



بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

ISLAMSKA ZAJEDNICA U BOSNI I HERCEGOVINI
RIJASET

THE FIRST REPORT ON ISLAMOPHOBIA,
DISCRIMINATION AND INTOLERANCE
ON THE TERRITORY OF THE ISLAMIC COMMUNITY IN B-H

2004 - 2011

(SUMMARY)

Sarajevo - April, 2011

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I. Introduction

A principle of non-discrimination is the fundamental principle of international law. In addition, numerous international human rights standards and norms call for elimination of all types of discrimination and racism. Islamophobia, discrimination against Muslims and religious intolerance are on the rise in the last decades and cause a serious concern in various parts of the world.

Intolerance of varying intensity as well as discrimination against Muslims and Islamic values, along with propagation of religious prejudice and fear, is present in many segments of the B-H society. At the recommendation of its Public Relations Office, the Riyasat of the Islamic Community in Bosnia and Herzegovina adopted the Report on Islamophobia, discrimination and intolerance at the April 28, 2011 session. This is the first such report produced by the Islamic Community and it covers the period from 2004 to 2011. The Report lists examples of various types of discrimination and intolerance exhibited by a variety of individuals and social groups. Although there are many more cases, the Report includes just the most distinct examples or those that enable us to gain a comprehensive insight into frequency and diversity of discrimination and intolerance.

These examples have been taken from various sources: official statements, filed complaints, interviews, filed testimonials and media reports. Credibility of the content used is based on the credibility of the sources.

The Report consists of six areas which have been in focus of monitoring and analysis: discriminatory statements by public and political officials; offensive language and propagation of prejudice; personal and collective dimension of religious freedom in media; employment; education; discrimination and intolerance in the works of art; hate crimes in the form of attacks on Muslims and on the officials and property of the Islamic Community. Recommendations to the institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as to international political and human rights organizations make an integral part of the Report. The Report also contains a short overview of the fundamental instruments for protection of the most violated human rights, statements of prominent former and current officials on Islamophobia and it also points at certain difficulties in defining Islamophobia and dilemmas surrounding it.

The purpose of this Report is to register, present and inform about the cases of Islamophobia, discrimination and religious intolerance, to encourage victims of intolerance and discrimination to speak up, to raise awareness about taking Islamophobia, intolerance and discrimination seriously and about a need for the unified response by the society as a whole.

II. Executive Summary

Islamophobia, discrimination and intolerance against Muslims and Islamic values is a reality and a serious problem of the B-H society. Propagation of prejudice, intolerance and intimidation; insulting and ridiculing religious rites and feelings; attacks on mosques and graveyards; discrimination in education; employment discrimination; the use of Islamic terminology, symbols and of the Imam profession in an inappropriate context - are all forms of violation of the human rights of Muslims which are significantly influencing their personal and social life.

Irresponsible statements by some political representatives and public officials contribute to the atmosphere of intolerance and prejudice. Lapses and flaws in the work of public institutions have a significant role in creating the atmosphere of intolerance and in propagation of prejudice, fear and suspicion of Muslims.

Certain media have become an important channel for broadcasting offensive and intolerant content. The application of legal norms and professional journalistic standards - aimed at improving the social responsibility of media, fostering a culture of dialogue and encouraging respect for human dignity in the public space - has proved to be inadequate in the B-H society.

Prejudice and employment discrimination leave deep marks on human personality and dignity. Especially affected are Muslim women with head covering. They face employment discrimination or discrimination in the workplace, in both public and private sectors.

The provision of religious instruction in public institutions has repeatedly been a subject of heated debates, characterized also by the use of inappropriate and offensive language. Calls for expelling religious education from public schools could be heard and a correlation between religious education and fascism has been made. A particularly intensive, and, at times, completely irrational negative media campaign has been waged against Islamic religious education in the "Djeca Sarajeva" (TN: *The Children of Sarajevo*) public kindergartens.

In recent years, we see an increasingly frequent use of the artistic expression and topics aimed at direct or indirect propagation of intolerance and desecration of Islamic values and authorities. This has particularly taken the form of publication of offensive caricatures, photomontages and musical and quasi-poetic works. Guaranteed freedom of artistic expression cannot violate the guaranteed freedom of conscience, religion and conviction.

Hate crimes and attacks on worshipers, officials and property of the Islamic Community have been registered in many parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The hate crimes are relatively common and especially inflicted are the returnees (TN: *the returning refugees*), usually members of the local minority population. Some mosques have been repeatedly attacked dozens of times. Targets of hate crimes are Imams and Muslim worshipers on the way to or from mosques in the form of verbal threats and abuse. In many instances mosques have been attacked and windows smashed while worshipers have been praying inside.

Particularly significant aspect of manifestation of intolerance and hatred in B-H has been demeaning and insulting the highest religious authorities and official institutions of the Islamic Community. The particular target has been Raisu-l-Ulama of the Islamic Community

Dr. Mustafa Ceric, whose public discreditation has been the goal of certain media for quite some time. Such systematic and long-running negative media campaign against the Raisu-l-Ulama is difficult to imagine without support or approval of certain political and ideological groups in the society and it represents a unique precedent.

III. Recommendations

I. Governmental bodies and organizations for the protection of human rights in B-H

- Islamophobia, discrimination and intolerance against Muslims are real and represent a serious social problem in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It is necessary to work on eliminating the sources of discrimination and intolerance as well as on ensuring a full implementation of standards pertaining to freedom of religion and conviction, freedom of expression, collective dimension of religion, right to religious education, right to work and employment and ensuring that no laws discriminatory to Muslims are adopted.
- Insist on equality and a need to respect dignity and life of every human being
- Identify and denounce Islamophobia, intolerance and discrimination and ensure that Muslims have a real chance to fully participate in public life, in accordance with laws, their religious convictions and the highest standards and values of democracy.
- Gather data on Islamophobia, discrimination and intolerance against Muslims and publish them in human rights reports.
- Protect autonomy of religious communities without prejudice and improve the dialogue with religious authorities about discrimination and intolerance.
- Ensure that during recruitment every person is evaluated on the merits of their education, competence and skills; ensure equal opportunity and access to employment; and eliminate sources of discrimination for Muslim women with head covering.
- Work together to make media, particularly public broadcasters, more responsible for combating prejudice, fear and suspicion of Muslims and for creating atmosphere of respect for human dignity and human rights.

II. The EU-member states, the European Commission and the Council of Europe

- Carefully monitor Islamophobia, discrimination and intolerance against Muslims and take necessary measures to eliminate and prevent them.
- Gather data on Islamophobia, discrimination and intolerance against Muslims.
- In words and in action promote equality, freedom and protection of autonomy of religious communities and improve dialogue with religious authorities about religious rights and freedoms, discrimination and intolerance.
- Ensure elimination of all kinds of discrimination and intolerance against Muslims through laws and legal initiatives.
- Publish information on Islamophobia, discrimination and intolerance against Muslims in human rights and freedoms reports.

III. The Special Rapporteur on Human Rights of UN, OSCE/ODIHR/TANDIS

- Gather data and pay special attention to the issue of Islamophobia, discrimination and intolerance against Muslims in human rights reports and recommend appropriate action to governments.
- Spotlight and condemn cases of discrimination against Muslims.
- Use your resources and capabilities to combat intolerance and discrimination against Muslims by including Islamophobia, intolerance and discrimination in your agendas.
- Raise awareness about Islamophobia, discrimination and intolerance against Muslims in UN and OSCE member states.

- Cooperate directly with representatives of Islamic communities and organizations and improve relations with nongovernmental organizations combating discrimination.
- Encourage governments to monitor the state of Muslim rights.
- Pay special attention to analyzing countries' legislation with respect to discrimination and intolerance against Muslims.
- Encourage media not to propagate prejudice against Muslims and insist on respect for the professional journalistic code and standards.

IV. Definition

Although the term Islamophobia has been accepted by many international human rights organizations and many Muslim institutions, such as Organization of the Islamic Conference, there are still different approaches and debates regarding its definition which prevent the adoption of one common definition.¹ After the former Secretary General of the UN Kofi Anan presided over the conference entitled "Confronting Islamophobia" in December 2004 and after the Council of Europe condemned Islamophobia in May 2005, this term has achieved a greater level of linguistic and political acceptance.

The 11th Summit of the Organization of Islamic Conference, held in Dakar, March 13 - 14, 2008, concluded that Islamophobia represents an insult to human dignity and that all international human rights instruments should be used against it. The 20th Summit of the Arab League, held in Damascus on March 29th, 2008, reaffirmed that fierce campaign against Islam and growing Islamophobia and discrimination faced by Muslims in the Western societies are cause for a grave concern, especially because of growing presence of defamation and disrespect for Islam and Muslims in the countries once famous for their pluralism and acceptance of others.

The First Annual Report on Islamophobia, May 2007 - May 2008, prepared by the Organization of Islamic Conference, points out that Islamophobia represents "irrational or very strong fear or disliking of Islam", adding that "Islamophobia goes significantly beyond that to include racial hatred, intolerance, prejudice, discrimination and stereotypes".² The next Report places Islamophobia within the boundaries of discrimination and intolerance and points out that Islamophobia "implies discrimination and intolerance of Muslims", stating that

¹ Islamophobia, discrimination and intolerance of Muslims is a reality as confirmed by numerous research and activities of various international human rights institutions and organizations. Some of them name this problem Islamophobia while others consider it in the context of discrimination and intolerance. For the illustration purposes, presented herein are various research and activities regarding Islamophobia and discrimination against Muslims. The first research on Islamophobia has been undertaken by the British **Runnymede Trust**, that is, by the Commission on British Muslims and Islamophobia. The Commission published an advisory document in 1997, while the final report, titled "Islamophobia: Challenge for Us All", was presented by Home Secretary Jack Straw in November of 1997.

International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights – IHF has published the report titled "Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims in the EU: Developments Since September 11", stating that social climate faced by Muslims in the EU countries has worsened after September 11, 2001.

