

In the name of God

**Statement by a Group of Iranian Cultural, Educational
and Political Activists in Protest to the Offensive
Propaganda against the Prophet Mohammad (PBUH)**

February 15, 2006

In recent days, and in alignment with the events following the September-11 attack, we witnessed that some European press have insulted the Prophet Mohammad (PBUH). Affront on the sanctities of the followers of other religions and on the prophets of God is in no way attuned to the notion of loving freedom, and is against the ethics and principles of Human Rights and freedom of expression. The publication of the offensive drawings of the prophet of Islam (PBUH) in the Danish newspaper, and its reappearance in other European media in the name of defending the freedom of the press, are an affront on the beliefs of over one and a half billion Muslims throughout the globe. Such actions, more than being in accord with the expansion of the freedom of expression, are more in line with curtailing it and are in contrast to the declared principles of human rights, which include respect for fellow-humans' beliefs. Any insult to the prophet of Islam or the sanctities of other religions is another step in the direction of terror and darkness, which further shuts the door to dialogue and understanding. Today, more than pouring fuel on the fire of vengeance and hatred, we need to appeal for peace and dialogue among religions and civilizations. The world does not need clash of civilizations and cultures.

We, the undersigning, are of the opinion that the behavior of those European media in such cases has no bearing on the freedom of thought and expression, and is an act of insult and blame rooted in the contemporary developments in the Muslim world. In recent years, and along with the rise of Islam, some Western countries have displayed apprehension toward the trend. The victory of Hamas in Palestine, the Shia in Iraq, the Islamists in Afghanistan, and the growth of Islamic organizations in Europe and America have heightened the concern of many Westerners. The publication of the offensive drawings, thus, seems to have been motivated by this anger toward the rise of Islam throughout the world.

For years, Orientalist academics have been analyzing and critiquing Islamic thoughts and canons in university environments, and Muslim scholars have been presenting their ideas and responses. However, the recent incitements appear to be entirely motivated by politics and are aimed to provoke vindictive reactions. Some deliberately have attempted to take advantage of the predictable behavior and reaction of some fanatic, violent

Muslims to prepare the ground for and justify a confrontation between Islam and the West. Yet the era of clash of civilizations and cultures is passé. Our present world, more than ever, is in need of dialogue amongst civilizations and cultures. Those, who are afraid of thoughtful, peaceful dialogues among religions in the contemporary world, are attempting to hinder this progressing process through such plots.

Accordingly, it is incumbent upon all Muslims, freedom lovers, and defenders of human rights all over the world to react appropriately and wisely in order to prevent any further deepening of the feeling of vengeance and hatred, and to undercut the environment for the growth of extremism. Those who speak on behalf of religions should also separate their rank from that of the provocateurs and fanatic fundamentalists, and should not make statements that would provide others with the pretext to offend religious sanctities.

Aramnejad, Fatemeh; Azadi, Mohammad; Aghaii, Masood; Aghaii, Samer; Asefi, Hamid; Ahmadian, Amin; Adinehvand, Ahmad; Asadnejad, Behrooz; Aminizadeh, Mehdi; Ansarirad, Hossein; Iranshahi, Hamed; Ansari, Elnaz; Abouzari, Abbas; Ehtezazi, Hadi; Ahmadi, Hassan; Ahmadi, Mohsen; Ahmadi, Nemat; Akhlaghi, Mostafa; Ashraf Soltani, Ali; Ashfagh, Morteza; Eftekhar Ardabili, Hassan; Eghtedari, Jalal; Akbarzadegan, Alireza; Akrami, Ali; Amir Ahmadi, Mahmood; Ansari, Hojjat; ; Aabedi, Homa; Abbaszadegan, Seyyed Jafar; Abedini, Arezoo; Arabzadeh, Hassan; Otoofat, Ruin; Ataiikia, Behzad; Alaaii, Javad; Alaaii, Bagher; Alavi, Ali; **Alavitabar, Ali Reza**; Alavi, Mohammad Bagher; **Alijani, Reza**; Alizadeh Naeini, Ali; Bagheri, Mehdi; Bayg Nazari, Majid; Biglari, Seddigheh; Bayglari, Zahra; Bazargani, Kamal al-din; **Bakhtiarnejad, Parvin**; **Badizadegan, Akbar**; Borhani, Rahmatollah; **Bazargan, Abolfazl**; **Bazargan, Abdolali**; **Bazargan, Fereshteh**; Bazargan, Mohammad Navid; **Bastehnegar, Mohammad**; **Bani Asadi, Mohammad Hossein**; Behzadi, Mohammad; Behzadi, Mohammad; Beheshti, Hamid; Behroozi, Mohammad; Bitaraf, Safa; Batooli, Mokhtar; Bagherzadeh, Eiraj; **Dadkhah, Mohammad Ali**; Dadfar, Mohammad; Dadmehr, Rasool; Daneshian, Mohammad Mehdi; Dordkeshan, Mahmood, Doroodi, Said; Delasaii, Mahmood; Dehghan Nejad, Abbas; Davvani, Masib; **Davoudi Mohajer, Fariba**; Dinavi, Ebrahim; Elhami, Abdolmajid; Emadi, Mohammad Jafar; Emrani, Mahmood; **Fazel Meybodi, Mohammad Taghi**; Fathi, Mojtaba; **Farasatkah, Maghsood**; Fakhrzadeh, Mehdi; **Farzadi, Ghaffar**; Farid Alam, Hassan; **Gharavi, Ali Asghar**; Gharavi, Ali Reza; Gharavi, Majed; Gharavi, Masih; Ghaffarzadeh,

