LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Email: editor@crescenttimes.com.au SMS: 0414 155 366
Mail: P.O.Box: 5390 Alice Springs, 0870 NT

Burning the Quran:
The latest test for Muslims' self control

A church in Florida – USA has decided to dedicate a site for burning the Quran on September the 11th in a protest against building a mosque on ground zero in New York. What are Muslims around the world going to do about it?

In the last few decades Islam and Muslims have been subjected to all sorts of attacks from the west. Some of those attacks are in a military form, others are cultural attacks and now it's an attack on the heart of the Islamic identity; the Quran.

The Quran is the first source of legislation in Islam. When a church leader decides to burn copies of the Quran it makes things clearer than ever for those who still think that the so-called "war on terror" is not against Islam. Islam has always been the target - sometimes they can't hide their hatred of Islam and Muslims so they decide to insult every Muslim in the world by burning their holy book. What is the purpose of burning paper and ink? Clearly that is not the point, it is more that Islam as a religion is been declared hated.

The Quran is not the holy book for the so-called terrorists, it's for every Muslim. It has all the moral values and teachings from Allah to all mankind to follow and to worship him in the best possible way. If any of those lunatics reads the Quran they will find no reason at all to do what they are doing. Then again, they are not open-minded enough to even read a book they hate so much.

What are Muslims going to do about it though? In the past we have seen millions of angry Muslims in the streets of every capital city in the Muslim world protesting the cartoons against the Prophet Muhammad (peace is upon him). Protesters burnt the embassies and flags of every country that participated in the offense. The cartoons also made Muslims want to retaliate in order to defeat those arrogant Christians. If only those Christians had asked themselves this question: why did those Muslim protesters NOT burn the bible? Or draw similar drawings against Jesus? The answer is that we believe in the bible and respect it more than they do, we also believe in Jesus as a prophet of Allah. The Quran teaches us not be disrespectful to other holy books and prophets. Yes, the Quran, the very same book they are burning.

The picture of Christians insulting Muslims reminds us of crusaders and holy wars, which is what those fanatics are hoping to incite. We Muslims should be aware that these acts are only done in hope that we will retaliate. By retaliating we are seen in the world as the aggressors, always angry and terrorist-supporting Muslims. Retaliation only adds fuel to the fire that is burning between the two religions.

When Christian leaders who decide to insult Muslims they think carefully before doing so. They study their actions carefully for every possible outcome. Generally speaking leaders like that are probably hoping for the fame which they get through the extraordinary media coverage. We have seen the face of that priest on every news channel making him instantly famous, hooray. We should encourage Muslims not to participate in any retaliatory actions against these barbaric Christians who are hoping for a big bang to make people hate Islam more. So are you going to give them that chance?

Khalil Ibrahim, Perth, WA

Flood disaster in Pakistan

As we sat around and watched the 6:30 pm SBS news last week, a family tradition, my typically Pakistani family was unusually somber. News from home hasn't been good for the past month. Heck, it has been pretty bad for the past year; fair to say we've toughened our skins. But what got us so dejected wasn't news about the Pakistani floods; it was news about the Victorian ones.

Of course one shouldn't undermine suffering anywhere. The Victorian State Emergency Service said up to 300 homes and businesses suffered considerable damage. Premier Brumby was fast to note however, that the benefits of the flooding for the drought-stricken rural farming regions would 'far outweigh the damage.'

As I sat there watching the piece I couldn't help wishing that nature's wrath had been so kind to Pakistan. I envied my new country its fast and well equipped response to the low-scale flood compared to the slow and delayed one my debt-stricken, flood and war ravaged home country received. The Victorian flood-management team managed to evacuate people from all hard to reach areas, with state and bank relief grants readily available. More than one month on, Pakistani flood-victims still remain stranded, and others are in desperate need of food, water, medicine and shelter.

