



Muslim Canadian Congress

LE CONGRES MUSULMAN CANADIEN

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Press Release

Muslim Canadian Congress condemns burning of Churches in Pakistan and Nigeria

MCC urges Muslims across the world to call off demonstrations

TORONTO — The Muslim Canadian Congress has condemned attacks on Churches in Pakistan and Nigeria that have led to the death of 15 Christians, including women and children.

In an appeal to Muslims across the world, the MCC is urging them to resist the temptation of participating in public demonstrations to express their anger at the publication of the demeaning and insulting cartoons of Prophet Muhammad in Denmark.

“We understand their pain, but Muslims should channel their anger not by burning and pillaging, but by following the example of Prophet Muhammad himself, who urged restraint and calmness in the wake of provocation,” said Tarek Fatah, spokesperson of the MCC.

By attacking Churches, looting banks, burning private and public property, many Muslims have demonstrated a behaviour that does not do justice to the message of Prophet Muhammad or his tradition, said Fatah.

UN Law on Blasphemy

The Muslim Canadian Congress has also expressed opposition to the call by Sheikh Mohammed Tantawi of al-Azhar University, who has asked for the United Nations to write a law that “condemns insulting any religion, including the Holy Scriptures and the prophets.”

“Such a law can only be effective if it also includes a ban on accusations of blasphemy and apostasy that are being used in many Muslim countries to silence political opponents,” said Fatah.

“Today, two journalists in Iran, and two more in Jordan, are facing possible death for supposedly insulting Islam. Charges of apostasy have been the favourite weapon of the Muslim clergy and Muslim dictatorships to silence their opponents. Any law that makes it an offense to insult or mock religion, must also allow for a respectful and healthy critique of any religion, and that such a critique does not lead to imprisonment or death threats by governments, religious institutions or vigilantes,” Fatah added.

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