



Muslim Canadian Congress

LE CONGRES MUSULMAN CANADIEN

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October 11, 2006

The Honourable Michael Bryant
Attorney General of Ontario
McMurtry-Scott Building
720 Bay Street
Toronto, Ontario M5G 2K1

Re: Allegations of apostasy and blasphemy by Islamic fundamentalists

Honourable Michael Bryant,

We are writing to you to bring to your attention the recent pattern of allegations against moderate and liberal Muslims by Islamic fundamentalists, accusing the latter of being “anti-Islam” or “smearing Islam” and in one case, circulating the name of a Muslim broadcaster to tens of thousands of people after labelling him as the top anti-Islam individual in the country.

On the surface, this may seem to be an innocuous dispute within a minority community, but we wish to apprise you of the danger such allegations present to individuals accused of apostasy and blasphemy. These allegations are nothing less than thinly veiled death threats. Such tactics are quite common in Egypt, Iran, Pakistan and other Muslim countries, where political opponents are either silenced or else subject to violence by Islamist vigilantes or government sponsored thugs.

It seems these tactics from overseas are now being imported into Canada where ordinary liberal and moderate Muslims are being bullied into silence by well funded Islamist organisations.

The Muslim Canadian Congress has been in the cross hairs of the Islamists ever since we opposed the proposal to introduce Shariah in Ontario. It seems we are being targetted to avenge the defeat of their campaign.

Members of the MCC, and our organisation, have been repeatedly subject to very public allegations of being anti-Islam. Such an allegation is a direct accusation of apostasy and for supporters of Shariah law, it is a license to kill the apostate. Recently, we received an e-mail that threatened to ‘get rid off’ and ‘destroy’ the MCC and its leaders.

We appeal to you to look into this matter with law enforcement agencies and your federal counterparts to work towards an end to the use of religion to silence and threaten political opponents. We are asking you for help and hoping that as Ontarians we can count on our government to ensure our safety. We also hope that allegations of apostasy and blasphemy are outlawed as they are nothing more than death threats against fellow Muslims.

In the Muslim world, many liberal and moderate Muslims opposing Islamic fundamentalists have been declared apostates and have had to flee or face violence and physical harassment.

We hope we don’t see such violence in Canada.

Yours truly

Farzana Hassan
President