retrieved on 06.05.2021

IsP140257-UK: Investigation launched into attack outside London mosque— Police in

London had launched an investigation into a suspected Islamophobic attack on a group of worshippers in the city during Ramadan. Several people were pelted with eggs and stones outside the Ilford Islamic Center in the east of the city on May 4, witnesses claimed that items were thrown from a car driven by a white man with a shaved head. The car carried at least three other passengers. The Metropolitan Police said it had received a report of a racially aggravated incident, which included criminal damage. The Federation of Redbride Muslim Organizations said five people had been struck by objects, but reported no serious injuries. The incident stirred a strong political response, Sam Tarry, MP for Ilford South, said he was “shocked and saddened” at what had happened. “These disgraceful acts of violence and hatred have no place in Ilford, and I hope that the perpetrators face justice as soon as possible,” he said on his Twitter account. “Solidarity with the victims.” The leader of Redbride Council, Jas Athwal, said: “Racist incidents like this have no place in our borough and we will work with our friends and neighbors at Albert Road Mosque (Ilford Islamic Center) and the police to ensure the safety of all worshippers.” Detective Chief Superintendent Stephen Clayman said: “We take all reports of hate crime very seriously and have launched an investigation ... Incidents like this will not be tolerated and my officers will be undertaking enhanced patrols in the area to provide reassurance to the local community and visitors to the mosque”.



See: Arabnews Newspaper entry, in: <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1855216/world>, retrieved on 11.05.2021

IsP140258-UK: woman wearing a burqa assaulted in Exeter shop— On April 22, A woman who was wearing a burqa was assaulted in a shop on Exeter's High Street, in southwest England. Officers said they were investigating the report of racially aggravated common assault.

See: Devon Live News’ entry, in: <https://www.devonlive.com/news/devon-news/police-want-speak-man-after-5382383>, retrieved on 11.05.2021

IsP140259-UK: New extremism chief appointed by Priti Patel dismissed ‘Islamophobia’ and ‘violent extremism’— Britain’s commissioner for countering extremism had dismissed the use of the word “Islamophobia,” and urged the government to “push back” on it, it could be revealed. Robin Simcox, who previously worked for a US think-tank with close links to Donald Trump’s administration, was appointed to the post by Priti Patel on March 31. In a September 2019 article, he called for the prime minister to “push back on ‘Islamophobia’” and be “wary” of calls for an internal Conservative Party review. In the same article, Mr Simcox said Extinction Rebellion, Unite Against Fascism and the far left “need monitoring”. Earlier that year, in a piece headlined “Left’s Use of Islamophobia a Cynical Ploy to Shut Down Disagreement”, he wrote: “Muslims’ concerns about the prejudice they face in society cannot be ignored. Those concerns, however, must be addressed without throwing around accusations of Islamophobia, a word used to narrow the parameters of legitimate debate.” A spokesperson for the Muslim Council of Britain (MCB), - the UK’s largest umbrella organization for mosques, schools and Islamic charities – said “It is far-right extremists who have the most to gain from refusing to recognize the lived experience of Islamophobia Muslims face today... And it is far-right extremists who are benefitting from the willful misrepresentation of Islamophobia as a word that allegedly limits free speech.”



See: The Independent Newspaper entry, in: <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/extremism-commissioner-robin-simcox-islamophobia-b1832832.html>, retrieved on 17.05.2021

IsP140260-Spain: Right-wing wins big in Madrid regional election— On May 4, Right-wing incumbent leader Isabel Diaz Ayuso landed a victory in Madrid's elections, with more 95% of ballots had been counted. The result of the election in the country's capital city and richest region where 7 million people live, out of a total population of 47 million, could impact Spain's political landscape. Ayuso, who defied lockdown requests from the central, more than doubled her party's performance in the 2019 ballot, in which the party won 65 of the regional parliament's 136 seats. However, Ayuso, a member of the conservative People's Party (PP), was short of the 69 seats required for an absolute majority. She would rely on support from the extremist far-right Vox party, who gained 13 seats, to form a viable coalition. The election was called by Ayuso after she dissolved her center-right coalition in an attempt to broaden her power base.

See DW News' entry, in: <https://www.dw.com/en/spain-right-wing-wins-big-in-madrid-regional-election/a-57419727>, retrieved on 12.05.2021

IsP140261-Germany: Far-right crime hits record high in Germany— Germany saw a big jump on 2020 in politically motivated crimes, and offences committed by far-right supporters hit a record high, Interior Minister Horst Seehofer said on May 4. Far-right offences were up nearly 6% from the previous year at 23,064, and accounted for more than half of all politically motivated crimes, the highest level since police started to collect such data in 2001. Violent crimes classified as political in nature rose by nearly 20% year-on-year to 3,365 and included 11 murders and 13 attempted murders, Seehofer said. "These numbers are very alarming mainly because a trend has been established over the last few years," he said. "During the pandemic we observed a further polarisation of the political discussion."

See: Reuters News' entry, in: <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/germany-arrests-suspect-over-hate-mail-using-neo-nazi-acronym-2021-05-04/>, retrieved on 18.05.2021

IsP140262-Sweden: Anti-Islam Activist Holds Draw Mohammed Demonstration in Sweden

— On May 20, Danish anti-Islam far right, Rasmus Paludan held a demonstration on the outskirts of the Swedish multicultural city of Malmö, in which he called on members of the public to draw cartoons of Prophet Mohammed. Paludan held his demonstration nearby to the Öresund Bridge which linked Denmark and Sweden after local police denied him permission to hold the event in the no-go area of Rosengård. At the protest, Paludan was wearing a bulletproof vest, and he called on members of the public to draw pictures of the Islamic prophet Mohammed but, according to a report from the newspaper Sydsvenskan, he was unable to find any volunteers. The newspaper noted that the only people who turned up for the demonstration were members of Paludan's entourage and members of the media. A large number of police officers were also present during the demonstration, with an estimated 20 police vans on site. A counter-demonstration of around 50 people had also gathered but both sides were kept apart by the officers on the scene.



See: Breitbart News' entry, in: <https://www.breitbart.com/europe/2021/05/24/anti-islam-activist-holds-draw-mohammed-demonstration-in-sweden/>, Also: Photo from: <https://beta.sydsvenskan.se/2021-05-20/rasmus-paludan-manifesterade-i-utkanten-av-malmo> retrieved on 26.05.2021

ASIA

IsP140263-Sri Lanka: Sri Lanka cabinet approves proposed ban on burqas in public— On April 27, Sri Lanka's cabinet had approved a proposed ban on women to wear full-face veils, which included Muslim burqas in public. The cabinet had cited national security grounds, despite a United Nations expert's comment that it would violate international law. The cabinet approved the proposal by Public Security Minister Sarath Weerasekera at the weekly meeting, Weerasekera said on his Facebook page. The proposal would first be sent to the Attorney General's Department and followed by the parliament's approval to become a law. The proposal could easily be passed as the government held a majority in parliament. Weerasekera, had called burqas, a garment that covers the body and face worn by some Muslim women, a "sign of religious extremism" and said a ban would improve national security. The UN special rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief Ahmed Shaheed tweeted that a ban would be incompatible with international law and the right to free religious expression.

