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Letters to the Editor

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Danish press has no moral standing

The publication of cartoons depicting Prophet Mohammed in a series of deprecating poses by Danish, Norwegian, Italian, and French newspapers in the name of "freedom of speech" has more than hurt the sentiments of Muslims across the globe. For Europe, this conduct, however, is not new. A little more than half a century ago, Jews were their victims, simply because they were intelligent, gifted, hard-working, and wealthier than their European compatriots. So, their talk of freedom of speech is just talk, albeit full of hypocrisy.

Muslims should understand that profanities had been hurled at Prophet Mohammed in his own lifetime by the Arab pagans. This is nothing new. John the Baptist was persecuted and so was Jesus. Abraham was ostracized by his own father and his tribe of idolaters. It is indeed sad that while world peace is being engulfed by the flames of radical terrorism, reprehensible and deliberate acts like this by a handful of conceited in "civilized" Europe will only stoke the fire of hatred.

It is pathetic that other European countries have joined Denmark in an unforgivable solidarity of evil, which speaks volumes about their moral standing. I am moderate and open-minded, but I also feel a deep resentment toward the behavior of the Danish press. Then I remember this verse in the Qur'an: When ignorant people speak to you (in insult), say: peace be upon you and leave them.

The unequivocal expression of displeasure in the strongest terms by the State Department and the restraint by the American media from publishing such hurtful depiction is praiseworthy. By doing so, the United States has drawn an exemplary line between liberty of speech and respect for each and every religion that its masses cherish and enjoy everyday. I, as a Muslim, thank them.

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