



ORGANIZATION OF ISLAMIC COOPERATION

Political Affairs Department

Islamophobia Observatory

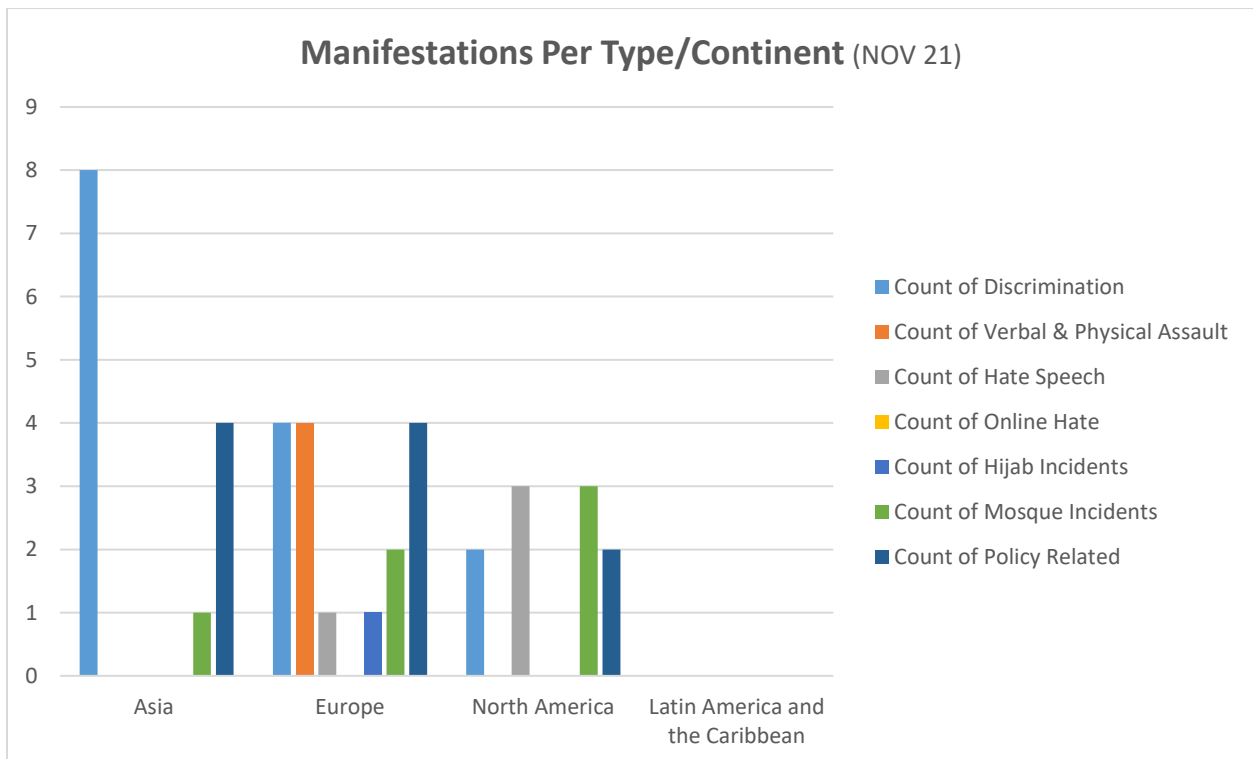
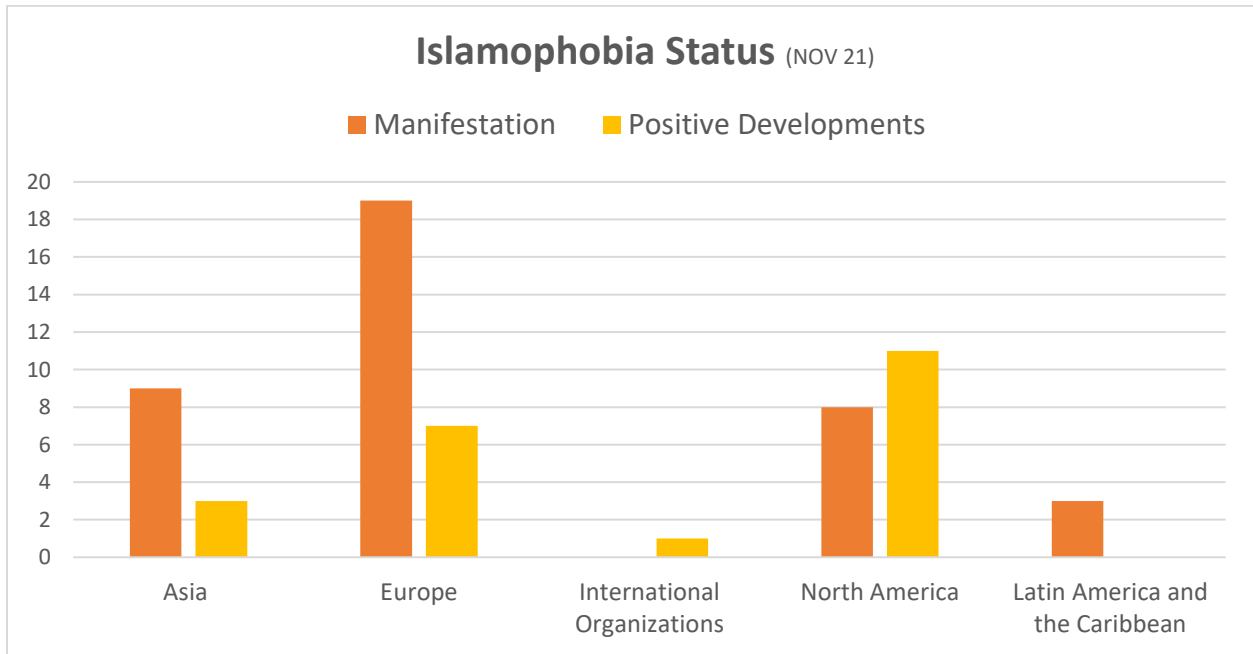
Islamophobia Monitoring

Month: November 2021



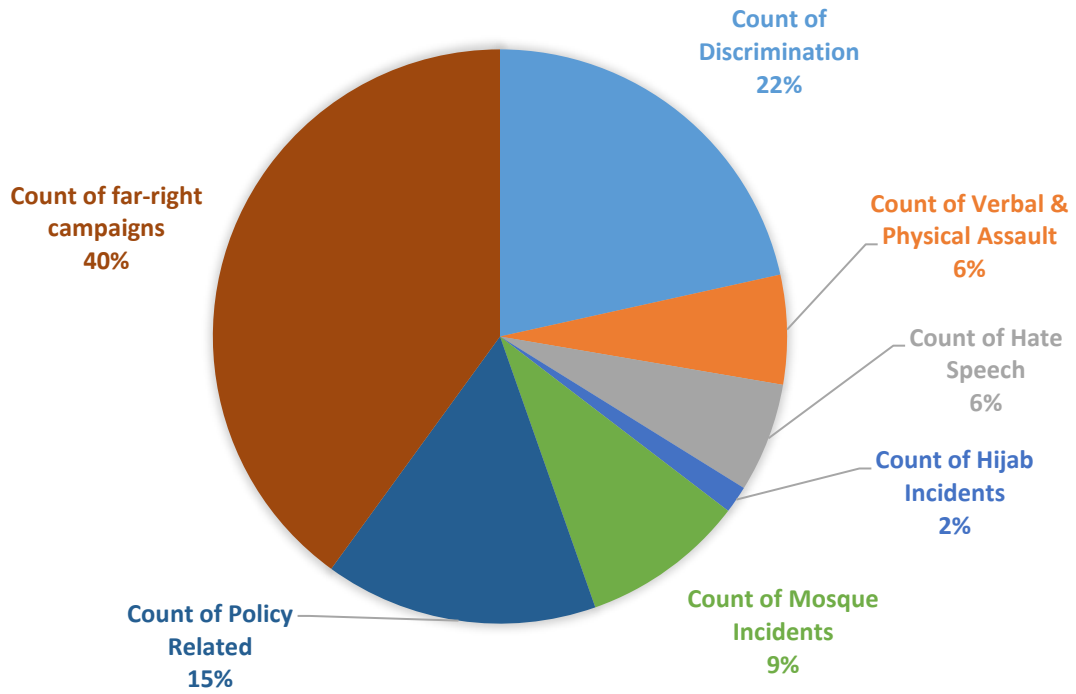
OIC Islamophobia Observatory

Issue: November 2021



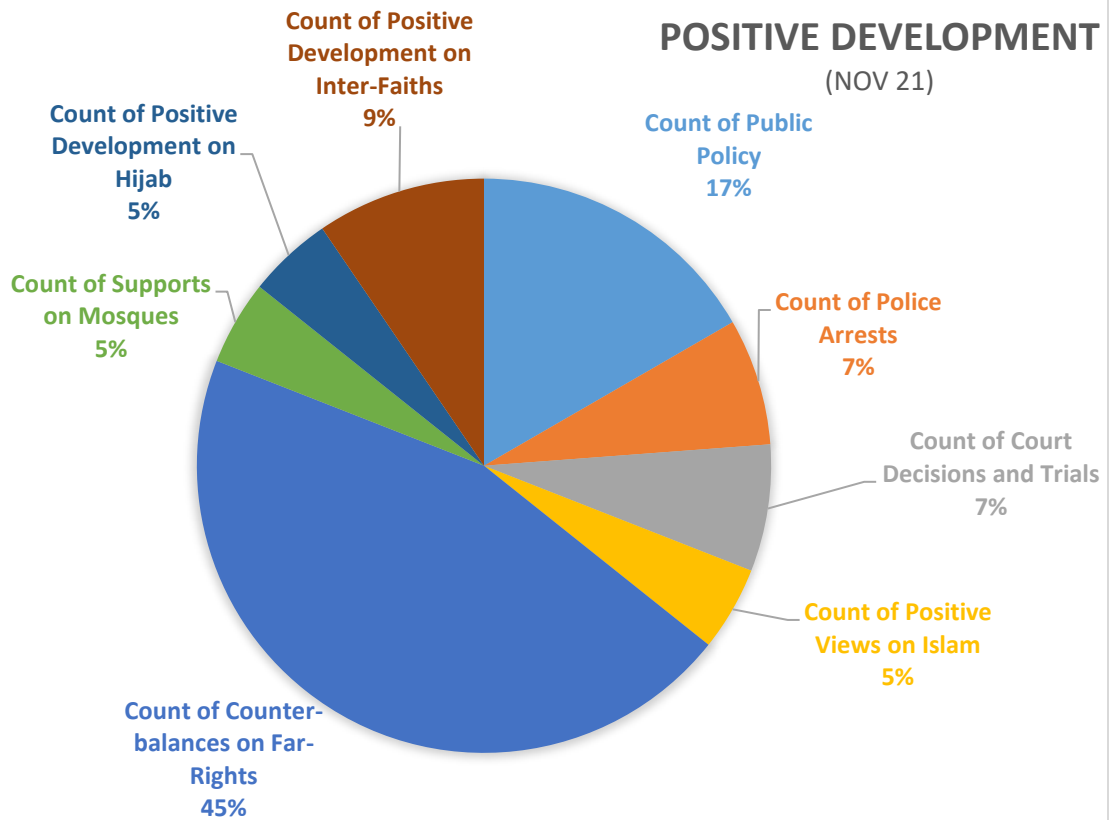
MANIFESTATION

(NOV 21)



POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT

(NOV 21)



MANIFESTATIONS OF ISLAMOPHOBIA

NORTH AMERICA



IsP140553-US: Supreme Court to Hear Case of Surveillance of Muslims—The US Supreme Court was hearing arguments whether the US government could invoke the protection of “state secrets” to withhold information about its surveillance of Muslims at mosques in California. The dispute began a decade ago when three Muslim men filed suit against the Federal Bureau of Investigation, alleging the top US law enforcement agency deployed a confidential informant who claimed to be a convert to Islam to spy on them based solely on their religious identity. The US Constitution guaranteed freedom of the practice of one’s religion; but the government was claiming that it could refuse to disclose information about its surveillance under authority granted it by the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, as well as its use of the state secrets privilege defense, which allowed the government to block the release of information it considered to be a risk to national security. The three Muslim men, Yassir Fazaga, Ali Malik and Yasser AbdelRahim, argued that the use of the surveillance law violated their religious rights and allowed the government to avoid accountability.

See: VOA news entry in: <https://www.voanews.com/a/us-supreme-court-to-hear-case-of-surveillance-of-muslims/6304040.html>, retrieved on 7.11.2021

IsP140554-US: White supremacist group posts stickers on campus—On October 5, Drake University President Marty Martin sent out a campus-wide email about an incident involving a white supremacist hate group known as Patriot Front. In the days before the email, Drake Public Safety was made aware that Patriot Front had placed stickers advertising itself on surfaces around campus. This was not the first time a white supremacist group had inserted itself into Drake’s community. On November 8, 2018, a white supremacist hate group called Road to Power orchestrated a robocall to Drake’s landlines that was full of racist language. It came just as Drake was hosting a meeting to address its response to several threatening racist notes slipped under the doors of students of color. In an interview in December 2018, Martin said the group had found out about the meeting from the media and timed their robocall to disrupt it, but to no avail. The meeting

continued, and student organizers of #PaintItBlack won the right to paint Painted Street black to stand in solidarity with students of color. In his email notifying campus of this incident, Martin said this incident was contrary to what Drake University stands for. “*We will not tolerate racism or hatred of any form on this campus, no matter the source,*” Martin wrote. “*We remain steadfast in our commitment to upholding human dignity and fostering a culture of belonging across the university.*”

See: Timedelphic news entry, in: <https://timesdelphic.com/2021/10/33160/>, retrieved on 14.10.2021

IsP140555-US: Investigation underway after white supremacist leaflets found in Carmichael neighborhood—Local and federal law enforcement officials were investigating reports of hate crimes in the Sacramento area, which include Aryan Brotherhood leaflets concealed in a bag of white rice being put on people's property. It was not just residents, but schools in the area were also targeted.

See: The KCRA news entry, in: <https://www.kcra.com/article/investigation-underway-white-supremacist-leaflets-found-carmichael-neighborhood/37888434>, retrieved on 7.10.2021

IsP140556-US: Islamophobia prevalent in California schools, according to new report—The Muslim-American community continued facing hate in California classrooms, according to the 2021 bullying report by the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR). The biennial study evaluated the school climate for California Muslim students between the ages of 11 and 18. The survey distributed between January 2021 to August 2021 asking Muslim students statewide about their experiences with bullying and Islamophobia. Around 700 students participated in the survey, including 34 from Fresno, Madera, Tulare and Merced counties. Nearly 50% reported being bullied, compared to 40% in 2019. More than half said they felt unsafe. According to the 2021 and 2019 surveys, Muslim students in California were bullied at more than twice the reported national average of 20%.

See: Yourcetrvalley news entry, in: <https://www.yourcentralvalley.com/news/local-news/islamophobia-prevalent-in-california-schools-according-to-new-report/>, retrieved on 28.10.2021

IsP140557-US: Durr rejects 'Islamophobia and all forms of hate' after meeting with Muslims—New Jersey Senator-Elect Ed Durr, had a talk with Selaedin Maksut of the New Jersey chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations. Maksut requested the meeting after Durr in his tweet called Islam “a false religion.” CAIR's national organization and another civil rights group, Muslim Advocates, had called on Durr to renounce the September 2019 tweet or to give up his Senate seat. Durr responded the next day with a statement noting, “*If I said things in the past that hurt anybody's feelings, I sincerely apologize.*” He left the meeting with a Quran and words of tolerance: “*I stand against Islamophobia and all forms of hate, and I do commit to that.*” Selaedin Maksut described the meeting as “*a very productive conversation. We had the opportunity to really break those barriers and learn from each other.*”

See: Yahoo news entry, in: <https://news.yahoo.com/durr-rejects-islamophobia-forms-hate-015420584.html>, retrieved on 12.11.2021

IsP140558-US: Minneapolis mosque on edge after vandalism of security cameras—Abdifatah Abdi, director of the Dar Al Qalam Cultural Center in Northeast Minneapolis, reported vandalized security cameras and car break-in. The mosque had called for authorities to open a hate-crimes investigation. He said that a vandal climbed onto a dumpster outside the building in Northeast Minneapolis and damaged three security cameras and knocked several others offline. Safety had been a top concern for Minnesota Muslims following the 2017 firebombing of the Dar Al Farooq Islamic Center in Bloomington. Judge in September sentenced the leader of that attack to 53 years in federal prison.

See: Sahan Journal news entry in: <https://sahanjournal.com/policing-justice/minneapolis-mosque-dar-al-qalam-vandalism/>, retrieved on 23.11.2021

IsP140559-US: Islamophobia controversy worsens after Boebert calls Omar—The Islamophobia controversy engulfing Rep. Lauren Boebert escalated to a full boil after the Colorado Republican went after Rep. Ilhan Omar in a video following a tense phone call between the two. The Minnesota progressive ended her phone conversation with the Colorado conservative after both demanded public apologies. Boebert claimed that she sought to deescalate tensions with Omar after a video circulated on social media a week before of the conservative lawmaker making anti-Muslim remarks, calling Omar a member of the “jihad squad” and saying the Minnesota Democrat was safe to ride with in a Capitol elevator so long as she wasn’t wearing a backpack. When Boebert called Omar, she said that she attempted to explain that she had not meant to impugn Omar's religion — but the exchange ended with the Democrat continuing to insist on public contrition, to which Boebert herself replied with an insistence on a public apology. This time, Speaker Nancy Pelosi and her leadership team sharply condemned Boebert’s comments but demanded that House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy be the one to act against the Coloradan. Omar echoed that sentiment in her own statement released after her call with Boebert: *“This is not about one hateful statement or one politician; it is about a party that has mainstreamed bigotry and hatred.”*

See: Politico news entry in: <https://www.politico.com/news/2021/11/29/islamophobia-controversy-boebert-calls-omar-523457>, retrieved on 29.11.2021

IsP140560-US: Oldest mosque in San Francisco vandalized. ‘We feel like our home was attacked’—A vandal threw a beer bottle through one of the windows of San Francisco’s oldest mosque, leaving members of the local Muslim community shaken. Police responded to the Islamic Center of San Francisco about 11:48 p.m. Friday, November 12. The suspect ran away after throwing the bottle through the window. Friday is a prayerful day in Islam and is usually a busy day for mosques, which hold prayers and services throughout the day. There were people inside the mosque when the vandalism occurred, and one person said that he and others heard the sound of glass breaking at the time.

See: Sacbee news entry in: https://www.sacbee.com/news/nation-world/national/article255845341.html?utm_source=pocket_mylist, retrieved on 17.11.2021

EUROPE

IsP140561-UK: Human Aid UK accuses Charity Commission of Islamophobia following end of inquiry—Human Aid UK had accused the Charity Commission of clear bias against Muslim charities. The inquiry was triggered by the seizure of donations by UK border police on July 9, 2019 despite the fact that Human Aid repeatedly asserted the funds were lawful and for charitable purposes only. Human Aid UK raised complaints of police harassment and institutional Islamophobia numerous times. Chair of Human Aid UK, said: *“After over two years of investigation, which has consumed resources that would have been better used to assist the needy in Syria, Gaza and Yemen, we are pleased that the Charity Commission has concluded with no further action against Human Aid UK. The Charity can now focus single-mindedly on serving its many beneficiaries around the world.”*

See: The 5pillarsuk newspaper entry, in: <https://5pillarsuk.com/2021/10/07/human-aid-uk-accuses-charity-commission-of-islamophobia-following-end-of-inquiry/>, retrieved on 14.10.2021

IsP140562-UK: Mosque attack suspect had video of New Zealand terror attacks on phone, court told—A phone recovered from a man on trial for terrorism offences contained three copies of a livestream of the 2019 mass shooting in New Zealand, a court had heard. The attack was carried out on a mosque in Christchurch by Brenton Tarrant, who killed 51 people and injured 40 others. An iPhone belonging to Sam Imrie, 24, also contained a number of images glorifying the New Zealand shooter, with the words *“Brenton Tarrant did nothing wrong”, “hail Tarrant”* and *“Saint Tarrant”*. The Edinburgh Organised Crime and Counter-terrorism Unit described the

footage of the attack as “horrific” in telling the court: “(Tarrant) carried out a filming session of the attack. He livestreamed it at first, which was copied and then went massive on the internet. It’s horrific. It starts with him driving, playing music before arriving at the Islamic centre. You see him getting the weapon from his car, going to the Islamic centre, you can see people walking towards him and he starts shooting, murdering them. You see him going from room to room, getting back into his vehicle”. The 24-year-old had also been accused of planning to stream live footage of an incident. The court also showed images from the accused’s Facebook page. The cover photo on the Facebook page was described in court as Adolf Hitler, standing in front of a microphone, addressing a crowd. His biography read: “*Seeing muslims suffer.*” Several symbols associated with “far right Nazism” were also posted on the Facebook page.