See: Aljazeera News' entry, in: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/4/28/sri-lanka-cabinet-approves-proposed-ban-on-burqas-in-public>, retrieved on 09.05.2021

IsP140264-India: Video of large Indian Muslim gathering shared in wrong context as India's virus death toll surges—

A video had been viewed tens of thousands of times on Facebook and Twitter alongside a claim it showed crowds of Indian Muslims gathered during Ramadan in the southern Indian city of Hyderabad. The posts were circulated online as India endured a huge second wave of coronavirus cases that had partly been blamed on large religious gatherings. But the video had been shared in the wrong context: it actually showed Muslims mourning the death of a cleric in the north Indian state of Uttar Pradesh. The video was shared on Facebook on April 18. It had been viewed more than 13,000



times. The post claimed the video showed Indian Muslims gathered for Iftar. The post's Hindi-language caption translated to English as: "The people should also see this Iftar feast if they are done with spreading knowledge over Kumbh".

See: AFP Fact Check entry, in: <https://factcheck.afp.com/video-large-indian-muslim-gathering-shared-wrong-context-indias-virus-death-toll-surges>, retrieved on 04.05.2021

IsP140265-India: K'taka: In a communal turn, BJP's Tejasvi Surya targets Muslim staff of COVID war room—

Ever since the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic, attempts were been made to bring communal angle in the battle against the deadly virus. On May 4, another such attempt was made when Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP from Bangalore South, Tejasvi Surya, MLAs Satish Reddy and Ravi Subramanya raised questions over the recruitment of Muslim staff in the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) run COVID war room. According to a report published in the Cognate, the



MLAs along with Bangalore South MP Tejasvi Surya entered into the BBMP COVID war room and raised questions over the recruitment of Muslim staff and accused them of corruption in hospital bed allotment to COVID-19 patients. In a video that went viral on social media, the BJP MP could be seen when he selectively read out names of the 16 staff members who were Muslims, while the accompanied MLA's asked if the BBMP was a madrasa or Hajj Bhavan. They, however, neglected the fact that the COVID war room had 205 staff members who work in shifts. Soon after the video went viral, some of the netizens started to spread hate. One of them wrote," Dr Rehan is

the in charge of Bed allotment in BBMP Bengaluru South Covid War Room. He and his team of terrorists listed below are involved in hospital bed booking scam”. Responding to the viral WhatsApp message accusing the Muslim staff for mismanagement, the BBMP Joint Commissioner Sarfaraz Khan, took to Facebook and claimed that “anti-social elements” were inciting communal tension and “spreading poison”.

See: The Siasat Daily newspaper entry, in: <https://www.siasat.com/ktaka-in-a-communal-turn-bjps-tejasvi-surva-targets-muslim-staff-of-covid-war-room-2133059/>, retrieved on 13.05.2021



IsP140266-India: Mosque razed in BJP-ruled Indian state, Muslim body to move court—

On May 17, Officials in India’s northern state of Uttar Pradesh had allegedly bulldozed an old mosque, which triggered anger and anguish among the Muslim minority, with a prominent community

organisation said it would approach the high court over the matter. The Ghareeb Nawaz Al Maroof Mosque, which residents in the state’s Barabanki district said was nearly 100 years old, was demolished by the local administration after hundreds of policemen surrounded the area and halted the movement of people to prevent any protest. Since 2017, Uttar Pradesh – India’s most populous state with nearly 220 million residents, almost one-fifth of them Muslim – was governed by the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), with a controversial saffron-robed monk Yogi Adityanath, known for his anti-Muslim hate



speech, as the state’s chief minister. On May 18, the Uttar Pradesh Sunni Central Waqf Board, a Muslim body that looks after mosques and other community assets in the state, condemned the demolition and said it was done in defiance of a court order to halt demolitions of alleged “illegal structures” until May 31 in view of the coronavirus pandemic. In a statement, the board termed the act an “illegal and high-handed action of the administration” and said it would seek judicial remedy. “This act is against the law, misuse of power and utter violation of clear orders passed by the high court. We will immediately approach the high court demanding restoration of the mosque,

high-level judicial inquiry and action against the guilty officers,” the board’s chairman Zufar Ahmad Faruqi said. In another statement, Maulana Khalid Saifullah Rehmani, general secretary of the All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB), said the demolition was undertaken “without any legal justification”.

See: Aljazeera News’ entry, in: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/5/19/mosque-razed-in-bjp-ruled-indian-state-muslim-body-to-move-court>, Also: Photo from: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/may/18/indian-mosque-bulldozed-in-defiance-of-high-court-order>, retrieved on 27.05.2021

IsP140267-Palestine: ‘We’re Burning Arabs Today’: Jewish Supremacists Gear Up for Jerusalem March— Jewish far-right groups told their followers prepare for a violent protest on April 22 night in Jerusalem, with the vehemently anti-assimilation group Lehava told supporters to gather at 10 P.M. for a march from Safra Square on Jaffa Road to Damascus Gate in the Old City, to “restore Jewish dignity.” Other far-right organizations posted instructions in WhatsApp groups on how to avoid arrest, while inciting violence and called on members to carry arms. . In a message group, operated among others by far-right Otzma Yehudit chairman Itamar Ben-Gvir, included a text which said: “The biggest nightmare of the Arabs, the only thing they won’t want to happen is that the Arabs will come up against a group of Kach supporters with clubs,” he referred to the outlawed racist party. Another chat included the text: “Who needs clubs? We need Krav maga to hit them in sensitive enough places.” Another group posted: “If they don’t hang one of the attackers (one of the Palestinians who attacked Jews and filmed it) in the town square of Jerusalem, it won’t end.” A text in a group of which Ben-Gvir is not a member of also had instructions on how to avoid arrest, it said “It’s best to come wearing a white shirt and black pants. Jerusalemites don’t bring your cellphone. Coming from outside Jerusalem? Best not to bring a cellphone if possible, or find a different cellphone. Don’t bring your own phone. Are you organizing via Telegram? Still, be careful and don’t write things that are too criminal or inciting. Did you already do that? Erase it...be careful when you pass the (Central Bus) Station with all kinds of self-defense means. Try to go around with a mask on your face, even in places were masks are not needed.” Another text from far-right group La Familia's chat said: “Burning Arabs today, Molotov cocktails are already in the trunk...the way I see it, an Arab dies today.” On April 20 evening Arabs were once again attacked by dozens of young Jewish men. Several journalists were also assaulted by Jews, among them Suleiman Maswadeh of Kan broadcasting, and Yossi Eli from Channel 13. Eye-witnesses said that the police were too few to deal with the rioting and slow to respond.

See: Haaretz News’ entry, in: <https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/.premium-we-re-burning-arabs-today-jewish-supremacists-gear-up-for-jerusalem-march-1.9737755>, retrieved on 04.05.2021



IsP140268-Palestine: More than 200 hurt as Israeli police clash with Palestinians at Jerusalem mosque, Palestinian Red Crescent says—

On May 7, At least 205 people were injured at Jerusalem's Al Aqsa mosque after Israeli police in riot gear clashed with Palestinians after the evening prayers, according to the Palestinian Red Crescent. Eighty-eight of the injured were taken to hospital for treatment, where most had suffered from wounds caused by rubber-coated bullets, the Red Crescent said. About 20 were treated in field hospitals set up to cope with injuries from the most significant night of unrest in the city for years. Video showed stun grenades going off across the mosque compound, in which some landed inside the mosque building and scattered worshippers. Tension had been rising in East Jerusalem in days before over the possible eviction of Palestinian families who lived there. On night of May 5, 22 people were injured in the neighborhood, according to the Red Crescent, two of which needed hospital treatment.



