



ORGANIZATION OF ISLAMIC COOPERATION

Political Affairs Department

Islamophobia Observatory

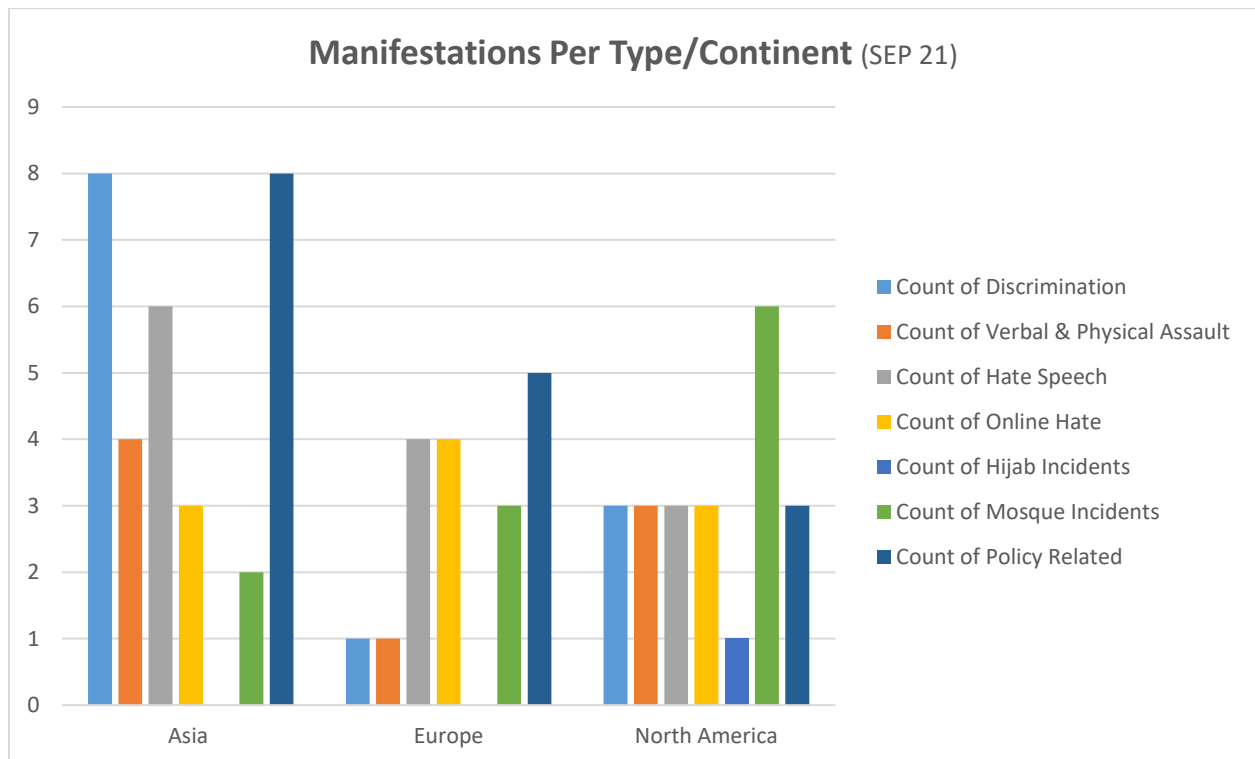
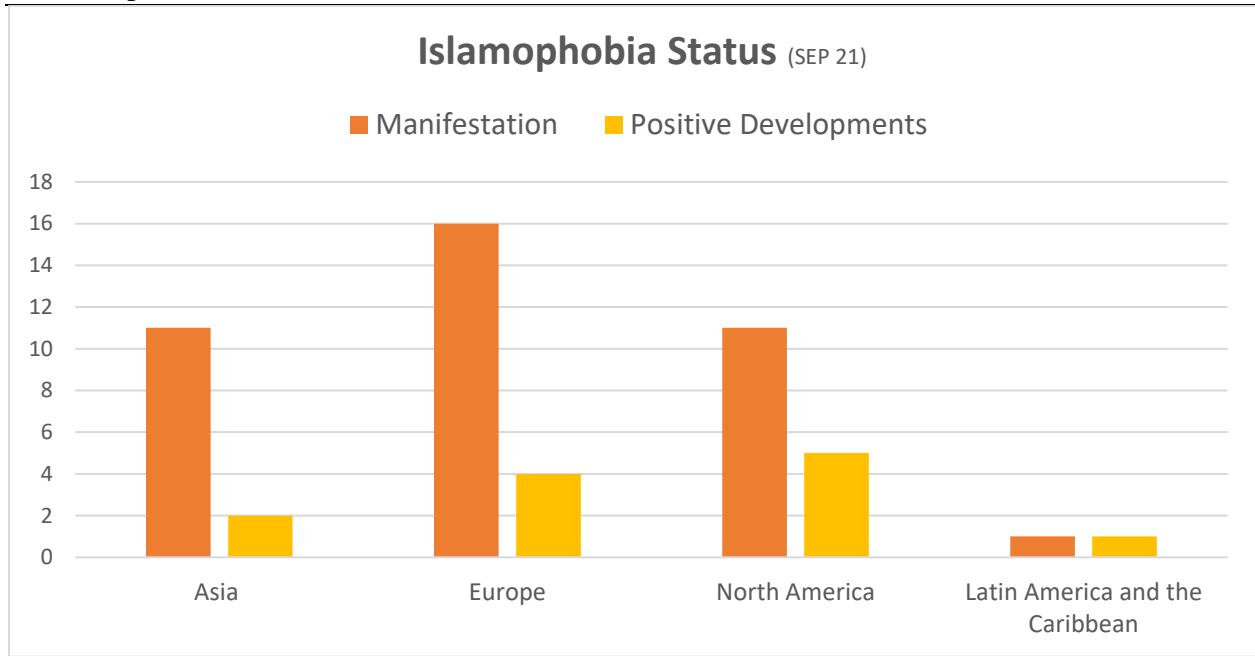
Islamophobia Monitoring