See: Tellmamauk news entry, in: <https://tellmamauk.org/mosque-attack-suspect-had-video-of-new-zealand-terror-attacks-on-phone-court-told/>, retrieved on 1.11.2021

IsP140563-UK: Muslim organisations are working towards tackling Islamophobia and victims of the offences—Muslims had been the target of almost half of recorded religious hate crimes, according to a Census 2021 report from Home Office. Hate crime offences recorded against Muslims reached 45 per cent of all recorded religious hate crimes in the year ending March 2021 – a similar proportion to the previous year. The 2,703 offences against Muslims included acts targeted towards more than one religious group and instances where the assumed religion of the victim was not the same as their actual faith group. Muslim Council of Britain (MCB) Secretary-General Zara Mohammed condemned the “pervasive form of bigotry” and the threat it poses, especially to young Muslims. Racially motivated hate crimes saw an increase of 12 per cent while the volume of charges has seen a decrease in recent years, suggesting a need for further action.

See: Standard news entry in: <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/crime/antimuslim-hate-crimes-muslim-council-britain-islamophobia-awareness-month-b963932.html>, retrieved on 2.11.2021

IsP140564-UK: As Nigel Farage plans return to stage, the right-wing app Parler offers ideal platform for his demagoguery—The revelation by Nigel Farage that he was planning a return to frontline politics came at a point when the media platform he enjoyed for spouting his divisive rhetoric had never been bigger. He took over his four-nights-a-week primetime slot on GB News in July, months after telling *The Telegraph* he had quit politics for good. Now he wrote in the same paper that he might be “getting back into the political arena”. For the former UKIP leader, who was cynically seeking to exploit an increase in asylum seekers crossing the English Channel, it would mean a need to ramp up his presence on social media, the key to political success for his friend and inspiration, Donald Trump. Significantly, on 10 November Farage announced he had “finally joined Parler”, the right-wing social media app that faced closure earlier in 2021 over its links to rioting by Trump supporters at the US Capitol. Parler was banned by Apple, Amazon and Google in January over toxic posts that “glorified Nazism and called for violence against specific people”, but Apple lifted its ban in April and, shortly afterwards, Parler hired George Farmer, a British former Brexit Party candidate, as its new chief executive. Farage, its new champion, has urged followers to join him there. Predictably, his first posts on Parler concerned the “*huge numbers of undocumented young men*” crossing from France.

See: iNews news entry in: https://inews.co.uk/news/politics/nigel-farage-plans-return-right-wing-app-parler-offers-ideal-platform-demagoguery-1323581?utm_source=pocket_mvlist, retrieved on 29.11.2021

IsP140565-UK: Muslim man, 27, told 'keep your beliefs to yourself, stop barking' when trying to tackle Islamophobia—A London Imam had spoken out about his experience growing up in the UK as a Muslim and the hate he still gets. Sabah Ahmedi said he was a victim of Islamophobia when he was younger, with people often calling him a 'terrorist' or 'Osama Bin Laden' - especially after the September 11, 2001 attacks. Despite still being on the receiving end of hate, the 27-year-old, who was one of Britain's youngest Imams, said he would not stop defending the religion. Sabah said: "Online I still receive a lot of abuse, some people say 'Islam is not compatible with the west. They were looking at my wife as though I'd radicalised her". Although he had now turned his comments off on TikTok, it could be seen some of the hate he had received. One person commented: "*Doesn't this dog ever stop barking.*" Another said: "*What are you gaining out of this? Keep you beliefs to yourself! You're bound to get hate chill out. Stop preaching your belief to others, we don't care.*"
See: Mylondon news entry in: https://www.mylondon.news/news/south-london-news/muslim-man-27-told-keep-22124041?utm_source=pocket_mylist, retrieved on 29.11.2021

IsP140566-UK: Video goes viral after Mansfield-born woman subjected to Islamophobic rant in town centre—A video had gone viral after a Mansfield woman was subjected to an expletive-laden rant in Mansfield due to her Muslim religion. 26-year-old Dina Singh was out shopping with her friend Fatima Khokher and Fatima's three-year-old son when a stranger confronted her, screaming expletives in her face and accusing her of being a 'terrorist'. Dina was born in Mansfield Woodhouse and wears a mixture of western and traditional Muslim clothing, and had opted to wear a headscarf for her shopping trip when the incident occurred, which was videoed by a passerby. Dina was a mother-of-three and was born and raised in Mansfield said: "*I was born in Mansfield, and so were my family and several generations before me – this is my home. Unfortunately, whenever I choose to wear a headdress or Muslim clothing, I get stared at, people mutter under their breath, or shout abuse – but this was awful. The woman just walked up to me and started screaming in my face about my religion and offering to fight me – in front of Fatima's little boy.*" The altercation came to an end when town centre security intervened, but the whole episode was recorded by a concerned shopper who gave Dina the footage for evidence.
See: Chad news entry in: https://www.chad.co.uk/news/people/video-goes-viral-after-mansfield-born-woman-subjected-to-islamophobic-rant-in-town-centre-3468092?utm_source=pocket_mylist, retrieved on 23.11.2021

IsP140567-UK: 'We've been called terrorists': Nadiya Hussain admits it's become 'normal' for her family to face vile Islamophobia and it's caused them to 'stay at home'— Nadiya Hussain had shared insight into her family's experiences of Islamophobia, after she and her daughter were called 'terrorists'. Speaking on media she explained that in the wake of recent terror attacks in the UK, such abuse had become 'normal' for her family, and had made them more inclined to 'stay at home'. Nadiya, who was the daughter of Bangladeshi immigrants, went on to describe the difficulty in explaining the racism to her children.
See: The Dailymail news entry in: <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/tvshowbiz/article-10218001/Nadiya-Hussain-says-familys-experiences-Islamophobia-stay-home.html>,
retrieved on 18.11.2021

IsP140568-UK: Spennymoor councillor's 'Muslim attack' post breached standards—Pete

Molloy, who seated on Spennymoor Town and Durham County councils, wrote: "We don't want Muslims here." He also posted a link to a "white supremacist conspiracy theory". Appeared before the county council's standards committee, Molloy denied being racist and claimed he faced "politically-motivated" allegations having been "targeted unreasonably" by other people at the council. Investigating Officer Matt Lewin described Molloy's Facebook posts as "on the wrong side of the line" between free criticism and an "attack on all Muslims, a denial of their right to live in this country."



One of the posts from 2019 said: "*We don't want Muslims here and they don't want us here.*" Mr Molloy said the posts were expressing his personal opinions "*in my private capacity as an individual*". He said of the white supremacy-related post: "*Just because I've shared something, it doesn't mean I actually agree with the source of where that information has come from.*"

See: BBC news entry in: <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-tees-59391954>, retrieved on 23.11.2021

IsP140569-UK: Man believed to be from SA allegedly verbally abuses man on UK train—A

man had come under fire after allegedly verbally abusing a Muslim man on a train in the UK. In a video shared on social media, the man was seen accusing the Muslim man of not "*respecting other people*" by reading his Koran on the train. "*Do you see anybody of any other faith sitting here doing their morning prayers? Do you know why? Because they respect other people and that's your problem, you got no respect for other people,*" the man told the Muslim passenger. The Muslim passenger then told the man to "*act his age*" and "*move along*". In response to the tweet, British Transport Police said the incident was under investigation.

See: The Timeslive news entry in: https://www.timeslive.co.za/news/south-africa/2021-11-28-watch-man-believed-to-be-from-sa-allegedly-verbally-abuses-man-on-uk-train/?utm_source=pocket_mylist, retrieved on 28.11.2021

IsP140570-France: Two thirds of French believe Muslim migration is a threat—Two thirds

of French people believed white Christians were 'threatened with extinction' by Muslim migration, new poll showed. Sixty per cent of French people said such a scenario would 'definitely' or 'probably' play out in the country when asked by pollsters, who published the results in October 2021. The question was posed ahead of 2022 election, where [Emmanuel Macron](#) would face off against one of two right-wing candidates: Marine Le Pen or Eric Zemmour. The poll was conducted to test belief in the idea of a 'Grand Replacement', a concept touted by Eric Zemmour. Central to Zemmour's ideology in the idea of 'The Great Replacement', a theory put forward by Renaud Camus that argues Christian civilisation was intentionally replaced using Muslim immigration from Africa in a plot by global capitalists. The poll, carried out by [Harris Interactive](#), aimed to test whether or not voters believe in the concept - despite it being widely panned by experts. The question voters were asked, based on Camus's definition, was: 'Some people speak of the "great replacement": That European, white and Christian populations were being threatened with extinction following Muslim immigration, coming from the Maghreb [northern Africa] and black Africa. Do you see such a phenomenon?' It found that 61 per cent of French people believed the phenomenon could happen in France, with 27 per cent saying they were 'certain' it would take place. Just 39 per cent of people said it 'probably' or 'definitely' would not happen. A follow-up question asked whether French people were 'worried' or 'not worried' about the idea of a 'Great

Replacement'. This found even more people - 67 per cent - were worried about the idea, compared to just 33 per cent who were not.

