

## Letters to the Editor

Article published Friday, December 21, 2007

### Ignorance, reverence harder to separate

Radical Muslims and their so-called leaders are very busy lately: issuing Fatwah-after-Fatwah from dark caves in Afghanistan, to suicide bombing in the streets of Karachi, to the rape and indiscriminate killing in Darfur. At the heels of this, comes the uproar over a British teacher in Sudan allowing her pupil to name a teddy bear Mohammad. She was jailed, had to endure the fear of being killed for this 'sacrilege', before she was 'pardoned' and allowed to go home.

It is simply mind boggling that while there is a thunderous blood-boiling in Sudan over this naming issue, there isn't as much as a whisper against the ongoing cycle of violence where more than 400,000 girls and women have been raped, maimed, and killed while 2 million are rendered homeless, in an operation tacitly approved and conveniently ignored by the Khartoum government. It is becoming increasingly difficult to separate reverence from ignorance among Muslims, lately.

Thank God, our Jewish and Christian friends and governments haven't yet begun lynching Muslims for naming their kids, Yaqub (Jacob), Ishaque (Isaac), Musa (Moses), Maseeh (Messiah), Maryam (Mary) and Hajirah (Hagar)? If they too resorted to violence as we do for every perceived 'insult' hurled at our religion or beloved prophet, half of the Muslim population will disappear. In hindsight, it might serve us well, since ignorance is worse than violence.

Amidst this Sudanese rubble-rousing, I'm thinking of a great American president, Theodore Roosevelt, who didn't at all mind his name becoming attached to an old

bear whom he refused to kill for fun. Since then, a century has passed and almost every bear any child has ever held is affectionately known as Teddy bear. What a fine legacy of human greatness!

Do Muslims really think that a man of Muhammad's stature who Qur'an calls 'of the best etiquettes', would have objected to a toy bear bearing his name? I reckon not.

Abdul-Majeed Azad

Perrysburg

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## Letters to the Editor

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Article published Friday, January 18, 2008

### **Letter on teddy bear is intelligent, honest**

I am writing in regard to a Dec. 21 letter published in The Blade ("Ignorance, reverence harder to separate"). I would like to thank and congratulate the letter writer for his honesty.

I am sure that there are many who disagreed with his views. I am so impressed that someone would write such a letter explaining to the world that Mohammed would be OK with naming a stuffed bear after him. As the world knows, there are more important issues.

Please reprint the letter for everyone to see that here is a very intelligent person with compassion for the entire world. I do not know this person but I call him my friend and brother.

John A. Bombrys

West Alexis Road