



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN
Jacksonville Division

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**(U//FOUO) Extremists Likely to Retaliate Against Florida Group’s Planned
“International Burn A Koran Day” Scheduled for 11 September 2010**

(U//FOUO) While the FBI has no information to indicate a specific attack has been planned against the United States or US assets in response to the “International Burn a Koran Day” event, the FBI assesses with high confidence^a that, as with past incidents perceived as acts of desecration against Islam, extremist actors will continue to threaten or attempt to harm the leaders, organizers, or attendees the event, scheduled for 6:00-9:00pm on 11 September 2010 in Gainesville, Florida. Depending on the continued national and international publicity the event receives, it may also inspire retaliatory attacks against US facilities overseas.

(U) The Dove World Outreach Center (Dove) in Gainesville, Florida—a New Testament Church with a controversial past—is planning to host an “International Burn a Koran Day,” on the ninth anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, according to the group’s Web site.¹ Dove has invited like-minded persons to its property to burn Korans. Dove created a Facebook page to promote the event, inspired by another Facebook page, entitled “Everybody Draw Muhammad Day.”^{2, 3} To date, the event has received significant national and international publicity.

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(U) Source Summary Statement

(U//FOUO) The information in this bulletin is derived primarily from open sources—the majority being national newspapers and online news media—and corroborated by FBI sources with good access to the information. FBI Jacksonville considers this information to be an accurate representation of the threat emanating from online Islamic extremists in connection with the scheduled “International Burn a Koran Day” event; however, the analysis in this product would benefit from more human and technical source reporting to determine more specific targeting of the event, organizers, and participants.

(U//FOUO) On 2 August 2010, the FBI identified two online threats posted on known extremist Web site “al-Faloja” regarding “International Burn a Koran Day.”

^a (U) The FBI makes this assessment with **high confidence** due to credible threat information from FBI human and open sources as well as the historical significance of this event type. High confidence generally indicates that judgments are based on high-quality information from multiple sources or from a single highly reliable source, and/or that the nature of the issue makes it possible to render a solid judgment. Medium confidence generally means that the information is credibly sourced and plausible, but can be interpreted in various ways, or is not of sufficient quality or corroborated sufficiently to warrant a higher level of confidence. Low confidence generally means that the information’s credibility or plausibility is questionable, the information is too fragmented or poorly corroborated to make solid analytic inferences, or that the FBI has significant concerns or problems with the sources.

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- (U//FOUO) In late July 2010, in response to Dove's planned event, an al-Faloja member posted a comment on the al-Faloja Web site stating, "...I wish to detonate myself in this church now, out of vengeance for the word of the Almighty Allah, and I register myself here that I want to become a martyr and detonate myself in this filthiest filth, to cleanse earth of it."⁴
- (U//FOUO) On 29 July 2010, al-Faloja member "Abu Sulayman Al-Nasir"^b posted a warning on the al-Faloja Web site. Al-Nasir stated, "We have heard that one of your churches is determined to hold a gathering, intent to burn the Holy Qur'an on the anniversary of the eleventh of September... Oh you Americans... I swear by Allah...if you do this deed, await a war that you have not witnessed before from us, a war that will utterly destroy you, and make your blood flow like rivers. You will see unsheathed swords from us, which will inflict death upon you, by land, sea, and air...And we will not rest until we kill tens of you in place of every letter in the book of Allah, if you dare touching it."^{5, 6}

(U) In the spring of 2010, two similar events took place within the United States that were widely perceived by Islamic extremists as defaming the prophet Mohammed. Both events spawned international outrage from the Muslim community and resulted in significant threats from extremist Islamic elements via the Internet.

- (U//FOUO) "**Everyone Draw Mohammed Day.**" On or about 21 April 2010, a cartoon, drawn by cartoonist Molly Norris, was posted on the Internet, declaring 20 May 2010 to be the first annual "Everybody Draw Mohammed Day."⁷ Following the cartoon's release, Norris and others involved in the promotion or support of this event received numerous threats through e-mail and various Web sites, according to a source with excellent access.⁸ In the first installment of al-Qa'ida in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP)-produced *Inspire* magazine, published in July 2010, Anwar Aulaqi provided justification for killing persons who ridicule the prophet Mohammed and specifically targeted Molly Norris and others for assassination. In the article, Aulaqi discussed the failure of protests against the media and Western policies, and the need for more extreme action in defense of Islam. He proposed "the execution of those involved" as the solution to confronting Western defamation of Islam and added, "but even then our campaign should not be limited to only those who are active participants."⁹
- (U//FOUO) **South Park's Airing of Mohammed in a Bear Suit.** In mid-April 2010, South Park aired a controversial episode that included a caricature of the prophet Mohammed. According to open sources, following the release of the episode, Viacom/Comedy Central and the creators of South Park received numerous threats regarding this episode.¹⁰ For example, in an article on www.RevolutionMuslim.com, Islamic extremist Zachary Adam Chesser warned the creators of the South Park series that they might end up like Dutch filmmaker Theo Van Gough, who was murdered in 2004 by an Islamic extremist after making a film critical of Islamic society.¹¹ Zachary

