Blasphemy in Ink
The Danish Mohammed Cartoons and their Fallout

Delivered to the
BOISI CENTER for RELIGION and AMERICAN PUBLIC LIFE

BOSTON COLLEGE
April 3, 2007
“Muhammed’s ansigt” (Mohammed’s Face)
Jyllands-Posten September 30, 2005
PROFET!
MED KUK OG KHALD
I LÅGET
SOM HOLDER KØRDER
UNDER LÅGET!
لارس رفن

Mohammed
Valbyskole 7A

هیاده مسلم و همیک کننده هستند
12 October 2005

His Excellency
Mr. Anders Fogh Rasmussen,
Prime Minister
Kingdom of Denmark

Excellency,

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

This pertains to an ongoing smear campaign in Danish public circles and media against Islam and Muslims. Radio Nørge’s remarks for which it was fined, DF MP and Mayoral candidate Juuline Frederiksen’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 Muhammad (PBUH) are some recent examples.

We strongly feel that casting aspersions on Islam as a religion and publishing demeaning caricatures of Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) goes against the spirit of Danish values of tolerance and civil society. This is in the whole a very discriminatory tendency and does not bode well with the high human rights standards of Denmark. We may underline that it can also cause reactions in Muslim countries and among Muslim communities in Europe.

In your speech at the opening of Danish Parliament, Your Excellency rightly underscored that terrorists should not be allowed to abuse Islam for their causes. 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 deplore these statements and publications and urge Your Excellency’s government to take all those responsible to task under law in the interest of inter-faith harmony, better integration and Denmark’s overall relations with Muslim world. We rest assured that you will take all steps necessary.
Unknown “The True Face of Mohammed”
London protest, February 3, 2006

MASSACRE
THOSE WHO
INSULT ISLAM

FREEDOM
GO TO
HELL
Maziyar Bizhani, Holocaust Cartoons
The Night Journey OF Muhammad on His Steed, Buraq
1514 Painter: Unknown; Calligrapher: Sultan Muhammad only
Bukhara, Uzbekistan
Nouveau Tintin, 1977
"Super Best Friends"
South Park episode 504 July 4, 2001
Adolph Weinman, Supreme Court Frieze, 1930’s
Deutsche Oper, Scene from "Idomeneo" (rehearsal), 2003
Kåre Bluitgen Koranen of profeten Muhammeds liv
(illustrator anonymous)
Honoré Daumier, *Gargantua*, 1831
Joe Sacco - Art Spiegelman
Justin Green, *Binky Brown Meets the Holy Virgin Mary*, 1972
Craig Thompson, *Blankets*, 2004