



Human Rights Complaint Form

Alberta Human Rights
and Citizenship Commission

For office use only
Date received
RECEIVED
FEB 15 2006
ALBERTA HUMAN RIGHTS AND
CITIZENSHIP COMMISSION
CALGARY

Please see pages 9 and 10 of the booklet for instructions on how to complete this form. Please use a pen. Do not use pencil. Be sure to complete all sections of the form that apply to you. Contact the Commission if you need help to complete the form.

The Commission must receive your complaint within one year after the alleged incident of discrimination. The alleged discrimination must have occurred in Alberta.

If you feel your safety or the safety of anyone you name during the complaint process is at risk, please call your local police service first, then let the Commission know.

A Your name (You are the complainant.)

First name BADIUDDIN SYED	Last name SYED SOHABUARDY
-------------------------------------	-------------------------------------

Complete this box if you are complaining on behalf of someone else

Name of that person First name	Last name
Please ask the person on whose behalf you are complaining to sign on the line below to show that they agree that you can make the complaint.	
Signature	

B Who are you complaining about? (This is the respondent.)

Name of business, organization, association or person ERA LAVANT Western Standards			
Street or mailing address 205 1550 5th Street SW			
Town or city CALGARY	Province ALBERTA	Postal code TARIK3	Telephone (Area or include area code) 216-2270
If there is more than one respondent, check this box <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Be sure to add the name and contact information of additional respondents on an attached page.			

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This complaint is accepted as follows	Article(s) Publications, notices Signed statements
Date of last incident Feb 27 2006	Ground(s) Religious Beliefs
Section number(s) 3(1)	
Date Mar 3 2006	
File number 52006/03/0559/1110	

C Complete section C only if you are making a complaint because you believe:

- someone retaliated against you because you participated in a human rights complaint, or
- someone made a frivolous or vexatious human rights complaint about you to the Commission with malicious intent.

Do not complete this section until you have read the information about retaliation and frivolous and vexatious complaints on page 10 of the booklet.


Please check (✓) only the item that applies to this complaint.

- retaliation
- a frivolous or vexatious complaint made with malicious intent


Write a statement to explain what happened. Answer the questions that apply:

1. What has made you believe someone is retaliating against you because you participated in a human rights complaint? What events have occurred to make you believe this?
2. What has made you believe that someone made a frivolous or vexatious human rights complaint about you to the Commission with malicious intent? What events have occurred to make you believe the complaint was frivolous or vexatious? What makes you think there was malicious intent?

continue on next page


Complainant's signature

Date Feb 14, 2006


Complainant's signature

Date Feb 14, 2006

If you need more space, please add additional pages, and remember to sign, date and number each page. After you have written your statement, please proceed to **section G** at the end of this booklet and sign and date the declaration. **Do not complete sections D, E, and F.**

Call us if you have questions.

D Identify the area in which the discrimination took place.

Please check (✓) only those areas that apply to this complaint.

- Employment practices
- Employment applications, advertisements, or interviews
- Tenancy
- Equal pay
- Goods, services, accommodation or facilities
- Statements, publications, notices, signs, symbols, emblems or other representations
- Membership in a trade union, employers' organization or occupational association

E Identify the grounds of discrimination.

Please check (✓) only those grounds that apply to this complaint.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Race/Colour | <input type="checkbox"/> Age |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ancestry/Place of origin | <input type="checkbox"/> Physical disability |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious beliefs | <input type="checkbox"/> Mental disability |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gender: | <input type="checkbox"/> Marital status |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pregnancy | <input type="checkbox"/> Family status |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual Harassment: | <input type="checkbox"/> Source of income |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Male/female/transgendered | <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual orientation |

F Write a statement to support your complaint. Please include all of the following information:

- Where in Alberta did the discrimination take place? For example, in what city or town or elsewhere in Alberta?

Mr. Ezra Lavant, Publisher of Western Standards Magazine
CALGARY, ALBERTA

- When did the discrimination take place? What incidents happened in the last year? Provide dates (day, month and year) and details.

From February 9 - February 14 on the media, CBC
CTV, Calgary Herald, Calgary Sun, Global mail in
Also Western Standards Magazine

- Is the discrimination still occurring?

Yes, Mr. Lavant is constantly advocating hate mongering
cartoons in the media.

- What made you believe you were discriminated against? How were you treated differently from the way others were treated? Who treated you this way? For each ground that you checked in section E, please give details. For example, if you checked race, please indicate your race. Explain how you were discriminated against based on each ground.

On Monday, February 13 Mr. Ezra Lavant insulted me
on air on CBC Radio at 7:00 AM and called
me "backward". He also said that the hateful cartoons
are justified to be published in his magazine
Western Standards. I have attached few of
his statements but his on air statements can be
obtained from CBC, CTV and other media
organization. Publishing of cartoons in
the Western Standards is in fact, a direct
hate against me of an openly the follower
and related to Prophet Muhammad (peace be

continue on next page



Complainant's signature

Feb 14, 2006

Date

upon him) Western Standards to have previous
 cartoons depicting Prophet Muhammad as terrorist
 It means he had defamed me and my
 family because we follow and related to
 Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him)
 Prophet Muhammad was never a terrorist
 He always practiced love and respect.
 Unfortunately, I was not able to find the
 complete address for Western Standards
 I hope the Commission can find and find
 Mr. Ezra Lavant who is well known in the
 community Calgary.