^b (U//FOUO) On or about 9 March 2010, the same Abu Sulayman Al-Nasir posted an entry on al-Faloja in which he called upon the Muslims in America to attack the bases of the United States armed forces, before they deploy to the Middle East and Afghanistan.

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Adam Chesser, aka Abu Talhah Al-Amrikee, was arrested in July 2010 for trying to join al-Qa'ida affiliated terrorist group Al-Shabab located in Somalia.¹²

(U//FOUO) As documented in numerous reliable news sources, other notable events involving the desecration of Mohammed or insult to Islam resulted in lasting political and social consequences. Lars Vilks, a Swedish artist and free speech activist, and Kurt Westergaard, a Danish cartoonist, experienced death threats, al-Qa'ida-affiliated Islamic State of Iraq bounty issuances, and multiple assassination attempts for authoring cartoons/drawings of Mohammed in 2007 and 2005, respectively.^{13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20} In addition to targeting Vilks and Westergaard, extremist groups also targeted the editors and the publishing companies which disseminated the cartoons.^{21, 22} Geert Wilders, Dutch writer and commissioner of the film *Fitna*, which examines the Koranic-inspired motivations for terrorism, received multiple death threats, was targeted by al-Qa'ida for assassination, and was identified as the target of an assassination attempt by two members of the Hofstadgroep.^{23, 24, 25, 26} The international controversies also spawned violent protests, embassy burnings, the boycott of goods and services (boycotts reduced Danish exports by 15.5 percent, \$170 million, from February to June 2006), and official reprimands from several foreign governments to include Iran, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Egypt.^{27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37}

(U) Outlook and Implications

(U//FOUO) The FBI has no information to indicate a specific attack has been planned against the United States or US assets in response to "International Burn a Koran Day." The nature of this event, however, will likely garner the same, if not a larger, scale of international attention as historically similar events. This attention will most likely have political and national security implications which could involve the boycott of American goods and services, violent demonstrations within the United States and abroad, threats and/or acts of violence from terrorist organizations and/or lone extremist actors, and further segregation between the Muslim and non-Muslim American communities.

(U//FOUO) The FBI has not yet observed a successful terrorist attack in the United States in direct response to the desecration of Islam; but with the recent release of *Inspire* magazine, calling for home-grown extremists to conduct small-scale attacks and advocating attacks on persons who disrespect symbols of Islam, retaliatory threats and attempted attacks against Dove World Outreach Center, its leaders, its members, and event attendees are possible.

(U//FOUO) The FBI is actively working with the US Government and local partners to monitor ongoing developments and will provide additional information on any future potential threats related to Dove World Outreach Center or "International Burn a Koran Day" as they develop.

(U) This product has been prepared by the Jacksonville Division of the FBI. Comments and queries may be addressed to the Jacksonville Field Intelligence Group at 904-248-7000.

(U) Endnotes

¹ (U) Internet site; Dove World Outreach Center; doveoutreach.org; “September 11th is International Burn a Koran Day”; <http://www.doveoutreach.org/>; accessed 17 August 2010.

² (U//FOUO) Internet site; Dove International Outreach, Facebook.com; “International Burn a Koran Day”; <http://www.facebook.com/pages/International-Burn-A-Koran-Day/134718123226530#!/pages/International-Burn-A-Koran-Day/134718123226530?v=info>; 3 August 2010.

³ (U) Online article; Maggie Hyde; Ethicsdaily.com; “Fla.Church Plans to Burn Qurans on 9/11 Anniversary”; 21 July 2010; <http://www.ethicsdaily.com/news.php?viewStory=16405>; 2 August 2010.