See: Dailymail news entry, in: <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-10135503/Two-thirds-French-believe-Muslim-migration-threat.html>, retrieved on 27.10.2021

IsP140571-France: Zemmour Rises in French Polls—The far-right pundit had jumped to second place in polls ahead of April’s French presidential election. French President Emmanuel Macron’s main challenger in April 2022 presidential election might not be lawyer Marine Le Pen, as firebrand political pundit Eric Zemmour cemented his position just behind Macron in recent polls. Zemmour was the choice of roughly 18 percent of French voters, according to the latest Harris Interactive poll, at least three percentage points ahead of Le Pen but behind Macron at 23 percent. In polling matchups for a second runoff, Macron still beat all challengers. Zemmour, an author and columnist for French newspaper *Le Figaro*, a media figure lamenting the West’s supposed decline, while possessing a well-honed understanding of where the media’s power began and ended. Benjamin Haddad of the Europe Center at the Atlantic Council, noted that although Zemmour had embraced modern techniques to keep hold of the spotlight—constantly stoking outrage by publicly indulging his grievances over race, immigration, homosexuality, and Islam—his position on the French political spectrum was more traditional.

See: Foreign Policy news entry, in:

https://www.google.com/url?cd=CAEYBCoSODYwODEwMjlyNzY0MTA1OTQzMho5NWE1ZDk4MDVjZjE0ZGMxOmNvbTplbipVUw&ct=ga&rct=j&sa=t&url=https%3A%2F%2Fforeignpolicy.com%2F2021%2F11%2F10%2Ffrance-eric-zemmour-president-election%2F&usg=AFQjCNEs7HXX1Wn14eM_61VV5I81T_FYCG&utm_source=pocket_mylist, retrieved on 10.11.2021



IsP140572-France: Muslim Community in France Condemns Islamophobic Vandalism—The Coordination Committee of Muslims in France [condemned](#) the Islamophobic acts targeting mosques in the small cities of Montlebon, Pontarlier, and Roubaix. The statement came after unknown people painted “*Cross of Lorraine*” tags on the [mosques](#) late at night on November 6. France 3 [said](#) that the vandalism acts [targeted](#) the mosques of the Turkish-Islamic Union of Religious Affairs. As the Lorraine cross symbolized French resistance to Nazi occupation in the 1940s, the report suggested, its use by some activists and sympathizers of far-right in France bear echoes of the Islamophobic argument that waves of Muslims were ‘*invading France*’ to eventually colonize it. Earlier, Muslims in Rennes expressed frustration after discovering on the walls of their mosque “shocking” tags that were insulting of Islam and Prophet Muhammad. “Catholicism is the state religion” and “no to Islamization” were some of the messages vandals left on the mosque in Rennes. Despite the growing normalization of such instances of Islamophobia, many observers maintain that the most worrying development had been President Emanuel Macron’s apparent

embrace of some far-right talking points on “Islamist separatism” to score national security points in hopes of boosting his re-election campaign.

See: Morocco World news entry in: <https://www.morocoworldnews.com/2021/11/345416/muslim-community-in-france-condemns-islamophobic-vandalism>, retrieved on 8.11.2021

IsP140573-France: The French Have a New Donald Trump in Eric Zemmour, the Far-Right Firebrand—A media star with no political experience threw his hat into the ring and soared in the presidential polls, hurling crude insults at his critics, bashing the elites, vilifying the press, and lavishing praise upon Russia, he rode a wave of populist anger, fear, and xenophobia as he promised to restore his demoralized country to its former glory. Many pundits were calling Eric Zemmour the French’s Donald Trump. The 63 years old Zemmour acknowledged Trump’s rise to power as a blueprint for his own potential run. He even modeled the cover of his latest book, *France had not said its final word*, on Trump’s 2015 Manifesto, *Great Again*. Zemmour, who belonged to no party, was scrambling to improvise a movement of his own, and Zemmour’s Case was meteoric. Credited in June 2021 with a 5.5% share of the theoretical vote, he had now more than tripled that margin and currently having a chance of facing off against Macron in the runoff of France’s two-round election in April 2022. Until recently, conventional wisdom had pointed to a replay of the 2017 matchup between Macron and Marine Le Pen, of the far-right anti-immigrant National Rally party. Relentlessly insisting that “Marine can’t win”, Zemmour could lure a substantial number of Le Pen’s 2017 voters to his camp.

See: Vanityfair news entry in: https://www.Vanityfair.com/news/2021/11/new-french-donald-trump-in-eric-zemmour-the-far-right-firebrand?utm_source=pocket_mylist/, retrieved on 8.11.2021



IsP140574-France: Mosques Targeted in France’s Rising Islamophobic Vandalism—Two mosques in Besancon were vandalized in November 2021. The attackers used red paint to draw on the walls of the mosques, the crosses of Lorraine which symbolized French resistance to Nazi occupation in the 1940s. French local official denounced the use of the Cross of Lorraine. “*It is a symbol of the resistance movement against Nazi occupation. It is very inappropriate to use the cross of Lorraine to mark opposition to Islam.*” The unidentified vandalizers also targeted some cars parked near the mosques.

See: Morocco World news entry in: <https://www.morocoworldnews.com/2021/11/345676/mosques-targeted-in-frances-rising-islamophobic-vandalism>, retrieved on 20.11.2021

IsP140575-France: France's presidential election: How the far-right could win—According to most polls on 2022 French presidential election, Emmanuel Macron counted on the support of one in four voters. In 2017, he managed to attract support from both the centre-left and centre-right. He was helped by the fact that neither of his main rivals was aiming to win from the centre-ground. However, during his presidency Macron's popularity among left-wing voters had waned considerably – and he might now need to rely on right-wing voters more than he did five years before. His current ratings might therefore suffer once the centre-right Republicans chose their candidate in the primaries scheduled for early December. With potential losses on the right, Macron might find it tricky to make up for this with support from the left – even if the latter remained divided, with no serious chance of any of its candidates getting through to the second round. In the meantime, there was another reason to keep a close eye on the election: the resilience of support for the far-right among a third of voters. It was conventional wisdom that Marine Le Pen – leader of the National Rally party – would go through to the second round, where she would almost certainly lose to Macron. No poll had predicted victory for her, although some had anticipated a disturbingly close result between her and Macron, sometimes by barely a few percentage points. However, the context had changed again. Since August, a new contender had emerged on the far-right in the form of Éric Zemmour – a [misogynist](#) and [Islamophobe](#) whose scandal appeared to follow wherever he went. He had already caught up with Le Pen and depressed her polling share. Each could expect around 15-17 per cent of the vote. In this sense, two far-right candidates entering the frame could further cloud the gloomy picture. Their mere presence was likely to push the political debate – and the centre-right – further to the right. This, combined with Macron's record in power, would make his claim to represent both left and right feel even thinner, and that might bring Macron's experiment with French politics to a failed end.

See: ECFR news entry in: <https://ecfr.eu/article/frances-presidential-election-how-the-far-right-could-win/>, retrieved on 18.11.2021

IsP140576-France: Far-right French politician suggests migrants be left to freeze at Polish border

Remarks by a far-right French politician on the migration crisis at the EU's borders with Belarus sparked concern across the country in November. Speaking to the French *BFM TV* news channel on the events transpiring on the Belarusian-Polish border, Julien Odoul, a member of the far-right National Rally party of Marine Le Pen, said the main task of European authorities must be to protect Europeans. "*We have to keep our borders closed to migrants, we mustn't let them in,*" Odoul said, adding that many of the migrants waiting on the border were



"*potentially dangerous.*" Responding to a question by journalist on whether the migrants ought to be left to freeze at the border, Odoul said: "*Absolutely, yes.*" Unable to hide his astonishment, the journalist repeated his question, and Odoul, defended himself by saying, "*Otherwise, Europe may have to face a migrant invasion.*" In October 2019, Odoul had requested that a Muslim woman take off her veil at a meeting in the eastern Besancon, attacking her verbally. The woman was chaperoning a school trip in which one of the students was her child.

See: Middle east monitor news entry in: https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20211112-far-right-french-politician-suggests-migrants-be-left-to-freeze-at-polish-border/?utm_source=pocket_mvlist, retrieved on 12.11.2021



IsP140577-Austria: Report: Austria’s police raids on Muslim activists and academics was state Islamophobia—British Muslim advocacy group CAGE and Vienna-based rights group ‘Assisting Children Traumatised by Police’ (ACT-P) had jointly authored a searing report demanding the appointment of an investigative commission to probe Operation Luxor. The Austrian Government carried out one of the country’s largest police operations on November 9, 2020 where more than 30 Muslim activists and academics were arrested in a supposed witch-hunt of ‘Islamists’. To date no one affected by the raids had been charged for any offence, despite having their lives turned upside down. The raids were declared unlawful by the Graz Higher Regional Court, and had left a deep impact on the collective psyche of Muslims in the country. Azfar Shafi of CAGE and the co-author of the report said: *“Operation Luxor was the opening shot in an ongoing campaign of repression by the Austrian state against Muslims, in the name of combating ‘Political Islam’. Institutions like the Documentation Centre for Political Islam and its “Islam Map” which listed the names and addresses of Muslim organisations in the country were enabling Islamophobic attacks by the Austrian far-right with tacit approval from the state, the report highlighted. The governing ÖVP in Austria has managed successfully to fundamentally reshape the state’s politics towards Muslim communities by introducing the terminology of ‘Political Islam’ into the public discourse. The ÖVP has also been using institutions such as the Documentation Centre to produce knowledge that supports their narrative, in order to criminalise Muslimness and Muslim communities, which is seeping into the work of the domestic intelligence agency and subsequently police operations.”*

See: 5Pillarsuk news entry, in: <https://5pillarsuk.com/2021/11/10/report-austrias-police-raids-on-muslim-activists-and-academics-was-state-islamophobia/>, retrieved on 10.11.2021

IsP140578-Europe: Right-Wing Protests Erupt Across Europe Against COVID-19 Restrictions—Tens of thousands of protesters, many from far-right groups, marched through Vienna in November after the Austrian government announced a nationwide lockdown to contain skyrocketing coronavirus infections. Demonstrations against virus restrictions also took place in Switzerland, Croatia, Italy, Northern Ireland and the Netherlands. Protesters rallied against coronavirus restrictions and mandatory COVID-19 passes needed in many European countries to enter restaurants, Christmas markets or sports events, as well as mandatory vaccinations. In Switzerland, 2,000 people protested an upcoming referendum on whether to approve the government’s COVID-19 restrictions law, claiming it was discriminatory. A day after the

Rotterdam rioting, thousands gathered on Amsterdam's central Dam Square, despite organizers calling off the protest. In Northern Ireland, several hundred people opposed to vaccine passports protested outside the city hall in Belfast, where the city's Christmas market opened — a market where proof of vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test was required. In Croatia, thousands gathered in the capital of Zagreb, carrying flags, nationalist and religious symbols, along with banners against vaccination and what they describe as restrictions of people's freedoms. In France, Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin condemned violent protests in the Caribbean island of Guadeloupe, one of France's overseas territories. Twenty nine people had been detained by police overnight as authorities were sending 200 more police officers to the island and imposed a nightly curfew from 6 p.m. to 5 a.m.

