

PROTECTING
FREE SPEECH



OR

PROMOTING
HATE SPEECH?

This special edition pamphlet was published by the collective efforts of the Muslim Student Union and Alkalima, the Muslim Magazine at UC Irvine. Please refer all correspondence to Alkalima / Office of the Dean of Students / Irvine, CA 92697 / alkalima@uci.edu

FREEDOM OF SPEECH?

On their support for Freedom of Speech...

“The Danish daily [Jyllands-Posten] turned down the cartoons of Christ three years ago, on the grounds that they could be offensive...”

Jyllands-Posten stated, “Our right to say...and draw what we want to within the framework of the law exists and must endure—unconditionally!”

BBC News, October 20, 2005

The Danish Penal Code: Section 266b states however that any person “threatening, insulting, or degrading a group of persons on account of their race, colour, national or ethnic origin, belief or sexual orientation, shall be liable to a fine or imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years.”

Manifestations of Anti-Semitism in the EU, 2002-2003

Jyllands-Posten had received cartoons depicting Christ. “The Danish daily [Jyllands-Posten] turned down the cartoons of Christ three years ago, on the grounds that they could be offensive...”

Guardian Unlimited, February 6, 2006

Jyllands-Posten’s Cultural Editor, Flemming Rose, supports Freedom of Speech, unless, for example, it disapproved of Zionists and their crimes: “Rose acknowledges that even his liberalism has its limits. He said he would not publish a cartoon of Israel’s Ariel Sharon strangling a Palestinian baby...”

Herald Tribune, January 1, 2001

Flemming Rose’s support for Zionism is also evident in his acquaintance with Daniel Pipes. “Rose traveled to Philadelphia in October 2004 to visit Daniel Pipes, the Neo-Con ideologue who says the only path to Middle East peace will come through a total Israeli military victory.”

American Free Press, February 3, 2006

Freedom of speech is quite limited in Europe. “In Holland, it’s a punishable offense to sell Hitler’s memoir ‘Mein Kampf’ and the British Holocaust denier David Irving today sits in an Austrian jail awaiting trial for his views.”

Aljazeera, February 7, 2006

Most of the countries supporting the Danish call for free speech are countries that have passed laws banning any publications questioning the Holocaust. These countries are Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Israel, Poland, Slovakia, and Switzerland.

BBC News, April 14, 2005

“Robert Faurisson and Roger Garaudy in France, Siegfried Verbeke in Belgium, Juergen Graf and Gaston-Armand Amaudruz in Switzerland, and Guenter Deckert, Hans Schmidt and Fredrick Toben in Germany” have all been convicted of Holocaust denial. Some have been incarcerated, while others have been issued a fine.

Institute for Historical Review, November 27, 2005

Germany’s Penal Code: Section 166 states that anyone insulting other faiths or religious societies “in a manner that is capable of disturbing the public peace, shall be punished with imprisonment for not more than three years or a fine.” At least six German newspapers reprinted the cartoons.

Wikipedia, February 16, 2006

The Dutch Penal Code forbids “scornful blasphemies.” In Article 147, it states that up to three months or a fine could be issued. At least three newspapers in the Netherlands had reprinted the cartoons.

Wikipedia, February 16, 2006

On Muslims being “radical”:

In a 1988 film, The Last Temptation of Christ, Jesus Christ is depicted having sex with a woman. Many Christian leaders condemned it, and protests began instantly.

A piece of artwork exhibited in 1987 also caused much distress. “Piss Christ” by Andres Serrano shows a crucifix submerged in the artist’s urine. The director of the gallery shut down the exhibit after the Catholic Church had attempted to stop the exhibit from the beginning on account that it was blasphemous.

A January 2005 television show, *Jerry Springer-The Opera*, in which Jesus says, “I’m a bit gay”, was met with much opposition by the Christian Voice, a British evangelical organization. Many protests were held in the streets.

“J.C.C.S.”, the initials of the author of a Spanish computer game *Slaughter Cofrade*, “was formally accused by the Cristo del Gran Poder of violating section 525 of the penal code...which forbids any sort of “attack” on religious dogma, beliefs, or ceremonies.” The game involved shooting religiously dressed figures.

Similarly, a book titled The Life of Jesus, gave its author a six-month suspended prison sentence. Greece banned the book in 2003, on account of its “blasphemy” and “insulting religion.”

On December 20, 2004, a play called *Behzti* was cancelled after a meeting with several organizations including the local Sikh community and the Commission for Race and Equality. Another group, Birmingham Stage Company, attempted to run it and cancelled after continued opposition.

For sources and links to more information, please visit www.alkalima.com/projects

J*yllands-Posten*, a Danish Evangelical Christian Magazine, has published a series of obscene comics ridiculing the Prophet Muhammad (may the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). Twelve offensive caricatures were published in September 30, 2005 and republished again on January 10, 2006 in a Norwegian Christian Magazine. The Norwegian and Danish governments have both refused to apologize or retract the publications.

In response, Islamic countries have shut down their Danish and Norwegian embassies, recalled their ambassadors from the region, and are declaring massive boycotts of all Danish and Norwegian products. The two countries remain defiant, and have persisted in publishing obscenities against Prophet Muhammad (may the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). France, Ireland, Germany, Italy, Spain, Switzerland, Bulgaria, Hungary, and Poland support some of the many countries to have also printed these cartoons as a challenge to the Muslims worldwide.