⁴ (U//FOUO) FBI; Electronic Communication; 30 July 2010; “Internet Intelligence and Terrorism Matters”; page 1; UNCLASSIFIED; SECRET; Source in an online covert employee whose information has been verified.

⁵ (U) Ibid, page 2.

⁶ (U//FOUO) Open Source Center; IAP20100731950088; 31 July 2010; “BBC Monitoring: Counterterrorism Digest: 30-31 Jul 10; UNCLASSIFIED; Source is the Caversham *BBC Monitoring*.

⁷ (U) Online Article; Patrick Oppmann; CNN.com; “FBI Warns Seattle Cartoonist About Threats From Radical Cleric”; 14 July 2010; <http://www.cnn.com/2010/US/07/13/washington.cartoonist.threat/index.html>; 2 August 2010.

⁸ (U) FBI; Electronic Communication; 1 July 2010; “Interview of Molly A. Norris”; page 1; UNCLASSIFIED; UNCLASSIFIED; Source is the creator of “Everybody Draw Mohammed Day.”

⁹ (U//FOUO) Magazine Article; Shaykh Anwar Al-Awlaki; *Inspire*; “May Our Souls Be Sacrificed For You”; 11 July 2010; Issue 1; Summer; 2010.

¹⁰ (U) Online Article; Gillian Reagan; Businessinsider.com; “Comedy Central Caves, Censors South Park Episode After Death Threats From Muslim Extremists”; 22 April 2010; <http://www.businessinsider.com/south-park-episode-comedy-central-while-radical-muslim-site-predicts-creators-murder-for-mohammed-portrayal-2010-4>; 2 August 2010.

¹¹ (U) Online Article; Joshua Rhet Miller; Foxnews.com; “Road to Radicalism: The Man Behind the ‘South Park’ Threats”; 23 April 2010; <http://www.foxnews.com/us/2010/04/23/road-radicalism-man-south-park-threats/>; 2 August 2010.

¹² (U) Online Article; Spencer S. Hsu; *The Washington Post*; “Judge Orders Fairfax Terror Suspect to Remain in Jail Until His Trial”; 27 July 2010; <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wpdyn/content/article/2010/07/26/AR2010072605059.html>; 2 August 2010.

¹³ (U) Online Article; *Agence France-Presse*; “Al-Qaeda Puts Bounties on Heads of Swedes”; 15 September 2007; <http://www.thelocal.se/8498/20070915/>; 2 August 2010.

¹⁴ (U//FOUO) Open Source Center; GMP20081218479004; 16 December 2008; “Jihadist Forum Member Announces Reward for Killing Danish Cartoonist”; UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY; Source is the Ana al-Muslim Web site, one of the oldest Salafi Web sites, featuring a number of forums that host statements by a wide array of terrorist and insurgent groups.

¹⁵ (U) Open Source Center; FEA20070915319746; 15 September 2007; “Text of Al-Baghdadi on ‘Betrayal’ of Muslim Brotherhood in Iraq”; UNCLASSIFIED; Source is a jihadist Web site posting several links to an audio statement by “Amir of the Believers Shaykh Abu-Umar al-Baghdadi,” leader of the Al-Qa’ida-affiliated Islamic State of Iraq.

¹⁶ (U) Open Source Center; EUP20070915004001; 15 September 2007, “Swedish Artist, Editor Receive Death Threats From Iraqi Al-Qa’ida Leader”; UNCLASSIFIED; Source is Stockholm Dagens Nyheter.

¹⁷ (U) Online Article; BBC News; “Danish Cartoons ‘Plotters’ Held”; 12 February 2008; <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/7240481.stm>; 2 August 2010.

¹⁸ (U) Online Article; *The Copenhagen Post Online*; “Assassination Attempt on Mohammed Cartoonist”; 2 January 2010; <http://www.cphpost.dk/news/national/88-national/47853-assassination-attempt-on-mohammed-cartoonist.html>; 2 August 2010.

¹⁹ (U) Online Article; BBC News; “Irish Arrests Over ‘Plot to Kill Swedish Cartoonist’”; 9 March 2010; <http://www.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/8558022.stm?bcsi-ac-75F76A8A9C5D0B36=1B56E47E0000030.RcD7uonNbh/mXEFIwmrsZQx/G/LDAQAAwYAAGhpzAAQDgAAAAAAAM0tBAA=>; 2 August 2010.