See: KCTV Channel 5 News' entry, in: https://www.kctv5.com/more-than-200-hurt-as-israeli-police-clash-with-palestinians-at-jerusalem-mosque-palestinian-red/article_c9e6406c-b5f7-5128-90cb-99d0dfb44ea7.html, Also: <https://english.alarabiya.net/News/middle-east/2021/05/07/Thousands-pack-Al-Aqsa-Mosque-protest-Palestinian-evictions-in-Jerusalem>, retrieved on 13.05.2021

IsP140269-Palestine: Israel quotes Quran to mock Muslims while raining bombs on Gaza—

On May 18, Israel's official Arabic Twitter account mocked Muslims where they shared pictures of the Gaza bombing with verses of Surah Al-Fil (The Chapter of The Elephants) to justify the brutal action against the civilians in Palestine. The tweet featured Surah Al-Fil from the holy Quran, which refers to God's punishment inflicted on the People of the Elephant, who tried to destroy the Holy Kaaba centuries ago. Israel Arabic had replied to their own Tweet, @IsraelArabic said, "This is a reminder of God's ability to support those who are righteous over falsehood, especially since Hamas is the arm of Iran that seeks to ignite the region. The IDF targets Hamas terrorist targets in Gaza." The Israeli tweet had drawn enormous backlash from around the world, in which people denounced the Israelis for mocking the holy Quran.

See: The Daily Pakistan newspaper entry, in: <https://en.dailypakistan.com.pk/18-May-2021/israel-mocks-muslims-by-sharing-pictures-of-gaza-bombing-with-verses-from-holy-quran>, retrieved on 27.05.2021



إسرائيل بالعربية
@IsraelArabic

...

أَلَمْ تَرَ كَيْفَ فَعَلَ رَبُّكَ بِأَصْحَابِ الْفِيلِ * أَلَمْ
يَجْعَلْ كَيْدَهُمْ فِي تَضْلِيلٍ * وَأَرْسَلَ عَلَيْهِمْ
طَيْرًا أَبَابِيلَ * تَرْمِيهِمْ بِحِجَارَةٍ مِنْ سِجِّيلٍ
(سورة الفيل 1-4، القرآن الكريم)

Translate Tweet



2:18 AM · 2021-05-18 · Twitter Web App

208 Retweets 3,068 Quote Tweets 536 Likes

POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

IsP140270-Vatican: Christians, Muslims must spread hope, says Vatican message for Ramadan — In a message which wished Muslims a peaceful and fruitful month as they fasted Ramadan and the celebration of Id al-Fitr when Ramadan was over, leaders of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue Said Christians and Muslims share a conviction that God calls them to be “witnesses, restorers and builders of hope” both in this life and for the life to come. The officials focused on the religious value of hope amid the coronavirus pandemic. The message was signed March 29, before Ramadan began, by Cardinal Miguel Ángel Ayuso, council president, and Msgr. Indunil Janakaratne Kankanamalage, council secretary. The Vatican released the message April 16, three days after the Ramadan fast began. In addition, they wrote, “hope also carries with it belief in the goodness present in the heart of every person. Many times, in situations of difficulty and despair, help, and the hope it brings, can come from those whom we least expect.” See: Catholic Philly News’ entry, in: <https://catholicphilly.com/2021/04/news/world-news/christians-muslims-must-spread-hope-says-vatican-message-for-ramadan/>, retrieved on 06.05.2021

IsP140271-UN: UN condemns mosque attack in US’ Minnesota amid Ramadan— On April 27, The United Nations had strongly condemned an anti-Muslim attack on a mosque in Moorhead, Minnesota that took place during the holy month of Ramadan. “The High Representative for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC), Mr. Miguel Angel Moratinos, strongly condemns the anti-Muslim signs and racial graffiti that were spray-painted on the façade of the Moorhead-Fargo Islamic Community Center in Minnesota and discovered on Sunday morning,” a written statement from the U.N. said. The statement Noted that the “vicious attack” took place in the middle of Ramadan, the U.N. said that the center served as a mosque and a community gathering place in Moorhead. According to the statement, Moratinos stressed that no community should experience “this kind of toxic hatred” and reiterated that all forms of discrimination and acts of violence, targeting religious sites and places of worship as well as worshipers, regardless of their religion or belief, were unacceptable and unjustifiable. See: Daily Sabah Newspaper entry, in: <https://www.dailysabah.com/politics/un-condemns-mosque-attack-in-us-minnesota-amid-ramadan/news>, retrieved on 11.05.2021

IsP140272-EU: Working together to tackle discrimination and intolerance against Muslims – EQUINET Workshop— On 25-26 January 2021, The European Network of Equality Bodies (EQUINET) hosted an online workshop to tackle discrimination and intolerance against Muslims. The event was co-organised with the European Commission’s coordinator on combating anti-Muslim hatred. The workshop, came after a high-level political event held in June 2020, gathered civil society organisations and national equality bodies to build links and work together on topics related to anti-Muslim hatred and discrimination. Throughout the workshop, experts from both equality bodies and civil society organisations elaborated on the phenomenon and shared insights on the challenges Muslim people experience in Europe. Contributions from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE-ODIHR), the European Network against Racism (ENAR), the European Commission and Equinet highlighted the legislative framework for equality and gave an outlook on possible developments in the future. In small geographically based discussion groups, participants identified both the key challenges and practical solutions to improving the cooperation between equality bodies and civil society organisations at national level. See: The European Network of Equality Bodies (EQUINET) News’ entry, in: <https://equineteurope.org/2021/working-together-to-tackle-discrimination-and-intolerance-against-muslims/>, Also: Workshop Summary entry, in: <https://equineteurope.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Tackling-Discrimination-Intolerance-against-Muslims-Workshop-summary-1.pdf>, and : https://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/just/document.cfm?doc_id=69332 retrieved on 23.05.2021

NORTH AMERICA

IsP140273-US: As Islamic holidays near, Texas Muslims back bill creating a more inclusive calendar for government employees— A bipartisan bill introduced in the Texas House on January 20 would make it easier for state employees to celebrate Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha, the two Islamic holidays. House Bill 1231 would designate the two holidays as optional employee holidays, which Muslim state employees then could observe if they worked on another state holiday instead. Texas optional holidays include Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Good Friday and Cesar Chavez Day. “This is about recognizing and affirming our fellow Texans that celebrate these holidays ... Any system we have should affirm and lift up people to practice their faith, to live their faith and that shouldn't stop at Judeo-Christian faith sets.” state Rep. Joe Moody, the El Paso Democrat who sponsored the bill, told The Texas Tribune. Nabila Mansoor, executive director of Emgage Texas, a Muslim American lobbying group that proposed the bill to Moody, said it would show the Muslim community “that they're valued members of the Texas population.” According to the status recoded in the Texas Legislature Online website, On May 12, the bill passed in the house where it originated, and a new copy of the bill which incorporated all amendments was sent to the senate for consideration.