If you need more space please add additional pages, and remember to sign, date and number each page.

G Please read the statement below and sign and date this form.

I am making a complaint under the *Human Rights, Citizenship and Multiculturalism Act* for assessment by the Alberta Human Rights and Citizenship Commission. I declare the information I have provided in this form is true to the best of my knowledge and belief. I understand that if my complaint is accepted, the Commission will send a copy of the accepted complaint to the respondent.

Complainant's signature

Date

Feb 14, 2006

The Alberta Human Rights and Citizenship Commission cannot process your complaint if information is missing or if you do not sign this form. **Please remember to sign, date and number each page you add to the form.**

Islamic Supreme Council of Canada



Date: February 14, 2006

Alberta Human Rights and
Citizenship Commission
Suite 310, 525 - 11 Avenue, SW
Calgary, Alberta T2R 0C9

Dear Sir / Madam,

I am a Muslim Canadian, Albertan and Canadian. I have been living in Calgary for the past more than 10 years. I am a law-abiding citizen of Calgary, Alberta, Canada. I am a well-known Muslim leader in Calgary, Alberta and Canada. I am the founder of Muslims Against Terrorism and the National President of Islamic Supreme Council of Canada. I live in Calgary with my two children and wife.

It is a well known fact that a person is called Muslim if he/she follows the religion of Islam, which was founded by Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). I am openly a practicing Muslim and dearly follow Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). I am proud to be a Muslim and an Albertan Canadian. Moreover, around the world, more than 1.5 billion people follow Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) and overwhelming majority of Muslims are law abiding and peaceful human beings.

My relationship with Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) has two aspects. I am one of the direct descendants of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him); therefore, I am related to him through ancestry. My name "Syed" reflects that relationship. I am also a Muslim and follow Prophet Muhammad's (peace be upon him) religion.

Based upon the teachings of Islam's sacred book Qur'an, Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) was a kind, merciful and a great Messenger and Prophet of God. He was not a terrorist and he neither preached terrorism. However, two Calgary newspapers / journals; Jewish Free Press and Western Standards printed extremely racist, hateful and insulting cartoons depicting Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) as a terrorist, violent and immoral person. This false depiction of my Prophet and my ancestor has publicized me and my family as someone related to a terrorist and the followers of a terrorist. We are not terrorists. We are law abiding Canadians.

These cartoons have sited violence, hate and discrimination against my family and me. We feel that our human rights have been violated. Our rights as Canadians and Albertans have been violated. Therefore, we request you to help us in removing these false accusations against our ancestor and our Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). These cartoons have created unbearable stress, humiliation and insult for my family and me. Publishing of these cartoons by Canadian newspapers / journals have caused serious damage to the reputation of all Canadian Muslims as well. I have enclosed the hate email that I have recently received and some of the statements that the publishers of these two newspapers / journals made in the media.

I am hoping that the Alberta Human Rights and Citizenship Commission will find justice for us.

Thanks

Syed Badiuddin Soharwardy
President, Islamic Supreme Council of Canada
Founder: Muslims Against Terrorism

The Commission has
blocked information for
privacy reasons.

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Battling a war of words

On laws that make it a crime to speak in favour of our enemies go too far?

Note: Karen Selick is on leave. Graciously filling in for her is National Post editorial board member Marni Soupcoff.

From: Marni Soupcoff msoupcoff@westernstandard.ca
To: Michael Coren mcoren@westernstandard.ca
Date: Feb 13, 2006 9:40 A M
Subject: Should pro-terror sentiments be banned?

It's a leader's responsibility to protect his country from attack. But what happens when a leader takes that responsibility to the extreme and starts broadly limiting what his citizens may say and do, in a flailing effort to fight off unknown threats? Australia, sadly, seems to be heading down that road. In an effort to fight terror, Prime Minister John Howard is seeking to expand the country's sedition laws so that sentences will be longer and it will be a crime to "assist, by any means whatever, an organization or country . . . at war with the Commonwealth, whether or not the existence of a state of war has been declared." That's a pretty vague standard of speech for a democratic country, and it doesn't leave much room for dissent. Mind you, the Aussies are in good company since the U.K. has already banned "the glorification of terrorism." Is Canada next?



From: Michael Coren mcoren@westernstandard.ca
To: Marni Soupcoff msoupcoff@westernstandard.ca
Date: Feb 13, 2006 11:29 AM
Subject: re: Should pro-terror sentiments be banned?

I hope so. Because there is a war going on and any government worth the name has a duty to defend its people. Australia is to a large extent following the British model, and in the United Kingdom the new legislation has not curtailed the liberty of innocent people. What it has enabled is the arrest of those who try to indoctrinate others into extremist and potentially violent organizations. Whilst the "glorification" of terrorism is illegal, activists can still praise various terrorist groups and argue their case in public. What they cannot do is call for people to be killed, or directly urge other citizens to indulge in terror, or finance and support known terrorists. In Canada we encourage, rather than control, groups such as the Tamil Tigers, and ignore the activities of numerous terrorist gangs. One can only hope that our new government will, as it were, jump on the kangaroo and stand up to our enemies.

From: Marni Soupcoff msoupcoff@westernstandard.ca
To: Michael Coren mcoren@westernstandard.ca
Date: Feb 13, 2006 2:02 PM
Subject: re: Should pro-terror sentiments be banned?

