



Australian Federation
of Islamic Councils

AFIC calls for everyone to work together to restore calm in Sweden

Media Statement

31 August 2020

AFIC is following with deep concern the events in Malmo, Sweden.

AFIC condemns disregard for law by the supporters of the far-right Danish politician Rasmus Paludan who must be held responsible for the breach of the peace in Malmo. Paludan's supporters burning and gross mishandling of the Qur'an was maliciously calculated to provoke backlash.

AFIC stands with Imam Samir Muric in strongly condemning the burning and mishandling of the Qur'an and the violent reaction to the burning. Imam Muric has posted the following on his Facebook:

- "The majority of those who did (this) did not have any religious roots at all. These are people who use our vulnerable situation to vent their emotions.
- Everyone I have talked to emphasizes that it was wrong, no Muslim supports the violence.
- They swore a lot and behaved in a way that indicated that they were not practicing Muslims. My assessment is that it was people who were looking for trouble, they were not the type of people I usually see in the mosque." (The above posts are quoted as taken from his Facebook by the Teller Report).
- "I'll throw in the towel. I'm free from this. I have nothing to do with these people. I'm ashamed. The Swedish people do not deserve this." (Saturday 29 August 2020)

And 16 hours ago, he wrote:

- "Immigrants or Muslims are not a threat to Sweden. It is neither immigrants nor Muslims fault that our situation is as it is. Our situation is as it is due to system failure. When the system does not impose real and reasonable demands on its citizens and gives correct consequences to their actions, you will get the result we see today - almost anarchy!" (Posted on his FB 16 hours ago)

These riots have illustrated more than anything that whilst devout practicing Muslims are able to exercise patience, non-practicing Muslims have lost patience and refuse to continue to suffer rampant provocative Islamophobia.



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AFIC calls on the Muslim community in Sweden to continue to do what it can to stop the rioting and calls on authorities everywhere to create stronger protections for minorities to stop such grossly disrespectful acts of provocation.

The Danish-politician-inspired provocations have created division in Swedish society. It seems that the fears of the uninformed on what is now appearing as two opposing sides, have grown beyond expectations and that if these fears are not wisely quelled, the damage might require far greater effort to repair.

We have spoken with Muslim and non-Muslim friends in Sweden, the provocations and their aftereffects are indeed distressing and we must all work together to restore the peace.

As Muslims, we must always play a significant role in keeping our society safe. We must show our strength against provocation through patience and perseverance, these are the teachings of our faith as outlined in our holy Qur'an, these are the teachings of our beloved prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings upon him.

Allah, the Almighty says:

- ***“Seek help in patience and prayer, and indeed, (patience and prayer) are difficult except for those who are humble in submission (to Allah).”*** (Holy Qur'an 2:45).
- ***“Be patient over what they say and turn away from them beautifully.”*** (Holy Qur'an 73:10)
- ***“Be patient over what they say and glorify your Lord in gratitude before the rising of the sun and before the setting.”*** (Holy Qur'an 50:39).

Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings upon him, said:

- ***“The strong person is the one who can overcome his anger.”***

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