Said; Ghofrani, Ali; Ghani, Mehdi; **Ghabel, Ahmad; Ghabel, Hadi;** Ghashghaii, Khosrow; Ghashghaii, Mahroo; Gholizadeh, Rahmangholi; Ghandizadeh, Abdolmajid; **Ghahhari, Nezamadin;** Ghaem Al Sabahi, Abbas; Ghomizadeh, Abdolhossein; Ghahrmani, Mostafa; Ghiasi, Hojjatollah; Golafza, Bijan; Golfeshan, Majid; Govaraii, Fatemeh; Habibi, Majid; Haji, Reza; Hafezi, Bahman; **Haghighatjoo, Fatemeh; Hajjarian, Said;** Hejazi, Taha; Hariri, Hossein; Hesami, Hamid; Haghpanah, Behzad; **Hekmat, Ali; Hakimi, Abolfazl;** Hakimi, Abdolkarim; Hakimi, Majid; Hamsi, Mohammad Reza; Hadisi, Hamid; **Hadizadeh Yazdi, Hadi;** Hashemi, Nasser; Hodavand, Hamid; Hendi, Ali Reza; **Houshmand, Ehsan;** Jaberi, Majid; Jafari, Kourosh; **Jalalipour, Hamidreza;** Jangi, Abbas; Jahani, Mojtaba; **Kargosha, Rahman;** Karshenas, Asadollah; Kazemian, Morteza; **Kadivar, Mohsen;** Kadivar, Manoochehr; Kordpour, Khosrow; Kordpour, Masood; Karami, Ali; Kasmali, Hassan; Kahalzadeh, Hadi; Komeilian, Nasser; Kahzadi, Ruin; Kowsari, Yaghoob; Kiani, Behnaz; Khaef, Jafar; Khodadadi, Ebrahim; **Khorram, Amir;** Jamali, Ali; Khoshsirat Salimi, Ebrahim; Khosh Mohammadi, Esmail; Kheir Andish, Hooshang; Ladoni, Masood; **Loghmanian, Hossein;** Mandegari, Sajjad; Mojahed, Hossein; Momeni, Ali; Momeni, Mahmood; Mottaghi, Mohammad Taghi; Mohagheghi, Mohsen; **Mohammadi, Narges;** Mohammadi, Javad; Mohammadi Ardahali, Mohammad; **Mahmoodi, Seyyed Ali;** Modarresi, Farid; Madani, Hossein; **Madani, Said;** Madani, Ali; Madihi, Mashallah; **Marjaei, Farid;** **Mortazi Langeroodi, Marzieh;** **Meskin, Mostafa;** Masmouii, Reza; Mesbah, Ziaee; Mostafavi, Leila; Mostafavi, Mostafa; Moslehi, Abbas; **Mozaffar, Mohammad Javad;** Motamedi Mehr, Mehdi; Masoumi, Ahmad; Moeinfar, Asghar, Mofidi, Badrassadat; Moghaddam, Morteza; Moghimi, Ali; Mellati, Fahimeh; Maleki, Majid; **Montazeri, Ahmad; Montazeri, Said;** **Mansourian, Khosrow;** Mehrgan, Kayvan; Mousavi Sa'adatlou, Seyyed Reza; **Mousavi Khomeiniha, Seyyed Ali Akbar;** **Molaii, Yousef;** Momeni, Ali; Momeni, Mohammad; Mirkhani, Amir; **Mirzadeh, Vahid;** Mirzabaygi, Salar; Mirzaii, Allahkaram; Nasser Givvehchi, Fereshteh; Naraghi, Hassan; Naeimpour, Mahmood; Najafi, Ali Akbar; **Nekurouh, Mahmood;** Nekufar, Amir; Nekufar, Mohammad Taghi; Nouhi, Seyyed Hamid; Nourbakhsh, Fakhrossadat; Nourbakhsh, Manoochehr; Nouri, Kasra; Noparast, Noushin; **Pedram, Masood;** Pour Azhari, Abbas; Pour Azizi, Said; Pooyan, Reza; Pishbin, Mahmood; **Peyman, Habibollah;** Peyman, Majid; Rabbani, Mohammad Sadegh; Rahmani, Taghi; Rajaiian, Mohammad Javad; **Rajaii, Alireza;** Rashidpour, Yooness; **Rezaii, Ahad;** Rezaii, Asghar; Rezaii, Biouk; Rezakhani, Bahman; **Razavi Faghih, Said;** **Rafi'ei, Hossein;** Rahnama, Mehdi; **Raeis Toosi, Reza;** Sarikhani, Ali Reza; Saei, Ahmad; Sotoodeh,