The European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia – EUMC, an official EU institution, published a report titled "Summary Report on Islamophobia in the EU after 11 September 2001" in May of 2002. The next report by the same Centre was published in 2006 under the title "Muslims in the European Union: Discrimination and Islamophobia" and immediately afterwards it published an addendum titled "Perceptions of Discrimination and Islamophobia: Voices from Members of Muslim Communities in the European Union". (http://www.fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/attachments/Manifestations_EN.pdf)

The European Commission against Racism and Intolerance - ECRI, a human rights body of the Council of Europe, adopted, on June 29, 2007, and published, on February 12, 2007, its "Third Report on the Netherlands" with a special chapter on Islamophobia in this country. (http://www.coe.int/t/e/human_rights/ecri/1-ecri/2-country-by-country_approach/netherlands/Netherlands%20third%20report%20-%20cri08-3.pdf).

Human Rights First, international human rights organization based in Washington D.C., published a report on Islamophobia in 2007, documenting anti-immigrant and anti-Muslim speech in most Western societies. "Discrimination and violence against Muslims has often taken the form of attacks on ordinary people in their shops, schools or houses". (www.humanrightsfirst.org)

The Pew Research Center in its Report of September 25, 2007 concludes that negatives views of Muslims and Islam are on the rise in the USA in recent years. (www.pewresearch.org)

² OIC, The First Annual Report on Islamophobia: <http://www.oic-un.org/reports.asp#Reports>, accessed on 15/03/2011

its propagation goes against the fundamental values of humankind because human rights and fundamental freedoms should be acknowledged as important guarantees of tolerance and non-discrimination and as indispensable elements of stability, security and cooperation.³ In addition, the Organization of Islamic Conference recommends elements of a joint strategy by the Muslim World and the West in confronting Islamophobia; among other things "the international community must recognize the problem and be ready and willing to adopt a multifaceted approach to combating Islamophobia".⁴

At the global level, the fight against Islamophobia is waged within a wider concept, adopted by governments and international organizations, of fight against racism and racial discrimination. UN Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance Doudou Diène defines Islamophobia as "a baseless hostility and fear vis-à-vis Islam, and as a result a fear of an aversion towards all Muslims or the majority of them. It also refers to the practical consequences of this hostility in terms of discrimination, prejudices and unequal treatment of which Muslims (individuals and communities) are victims and their exclusion from major political and social spheres. The term was invented in response to a new reality: the increasing discrimination against Muslims which has manifested itself in recent years".⁵

The Council of Europe in its document "Islamophobia and its consequences on the young people" (2005) states that "Islamophobia can be defined as the fear of or prejudiced viewpoint towards Islam, Muslims and matters pertaining to them" and also "Whether it takes the shape of daily forms of racism, and discrimination or more violent forms, Islamophobia is a violation of human rights and a threat to social cohesion".⁶

Voices proposing that Islamophobia be defined and recognized in the OSCE documents are growing louder. "Use the term 'Islamophobia' as a form of racism and xenophobia, targeting Muslims in the OSCE decisions", is one of the recommendations of the civil society to the participants of OSCE High Level Conference on Tolerance and Non-Discrimination.⁷

Additionally, one of the general recommendations made by participants of OSCE Freedom of Religion or Belief Meeting, held in December 2010, is that "Participating States should adopt a definition of intolerance against Muslims".⁸

Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office on Combating Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims Ambassador Ömür Orhun, in his 2nd Semi-Annual Report

³ http://www.oic-oci.org/uploads/file/Islamphobia/Islamophobia_rep_May_23_25_2009.pdf; OIC, The Second Report on Islamophobia, June 2008 – April 2009, accessed on 15/03/2011

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ UN Human Rights Council, Document No. A/HRC/6/6, August 21, 2007, p.8 Para. 19, (<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/6session/reports.htm>) The Report submitted during the 6th session of the UN Human Rights Council, held in 2007.

⁶ http://www.fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/attachments/Manifestations_EN.pdf; accessed on 15/03/2011; <http://www.eycb.coe.int/eycbwwwroot/hre/eng/documents/Islamophobia%20report/Islamophobia%20final%20ENG.pdf>, accessed on 15/03/2011

⁷ The summary report from OSCE High Level Conference on Tolerance and Non-Discrimination, June 28-30, 2010, Astana, Kazakhstan, <http://www.osce.org/cio/68853>, accessed on 14/03/2011; <http://www.osce.org/cio/71469>

⁸ The OSCE Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting (SHDM) on Freedom of Religion or Belief, Vienna, December 9-10, 2010, final report, Warsaw, February 22, 2011, <http://www.osce.org/odihr/75755>, accessed on 14/03/2011

(Ankara, November 2005) asked that Islamophobia be recognized as "exceptional among the political ills of the present era: Frequently it is not only the Muslims who are attacked, but also their faith", pointing also to the existence of the intellectual legitimization of Islamophobia, which must be countered.⁹

During the International Islamophobia Conference in Istanbul, December 8-9, 2007, Ambassador Ömür Orhun drew attention to the fact that term "Islamophobia" lacks universally accepted definition, pointing out to the rather narrow context of its definition as "fear of or prejudiced viewpoint towards Islam, Muslims and matters pertaining to them". He suggested the term "intolerance and discrimination against Muslims and Islam", which, according to him, is not a new phenomenon as "there are historical, cultural/religious and psychological reasons behind it".¹⁰

Commonly accepted suitable definition as well as effective mechanisms and ways to combat Islamophobia are apparently still being explored, however, the presence and effects of Islamophobia cannot be ignored. The political will to admit, recognize and face up to this problem is of the utmost importance because proponents of Islamophobia remain free to continue with their attacks due to lack of necessary legal measures.

The cited views and reports suggest that Islamophobia represents any form of expression of hate, animosity and intolerance as well as of discrimination against others, either individually or collectively, because they are Muslims, or because they are perceived as such, and regardless of the form and intensity of hate, animosity, intolerance and discrimination.

Islamophobia, discrimination and intolerance negate equal rights of people and cause social marginalization of Islam and Muslims, leading to negative social stereotyping or exclusion and discriminatory legislation or biased legal rulings. Intolerance is a social dimension and discrimination manifests itself in the legal matters while Islamophobia combines elements of both intolerance and discrimination.

Discrimination includes eliminating and not accepting differences because that ignores a reality of existence of people in our society who live differently. Direct and indirect consequence of ignoring differences, tolerating various forms of discrimination or tolerating open and disguised stigmatization are attacks on human dignity, which, in turn, can lead to radicalization of the humiliated or those associated with them.

In addition to the B-H Constitution and other laws prohibiting discrimination, Law on Freedom of Religion and Legal Status of Churches and Religious Communities in B-H, in its Article 2, defines that "discrimination based on belief or conviction includes every form of exclusion, limitation, favoritism, omission or any other type of differentiation based on religion or conviction, which is aimed at or can be used to achieve direct or indirect, intentional or unintentional termination or reduction in rights and fundamental freedoms in civil, political, economical, social and cultural affairs".

⁹ <http://www.osce.org/cio/16992>, accessed on 14/03/2011

¹⁰ <http://www.osce.org/what/tolerance/32387>, accessed on 14/03/2011

V. International standards of human rights

Prohibiting discrimination, intolerance and hate crimes, on one side, and ensuring equal labor and employment rights, equal access to education and promotion of cultural and religious identity of individuals and social groups, on the other, are fundamental preconditions for a free democratic society. A number of instruments and standards to guarantee a freedom of speech, thought, conscience, religion and conviction as fundamental human rights have been adopted at both international and regional level. These rights have been reinforced with many other human rights instruments pertaining to the rights of special and potentially vulnerable groups such as women, children, migrants, prisoners, minorities, etc. Protection of these rights is also supported by yet another set of norms, aimed at preventing discrimination based on race, gender, culture, religion and conviction. Protection of belief and conviction is indisputable under two conditions: that rights and freedoms of others are not violated and that public safety and order is not disturbed.

This Report is based on the universally accepted international and regional instruments for protection of human rights and prevention of discrimination based on religion and conviction. Many of the instruments for protection of human rights are not respected or are ignored in varying degrees and at various levels in B-H, as illustrated by the examples to follow later in the Report.

“All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights” (**Article 1 of the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948**)

“Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.” (**Article 18 of the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948**)

“No one shall be subject to coercion which would impair his freedom to have a religion or belief of his choice” (**Article 1.2 of the UN Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief, 1981**)

“No one shall be subject to discrimination by any State, institution, group of persons, or person on the grounds of religion or other belief.” (**Article 2.1 of the UN Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief, 1981**)

“Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief, in worship, teaching, practice and observance.” (**Article 9 of the European Convention on Human Rights**)

“Everyone has the right to freedom of expression.” (**Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights**)

“The enjoyment of the rights and freedoms set forth in this Convention shall be secured without discrimination on any ground such as sex, race, color, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, association with a national minority, property, birth or other status.” (**Article 14 of the European Convention on Human Rights**)

“The Union shall respect cultural, religious and linguistic diversity”. (**Article 22 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union**)

“- take effective measures to prevent and eliminate discrimination against individuals or communities on the grounds of religion or belief in the recognition, exercise and enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms in all fields of civil, political, economic, social and cultural life, and to ensure the effective equality between believers and non-believers” (16.1)

“- foster a climate of mutual tolerance and respect between believers of different communities as well as between believers and non-believers” (16.2)

“- respect the right of everyone to give and receive religious education in the language of his choice, whether individually or in association with others” (16.6) (**OSCE, Concluding Document of the Vienna Meeting 1986, Vienna, 1989**)

VI. Statements about Islamophobia, discrimination and intolerance of Muslims

A number of prominent political, public and social figures have in their public statements called attention to Islamophobia, discrimination and intolerance of Muslims and Islamic values or to the fact that certain important decisions affecting Muslims had been inspired by prejudice about Islam and Muslims. Especially important are legal rulings by the Hague Tribunal, which has found and ruled, based on indisputable facts, that the worst crimes had been committed against Muslims in B-H: genocide and crimes against humanity. Also important is a testimony of the former US President Bill Clinton who has admitted to the existence of prejudice against Muslims in B-H. As a consequence, Bosniacs have suffered terrible human and material losses during the aggression against B-H from 1992 to 1995.