Month: September 2021



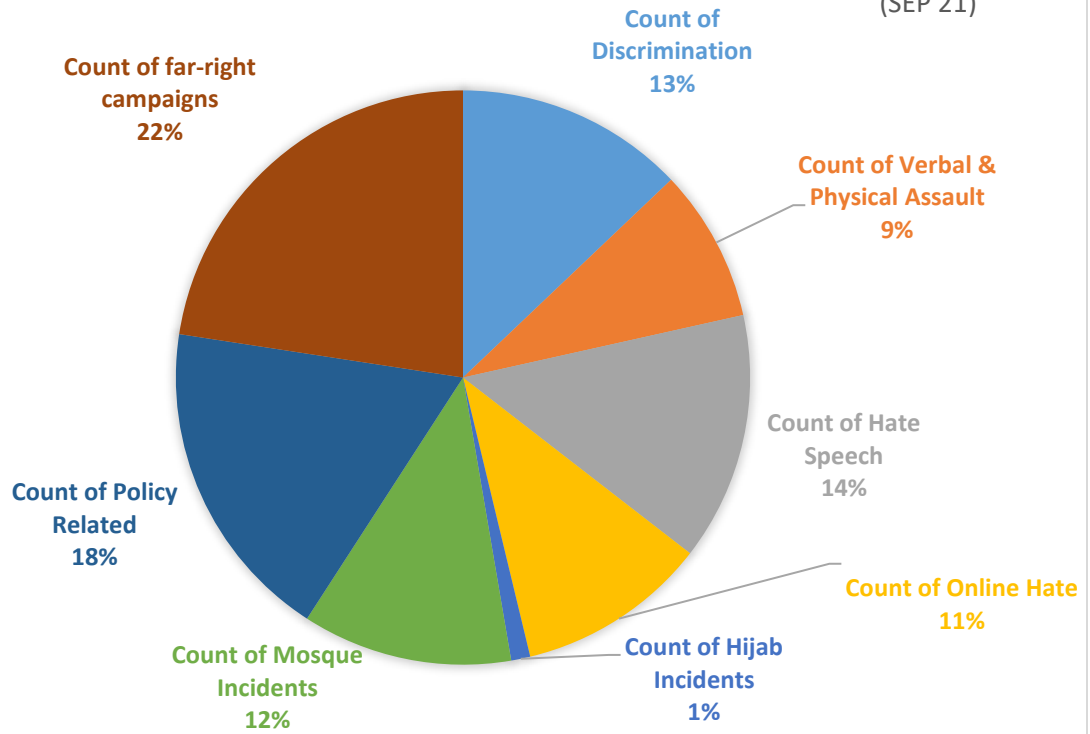
OIC Islamophobia Observatory

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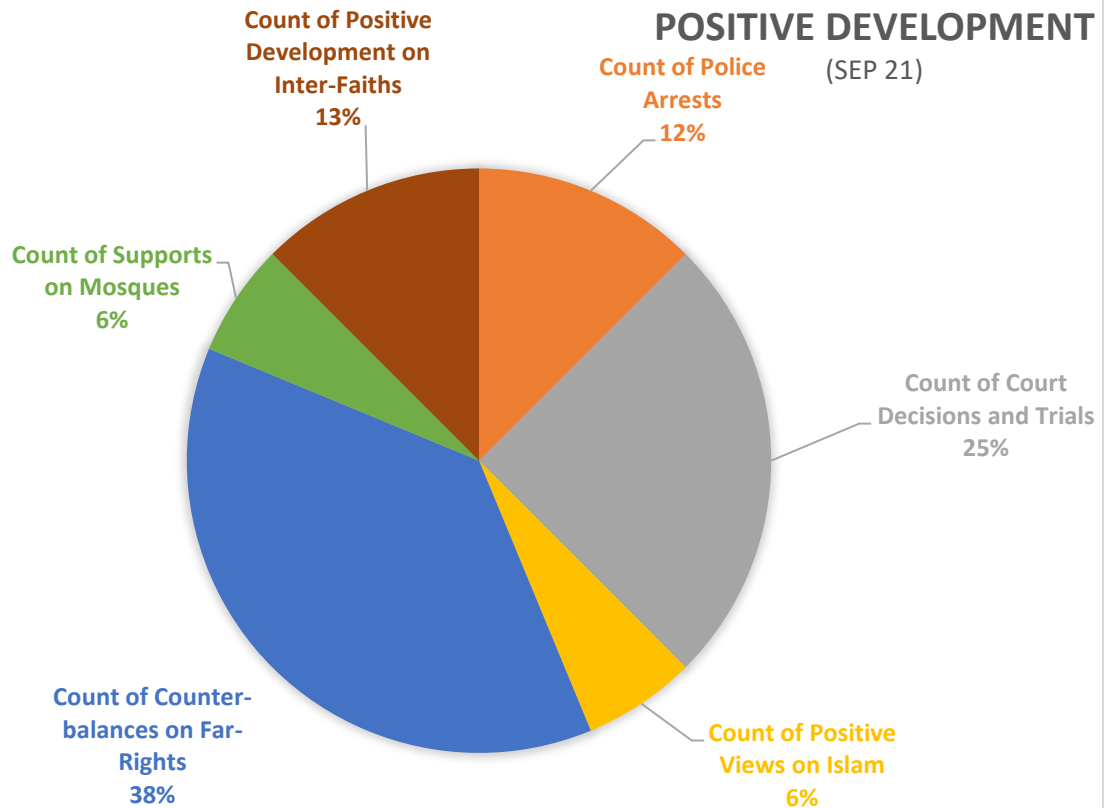
MANIFESTATION

(SEP 21)



POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT

(SEP 21)



MANIFESTATIONS OF ISLAMOPHOBIA

NORTH AMERICA



IsP140452-US: Pig mask, hate sign found outside Islamic center on anniversary of 9/11— The Austin chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations said a pig mask and hate sign were found outside an Islamic Center and school on Saturday, the 20th anniversary of September 11. Officials at the Islamic Center of Greater Austin and Austin Peace Academy took a photo of a bloodied pig's head mask that was staked into the front lawn of the mosque along with a sign that read: "Muslims: you are as unclean to God as a pig is to you. Have your idolatry washed clean by the blood of Jesus Christ."

See Fox 7 Austin News' entry, in: <https://www.fox7austin.com/news/pig-mask-hate-sign-found-outside-islamic-center-on-anniversary-of-9-11>, retrieved on 16.09.2021



IsP140453-US: Comparing Texas' abortion ban to Islamic law is inaccurate, perpetuates Islamophobia, experts say— The comparisons to Islamic law and Muslim majority countries after the Texas abortion law took effect Wednesday (Sept. 1) were almost immediate. On September 1, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution published a cartoon which depicted two women in black burqas with a speech bubble above them that read: "Pray for Texas women ...". An Arizona Republic opinion column made the case that the new law — which banned abortions as early as six weeks into a pregnancy — "seems to have less to do with the U.S. constitution than with Sharia law." The headline declared: "Texas goes Taliban on abortion rights. Is Arizona next?"

See The Washington Post newspaper entry, in: https://www.washingtonpost.com/religion/comparing-texas-abortion-ban-to-islamic-law-is-inaccurate-perpetuates-islamophobia-experts-say/2021/09/03/caf8cd8a-0d14-11ec-a7c8-61bb7b3bf628_story.html Image Source: <https://twitter.com/mluckovichajc/status/1433169465806622720>, retrieved on 13.09.2021

Americans who say Islam is more likely to encourage violence among believers



Reproduced from [Pew Research Center](#); Chart: Axios Visuals

IsP140454-US: Negative biases toward U.S. Muslims, Islam have become more partisan— In the 20 years since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, Republicans — far more than Democrats — had increasingly come to view Islam as more likely than other religions to encourage violence among believers, according to surveys by Pew Research Center which was Published on September 2. According to the research, Muslims had continued to face bias and discrimination in the U.S. two decades after 9/11, and those negative biases had become increasingly partisan. As of August 2021, seven in 10 Republicans associated Islam with violence. While only about one-third of Democrats thought the same way, they were still more likely to think of Islam as encouraging violence than in early 2002. In a September 2001 survey, 28% of adults said they had grown more suspicious of people of Middle Eastern descent; that grew to 36% less than a year later. Republicans, in particular, increasingly came to associate Muslims and Islam with violence. In 2002, just a quarter of Americans – including 32% of Republicans and 23% of Democrats – said Islam was more likely than other religions to encourage violence among its believers. About twice as many (51%) said it was not. But within the next few years, most Republicans and GOP leaners said Islam was more likely than other religions to encourage violence. Today, 72% of Republicans express this view, according to an August 2021 survey. Democrats consistently had been far less likely than Republicans to associate Islam with violence. In the Center’s latest survey, 32% of Democrats said this. Still, Democrats were somewhat more likely to say this today than they have been in recent years: In 2019, 28% of Democrats said Islam was more likely than other religions to encourage violence among its believers than other religions.

See AXIOS News’ entry, in: <https://www.axios.com/republican-americans-islam-muslim-911-b2d3d5a4-d242-429a-afda-5398fdd25113.html>, Also: Research Article: <https://www.pewresearch.org/politics/2021/09/02/two-decades-later-the-enduring-legacy-of-9-11/>, retrieved on 14.09.2021

IsP140455-US: Man tosses shovels of garbage, urine onto front door of Long Island mosque— Nassau police were looking for the man who threw urine and garbage onto the front door of a mosque in Hicksville. Surveillance video from the Faizan-e-Aisha mosque showed a man walk up to the front door of the mosque on Heitz Place twice and toss shovels of garbage and urine onto the front door. The refuse landed in the area where mosque members leave their shoes to go into the mosque to pray. The incident happened August 13. Members of the mosque did not report it to police until August 26 because they said the same man returned and threatened people outside who came to the mosque to pray. "We're not sure if he said, don't bomb the place or bomb the place," said a mosque member, who did not want his name printed. "Nevertheless, there's a threat."

See: The Hans India News’ entry, in: <https://abc7ny.com/10980952/>, Image Source: <https://www.newsday.com/long-island/crime/hicksville-mosque-vandalized-1.50346466>, retrieved on 05.09.2021

IsP140456-US: Marjorie Taylor Greene faces angry backlash after Islamophobic tweet: ‘Islam is not a religion of peace’— On August 25, US [Far-right](#) Georgia Representative [Marjorie Taylor Greene](#) was embroiled in yet another social media furore over a tweet in which she insisted Islam was “not a religion of peace”. The GOP congresswoman, who had previously been sanctioned by the House of Representatives over her long history of racist, incendiary and sometimes violent statements, offered her thoughts on the implications of the withdrawal from Afghanistan in an typically unambiguous post. “Pray for American missionaries in Afghanistan,” she [tweeted](#). “There are reports that some families may have been killed. Islam is not a religion of peace.”

See The Independent newspaper entry, in: <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-politics/greene-tweet-backlash-racism-islam-b1908625.html>, retrieved on 05.09.2021

IsP140457-US: Vandalism At Nassau County Mosque Being Investigated As Bias Crime, Police Say— Trash mixed in with human waste that was tossed into a Long Island mosque was been treated as a bias crime, authorities announced. On Friday, August 13, a man was caught on camera walking up to the front door of the Faizan-e-Aisha mosque on Heitz Place in Hicksville twice, where he thrown shovels of garbage and urine near the front door. According to reports, the package landed in the area of the mosque where congregants would leave their shoes before heading inside to pray. Though the incident happened in August, it was not reported to the Nassau County Police Department until the week before. They reportedly held off on alerting the authorities because the same suspect returned to the mosque and made Islamophobic threats. A spokesman for the department said that “the incident was caught on video, showing an unknown male, and it appears that this person was shoveling garbage into the doorway on the night of Aug. 13.”

See Daily Voice News’ entry, in: <https://dailyvoice.com/new-york/nassau/news/vandalism-at-nassau-county-mosque-being-investigated-as-bias-crime-police-say/815502/>, retrieved on 08.09.2021

IsP1404538-US: Muslim woman punched on airplane on 9/11 after landing in Michigan — A civil rights group was advocating for hate crime charges against a white woman who allegedly attacked a Black Muslim woman on an airplane on September 11. Aicha Toure, a “visibly Muslim woman who wears an Islamic head scarf,” traveled from Atlanta to Detroit Metro Airport on Saturday - the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attack - via Spirit Airlines, according to a news release from the Council on American-Islamic Relations. After landing in Detroit, Toure was allegedly attacked by a white woman who had been “acting belligerently” throughout the flight. The suspect allegedly initiated altercations with minority crew members during the flight, the release states. Then, after landing in Detroit, she allegedly began harassing and intimidating an elderly woman who appeared to be of Asian descent. At that point, Toure asked the suspect to stop. The suspect allegedly called Toure a “Muslim terrorist,” made other Islamophobic comments and used profanity, according to the release. When the suspect realized she was being recorded, she allegedly punched Toure.