See: Huffington post news entry in: https://www.huffpost.com/entry/right-wing-protests-erupt-across-europe-against-covid-19-restrictions_n_61991e3fe4b0451e54fa9766?utm_source=pocket_mylist, retrieved on 20.11.2021

IsP140579-Italy: Matteo Salvini: 'I refuse to think of substituting 10m Italians with 10m migrants'—Whether they're camped outside in freezing temperatures or stranded at sea, [Matteo Salvini](#) exhibited little sympathy for the asylum seekers blocked at European borders. The Italian far-right leader, who as interior minister attempted to stop NGO rescue boats landing in Italian ports, in one case leading to criminal charges, would travel to Warsaw in a show of solidarity with his Polish allies who had deployed hardcore tactics to ward off thousands of refugees trying to enter from Belarus. Salvini said: "*My objective is to give economic serenity to Italians to encourage them to have children. I refuse to think of substituting 10 million Italians with 10 million migrants.*"

See: The Guardian news entry in: https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/nov/25/matteo-salvini-interview-far-right-migration?utm_source=pocket_mylist, retrieved on 24.11.2021

ASIA

IsP140580-The Occupied Palestinian Territory: Israel demolishes Muslim cemetery near Al Aqsa Mosque to build park—The Israeli police had tightened the siege on the Yusufiya cemetery near Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem, while the municipality and the Israeli Nature and Parks Authority had demolished parts of the cemetery and tombstones since 25 October. Few days later, the Israeli authorities fenced the walls surrounding the cemetery and installed surveillance cameras, and on October 29, Israeli police fired tear gas to prevent dozens of Jerusalemites from visiting their dead. The Jerusalem municipality had been working overtime to demolish more parts of the cemetery since October 17, when the Jerusalem Magistrate's Court rejected a request submitted by the Committee for the Care of Islamic Cemeteries in Jerusalem to suspend bulldozing the cemetery and exhuming graves. The Israeli authorities were seeking to turn this part of the cemetery, which included the Martyrs' Monument where Palestinians and Jordanians who fought in the 1967 war were buried, into a public biblical park, around the walls of the Old City. The Yusufiya cemetery was established at the beginning of the Muslim conquest of Jerusalem, but it was restored and expanded during the reign of Salah al-Din al-Ayyubi and was named after him — Youssef bin Ayoub bin Shadi. After the city was occupied in 1967, the Jerusalem municipality took possession of the part that included the graves of the martyrs.

See: Al-Monitor news entry, in: <https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2021/11/israel-demolishes-muslim-cemetery-near-al-aqsa-mosque-build-park>, retrieved on 02.11.2021

IsP140581-The Occupied Palestinian Territory: Israeli troops raid al-Aqsa's Dome of Rock after razing mosque—The Palestinian Ministry of Endowment and Religious Affairs had condemned the Israeli regime over demolition of a mosque in the northern part of the occupied West Bank, describing the move a “clear attack on the holy sites and religious places for Muslims”. Husam Abu al-Rub, undersecretary of the ministry, slammed the demolition, saying it “violates international and humanitarian norms. This act is a clear challenge to the feelings of Muslims, and it requires us to take a serious stand to prevent its recurrence and the expansion of this occupation that spares no opportunity to push the entire region into a religious war, in its continuous encroachment on our Islamic sanctities,” he said in a statement. Abu al-Rub called on the international community and religious institutions to prevent further violations of ‘our’ sanctities and places of worship. According to a Palestinian official who monitored Israeli settlement activities and settler aggression in the West Bank, Israeli forces escorted a bulldozer into the town of Douma and razed the mosque to the ground. He noted that Israeli forces also destroyed farm roads in the southern part of the town. Head of the local council in Douma, said the demolished mosque spread over 60 square meters, and residents of the town frequently visited the mosque for prayers. The official said the Israeli army razed the mosque on the ground on an area classified as Area C without a permit. Area C of the West Bank constituted about 61 percent of the territory, and under the 1995 Oslo Accords between Israel and the Palestinian Authority (PA), control of the area was supposed to be gradually handed over to the PA, but Israel retained total control until today.

See: Press TV news entry, in: <https://www.presstv.ir/Detail/2021/11/05/669972/Palestine-slams-Israel%E2%80%99s-mosque-demolition-as-clear-attack-on-holy-sites-for-Muslims>, retrieved on 5.11.2021

IsP140582-India: Hate campaign in India against Urdu for being a ‘Muslim’ language—Hindu nationalist groups targeted Indian-born language after clothing brand came up with a Diwali advertisement with Urdu words. Hindu right-wing forces in India forced a leading firm to withdraw its festive season advertisement after it featured a couple of words from the Urdu language, which in the popular imagination in the country was a “Muslim language”. The company, FabIndia, issued an advertisement for Diwali – a significant Hindu festival that fell a month after – displaying its latest collection of clothes. The text at the top read: “Jashn-e-Rivaaz”. “Jashn” in Urdu mean a celebration while “Riwaaz”, mean tradition. The title translated to “A Celebration of Tradition”. However, a parliament member belonging to Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Tejasvi Surya, was not happy. “*Deepavali is not Jashn-e-Riwaaz*,” he posted on Twitter, calling Diwali by its more traditional name. “*This deliberate attempt of Abrahamisation of Hindu festivals, depicting models without traditional Hindu attires, must be called out.*” FabIndia was a household name in India selling clothes, furniture, home furnishings and food items. It had hundreds of showrooms across the vast country and abroad. Surya said the company “*must face economic costs for such deliberate misadventures*”. Soon, other members of the BJP and other Hindu nationalist groups started attacking FabIndia on social media, accusing the brand of “hurting” the religious sentiments of Hindus.

See: Aljazeera news entry, in: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/10/27/india-urdu-hindu-groups-hate-campaign-muslim-language-fabindia>, retrieved on 27.10.2021

IsP140583-India: ‘Hate won’: Indian Muslim comic says he’s ‘done’ after shows axed—A Muslim stand-up comedian in India, *Munawar Faruqi*, announced retirement after right-wing Hindu groups force cancellation of nearly a dozen shows in two months, while earlier in 2021. Faruqi posted on his Instagram profile after his show was again cancelled by the organisers in Bengaluru, the capital of southern Karnataka state. “We called off 12 shows in last two months because of the threats to venue and audience,” wrote the 29-year-old, whom the police in the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-governed state called a ‘controversial figure’. In January 2021, Faruqi was heckled by right-wing Hindus and forced to stop his performance at a cafe in Indore in the central state of Madhya Pradesh. The members of Hindu Rakshak Sangathan group in Indore alleged he had insulted Hindu gods during the rehearsals of his show. The son of a prominent local politician belonging to the BJP claimed he overheard Faruqi “*passing indecent remarks*” about Hindu gods and the powerful federal Home Minister Amit Shah, but he could not submit any evidence for his allegations. Still, Faruqi along with four others – Nalin Yadav, Prakhar Vyas, Priyam Vyas and Edwin Anthony – was roughed up and handed over to the police. Indore police initially claimed they had “enough evidence” on “objectionable comments” made against Hindu gods at the event. A senior police officer later told that Faruqi had not made the jokes at the show, but was “going to”. He ended up spending 37 days in jail for jokes he never told. In February, India’s Supreme Court said the allegations against Faruqi were vague and granted him interim bail after three lower courts refused to do so. Since then, right-wing Hindu groups had trained their guns on Faruqi. Over the past few months, the comedian’s shows had been cancelled in a number of Indian cities.

See: Aljazeera news entry in: https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/11/29/india-muslim-comic-munawar-faruqi-bangalore-hate-won?utm_source=pocket_mylist, retrieved on 29.11.2021

IsP140584-India: Christian groups launch a campaign to identify hotels and restaurants owned by non-Muslims for ‘spit free food’—Soldiers of Cross’, a Christian Group, had shared a district-wise list of Hindu-Christian owned hotels that they asserted were ‘spit and mucus’ free. The lists were widely circulated on Facebook, Whatsapp groups, and other social media platforms. Earlier in November, a video of a Muslim man allegedly spitting in the plate of food had rekindled the debate surrounding the unhygienic practices adopted by some Muslim cooks while preparing food. After the video went viral on social media, Christian groups in Kerala reportedly launched a campaign to identify hotels owned by non-Muslims and urged their followers to visit only these hotels for ‘spit - free food’. Social media pages of Christian groups such as ‘Soldiers of Cross’ shared lists of Kerala hotels that served “spit-free food”.



These lists included hotels owned by Hindus or Christians in different districts across the state that

they call “spit-free hotels”. A report said both Hindu and Christian Groups had been leading the campaign against Muslim hotel-owners. As a part of its campaign, the group was also asking people to avoid hotels and restaurants with ‘halal’ signboards, asserting that ‘spit food’ being served in there.

See: Opindia news entry in: https://www.opindia.com/2021/11/spit-free-food-christian-campaign-kerala-to-identify-hotels-owned-by-muslims/?utm_source=pocket_mylist, retrieved on 24.11.2021

IsP140585-India: 33% Muslims, 20% Dalits & Adivas is ‘faced discrimination at hospitals’, Oxfam survey finds—One-third of Muslims and over 20 per cent Dalits and Adivasis said they had been discriminated on the grounds of religion, caste, or because of illness in a hospital or by a healthcare professional, according to a survey by Oxfam India. The survey — titled ‘*Securing Rights of Patients in India*’ — provided a perspective on the plight of patients and citizens in the healthcare system. According to the survey, as many as 58 per cent of respondents said they were not provided with an estimated cost of treatment or procedure before it was started when they or their close relatives were hospitalised in the past 10 years. Thirty-one per cent respondents reported being denied case papers, patient records, investigation reports for treatment or procedure by the hospital even after requesting. Thirty-five per cent of the women surveyed said that they underwent physical examination .