19/04/2004, Den Haag: ICTY Appeals Chamber Judgment in the case of Radislav Krstic

The Appeals Chamber has unanimously determined that genocide was committed in Srebrenica in 1995: "...Bosnian Serb forces carried out genocide against the Bosnian Muslims... Those who devise and implement genocide seek to deprive humanity of the manifold richness its nationalities, races, ethnicities and religions provide. This is a crime against all of humankind, its harm being felt not only by the group targeted for destruction, but by all of humanity."

10/06/2010, Den Haag: The ICTY Trial Chamber Judgment in the case of Vujadin Popovic and others

The Trial Chamber has found that there was a joint criminal enterprise to murder and a joint criminal enterprise to forcibly remove with several participants... Further, it has found that some members of the JCE to Murder had genocidal intent and thus genocide was committed. It has also found that members of both JCEs had the requisite special intent for the crime of persecution. It has also been established beyond reasonable doubt that there was a widespread and systematic attack against a civilian population. Therefore, applying the legal elements of the crimes charged in the Indictment to the facts found to be proven, the Trial Chamber has found that the following crimes were committed by members of the Bosnian Serb Forces in various locations alleged in the Indictment: genocide; conspiracy to commit genocide; extermination, a crime against humanity; murder, a crime against humanity and a violation of the laws or customs of war; murder, cruel and inhumane treatment, terrorizing civilians, and forcible transfer, as acts of persecution, a crime against humanity; and forcible transfer as an inhumane act, a crime against humanity.

02/11/2009, Taylor Branch: "The Clinton Tapes", interviews with Bill Clinton

Clinton said U.S. allies in Europe blocked proposals to adjust or remove the embargo. They justified their opposition on plausible humanitarian grounds, arguing that more arms would only fuel the bloodshed, but privately, said the President, key allies objected that an independent Bosnia would be "unnatural" as the only Muslim nation in Europe. He said they favored the embargo precisely because it locked in Bosnia's disadvantage.

Worse, he added, they parried numerous alternatives as a danger to the some eight thousand European peacekeepers deployed in Bosnia to safeguard emergency shipments of food and medical supplies.

Branch expressed shock at such cynicism, reminiscent of the blind-eye diplomacy regarding the plight of Europe's Jews during World War II, President Clinton only shrugged. He said

President Francois Mitterrand of France had been especially blunt in saying that Bosnia did not belong in Europe (FTV)

08/03/2010, Thomas Hammarberg, the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights

“Prohibition of the burqa and the niqab would not liberate oppressed women, but might instead lead to their further alienation in European societies... Rightly, we react strongly against any regime ruling that women must wear these garments... However, this is not remedied by banning the same clothing in other countries... A prohibition also raises serious questions about whether such legislation would be compatible with the European Convention on Human Rights”. He underlined that those advocating the burqa and niqab ban have failed to demonstrate that this dress undermines democracy, security, public order and morale. (Fena)

25/03/2010, UN Human Rights Council

UN Human Rights Council adopted a resolution condemning Islamophobia, including the ban on new minarets. The Resolution “strongly condemns the ban on minaret construction and all other recent discriminatory acts”. According to UN documents, these acts include various forms of Islamophobia, which are in sharp contrast with respect for human rights. (AFP)

28/10/2010, Thomas Hammarberg, the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights

He claims that European countries appear to face another crisis beyond budget deficits - the disintegration of human values. One symptom is increasing intolerance of Muslims. The Swiss referendum to ban building of minarets was no exception: opinion polls in several European countries reflect fear, suspicion and negative views of Muslims and Islamic culture. “These Islamophobic prejudices are combined with racist attitudes - directed not least against people originating from Turkey, Arab countries and South Asia. Muslims with this background are discriminated in the labor market and the education system in a number of European countries. There are reports showing that they tend to be targeted by police in repeated identity controls and intrusive searches. This is a serious human rights problem... Compromises are made which tend to give an air of legitimacy to crude prejudices and open xenophobia”. (Fena)

13/07/2010, Zlatko Miletic, Director of the Federal Police Directorate

Director of the Federal Police Directorate Zlatko Miletic stated that certain international circles would like to see Islamophobia on the rise in B-H. "Our goal is not to propagate Islamophobia, even though there are members of the international community who would want exactly that". (“Dnevni avaz”)

VII. Islamophobia, discrimination and intolerance: political representatives and public officials

”It is harder to crack a prejudice than an atom“. (Einstein)

This chapter lists examples of Islamophobia, discrimination and intolerance against teachings and values of Islam, Muslims and the Islamic Community in Bosnia and Herzegovina. They include violation of rights and freedoms, propagation and incitement of negative stereotypes and prejudice, slander, insult and biased statements. Incitement of stereotypes; manufacture and propagation of prejudice about Islam, Muslims and the Islamic Community through negative media presentation; targeting of Islamic symbols as well as the opposition to involvement of Muslims in public life all lead to marginalization and exclusion of Muslims from social and public life.

Islamophobic statements and acts of intolerance by governmental institutions and political representatives have also been registered. A following statement by the former President of the Republika Srpska Biljana Plavsic is an example of unprecedented chauvinism: "Muslims are genetically corrupt material that has converted to Islam..., from generation to generation this gene is simply condensed..., becoming increasingly worse" ("Svet", September 6, 1993, Novi Sad).

In the Parliament of Bosnia and Herzegovina, especially during 2010, there could be heard inappropriate speech related to Islam and Muslims. Representatives of Serbs in the House of Representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina have repeatedly introduced laws banning Niqab and Wahhabism while frequent insults of Islam and Muslims could be heard during the related parliamentary discussions.

The atmosphere of intolerance could especially be felt after the spectacular joint action by the police and security agencies in the village of Gornja Maoca near Brcko in early February of 2010. The B-H Prosecutor's Office has used the phrase "members of the Wahhabi community" explaining the action had been undertaken to arrest those members suspected of plotting to undermine the constitutional stability and territorial integrity of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The spectacular action and gravity of charges followed only by the inability to prove them and, consequently, by release of the arrested, have cast a serious doubt about the real intentions and capabilities of the governmental institutions.

Serious doubts about misconduct of the government institutions, which has its effect on propagation of fear and lies about Islam and Muslims, were raised when 54 kilograms of explosive was discovered on February 17, 2010. Elviz Alicic from Mostar accused two individuals of transporting the explosives, one of which was the President of the Jablanica Majlis (TN: *Council*) of the Islamic Community. The named accuser has later admitted to making a false statement but the suspicion has remained that this had been a plot organized by the police and intelligence agencies to discredit the Islamic Community and Muslims. The trial of Rijad Rustempasic and his group for a June 27, 2010 terrorist attack of the police station in Bugojno and a constant proliferation of stories about Wahhabis or armed Wahhabi groups in various parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina - and the source of most such stories has been in the entity of the Republika Srpska - has been used to reinforce the propaganda and to propagate fear through numerous unprofessional media reports.

For example, a journalist of the Federal TV, Damir Kaletovic, has reported that documents indicating plans for production of weapons of mass destruction have been found during a police action in Gornja Maoca. This statement, however, has never been documented.

The March 2010 discovery of the list of 45 terrorist organizations with ties to "Islamic" terrorism in B-H, which had been submitted to the United Nations by the Council of Ministers, has again exposed the weaknesses in the work of the B-H institutions. These weaknesses negatively impact the living environment of Muslims.

The Republika Srpska police arrested five Bosniac returnees in Bosanski Novi and Bosanska Dubica in August of 2010, during Ramadan. The initial information released by the police has indicated they had detained the Wahhabis suspected of terrorist activities. The arrested have soon been released but this police action is yet another evidence of arrests and police actions against Muslims that are unjustified, unless the goal is to intimidate the Bosniac returnees. "We shall remember this day for a long time, that is we shall never forget it, just as the memory of the 1992 will stay with us for the rest of our lives. It all reminded us of the 1992 when Serb policemen and soldiers arrested us and took us to the concentration camps. This Serb police action has once again reminded us how insecure we are and how easy it is to commit a crime against us", remarked the Bosniac returnees to Bosanski Novi and Bosanska Dubica after this action.

The statements based on no clear evidence and made by the high ranking public officials add to the negative atmosphere and instigation of prejudice against Muslims as a result of misconduct or unprofessional behavior of governmental institutions. Director of the B-H State Investigation and Protection Agency Almir Dzuvo said that in B-H he sees a "potential danger coming from 3000 persons who can go crazy at any time, due to psychological or other conditions" and organize a terrorist attack with grave consequences. Also, he has asked that radicalism be excluded from religion and appropriate laws be adopted, promising that, in that case, these people will be behind bars within three months. These kinds of statements, without any proof, can hardly be taken as responsible and professional, but they certainly create the atmosphere of intolerance. This particular statement has been used as an official confirmation of existence of thousands of potential Muslim terrorists in B-H.

The Office of Ombudsman of the Federation of BiH, in its Annual Human Rights Report for 2008 and the first six months of 2009, has declared, without stating any evidence, that the leadership of the Islamic Community is "radical, clerical and pressuring/influencing media".

Certain members of the international community have participated in propagation of Islamophobia in Bosnia and Herzegovina. After the joint session of the B-H Defense and Security Parliamentary Committee, held on July 12, 2010, Zlatko Miletic, Director of the Federal Police Directorate, stated that certain international circles would like to see Islamophobia on the rise in B-H. "Our goal is not to propagate Islamophobia, even though there are members of the international community who would want exactly that", Miletic said. The so-called diagrams of Bosniac political, business and religious representatives, which have been leaked to the public from Office of the High Representative in B-H, have demonstrated animosity and prejudice by some officials in the international community.