See Michigan Live News’ entry, in: <https://www.mlive.com/news/2021/09/muslim-woman-punched-on-airplane-on-911-after-landing-in-michigan.html>, retrieved on 15.09.2021

IsP140459-US: How Trump's biggest fans are taking over America's elections— On September 2, ProPublica had published an investigation into a new right-wing movement to infiltrate the American electoral system, spurred by the lie that the 2020 election was stolen from former President Donald Trump. Fueled by calls from former Trump adviser Steve Bannon, thousands of new precinct officers — who in some cases collectively had the power to help elect members of election oversight boards — had already signed up in key battleground states, including Michigan and Florida. At first blush, the new army of Republican operatives may appear similar to the tea party backlash to then-President Barack Obama, which caused the Republican

Party to lurch to the right as more activist candidates won office. But what Bannon was fomenting was different and more worrying. Because this new grassroots effort to penetrate the machinery of the electoral system wasn't only trying to win back control of government — it was also an attempt to subvert the very basis of its legitimacy. As the ProPublica report explained, the new movement appeared to have gotten traction after Bannon, repeated the false claim that Trump had the 2020 election stolen from him, urged listeners of his hugely popular podcast in May to win back control of the country “precinct by precinct.” ProPublica found that in recent months, at least 8,500 new Republican precinct officers (or equivalent lowest-level officials) had joined county parties in 41 of 65 counties targeted by activists. Republican Party operatives were describing the influx as unprecedented. Precinct officers don't have much power individually, but collectively they could wield substantial influence in some states by choosing poll workers and helping select boards that oversee elections.

See: MSNBC News' entry, in: <https://www.msnbc.com/opinion/florida-michigan-other-state-elections-are-falling-trump-loyalists-n1278499/>, retrieved on 20.09.2021

IsP140460-Canada: RCMP investigate threatening, racist letter sent to Langley mosque—

Members of the Langley Islamic Centre were "shocked" and "disappointed" after they received a threatening and racist letter. The letter was mailed anonymously on August 26 and made a threatening demand for the centre to close in two months. It made reference to the Christchurch mosque attack, where a white supremacist killed 51 worshippers at two mosques in New Zealand, on March 15, 2019. "The feeling that came back originally was of disgust and shock. I don't think people believe we live in a world where things like this still exist. Some people are upset, some people are furious," said Imam Fawad Kalsi of the Langley Islamic Centre.

See Yahoo News' entry, in: <https://ca.news.yahoo.com/rcmp-investigate-threatening-racist-letter-012155394.html>, retrieved on 09.09.2021

IsP140461-Canada: Muslims in Canada face 'systemic' Islamophobia since 9/11: report—

Muslims in Canada had been increasingly faced with anti-Muslim sentiments since the 9/11 attacks carried out two decades ago across the border in the U.S., a report by the National Council of Canadian Muslims (NCCM) said On September. "It's become systemic since then," said Fatema Abdalla, communications coordinator for the NCCM, told Global News. "And what we're seeing now is that not only is it growing, but it's also evolving."

See Daily Sabah News' entry, in: <https://www.dailysabah.com/world/islamophobia/muslims-in-canada-face-systemic-islamophobia-since-911-report/>, retrieved on 16.09.2021



IsP140462-Canada: Police investigate mosque vandalized in Scarborough, multiple break-ins— Toronto Police were investigating after a Scarborough mosque was broken into and

vandalized on August 22. The vandalism at the Baitul Jannah Islamic Centre at Kingston Road and Brimley Road was discovered when the mosque opened at around 5:30 a.m. Sunday for morning prayer. Multiple prayer rooms were vandalized, several copies of the Quran thrown to the floor, two donation boxes were smashed and the office was ransacked.

See: CTV News entry, in: <https://toronto.ctvnews.ca/police-investigate-mosque-vandalized-in-scarborough-multiple-break-ins-1.5557091>, retrieved on 20.09.2021

EUROPE

IsP140463-UK: Racist rants about Taliban and terrorism after sitting behind Muslim family— A Muslim family had described how a couple had sat behind them on a bus in the Southwark area in London on August 16 and loudly discussed the Taliban and other “Islamic terrorists” in a manner intended to provoke a response. The family, who were South Asian, and the women wore hijab, overhead a white male loudly described how Osama Bin Laden and Saddam Hussein were “Islamic terrorists” in a prolonged rant. He also ranted about how, “we went over there, we killed the Taliban before, but now they’re back we’re gonna have to go again.” The family spoke to Tell MAMA, one of the family members said the man, described as been white and in his mid-to-late twenties or early thirties, continued to repeat references to “Islamic terrorists” even when the white woman next to him did say that “not all Muslims are terrorists” but he continued with the rants. They added that they would not report the incident to the police as they did not feel intimidated but, instead, to raise public awareness.

See: Tell Mama UK News’ entry, in: <https://tellmamauk.org/racist-rants-about-taliban-and-terrorism-after-sitting-behind-muslim-family/>, retrieved on 05.09.2021

IsP140464-UK: Scottish far right group compiled a list of individuals who oppose racism and fascism— A far right group linked to neo-Nazis had allegedly compiled a list of around 60 organisations and individuals in Scotland who oppose racism and fascism, the Ferret revealed. The list, claimed to have been made by Patriotic Alternative (PA) Scotland, names charities, political parties, student groups and 33 individuals. They included Stand Up to Racism, Edinburgh University Marxist Society, Anti-Fascist Action Dundee and the Scottish Socialist Party, among others who oppose fascism. The alleged covert project by PA was called Scottish Anti-Anti Fascists (SAAF) and involved the infiltration of left wing groups. Details of SAAF were leaked by a former member of PA who said in a video he was asked to infiltrate left wing groups, but decided not to due to concerns he had over how the information would be used.

See: The Ferret News’ entry, in: <https://theferret.scot/far-right-group-has-compiled-list-of-anti-racists/>, retrieved on 05.09.2021

IsP140465-UK: ‘Utter neglect’: Government fails to create Islamophobia definition two years after pledge— The British government had been accused of “utterly neglecting” Islamophobia after failing for over two years to produce a definition that could be used to combat anti-Muslim hatred. A group of MPs and peers called for a working definition to be adopted following a six-month inquiry in 2018, in which they said the lack of one was allowing Islamophobia to “increase in society to devastating effect”. The Conservative government rejected the proposals in May 2019, and announced that it would commission independent experts to draw up a different definition. But only one adviser had only been appointed and no proposals had ever been published. Members of the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on British Muslims, which drew up the 2018 definition, were to raise the issue in parliament on September 9. Vice chair Naz Shah told The Independent: “It is astonishing that 845 days on, we are still calling on the government to adopt the APPG definition of Islamophobia ... The government’s complete and utter neglect on working to accept a definition of Islamophobia highlights how much consideration it gives to tackling the very real form of racism.”

See The Independent newspaper entry, in: <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/islamophobia-uk-definition-government-appg-b1914012.html>, retrieved on 12.09.2021



IsP140466-UK: Manchester mosque arson investigated as a hate crime— On September 10, an arson attack targeted a mosque in a Manchester suburb and was being investigated as a hate crime, police had said. Police and fire crews were called to Didsbury mosque five minutes before midnight after two passersby spotted the flames. The door of the mosque was damaged, with two burnt canisters recovered from the scene. No one was injured. Mosque leaders said they were “so grateful” to neighbours who tried to put to extinguish the blaze with their coats. They added that they had received threats to burn the mosque “for a couple of years, but now the attempt has come”. Inspector Shoheb Chowdhury, from GMP’s south Manchester district, said: “This is a dreadful incident which will no doubt have caused concern in the community and we are doing all we can to find who was responsible and continue to engage the mosque and those concerned in the community. Hate crime will not be tolerated. We’re fortunate in that Greater Manchester is a diverse place that our communities call home and those who wish to commit a crime motivated by hate will be brought to justice.”

See Inews News’ entry, in: <https://inews.co.uk/news/manchester-mosque-arson-investigated-as-a-hate-crime-1194612>, retrieved on 12.09.2021

IsP140467-UK: ‘Hate tweets’ inquiry after Rangers fans hand over dossier to Daily Record—One of Scotland’s best known tabloid newspapers had started an investigation after reporters were accused of using “hate speech” on social media. The Daily Record had confirmed that it was looking into claims that journalists used offensive and discriminatory language on Twitter. The newspaper ran a front-page story the week before which disclosed that members of the Heart and Hand football podcast, an official media partner of Rangers FC, had used anti-Catholic and sectarian language in the past. In response Rangers supporters compiled a dossier which contained distasteful comments allegedly made by Daily Record staff members. In one tweet it was claimed that one journalist made an obscene comment about the Prophet Muhammad and also tweeted: “Where are the IRA when you need them?” alongside an image of the 2014 Commonwealth Games opening ceremony in Glasgow. In a statement, the Daily Record said: “A number of historical tweets from some of our writers have come to our attention. The Daily Record takes any claims of discrimination or hate speech very seriously and we have launched a full investigation into the matter.”