The Conservative government would have to have its head in a pouch (sorry, couldn't resist a marsupial joke) not to realize that following in the Aussies' and Brits' footsteps would have a

serious chilling effect on Canadians' speech. By all means, our government should do what it can to protect us from harm, but not to the extent that we are no longer allowed to speak in favour of organizations or groups that the government dislikes. True freedom is strong enough to withstand all the verbal taunts, jeers and arguments that anyone can throw at it. But it will never have the chance to triumph if we're not even allowed to have the debate. While I agree that actual acts of terror and aggression (such as those commit-

ted by the Tamil Tigers) must be vigorously prosecuted, ideas should not be. Exposing them to the light of day will do more good.

From: Michael Coren mcoren@westernstandard.ca
To: Marni Soupcoff msoupcoff@westernstandard.ca
Date: Feb 13, 2006 3:37 PM
Subject: re: Should pro-terror sentiments be banned?

Okay, I have to "jump" to the defence of the Australians and the British. Both nations have far greater freedom of speech than we enjoy in Canada. They also possess more genuinely open societies in terms of debate and discourse—in this country the purview of disagreement is largely limited to those subjects defined as being politically correct. The language of their legislation may sound draconian, but in fact it is just a way to give the authorities more room for manoeuvre. I realize that this in itself may be cause for concern, but in a war against sophisticated international terrorism we have to place more trust in the contract between the governed and the government. Believe me, I do not relish giving the state any more power than it already has. But harsh times call for harsh measures, and many of society's weapons are already in the hands of our enemies. ☐



DRAWING THE LINE

Cartoonists who claim to stand for press freedom are now on the battle between the West and Islam.

By David I. Gelernter

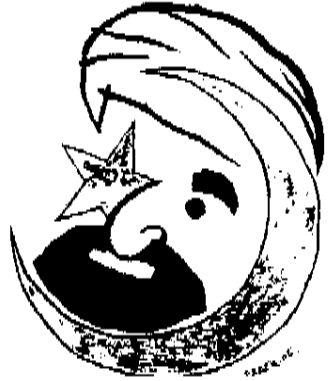
unmen storm an EU office in Gaza, Lebanese set ablaze the Danish embassy in Damascus, protesters in Islamic countries carry signs reading "Death to blasphemers" and an imam in Norway declares, "The war has begun." All over cartoons—cartoons of the Prophet Mohammed, who, according to Islamic tradition, is not to be depicted. News outlets everywhere reported the

story. Few showed the cartoons.

North America's journalism community may defend press freedoms when it comes to those who criticize western establishments, but faced with accusations of political incorrectness—not to mention violence—they seem to have buckled. When the cartoons first appeared in the Danish newspaper *Jyllands-Posten*, in September, it was in response to a writer claiming he could find no artists unafraid to illustrate a

children's book about Mohammed. In December, the Islamic Society of Denmark toured the Arab world to drum up support to demand an official apology from the Danish government. On Feb. 1, *Jyllands-Posten* received a bomb threat. Norwegian newspapers reprinted the cartoons as a show of support. So did the French newspaper *France Soir*, prompting the paper's owner to fire his editor. The following day, an editor of a Jordanian newspaper, *al-Shaban*, was sacked for the same reason. North American media outlets have yet to demonstrate their solidarity. A Feb. 2 report on CNN's website was clear about where that network stands: "CNN has chosen to not show the cartoons in respect for Islam." It read, in French in Canada, the CBC, the *Toronto Star*, the

▶▶ WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE?



Given the violent outrage with which Muslims in the Mideast are reacting to the cartoons published in *Jyllands-Posten*, you'd think this is the first time anyone had ever dared to draw Mohammed. It isn't.

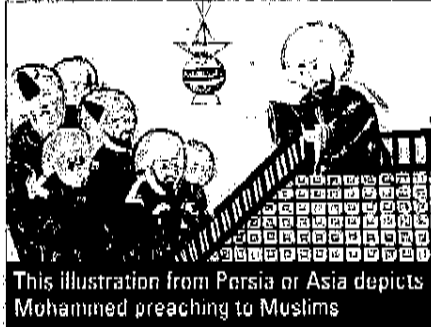
There are hundreds of paintings and drawings of the Prophet, many of which were created by Islamic artists. New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art has a particularly extensive collection. There's a tradition in Christian art of illustrating Mohammed—and not always in a flattering way. Renaissance artists frequently included depictions of the Islamic hero in church murals, showing him being tortured by demons in hell.

Other artists were inspired by Dante's *Inferno*, in which "Mahomet" dwells in the eighth circle of hell, reserved for "Sowers of Discord, whose punishment is to be mutilated." There, the Prophet "shows his entrails to Dante and Virgil," an image subsequently illustrated by famous artists, including Gustav Doré, Auguste Rodin and Salvador Dalí. Look carefully at the North Frieze of the U.S. Supreme Court building in Washington, D.C., and you'll find a bas-relief sculpture of Mohammed along with Charlemagne, Moses and Hammurabi, and other lawgivers.

Of course, it isn't really Mohammed. No artist, no matter how skilled, can actually draw the Prophet, since no one knows what he looked like, 1,400 years ago. Any drawing—even a stick figure—might be beyond the pale by fundamentalist Muslims,

if there was a possibility someone might think it was Mohammed.