The following are some examples of intolerance, propagation of fear and prejudice about Muslims and Islamic Community in B-H by the public, governmental and political officials.

11/12/2008, Milorad Dodik, former Prime Minister of the Republika Srpska and current President of the RS

“It is unacceptable for the RS that we should be tried by judges who are Muslims and that they should deny a legally founded appeal. We think this is only because they are Muslims-Bosniacs and they are negative towards the RS, and we see through that conspiracy.”

27/2/2009, Nebojsa Radmanovic, a Serb member of the B-H Presidency

„In part of the Islamic Community there are those advocating war“, a statement to Tanjug.

22/05/2009, Ministry of Religious Affairs in the Government of Serbia

The Ministry claims that controversial Raisu-l-Ulama of the Islamic Community of B-H Mustafa Cerić is one of only a few Bosniac politicians with access to the secret financial war funds as well as a creator of the idea that Bosniacs are part of Turkish people as well as of the hegemonic Bosniac ideology about one Bosnian nation with three ethnic groups.

“Raić Cerić denies existence of the Serb nation in B-H”, claims the Ministry, adding that he “has made some threatening and offensive remarks regarding the Republic of Serbia” during his May 17-20 visit to the Islamic Community in Serbia.

“Cerić also supported the secession of Kosovo. The public is, therefore, rightly asking if Raić Cerić threatens the Republic of Serbia with war, as per Bosnian or Kosovo scenarios, and what is such an irresponsible person doing in our country anyway”, reads the statement.

The Ministry asserts that “despite this dangerous threat against the Republic of Serbia, which is ominously similar to his ideology of non-existence of Serbs in B-H, Raić Cerić has made baseless and rude statement about ‘Serbia violating the human rights of Muslims’.”

As the Ministry noted, “the religious leader of the B-H Muslims, who denies the existence of the Serb nation in that neighboring country and thus negates the Serbs’ right to existence”, accuses the Republic of Serbia for “violation of human rights of Muslims”.

“An independent observer can only wonder if there is a limit to Cerić’s hypocrisy. Naturally, his fabrication about ‘violation of Muslim human rights’ has immediately been denied by the respected political and religious leaders of Bosniacs and Muslims in the Republic of Serbia”, maintains the statement.

“The Ministry of Religious Affairs of the Republic of Serbia has noted the words of Raisu-l-Ulama Mustafa Cerić and has taken seriously a threat this religious leader made, directly and indirectly, to the Republic of Serbia and its security. Therefore, we believe that Mustafa Cerić does not deserve to be welcomed in our country”, concludes the statement. (SRNA)

05/08/2009, Milorad Dodik, former Prime Minister of the Republika Srpska and current President of the RS

“Cerić’s behavior is unacceptable” declares Dodik, adding that one has to keep in mind that “he is most certainly an important ideologist of the Islamic politics in the region and a person directly meddling into not just internal affairs of B-H but also of the region”. Dodik believes that Cerić is certainly one of those striving to promote, using the Pan-Islamic ideology, the leadership of Muslims in the region, “deceiving even some Europeans”, “Cerić won’t stop with his disturbing statements and it is important to recognize and react to this activity”, said the Prime Minister of Republika Srpska (Serbian Radio and TV)

01/10/2009, Milorad Dodik, former Prime Minister of the Republika Srpska and current President of the RS

"We can talk to representative of SDA and Party for B-H. However, I believe it is not realistic to expect that we talk to the Islamic Community even though we know they are the key factor in the Bosniac politics", said Dodik. (Fena)

06/11/2009, Drew Engel, Prosecutor and Director of the Special Department for Organized Crime, Economic Crime and Corruption at the Prosecutor's Office of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Prosecutor Drew Engel has abused the term "Sharia" in order to incriminate the indicted Rijad Rustempasic and his group during the pretrial session in the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Fatwa Council of the Riyasat of the Islamic Community has pointed - without getting into the legal merit of the indictment and distancing itself from all illegal activities as well as from any possible extremist interpretation of Islam which is not in accordance with the official interpretation of Islam as advanced by the institutions of the Islamic Community - to inappropriate and unacceptable misuse of the term "Sharia" as the incriminating element in the indictment.

27/01/2010, Patriarch Irinej of Serbia

"We more or less know what philosophy and psychology of Islam is. When in minority, they behave themselves. When they become equal in number, they lift up their heads. And when they become superior, they start putting up pressure on others to either move out or join them. That is the philosophy of Islam".

(www.blic.rs/Vesti/Tema-Dana/174003/Patrijarh-Irinej-Krajnje-vreme-za-susret-sa-papom)

05/02/2010, Emil Vlajki, Vice President of the Republika Srpska

"Wahhabis are all those who ostensibly advocate civil society in B-H while hoping to fashion B-H in accordance with non-European principles on the account of their superiority in numbers. Wahhabis are also all those in the international community who favor creation of Muslim entities and states on the Balkans and in Kosovo, Montenegro, Macedonia, Sanjak, Federation of B-H, and who are very efficient in creating Greater Albania and "the green transversal" from Istanbul to Vienna and who are surely the biggest criminals around...

There are obviously too many Wahhabis in B-H the Prosecutor's Office does not even know about. It would be difficult to arrest them all and, should the B-H Prosecutor's Office want to be consistent, it would have to arrest itself as it represents the darkest Wahhabi outpost". ("Nezavisne novine"/Srna)

16/04/2010, Slavko Jovicic, Member of the B-H Parliament (SNSD Party)

Regarding the Niqab ban law: "This law has been proposed because, among other things, there are many in the B-H state institutions who observe a religious dress code, the strict Islamic laws and who dress in accordance with Sharia.". He stated that in Sarajevo, which is a majority Islamic, more than 95% of a particular nation view dressing in accordance with strict Islamic rules as normal. "Very few react to such dress code. Students at the Islamic University could be allowed to dress according to the Islamic rules but it should be banned in other public places. In theatres, for example, it should not be allowed to cover you face and especially in the B-H Government institutions". ("Fokus")

02/08/2010, Raffi Gregorian, Deputy High Representative, OHR in B-H

Former Deputy High Representative in B-H Raffi Gregorian insulted Raisu-l-Ulama Dr. Mustafa Ceric during his appearance in the program of the Federal TV public broadcasting

service in August 2010. In his farewell media appearance he called Raisu-l-Ulama a hypocrite, claiming Raisu-l-Ulama gives hypocritical commentaries and makes false accusations against him. (FTV, “60 minuta”)

02/09/2010, A rebuttal of false statements

The spokesperson for the Orthodox Church in Jerusalem Father Issa Musleh, on behalf of the Patriarch Theophilos III, denied the accuracy of statements made by Milorad Dodik at the press conference in Banja Luka after his visit to Israel.

In his letter to the Embassy of Palestine in Sarajevo he states that the Patriarch was surprised at the statements made by Milorad Dodik which he condemns “in both their form and content, especially because his Eminence is the leader of the Orthodox Church, the mother of all churches, and is careful about his calling, his followers and his flock.” Furthermore, the letter qualifies Dodik’s attempt to ascribe certain statement to the Patriarch of Jerusalem as “shameful and unfounded” and asks the Palestinian Ambassador to explain this issue to the authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina “on behalf of the Orthodox Church in Jerusalem and on behalf of his Eminence” expressing hope this will not happen again.

At his August 18, 2010 press conference in Banja Luka Milorad Dodik said that, during his visit to Israel, the Patriarch of Jerusalem Theophilos III told him about meeting Raisu-l-Ulama Musatafa Cerić several times and that he tried to explain to him that B-H is a land of the Bosniacs and that those who do not accept this can leave. (Mina)

22/09/2010, Rajko Vasic, Secretary General and Spokesperson of the SNSD Party

In his column “God protect me from Muslim antifascism” he accused B-H Muslims of massively joining German fascists and of being worse than Ustasas and Chetniks. “It is suspicious when Muslims talk about antifascism... It is well known that Muslims, both rich city dwellers and religious officials, joined German occupiers en masse and developed close ties with them before Ustasas or Chetniks did”. Vasic wrote many similar articles about Islam and Muslims in 2010.

(<http://vasicrajko.blogspot.com/2010/09/sacuvaj-me-boze-muslimanskog.html>)

20/10/2010, Emil Vlajki, Vice President of the Republika Srpska

“If he (Milorad Dodik, President of the RS) will truly oppose the international community and protect this region against Islamization, I will cooperate with him truthfully and I will help him within all my powers.”

He announced that he will be active in the political life of the RS and that his priority will be fight against Islamization. “Knowing that they (SDP and SDA parties) are being supported by America, whose goal is unitary B-H at the expense of Serbs and Croats as well as intensive Islamization of the region, they dream about something I hope will never come true.” said Vlajki, adding that achievement of these goals depends on the outcome of the fight between the US, imposing and supporting Islamization, and the EU, opposing it. Vlajki believes that B-H and RS joining NATO will not prevent Islamization. (“Novi reporter”)

VIII. Personal and collective dimension of religious freedom in the media

Significant portion of media in Bosnia and Herzegovina has been demonstrating high level of intolerance towards Muslims and Islamic values and primarily towards the Islamic Community and Raisu-l-Ulama. Apart from clear disregard for laws, professional journalistic code and standards, the universally accepted culture of dialogue and use of appropriate language in the public they have thus also ignored the responsibility to respect the right to freedom of conscience, freedom to express religious views and the collective dimension of religious freedom in accordance with international human rights standards.

The public space is not ideologically exclusive area of any one social group but is equally shared by all concerned in accordance with laws. “Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers”. - **(Article 19 of the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights)** The Article 11 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, adopted in 2000, guarantees the freedom of expression emphasizing that public authorities cannot interfere with this right.