See: Texas Tribune News' entry, in: <https://www.texastribune.org/2021/04/20/texas-eid-islamic-holidays-legislature/>. Also: <https://capitol.texas.gov/billlookup/History.aspx?LegSess=87R&Bill=HB1231>, retrieved on 04.05.2021

IsP140274-US: FBI investigating vandalism at Moorhead Mosque— The cities of Fargo, West Fargo, Horace, Dilworth and Moorhead put out a unified statement, in which they denounced the criminal act that took place on April 24. “Those criminal actions are completely contradictory to the values of tolerance, respect and acceptance we embrace in all of our communities. The vandalism was a heinous act of hate attacking the center during the Islamic holy month of Ramadan.” said the cities in a join-statement. “Well what I want to say is that hate has no home in Moorhead. This is unacceptable, this is not ok, this is not what our community is about. This is something is going to not make our community weak, but make our community stronger.” said Moorhead Mayor Shelly Carlson. Moorhead Police Dept. and the FBI were in the midst of an investigation, with one suspect they are looking for. A Facebook page and a GoFundMe page had been set for the clean-up efforts and over \$21,000 had been raised to help the center.

See: Valley News Live News' entry, in: <https://www.valleynewslive.com/2021/04/25/vandalism-at-moorhead-mosque/>, retrieved on 05.05.2021



IsP140275-US: More than 400 people clean up Minnesota mosque vandalized by single troll— On April 26, about 400 people descended on Moorhead Fargo Islamic Community Center, a Mosque in Minnesota, armed with mops, buckets, power-washing equipment and goodwill, to scrub off the anti-Muslim, racist graffiti, which was sprayed on the building on April 24, reported the news site InForum. There were so many helpers that people had to take turns, InForum reported. But they had an abundance of volunteer-supplied pizza, doughnuts and beverages to tide them over while they discussed the hate that had spawned it. “It is an ugly incident, but it has united us,” said Cani Adan, chairman of the Moorhead Human Rights Commission. “Hate will not have a home in Moorhead,” Moorhead Mayor Shelly Carlson said after the damage was discovered. The volunteers came from both Moorhead city in Minnesota State, and Fargo city in North Dakota state, which were on either side of the states’ shared border. A GoFundMe page raised more than \$30,000 for the center, and the mayors of Fargo and three surrounded cities issued a statement where they expressed their support for the Muslim community.

See: The New York Daily News newspaper entry, in: <https://www.nydailynews.com/news/national/nv-moorhead-minnesota-mosque-vandalized-swastika-hate-400-people-clean-20210427-5cvvvwevn5ajtezo35fwjjiwia-story.html>, retrieved on 09.05.2021

IsP140276-US: Moorhead mosque vandalism suspect arrested— On April 26, A man named, Benjamin Enderle, had been arrested for hate messages spray-painted on the Moorhead Fargo Islamic Center. Moorhead Police said through tips which included important information from an employee of a local business, detectives were able to take Enderle of Moorhead into custody. Reports had been forwarded to the Clay County Attorney’s Office with the request of charges of felony harassment and damage to property in the second degree. “These crimes were enhanced due to hate related acts. The Moorhead Police Department appreciates the interest and compassion shown by local citizens, media, and the community as a whole in solving this crime,” the department said.



See: KVRN TV Channel web news’ entry, in: <https://www.kvrr.com/2021/04/27/moorhead-mosque-vandalism-suspect-arrested/>, retrieved on 10.05.2021

IsP140277-US: Oregon lawmaker who let far-right demonstrators into Capitol charged with criminal misconduct— On April 30, An Oregon lawmaker who let violent far-right demonstrators into the state Capitol during a Dec. 21 special session was criminally charged with first-degree official misconduct and second-degree criminal trespass. Rep. Mike Nearman, a member of the Republican Party, was caught on security videos when he opened a door and allowed demonstrators to enter the building. The first-degree official misconduct charge was for allegedly he took action that constituted an unauthorized exercise of his official duties to benefit someone else, court filings read. The second charge was for allegedly he abetted another person to enter and remain in the Capitol. Surveillance video showed that once Nearman allowed demonstrators into the northwest Capitol vestibule, the group clashed with Oregon State Police and Salem police who tried to keep them out of the building. Demonstrators attempted to push past police, who rushed to eject the initial insurgents and physically block the doorway Nearman had just opened.

See: Oregon Live news' entry, in: <https://www.oregonlive.com/politics/2021/04/oregon-lawmaker-who-let-far-right-protesters-into-capitol-charged-with-criminal-misconduct.html>, retrieved on 10.05.2021

IsP140278-US: Clubhouse Bans Far-Right Figure Laura Loomer Over Reported Anti-Muslim Remarks— Provocateur Laura Loomer was suspended by the invitation-only Clubhouse app, where she violated the platform's "violence policy" during a discussion in which she reportedly railed against Muslims. Reports emerged on May 7 of Loomer's suspension after she described, in chat, that she would become a "roadkill" if Uber doesn't vet its Muslim drivers. Salon's Zachary Petrizzo reported on May 7 that Loomer had "doubled down" on her anti-Muslim remarks about Islamic Uber drivers, in which she demanded increased background checks.

See: The Newsweek Magazine News' entry, in: <https://www.newsweek.com/clubhouse-bans-far-right-figure-laura-loomer-over-reported-anti-muslim-remarks-1589807>, retrieved on 12.05.2021

IsP140279-US: Neo-Nazi who played role in ‘swatting’ plot that targeted Arlington mosque gets prison time—

Police officers were speaking to the congregation at the Dar El-Eman Islamic Center in Arlington City in Texas during a family-night event when panic swept across the gathering. Someone had called 911 from a blocked number in which he claimed he had a pipe bomb. The caller said he was going to kill everyone inside the mosque during the November 2018 incident. The bomb threat turned out to be a “swatting call” — a dangerous form of harassment intended to get police SWAT units to respond to a target’s location. On May 4, an alleged neo-Nazi from the Houston area was sentenced to 41 months in federal prison for his role in that swatting conspiracy, according to prosecutors. The defendants targeted 134 different locations across the U.S., mostly for racist reasons, authorities said. John Cameron Denton, of Montgomery, the capital city of Alabama, was the leader of Atomwaffen Division in Texas, a violent, white-supremacist extremist group that prosecutors said was “linked” to several murders. Denton pleaded guilty on 2020 to conspiracy to commit interstate threats to injure and had faced up to five years in prison.



See: The Dallas Morning News newspaper entry, in: <https://www.dallasnews.com/news/crime/2021/05/04/neo-nazi-who-played-role-in-swatting-plot-that-targeted-arlington-mosque-gets-prison-time/>, retrieved on 19.05.2021



IsP140280-US: Police: Man charged in attempted stabbing at Islamic center— A man was facing charges after police said he tried to stab a security guard at an Islamic center in northern Virginia. Fairfax County Police said officers responded to a report of a man with a knife at the Dar Al-Hijrah Islamic Center on May 8. According to police, a suspect later identified as Jonathan Lincoln, of Falls Church tried to stab the guard and then pointed the knife at several people. No one was injured. Lincoln had been charged with two counts of assault and disorderly conduct, the department said in a post on social media.