See: The Print news entry in: <https://theprint.in/india/33-muslims-20-dalits-adivasis-faced-discrimination-at-hospitals-oxfam-survey-finds/771138/>, retrieved on 24.11.2021

IsP140586-India: Delhi riots: Court frames arson charges against father-son for setting mosque on fire—A Delhi court had laid charges of arson and rioting against a father-son duo for allegedly damaging and setting a Mosque on fire, vandalism, and stone-pelting during the February 2020 riots. Mithhan Singh and his son Jony Kumar were accused of allegedly being part of a violent mob that raised slogans Jai Shree Ram and damaged the mosque in Delhi's Khajuri Khas area on February 25, 2020. This prompted the complainant to climb the Fatima Masjid to save his life, and the mob then damaged the mosque and set it on fire. Mithhan Singh also exhorted his son to throw a small gas cylinder into the mosque, and along with the mob threw bottles containing inflammable material upon the houses belonging to a particular community. Communal clashes broke out in northeast Delhi in February 2020, after violence between the Citizenship (Amendment) Act supporters and its protesters spiraled out of control leaving at least 53 people dead and over 700 injured.

See: Firstpost news entry in: https://www.firstpost.com/india/delhi-riots-court-frames-arson-charges-against-father-son-for-setting-mosque-on-fire-10157031.html?utm_source=pocket_mylist, retrieved on 22.11.2021



IsP140587-India: Right-Wing Members "Purify" Garden After Namaz Prayers Offered In Gujarat—Members of the Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) performed a "purification ritual" at a lake garden in the posh Vastrapur area of Ahmedabad after they learnt that some Muslims had offered 'namaz' at the spot. VHP workers reached the garden to 'purify' the place. They chanted mantras and sprinkled 'Ganga jal'. Few days before, a video showing four Muslim men and two burqa-clad women performing namaz at the garden of the Vastrapur lake, a popular hangout in the city, surfaced on social media platforms. Footage suggested the video might have been shot by a resident of a multi-storey building near the lake.

See: ECFR news entry in: https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/video-shows-group-offering-namaz-in-ahmedabad-garden-vhp-men-purify-site-2613676?utm_source=pocket_mylist, retrieved on 17.11.2021

IsP140588-India: India's Assam Eviction Drive Heightens Insecurities of State's Muslim Population—An eviction drive in India's northeastern state of Assam of residents living on government-owned land had heightened insecurities among the state's Muslim population according to rights activists. The evictions came into national spotlight after two people were killed in September during one of the drives to evict 800 mostly Muslim families from Dhalpur in Assam's Darrang district. The violence caused outrage after a video went viral on social media showed a policeman shooting a young man who was running toward him with a stick — he was among residents protesting the evictions and demanding rehabilitation. Seconds later, the video showed him lying motionless on the ground and a government-appointed photographer kicking the victim's body. The young man, Moninul Haque, and a 12-year-old boy who got caught in the violence were killed. Many of those displaced told that they had been farming the land for decades since moving to the area after losing their own land to river erosion. The eviction drive resumed in November as Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party that ruled the state vowed to press on with its campaign to clear people settled on government land. The campaigns to clear government land were being carried out in areas populated predominantly by Muslims.

See: VOA news entry in: https://www.voanews.com/a/india-s-assam-eviction-drive-heightens-insecurities-of-state-s-muslim-population-/6313404.html?utm_source=pocket_mylist, retrieved on 15.11.2021

IsP140589-Brazil: Bolsonaro meets Italy far-right leader—The Brazilian far-right leader chose to skip UN climate talks in Glasgow after the G20 summit in Rome to instead spent two days in northern and central Italy. He was met by flag-waving supporters but also protesters on Monday when he collected an honorary citizenship from the northern town of Anguillara Veneta. His other programme was no less controversial. The local bishop boycotted a ceremony attended by Bolsonaro and Salvini in the cemetery of the Tuscan town of Pistoia, where a monument remembers 500 Brazilians who died fighting the Nazis. The diocese condemned the politicization of the event, while neither the mayor of Pistoia nor the head of the Tuscan region turned out to welcome the Brazilian.

See: France24 news entry in: <https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20211102-brazil-s-bolsonaro-meets-italy-far-right-leader>, retrieved on 2.11.2021

IsP140590-Argentina: Far right gains ground in Argentina with attacks on the ‘political class’—The polls held ahead of legislative elections on November 14 forecasted Javier Milei winning a seat in the Chamber of Deputies. This was the first time an ultra-conservative candidate had achieved since the country’s return to democracy in 1983. Milei was elected to Argentina’s Chamber of Deputies for the Avanza Libertad (Freedom Moves Forward) coalition which showed the political grouping that he founded taking at least 13% of the vote in the capital during legislative elections. In Buenos Aires province, the country’s largest electoral district, it was estimated Avanza Libertad would glean over 5%. When the new lawmakers assume their office in December 2021, the extreme right would be represented in Argentina’s Congress for the first time.

See: English Elpais news entry in: https://english.elpais.com/usa/2021-11-09/far-right-gains-ground-in-argentina-with-attacks-on-the-political-class.html?utm_source=pocket_mylist, retrieved on 9.11.2021

IsP140591-Republic of Chile: José Chile: Antonio Kast, the Chilean Bolsonaro, revives the right—José Antonio Kast,

current candidate of the Republican Party – and an extreme right of the Chilean political map – openly defender of Pinochet’s economic legacy and currently a surprising leader in the poll, with a 24% intention to vote. Kast served as a deputy from 2002 to 2018 for the Independent Democratic Union, a right-wing party with Pinochet roots. He became a



favorite of the press and now of the most conservative sectors of the country that had gone from supporting Sebastián Sichel —the candidate of the ruling party that had been in a tailspin for months – and to assure, especially on social networks, that they support Kast.

See: oicanadian news entry in: <https://oicanadian.com/jose-antonio-kast-the-chilean-bolsonaro-revives-the-right-the-far-right-candidate-embodies-the-order-demanded-by-the-elite/>, retrieved on 22.11.2021

POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

IsP140592-Amnesty International: Sri Lankan Authorities must end violence and discrimination against Muslims— In a report published in October 2021, Amnesty International said: “*Sri Lanka’s Muslim community had suffered consistent discrimination, harassment and violence since 2013, culminating in the adoption of government policies explicitly targeting the minority group*”. Anti-Muslim sentiment in Sri Lanka had evolved from a series of attacks within the society, into government policies discriminative against Muslims, including the forced cremation of Muslim Covid-19 victims and proposals to ban *niqab* (face veil) and *madrasas* (religious schools). The campaign gave rise to a number of attacks on mosques and Muslim businesses the same year, followed by anti-Muslim riots in the coastal town of Aluthgama after a Sinhala Buddhist nationalist group held a rally. Shortly after 2017 election, anti-Muslim violence flared in the town of Ginthota, similarly seen in 2018 in Digana and Ampara. The Easter Sunday attacks of 2019 made things even worse. Following these attacks, on 13 May 2019, Muslims in several towns in the North-Western Province of Sri Lanka came under attack during Ramadan. Mosques across the country were also attacked and a spate of ‘hate speech’ posts and anti-Muslim vitriol was seen on social media. Emergency regulations rushed through by the authorities were also used to arbitrarily arrest hundreds of Muslims in the wake of the attacks.

See: The Amnesty International entry, in: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2021/10/sri-lanka-authorities-must-end-violence-and-discrimination-against-muslims/>, retrieved on 17.10.2021

NORTH AMERICA

IsP140593-US: Islamic Center of Tacoma overwhelmed with support following fire, ongoing arson investigation—Islamic Center of Tacoma was set on fire and being investigated as an arson after a witness reported seeing someone believed to have started the fire fleeing the scene, Pierce County Sheriff’s Department spokesperson said. The following day, the church hosted the Islamic community’s meeting to address the incident. Donations and calls of support flooded to the Islamic center over \$225,000 been garnered. Tacoma faith leaders had offered up their own churches and space for Islamic services and Tacoma Mayor had also reached out with support.

See: The Seatletimes newspaper entry, in: <https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/islamic-center-of-tacoma-overwhelmed-with-support-following-fire-ongoing-arson-investigation/>, retrieved on 14.10.2021

IsP140594-US: Bullied for wearing a hijab: How a school came together to protect a classmate—Students at Camino Real Middle School came together to support a seventh-grade student who was bullied for wearing her hijab at school. The seventh-grader confided in social studies teacher Janice Adams after several students at Camino Real called her a “terrorist,” and verbally assaulted her using other Islamophobic language. One student was even dared to rip her hijab off, but he did not go through with it. The day after the bullying occurred on Sept. 22, the leadership class, the student council, members of the football team and members of the volleyball teams organized to escort the seventh-grader to class between classes. The teacher put together pictures from the student escort of around 100 kids, and posted a video on TikTok with the caption “*We are Camino Wildcats! Way to show we are one! We don’t tolerate bullying!!*”

See: The LCSun news entry, in: <https://www.lcsun-news.com/story/news/education/2021/10/08/camino-real-students-take-stance-against-islamophobia/6023008001/> <https://5pillarsuk.com/2021/10/07/human-aid-uk-accuses-charity-commission-of-islamophobia-following-end-of-inquiry/>, retrieved on 24.10.2021

IsP140595-US: Professor on leave amid probe into posts on women, Muslims—A University of Montana computer science professor had been placed on paid leave while the university

investigated now-deleted blog posts that maligned women, Muslims and people who were LGBTQ. The Montana Kaimin student newspaper was first to report the blog posts by tenured associate professor Rob Smith in which he said women begin to “lose value” after age 16, that faithful Muslims were not peaceful and that child sex trafficking and pedophilia are driven by the sins of accepting queer and transgender people. His blog was subtitled: “*Explaining the prophecies and the scriptures to all who desire to hear them.*”

See: Tellmamauk news entry, in: <https://apnews.com/article/science-business-montana-missoula-university-of-montana-3d67ed898898e70533c05f8b176dd0aa>, retrieved on 14.10.2021

IsP140596-US: Jan. 6 Panel Moves to Recommend Criminal Charges Against Bannon—The House selected committee investigating the Capitol riot on January 6, which would vote to recommend a criminal contempt of Congress charge against Stephen K. Bannon after he defied a subpoena. Stephen K. Bannon, a former top adviser to President Donald J. Trump, defied a subpoena in accordance with a directive from the former president. The move would escalate to be a major legal battle between the select committee and the former president over access to crucial witnesses and documents that could shed light on what precipitated the assault, when a pro-Trump mob stormed the Capitol and disrupted Congress’s formal count of the votes that confirmed President Biden’s election. The fight would test how far Congress was able to go in pressing forward on the investigation in the face of stone-walling by the former president. Should the House ultimately approve the referral, the Justice Department would decide whether to accept it and pursue a criminal case. So far, Biden administration had taken the unusual step of refusing to honor Mr. Trump’s claims of executive privilege, which could shield White House deliberations or documents involving the president from disclosure.