That could seem severe, but the ban comes from the Hadith—a collection of Mohammed's sayings—intended to discourage idolatry (some strict Jews observe a similar taboo against depicting God or even celestial bodies, though there's no record of rabbis rioting outside pinball games). If you're Muslim, it's not only forbidden to have pictures of Mohammed, but you can't have pictures or statues of any person or animal—anything with a soul—in your home. "Angels do not enter a house in which there is a dog or a picture," said Mohammed, according to Islamic scripture.



This illustration from Persia or Asia depicts Mohammed preaching to Muslims

But Muslims never complained about non-Muslims' family portraits, or kitschy kitten posters. So why are they so worked up about the *Jyllands-Posten* cartoons?

Actually, they may not be. When a group of Danish imams toured the Mideast last December to whip up anger over the newspaper's illustrations, they slipped in several additional drawings that never ran. One of them showed Mohammed as a pig. In another, a dog is shown having sex with a kneeling Muslim. Seeing those would convince anyone that the artists' intention was to slander Islam in the most horrible way, evoking a sense of a great religious battle. And for those Muslims marching with signs demanding the beheading of the Danish cartoonists, and promising a "real holocaust" in Europe over the drawings, this is indeed a very real war. ☐

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ational Post and The Globe and Mail we made the same call. Journalists have never allowed themselves to be so restrained by the sensitivities of other religions. When western artists submerged a Jesus figure in urine or smeared a portrait of the Virgin Mother in elephant dung, outraged Christians, news editors did not shy away from broadcasting the offending images. They were, after all, central to the story. Few critics have been bold enough to point out that it is not the mass media's job to defer to the delicacies of cultural groups, but rather report the news, thoroughly and fairly. Yet, while Paris-based Reporters Without Borders has publicly condemned the editors' dismissals, other

press defenders are less willing to take a stand. Joel Simon, deputy director of the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists, says his organization criticizes the threat of violence against the Danes—but has no official position on the firings of the editors. "There is no right to threatened violence. And that's where this becomes a press freedom issue," Simon says. Paul Schneider, Canadian Association of Journalists president, says his organization doesn't usually comment on foreign matters, but notes, "You have to respect the fact that the cartoons could be deeply offensive to some people." Schneider does allow that "there are those" who believe fair comment includes things that "are somewhat offensive." Arnold Amber,

president of the Toronto-based Canadian Journalists for Free Expression, isn't one of them. He calls the publication of the cartoons "unwise . . . because perhaps sometimes the consequences are not worth making the first point."

But there are consequences, too, from allowing powerful and violent groups to determine what newspapers can and cannot print. And for societies that rely on an effective and free press, they might be even more disastrous. So, in the interest of resisting those who would put limits on what subjects news organizations are free to cover, the Western Standard is publishing the cartoons that so many others are afraid to. They may offend some readers, but that is no excuse not to report the news. ☐

How to fight militant Islam

How to fight militant Islam: A look at the history of our struggle against terrorism



Take just three recent world events: the landslide Hamas victory in the Palestinian election; proof from the International Atomic Energy Agency that Iran is developing nuclear weapons, to put on long-range missiles it already has; the convulsions in Europe and among Muslims everywhere over disrespectful cartoons that were published in an obscure Danish newspaper.

Each of these is a complex story; in each the significance is greater than first appears. For instance, the Hamas agenda is openly Islamic, and is accepted and celebrated as such throughout the Arab world. And the Hamas victory must be considered alongside the Muslim Brotherhood's advance in the recent Egyptian hall-election, and amidst indications that in Pakistan and elsewhere, explicitly Islamic parties (committed to shari'a theocracy at home and jihad a gainst Israel and the West) are gaining in popular support.

Iran is not only on the cusp of nuclear weaponry. Its president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, has unambiguously promised to annihilate Israel, and warned Europeans that they are in his missile range. Moreover, Russia and China are now providing revolutionary Iran with diplomatic cover, while both supply Iran with indispensable technical aid. With each day, the ayatollahs become more psychopathically aggressive.

And the Danish cartoon affair came after the experience of riots in France, in which the young of many dozen urban Muslim immigrant ghettos torched cars and vandalized buildings, chiefly in the adjoining neighbourhoods of the native French. The purpose of all this apoplexy was to intimidate.

From each of these events, or clusters of events, we may deduce that we're not defending ourselves from terrorists any more; a true civilizational battle is shaping.

Thinking aloud about this huge, accumulating threat to our existence may be dangerous, but has become necessary. Even in Canada, for be it noted that both the Iranian president and Hamas have listed Canada among their targets. Among other "Islamists," likewise, the

notion is spreading that the English-speaking peoples are the enemies of Islam par excellence. They pay us the compliment of imagining that we are the spine of the West—the spine that must be broken.

We may wish to blame President Bush and his incursions into Afghanistan and Iraq for having exacerbated the conflict, but even if this could be made to appear true (by forgetting about the chain of events that preceded U.S. action), we would still be getting nowhere.

Considered broadly, Afghanistan and Iraq were experiments, to see if something resembling democracy might "take," if imposed. The experiments haven't failed, yet, so, I think, let the Americans and their allies reduce their exposure, but don't let anyone think they've walked.

This is crucial, because they—really, we—face an enemy whose art of war has, for 14 centuries, consisted of: 1. Test the enemy. 2. If he is resolute, cut and run. 3. If he is not, swarm him.

But showing resolution in Afghanistan and Iraq, and even sending in an air force to destroy Iran's nuclear installations, are holding actions. Ditto every other exclusively military solution, against an enemy that can cleverly adapt car bombs, suicide killers, and now the widely diffused booby traps ("improved explosive devices") that have caused most of the casualties in Iraq. All of which could soon be used against western cities.