Various types of attempts to influence conscience and feelings of Muslims, insult their religious convictions, ignore freedom of religious expression and collective dimension of religious freedom were plentiful in B-H media during the period covered by this Report. This was the way for the public repression and elimination of Islamic symbols and values. The public space has also often been a scene of “hate crimes” committed through acts of open or disguised hate towards teachings or individuals because of their religious conviction. Hate crimes have also taken the form of disrespect for religious authorities and the autonomy of the Islamic Community. This has led to creation of atmosphere of isolation and marginalization of ideas and individuals based on their religious conviction. This indicates that hate and intolerance towards religion constitute important problem in certain parts of the B-H society and media.

Despite competent individuals and educational institutions of the Islamic Community which offer certified Islamic education, there is a tendency towards superficial, reductionist, unqualified and occasionally even biased and malicious media portrayal of Islam, Islamic tradition and values by incompetent individuals. At times, even clear lies are used, as in Federal TV’s “Dnevnik 2” news show, aired on July 28th, 2009, when it was stated that Raisu-l-Ulama presented the escaped convict with levha (TN: *a religious calligraphy plaque*), thus establishing a connection between prisoner escape and the Islamic Community. After it has been documented that this was a plain lie, the TV station refused to offer a clear apology. Federal TV has also shown disregard and indifference towards Muslims protesting broadcasting of a show in which “a Janazah (TN: *Islamic funeral prayer*) for the pig” has been alluded to and instead of an apology the protesters have been offered even more insults. The Raisu-l-Ulama is regularly treated differently from other religious leaders and labeled inappropriately while the Islamic Community is treated negatively. An example of this is Federal TV’s political show “60 minuta”, aired on November 2nd, 2009, when a statement by the Council of the Islamic Community about the OHR’s diagrams has been brutally distorted during an hour-long program.

Because of its prohibition on sale of alcohol and pork, opening of the BBI Center in Sarajevo has been portrayed negatively and some media have even used it to propagate the idea of the

alleged Islamization of Sarajevo while certain politicians requested an official inquiry into whether this represents a violation of the B-H Constitution and of the principles of secularism. Inappropriate and even offensive discussions have been organized by certain media about construction of mosques in Sarajevo and in particular about religious education in the “Djeca Sarajeva” public kindergartens. Passionate ideological and political interests have been confronted on the issue of religious education, leaving no room for any kind of serious and rational discussion about models that would satisfy both legal requirements and human rights of parents to educate the children in accordance with their beliefs. Director of “Djeca Sarajeva” Arzija Mahmutovic has been a subject of unrelentless and brutal media campaign for her support of parents demanding religious education.

Islamic symbols have often been used in disreputable manner, as when a photo of the Emperor’s Mosque in Sarajevo was used to illustrate a TV story about Zenica prisoner escape in July of 2009.

The Mufti of Banja Luka Edhem Camdzic has often been brutally insulted and falsely accused in the RS media during 2008 and 2009.

09/07/2004, Emir Imamovic

Raisu-l-Ulama “driveled about the Shahid (TN: *martyrs*)“: “Oh my Imam. You have no idea...” (“BH Dani”)

02/09/2004, Sead Fetahagic

“And our people, especially the ones under the command of Rais Mustafa Cerić, enjoy listening to Chetnik singers like Ceca Raznjatovic.” (“Slobodna Bosna”)

03/ 09/2004, Emir Imamovic

“To our future generations, our grand-grandchildren will be left footprints of other encounters etched in a parquet floor in the cave with central heating - also known as the Riyasat of the Islamic Community to the present day Bosnians... The supreme leader of Bosnian Muslims, and of those who feel that way, Raisu-l-Ulama of the Islamic Community Dr. Mustafa-effendi Cerić, has given himself a title of the acting soothsayer, turning his office into a cave to which come those tribal representatives who want to express their reverence, get advice and bring gifts, hoping that the guru with *ahmedija* (TN: *white cloth wrapped around a fez*) will, using his mantras, establish a direct connection with the Creator in order to regulate amount of precipitation, fitness of the national team, patching-up of roads, flooding of Jasmin Imamovic’s living room by the Pannonian Lake... Prostituting his own position, making a show of the institution of Rais and displaying the full splendor of the hypocrisy, Mustafa-effendi Cerić, feigning a sorcerer at the end, shows no genuine concern for those bowing to him.” (“BH Dani”)

15/10/2004, Senad Pecanin

About the Raisu-l-Ulama Dr. Mustafa Cerić: “I guess there is no more doubt in Bosnia that He is the High Representative of Allah s.w.t.” (“BH Dani”)

22/10/2004, Emir Imamovic

About the Raisu-l-Ulama Dr. Mustafa Cerić: ”...the self-proclaimed High Representative of Islam.” (“BH Dani”)

31/12/2004

About Raisu-l-Ulama Dr. Mustafa Cerić: "...from being number one person of the SDA's religious wing during 2004 he has become an independent political factor who is not only incontrollable but who dictates political terms..., Cerić has privatized Eid..., banned newspaper ads for erotic hotlines..., monopolized genocide by instituting the Srebrenica award..., Cerić has turned the institution of Raisu-l-Ulama into a political office which propagates intolerance, hate and narrow-mindedness..." ("BH Dani")

28/07/2005

A title: "Rais is fucked up".

A fabricated sentence ascribed to Raisu-l-Ulama about inter-Bosniac conflict in Krajina during 1993: "There is nothing to discuss, we'll solve it with guns."
("Slobodna Bosna")

13/01/2006, Senad Pecanin: "Rais - the new stain removing detergent"

"Imams have warned the worshipers in their Friday sermons that their Hajj will not be accepted by Allah if they vote for Haris."

The author of this article calls the Islamic Community "Allah's administration" and Raisu-l-Ulama "the religious chief". ("BH Dani")

31/03/2006

"Rais Cerić as Big Inquisitor." ("BH Dani")

21/07/2006

Raisu-l-Ulama Mustafa Cerić: "...opens new mosques and holds political speeches..., offers prayers together with his voters..., Cerić will be opening war-damaged mosques even more frequently in the coming period", what he does is "immoral" and "criminal". ("BH Dani")

15/02/2007, Sead Fetahagic

"Due only to Mustafa Cerić's democracy some of our Muslims do not like music. So be careful when you sing 'Mujo is horseshoeing in the moonlight...' lest Wahhabis knock on your door. All this because of Cerić's democratic recommendation that everyone has the right to practice religion in their own way, even if it is with bombs, like in Iraq." ("Slobodna Bosna")

06/09/2007, Sead Fetahagic

"I've been meaning to ask Rais Mustafa Cerić and Bakir Izetbegovic about our own 'Cosa Nostra' but numerous wise men dissuaded me from doing that." ("Slobodna Bosna")

06/03/2008, Sead Fetahagic

"First prove yourself, I said to Lojzet, build a mosque in your own alley, then go to Rais Mustafa Cerić, kiss his hand nicely and most likely he will help you. The guy likes adulation, especially by those building mosques." ("Slobodna Bosna")

11/04/2008, Vildana Selimbegovic

"The post-war Bosniac government in Sarajevo harasses non-Muslims through construction of mosques." ("BH Dani")

11/09/2008, Sead Fetahagic

“Under the leadership of Rais Mustafa Cerić they won’t let others live their lives the way they want but they force us to respect their law. They don’t let alcoholics have a sip, homosexuals to be gay but it’s OK to steal and cheat.” (“Slobodna Bosna”)

25/09/2008, Sead Fetahagic

“Why is the speed of joining the EU being imposed on others? Perhaps the Bosniacs will go a bit slower, leisurely although it all depends on Rais Mustafa Cerić. As his affairs prosper, as he succeeds in being the number one Muslim of Europe so will all the rest of Mujos follow.” (“Slobodna Bosna”)

19/01/2009, FTV, Amir Pasić Fako, a person from a criminal milieu

A statement about Raisu-l-Ulama Dr. Mustafa Cerić: “He is some kind of religious head around here! He doesn’t look like a head to me, when you look at his face there’s nothing gentle about him, a classic criminal who wants to install here, he and Izetbegović, a feudal society, the 15th century, so that families can rule again, the others to be serfs.”

16/02/2009, Damir Kaletović, a journalist

“Clericalization of Bosnia and Herzegovina, especially of every inch of Federation of B-H, which can be felt, which oozes from every word Raisu-l-Ulama of the Islamic Community in B-H Mustafa-effendi Cerić utters is actually a constant in the Central Bosnia Canton. When Rais says, to paraphrase, ‘that the Wahhabi order represents the method and the model for survival of Bosniacs in B-H’ then it is actually hard to believe that he does not have in mind all those numerous killings of non-Muslims in the Central Bosnia Canton from 1996 onwards perpetrated by locally deeply infiltrated Wahhabi community.” (FTV, “60 minuta”)

16/02/2009, Bakir Hadziomerović, an editor and a presenter

“Scandalous! A citizen Mustafa Cerić has become the most prominent defender of pedophiles!” “People in this Vlasici village still support their Imam. However, instrumental for this support has been the most prominent defender of Mr. Omerhodžić, a pedophile, Mustafa-effendi Cerić who visited Gluha Bukovica yesterday.”

“There’s nothing else left to say except that Rais Cerić is apparently telling us that we don’t understand customs and tradition in Bosnian villages. That would obviously mean that it’s quite normal and in the spirit of tradition for Imams to sexually molest girls in Bosnian villages!”