See The Times newspaper entry, in: <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/hate-tweets-inquiry-after-rangers-fans-hand-over-dossier-to-daily-record-f0tccg8d7>, retrieved on 14.09.2021

IsP140468-UK: Newcastle mayor 'infuriated' by mosque firework attack— Newcastle's mayor had said he was left "infuriated to the core" after his mosque was attacked by youths

shouting racist abuse and hurling fireworks. Habib Rahman said worshippers were nearly struck by rockets when the building was targeted by up to eight teenagers on September 4. Inspector Andrew Stephenson, of Northumbria Police, said: "This type of behaviour, committed by the overwhelming minority, is completely unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Not only have they damaged property but they could have seriously injured someone."

See: BBC News' entry, in: <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-tyne-58468926/>, retrieved on 16.09.2021

IsP140469-UK: Racism, Islamophobia and conspiracy theories among extremist views witnessed in classrooms, study finds— A research, published on September 7, by the University College London (UCL) researchers and commissioned by education charity SINCE 9/11, had revealed that extreme views such as racism, misogynistic views and homophobia were widespread in classrooms across the UK. The authors noted that the findings came amid warnings from police of a rise in the number of children been radicalised by neo-Nazi and other extremist groups and the report not only looked at violent extremism but 'hateful extremism' (homophobic, misogynistic and racist attitudes and behaviours). The *Addressing Extremism Through the Classroom* report, co-authored by a team of academics from the UCL Institute of Education - found that teachers were not been given the time, training or resources to teach pupils about violent and 'hateful' extremism and that schools believed instead that the Government expected them to focus on seeking out and reporting pupils who were thought to be at risk of radicalisation. As part of the study, the researchers talked to 96 teachers in schools in England. Teachers expressed concern at the rise in pupils who were looking at hateful content online. More than half the teachers had heard pupils express far-right extremist views in their classroom, while around three-quarters had heard "extremist views about women" or Islamophobia. Almost 90% had heard conspiracy theories, such as that American business magnate Bill Gates "controlled people via microchips in Covid vaccines". The study also found that many teachers do not talk about extreme views in the classroom out of fear that they will "get it 'wrong', especially on matters related to race". Overall, nearly all teachers reported feeling at least 'somewhat confident' in dealing with extreme views when encountered, however, a fifth of teachers felt only 'somewhat' or 'not at all' confident in dealing with conspiracy theories and far-right extremism. In 2020, research showed that young people under 24 had accounted for nearly 60% of extreme rightwing terror arrests, a rapid rise, according to police. In total, young people had made up 13% of arrests for terrorism, compared to 5% in the previous year.

See: University College London (UCL) News' entry, in: <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/news/2021/sep/extreme-views-are-widespread-classrooms-england>, Also See the Full Report in: <https://discovery.ucl.ac.uk/id/eprint/10133809/>, retrieved on 20.09.2021



IsP140470-Sweden: To provoke the Muslims of Sweden.. A Danish politician throws Copy of the Holy Quran to the ground— On September 3, the leader of the Danish extremist “Hardline” party Rasmus Paludan threw a copy of the Holy Quran on the ground in Stockholm, to provoke the feelings of Muslims in Sweden. Anadolu Agency reported that the leader of the extreme right-wing party, stood in front of the large “Vitja” mosque of the Turkish Presidency of Religious Affairs, where he held a copy of the Holy Qur’an, amid strict security measures. Police excluded Paludan from the scene after the increased frequency of criticism. According to the reporter, Paludan carried out similar provocative actions in other Muslim-majority neighborhoods of the Swedish capital, Stockholm, such as Rinkeby, Scherholmenen and Tensta.

See: Amman Today News’ entry, in: <https://amman.today/2021/09/04/world/to-provoke-the-muslims-of-sweden-a-danish-politician-throws-the-holy-quran-to-the-ground/>, Image Source: <https://www.livik.net/2021/09/04/provocation-from-a-danish-politician-in-front-of-a-turkish-mosque/>, retrieved on 05.09.2021

IsP140471-Denmark: High Court finds Rasmus Paludan guilty of racism – but mitigates punishment— On September 2, the Eastern High Court in Denmark found Rasmus Paludan guilty of racist and insulting statements but mitigated his earlier district court sentence. The judge was ruling on Paludan’s appeal of his 2020 conviction from Nørrebro district court, in which the Stram Kurs leader was sentenced to three months in prison for violations of the racism section of the Penal Code. He was also charged with defamation and sentenced to pay 30,000 kroner to a Somali woman for insinuating she was a prostitute during a demonstration in Nørrebro. In total he faced 14 charges, which included racism, defamation and dangerous driving. In his appeal at the High Court on August 30, he distanced himself from racist statements presented as evidence by the prosecution in videos, Twitter messages and on the Stram Kurs website. “I have had nothing to do with what was posted,” he said. Paludan’s appeal saw his three-month prison term reduced to a three-month suspended sentence. The 30,000 kroner fine was reduced to 5,000 kroner.

See: Amman Today News’ entry, in: <https://cphpost.dk/?p=127634>, retrieved on 05.09.2021

IsP140472-Denmark: Danish Party Chair Wants Muhammad Cartoons as Teaching Material to Support Free Speech— On September 11, In her speech at SF’s national meeting in Kolding, Danish Socialist People’s Party chairman Pia Olsen Dyhr had called for cartoons of Prophet Muhammad to be used freely as teaching material, as she protested against restrictions on free speech. Olsen Dyhr ventured that Denmark and the West in general had sacrificed freedom

for the sake of safety. “We can see it with the issue over Muhammad cartoons, where Samuel Paty was very bestially killed because he showed the Muhammad cartoons in his teaching. It is an example of something that was the biggest crisis in Danish foreign policy for many years, that is, in recent times”, Pia Olsen Dyhr said, as quoted by Danish Radio. “In Denmark, there are teachers who don’t dare to show the Muhammad cartoons in their teaching – neither in primary school nor at the university level – for fear of violence or threats of violence. The Muhammad cartoons are one example of where we restrict our freedom of speech. There are satirists who have to live underground and fear for their safety because of a single drawing,” she said.

See Sputnik News’ entry, in: <https://sputniknews.com/20210913/danish-party-chair-wants-muhammad-cartoons-as-teaching-material-to-support-free-speech-1089021760.html>, retrieved on 15.09.2021

IsP140473-France: French firebrand Zemmour rises in polls as Le Pen takes hit— French right-wing firebrand Eric Zemmour was rising in opinion polls ahead of France’s 2022 presidential election just as Marine Le Pen, head of the far-right National Rally party, was taking a hit. One poll published on September 14 suggested controversial Zemmour, an author and TV pundit, would get 10 percent of the vote in a presidential election, compared with only 19 percent for the far-right candidate Marine Le Pen. The two-round system of the French presidential election would allow only the main two candidates to the runoff vote. Until now the populist National Rally candidate had been polling above 20 percent, often neck and neck with French President Emmanuel Macron in the first round of the election. According to the same poll, Zemmour, who was not yet officially a candidate, had overtaken opponents on the left, the Socialist candidate Anne Hidalgo at 7 percent and the Green hopeful Yannick Jadot also at 7 percent.

See Politico News’ entry, in: <https://www.politico.eu/article/france-zemmour-polls-le-pen/>, retrieved on 15.09.2021

IsP140474-France: France has no respectable data to support Islamophobic law: Experts— French political scientist and sociologist Vincent Geisser said that the separatism law, introduced by French President Emmanuel Macron's La Republique en Marche (LREM) party, was based on a sociological diagnosis that was derived from extremely weak statistical information and that, despite the state's many resources, the government could not find data to support the argument used to defend the law. Evaluating the "Republican values" bill, which was criticized for targeting and marginalizing Muslims in France, Geisser, who was a researcher at the French National Scientific Research Center (CNRS) and the Institute of Research and Study on the Arab and Islamic Worlds (IREMAM), asserted that associations, mosques and schools simply became targets of the law. He noted that despite all government resources, there had been "no respectable, quantitative data to support the argument of the government used to defend the separatism law." Geisser added that a legal basis was being created to legitimize France's intervention in Muslim affairs. Geisser said that France, which was a secular state in principle, should not interfere in religious affairs no matter what, but that the state was interfering with the mosques, imams, associations or schools of Muslims.