See: AP News' entry, in: <https://apnews.com/article/va-state-wire-religion-islam-cd8626f745e90325bbf1756ed0a56fb8>,
Also: Photo from: <https://www.wtvr.com/news/local-news/jonathan-lincoln-charged-attempted-stabbing-dar-al-hijrah-islamic-center>, retrieved on 20.05.2021

IsP140281-US: Program To Study Hates Crimes Targeting Muslims In Arkansas— The National Science Foundation was funding a three-year program to study hate crimes committed against Muslims in Arkansas. Two criminal justice professors at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock had been awarded a \$324,987 grant, which would enable an assessment of anti-Muslim sentiments. Muslims were ranked as the second most targeted group for hate crimes nationwide, but the professors said the extent in Arkansas was not known. Dr. Tusty ten Bensel, director of the School of Criminal Justice and Criminology, and Graduate Coordinator Dr. Robert Lytle planned to work with 30 paid undergraduate students to better understand the situation in which researchers would talk with Muslims, law enforcement and state legislators.

See: UA Little Rock Public Radio News' entry, in: <https://www.ualrpublicradio.org/post/program-study-hates-crimes-targeting-muslims-arkansas>, retrieved on 23.05.2021

IsP140282-Canada: Americas Proud Boys Canada dissolves itself, says it was never a 'white supremacy' group— Proud Boys Canada, a far-right group that Ottawa named as a terrorist entity in February 2021, had dissolved itself, and said it had done nothing wrong, according to a statement by the organization on May 2. In February, Canada said the group posed an active security threat and played a "pivotal role" in the deadly attack on the U.S. Capitol in January by supporters of then-President Donald Trump. U.S. authorities had charged several members of the Proud Boys in connection with the Jan. 6 assault.

See: Reuters News' entry, in: <https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/proud-boys-canada-dissolves-itself-says-it-was-never-white-supremacy-group-2021-05-02/>, retrieved on 19.05.2021

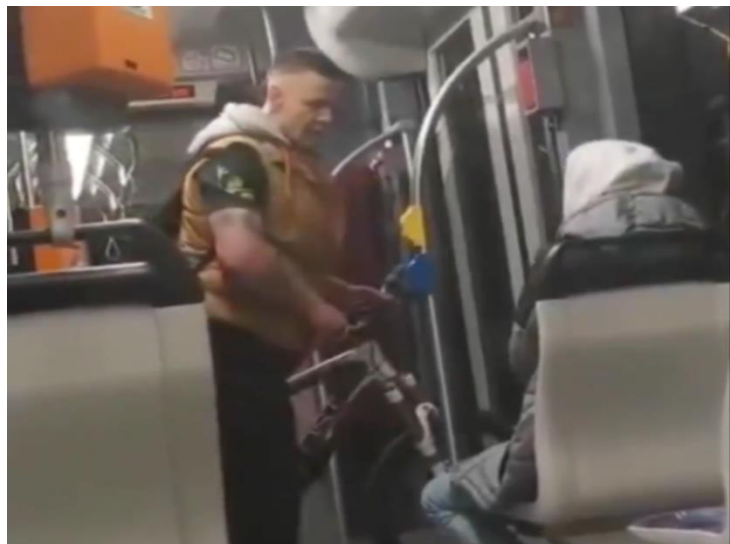
IsP140283-Canada: Man arrested after racially-charged road rage incident in NW Edmonton— Edmonton police had arrested and charged a man after a road rage incident in the city’s northwest quadrant that officers believe was racially motivated. Police said on April 25, a family was travelling in their vehicle northbound on 82 Street when a man in the lane next to them made a profane gesture to the woman in the front passenger seat, who was wearing a hijab, and allegedly threatened the rest of the family in the car. The family ignored the aggressor, but the man drove radically, around the family’s car. Eventually, police said this caused a small collision between the two cars. When the two cars, plus a third car who witnessed the event, pulled over and tried to exchange insurance information, the aggressive driver apparently refused and threw religious slurs at the family. Police said the accused then assaulted the witness and took off before police arrived on scene. The witness was taken to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries and police later arrested the man at his home. He was charged with assault causing bodily harm and careless driving among other things. The Hate Crimes Unit had also recommended the courts consider increased sentence due to the events been hate-related.

See: CityNews Edmonton News’ entry, in: <https://edmonton.citynews.ca/2021/04/28/man-charged-arrested-after-racially-charged-road-rage-incident-in-nw-edmonton/>, retrieved on 25.05.2021

EUROPE

IsP140284-Germany: German held after racist attack on Syrian caught on video— A German

man had been arrested in connection with a racist attack on a teenage refugee in the eastern city of Erfurt that was captured on video, officials said on April 26. The video which was circulated on social media showed that a man standing over the seated victim in which he repeatedly insulted and spat at the victim, and then kicked him in the face. Erfurt police said the 17-year-old victim from Syria, suffered minor injuries in the attack, which followed a verbal argument. The governor of Thuringia state, where Erfurt was located, called the attack that took place on April 23 in one of the city’s trams “simply disgusting.” “The perpetrator has been caught... Such a cowardly person, strong and aggressive against someone who was defenseless.” the governor, Bodo Ramelow, wrote on Twitter.



See: Arabnews entry, in: <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1849271/world>, retrieved on 02.05.2021

IsP140285-Germany: German spy agency says Islamophobic group ‘anti-constitutional’—

On May 7, German intelligence services said, they would widen their surveillance of Islamophobic protest movement Pegida in its home state of Saxony, as the group had become “extremist” and “anti-constitutional”. While Pegida had previously attracted “heterogeneous” support and taken “moderate” positions, it had developed “an increasingly right-wing extremist orientation”, Saxony’s domestic intelligence agency LfV said in a statement. “By regularly offering right-wing extremists a platform to propagate anti-constitutional ideologies, this movement acts as a hinge between extremists and non-extremists,” said agency president Dirk-Martin Christian. He added that “all people and activities” within the group would be put under surveillance, with the

exception of those who took part in peaceful demonstrations. Pegida, which campaigns against what it called the “Islamisation of the West”, was born in October 2014 with xenophobic marches every Monday evening. The movement’s popularity coincided with the rise of the far-right AfD party, which entered parliament for the first time in 2017 on an anti-refugee and anti-immigration platform. Pegida had previously been declared as extremist and put under observation by spy agencies in other German states such as Bavaria. Germany’s domestic intelligence agencies monitor a range of individuals and groups from across the political spectrum who were suspected of extremist tendencies.

See: The News International newspaper entry, in: <https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/832181-german-spy-agency-says-islamophobic-group-anti-constitutional>, retrieved on 17.05.2021

IsP140286-Germany: German police arrest man suspected of neo-Nazi hate mail campaign— German police had arrested a man who sent dozens of threatening letters to politicians, lawyers and journalists. The letters contained "hateful, insulting and threatening content" and were signed with the acronym of a neo-Nazi group, officials said on May 4. The suspect was detained after a search of his apartment in the capital city Berlin, prosecutors said. The unemployed man accused of been behind the campaign had previous convictions for "numerous crimes, including ones motivated by right-wing ideology," prosecutors said. Police said the suspect had sent almost 100 letters to people and organisations across Germany and Austria since August 2018. The letters were mainly addressed to public figures known for their commitment against racism and anti-Semitism, as well as to immigrants themselves. Threats were written under the pseudonym NSU 2.0 - a reference to the far-right National Socialist Underground movement that was responsible for a string of violent crimes and assassinations between 1998 and 2011.