“It’s a pity, a real pity that citizen Cerić has not graduated from a law school so that he could once and for all legalize pedophilia and protect pedophiles in a procedure which of this world, as he had already done within an enterprise he so supremely runs.” (FTV, “60 minuta”)

16/02/2009, Avdo Avdić, a journalist

“Cerić Mustafa, Raisu-l-Ulama, protector of adulterers”, “...Rais Cerić on the side of bullies“...and he is not least ashamed”, “...defender of prostitutes and pedophiles”, “...an agent of Department of State Security-UDBA with a code name Czar”, “...let’s again talk about prostitution and the adulterous Imams who Rais Mustafa Cerić defends in every possible way.” (FTV, “60 minuta”)

27/02/2009

“Mustafa Cerić could be honorable and lifelong Dean of the Mafioso University.” (“BH Dani”)

21/05/2009, Sead Fetahagić

“But it is nevertheless dangerous to listen to Rais because, as I was told right after the war, Cerić held a speech in Bihać during the war in which he directly instigated Muslims against Muslims.” (“Slobodna Bosna”)

11/06/2009, Sead Fetahagić

“Since our officials do not work on establishing good relations with our neighbors, Rais Mustafa Cerić works on destroying them to the best of his abilities. This mischief-maker has come to Sanjak and caused an internal rift between Muslims because he wants to extend his authority to this part of Serbia.” (“Slobodna Bosna”)

28/06/2009

“Cerić in the network of terrorism” (“Fokus”, Banja Luka)

10/09/2009, Sead Fetahagić

“This country of Bosnia and Herzegovina is ruled only by Muslims headed by Rais Mustafa Cerić while others must keep quiet.” (“Slobodna Bosna”)

09/11/2009, Bakir Hadziomerović, an editor and a presenter

“The Council of the Islamic Community of B-H has brutally abused its function openly supporting the local Bosniac mafia.”

“Mustafa Cerić, a politician on a years-long loan to Riyasat of the Islamic Community, spoke as he knows best last week, revealing his true face, a face of a chauvinist who hates, threatens and lies at that.”

“Is Cerić, who has been infiltrated into Riyasat, actually a mafia boss or just their most vocal spokesperson?” (FTV, “60 minuta”)

09/11/2009, Avdo Avdić, a journalist

“Yet another lie by Mustafa Cerić.” (FTV, “60 minuta”)

Ombudsman of the Federation of B-H

Office of Ombudsman of the Federation of B-H, in their Annual activity and human rights report - for the period of 2008 and the first half of 2009 - has found that leadership of the Islamic Community is "radical, clerical and controlling the media".

10/12/2009, Sead Fetahagić

“To be honest, o my Muslim, I too have become Islamophobic, I’m afraid of these, as Rais calls them, ‘new Muslims’, they are aggressive as could be seen during that faggot festival last year. Don’t you see that these ‘new Muslims’ plant bombs, kill other Muslims throughout the Arab world. And never has Rais Mustafa Cerić said a word about that.” (“Slobodna Bosna”)

05/01/2010, Zeljko Ivankovic, an author

“In a city and a country in which so much has been destroyed, the most determined in ‘rebuilding’ are builders of physical and mental minarets, mosques and other, so called, religious structures which should be places of worship but are in fact watch-towers at the frontier between the worlds, symbols of threat to others and to the different. Quite often these are architecturally ugly and the monuments of shameless violence against urban planning. ‘The Sacred Monsters’ - whose only goal is to fight visual and ideological battles and dominate over skylines of national and religious kitsch and blasphemy. In a special way, and not just because of their number, this applies to mosques as also indicated, not without good reason, by a few people Mayro spoke to in Sarajevo, who also point out to, not only the esthetics and the architecture, but also to an ideology of this new form of religious brutality. Defenders of this religious and ideological kitsch claim that this is in fact just restoration of hundreds of destroyed houses of worship, while cynics among them, like Rais, say that this is being done in response (out of spite!) to destroyers of mosques. There is a saying in Bosnia ‘the only thing you do out of spite is to eat shit!’” (“Nezavisne novine”)

03/03/2010

Ideological and logistics center of the Wahhabis and of the Wahhabism in eastern RS and B-H is in Ustikolina, the pre-war local community of Foca, located 12 kilometers on the road to Gorazde. Ustikolina is now a municipality in the Federation. - It is from Ustikolina that all dangerous activities of the Wahhabis are orchestrated, especially against Foca, where the Majlis (TN: *Council*) of the Islamic Community is as of recently headed by Imam Salem Cemo. It is well known that he lived in Kiseljak near Travnik during the war and was a driver for the commandant of the Mujahedeen unit - states a person interviewed by the RS Press. He claims that the mosque with the tallest 70-meter high minaret in B-H is in Ustikolina. (http://www.pressonline.rs/sr/vesti/republika_srpska/story/103555/Fo%C4%8Da+u+strahu+o+d+vehabija!.html)

10/07/2010, Zija Dizdarevic, a journalist and a columnist

Islamic Community in B-H propagates superstition; elevates itself to the level of main interpreter, defender and leader of the Bosniacs; exploits religion for political goals.” (“Oslobodenje”)

09/09/2010, Dzevad Galijasevic

“Mufti Zukorlic is Rais Ceric’s clone with a self-imposed role of ayatollah of the Balkans. Ceric and Zukorlic are tied by the big Arab money, sympathy for the Wahhabis and by American approval of all they do... Ceric and Zukorlic use Al-Qaeda’s tentacles in the Balkans to declare war on most Muslims in Serbia and its Islamic religious community, which they do not accept.” (http://www.pressonline.rs/sr/vesti/republika_srpska/story/132640/Ceri%C4%87+na+Srbiju+vr%C5%A1+agresiju)

12/04/2010, Zeljko Ivankovic, an author

“The teachings of Jesus in the Gospel about a good you do to a ‘smallest of brothers’, and which will later be ‘copied’ by Muhammad into one of his Hadith (TN: *Prophetic sayings*).” (Nezavisne novine: www.nezavisne.com/komentari/kolumne/Solidarnost-57567.html)

IX. Employment

Religious conviction and orientation must not be a cause for employment discrimination. In addition, over-insistence or radical demands regarding separation of work and personal beliefs can be a reason to neglect religion or cause an internal personal conflict and influence a person's conscience which draws its inspiration from religious principles.

Directives 2000/78/EC and 2006/54/EC deal with equal treatment of men and women in the field of employment in the EU and with elimination of direct and indirect employment discrimination. Also, the Labor Law in Federation of B-H integrates elements of international conventions regarding elimination of discrimination, so according to the Article 5 of this Law "a person seeking employment and a person who is employed cannot be placed in inferior position because of their race, skin color, gender, language, religion, political or other views, national or social background".

Muslim women wearing head covering are particularly discriminated against in the area of employment. A significant number of them feel they have been denied work because of head covering. Some of them have been explicitly told they cannot get a job because of head covering and others, while not told so explicitly, are convinced, based on various clues, that this was the reason for not getting the job. Some of them claim they had the best qualifications but were eliminated after an interview when head covering became apparent. Others claim they got a job exactly because there was no interview and they were evaluated solely based on credentials submitted by mail. "A woman decided to start wearing head covering and her female manager told her not to come to work anymore if she did so", is one of the recorded examples of discrimination. A possible reason for employment discrimination is a fear that individuals and organizations will associate with extremist and radical Muslims. The research show Muslim women with head covering are discriminated against in a labor market and that this discrimination is related to existing stereotypes present in the society and with employers. The employers, out of ignorance or fear of the different, decide against hiring these women lest they be improperly perceived.¹¹

Some of the employment discrimination examples:

- "It is not befitting that a women with head covering work in a beauty parlor." (A physiotherapist from Tuzla)
- "They wouldn't hire me, asking me how I can drive and travel dressed like this." (A lawyer from Travnik)
- "I've been offered a position of a teaching assistant but in the meantime I've decide to start wearing Hijab and the professor thought this was no longer appropriate." (A pedagogue from Zenica)
- "I've been told I'm not for this job regardless of my qualifications." (An activist from Mostar)
- "They openly told me in the judiciary that the only reason is my head covering." (An interpreter from Sarajevo)
- "I've been invited for an interview, based on my excellent qualifications, but when they saw me they the enthusiasm was gone and the repulsion was obvious," (a Bosnian language teacher from Tuzla)
- "A magazine told me this was against their policy." (A language editor from Sarajevo)

¹¹ "Why the head covering? The B-H Muslim women on working and living with head covering", by Dermana Seta, Center for the Advanced Studies and Center for the Interdisciplinary Graduate Studies, Sarajevo 2011

- “A computer programming company asked me to take off my head covering,” (A computer programmer from Bugojno)
- “A real-estate agency told me that different people employ their services, including non-Muslims,” (A lawyer from Sarajevo)¹²

A confession of a Muslim woman who was the victim of discrimination

“I was a very good Pedagogy and Psychology student..., I speak three languages and I’m, studying to become a group psychotherapist at the Group Analysis Institute... During recruitment there was first a written test I passed without problems. There was no interview. I’ve been accepted to work and to do my internship as a pedagogue... Recently I’ve been accused of discriminating against others because of my appearance when in fact I was discriminated against. I haven’t put in any restrictions myself but I was prohibited from working wearing a dress that is in accordance with my religious beliefs... After the internship ended, my employment was terminated. My performance evaluation was excellent..., the school received two gold medals in various competitions. Right before my internship was over, the school principal submitted a written request to the Department of Education to publish a vacancy for a full-time pedagogue position. I signed up with the public employment service and waited for the vacancy to be published... However, the Organizational chart was unlawfully changed which actually delayed the publication of the vacancy and altered the employment terms for this particular position inconsistent with the Education Law and I was no longer eligible to apply. Because of these illegal activities I filed a suit with the Brcko Court but the independent judge S.K. did not find the time to rule in this case for two years now. I informed the OHR in Brcko about all this and they replied that inspectors C.S and F.D. will look into this and inform both the OHR and me of their findings. After the deadline passed with no findings received, I again wrote to OHR... It is interesting to note that more than ten psychologist/pedagogue positions have been vacant for years now in the Brcko District public institutions. After the episode in the local parliament, these vacancies have not been published because they’ve been waiting for the new generation of students to graduate so the only available candidate was me - but still I remained unemployed for years... I felt awfully lonely, deserted and unwanted - a persona non grata, betrayed and disappointed I lost trust in people and the system. (The Nahla Lecture Forum: “Islamophobia: a phenomenon, forms and responses”, April 1st, 2009, Sarajevo)

Sharia law in the Court of B-H

“The Sharia Law in B-H” is a title of the press article which states that “wearing head covering is in contrast with prosecutorial and judicial ethical code and in violation of the B-H principle of multi-ethnicity”. It points out that the Court of B-H tolerates for months a scandalous behavior of an officer in the B-H Prosecutor’s Office who attends trials dressed in accordance with strict Islamic laws, wearing a traditional Islamic head covering. The source quoted by the RS Press further explains that “this inappropriate dress of an employee in the B-H Prosecutor’s Office, who attends trials with her hair covered by Hijab, has been tacitly approved despite the fact that this goes against the strict dress code of public legal officials” and that “nobody has yet even admonished this girl because of her inappropriate dress”. “It is clear to all, even to the Bosniacs, that it is not only inappropriate but also a form of provocation to others when a public legal official dresses in accordance with religious laws...