We face an unavoidable clash between two rival civilizations—one founded on Christianity, and one on Islam. And it is only when we look at the whole history of that rivalry, that we may begin to discover our strengths.

So here is my most unthinkable thought. You may know that I recently became a Catholic. This was not out of any enthusiasm for the contemporary church, but from a view of 20 centuries. I do believe the claims of Catholic Christianity are true, and would not stake my immortal soul upon a knowing imposture. But beyond this, I observe one shocking historical fact, which I invite my reader to test and consider. It is that no earthly institution except the Catholic church has ever successfully stood against militant Islam. In the long view, I think the recovery of that lost centre of our western enterprise, may be our only salvation from defeat and despair. ☐

Back to denial

What's truly shocking about the Hamas election victory? How quickly the West has fallen into familiar patterns of wishful thinking

By Bill Gertz

Some comic villainy by Russian President Vladimir Putin recently prompted historian Niall Ferguson to confess in *The Daily Telegraph* that he almost missed the Cold War: "What makes me nostalgic is that Soviet wickedness made politics so much simpler in my youth." Hamas's Jan. 25 Palestinian election victory should make him happy.

The win has western journalists, politicians and commentators repeating familiar Cold War patterns—especially denial of the painfully obvious, such as others viewing the world differently than ourselves. Sophisticated people insisted for 70 years that Soviet Marxism had recently given way to pragmatism: now Hamas is secretly about honest government, not destroying Israel. "There was no mention of this aim in the organization's election manifesto," said the BBC. "Hamas militants have observed an unofficial *hudna* since early in 2005."

London's *Daily Telegraph* opined that "in practical terms there is much to be said for engaging with Hamas, in the hope of steering it towards the renunciation of violence." Anton La Guardia in the *Ottawa Citizen* wrote that Hamas "is ideologically opposed to the existence of Israel . . . yet it has also shown pragmatism" and interest in "a long term *hudna* or truce, if Israel withdraws from all of the territories occupied in 1967."

As usual, maintaining illusions about our adversaries' intentions requires not accepting their words at face value. To



In practical terms there is much to be said for engaging with Hamas, in the hope of steering it toward the renunciation of violence," quined London's *Telegraph*. No mention of the sections of Hamas's charter that call for the annihilation of Jews.

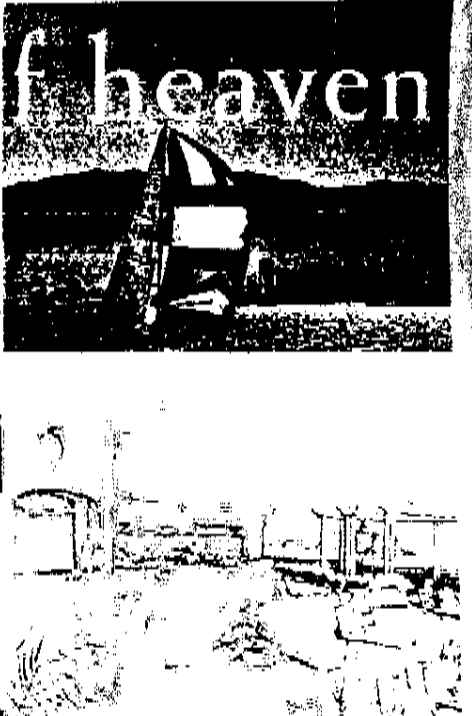
Hamas *hudna* refers to the Prophet's 10-year ceasefire in AD 628 with foes he attacked two years later and defeated to seize Mecca. Read the fine print before signing. The Hamas charter, amid paranoid fulmination about Rotary clubs, says Hamas "strives to raise the banner of Allah over every inch of

Palestine." It claims the Prophet said, "The Day of Judgement will not come about until Moslems fight the Jews (killing the Jews), when the Jew will hide behind stones and trees. The stones and trees will say O Moslems, O Abdulla, there is a Jew behind me, come and kill him." It bellows: "There is no solution for the Palestinian question except through Jihad." It invokes *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*. And Article 19 says: "All this is utterly serious and no jest."

Those who remember the Cold War, nostalgically or otherwise, will recognize that such clarity is no barrier to wishful misinterpretation. A Jan. 31 *Globe and Mail* news story sniffed that Hamas is "considered a terrorist group by Israel, Canada and the United States." Such vulgarity recalls Ronald Reagan considering the former U.S.S.R. "evil."

Political parties in liberal democracies may campaign on strong positions to rally partisans, then govern as moderates to broaden their appeal. But our adversaries are not liberal democrats. What can moderation even mean here? That trees, but not rocks, will erupt in murderous anti-Semitic fury?

Right after Hamas won, former U.S. president Jimmy Carter said: "It's not a hopeless case for a militant organization dedicated to violence to change," and like *The New York Times*, he expressly cited Yasser Arafat's PLO. But at Camp David in 2000, Arafat was offered major concessions to stop saying peace in English and jihad in Arabic, and he left without making a counter-offer, told Bill



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Islamic Supreme Council of Canada



Date: March 2, 2006

Mr. Mike Mcquaid
 Alberta Human Rights and
 Citizenship Commission
 Suite 310, #25 – 11 Avenue, SW
 Calgary, Alberta T2R 0C9

The Commission has
 blocked information for
 privacy reasons.

