



June 23, 2006

Honourable Monte Solberg
Minister of Citizenship and Immigration
365 Laurier Avenue West
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 1L1

Dear Honourable Minister Solberg:

Muslim Canadian Congress (MCC); Canadian Council of Hindus (CCH); Egale Canada, a national equality seeking group for lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, trans-identified (LGBT) people and their families; and Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC) urge you to take prompt action to refuse entry to Canada to Shaykh Riyadh ul Haq, a British cleric who is scheduled to deliver a series of lectures in Canada. We submit that Shaykh ul Haq is inadmissible to Canada pursuant to sections 34 and 36 of the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (IRPA)*.

The content of Shaykh ul Haq's public statements in his country of citizenship, the United Kingdom, and elsewhere is readily accessible online. An examination of this material raises a legitimate concern that he has in the past and/or is likely to contravene provisions of the *Criminal Code of Canada*, promoting hatred against identifiable groups on the basis of their religion or sexual orientation (s. 319).

In addition, or in the alternative, we believe that Shaykh ul Haq is also likely to violate s. 464 of the *Criminal Code* with the possibility of inciting criminal behaviour including serious violent acts based on his statements. Finally under s. 34(1) (d) of *IRPA*, through potential incitement to hatred of identifiable groups and, possibly violent acts, Shaykh ul Haq should be inadmissible on security grounds for being a danger to the security of Canada.

Shaykh ul Haq's worldview as expressed in his public statements is frankly corrosive to peaceful non-violent coexistence and cooperation upon which Canadian society has been built. His comments in reference to Jews, homosexual, bisexual and transsexual people, are dangerous and inflammatory. Shaykh ul Haq clearly demonstrates his contempt for moderate Muslims when he mocks them for their respect for diversity, and denigrates all Muslims who do not share his views on homosexuality.

The only Muslims who are considered moderates are those who for example, forgive me for polluting the masjid's [mosque's] atmosphere by saying this, but

those Muslims who openly advocate lesbianism, those who are publicly declared homosexuals, Muslims who don't believe in segregation - the hijab - who feel no shame bowing down and kissing the Pope's hand...

In another speech, commenting on non Muslims, his gaze falls upon Jews, Hindus and all those who he terms *mushrikin* or idolaters:

you shall find that the most intense in their hatred towards the believers, the most intense in their hatred and enmity towards the believers al yahoud wa-al-ladhina ashraaku, the Jews and the mushrikin, the idolaters. Allah subhana wa ta'ala said it. Of the peoples of the earth, the ones that hate Muslims the most, the ones who are bitterest in their enmity towards Muslims, the most unrelenting, unforgiving, are the Jews and the mushrikin, idolaters in all their forms.

Allah places the Yahoud [Jews] and mushrikin together. And the chief mushrikin of this day and age, the chief idolaters, are none other than the Hindus

Elsewhere in his repertoire, the Shaykh explains to his listeners the reason why, in his opinion, Jews treat non-Jews in a differential fashion :

The reason for this difference in treatment of Jews and non-Jews is because the Jews believe they are a special race [...] they believe that the Jews are superior to every other race [...]

And we must be clear that the Shaykh does not see such behaviour as being confined to a handful of Jews. On the contrary, he sees such behaviour as being endemic, inseparable from their Jewishness :

We are talking about the very tenants of their religion on which the whole of Jewish society, except for the few secular ones, is founded [...] it's this mentality which persists and which leads them to viewing Muslims as being subhumans, in fact as aliens.

In the opinion of Shaykh ul Haq the duplicity of the Jews knows no limitation and has extended into the realms of history, religion, finance and language :

They've monopolized everything: the Holocaust, God, money, interest, usury, the world economy, the media, political institutions and organizations, names, they've even monopolized the term Semitism [SIC, both 'Semitism' and 'anti-Semitism' are terms crafted by pseudoscientific Jew haters in the late 19th century]. The Semites are the Arabs, as well as the Israelis. But when you say Semitic, you mean just the Yahoud [Jews] [SIC, 'Semitic' refers to a family of languages which include both Arabic and Hebrew]. Monopolized everything. They monopolized tyranny and oppression as well. And injustice.

In the face of such “corruption”, the Shaykh disingenuously invokes the name of God to spread hatred against Jews.

May Allah subhana wa ta’alaa expose the Yahoud for what they truly are. May Allah give all Muslims, individuals and leaders, especially, and our governments the understanding and the sense to see through their propaganda, their lies, and deceit and to view them as they really are and thus treat them accordingly. [emphasis added].

The words of Shaykh Riyadh ul Haq speak clearly to his vitriolic view of the non-fundamentalist Muslim world, Jews, Hindus, homosexuals and transsexuals. The body of comment he has accumulated on these matters is in our view a clear violation of Canadian law, especially sections 319 and 464 of the *Criminal Code* as well as a danger to the security of Canada under s. 34(1)(d) of *IRPA*. We respectfully submit that Shaykh ul Haq is also inadmissible, as a result, under s. 36 of *IRPA*. Finally reference should be made to the Supreme Court of Canada decision in *Mugesera v. Canada (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration)*, 2005 SCC 40, in which the Supreme Court specified that the criminal act of incitement will be made out where the statements are (1) likely to incite, and (2) are made with a view to inciting the commission of the offence. We ask what Shaykh ul Haq could seek other than hatred and enmity for others, as well as attendant violence, based on his public statements?

The Hindu and Muslim communities have an over 1000-year history of common culture, as well as shared language, cuisine, music, architecture and folklore. The Hindu and Muslim communities in North America, South Asia and the Caribbean have had nothing but the best of relations. Shaykh Riyadh ul Haq on the other hand represents those who would create discord and division between these two people.

His hateful rhetoric creates a danger of serious consequences, not only in Canada, but overseas as well. He should not be permitted to destroy the good relations built in this country. Jews and Hindus also have a long history of working together in Canada and abroad.

Over the last decade, various Muslim and Jewish communities have worked very hard to build bridges and to resolve disagreements with mutual respect and dignity, without descending into the hateful language that Shaykh ul Haq spews. Muslims and Jews in Canada may not agree on every issue, but we agree completely on civil discourse where hate and bigotry is met with zero tolerance.

The LGBT community in Canada has also been singled out in hateful speech and acts. All of our communities take a stand against hateful speech and incitement being imported from abroad and threatening our security and values as reflected in our criminal and immigration legislation.

Honourable Minister, the gains that we have made as a society in the areas of multiculturalism, respect for diversity and the establishment of civil discourse in the

public square are precious. To permit Shaykh Riyadh ul Haq to enter our country with the likely intention of presenting the core themes of his world-view would be an affront to our shared values, immigration as well as criminal laws, and security.

We urge you to deny him entry to Canada. Thank you in advance for your review of this important matter.

Sincerely,

Ed Morgan
National President
Canadian Jewish Congress

Gemma Hickey
President
Egale Canada

Pandit Suraj Persad
President
Hindu Dharma Mission (Canada)

Tarek Fatah
Communications Director
Muslim Canadian Congress

Contacts: Bernie M. Farber 416-635-2883 ext 186
Tarek Fatah (416) 953-1798
Pandit Suraj Persad (416) 530-1899
Gemma Hickey (613) 230-1043