See: Euronews News’ entry, in: <https://www.euronews.com/2021/05/04/german-police-arrest-man-suspected-of-neo-nazi-hate-mail-campaign>, retrieved on 19.05.2021

IsP140287-Germany: Germany will ban 'enemies lists' in campaign against far right— Germany would strengthen the security services, clamp down on “enemies lists” and convene a special task force on hatred which targeted Muslims as part of a major package of measures against far-right extremism. The set of 89 proposals was signed off by Chancellor Angela Merkel’s Cabinet on May 12 after a series of far-right atrocities that rattled Germany. The package included tighter gun laws, measures to tackle online hatred and closer co-operation between security services. There would be more funding for education and civil society groups and a new government-commissioned study into racism in Germany. “Never before has the government done so much to tackle right-wing extremism, racism and anti-Semitism,” said Interior Minister Horst Seehofer. One of the specific proposals was for the distribution of enemies lists, also described by the government as “death lists”, to be made a specific criminal offence. The lists were used by extremists to intimidate their enemies into silence because they feared reprisals from the far right, the government said. Measures would be drawn up to tackle extremism in the German Army after a report found hundreds of suspected cases in the security services. Another proposal envisages an Independent Expert Council on Islamophobia, which would issue a report within two years on racism against Muslims. The body was tasked with an independent look into the overlap between Islamophobia and anti-Semitism. The proposals emerged from a cabinet committee chaired by Mrs Merkel, which was set up the year before after an extremist opened fire at two shisha lounges in Hanau and killed 10 people.

See: The National newspaper entry, in: <https://www.thenationalnews.com/world/europe/germany-will-ban-enemies-lists-in-campaign-against-far-right-1.1222130>, retrieved on 25.05.2021

IsP140288-UK: Muslim engineer wins religious discrimination claim after bogus extremism referral— A Muslim engineer at a supply plant for nuclear reactors received a £3,500 payout for direct religious discrimination after a false rumor which was passed from staff to management had resulted in counter-terror police visiting Mo Master at his home. Master, who had worked at Spring fields Fuels in Preston for 28 years, had taken a voluntary redundancy payment of around £70,000 in February 2018, in which he cited allegations about the loss of flexible working to attend Friday prayers and that a colleague had said: “we live in a Christian country who has given you permission to go and pray during working hours” which the tribunal ruled were out of time. An extension, however, was given so Mr Master could appeal the discriminatory Prevent referral, which occurred after Simon Johnson, the plant’s head of security, contacted the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR), after spurious rumours persisted that Master had said that British soldiers based in the Middle East “should die”. Judge Mark Leach noted: “Had the claimant not been Muslim, this rumour would not have persisted to the extent that it did”. Judge Leach expressed surprise that no documents or email to the ONR were generated, or even what the ONR had said in response before making their Prevent referral.

See: Tell Mama UK News’ entry, in: <https://tellmamauk.org/muslim-engineer-wmuslim-engineer-wins-religious-discrimination-claim-after-bogus-extremism-referralins-religious-discrimination-claim-after-bogus-extremism-referral/>, retrieved on 02.05.2021

IsP140289-UK: Far-right sympathiser, who called for race war on Twitter convicted of hate crime offences — On April 16, Tobias Powell, a far-right sympathiser who called for a race war, shared pictures of his tattoo containing a Nazi emblem and set up an Apple ID under the name Adolf Hitler had been convicted of hate crime offences. Powell, used Twitter to claim a 'civil war' was needed 'to stop the ethnic suicide of white people'. In a series of tweets, Powell, from the coastal village of Pagham, near Bognor Regis, West Sussex, showed support for banned neo-Nazi group National Action. When anti-terrorism police raided Powell's home the found literature on white supremacy and a number of electronic devices. Powell also wrote a letter to his local MP Nick Gibbs about his concerns over Sharia Law. Detective Chief Superintendent Kath Barnes, Head of CTPSE, said: “The evidence gathered during the investigation showed that Powell had some very unacceptable views ... Whilst this was not a terrorism case, the nature of the rhetoric Powell had shared on social media, meant that it was only right for specialist officers from Counter Terrorism Policing to conduct a thorough investigation ... We know there is a fine line between hate speech and terrorism. Showing support for terrorist organisations is not acceptable and if you do that, you should expect to be investigated by us.”

See: Daily Mail News’ entry, in: <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-9480063/Far-right-sympathiser-32-called-race-war-convicted-hate-crime-offences.html>, retrieved on 02.05.2021

IsP140290-UK: Rotherham teacher banned from classroom for life after anti-Muslim rants on his own YouTube channel— On April 22, a teacher, named Damien Ryan, was banned from the classroom for life after he ranted against Muslim on his YouTube channel. Ryan, who worked as a teacher at Saint Pius X Catholic High School in Rotherham, said Muslims "deserve no lands" and "deserve no countries" in a series of tirades which he posted on his Twitter and on a YouTube channel named The Ryan Review. Ryan, said Islam was a "hateful bigoted fascist ideology". The videos were first spotted by a concerned parent, which resulted in a police visit to rayan’s home. Although no criminal offences had been committed, the school were informed, which prompted an investigation. A professional conduct panel found Ryan guilty of unacceptable professional conduct and/or conduct that may brought the profession into disrepute. In a report published on the government website and updated on April 22, 2021, the panel said he showed some remorse, but ultimately the decision was made to hand him a lifetime teaching ban, which he can appeal in December 2022.

See: Examiner Live News’ entry, in: <https://www.examinerlive.co.uk/news/local-news/rotherham-teacher-banned-classroom-life-20447007>, retrieved on 03.05.2021

IsP140291-UK: Tommy Robinson’s ‘lies’ about Syrian schoolboy forced family to flee, court told

— On April 21, A High Court trial had begun for the libel case brought against Tommy Robinson by Jamal Hijazi. The family of a Syrian schoolboy who was filmed being attacked in a Huddersfield playground had to flee the town after the far-right campaigner Tommy Robinson aired “entirely distorted anti-Muslim” claim about him, a court had been told. The founder of the English Defence League (EDL) – whose real name was Stephen Yaxley-Lennon – was sued by the family of Jamal Hijazi after he “peddled false and defamatory lies” online about the teenager. Footage of the student being pushed to the ground and had water poured on his face was watched millions of times and attracted widespread condemnation, which also included from Theresa May, in December 2018. However, after the video went viral, Robinson



claimed in two videos on Facebook that that Jamal was “not innocent and he violently attacks young English girls in his school”. The teenager denied the allegations. In written evidence, Jamal said he felt ashamed and depressed after Robinson’s videos went viral and that his family had been the target of threats and intimidating behaviour. They told a support worker in November 2018 that they wanted to leave Huddersfield and were relocated in early 2019. “By this point, it was unsafe to even walk to the local shops without receiving verbal abuse with a very real risk of that escalating to physical abuse,” he stated. Catrin Evans QC, who represented Jamal, told the court that Robinson’s comments “turned Jamal into the aggressor, and the bully into a righteous white knight”.

See: The Guardian Newspaper entry, in: <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/apr/21/tommy-robinsons-lies-about-syrian-schoolboy-forced-family-to-flee-court-told>, retrieved on 06.05.2021

IsP140292-UK: Alleged far-right extremists charged with possessing 3D-printed gun components ‘for terrorist purposes’

— On May 14, A group of alleged far-right extremists had appeared in court charged with terror offences and the possession of 3D-printed gun components. On May 1, the four defendants were arrested in a coordinated counter-terror operations. Daniel Wright, Liam Hall, and Stacey Salmon, all of Keighley, a town in West Yorkshire England, were accused of the possession of a 3D-printed firearm components “for a purpose connected with the commission, preparation or instigation of acts of terrorism”. Samuel Whibley, of Menai Bridge in Anglesey, provided a service to others to enable them to obtain terrorist publications, as a direct or indirect encouragement for acts of terrorism. They were not asked to enter plea and were remanded in custody to appear at the Old Bailey on May 28.