²⁰ (U) Online Article; Emily Friedman and Jason Ryan; ABC News; “American Colleen LaRose Called Herself Jihad Jane”; 9 May 2010; <http://abcnews.go.com/WN/TheLaw/colleen-larose-jihad-jane-indicted-charges-helping-terrorists/story?id=10055608>; 2 August 2010.

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²¹ (U) Open Source Center; EUP20070915004001; 15 September 2007; “Swedish Artist, Editor Receive Death Threats From Iraqi Al-Qa’ida Leader”; UNCLASSIFIED; Source is Stockholm Dagens Nyheter.

²² (U//FOUO) Open Source Center; GMP20081218479004; 16 December 2008; “Jihadist Forum Member Announces Reward for Killing Danish Cartoonist”; UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY; Source is the Ana al-Muslim Web site, one of the oldest Salafi Web sites, featuring a number of forums that host statements by a wide array of terrorist and insurgent groups.

²³ (U) Online Article; BBC; “Dutch ‘Must Show’ Anti-Islam Film”; 10 March 2008; <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/7287973.stm>; 2 August 2010.

²⁴ (U) Online Article; CNS News; “Death Threats Greet Dutch Lawmaker’s Call to Ban the Koran”; 10 August 2007; <http://www.cnsnews.com/news/article/18507>; 2 August 2010.

²⁵ (U) Online Article; NIS News, “Al Qa’ida Fatwa against MP Wilders”; 28 February 2008; http://www.nisnews.nl/public/280208_5.htm?bcsi-ac-75F76A8A9C5D0B36=1B56E47E0000603ZXzSe135eU4FG3UjNVWg8rJpJOfWAQAAAwYAAEyGzQAQDgAAMQAAAM0+BAA=; 2 August 2010.

²⁶ (U) Online Article; Craig S. Smith; *New York Times*; “Dutch Police Seize 2 in Raid on Terror Cell After a Siege”; 11 November 2004; <http://www.nytimes.com/2004/11/11/international/europe/11dutch.html>; 2 August 2010.

²⁷ (U) Online Article; G. Agathos; *Stony Brook Independent*; “Cartoon Body Count”; 18 February 2006; <http://www.sbindependent.org/node/854>; 2 August 2010.

²⁸ (U) Online Article; Matt Brown; *The National*; “Fear over African Hotbed of Terror”; 3 January 2010; <http://www.thatnational.ae/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20100103/FOREIGN/701029827/1002>; 2 August 2010.

²⁹ (U) Ibid.

³⁰ (U) Online Article; CNN; “Embassies Torched in Cartoon Fury”; 5 February 2006; <http://www.cnn.com/2006/WORLD/meast/02/04/syria.cartoon/>; 2 August 2010.

³¹ (U) Online Article; *Spiegel online*; “Arson and Death Threats as Muhammad Caricatur Controversy Escalates”; 4 February 2006; <http://www.spiegel.de/international/0,1518,339177,00.html>; 2 August 2010.

³² (U) Online Article; *Reuters*; “Pakistani Students Torch Danish Flag over Cartoon”; 14 February 2008; <http://www.reuters.com/article/newsMaps/idUSCOL27877220080214>; 2 August 2010.

³³ (U) Online Article; BBC News; “Cartoons Row Hits Danish Exports”; 9 September 2006; <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/5329642.stm>; 2 August 2010.

³⁴ (U) Online Article; *Agence France-Presse*; “Iran Protests over Swedish Muhammad Cartoon”; 27 August 2007; <http://www.thelocal.se.8305/20070827/>; 2 August 2010.

³⁵ (U) Internet site; Pakistan Ministry of Foreign Affairs; www.mofa.gov; “Pakistan Condemns the Publication of Offensive Sketch in Sweden”; 30 August 2007; http://www.mofa.gov.pk/Press_Releases/2007/Aug/PR_234_07.htm; 2 August 2010.

³⁶ (U) Internet site; Sayed Salahuddin; *Reuters.com*; “Indignant Afghanistan Slams Prophet Mohammad Sketch”; 1 September 2007; <http://in.reuters.com/article/SouthAsiaNews/idINIndia-29281220070901>; 2 August 2010.

³⁷ (U) Internet site; Gwladys Fouche; *The Guardian*; “Egypt Wades into Swedish Cartoons Row”; 3 September 2007; <http://media.guardian.co.uk/presspublishing/story/0,,2161595,00.html>; 2 August 2010.

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