See: Daily Sabah News’ entry, in: <https://www.dailysabah.com/world/europe/france-has-no-respectable-data-to-support-islamophobic-law-experts/>, retrieved on 16.09.2021

IsP140475-France: Eric Zemmour: Mohammed Is Not a French Name, Should Be Banned—

French far-right essayist and political journalist Eric Zemmour had promised to ban non-French first names like Mohammed, and said, Arab first names and other aspects of Arab culture were making French society less French. Zemmour had been rumored to be preparing to announce his candidacy for France's upcoming presidential elections in 2022. His latest book, "La France n'a pas encore dit son dernier mot" (France has not yet said its last word), was said to be a campaign book in which the far-right commentator lays out his vision for reclaiming France's lost imperial prestige. Zemmour made his latest anti-Muslim remarks while he appeared, on September 11, on the television segment "We are Live" to discuss the end of his time as a pundit for CNEWS, a popular French television channel. During the segment, Zemmour continued to discuss a possible presidential run for the 2022 election. When asked what policies he would implement if elected, the far-right commentator laid out his unmistakably anti-Islam platform. He said one of the first policies he would implement upon being elected president was to ban the first name "Mohammed," because "it is not a French name." He added his "good ideas" for France included banning Muslim names, and asking Muslims to "limit their religion to faith and practice" at the individual level.



See: Morocco World News entry, in: <https://www.moroccoworldnews.com/2021/09/344419/eric-zemmour-mohammed-is-not-a-french-name-should-be-banned>, retrieved on 19.09.2021

IsP140476-Germany: Far-right AfD is a social media superpower in Germany— Germany's far-right populists had far fewer party supporters than their big-tent competitors. But they still managed to dominate the discourse on social media — especially in election campaigns. On 2021, just one month before the federal election on September 26, the AfD lingers at 11% in opinion polls. But on platforms such as Facebook, Instagram and YouTube, it still dwarfed much bigger parties like the center-left Social Democrats (SPD) and outgoing Chancellor Angela Merkel's center-right Christian Democratic Union (CDU). DW analyzed the parties' posts across social media from June 12 to August 15, and found that one of the lead candidates for the AfD, Alice Weidel, was by far the most successful politician online. Even though she had no hope of becoming the next German chancellor, her videos were viewed around 4.9 million times across the different platforms during that time period. And the number of comments, likes and shares outnumbered those of other politicians. Such engagement was considered hard currency in the world of social networks because they imply that users identified with the post to such an extent that they would spread it further. While the AfD had only 32,000 members, the ruling CDU had almost 430,000, the same as that of the conservatives' top candidate Armin Laschet, who hoped to succeed Merkel as chancellor. Facebook was the main platform for the AfD, in an interview with DW, Marcus Schmidt, the press officer for the AfD parliamentary group, admitted that: "Without Facebook, I don't believe that the AfD could have become successful so quickly." Using Facebook as a channel to its supporters allowed the AfD to bypass established media outlets and spread its messages directly — many of which were openly racist, nationalist and factually false. A total of 84% of Weidel's user interactions on social media took place on Facebook platform.

See Frontline Magazine News' entry, in: <https://frontline.thehindu.com/dispatches/far-right-afd-is-a-social-media-superpower-in-germany/article36153119.ece>, retrieved on 06.09.2021

IsP140477-Germany: New Report: The Radical Right and Paid-For Facebook Advertising in Germany — A report published by Hope not Hate had provided a snapshot of how parties in the Bundestag were making use of paid-for ads, examining the spending patterns by selected pages belonging to each of the major parties over the past two years. Specifically, it compared the parties spending with that of AfD and analyses the role that paid-for ads plays for radical right actors. It found that AfD spent less on Facebook ads than other parties in the German Bundestag while instead it had been considerably more successful in terms of organic influence through shares and interactions.

See: Hope Not Hate News' entry, in: <https://www.hopenothate.org.uk/2021/08/25/new-report-the-radical-right-and-paid-for-facebook-advertising-in-germany/>, retrieved on 20.09.2021

IsP140478-Italy: Far-right parties lead Italian polls— The far-right Brothers of Italy party led by Giorgia Meloni and the far-right party Northern League led by Matteo Salvini were leading the latest polls, with 21% and 20.6% respectively. Salvini's party had been topping the list as Italy's favourite right-wing party since 2018. Brothers of Italy snatched the top spot when Salvini decided to support the 'national emergency' government led by former ECB head Mario Draghi. Brothers of Italy continued to be in the opposition, along with a few other small groups of MPs. However, the two parties had always said they would present themselves in the next general elections set for 2023 together with the party of former Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, Forza Italia. Among Italy's various party leaders, Meloni had one of the highest approval ratings with 44.4%, another poll released on September 4 showed. Salvini and centre-left democratic party leader Enrico Letta trail behind with 31% and 29.6% respectively. Only Prime Minister Mario Draghi's approval rating was higher than Meloni, with 67%. However, he was unlikely to run for the next elections. Even with the premise that elections were more than a year away, several Italian observers considered the victory of the right-wing coalition likely once the mandate of Draghi's 'emergency' government comes to an end .

See Euractiv News' entry, in: https://www.euractiv.com/section/politics/short_news/far-right-parties-lead-italian-polls/, retrieved on 16.09.2021

ASIA

IsP140479-India: Beaten and humiliated for being a Muslim in India— Unprovoked attacks on Muslims by Hindu mobs had become routine in India, but they seemed to evoke little condemnation from the government. On August, a video that went viral on social media showed a terrified little girl clinging to her Muslim father as a Hindu mob assaulted him. The footage showed the Muslim rickshaw driver being paraded through the streets of Kanpur, a city in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh, as his crying daughter begged the mob to stop hitting him. His attackers asked him to chant "Hindustan Zindabad" or "Long Live India" and "Jai Shri Ram" or "Victory to Lord Ram" - a popular greeting that's been turned into a murder cry by Hindu lynch mobs in recent years. He complied, but the mob still kept hitting him. The man and his daughter were eventually rescued by the police. Three men arrested for the attack were freed on bail a day later. A few days later, another viral video surfaced which showed a Muslim bangle-seller being slapped, kicked and punched by a Hindu mob in Indore, a city in the central state of Madhya Pradesh. In the video, the attackers abused Tasleem Ali and told him to stay away from Hindu areas in future. In a police complaint, he later alleged that he had been "beaten by five-six men who hurled communal slurs at him for selling bangles in a Hindu-dominated area and robbed him of money, his phone and some documents". But in a strange turn of events, Ali himself was arrested the next day after the 13-year-old daughter of one of his alleged attackers accused him of molesting her. His family and neighbours had strongly denied the accusation. They said it was inconceivable that the father of five would do something like that.

See BBC News' entry, in: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-india-58406194>, retrieved on 08.09.2021

IsP140480-India: How Taliban return in Afghanistan triggered Islamophobia in India— The Taliban's return to power in Afghanistan had given yet another excuse to India's Hindu supremacists to unleash a new wave of Islamophobia against its Muslim minority. Muslim politicians, writers, journalists, social media influencers and everyday citizens had become the targets of a hate campaign launched by the country's right wing, which included members of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). As soon as the Taliban toppled the Afghan government on August, the hashtag #GoToAfghanistan began trending on Indian social media, a repeat of the #GoToPakistan campaign launched by right-wing groups. Shortly after Taliban took over Kabul, BJP politician Ram Madhav called the 1921 Moplah rebellion one of the first manifestations of a "Talibani mentality" in India, and that the state government of Kerala was trying to "whitewash" it. Madhav was speaking at an event to mark 100 years since the peasant uprising against British colonial rule and the feudal system in the southern state. In another incident, media reports said Muslims in the central state of Madhya Pradesh raised pro-Pakistan slogans during a Muharram procession. The BJP state chief minister commented on the reports, and said he would "not tolerate the Talibani mentality". Two days after his comments, the fact-checking website Alt News debunked the initial media reports. Likewise, in the northeastern state of Assam, 15 Muslims, who included Islamic scholars, a politician and a local journalist, were arrested for allegedly "supporting" the Taliban in social media posts and charged under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act or UAPA, a draconian anti-terror law under which dozens of Muslims and other government critics were behind bars.

See Aljazeera News' entry, in: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/9/1/islamophobia-india-hindu-right-wing-taliban-afghanistan>, retrieved on 08.09.2021

IsP140481-India: Islam came to India with invaders, this is history and should be told in that manner: RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat— Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat, on September 6, stressed that Islam came to India with invaders and Muslims had nothing to fear in the country. He spoke at an event organised by Pune-based Global Strategic Policy Foundation, Bhagwat said that Hindus and Muslims share the same ancestry and every Indian citizen was a "Hindu". RSS Chief addressed a seminar titled "Nation First, Nation Supreme", he stated that Islam came to India with invaders and this fact should not be hidden.



"Islam came to India with invaders. This is history and should be told in that manner. Sane Muslim leaders should oppose unnecessary issues and stand firmly against fundamentalists and hardliners. The more we do this at the earliest, the less damage it will cause to our society... The word Hindu is equivalent to the rich heritage of our motherland, ancestors and culture, and every Indian is a Hindu," the RSS chief added.

See Times Now News entry, in: <https://www.timesnownews.com/india/article/islam-came-to-india-with-invaders-this-is-history-and-should-be-told-in-that-manner-rss-chief-mohan-bhagwat/808583>, retrieved on 14.09.2021



IsP140482-India: Two men thrashed by cow vigilantes in Mathura— On September 22, Two men, identified as Ayub and Mausim, were intercepted and beaten up brutally by a mob in Mathura because they carried meat through an area where a ban on the food item was in place, after an announcement earlier by UP chief minister Yogi Adityanath. For 16 minutes, the right-wing outfit went live on Facebook, where they recorded their assault — the men were kicked and slapped repeatedly — and asked viewers to share the video. At least 15 people had gathered to beat up the men. Ayub and Mausim, were crouching on the ground as the mob rained blows on them. “Ayub runs a licensed meat shop at Raya town and was taking meat there,” said a Muslim leader who didn’t want to be named. Ayub, Mausim and the driver of the vehicle they were in, Bahadur, had been arrested for "defiling place of worship and cow slaughter".