See: The Independent Newspaper entry, in: <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/3d-guns-terror-offences-court-b1847800.html>, retrieved on 16.05.2021

IsP140293-UK: Leicester’s game vs Crystal Palace paused to allow players to break Ramadan fast

— On April 26, Players in an English Premier League game between Leicester City and Crystal Palace halted the match to allow a Muslim player, Leicester defender Wesley Fofana, who was observing Ramadan, to break his fast. Before the match, both teams and the referee agreed that they would pause to allow Fofana to leave the field and to drink at a suitable point in the game. That moment came in the 35th minute when the ball went out for a Crystal Palace goal kick. Rather

than restart the game right away, Palace goalkeeper Vicente Guaita held on to the ball for about a minute. At that time, Fofana ran off the pitch and was seen on the touchline where he broke his fast with a drink. The game then resumed, and in a tweet after the match, Fofana thanked everyone who agreed to pause the game to allow him to break his fast, he said such gestures were "what makes football wonderful." After the game, Leicester manager Brendan Rodgers was full of praise for Fofana's exertions in recent weeks while he was fasting. "I think it's absolutely remarkable. ...I work with lots of players who have similar devotion to their faith, and I think, for a lot of the guys, it gives them strength."

See: Insider News' entry, in: <https://www.insider.com/premier-league-match-halted-muslim-player-to-break-ramadan-fast-2021-4>, retrieved on 09.05.2021

IsP140294-UK: Nicola Sturgeon hails Glasgow for rejecting 'far-right thug' as she holds seat

— On May 7, NICOLA Sturgeon had hailed voters for rejecting a "far-right thug" at the ballot box as she held her Glasgow Southside seat with a comfortable majority. The First Minister said she was "proud" that convicted racist Jayda Fransen, former deputy leader of Britain First, managed just 46 votes. Ms Sturgeon was praised after she stood up to Ms Fransen during an ugly confrontation outside a Glasgow polling station On May 6. In a speech after she won Glasgow Southside, Ms Sturgeon said: "The far-right thug who led that confrontation got 46 votes and I am proud that once again Glasgow Southside has shown the racists and the fascists that they are not welcome in Glasgow Southside, they are not welcome in Glasgow and they are not welcome anywhere in Scotland, and let that be a note of unity." Ms Fransen, who was standing as an independent, was found guilty of religiously aggravated harassment and ordered to pay a fine of £1000 after she targeted a Muslim mother of four who was wearing a hijab in Luton in November 2016. She was also convicted of another religiously aggravated harassment in 2018, which saw her sentenced to 36 weeks in prison.

See: Herald Scotland newspaper entry, in: <https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/19287517.nicola-sturgeon-hails-glasgow-rejecting-far-right-thug-holds-seat/>, retrieved on 12.05.2021

IsP140295-UK: Far-right candidates perform dismally across UK elections

— Anti-fascist campaigners had been celebrating a dismal performance by far-right candidates in elections around the UK, from Scotland to council polls in England. The far-right group For Britain got fewer than 50 votes in 25 of the 47 council wards for which results were available on May 7. More than 100 votes were secured in only 10 of the wards contested by the party, which had attracted former British National party members, and argues that "Islamic doctrine and freedom are entirely incompatible". Nick Lowles, the CEO of Hope Not Hate, said the results showed how politically irrelevant the British far right had become. After the BNP's collapse in 2010, many supporters were swept up by Ukip and then the Brexit party, he said, while some of the same voters had since switched to the Conservatives. "With [Boris Johnson's] pro-Brexit and rightwing populist agenda, which includes strong anti-immigration messaging and deliberate manipulation and hyping of a cultural war, there is currently very little political space for traditional far-right parties obsessed with racial nationalism and Islamophobia," he said. Ukip was wiped out in the assembly elections in Wales, in which they lost all their members of the Welsh Senedd after the 2016 election, when it won seven seats.

See: The Guardian newspaper entry, in: <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2021/may/09/far-right-candidates-perform-dismally-across-uk-elections>, retrieved on 13.05.2021

IsP140296-UK: Sheffield school in Prophet Muhammad row with parents as they threaten to protest outside gates after mix-up—

A Sheffield primary school had apologised after a picture of the Prophet Muhammad was shown in an assembly. A member of staff from Hunter's Bar Junior School showed the picture during the holy month of Ramadan. But the move had sparked outrage from some members of the Muslim community and one parent had even called for other Muslim parents to pull their children from the school, the Daily Mail reports. Headteacher of Hunter's Bar Junior School, Michael Watson,



said in a statement issued on May 5 that he was aware of the offence caused. Watson, had offered his "heartfelt apology" and said that an investigation would be launched to find out how and why this happened. He said: "We are aware and understand fully how offensive this is to our Muslim community and I offer my heartfelt apologies for the upset caused...I want to reassure our Muslim community that we are doing all we can to find a fair and just way forward that rebuilds trust and faith in our school, so you can be confident that our pupils, families and staff understand, support and celebrate our diverse community that we are so proud of". This apology had been rejected by one parent at the school, who had suggested that he and other members of the Muslim community will protest. However, the Federation of Mosques has asked that parents accept the school's apology and said that they "see no benefit in external elements getting involved".

See: Examiner Live News' entry, in: <https://www.examinerlive.co.uk/news/local-news/sheffield-school-prophet-muhammad-row-20542358>, retrieved on 16.05.2021

IsP140297-UK: Man who ran far-right chat groups on Telegram pleads guilty to 16 terror charges—

On May 13, A man who shared explosives and firearms manuals online had been convicted of terrorism offences. Michael Nugent, from Ashford - England, ran and was active on a number of extreme right wing chat groups on the Telegram app. He used different personas, to express racist views and a hatred of ethnic minorities. Nugent also shared manuals on how to make explosives and homemade firearms and told group members about how to deliver bombs in Amazon packages. He was arrested on August 19, 2020, when an



investigation by the Met's Counter Terrorism Command linked various online accounts to Nugent's real-world identity. Commander Richard Smith, who leads the Met's Counter Terrorism Command, said: "Nugent was an active member of internet chat rooms where he freely shared his abhorrent extremist views with others.... He sought to influence and encourage other members to commit acts of violence, and passed on manuals detailing how to produce deadly weapons and explosive devices... This is another case which shows how harmful online extremism is". At Kingston Crown Court, Nugent pleaded guilty to five counts of dissemination of terrorist

publications and 11 counts of possession of a document which contained information that would likely be useful to prepare or commit an act of terrorism. He would be sentenced on June 23.