See: New York Times news entry, in: <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/10/14/us/politics/jan-6-capitol-riot-bannon.html>, retrieved on 18.10.2021

IsP140597-US: lawmakers introduced bill on combating global Islamophobia—A group of over 30 American lawmakers led by Congresswoman Ilham Omar had introduced a bill in the House of Representatives against growing incidents of Islamophobia worldwide. The bill urged the State Department to include state-sponsored Islamophobic violence and impunity in its annual human rights reports. Also, the creation of the Special Envoy that would help policymakers better understand the interconnected, global problem of anti-Muslim bigotry. It would also establish a comprehensive strategy for establishing US leadership in combating Islamophobia worldwide. Proponents of the bill, which required the State Department to create a Special Envoy for monitoring and combating Islamophobia, had put India in the category of China and Myanmar for alleged atrocities against Muslims. Congresswoman Omar said: “*We are seeing a rise in Islamophobia in nearly every corner of the globe*”. A press statement issued by her office said that there had been a staggering rise in incidents of violent Islamophobia. “*Whether it is the atrocities being committed against the Uyghurs in China and the Rohingya in Burma (Myanmar), the crackdowns on Muslim populations in India and Sri Lanka, the scapegoating of Muslim refugees and other Muslims in Hungary and Poland, the acts of white supremacist violence targeting Muslims in New Zealand and Canada, or the targeting of minority Muslim communities in Muslim-majority countries like Pakistan, Bahrain and Iran, the problem of Islamophobia is global in scope,*” it said.

See: The Hindu Businessline news entry, in: <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/world/us-lawmakers-introduce-bill-on-combating-global-islamophobia/article37119995.ece>, retrieved on 2.11.2021

IsP140598-US: N.J. teacher suspended after allegedly telling Muslim student, 'We don't negotiate with terrorists'—A New Jersey high school teacher was suspended after allegedly mocking a Muslim student in class and calling him a terrorist, officials and the teen's family said. Mohammed Zubi, a 17-year-old senior at Ridgefield Memorial High School, asked a teacher if he could have some more time to complete an assignment, according to his family. That's when the

instructor allegedly quipped, "*We don't negotiate with terrorists,*" said Selaedin Maksut, executive director of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) New Jersey, speaking on behalf of the family. The Ridgefield School District said in a statement that it "*has absolutely no tolerance for any sort of discrimination against any student or staff member and strives to create an inclusive environment where students' and staff members' race, religion, national origin and sexual orientation are embraced.*" The teacher had been suspended while the district investigated and intended to pursue legal remedies.

See: NBCNews news entry, in: <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/n-j-teacher-suspended-after-allegedly-telling-muslim-student-we-n1282383>, retrieved on 26.10.2021

IsP140599-US: Omar Seeks Action Over House Colleague's Remarks on Muslims—Democratic Rep. Ilhan Omar of Minnesota called for House leaders to take “appropriate action” against Colorado Republican Rep. Lauren Boebert for using anti-Muslim language in describing a recent encounter she had with Omar at the US Capitol. Speaker Nancy Pelosi and other House Democratic leaders demanded Boebert retract her comments. Boebert and a staffer were taking a Capitol elevator when she saw an alarmed Capitol police officer running toward them. She said she turned to her left and spotted Omar standing beside them. “*Well, she doesn't have a backpack. We should be fine,*” Boebert recalled saying, drawing laughs from her audience. “*And I said, ‘Oh look, the jihad squad decided to show up for work today.’*” Omar publicly urged Pelosi and GOP House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy to discipline Boebert. “*Saying I am a suicide bomber is no laughing matter,*” Omar tweeted. “*@GOPLeader and @SpeakerPelosi need to take appropriate action, normalizing this bigotry not only endangers my life but the lives of all Muslims. Anti-Muslim bigotry has no place in Congress.*” Pelosi and other top House Democrats called on Boebert in a statement to “*fully retract these comments and refrain from making similar ones going forward.*” They also demanded that Republican leaders “*to address this priority with the Congresswoman and to finally take real action to confront racism.*”

See: USNews news entry in: https://www.usnews.com/news/politics/articles/2021-11-26/gop-rep-boebert-apologizes-to-muslims-for-omar-remarks?utm_source=pocket_mvlist, retrieved on 25.11.2021

IsP140600-US: White nationalists must pay \$25 million in damages for their part in deadly Va. Rally—A jury ordered far-right groups and individuals to pay more than \$25 million in damages for their part in the deadly Unite the Right rally in Virginia that happened back in 2017. The jurors concluded that all of the defendants conspired under Virginia civil law. Five of them were found responsible for violence.

See: NPR news entry in: https://www.npr.org/2021/11/24/1058787702/white-nationalists-must-pay-25-million-in-damages-for-their-part-in-deadly-va-ra?utm_source=pocket_mvlist, retrieved on 24.11.2021

IsP140601-US: Jan. 6 investigators subpoena Proud Boys, Oath Keepers as probe turns to domestic extremism—The US House selected committee had subpoenaed the leaders of the Proud Boys and Oath Keepers, far right extremist groups that responded to former President Donald Trump's call to descend on Washington and played central roles in the attack on the Capitol, namely Proud Boys Chair Enrique Tarrío and Oath Keepers founder Stewart Rhodes, as well as both of the organizations they lead. It also subpoenaed a lower-profile far-right group, 1st Amendment Praetorian, along with its leader, Robert Patrick Lewis. Chair Bennie Thompson said in a statement the panel sought



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information from those “*reportedly involved with planning the attack, with the violent mob that stormed the Capitol on January 6th, or with efforts to overturn the results of the election,*” and believed that the subpoenaed individuals and organizations had relevant information. The subpoenas demanded documents by Dec. 7 and depositions the following week.

See: Politico news entry in: <https://www.politico.com/news/2021/11/23/january-6-subpoena-proud-boys-oath-keepers-523255>, retrieved on 22.11.2021

IsP140602-US: Gala raises funds for upcoming “Mosque of the Prophet” in East Dearborn— East

Dearborn looked forward to a new mosque and prayer space thanks to the efforts of community members to develop an extension of the long-running Islamic Institute of Knowledge (IIOK) on Schaefer Road. The new mosque would carry the name of the Prophet Muhammad, included Islamic house of worship



architecture, provided a call to prayer for the area and provided much needed prayer space for worshippers. The IIOK was founded in 1983, opening its current facility on Schaefer in 1998. In 2001, the institute also opened the American Islamic Academy, a K-12 school next door to the mosque. The institute provided essential programming on education and youth and includes a Husseiniyya, or social hall, and an extensive library, classrooms and industrial kitchen. With a growing base of worshippers, the need for a dedicated prayer space arose. The Mosque of the Prophet project had taken five years.

See: Arabamerican news entry in: https://www.arabamericannews.com/2021/11/12/gala-raises-funds-for-upcoming-mosque-of-the-prophet-in-east-dearborn/?utm_source=pocket_mvlist, retrieved on 12.11.2021

IsP140603-Canada: Company says it has expanded its policy on 'dangerous individuals and organizations'—

Meta, the company that owned Facebook and Instagram had banned Quebec far-right group Atalante from its platforms. Atalante was a far-right group based in Quebec, and its Facebook page was described as openly neo-Nazi by many experts. A



spokesperson for Meta said the decision was made in accordance with its policy on dangerous individuals and organizations. The statement noted the group was removed because of its affiliation with hate groups and appropriation of hate group symbols, including Nazi symbols and salutes. The company had also deleted groups affiliated with Atalante on the platforms. Atalante's

page also featured displays of support for the Italian fascist group CasaPound. Under a post endorsing "national preference," the idea of prioritizing natural-born citizens in the allocation of resources, multiple commentators wrote "*les nôtres avant les autres*" — "us before them." Moreover, the group's leader was charged with criminal harassment and intimidation, in connection with a confrontation at the Montreal offices of Vice Media in 2018. The move by Meta came two and a half years after Facebook banned several other organizations and individuals it found to be engaged in promoting hate, including Faith Goldy, Kevin Goudreau, Canadian Nationalist Strikeforce, Wolves of Odin and the Soldiers of Odin (also known as Canadian Infidels), in 2019.

See: CBC news entry in: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/2-years-after-banning-other-canadian-hate-groups-facebook-deletes-quebec-far-right-group-1.6244609>, retrieved on 11.11.2021

EUROPE

IsP140604-French chief rabbi calls Jewish prospective presidential candidate an ‘antisemite’—France’s Chief Rabbi called Eric Zemmour, a Jewish journalist and far-right provocateur thought to be weighing a presidential bid, an antisemite. Zemmour, who had called Muslim immigrants “invaders” and in 2016 said that most drug dealers are Arab or African, was now running second and ahead of Marine Le Pen. During an interview for France 2, Rabbi Haim Korsia was asked whether Zemmour, the son of Jewish immigrants from Algeria, was an antisemite. After first asking his interviewer whether Zemmour was Jewish, Korsia replied: “Antisemite? Certainly. A racist? Definitely.” The leaders of French Jewish institutions had expressed hostility toward Zemmour, who had endorsed a controversial reading of World War II history in which French Nazi collaborators allegedly sacrificed some Jews to save others.