See: Times Of India News’ entry, in: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/agra/2-men-thrashed-by-cow-vigilantes-in-mathura-video-streamed-live-on-fb/articleshow/86435577.cms>, retrieved on 29.09.2021

IsP140483-India: ‘They started shooting’: Assam Muslims recount police killing— On September 23, Mainal Haq, a farmer was one of the two people killed during Assam government eviction drive in Dhalpur Part 3 village located on the riverine island of the Brahmaputra river in Darrang district. Twelve-year-old (12) Sheikh Farid was another victim of police firing on residents who were protesting against what they called forced displacement.

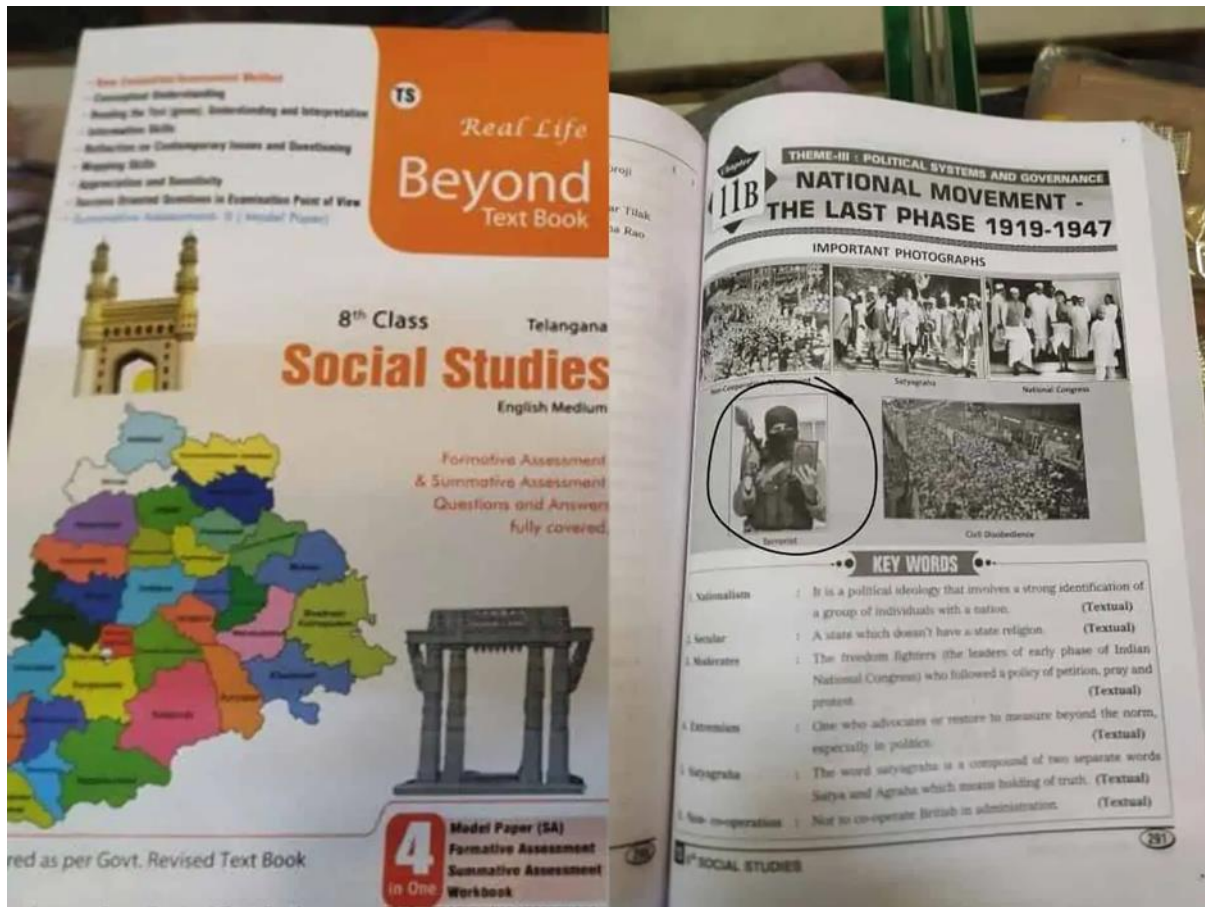


Many of the families had been living there for 40 years. Sheikh was hit by police bullets while he was on his way to fetch his national identity card from the local post office, his family said. A viral video of the incident showed Mainal were running towards the police with a bamboo pole. The clip showed him shot by the police, clad in a lungi loincloth and a vest. As he collapsed, the police were seen beating him with batons. **A local photographer who was taken by the district administration to document the eviction proceedings stomped on Mainul even as he lay on the ground, barely alive. A policeman was later seen hugging the photographer.** The Assam

government led by the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) announced a judicial inquiry into the incident that had sent shock waves among the civil society. The state Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma claimed that the villagers had attacked the police first with machetes and sticks, and that the violence was a result of a conspiracy. He also claimed outsiders instigated the villagers. Sarma, known for his anti-Muslim rhetoric, however, provided no proof for his litany of claims. The police had arrested two locals residents – Asmet Ali and Chand Mamud – from Kira Kara and Dhalpur Part 3 villages after they were accused of involvement in the violence. The land dispute had its origin in the state government's decision to free government lands from encroachment. Nearly a month after taking over as the chief minister, Sarma announced that it would use about 25,666 acres (10,386 hectares) of land “freed from encroachers at Gorukhuti, Sipajhar in Darrang for Agri purposes”. Critics had accused Sarma and his BJP party of targeting the state's Bengali-origin Muslims, who form the bulk of the state's Muslim population of more than 12 million, calling them “encroachers”, “intruders” and “illegal immigrants”. The issue of undocumented immigrants from neighbouring Bangladesh had dominated the politics of this northeastern state of 32 million for decades. A citizenship register published two years ago excluded nearly two million people, both Hindus and Muslims of Bengali origin. But the BJP, some local organisations and even officials currently in charge of the exercise had questioned the veracity of the long and arduous process and claimed that many “illegal immigrants” had managed to get their names in the citizens' register. The process continued to be in limbo because of these reservations. Bengali-origin Muslims who lived in Dhalpur Part 1 and Dhalpur Part 3 villages where eviction was carried out said they had been victimised. Locals said many of these families had moved from other districts like Nagaon, Barpeta and Goalpara in the 1970s and 1980s after they lost their land to erosion. “Our family moved here from Barpeta in 1982 after our land there was swept away by the Brahmaputra,” said Saddam Hussain, a local activist. “We were earlier in neighbouring Kira Kara village. Two years back we moved to Dhalpur Part 3 after our house was again taken by the river,” he said. Even as discussions were on with the government and the district administration on resettlement and rehabilitation, the latest round of eviction started on September 20, locals pointed out. “The locals were served notice only the previous evening and in the morning the administration arrived to evict them,” said Hussain. ‘They had guns, we had nothing’ Chief Minister Sarma was quick to compliment the administration and the police for “evicting 800 households, demolishing four illegal religious structures”. Local residents said on September 20 authorities asked them to move to a spot next to the river, which was flood-prone and unfit for habitation. “The depth of the water is 15 feet [4.5 metres] there. How will we stay there with our kids. We will be swept away,” said Kamaruddin, a daily wage worker. “There is no water to drink, there is no tree. In this heat, there is no water. We are using the water from the river. Does the government want to kill us like this?” he asked. Meanwhile, after the first round of evictions, two days later on September 22, the villagers were served another round of notices late in the night. “The people had slept when the notices arrived. And in the morning, when they had barely woken up, the administration and the police were already there,” said Hussain. The locals were incensed, Hussain said. “The administration had done nothing to rehabilitate the ones who were evicted previously and yet they had come again to evict more,” he said.



See: Aljazeera News' entry, in: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/9/29/assam>, Image Source: <https://thewire.in/rights/police-assam-dholpur-civilian-firing>, & <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/9/24/india-assam-photographer-video-stomps-muslim-police>, retrieved on 30.09.2021



IsP140484-India: Teaching Islamophobia: Telangana textbook shows image of ‘terrorist’ holding Quran— A social studies study material meant for class 8 students in Telangana had come under severe criticism for portraying the image of a terrorist holding a gun in one hand and the Quran in the other. The image was part of a series of other images presented in a chapter titled ‘National Movement – the last phase 1919-1947’. While the remaining images portrayed Indian freedom fighters like Gandhi and Nehru as resisting the British empire’s rule. The image of the “terrorist” not only did not fit in with the rest of the chapter but also cunningly clubbed Islam and terrorism as one and the same. This is made worse by the fact that the front of the study material reads “prepared as per government revised textbook.” A student activist from Hyderabad, Shaikh Aslam who was the first to point this out from his sibling’s book said that this humiliates the Muslim students, teachers, and the community, and also would lead to the destruction of unity and integrity of the country. Further, he demanded immediate action against those who had written and approved this book. The study material in question had been published by VGS publishers who prepared the same based on recommendations given by the state government. State president of Students Islamic Organization (SIO), Dr Talha Fayazuddin also released his statement on the issue on September 25 and said that the 8th class, social studies textbook, is creating and propagating stereotypical and hateful views towards a specific community. Showing a person holding a “gun” in his right hand and the Holy Quran in the left hand is discriminatory and hateful content which destroys harmony, unity, and integrity of the society,” he stated.