¹² “Why the head covering? The B-H Muslim women on working and living with head covering”, by Dermana Seta, Center for the Advanced Studies and Center for the Interdisciplinary Graduate Studies, Sarajevo 2011

Islamic head covering is even considered advantageous during recruitment in the Federation of B-H.”

(http://www.novinepress.co.rs/sr/vesti/republika_srpska/story/83586/%C5%A0erijat+u+Sudu+BiH!.html)

Discrimination in the workplace

Radomir Vidovic, a teacher in elementary school in Satorovici, near Brcko, did not allow a pedagogue Sema Ahmetpahic to make regular inspection of his class because she was wearing a Hijab. He decided she was not dressed in accordance with the Brcko District elementary education standards and laws... After this incident, the SDS party representative in the local Assembly introduced an initiative to change and amend the education law or enact a Hijab ban law in the Brcko District public schools... The justification they offered was that Islamic dress is not suitable for multiethnic education. (Saff, no. 187)

23/06/2010

An article titled “Hijab-wearing servicewomen employed in Kuti, Livac and Rajlovac military barracks” takes a negative angle on the fact that Muslim women work in the Armed Forces. The article incites discrimination and feelings against the presence of Muslim women in the Armed Forces. (“Vecernji list”)

X. Education and parental rights

International human rights and freedoms recognize a vested right of parents to raise and educate their children in accordance with their convictions and religious beliefs. These rights and freedoms are often called into question and disputed in B-H especially when it comes to the issue of religious education in public schools and educational institutions. In some schools in the Republika Srpska and in Federation of B-H Cantons with Croat majority Bosniac children have been split into multiple classes making it impossible to plan Islamic religious education by grouping these children into one or two religious education classes. Instead, religious education lectures must be held at the very end or before the actual beginning of school day.

There is obstruction of the full implementation of laws on religious education in the Republika Srpska and Brcko District high schools. Also, there is obstruction to change legal regulation regarding kindergarten education, except in the Sarajevo Canton, so as to enable religious education in kindergartens in accordance with the Article 4 of the Law on Freedom of Religion and Legal Position of Churches and Religious Communities.

In certain textbooks, approved by relevant institutions, as well as in certain religious education textbooks of other religions there are offensive and incorrect articles about Muslims and Islam.

Even public broadcasting service programs air views which arbitrarily, in generalized terms and without any prior analysis and relevant data speak against religious education in schools. An example is a commentary by Feda Iovic aired by the Federal TV on February 13, 2010. He set religious education in schools in a wider context of fascism and said: "To be perfectly clear, religious education is not a problem, problem is the one who introduced it into public education system."

Unprecedented media campaign was waged during 2009 and 2010 against implementation of law that enabled parents to choose religious instruction from among a number of activities in the "Djeca Sarajeva" public kindergartens. Especially brutal campaign has been waged by the Federal TV, the newspaper "Oslobodenje" and the weekly "BH Dani". The main target of this aggressive and negative campaign has been the "Djeca Sarajeva" public kindergartens director Arzija Mahmutovic. This media campaign went against the wellbeing of children and the ideological background was obvious.

XI. Works of art

Ridiculing and insulting Islamic values, traditions and religious feelings of Muslims as well as inaccurate contextualization of the Imam profession in the work of arts are becoming increasingly frequent. The European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of citizens in its Article 10 guarantees the freedom of artistic expression which, in accordance with its Paragraph 2, has its limits "...for the protection of health or morals, for the protection of the reputation or rights of others..." The European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg in the case of *Otto-Preminger Institute vs. Austria* (Application No.: 13470/87) has upheld decision of the Austrian judiciary to ban and confiscate a movie because it offends the religious feelings of Roman Catholics and violates the right of freedom of religion stipulated in the Article 9 of the Convention. The Court has found that guaranteed religious freedoms "can legitimately be thought to have been violated by provocative portrayals of objects of religious veneration; and such portrayals can be regarded as malicious violation of the spirit of tolerance, which must also be a feature of democratic society". This ruling reaffirmed that freedom of artistic expression has its limits one of which is protection of the rights of others.

There are evident violations of the Muslim human rights in the B-H media in the form of comic books, caricature, photomontages and vulgar music and tunes. Particularly persistent in caricatured representation of Raisu-l-Ulama has been the Sarajevo weekly "BH Dani" which, for a time, had a caricature or a photomontage of Raisu-l-Ulama in every single issue. The caricatures or his photos have been used even when he was not quoted and furthermore quotes and sayings of persons with no relation to the Islamic Community have been illustrated with a caricature or an unsightly photograph of Raisu-l-Ulama. He's been depicted as a bagger, a waitress, a sorcerer or a fortune teller, with goat's horns and in many other derogatory and degrading ways.

In addition to Raisu-l-Ulama Dr. Mustafa Ceric - whose work and personality has been a subject of a systematic public humiliation and insult instead of a critical review and constructive debate - the Holy Qur'an too has been a subject of ridicule.

30/09/2004

Raisu-l-Ulama of the Islamic Community Dr. Mustafa Ceric appeared on the cover of "BH Dani", depicted in eight photographs, wearing *ahmedija* (TN: *white cloth wrapped around a fez*) and underwear with sex organ in erection, like a male prostitute. This is unprecedented mockery of religious symbolism of the *ahmedija* and of a religious leader in B-H. ("BH Dani")

13/02/2009

Caricaturist Mirza Ibrahimasic published in daily "Oslobodenje", on pages 2 and 3, a caricature of children carrying under their arms a book titled "Kujan" (TN: *kuja=bitch*) instead of Kur'an/Qur'an. This form of mockery of the Muslim holy Book is unprecedented in B-H. ("Oslobodenje")

10/7/2009

A song titled "Ceric-effendi builds a palace" mocks Islamic terminology and other things sacred: "dredger-prayer", "making ablution in a pool", "remote controlled facing the Kabah" while offenses against Raisu-l-Ulama do not even belong in a public discourse "his ass agape", "darkness beneath the *ahmedija*". ("BH Dani")

04/06/2009

During a meeting of journalists, editors and employees of the Federal TV Public Broadcasting Service to celebrate the 300th episode of the “60 minuta” political show, the show’s editor Bakir Hadziomerovic made a mockery of Mawlid (TN: *Birth of the Prophet celebrations*) in a song of the same title. This has been received with approving laughter and applause by the attendees.

XII. Hate crimes: insults, attacks and desecrations

Worshippers, officials and the Islamic Community's property have often been a target of various types of attacks and desecrations. Some mosques have been burglarized, damaged and desecrated repeatedly dozens of times. The property rights of the Islamic Community are being violated especially when it comes to the Waqf (TN: *Islamic Endowment*) property which is still being unlawfully used because a state-level restitution law has not been adopted. A church illegally built in a privately owned courtyard of Fata Orlovic in Konjevic-Polje near Bratunac is the most drastic example of the constant violation of human rights and it stands as a symbol of defeat of all local and international norms and requirements.

When it comes to attacks on mosques and worshippers, the gravest incidents in the post-war Bosnia and Herzegovina occurred during the foundation stone laying ceremonies to mark the beginning of reconstruction of two Trebinje and Banja Luka mosques during 2001, both of which have been demolished during the war. Serb protestors have obstructed religious ceremonies and in the riots that have ensued a Muslim from Cazin Murat Badic has been killed in Banja Luka while dozens of others have been injured, several busses set on fire and a significant other damage done. Demolition of a mosque in Struba, Livno at the beginning of Ramadan, in August 2010, by the Livno municipality inspectorate for lack of a building permit, as they explained, left many questions unanswered. The mosque has actually been built on foundations of a former house had been endowed for a mosque by its owner. This was actually the first Islamic religious building demolished after the war.

29/02/2008

The Orthodox Bishop of Zahumlje, Herzegovina and Primorje Grigorije said in the RTRS show "Oci u oci" that Trebinje Imam is completely crazy, that he "came from Teocak and he wants to be grand".

31/03/2008, Mostar

Vandals wrote offensive graffiti, fascist symbols (swastika) and a picture of a wild boar on the eastern wall of Dervis-pasa Mosque.

21/04/2008, Trebinje

A front-door plaque inscribed "The Trebinje Majlis (TN: *Council*) of the Islamic Community" was smashed.

26/04/2008, Bosanska Dubica

Gradska Mosque in Bosanska Dubica was attacked, the front door was damaged, the flower beds in the courtyard destroyed and several tombstones desecrated.

A fountain in the courtyard of Puhalska Mosque was damaged.

April, 2008, Gacko

A returnee, who is also a President of the Gacko Majlis of the Islamic Community, and his wife were repeatedly harassed and insulted with abusive phone calls during early April of 2008. Later on they received an offensive and chauvinistic threat letter. In addition, a group of young Serbs verbally and brutally assaulted a group of Bosniac returnees in Fazlagica Kula, near Gacko.

02/05/2008, Bosanska Dubica

The Gradska Mosque in Bosanska Dubica was again attacked and a window smashed.

20/06/2008, Vlasenica

A window was smashed on the ground floor of Hajrija Mosque in Vlasenica.

