

## Three in Sweden cleared of plot to kill Muhammad cartoon artist



A Swedish court acquitted three men charged with plotting to kill artist Lars Vilks, whose depiction of the Muslim prophet Mohammed as a dog sparked outrage worldwide in 2007.

Abdi Aziz Mahamud, and Salar Sami Mahmood and Abdi Weli Mohamud, Somalis who hold Swedish citizenship, were however fined for violating a law against carrying a knife in public, the court said.

The trio were arrested in September on suspicion of planning to kill Vilks.

During the trial in the western city of Gothenburg the men said they knew of Vilks but denied planning to murder him even though they disliked his drawing.

Police spotted the trio near an arts centre that was to host a contemporary art exhibition mentioned by Vilks on his blog. On the day of the exhibition's opening, one of the three men also asked about Vilks at the venue.

# France asked by Turkey to reject genocide bill

Turkey's foreign minister asked the French Senate to reject a bill criminalising genocide denial, as it moves closer to becoming law.

Ahmet Davutoglu said the passing of the bill would leave a "black stain on France's intellectual history".

Turkey froze political and military ties when the bill was passed by the National Assembly last month.

France recognises the mass killing of Armenians in Ottoman times as genocide - a description Turkey rejects.

Armenians say as many as 1.5 million people were slaughtered or died of starvation and disease when they were deported in 1915-16.

Ankara says closer to 300,000 people died, and that Turks were also killed as Armenians rose up against the Ottoman Empire when Russian troops invaded eastern Anatolia, now eastern Turkey.

More than 20 countries have formally recognised the killings as genocide.

Senators are due to debate the bill on Monday and are likely to approve it despite advice from one of their own committees this week.

Under the bill, those publicly denying genocide would face a year in jail and a fine of 45,000 euros (£29,000: \$58,000).

About half a million ethnic



Armenians live in France and their vote is considered important in the presidential election this spring.

There are suspicions in Turkey that the bill is aimed at wooing this electorate.

"We invite each French senator to stop for a while and think beyond all political interests," Mr Davutoglu said in televised remarks.

"We expect [President Nicolas] Sarkozy, his party and the French Senate to respect European values before anything else," he said.

President Sarkozy sent a conciliatory letter to Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, released by the French

embassy in Ankara on Friday.

"I hope we can make reason prevail and maintain our dialogue, as befits allied and friendly countries," he wrote.

He added that the bill was "in no way aimed at any state or people in particular".

The fate of the Armenians under the Ottomans remains a sensitive issue inside Turkey.

There were large demonstrations to mark five years since the murder of Turkish-Armenian journalist Hrant Dink.

Mr Dink, shot dead outside the Istanbul offices of Turkish-Armenian newspaper Agos, had angered Turkish nationalists by using the term "genocide".

## Sweden: 'Your baby looks like Saddam Hussein'

An administrator at the Swedish Migration Board is facing disciplinary action after telling a family of Iraqi asylum seekers that their newborn baby looked like Saddam Hussein.

The man, who has worked at the agency for 30 years, is also under investigation for physically assaulting a female colleague and making derogatory remarks about a woman wearing a headscarf.

The comparison of the baby to the former Iraqi dictator came during an interview conducted last year between the employee and an asylum seeking couple from Iraq who brought their newborn infant along to the meeting.

"Who do you think he looks like?" one of the proud parents asked the Migration Board employee.

"Saddam Hussein," the man replied.

On a separate occasion, the man stood in a customer service reception area and glared at a woman wearing a headscarf.

After one his colleagues had assisted the veil-wearing woman, the man went up and asked his co-worker, "How does it feel to talk to 'one of those'?"

## Norwegian Lawyer calls to stop 'Islam's incursion into Europe'



Brynjar Østgård

Jeg har sagt det før, og jeg sier det igjen: Islams inntog i Europa må stoppes - NÅ ! Nå må det bli slutt på prat og halvblind naivitet; Vi må tenke LANGSIKTIG, ellers ødelegges den sivilisasjon det har tatt 2000 år å bygge opp i Europa. NÅR fikk våre myndigheter mandat fra folket til å radere vekk vår kultur, vårt hjem og vår fremtid? Meg bekjent har et slikt mandat aldri vært delt ut. (Bare så det er klart; Man kan her reelt sett ikke skille mellom islam og islamisme - det ene følger det andre)



Islamismen befester seg

www.aftenposten.no

Heldigvis har Norge og Europa framsynte politikere som ser den nye ideologiske faren. Eller?

Del · for 3 timer siden ·

7 personer liker dette.

Prominent lawyer Brynjar Østgård wants to stop Islam in Norway and thinks Islam threatens Norwegian culture and social order.

"It's difficult to find a Muslim-dominated country with the same social order we have. Think of values like democracy, freedom of speech and rule of law," Brynjar

Østgård told Nordlys. The lawyer is a former judge in the Hålogaland court of appeals and is on the board of the Hålogaland theater.

He posted his Islamophobic comments on his Facebook profile where he reportedly said: "I've said it before and I'll say it again:

Islam's incursion into Europe must be stopped - NOW! The talk and half-blind naivety must stop: we must think LONG TERM, or else the civilization that has taken 2000 years to build in Europe will be destroyed. WHEN did our government get the mandate from the people to throw away our

culture, our home and our future? I know such a mandate was never given. (Just so it's clear: you can't really distinguish between Islam and Islamism - one follows the other)"

The post was written as a comment to an opinion article "Islam is taking hold" by the controversial Hege Storhaug, head of Human Rights Service.

Østgård said he does not think his points of view are extreme, and denies it has anything to do with racism. "There's a difference between wanting a culture not to be threatened, put under pressure and disappear - and to disparage other people.

He added: "I don't intend my words to be construed as casting suspicion on individuals, says the lawyer but adds: "But I think that Islam is a religion which interferes with thought processes and social order which we do not want."

Østgård thinks Norwegian immigration policies should be much stricter and said: "I have no other prescription."

## Millions sent abroad to finance terrorism

Jakob Scharf, head of the Danish Security Service (PET), said Tuesday that terrorist groups like Al-Qaeda and al-Shabab in Somalia get funds from Denmark.

"PET estimates that around 20 million kroner (~\$3.5m) are collected every year in Denmark to finance terrorist groups abroad," he said, though this was only said to be an estimate.

In recent years Danish courts handled three cases of terrorism-financing.

The cases involved people and associations who supported rebel movements in Colombia and Palestine with an overall sum of less than 150,000 kroner.