See: The SIASAT News’ entry, in: <https://www.siasat.com/teaching-islamophobia-study-material-shows-image-of-terrorist-holding-quran-2197132/>, Image Source: retrieved on 30.09.2021



IsP140485-India: Muslims should bow to ‘Indian culture’; Ram, Krishna, Shiva were their ancestors: UP minister— On September 23, Uttar Pradesh minister Anand Swaroop Shukla had said that lord Ram, Krishna, and Shiva were the ancestors of Indian Muslims and they should bow to the “land and culture of India”. In provocative remarks, the minister of state for parliamentary affairs also said Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Adityanath had defeated the mindset which intended to create an Islamic State in the country by raising the flag of Hindutva and “Indian culture”. Presenting the account of Adityanath government's work during the last 4.5 years before the media on Thursday evening, Shukla said: “The ancestors of the Muslims of India are lord Ram, Krishna, and Shankar (Shiva). They do not need to see the land of Kaaba. These people should bow to the land and culture of India”.

See Tribune India News' entry, in: <https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/nation/muslims-should-bow-to-indian-culture-ram-krishna-shiva-were-their-ancestors-up-minister-315590>, retrieved on 30.09.2021

IsP140486-India: Two boys in Aligarh discussing Islam on video booked, probe finds they're Hindus, minors— Two boys in Aligarh who were discussing “conversion to Islam” in a video that went viral were booked by police under a non-bailable section of the Indian Penal Code for “promoting enmity between classes”. A probe later found that both the boys were minors and belonged to the Hindu community. Their families, shocked at the FIR against them, said the boys were students of class 12 and were engaged in a “friendly debate” and “someone complained unnecessarily”. The case was filed after the video went viral and a local BJP member approached police. In his complaint, Ram Gopal said, “I have seen a video in which one boy is threatening Hindus and asking them to convert to Islam. The video had created anger among people and the content can create religious enmity.” In the video, a masked boy on his bicycle was pretending to be Muslim and another a Hindu. Police probe later found that the boys in the video were minors.

See Times Of India News' entry, in: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/agra/2-boys-discussing-islam-on-video-booked-probe-finds-theyre-hindus-minors/articleshow/86590553.cms>, retrieved on 30.09.2021



IsP140487-India: Kerala bishop's 'narcotics jihad' remark sparks outrage; plea filed against him— On September 10, Mar Joseph Kallarangatt, Bishop of the Palai diocese of the Syro-Malabar Church in Kerala, triggered a major controversy when he claimed the existence of 'narcotic jihad' in the state targeting young people who belonged to non-Muslim faiths. He also alleged that young women, who belonged to Christianity and other non-Muslim faiths, were being lured by 'jihadis' through 'love jihad' and subjected to exploitation, forced religious conversion and terrorist activities. Mar Joseph Kallarangatt heads the Palai diocese of the Syro-Malabar Church, one of the biggest Catholic churches in the state. Bishop Kallarangatt made the controversial remarks while he addressed the laity on the occasion of the Eighth Day of Lent of Mary at a church in Kuravilangad in Kottayam district. While he spoke about the importance of protecting families and young women, he raised the twin issues of 'love jihad' and 'narcotic jihad' as grave threats to young men and women of Christian and other non-Muslim faiths. It was the first time a senior Catholic Bishop took direct aim at the Muslim community by raising the theory of 'love and narcotic jihad.' He claimed that since weapons cannot be easily used to destroy people of other faiths in a democratic society like India, 'jihadis' were using means which were not easily identifiable. He said that women of non-Muslim faiths were being subjected to exploitation, forced religious conversion and terrorist activities by 'jihadi' groups after trapping them through 'love' and other means. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, in his first response to the Bishop's remarks, said that it was the first time he had heard of a term called 'narcotic jihad.' He said that while the context and circumstances of the Bishop's remarks were not clear, the issue of narcotics is an 'anti-social' issue and doesn't have religious hues. He added that those in responsible positions must refrain from making statements that cause divisions in society. A few days later, at another press conference, the chief minister stressed that the state had no intention of initiating legal proceedings against the Bishop even though it's been labelled as 'hate speech' by many. The CPI(M) formally echoed the CM's remarks, and said the Bishop did not have 'sinister' motives behind making the claim of 'narcotic jihad.'

See Times Of India News' entry, in: <https://www.siasat.com/kerala-bishops-narcotics-jihad-remark-sparks-outrage-plea-filed-against-him-2190443/>, retrieved on 30.09.2021



IsP140488-Myanmar: military releases firebrand Buddhist monk— Myanmar's military junta had released controversial Buddhist monk Ashin Wirathu, known for his nationalist and anti-Muslim rhetoric. He had previously been charged for sedition against the civilian government, which had since been deposed in a February military coup. He had been dubbed the "Buddhist Bin Laden" over his speeches targeting Muslims, particularly the Rohingya.

See BBC News' entry, in: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-58471535>, retrieved on 12.09.2021

IsP140489-Palestine: Muslims restricted from accessing Ibrahimi mosque on Jewish new year— The Israeli authorities had banned Muslims from praying at Ibrahimi mosque on September 7 and September 8 in the occupied West Bank city of Hebron as people of the Jewish faith marked their new year, Wafaa News Agency reported. For the second time in less than a week, Israeli authorities hindered Muslims from entering Hebron's Ibrahimi Mosque. The Israeli authorities closed the mosque to Muslim worshipers on September 2 and 3 on the occasion of the Jewish new year. As per the media reports, the mosque was only opened for the Jewish community, who were allowed to perform Talmudic rituals under police protection. The director of the Ibrahimi Mosque, Sheikh Hafez Abu Sneina, told the local media, that Israeli forces prevented the Palestinians from reaching the holy site and its squares, as the "illegal settlers" prepared for the Jewish New Year.

See The SIASAT News' entry, in:

<https://www.siasat.com/muslims-restricted-from-accessing-ibrahimi-mosque-on-jewish-new-year-2189704/>, retrieved on 16.09.2021

SOUTH AMERICA

IsP140490-Brazil: Bolsonaro meets with German far-right figurehead— President Jair Bolsonaro hosted far-right German lawmaker Beatrix von Storch at the presidential palace on July 21. Ms. Von Storch, the deputy leader of the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD), which won 13 percent of the vote in the 2017 elections. The party was placed under surveillance by the German intelligence agency for extremism. "An impressive encounter in Brazil," Ms. von Storch wrote on Instagram. "I would like to thank the Brazilian president for the friendly welcome and I

am impressed by his clear understanding of the problems in Europe and the political challenges of our time... At a time when the left is promoting its ideology through its international networks and organizations on a global level, we conservatives must network more closely and stand up for our conservative values on an international level. Besides the U.S. and Russia, Brazil is a global strategic partner for us, with whom we want to shape the future together,” she added.

See The Brazilian Report News’ entry, in: <https://brazilian.report/liveblog/2021/07/26/bolsonaro-afd-meeting/>, retrieved on 09.09.2021

POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS

NORTH AMERICA



IsP140491-US: Militia Leader Gets 53-Year Sentence In Minnesota Mosque Bombing— Michael Hari, the leader of an Illinois anti-government militia group who authorities said masterminded the 2017 bombing of a Minnesota mosque was sentenced, on September 13, to 53 years in prison for an attack that terrified the mosque's community.

See National Public Radio News' entry, in: <https://www.npr.org/2021/09/13/1036803025/mosque-bomb-sentence>, retrieved on 15.09.2021

IsP140492-US: Anti-Defamation League (ADL) apologises for opposing mosque near Ground Zero after 9/11 — The CEO and National Director of the Anti-Defamation League had apologised to the Muslim community for the organisation's stance on a proposed mosque after 9/11. Johnathan Greenblatt said the ADL were "wrong" for opposing plans for a mosque, community centre and cultural space to be developed near Ground Zero in Lower Manhattan in 2010. At the time, Daisy Khan, who along with her husband Feisal Abdel Rauf had put forward the proposition for the Park51 Islamic Community Center & Mosque, said its goal was to "repair the breach and be at the front and center to start the healing." In a climate still rife with Islamophobia the plans triggered immediate controversy, with baseless rumours flying around that Cordoba House, as the project was originally known, was being organised by "terrorist sympathisers." In the face of overwhelming opposition, the plans did not come to fruition. The ADL did not outright attempt to block the project, but advocated for a location change, an action Mr Greenblatt says the group now regrets. On September 5, in an opinion piece for CNN he wrote: "Through deep reflection and conversation with many friends within the Muslim community, the real lesson is a simple one: we were wrong, plain and simple... We can't change the past... But we accept responsibility for our unwise stance on Cordoba House, apologize without caveat and commit to doing our utmost going forward to use our expertise to fight anti-Muslim bias as allies."