More than anything, I envied Australia the empathy it would receive if a disaster of this magnitude hit the country, if it's apathy that prevents people from donating to Pakistan. It's noted that the Pakistani flood victims have so far received around $3 per affected person; in contrast the Haiti earthquake received $495 per affected person. I envied the importance placed on every single Australian life, when the death toll of almost 1700 in Pakistan is considered relatively low in a country that is no stranger to death and destruction.

They say the number of the people affected in the Pakistani floods exceeds the population of Australia. Twenty-one million at last count. With the current Victorian floods as, thankfully, a small scale example, one can more vividly imagine the widespread destruction floodwaters can cause to already poor infrastructure. With rural Victorians struggling to keep water out of their homes, one can possibly better relate to the ten million that have lost their homes completely in Pakistan.

Here's hoping:
www.muslimaid.org.au
www.imrankhanfoundation.org
www.redcross.org.au
www.unicef.com.au
So far the floods have:
-affected more than 20 million people
-killed 1,677 people
-injured 2,605 people
-damaged 1,248,704 houses
-destroyed 3.6 million acres of crops
-caused the loss of 1.2 million large livestock and 6 million poultry
-affected 130,000 square kilometres of land
-affected an area the size of England

Madihah Hafiz, Melbourne, VIC.

Turkish Soap Opera Drives Increase in Visiting Arab Holiday makers

Turkey is currently seeing an influx of tourists from its Arab neighbours, which industry insiders are putting down to the continuing popularity of imported Turkish soap operas such as *Noor*, also helped by both Ankara's recent decision to relax visa requirements for some countries, and the ready availability of cheap Turkey holidays across the Arab market. Compared to 2009, Turkey has seen a 33 percent increase in tourists from Arab countries, with 105,000 visitors arriving in May.

Though the series has since ended, with the finale attracting 85 million viewers across the Arab world, its effects are still being felt across the Turkish tourism industry, with large numbers of visitors avoiding the traditional sights of Istanbul in favour for locations featured in the shows.

These kinds of trends aren't as rare as people might think, the industry sees spikes like this all the time, while certain media exposure can lead to a permanent boost for particular destinations, says Ian Raine of holiday experts ulookubook.com. Just look at Rosslyn Chapel in Scotland - *The Da Vinci Code* helped transform it into a multi-million pound tourist attraction, bringing in 1,000 tourists a day compared to a handful previously. This so-called soap opera effect is having a massive impact - the inter-Arab market for all inclusive Turkey holidays has risen by some 50 per cent over the past two years.

Under its original Turkish name *Gms*, the soap opera ran from 2005 to 2007, but became a pop-culture phenomenon when it began being broadcast across the Arab world last year as *Noor* (light). Starring Kivan Tatlitug and Songl Den, *Noor* challenges Arab norms, particularly the traditional balance of power between husband and wife. Despite all the controversy, it's not going to stop people from booking a Turkey holiday, continues Raine.

Hyder's case of interest:

Gafgen V Germany- 2010

Hyder Gulam*
Legal Editor

From the European Court of Human Rights comes this interesting case about whether the threat of torture was sufficiently cruel to amount to torture. The case is called Gäfgen v Germany (Gäfgen), and judgement was passed on June 1, 2010 by the Grand Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights.

The applicant, Gäfgen, kidnapped an eleven-year old boy and demanded one million Euros as ransom. He then murdered the boy by suffocating him and hid his body. The police followed the applicant after he picked up the ransom and arrested him as he was attempting to leave Germany. During the initial interrogation, a police officer was instructed to threaten the applicant with bodily harm and torture in order to illicit his confession. After ten minutes, and before any actual harm was done to the applicant, he confessed to the murder and identified the location of the boy's body. The applicant was later found guilty of kidnapping and murder and sentenced to life imprisonment.

He then commenced proceedings against the German government, claiming that the threat of torture amounted to violation of the German Code of Criminal Procedure and the European Convention on Human Rights.

The European Court ruled that the German authorities' threat of torture amounted to inhuman treatment and found Germany in violation of Article 3 (freedom from torture or inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment) of the European Convention on Human Rights. The Chamber ruled, however, that in the present case, the threat of torture was not sufficiently cruel to amount to torture.