Dear Mr. Mike Mcquaid,

Thanks for meeting with me today. Although in our meeting, I provided you the detailed reasons of my complaint and the explanation of the offensive nature of the cartoons, however, you asked me to provide you the explanation in writing as well. Here is my explanation.

Importance of Prophet Muhammad for Muslims

The holy book of Islam, Qur'an describes the deepest love and the highest respect for Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) as an essential requirement of Faith. There are hundreds of verses in Qur'an but I am just quoting few of them;

1. The Prophet is closer (dearer) to the believers than their own selves (**chapter 33, verse 6**)
2. Allah (God) and His angels send blessings on the Prophet: O ye that believe! Send ye blessings on him and salute him with utmost respect. (**chapter 33, verse 56**)
3. Ye have indeed in Messenger of Allah (God) a beautiful pattern of conduct (**chapter 33, verse 21**)
4. By the Lord, They can have No faith Until they make thee (the prophet Muhammad) judge in all disputes between them, And find in their souls No resistance against Thy decisions, but accept Them with the fullest conviction (**chapter 4, verse 65**)
5. He who obeys The Messenger, Obeys Allah (God) (**chapter 4, verse 80**)

There are hundreds of similar verses in the Qur'an describing the role of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) as the most essential part of Islam. The respect and the obedience to Prophet Muhammad is the most basic requirement of Faith (Islam).

Mr. Mike Mcquaid, In Islam making images of Prophets and Messengers of God have been forbidden in order to discourage people from worshipping the portraits of sacred people as mentioned in the Qur'an

"And indeed We bestowed aforetime on Ibrâhim (Abraham) his (portion of) guidance, and We were Well-Acquainted with him (as to his Belief in the Oneness of Allâh, etc.).

When he said to his father and his people: "What are these images, to which you are devoted?"

The Commission has blocked information for privacy reasons.

They said: "We found our fathers worshipping them."

He said: "Indeed you and your fathers have been in manifest error."

(Qur'an, chapter 21 verses 51-54)

However, Islamic laws do not apply upon non-Muslims, especially in a non-Muslim country like Canada. Therefore, I am not asking the two publishers of Jewish Free Press and the Western Standard to follow the Islamic laws. Had the publishers published the portraits of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), it might not have been a big issue, at least in my personal opinion. But these two publishers printed very insulting, hateful, offensive, humiliating cartoons / caricatures. These publishers have made mockery of our religion, our prophet and each Canadian that follows the religion of Islam.

"And We do not send apostles but as givers of good news and warning, and those who disbelieve make a false contention that they may render null thereby the truth, and they take My communications and that with which they are warned for a mockery" **(Qur'an, chapter 18, verse 56)**

The both publishers knew that the worldwide Muslim community was very upset on the publications of these cartoons. They knew that it will be very offensive to Canadian / Albertan Muslims but they went ahead and published these cartoons in order to make a story. By publishing these caricatures, they not only publicly insulted all Canadian Muslims but they tried to defame all Canadian Muslims including my family and myself. I am not only a Muslim but also a direct descendent of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). The publishers defamed and insulted my family and myself.

They misused the freedom of the press in order to create hatred against Canadian Muslims and they succeeded in doing so. I have received several hate emails after the publications of these cartoons. I have submitted few of them with my original complaints.

Mr. Mike Mcquaid, Out of 12 original hateful caricatures, the following mentioned caricatures are the most hateful and hurtful to me and my family. Although, all caricatures were insulting but the following mentioned caricatures were the worst. Please see the attached photocopies for the numbering of the cartoons.

Western Standard

Caricature Number 1: This caricature depicts Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) as a crazy person. Having horns on the head depicts that the person either abnormal or possessed. This caricature insults the high honours of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). My beloved Muhammad (peace be upon him) was the best in manners, best in etiquettes and the most intelligent human being. We Muslim try to

imitate him in our daily lives. How someone can depict him as a crazy person? What kind of debate these publishers wanted to start in Canada? They just wanted to create hate against Canadian Muslims.

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Thou art not, By the grace of thy Lord, Mad or possessed,
(Qur'an, chapter 68, verse 2)

Caricature Number 2: This is the most offensive caricature. On the turban there are verses of the holy Qur'an written in Arabic. The translation of the Arabic text written on the turban is as follows:

"There is no God but Allah, Muhammad is His Messenger"

The above statement is the most sacred wording of Islam. This statement is the declaration of Faith. When a person accepts Islam then he/she has to utter the above-mentioned statement. This statement is the foundation of Islam.

In this caricature the cartoonist not only depicted Prophet Muhammad as a terrorist, an angry man having a bomb in his turban but cartoonist also used **the most sacred sentences** of our holy book and put a bomb with it. This caricature clearly sends a message in the community that Muhammad (peace be upon him) was a terrorist and the book of Islam teaches terrorism and the entire faith is based upon terrorism and violence. This is clearly a hate-mongering. I am quite disturbed and mentally tortured by these cartoons.