See: Yahoo News' entry, in: <https://uk.sports.yahoo.com/news/man-ran-far-chat-groups-104501492.html>, retrieved on 26.05.2021

IsP140298-UK: Girlguiding charity apologises as audit uncovers racism and Islamophobia—

Girlguiding, the UK's charity for girls and young women, had apologised after an external audit uncovered instances of racism and Islamophobia among girl guides and staff. The probe, which took evidence from over 200 members, staff, parents and carers, revealed instances of discrimination that saw young people of colour been called racial slurs and a Muslim girl been asked to remove her hijab during a trip. Racialised "jokes" and micro-aggressions such as purposefully mispronunciation of names had all been cited as common, offensive experiences by staff members within the organization. In another instance, a girl aged under 7 was told by another child that she didn't want to hold her hand because she 'is dirty' and her parent reported that they felt "too worried about backlash" to raise this with the leader. Lack of diversity had been acknowledged as a serious issue within the charity from the top down. Some ethnic minority staff told auditors that white staff only greet other white staff and ignored their non-white colleagues, while other employees within the external communications team told the auditors that they had experienced resistance when they wanted to post things around Islamic holidays. It had been reported that ethnic minority staff members had been asked to do administrative or menial tasks even if more junior white staff were available to do it. Angela Salt, the charity's chief executive said: "On behalf of Girlguiding, I am deeply sorry to anyone who has ever felt unwelcome, unsupported or uncomfortable or who has been subject to discrimination or exclusion of any form at the charity... This will see us implement changes across the whole organisation. The leadership team and I are fully committed to tackling the problems head-on and we will change. In light of the audit, the charity had launched a plan to enhance diversity and inclusion that includes action-points such as training for volunteers and staff on race-equity.

See: The Independent newspaper entry, in: <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/girlguiding-charity-racism-islamophobia-b1848730.html>, retrieved on 27.05.2021

IsP140299-France: Le Pen 'is a disturbance to public order' - Goldschmidt— Chief Rabbi

Pinchas Goldschmidt, had issued a statement to comment on the interview conducted with the party leader of the French right-wing populist Rassemblement National (RN) Marine Le Pen, which was published in the German weekly newspaper Die Zeit on May 5. The president of the Conference of European Rabbis (CER), said: "It is not the headscarf that is a disturbance to public order, but Ms Le Pen. This is clearly the wrong signal to the Jews, Muslims and other religious minorities living in France. It expresses Ms Le Pen's fear of foreigners. She is dividing society instead of uniting it, ...Le Pen's demand is nothing other than an attack on the fundamental and human right of religious freedom, which people in many places in Europe are now repeatedly trying to restrict. This is an alarming trend for all religious minorities."



See: EU reporter News' entry, in: <https://www.eureporter.co/lifestyle/religion/islam/2021/05/07/le-pen-is-a-disturbance-to-public-order-goldschmidt/>, Also: Photo from: <https://oc-media.org/moscows-chief-rabbi-apologises-to-kadyrov-for-offending-muslims/>, retrieved on 17.05.2021

IsP140300-Netherland: Dutch Jewish Commission Likens Islamophobia To Country's "Dark Past"— On April 13, a Dutch Jewish Commission based in Amsterdam had spoken out against threats against Muslims and prevalent Islamophobia. The Liberal Jewish Community of Amsterdam (Liberale Joodse Gemeenschap Amsterdam) published a letter on the first day of Ramadan. In its letter, the community's dialogue committee denounces recent threats against mosques in the Netherlands, in which they said Dutch intolerance had reached an "all time low." The Jewish community emphasized how current threats against mosques and rhetoric drenched in Islamophobia were "in the past used against Jews and now applied to threaten Muslims." The Jewish group highlighted how the Jewish community was all too familiar with the possible consequences of Dutch intolerance, in which they hinted at rampant antisemitism in the Netherlands in the 1930s. "We will fight this form of hatred with every fiber of our being," the letter stated as it announced that the Jewish group would raise the issue of Islamophobia in the media and national politics.

See: Morocco World News' entry, in: <https://www.morocoworldnews.com/2021/04/339970/dutch-jewish-commission-likens-islamophobia-to-countrvs-dark-past/>, retrieved on 03.05.2021

ASIA

IsP140301-India: Amid COVID-19 fear, Muslims help Hindu man cremate father in Madhya Pradesh— A group of Muslims helped a Hindu man cremate his father in Sagar in Madhya Pradesh after his neighbours and relatives refused to join due to the fear of coronavirus. Ullas Belapurkar, an employee of a local government engineering college, died on April 24 reportedly of pneumonia, while his coronavirus test report was still awaited, his son Madhur said: "My household comprises my mother, wife and I. Since women do not take part in funerary arrangements, I was left alone, without any help from my neighbours and relatives who were afraid to cremate my father due to the fear of coronavirus," he said. However, some members of the Muslim community came forward and helped carry out the last rites as per Hindu rituals at the local crematorium on April 24, Madhur added.

See: New Indian Express News' entry, in: <https://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2021/apr/25/amid-covid-19-fear-muslims-help-hindu-man-cremate-father-in-madhya-pradesh-2294703.html>, retrieved on 05.04.2021

IsP140302-India: Bengaluru bed scam: Days after row, BBMP reinstates 17 suspended Covid war room workers— Seventeen people who were suspended after a raid at a Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Covid war room by Bengaluru South MP Tejasvi Surya had been reinstated by the civic body. Sources told India Today that 17 Muslim employees at the BBMP Covid war room were asked to rejoin work after the police could not find evidence against them in the alleged bribe-for-bed scam. Top police sources said the investigation into the scam pertained to blocked beds in private hospitals for Covid patients had not revealed the involvement of those Muslims whose names were mentioned by Surya on May 4 in a live programme. BJP MP Tejasvi Surya had the week before alleged that hospitals in Bengaluru 'blocked' beds with fake names to make money, at a time when Covid-19 cases were rising in Karnataka. The BJP MP had alleged that hospitals in the city blocked at least 4,065 beds with fake names. A video emerged on social media in which Tejasvi Surya was seen taking names of people who he alleged were behind the scam. All those named by Tejasvi Surya out loud were Muslims. As a result, the recruitment agency went on to suspend all 17 staffers.

See: India Today News' entry, in: <https://www.indiatoday.in/india/karnataka/story/bengaluru-bed-scam-bbmp-asks-suspended-17-covid-war-room-workers-rejoin-work-1800736-2021-05-10>, retrieved on 16.05.2021

AUSTRALIA

IsP140303-Australia: 'Your actions are racist': Far-right extremist jailed for disrupting Muslim festival

Neil Erikson, a Far-right extremist had been sent to jail for a month after he disrupted a religious gathering in Melbourne. The magistrate told the court Erikson had stated he preferred to go to jail, rather than undertake a de-radicalization program as part of a community corrections order. "I have no alternative but to send you to prison," Magistrate Charlie Rozencwajg told him. In April 2019, Erikson stormed into a Muslim peace festival at Federation Square where he yelled offensive comments through a megaphone while being filmed by a friend. Magistrate Rozencwajg said the remarks were "offensive in the extreme" to those who had gathered to pray, he added that it was Erikson's intended effect. "Your actions are racist," the magistrate said, he noted his views were those held by far-right extremists and white supremacists. Erikson was resistant to a community corrections order that he considered more punitive than a fine or jail, the court heard. The court order — to be served out in the community for a year — would have banned him from social media, kept him from within 100 meters of mosques and required him to undertake a de-radicalization program. Instead, the magistrate sentenced him to a month in jail.

See: ABC News' entry, in: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-05-11/far-right-extremist-jailed-after-disrupting-festival/100130868>, retrieved on 23.05.2021