While the applicant successfully prevailed in German courts regarding his human rights claims, he was not granted compensation. He also challenged the inappropriate punishment given to the authorities that had violated his rights (both individuals were asked to pay small sums of money and were temporarily demoted).

The European Court first stressed that "Article 3 of the Convention enshrines one of the most fundamental values of democratic societies . . . [and that] no provisions for exception and no derogation from it is permissible . . . even in the event of a public emergency threatening the life of the nation." Thus, even if the authorities were hoping that a quick confession would save the boy's life (the authorities did not know that the applicant had already killed the boy), they were prohibited from threatening the applicant with torture in order to obtain information.

The applicant was awarded almost 1,800 Euros for costs and expenses.

** Hyder Gulam is Legal Editor of the Crescent Times. Hyder was born in Singapore and educated in Melbourne. He is a registered nurse, a qualified lawyer, an accredited mediator as well as a Fellow of the Royal College of Nursing in Australia. He has post graduate qualifications in business/management, law and nursing. He has served as an officer with the Royal Australian Air Force, both in Australia and overseas. He has published in areas such as trans-cultural nursing, commercial law, Islamic Law, health law, criminal law and military law. Hyder has also worked in indigenous health, paediatric nursing, aged care, as well as emergency and trauma. Prior to accepting a role with Logie-Smith Lanyon Lawyers, Hyder worked in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia for one of the world's biggest law firms. Hyder practices mainly in the areas of Commercial & Corporate, Defence Procurement and Islamic Finance. Hyder is an Executive of the Islamic Council of Victoria, member of the Australian Red Cross (International Humanitarian Law) (Vic), member of the Royal College of Nursing Australia (Vic), as well as co-founder of the Muslim Legal Network and the City Circle (2008 Revival): http://citycircle.weebly.com/index.html. Hyder was awarded the 2010 La Trobe University Young Alumni of the Year Award, and is also the recipient of the Australian Defence Force Medal.*

BA, BN, LLB, MBA, LLM (International Law), LLM (Legal Practice), Grad Dip (Legal Practice), Grad Dip (Military Law), Grad Dip (Advanced Clinical Nursing), RN, FRCNA.

Hyder can be contacted at hyder.gulam@crecenttimes.com.au

Prayer Schedule September 2010
Perth, Western Australia

Date	Day	Fajr	Sunrise	Dhuhr	Asr	Maghrib	Isha
1	Wed	5:13	6:34	12:17	3:33	6:00	7:17
2	Thu	5:11	6:32	12:17	3:33	6:01	7:18
3	Fri	5:10	6:31	12:17	3:33	6:02	7:18
4	Sat	5:09	6:30	12:16	3:34	6:02	7:19
5	Sun	5:08	6:29	12:16	3:34	6:03	7:20
6	Mon	5:06	6:27	12:16	3:34	6:04	7:20
7	Tue	5:05	6:26	12:15	3:34	6:04	7:21
8	Wed	5:04	6:25	12:15	3:35	6:05	7:21
9	Thu	5:03	6:23	12:15	3:35	6:05	7:22
10	Fri	5:01	6:22	12:14	3:35	6:06	7:23
11	Sat	5:00	6:21	12:14	3:35	6:07	7:23
12	Sun	4:59	6:20	12:14	3:36	6:07	7:24
13	Mon	4:57	6:18	12:13	3:36	6:08	7:24
14	Tue	4:56	6:17	12:13	3:36	6:08	7:25
15	Wed	4:55	6:16	12:13	3:36	6:09	7:26
16	Thu	4:53	6:14	12:12	3:36	6:10	7:26
17	Fri	4:52	6:13	12:12	3:36	6:10	7:27
18	Sat	4:51	6:12	12:11	3:37	6:11	7:28
19	Sun	4:49	6:10	12:11	3:37	6:11	7:28
20	Mon	4:48	6:09	12:11	3:37	6:12	7:29
21	Tue	4:47	6:08	12:10	3:37	6:13	7:30
22	Wed	4:45	6:06	12:10	3:37	6:13	7:30
23	Thu	4:44	6:05	12:10	3:37	6:14	7:31
24	Fri	4:42	6:04	12:09	3:37	6:14	7:32
25	Sat	4:41	6:02	12:09	3:37	6:15	7:32
26	Sun	4:40	6:01	12:09	3:38	6:16	7:33
27	Mon	4:38	6:00	12:08	3:38	6:16	7:34
28	Tue	4:37	5:58	12:08	3:38	6:17	7:34
29	Wed	4:35	5:57	12:08	3:38	6:18	7:35
30	Thu	4:34	5:56	12:07	3:38	6:18	7:36