Caricature Number 3: This shows that Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) talking to suicide bombers who are coming to him to get virgins. The English text in the cartoon "Stop stop we ran out of Virgin!" has nothing to do with Islam. There is no single verse in Qur'an indicating that the suicide bombers will get virgins in the Heaven. This caricature helps in stereotyping the image of Muslims. In Islam, suicide is absolutely forbidden. Those who are committing suicide they are being exploited by the extremist element in the society. Islam and Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) has nothing to do with the promise of virgins and the suicide bombers. This is a misleading, defaming, hateful and very insulting depiction of our Prophet (peace be upon him)

Caricature Number 4: This caricature sends a very clear message to the readers of the news magazines that Prophet Muhammad was a violent person. In the caricature, he is holding a sword and a bloodthirsty knife along with two women in the state of shock. This is again a hateful depiction of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) about whom Qur'an says that he was the Prophet of Mercy and was a model for entire humanity. Such violent depictions of Prophet Muhammad, in fact, depicts our religion Islam as violent and the entire Muslim community as the followers of a violent prophet, which is absolutely not true.

Jewish Free Press (JFP)

In JFP caricature 1 is same as Caricature 4 in Western Standard, explained earlier
In JFP, caricature 2 is same as caricature 2 in Western Standard, explained earlier

In JFP, caricature 3 is same as Caricature 3 in Western Standard, explained earlier.

Caricature number 4: This cartoon shows that Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) driving a Ryder truck with a huge missile in it. This is an obvious analogy with the Oklahoma Federal building disaster. In this cartoon Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) again was depicted as a terrorist. The cartoonist has tried to create similarity between Timothy McVeigh and Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), which is, at least in my opinion, was very poor and biased judgments of the publishers. Depiction of Prophet Muhammad as a terrorist means that I was depicted as terrorist and each Canadian Muslims was depicted as terrorist. This is clearly demonizing of our religion, Muslim community in Canada and me.

I hope that the Alberta Human Rights and Citizenship Commission will hold to its high standards of protecting the rights of Albertans. Our rights as respectful law-abiding citizens of Calgary, Alberta and Canada have been violated. Our Prophet, our religion and our holy book Qur'an has been depicted as terrorists and violent.

I need justice from the Alberta Human Rights and Citizenship Commission in this matter. I am expecting that the Alberta Human Rights and Citizenship Commission will set precedence in Alberta in order to stop racism, discrimination and hate mongering against any Albertan in future. I am expecting a formal apology from the publishers of the Jewish Free Press and the Western Standard. Please help.

Please call me for any questions.

Thanks

Your's Truly,



Syed Badiddin Soharwardy
President, Islamic Supreme Council of Canada
Founder: Muslims Against Terrorism

The Commission has
blocked information for
privacy reasons

From: ISCC
 Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2006 6:51 PM
 To: humanrights@gov.ab.ca
 Subject: Fw: FREE SPEECH

Alberta Human Rights and
 Citizenship Commission
 Suite 310, 525 - 11 Avenue, SW
 Calgary, Alberta T2R 0C9

Dear Sir / Madam,

May I request you to add the following attachment to my two complaints I filed today against the Jewish Free Press and Western Standard.

Unfortunately, the response from Calgary police is not reasonable, therefore, I am hoping that I will get justice from the Alberta Human Rights and Citizenship Commission.

These hateful mail are quite disturbing and I am sure the two news magazine have inspired people to send these hateful messages to me.

Please help and stop discrimination and hate against us. Thanks

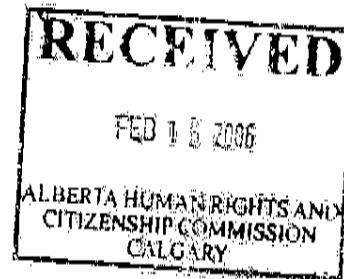
Syed Baduddin Soharwardy
 Ph: (403) 208-7148

----- Original Message -----

From: "w slower" <evansgramp@telus.net>
 To: <contact@islamicsupremecouncil.com>
 Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2006 4:18 PM
 Subject: FREE SPEECH

If you don't like free speech in publications GET THE FU## OUT OF CANADA
 > AND GC HOME!!!!!!!

The Commission has
 blocked information for
 privacy reasons



ISCC

From: "Saleem Akra Bla Muhamedbla" <akrablabla@hotmail.com>
To:
Sent: February 13, 2006 7:48 PM
Attach: Prophet Muhammed having Gay Sex with Jesus Christ.jpg
Subject: Another Prophet Cartoon

The Commission has blocked information for privacy reasons

Nothing is better than seeing Muslims show their true colors of hate and intolerance willing to destroy, die, and kill over cartoons. This helps the world see what Islam really is and how Islam is hate that supports the censorship of communism and oppresses free speech.

You should see all of the new Prophet cartoon in America.

Another cartoon attached.

FREE pop-up blocking with the new MSN Toolbar - get it now!
<http://toolbar.msn.com/clk-url.com/go/onm0020041 Save/direct/01/>



Handwritten signature or initials

ISCC

From: "Ms. Wormwood" <narniaboy@mailhaven.com>
To:
Sent: February 14, 2006 5:02 PM
Subject: Who yo gonna sue??

The Commission has
blocked information for
privacy reasons

Hey, come after me Syed..... Islam is a evil murderous cult founded
by a depraved murdering child marrying looting scoundral!!

Hey, its a free country Syed...time for you too go back too any Islamic
hellhole where you can happily slaughter those that leave Islam or make
fun of the meccan murderer..

Muhammed was a bastard..

So watch ya gonna do there Syed.....

Free Speech ...ain't it a grand thing...and you cannot hide behind your
Islamic lies
any longerjust talk to all those wondeful brave Ex Muslims
the world over...

You think I have bad words about the cult of Islam?? Wow...talk to the
Great Canadian Persian
Ex Muslim Ali Sina and see what he has too say about your CULT!!

