

Britain Fails The Town Square Test

Islamists have been displaying their customary **rage**, this time ostensibly over the publication of cartoons in a Danish newspaper, Jyllands-Posten, that depicted the prophet Mohammed. The cartoons were mildly satirical; one of them implied that Mohammed would be a suicide bomber, or at least approve of them, if he were alive, and another depicted a cartoonist being terrified to draw Mohammed. It should be noted that:

- No comparable Islamic rage has ever been expressed when Islamic media worldwide publish the same allegations with approval. Nor when Islamic political leaders do the same – for instance the Hamas government of the Palestinian Authority, or the leaders of Iran.
- None of the cartoons in any way incited violence or hatred. You can see them [here](#), and if you do, you should compare them with the incitement documented [here](#).
- Adherents of Muslim religions are of course free to adhere to their religious prohibition against making images of Mohammed. But they have no right to require this of adherents of any other faith or atheists. Making and displaying such images is a fundamental human right. Nor is it in any way immoral, or even insensitive, to exercise this right.
- According to some commentators (we are not experts on the theory and practice of Islamic law), this prohibition is not always enforced with great zeal in Muslim countries, even fanatical ones. It is worth looking at this [collection of images](#) of Mohammed through the ages, none of which has caused riots or threats of murder.

When asked about the cartoons, the foreign minister of one country praised his own press for not re-publishing the cartoons, and **bitterly attacked** the media in other countries for doing so:

"Re-publication of the cartoons has been unnecessary, it has been insensitive, it has been disrespectful and it has been wrong."

In that same country, Islamists protested outside the Danish embassy. Many of them carried signs making death threats all those who "insult the Prophet". Two counter-demonstrators, protesting in favour of freedom of speech, carried cartoons of Mohammed. The police arrested those two. None of the people

carrying signs inciting violence were arrested.

The country in question was Britain. This is bad news. The demonstrators were, as the Conservatives have said, unequivocally and perfectly seriously committing **incitement to murder**. The victims are quite rightly **terrified and in hiding**. Failure to prevent or punish the crime of incitement to murder, especially when committed in a political context, is poison to a democracy. Britain is already failing Sharansky's **town square test**.

Sun, 02/05/2006 - 12:53 | [digg](#) | [del.icio.us](#) | [permlink](#)

I imagine this lot are the Da

I imagine this lot are the Daily Mail readers of the Muslim world. They just love to be pissed off at something. Further, I think the bother would have gone away if not for media naval gazing. If someone is complaining about a use of free speech, don't film or write a report on them.

I feel sorry for the cartoonist(s). All this attention, and they were pretty crap. To have your life threatened over satire is one thing. To have it threatened over such piss poor satire is quite another.

But that's religions for you. I understand Christians were joined by a few Muslims protesting Jerry Springer: The Opera. Praps that's who issued the death threats there, too.

On the other hand, a moment's reflection would tell those who reprinted the pictures that it would only mean more trouble. Free speech, yes, but I can make plenty of arguments for it (and defending it) without wearing a 'Moses/Jesus/Mohammed/Buddha Is A Cunt' t-shirt.

by Kid eh on Mon, 02/06/2006 - 01:33 | [reply](#)

Brave Men

Here is a link to an interview with 3 very brave Muslem men, former terrorists, one of whom says that it is too dangerous for him to live in Britain because he believes he would be attacked by fellow Muslims for daring to condemn terrorism (he now lives in the United States).

by a reader on Mon, 02/06/2006 - 23:49 | [reply](#)

Re: Brave Men

Indeed, they are brave and decent men, bearing witness to something important. Readers should watch the video. **This** eyewitness report by IsraPundit of another event attended by the same three men (who are apparently no longer Muslims) is also interesting.

by [Editor](#) on Tue, 02/07/2006 - 00:40 | [reply](#)

When will the free world finally wake up?

I completely agree. It is a shame that the appeasement continues in the face of such blatant and shameful fascism.

Here is another good article written by a muslim Iranian woman.

Your links about the former terrorists was amazing. It is awesome to see people stand up and return to humanity from the edge of darkness.

Thanks.

by **AIS** on Tue, 02/07/2006 - 06:46 | [reply](#)

Download Video

If you want to save the interview linked above to disk, the file is located at: shoebat.com/media/cn8_2006_01.wmv

-- Elliot Temple

Now Blogging Again

by **Elliot Temple** on Tue, 02/07/2006 - 16:35 | [reply](#)

Some relevant linx

<http://forum.newspaperindex.com>

<http://www.filibustercartoons.com/archive.php?id=20060204>

http://www.zombietime.com/mohammed_image_archive/

<http://www.dailystar.com.lb/article.asp?>

[edition_id=10&categ_id=5&article_id=21654](http://www.dailystar.com.lb/article.asp?edition_id=10&categ_id=5&article_id=21654)

<http://www.muslimrefusenik.com>

<http://www.iranian.com/Azizi/2006/February/Cartoons/index.html>

<http://tinyurl.com/dl2dm>

<http://suralikeit.com>

<http://www.apostatesofislam.com/>

<http://www.faithfreedom.org/>

<http://www.secularislam.org>

<http://www.infidels.org/library/modern/theism/islam/>

<http://islamreview.org/>

<http://www.geocities.com/freethoughtmecca/islam.html>

by Solan on Tue, 02/14/2006 - 11:24 | [reply](#)

Norway

The Norwegian government's lack of spine has had one interesting consequence: The people themselves are growing spines! Norway has had a law against blasphemy since before the 1814 constitution, and now people are suddenly starting to realize what such a law protecting religious intolerance means. So ... it seems it will go away. Wahoo!

So the net result of this whole incident may indeed prove to be positive, because most people realize how silly it is to burn embassies over drawings as innocent as these.

I tried to send you a bunch of good URLs on this some days ago,

but your "spam filter" must have eaten them. Please check the spam bin.

by **Solan** on Fri, 02/17/2006 - 08:31 | [reply](#)

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