Prayer Schedule September 2010
Sydney, New South Wales

Date	Day	Fajr	Sunrise	Dhuhr	Asr	Maghrib	Isha
1	Wed	4:52	6:15	11:56	3:09	5:37	6:55
2	Thu	4:51	6:14	11:56	3:10	5:37	6:56
3	Fri	4:48	6:11	11:55	3:10	5:39	6:57
4	Sat	4:47	6:10	11:55	3:11	5:39	6:58
5	Sun	4:46	6:08	11:55	3:11	5:40	6:58
6	Mon	4:44	6:07	11:54	3:11	5:41	6:59
7	Tue	4:43	6:06	11:54	3:12	5:41	7:00
8	Wed	4:42	6:04	11:53	3:12	5:42	7:00
9	Thu	4:42	6:04	11:53	3:12	5:42	7:00
10	Fri	4:39	6:02	11:53	3:13	5:43	7:02
11	Sat	4:38	6:00	11:52	3:13	5:44	7:03
12	Sun	4:36	5:59	11:52	3:13	5:45	7:03
13	Mon	4:35	5:58	11:52	3:13	5:45	7:04
14	Tue	4:33	5:56	11:51	3:14	5:46	7:05
15	Wed	4:32	5:55	11:51	3:14	5:47	7:05
16	Thu	4:32	5:55	11:51	3:14	5:47	7:05
17	Fri	4:30	5:53	11:51	3:14	5:48	7:06
18	Sat	4:28	5:51	11:50	3:15	5:49	7:07
19	Sun	4:26	5:49	11:50	3:15	5:50	7:08
20	Mon	4:25	5:48	11:49	3:15	5:50	7:09
21	Tue	4:23	5:46	11:49	3:15	5:51	7:10
22	Wed	4:22	5:45	11:49	3:15	5:52	7:10
23	Thu	4:22	5:45	11:49	3:15	5:52	7:10
24	Fri	4:20	5:44	11:48	3:16	5:52	7:11
25	Sat	4:17	5:41	11:47	3:16	5:54	7:13
26	Sun	4:16	5:39	11:47	3:16	5:54	7:14
27	Mon	4:14	5:38	11:47	3:16	5:55	7:14
28	Tue	4:13	5:37	11:46	3:17	5:56	7:15
29	Wed	4:11	5:35	11:46	3:17	5:57	7:16
30	Thu	4:10	5:34	11:46	3:17	5:57	7:17