Please visit...

www.faithfreedom.org

Have a happy Valentine's day.....oooooppsssIslamofacists have
banned that too....

Ms Wormwood
narniaboy@mailhaven.com

<http://www.fastmail.fm> - Or how I learned to stop worrying and
love email again

Handwritten signature

14/02/2006

ISCC

From: "lvnn" <lvnn@vahoo.ca>
To:
Sent: February 3, 2006 6:25 AM
Subject: Cartoon

What is wrong with you people? You are the most sour, excitable, unrealistic, humourless, bunch I've ever seen.

You only get one life,,,lighten up.

Do you people ever smile? Laugh? I can't figure it out. What is WRONG with you people???

Find your next car at Yahoo! Canada Autos

The Commission has
blocked information for
privacy reasons

lvnn
02/14/06

14/02/2006

ISCC

From: "Pissel Off" <muslims_hypocrites@yahoo.com>
To:
Sent: February 8, 2006 9:35 AM
Attach: danish011.jpg
Subject: Danish Cartoons - Muslims Hypocritical Response To Them

The Commission has
blocked information for
privacy reasons

Folks

In your kind's eyes, apparently it is perfectly alright for a radical muslim to call for the destruction of Israel and burn the Jew's flag. Your kind has burned the American Flag, knocked down two office towers in New York along with trying to get World Trade center back in the early 90s. They have blown up American embassies in Kenya. I have personally watched your kind abuse women in Algeria and practise widespread male homosexuality in that same country. And it appears that it is okay for your kind to cut the heads off of living human beings whose only crime it was was to try to help those in Iraq.

As an individual who has strong ties to America along with whose family came from Sweden, I am going to explain something to you in case you have not figured it out yet. Denmark, England and the rest of the European countries, the USA, Australia, and Canada was built by my parent's generation and grandparent's generation on the basis of freedom of speech. Freedom of speech allows you to speak your views. However that includes all of us not just the muslims. If I want to poke fun at your religion, I am going to so whether you like it or not and personally don't care if you are offended because of it.

Now you have the right to speak out about those cartoons and how offensive they may be to you. But I have the right as a individual to write or speak whatever I want or publish whatever I want if I am a newspaper publisher as do those papers in Denmark.

At the end of the day, if you don't like what the Danes published, well too bad and so sad. Maybe you should go back to wherever country you immigrated from and practise your religion back there. I personally don't want your kind here in my country infringing upon my personal rights to freedom of speech.

I am glad to see that the leaders of Denmark have stood up and said they will not apologize for the publisher's of those cartoons. And you know what, they won't either no matter what you say to whomever you try to lay pressure on.

I have included one of the cartoons for you to look at. I think it is quite appropriate considering everything going on in the world. Enjoy it, I did. Think about how offended I am the next time one of your type decides to burn a flag or blow something up.

The bottom line is that your type is going to have to come out of the 8th century and move into the 21st century. We won't be intimidated by your kind.

14/02/2006

Relax. Yahoo! Mail virus scanning helps detect nasty viruses!



14/02/2006
14/02/2006

----- Original Message -----

From: amirabbas.ahmadnia

To: ISCC

Sent: Wednesday, February 08, 2006 11:27 AM

Subject: Re: Speech on Cartoon Crises

hi ok in this video seay you guys love mohamamad his best ok if some body going to kil another person his good no man every body on world same and you have just belive god and that set mohammad & ali And all they did kill the pepale I have questin If I dont belive you you wane kill me.....

1/2/06

ISCC

From: "Ms. Wormwood" <narniaboy@mailhaven.com>
To:
Sent: February 13, 2006 12:31 AM
Subject: Sorry Syed but...

admission has
no information for
privacy reasons

we have every right to ridicule Muhammed in any fashion that we want...this is the Free West!!
Christians and Jews and their faiths have been ridiculed in the West for Centuries... please visit any University Newspaper and see the most foul stuff about such...

Islam is rightly a target for ridicule...particularly when you consider the outrageous behavior of Muhammed and his murderous treatment of those that mocked him...or his execution of 800 innocent Jews...

Not too mention the brutal cartoons daily in the Islamic world about Jews and the daily murders of non muslims by muslims.....Islam deserves our scorn.....and you have too take it.

Thankfully, Canada has not gotten so stupid as to become complete dhimmis for you.....

Thankfully there are many fine muslims out there...however, there is no such thing as fine Orthodox Islam.....it is brutal too its core!!

Just talk too all those ex muslims out there Syed....they have a slightly different and no doubt a more honest view of Islam then yourself!!

Start with the Qura'n, Sira and Sahih Hadiths...it tells the whole gory story of Islam!!

Thanks

--
Ms. Wormwood
narniaboy@mailhaven.com

--
<http://www.fastmail.fm> - A fast, anti-spam email service.

[Handwritten signature]

14/02/2006

ISCC

From: "D M" <larrylmac88@hotmail.com>
To:
Sent: February 13, 2006 11:30 AM
Subject: notice

To inform whomever that students of UPEI havent destroyed all the copies of the cadre when asked and they have been showing up at places like local burger kings and subways close to the university, there is also a booklet put together with all of the cartoons included, being passed to dentist and doctor's offices all over the province, it seems useless to deny people's rights to see what has offended the the uneducated people of islam. Prince Edward Island will not be bullied by anyone, let alone a country too far away to be significant.

**The Commission has
blocked information for
privacy reasons.**

14/02/2006