Nasrin; **Sahabi, Ezzatollah**; Sahabi, Fereydoon; Sahabi, Haleh; **Saharkhiz, Eisa**; Sarchami, Mohammad; Salamati, Ahmad; Soltani, Nasser Fakhr; Soltani, Ali Ashraf; Soltanieh, Morteza; Seyyedzadeh, Seyyed Reza; Sinaki, Haleh; Siasi Rad, Ali; Seyyednejad, Mohammad Ali; Shad Del, Mahmood Basir; Shakeri, Ebrahim; Shamekhi, Taghi; Shamloo, Ali; **Shanehchi, Mohammad**; **Shah Hosseini, Hossein**; Shojaeian, Solat; **Sharif, Mohammad**; Shambouri, Allahverdi; **Shamsolvaezin, Mashallah**; Shahamatdar, Ahmad; Saber, Firoozeh; **Saber, Hoda**; Salehabadi, Ali; **Sabbaghian, Hashem**; **Sadre Haj Seyyed Javadi, Ahmad**; **Sadr, Reza**; Sedghipour, Ali; Sarraf, Mehdi; Safari, Reza; **Salavati, Fazlollah**; Salavaatinejad, Eiman; **Samimi, Keyvan**; **Tajzadeh, Seyyed Mostafa**; Tajik, Abdolreza; Tajik, Fathollah; Tajedini, Abbas; Tanha, Mostafa; Tehrani, Reza; **Tavassoli, Gholamabbas**; **Tavassoli, Mohammad**; Tavassoli, Sara; Tavassoli, Mohammad Reza; Tavakkol, Khaled; Tavakkol, Mohammad; **Tavallaii, Majid**; **Taleghani, Azam**; Taleghani, Hesam; Taleghani, Tahereh; Taleghani, Narges; Taheri, Akbar; Taheri, Behzad; Taheri, Mohammad; Tayerani, Amir; Vaali, Akbar; Varpaii, Rasoul; Vali Beig, Bagher; Vesal, Abdolrasul; Yaavari, Rahim; Yahyayi, Ali Farid; Yazdanipour, Hanif; Yeganegi, Mahmood, Yazdi, Kazem; **Yazdi, Ebrahim**; **Yousefi Eshkevari, Hassan**; Zakeri, Torab; Zerehsaz, Jamal; Zamani, Mohammad Ebrahim; Zandinia, Parviz; Zarghami, Ali Ashraf; Zarghami, Freydoon **Zeidabadi, Ahmad**; Zeidabadi, Hassan; Zohdi, Mohammad Reza.