

Attack on Islam

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Over the past few weeks the media has given great prominence to what has been called a "leaked intelligence report." This report was presented as an intensive investigation which purports to have uncovered sinister activities with the ranks of the Muslim community, aimed at undermining the state by violent means. The scourge of Muslim fundamentalism (whatever that means) was said to have reached our shores. Muslims were said to have gone abroad for military training and returned to set up cells all around the country where terrorist training was being undertaken. Agents of Libya, Hisbollah and HAMAS were said to have infiltrated the country. The media had a field day with this report, extracting maximum mileage out of this phantom document.

Muslims knew of course that the report was no more than a cheap fabrication, but found themselves powerless against a relentless media onslaught. Not surprisingly, Muslims are angry, frustrated and saddened by the treatment they have received at the hands of the media.

On Friday (30 August 1996) the *Mail & Guardian* published extracts from the report. What emerged was shocking, to say the least. The report was shown to be a thoroughly despicable piece of work, moronic in parts and thoroughly ridiculous in others ... in the words of *Mail & Guardian*: "... anything but intelligent ..."

Anyone with an elementary knowledge of what's happening in this country will easily conclude that the report is absolute nonsense. It is surprising then that those newspapers (who by their own admission) had the report in their possession chose to publish it, in spite of knowing full well of its potential to cause great damage. And indeed, a great deal of injustice has been done to the Muslim community.

The media has always claimed to function on the basis of fairness and objectivity. Therefore, we, (the organisations listed hereunder) call on the media to redress and reverse the negative impression created by this report, by showing it up to be exactly what it is - a crude attempt at disinformation deliberately designed to smear the Muslim community. The least Muslims can now expect from the media is a vigorous effort to discredit the report, equal to that which was pursued in promoting it.

We now call on your sense of fair play, justice, decency and integrity.

"ISLAM - THE UNTOLD STORIES" BOOK ATTACKING THE HOLY PROPHET MUHAMMAD (SALLAL LAAHU ALAIHI WASALLAM)

A booklet entitled "*Islam - The Untold Stories*" has been written by a certain Sulrameen Rhuddri attacking Islam and the blessed personality of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (*sallal laahu alaihi wasallam*). According to local press reports the author claims to have written the book in response to Ahmed Deedat's continued attack on Christianity and Hinduism.

Ever since the news hit the local press, the Imam Ahmed Raza Academy has received concerned reaction from the Muslim public. The Muslim community is infuriated and enraged by the publishing of this book and the subject matter that it contains and see this as a blatant attack on Islam and Muslims. The author has caused a gross violation of the sanctity of Islam and committed a deliberate attempt to cause insult and injury to our faith.

It is apparent that the author has a personal vendetta against a particular single organisation and in expressing his or her discontentment the author has over-stepped the boundaries of the freedom of the expression and violated the sacred precincts of the Islamic religion by attacking the Holy Prophet Muhammad (*sallal laahu alaihi wasallam*).

We have argued through the press that the Constitution recognizes and upholds the freedom of religion and

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safeguards any particular faith from being denigrated in any way. While we believe that the freedom to express oneself is vital to any democracy, we also believe that in order for that freedom to flourish, people must use that freedom responsibly. Some people will always abuse the privileges of freedom. Do we tolerate the abuses of the few to preserve freedom of the many? Or do we restrict everyone's freedom in order to punish the irresponsibility of the few?

To publish material that will prove detrimental to a particular faith is an example where the respect for the freedom is totally transgressed. There should be no freedom of expression for people who spread misconceptions and slander about a particular faith, because by doing so they are depriving others of their human rights and the rights of freedom of religion. Where religion is being denigrated, the freedom of religion clause should take precedence over the freedom of expression.

We have said that the government should completely ban any material that violates the religious beliefs and teachings of others and which encourages discrimination against a particular religious group or set of beliefs.

We have requested the Department of Home Affairs and the Directorate of Publications to investigate this matter and take the necessary action to have the book banned and removed from the book shelves immediately.

We have also requested through the press for the "mysterious" author to submit to us the list of sources that he or she has consulted in compiling the "research paper" so that we will be able to prepare an adequate response should we find the sources biased and prejudiced. We are also ever ready to have open discussions with the author about the subject matter which he or she has written about and he or she must contact our organisation as soon as possible so that the issues could be resolved in a most amicable way.

FILM - "SEXUAL LIFE OF JESUS CHRIST" IS AN INSULT TO THE PROPHET HAZRAT ISA (ALAIHIS SALAAM)

Like the spaceship that breaks through the atmosphere of the earth, the freedom of expression has also broken down all the barriers including the moral values that is ingrained in human nature.

Every human being is to be respected for what he or she is as a human being, not because what he or she possesses. The respect and reverence that is due to the Prophets and Messengers of Allah is always to be retained by the human society. Prophets such as Hazrat Ibrahim, Hazrat Moosa, Hazrat Isa (*alaihimus salaam*) and the Holy Prophet Muhammad (*sallal laahu alaihi wasallam*) have always been opposed and persecuted and after all, when is truth and purity not opposed and persecuted?

It is a sad fact that the pen has become a weapon to oppose the very same Prophets with the impure motives of some people within the human society. One such case is that of Hazrat Isa (*alaihis salaam*), the son of Hazrat Maryam (*radi Allahu anha*). Born of Bibi Maryam (*radi Allahu anha*), preaching the Oneness of Allah and doing good to humanity and performing miracles among the Children of Israel, Hazrat Isa (*alaihis salaam*) is regarded in a very high esteem by Muslims world wide as one of the Prophets and Messengers of Allah, preceding the Last Prophet Muhammad (*sallal laahu alaihi wasallam*).

Homosexuality, abortion, lesbianism and the disintegration of family life - are these not the effect of the materialistic civilisation? In this evil atmosphere, not only holy men and women, but also Prophets and Messengers are not spared. Evil is evil, but to turn into evil the pure personality of an individual is even greater evil. To turn Hazrat Isa (*alaihis salaam*) into a homosexual (*Allah forbid*) is totally an evil tendency of a human being who may be a director, actor or producer.

The *Imam Ahmed Raza Academy* is shocked to learn of a certain film company's intention to produce a film about "The Sexual Life of Jesus Christ." In the film, Hazrat Isa (*alaihis salaam*) would be presented as being a homosexual (*Allah forbid!*)

The film would be produced in the United States, unless enormous international pressure is exerted against the production of such a film. As Muslims we must do all we can to prevent this production and we must warn the

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producers of what Muslims think about this blasphemous plan. We appeal to the Ulema, organisations and individuals should contact us for further action to be taken.

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