

12 October 2005

His Excellency
Mr. Anders Fogh Rasmussen,
Prime Minister,
Royal Danish Republic of Denmark.

Excellency,

The undersigned Ambassadors, Charge d' Affaires and Head of Palestinian General Delegation accredited to Denmark take this opportunity to draw your attention to an urgent matter.

This pertains to on-going smearing campaign in Danish public circles and media against Islam and Muslims. Radio Holger's remarks for which it was indicted, DF MP and Mayoral candidate Louise Frevert's derogatory remarks, Culture Minister Brian Mikkelsen's statement on war against Muslims and Daily Jyllands-Posten's cultural page inviting people to draw sketches of Holy Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) are some recent examples.

We strongly feel that casting aspersions on Islam as a religion and publishing demeaning caricatures of Holy Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) goes against the spirit of Danish values of tolerance and civil society. It has caused anguish to sizable Danish Muslim population and also militates on-going government efforts to promote integration. We may underline that it can also cause unrest in Denmark as well as abroad, in particular Muslim countries.

In your speech at the opening of Danish Parliament, Your Excellency rightly underlined that terrorists should not be allowed to abuse Islam for their crimes. In the same token, Danish press and public representatives should not be allowed to abuse Islam in the name of democracy, freedom of expression and human rights, the values that we all share.

We take this opportunity to lodge our serious protest and urge Your Excellency's government to take all those responsible to task under law of the land in the interest of inter-faith harmony, better integration and Denmark's overall reputation.

Please accept, Excellency, best wishes and assurances of our highest consideration.

Ambassador Mrs. Fugen Ok.
Embassy of the Republic of Turkey.

Ambassador Mr. Mohammad Ibrahim Al-Hejailan.
Embassy of the Royal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Ambassador Mr. Ahmad Danialy.
Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Ambassador Mr. Javed A. Qureshi.
Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

Ambassador Mrs. Mona Omar Attia.
Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt.

Ambassador Ms. Perwitorini Wijono.
Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia.

Ambassador Mrs. Latifa Benazza.
Embassy of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria.

Ambassador Mr. Sead Maslo.
Embassy of the Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Mr. Mohammad E.R. Rimali.
Bureau of Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

Charge d' Affaires Mr. El Houssaine Oustitane.
Embassy of the Kingdom of Morocco.

Ms. Maie F.B. Sarraf.
Head of Palestinian General Delegation.