See The Independent newspaper entry, in: <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/adl-apology-mosque-zero-9-11-b1914657.html>, retrieved on 09.09.2021

IsP140493-US: City cancels Pier Six rally where Steve Bannon, Milo Yiannopoulos were to speak— The Scott administration had canceled a rally whose speakers were to include ex-Trump advisor Steve Bannon, right-wing provocateur Milo Yiannopoulos and commentator Michele

Malkin, among others. Michael Voris, founder of the Michigan-based Church Militant, said that City Solicitor James L. Shea violated the group's First Amendment rights when he canceled the November 16 "Bishops: Enough is Enough Prayer Rally." Planned at the MECU Pavilion on Pier Six, the rally had been timed to coincide with the annual fall meeting of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. Church Militant was known for its anti-immigrant ideology. In a story published after the 2016 election, the New York Times described Church.Militant.com this way: "The site's right-wing stances against globalism, immigration, social-welfare programs and abortion, as well as its depiction of an existential war against radical Islam, mesh with many of the positions espoused by Mr. Trump and his inner circle." The Southern Poverty Law Center listed Church Militant/St. Michael's Media on the center's watch list of hate groups.

See: MSNBC News' entry, in: <https://www.baltimorebrew.com/2021/09/08/city-cancels-pier-six-rally-where-steve-bannon-milo-viannopoulos-were-to-speak/>, retrieved on 20.09.2021

IsP140494-US: Armenian pleads guilty to hate-driven attack at Turkish restaurant— An Armenian American man who assaulted people at a Turkish restaurant in the state of California and injured five people agreed to plead guilty on September 9 to federal criminal charges in a hate crime case. According to a plea agreement filed on September 6 in the United States District Court, William Stepanyan, a Glendale city resident, had agreed to plead to one count of conspiracy and one hate crime charge. Stepanyan was expected to enter a guilty plea to the felony charges, a Department of Justice release said.

See Daily Sabah News' entry, in: <https://www.dailysabah.com/turkey/diaspora/armenian-pleads-guilty-to-hate-driven-attack-at-turkish-restaurant/>, retrieved on 16.09.2021

IsP140495-Canada: N.S. Conservative candidate apologizes for sharing racist Facebook posts— A Conservative candidate in Nova Scotia had apologized for sharing social media posts about Muslims and immigrants. "In the past I have shared social media posts without thinking about how these posts might hurt or offend others," Central Nova candidate Steven Cotter said in a statement Saturday forwarded to CTV News by the party.

See CTV News entry, in: <https://www.ctvnews.ca/politics/federal-election-2021/n-s-conservative-candidate-apologizes-for-sharing-racist-facebook-posts-1.5574123>, retrieved on 13.09.2021

EUROPE

IsP140496-France: New hate trial for French far-right veteran Jean-Marie Le Pen— The 93-year-old founder of France's main far-right party, Jean-Marie Le Pen, went on trial on August 30 over allegations of inciting racial hatred, this time with comments where he targeted a Jewish pop singer. He already had a string of hate speech convictions that eventually became too much for his daughter Marine Le Pen, who expelled him from the National Front's leadership in 2015 in a bid to achieve mainstream respectability. Le Pen senior, however, had continued to relish the outrage prompted by his statements against Jews, Muslims, black people and immigrants. The latest trial was for a 2014 video on the party's website in which Le Pen railed against artists who denounced his extremist stances. Asked about the French singer and actor Patrick Bruel, Le Pen referred to his Jewish origins with a pun evoking the Holocaust -- "I'm not surprised. Listen, next time we'll do a whole oven batch!" The trial was delayed for years while Le Pen claimed immunity from prosecution as an MEP, a seat he won in 1984 and held until 2019.



See Yahoo News' entry, in: <https://sg.news.yahoo.com/hate-trial-french-far-veteran-021346742.html>, Image Source: <https://www.france24.com/en/france/20210901-french-far-right-party-founder-jean-marie-le-pen-faces-new-hate-trial>, retrieved on 05.09.2021

IsP140497-UK: Man Accused of Planning to attack Fife Mosque to Go on Trial— A man accused of preparing to commit acts of terrorism and suggesting online that he planned to attack the Fife Islamic Centre would stand on October 4. Sam Imrie, allegedly acquired knives, nunchucks, a hammer, a baseball bat, a rifle scope and petrol, which he referred to as his “arsenal”, between June 20 and July 4 2019. He was accused of posting statements on the internet platform Telegram where he indicated that he planned to stream live footage of “an incident” and posted statements that he was going to carry out an attack on the Fife Islamic Centre in Glenrothes. It was also alleged he recorded and compiled details of terrorist attacks on places of worship.

See: Tell Mama UK News' entry, in: <https://tellmamauk.org/man-accused-of-planning-to-attack-fife-mosque-to-go-on-trial/>, retrieved on 19.09.2021

IsP140498-UK: SACKED: Legal assistant shared abhorrent Facebook posts, including about throwing boiling water over Muslim children— A legal assistant sacked after she promoted violence against Muslim children and ‘jokes’ about the paedophilia of Jimmy Savile and taking class A drugs on public Facebook posts had their claim for unfair dismissal over her pregnancy dismissed by an employment tribunal. Leanne Livesey had, according to the tribunal ruling, posted a ‘joke’ about gravely assaulting Muslim children by throwing boiling water over them during a water fight – and given the public nature of the horrific content, it took little time for management to find them, as evidenced by a screen recording presented to the tribunal.

See: Tell Mama UK News entry, in: <https://tellmamauk.org/sacked-legal-assistant-shared-abhorrent-facebook-posts-including-about-throwing-boiling-water-over-muslim-children/>, retrieved on 19.09.2021

IsP140499-Italy: Steve Bannon's right-wing 'gladiator school' booted from Italian monastery— An effort by former Trump advisor Steve Bannon to set up a right-wing "gladiator school" in an 800-year-old Italian monastery had seemingly been derailed, the Art Newspaper reported on September 8. The Italian culture ministry evicted Benjamin Harnwell, a British Catholic conservative and Bannon's ally, from the medieval monastery, the paper said. Bannon in March was infuriated when his group's lease for the building — the Certosa di Trisulti — was revoked by Italy's Council of State, which cited reasons such as poor financial planning for the move, per the Daily Beast.

See: The Business Insider News' entry, in: <https://www.businessinsider.com/steve-bannon-right-wing-gladiator-school-booted-from-italian-monastery-2021-9>, retrieved on 20.09.2021

ASIA

IsP140500-India: Hyderabad: Non-Muslims visit masjid in BHEL; enlightened on 'Namaz', Quran— To bridge the gap, and promot brotherhood and maintain unity between communities, non-Muslims on August 29 were invited to Jama Masjid, Vidyutnagar, in new MIG BHEL. About 15 non-Muslims, which included local residents, visited the mosque along with Patancheru MLA Gudem Mahipal Reddy, who was the chief guest on the occasion. The MLA said he was impressed by the teachings of Islam. "It is good to hear that Muslims bless the person whom they meet with the 'Salam'. We were unaware of that. I had visited many mosques since my childhood, but I am unaware of the meanings and importance of 'Namaz', 'Quran' and 'Salam.'" "Such activities will help maintain peace and brotherhood among both communities. The activities and interactions should continue to understand each other. Once we understand each other we can stand together in society," he added.

See: The Hans India News' entry, in: <https://www.thehansindia.com/news/cities/hyderabad/hyderabad-non-muslims-visit-masjid-in-bhel-enlightened-on-namaz-quran-704039>, retrieved on 05.09.2021

IsP140501-Singapore: Man pleads guilty to throwing raw pork bone towards mosque balcony

Despite been in full view of a mosque's members, Lim Beng Wei threw a raw pork bone towards the building's balcony. The Singaporean national pleaded guilty on September 9 to a charge of public nuisance. Court documents stated that Lim bought two raw pork bones, among other things, from a supermarket in Tanjong Pagar on the morning of January 14. He headed towards Masjid Al-Abrar, which was located at Telok Ayer Street, where he intended to throw a bone at the mosque. When he reached the building, he removed a bone from its packaging and flung it towards the second-level balcony of the mosque. Lim had also admitted to only being partially compliant in taking his medications then.



But Dr Yap said the man admitted to only being partially compliant in taking his medications then was not of unsound mind at the time - he was aware of the "nature and quality of his actions". See Straits Times News' entry, in:

<https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/courts-crime/man-pleads-guilty-to-throwing-raw-pork-bone-towards-mosque-balcony>, retrieved on 14.09.2021

SOUTH AMERICA

IsP140502-Brazil: Bolsonaro's support hits fresh low ahead of Brazil 2022 vote, poll shows

Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro's popularity had hit the lowest point of his time in office, a Datafolha poll showed on September 16, with 53% of respondents disapproving of him ahead of a presidential election next year. The pollster's last survey, in July, showed 51% of respondents disapproved of the far-right former army captain. This month's poll showed 22% rate him as good or excellent, down from 24% in the earlier poll.

See: Reuters News' entry, in: <https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/bolsonaros-support-hits-fresh-low-ahead-brazil-2022-vote-poll-shows-2021-09-16/>, retrieved on 19.09.2021