2008, Trebinje

Offensive graffiti were written on Osman-pasa Mosque in Trebinje during Eid al-Adha in 2008.

More than ten burglaries of Bosniac apartments and houses in Trebinje have been registered while some houses have been burglarized twice. All burglaries have been reported to the local police.

Mayor of Trebinje Dobrosav Cuk announced end of all cooperation with Imam Husein Hodzic. Most likely this was a response to Imam's reaction to the proposed urban planning map of Zasadsko polje which would illegally appropriate the Waqf (TN: *Islamic Endowment*) property and desecrate a Muslim cemetery. The Trebinje Majlis (TN: *Council*) of the Islamic Community has repeatedly warned about illegal appropriation of the Waqf property in Trebinje by local authorities, about subdividing and splitting the Waqf lots and about land registration irregularities regarding the Waqf property. A considerable amount of the Waqf property in Trebinje, which has previously been nationalized, has been sold in the process of privatization by the Government of the Republika Srpska or by the local authorities while the same kind of property has been returned to the Serbian Orthodox Church.

01/07/2008, Kotor-Varos

Two unidentified masked individuals threw stones and smashed a window of the Gradska Mosque in Kotor-Varos during the religious service.

16/07/2008, Bosanska Dubica

The Gradska Mosque in Bosanska Dubica was again attacked after the Isha night prayer. Around fifteen of visibly drunk individuals came into the courtyard of the Mosque and Imam's house, stamping over flowers and throwing it at the Mosque and the house. They verbally insulted the Imam and threatened to turn the mosque into a church.

22/08/2008, Bosanska Dubica

A window was smashed at the Gradska Mosque in Bosanska Dubica.

September 2008, Gacko

Imam Husein-effendi Hodzic noticed in September of 2008 that, close to the road, ten meters of the fence built of concrete and metal around a Muslim cemetery was demolished in the village of Gracanica, near Gacko.

13/09/2008, Bosanska Dubica

Beer bottles were thrown at the Gradska Mosque in Bosanska Dubica.

21/10/2008, Mostar

A private car of Imam of the Baba-Besir Mosque, who resides with his family in the Waqf (TN: *Islamic Endowment*) house on Pijesak, was damaged with all windows smashed. The Imam is often a target of verbal abuse and offensive graffiti are often written near the house and near the Ali-beg Lafo Mosque.

17/11/2008, Bosanska Dubica

The fence around the Gradska Mosque in Bosanska Dubica was damaged and partially set on fire.

2008, Tomislavgrad

A portion of columns in a fence built around the plot belonging to a mosque in Sujica was demolished.

07/01/2009, Bosanska Dubica

The Gradska Mosque in Bosanska Dubica was attacked and worshippers verbally abused.

29/01/2009, Bosanska Dubica

A marble tombstone from the “Begov stan” Muslim cemetery in Bosanska Dubica was stolen.

July 2009, Prozor

The pregnant wife of the Grand Imam of the Prozor Majlis (TN: *Council*) of the Islamic Community was attacked and hit by a pole with Croat flag in the head when returning home.

18/08/2009, Brcko

A graffiti “knife, wire, Srebrenica” written on a façade of the Atik-savska Mosque in Brcko.

20/08/2009, Zvornik

A worshipper coming back from prayers was attacked by an unidentified person. He was first cursed and insulted and later on he was punched by the same person.

21/08/2009, Trebinje

A group of young men waited up for the Grand Imam Husein-effendi Hodzic and the worshipers to come out of the Osman-pasa Mosque after the Tarawih (TN: *Ramadan night prayer*) and told him that he was a Serb, that Imam will be a Serb while one of them told him that “he would visit him”.

23/08/2009, Bosanska Dubica

A window at the Gradska Mosque in Bosanska Dubica was again smashed by a bottle.

24/08/2009, Zvornik

A drunken Serb from a neighboring village of Lokanj, under an excuse of “wanting to pray to God” tried entering a mosque in the village of Sepak near Zvornik.

26/08/2009, Vitez

A Croat parked a car in front of a mosque in Donja Vecerska and then started driving the car towards a big group of worshipers when Adhan was heard. After that he left the car to curse and insult the worshipers.

30/08/2009, Prijedor

Unidentified individuals smashed a mosque window in Donja Puharska, a returnee village near Prijedor. This was one of many incidents, attacks and threats, very few of which have ever been solved by the police.

03/09/2009, Mostar

The Hadzi Ali-beg Lafo Mosque in Mostar was stoned.

15/09/2009, Zvornik

Muslim women on their way to a mosque for the Tarawih (TN: *Ramadan night prayer*) were stoned and hit by dirt from the direction of Vidakove Njive and B Blokovi. The mosque was stoned and hit by dirt during the services that same evening.

20/09/2009, Srebrenica

Offensive messages were written on the courtyard doors of a mosque in the village of Dobrak, Srebrenica.

September 2009, Banja Luka

Several attacks and provocations were noted during Ramadan in September 2009.

The Sefer-beg Mosque was stoned during the day and fence around the site where the Arnaudija mosque once stood was torn down.

In addition, Muslim worshipers were ambushed and harassed on the way to a mosque with a slogan “knife, wire, Srebrenica” being shouted at them as well as with threats about burning down their mosques.

The Stupnicka Mosque Jamaat members were targeted during Ramadan when several individuals set to stone the mosque. After they were unable to execute their plan they verbally attacked the worshipers. The mosque was stoned the following night.

29/09/2009, Bijeljina

A Muslim cemetery in Brcanska Malta in Bijeljina was desecrated.

09/10/2009, Vitez

Tombstones were desecrated at the Muslims cemetery in Rijeka, in the municipality of Vitez, when offensive graffiti were sprayed over, including the letter “U” (TN: *the Ustasa symbol*) with a cross.

01/01/2010, Brcko

The Grand Imam of the Brcko Majlis (TN: *Council*) of the Islamic Community Mustafa-effendi Gobeljic was verbally insulted by cursing Allah s.w.t.

07/01/2010, Bosanska Dubica

The Carsijska Mosque in Bosanska Dubica was attacked: a door and a window were broken and a fence was set on fire.

20/02/2010, Zepce

A vehicle owned by the Zepce Majlis of the Islamic Community was set on fire.

22-23/02/2010, Foca

Windows were smashed on the Atik Mosque in Foca.

08/03/2010, Bosanska Gradiska

Windows were smashed on the Tekija Mosque in Bosanska Gradiska.

18/03/2010, Ugljevik

Windows were smashed on a mosque in Janjari near Ugljevik.

20/03/2010, Banja Luka

The Chetnik symbols were written on Hadzi Perviz Mosque in Banja Luka - four Cyrillic letters “S” and a word “Serbia”.

20/03/2010, Foca

“Tekija” Muslim cemetery in Foca was desecrated. More than twenty tombstones were smashed.

02/04/2010, Banja Luka

Windows were smashed on the Hadzi Osman Mosque in Banja Luka.

03/04/2010, Prozor

Windows were smashed on the Hadzi Nasuh Mosque in Mahala, Prozor.

04/04/2010, Mostar

Windows were smashed on the Dervis-pasa Bajezidagic Mosque in Mostar.

05/04/2010, Zepce

A Muslims cemetery in Trzna, Zepce was desecrated when Ustasa and fascist symbols were sprayed over tombstones.

09/04/2010, Foca

A Muslim graveyard in Foca was desecrated and the tombstones were smashed.

10/04/2010, Foca

Three windows were smashed at the Atik Mosque in Foca.

02/06/2010, Gacko

A Muslim graveyard in Gacko was desecrated by knocking down tombstones and spraying them over with offensive graffiti.

24/06/2010, Banja Luka

Windows were smashed at the Gazanferija Mosque in Banja Luka.

26/06/2010, Prozor

A Janaza funeral procession was a target of provocations in Prozor. A Croat, shouting from a nearby cafe cursed “their Turkish mothers” to a large group of attendees.

05/07/2010, Tomislavgrad

Fascist symbols were written on a maktab (TN: *primary Islamic school*) building in Blazuj, Tomislavgrad.

07/07/2010, Zvornik

Branko Kokic, a.k.a. Robija, climbed up the minaret of the Rijeka Mosque in Zvornik carrying alcoholic beverage, food and a Serb flag. He placed the flag at the sherefte (TN: *minaret balcony*), shouted and threw down beer bottles. He especially enjoyed waving a flag while a numerous spectators cheered loudly. After two hours, police and firefighters forced open the minaret door and arrested the perpetrator who received a loud applause by Serb spectators.

11/08/2010, Gornji Vakuf

Four windows were smashed on a mosque in Zdrnci, Gornji Vakuf.

16/08/2010, Bosanski Brod

A window at the Husejnija Mosque in Bosanski Brod was smashed during the Tarawih (TN: *Ramadan night prayer*).

28/08/2010, Bijeljina

A door was burglarized and a courtyard fountain damaged at the Atik Mosque in Bijeljina.

14/09/2010, Prozor

A Croat was speeding dangerously close to a large group of Jamaat members in a Janazah (TN: *Islamic funeral*) procession, despite a polite warning they and Imam gave him.

Croats signed a petition during Ramadan requesting that Adhan from the Hadzi Nesuh Mosque in Prozor, open only during Ramadan, be turned down.

26/09/2010, Bratunac

Three windows were smashed on the Gradska Mosque in Bratunac.

27/09/2010, Prijedor

A mosque was stoned and a window smashed in Brezicani near Prijedor.

10/10/2010, Banja Luka

Several meters and eight concrete panels of fence around the “Veliki harem” Muslim cemetery were destroyed in the Vrbanja Jamaat.

13/10/2010, Foca

Apartment of the Grand Imam of the Foca Majlis (TN: *Council*) of the Islamic Community was broken into. Burglars pushed open the front door and tossed around the furniture.

17/10/2010, Bijeljina

A window was smashed on the Atik Mosque in Bijeljina.

03/12/2010, Celinac

Windows were smashed on a mosque in the municipality of Celinac.