See: JTA news entry in: <https://www.jta.org/2021/11/01/global/french-chief-rabbi-calls-jewish-prospective-presidential-candidate-an-antisemite>, retrieved on 1.11.2021

IsP140605-France: France detains two far-right activists—French security personnel had detained two far-right activists as they were discussing purchasing arms on the instant messaging application Telegram. The General Directorate of Internal Security apprehended the activists in southwestern Montauban and Gironde provinces. A preliminary investigation was initiated by the National Anti-Terrorist Prosecutor's Office against the activists for forming a terrorist organization and "*direct provocation through an online means of communication to an act of terrorism.*" In searches at the activists’ residences, dozens of weapons and ammunition as well as equipment for making explosives were also discovered.

See: The Yenisafak news entry in: <https://www.yenisafak.com/en/world/france-detains-two-far-right-activists-3584384>, retrieved on 18.11.2021

IsP140606-France: To Combat a Rising Tide of Islamophobia in France, the Government Has Organized 18 Islamic Art Exhibitions Nationwide—French government was rolling out a cluster of simultaneous exhibitions about Islamic art and culture as part of a wider effort to combat a rise in Islamophobic sentiment within the country. The exhibitions, which opened in 18 French cities in November would run for four months, aimed to showcase the diversity of Islamic culture. Titled “Islamic Arts: A Past for a Present,” the government initiative was being organized by the Réunion des Musées Nationaux-Grand Palais, and led by the head of the Louvre’s Islamic art department. Some 210 works borrowed from national and regional museums were on view, including 60 masterpieces loaned from the Louvre. Among the stated aims of the exhibitions was to dismantle some presumptions and clichés about Islamic culture and to showcase cultural and religious diversity in the Islamic world, demonstrating that Islamic culture went beyond the religious, was more varied than the Arab civilization, and also included figurative art and images of people, including some depictions of the Prophet Muhammad.

French president Emmanuel Macron, first suggested the idea for the exhibitions in a speech in October, when he stressed that the government must encourage “another view” of Islamic culture rather than the prevailing “factionalism of radical Islam.”

See: Artnet news entry in: https://news.artnet.com/art-world/france-government-2039893?utm_source=pocket_mylist, retrieved on 24.11.2021

IsP140607-France: French police arrest far-right extremists on charges of preparing a coup d'état—On October 22, French police arrested the far-right extremist Remy Daillet for “plans for coups d'état and other violent actions,” and “association with criminal terrorist actors.” He allegedly led a 300-person nation-wide fascist paramilitary organisation, which had planned attacks on the Élysée presidential palace and other institutions in a coup d'état. On April 12, Daillet allegedly emailed multiple deputies and senators, threatening them with violence in response to the imposition of mandatory vaccination. “*The Republic is no longer the dominant idea,*” he said, warning that “*the hour of reckoning*” had come and that “*the popular overthrow is inevitable against a genocidal government that had promoted a vaccine that kills... It's the last chance we're giving you.*” The day of action would involve a direct attack on the Élysée Palace and nerve centers of the capital, including the National Assembly and the Senate. They would also take control of media in order to control live broadcasts. “The aim would have been to control broadcasts as long as possible before police removed us, to stay at least 3-4 hours before we were removed,” Sylvain P., one of the “captains” of the paramilitary organisation in the Ile-de-France region around Paris, said during questioning.

See: WSWs news entry in: <https://www.wsws.org/en/articles/2021/11/12/dail-n12.html>, retrieved on 15.11.2021

IsP140608-UK : "It has no place in our society": Islamophobia Awareness Month launched at city mosque in bid to spread more awareness—A series of events have been launched at the Birmingham Central Mosque marking the beginning of Islamophobia Awareness Month. Founded in 2012, the month-long programme of events aimed to spread awareness around the impact of Islamophobia on British Muslims living in the UK. In the event, speakers discussed the definition of Islamophobia and the importance of the Muslim communities supporting organisations or individual targeted with hate crime. Throughout the month, the mosque arranged events like Muslim women's self defence classes, coffee mornings, Islamophobia workshops for the youth and a Muslim women's panel.

See: Morocco World news entry in: https://www.birminghammail.co.uk/news/midlands-news/it-no-place-society-islamophobia-22102743?utm_source=pocket_mylist, 8.11.2021

IsP140609-UK: Liverpool's leaders urge unity amid reports of Islamophobic attacks—Liverpool's politicians and faith leaders had urged solidarity in the face of division after reports of Islamophobic attacks following a suspected suicide bombing in the city. Multi-faith representatives delivered a joint statement of solidarity outside Liverpool women's hospital, where a car was blown up two days earlier. The Rev Canon Dr Crispin Pailing, the rector of Liverpool, said the attack had “*shocked people of every faith – and those of no faith – across the city*”. Leyla Mashjari, an associate director of Al-Ghazali Multicultural Centre, representing Liverpool's Muslim community, said: “*At this difficult time let us remember that there is more that unites than divides us.*” She said she had heard reports of Islamophobia since the weekend. Kim Johnson, the Labour MP for the area where police investigating the bombing said that her team had heard about incidents where women wearing hijabs had faced abuse.

See: The Guardian news entry in: <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/nov/16/liverpool-leaders-urge-solidarity-amid-reports-islamophobic-attacks>, retrieved on 16.11.2021

IsP140610-UK: Western students stand up for those targeted for being visibly Muslim Social Sharing—A few hundred students took part in November event, a show of solidarity to combat anti-Islamophobic violence. Five months after four members of a London Muslim family were run down while out for an evening walk, students at Western University took a few steps to push back. A few hundred students and supporters took part in the Shalwar Kameez walk against Islamophobia and Racism. Shalwar kameez referred to the traditional loose-fitting clothing worn by many Muslim men and women. Some of the speakers said the June 6 attack highlighted something they had long known: That being visibly Muslim can turn any follower of Islam into a target. Opiyo Oloya, newly hired associate vice-president of equity, diversity and inclusion, offered support from the campus community for students who've become targets of racism and anti-Islamic hate.

See: CBC news entry in: https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/london/western-students-stands-up-for-those-targeted-for-being-visibly-muslim-1.6247189?utm_source=pocket_mylist, retrieved on 12.11.2021

ASIA

IsP140611-Singapore: Singapore bans distribution of publication containing Charlie Hebdo's cartoons of Prophet Muhammad— The Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA) had banned a publication containing religiously offensive images that insulted religions from being distributed in Singapore. In a media release, IMDA said the publication titled Red Lines: Political Cartoons and the Struggle Against Censorship was found to be “objectionable” under the Undesirable Publications Act. The book by Singaporean academic Cherian George and graphic novelist Sonny Liew was published in August this year by The MIT Press. The book's website described the content as exploring the motives and methods of the political censorship of cartoons around the world. It contained 29 offensive images, including reproductions of French satirical weekly newspaper Charlie Hebdo's cartoons of Prophet Muhammad, which led to protests and violence overseas. The publication also contained derogatory images of Jesus Christ and Hindu deities. The reproduction of these graphics had led to unrest around the world, including in Indonesia, the Middle East and the United Kingdom. It had also resulted in violent attacks, with one even involving the original publisher's premises and staff in 2015, where 12 people were killed. Last year, a French teacher was killed after he showed his students the caricatures of Prophet Muhammad during a lesson. IMDA said the offensive images were identified in consultation with the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth. Minister-in-charge of Muslim Affairs Masagos Zulkifli said that any material or media that denigrated any religion or religious figures "*must be treated very carefully*", even if it was for academic purposes. "*Especially when they may inflame a community to act violently against the author or producer and worse against another community*," Mr Masagos said.

See: Todayonline news entry, in: <https://www.todayonline.com/singapore/singapore-bans-distribution-publication-containing-charlie-hebdos-cartoons-prophet>, retrieved on 1.11.2021

IsP140612-India: 'Govt. urged to alleviate sufferings of Muslim community'—BJP leader and former chairman of Karnataka State Minorities Commission and Minorities Development Corporation Anwar Manippadi urged the government to alleviate the sufferings of Muslim minority community in Karnataka saying they were being ill-treated. In a letter to CM Basavaraj Bommai, Mr. Manippadi said, "*It is so disheartening to see our government run by a party supposed to be a party with a difference - BJP and having trust and hope in Prime Minister Modi Ji's concept of 'Sab Ka Saath Sab Ka Vikas' which here in Karnataka is not being practised. It is painful to know of the sufferings of Muslims in Karnataka everywhere. I meet my Muslim brethren and they complain that BJP Government is ill-treating, harassing and threatening them with dire consequences.*" He said the Muslim community in Doddanagamangala village in Bengaluru South

taluk was unable to get a burial ground despite a court order in 2005. During the pandemic, Muslims had to bury dead bodies in far-off places incurring huge expenditure. There was no Muslim burial ground in the village and up to 6-7 km in surrounding areas. The two-acre land in Survey No. 5 was not given to Muslims despite proper allotment, he said. He urged to take right decisions so that Muslims feel they were part of the nation.

See: TheHindu news entry in: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Mangalore/govt-urged-to-alleviate-sufferings-of-muslim-community/article37744408.ece>, retrieved on 29.11.2021

IsP140613-India: Duo arrested after two Muslim schoolgirls allegedly attacked by members of Hindu groups—Two Muslim girls were allegedly attacked and assaulted by over 40 people from pro-Hindu organisations. The incident was reported at KRC Circle in Shanivarsanthe. Meanwhile, the accused had been booked under the POCSO Act and two arrests had been made by the police. The father of one of the girls said, *“My daughter and her friend were physically assaulted by boys from the Sangh Pariwar as they attended the classes in her college. They had to remove the burqa before entering the classes. Meanwhile, my daughter’s friend lent her burqa to a Christian girl from the same college in the morning. Further, my daughter and her friend were waiting for this Christian girl to return the burqa in the evening. However, while the burqa was being returned, my daughter and her friend were attacked by over 40 goons.”* He said that the girls were locked up, beaten, abused and assaulted. The burqa of a girl was torn and they suffered injuries on their back including scratch marks. The girls were later admitted to Kodalipet Hospital. Meanwhile, the accused have released a video on social media 'policing' the girls for handing over the burqa to a non-Muslim girl.

See: New Indian Express news entry in: <https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/karnataka/2021/nov/19/duo-arrested-after-two-muslim-schoolgirls-allegedly-attacked-by-members-of-hindu-groups-2385661.html>, retrieved on 20.11.2021