Prayer Schedule September 2010
Melbourne, Victoria

Date	Day	Fajr	Sunrise	Dhuhr	Asr	Maghrib	Isha
1	Wed	5:16	6:44	12:21	3:30	5:58	7:21
2	Thu	5:15	6:42	12:21	3:31	5:59	7:22
3	Fri	5:12	6:39	12:20	3:32	6:01	7:23
4	Sat	5:11	6:38	12:20	3:32	6:02	7:24
5	Sun	5:09	6:36	12:19	3:33	6:02	7:25
6	Mon	5:08	6:35	12:19	3:33	6:03	7:26
7	Tue	5:06	6:33	12:19	3:34	6:04	7:26
8	Wed	5:05	6:32	12:18	3:34	6:05	7:27
9	Thu	5:05	6:32	12:18	3:34	6:05	7:27
10	Fri	5:01	6:29	12:18	3:35	6:07	7:29
11	Sat	5:00	6:27	12:17	3:35	6:07	7:30
12	Sun	4:58	6:26	12:17	3:36	6:08	7:31
13	Mon	4:57	6:24	12:17	3:36	6:09	7:32
14	Tue	4:55	6:22	12:16	3:37	6:10	7:32
15	Wed	4:54	6:21	12:16	3:37	6:11	7:33
16	Thu	4:54	6:21	12:16	3:37	6:11	7:33
17	Fri	4:52	6:19	12:16	3:37	6:12	7:34
18	Sat	4:49	6:16	12:15	3:38	6:13	7:36
19	Sun	4:47	6:15	12:15	3:39	6:14	7:37
20	Mon	4:45	6:13	12:14	3:39	6:15	7:38
21	Tue	4:44	6:12	12:14	3:39	6:16	7:39
22	Wed	4:42	6:10	12:14	3:40	6:17	7:40
23	Thu	4:42	6:10	12:14	3:40	6:17	7:40
24	Fri	4:40	6:08	12:13	3:40	6:18	7:41
25	Sat	4:37	6:05	12:12	3:41	6:19	7:43
26	Sun	4:35	6:04	12:12	3:41	6:20	7:44
27	Mon	4:34	6:02	12:12	3:41	6:21	7:45
28	Tue	4:32	6:01	12:11	3:42	6:22	7:46
29	Wed	4:30	5:59	12:11	3:42	6:23	7:47
30	Thu	4:29	5:58	12:11	3:42	6:24	7:48

Prayer Schedule September 2010
Brisbane, Queensland

Date	Day	Fajr	Sunrise	Dhuhr	Asr	Maghrib	Isha
1	Wed	4:45	6:03	11:49	3:07	5:35	6:48
2	Thu	4:44	6:02	11:49	3:07	5:35	6:48
3	Fri	4:42	5:59	11:48	3:07	5:36	6:49
4	Sat	4:41	5:58	11:48	3:07	5:36	6:50
5	Sun	4:40	5:57	11:47	3:08	5:37	6:50
6	Mon	4:39	5:56	11:47	3:08	5:37	6:51
7	Tue	4:38	5:55	11:47	3:08	5:38	6:51
8	Wed	4:37	5:54	11:46	3:08	5:38	6:51
9	Thu	4:37	5:54	11:46	3:08	5:38	6:51
10	Fri	4:34	5:52	11:46	3:08	5:39	6:52
11	Sat	4:33	5:50	11:45	3:08	5:39	6:53
12	Sun	4:32	5:49	11:45	3:08	5:40	6:53
13	Mon	4:31	5:48	11:45	3:08	5:40	6:54
14	Tue	4:30	5:47	11:44	3:08	5:41	6:54
15	Wed	4:29	5:46	11:44	3:08	5:41	6:55
16	Thu	4:29	5:46	11:44	3:08	5:41	6:55
17	Fri	4:27	5:45	11:43	3:08	5:42	6:55
18	Sat	4:25	5:42	11:43	3:08	5:43	6:56
19	Sun	4:24	5:41	11:42	3:08	5:43	6:56
20	Mon	4:23	5:40	11:42	3:08	5:43	6:57
21	Tue	4:21	5:39	11:42	3:08	5:44	6:57
22	Wed	4:20	5:38	11:41	3:08	5:44	6:58
23	Thu	4:20	5:38	11:41	3:08	5:44	6:58
24	Fri	4:19	5:37	11:41	3:08	5:45	6:58
25	Sat	4:17	5:34	11:40	3:08	5:46	6:59
26	Sun	4:15	5:33	11:40	3:08	5:46	7:00
27	Mon	4:14	5:32	11:40	3:08	5:47	7:00
28	Tue	4:13	5:31	11:39	3:08	5:47	7:01
29	Wed	4:12	5:30	11:39	3:08	5:48	7:02
30	Thu	4:10	5:29	11:39	3:08	5:48	7:02