Dear Mr. Ahmed Zaki Yamani,

All of us here in Denmark have read the letter you wrote to most of the Danish newspapers. As a Dane I am extremely disappointed by your letter. I actually believed that these cartoons were something we had already consigned to history or that it was even time for some new possibilities. But no. Here come the threats once again in the form of a letter you have sent to eight Danish newspapers:

“…as you are probably aware, this conflict still affects Danish and Arab interests, especially in the Middle East, where many Danish products are still being boycotted.”

I feel compelled to start by recalling my meeting with your honourable father at Ulvøya (Oslo) in the 1980s. I have always looked up to him and considered him a very reasonable man. Then I would like to ask whether you have read the justifications for the cartoons, which were published in Jyllands Posten? If not, you can read them in English on: http://www.expozite.com/FlRoseTherefore.pdf

I first encountered the cartoons on 30 September 2005, while reading Jyllands Posten over breakfast in the restaurant of the Imperial Hotel in Copenhagen. I choked on my coffee, then turned to my Swedish colleagues and said,"Here comes trouble." After I had finished reading the whole article, I relaxed. The article that presented the cartoons explained precisely that “certain violent Muslims have taken the prophet hostage for the purpose of carrying out their own satanic agendas”. The satire, which the cartoons represented, is a traditional Danish form of expression, employed by Danes (and other Western Europeans) for centuries, for example when we were liberating ourselves from the last patriarchal, oppressive religion, Catholicism.

It was then we introduced both freedom of expression and personal liberty for each and every individual in society. We have struggled to preserve that freedom for almost two hundred years. One could even claim that it is our (Danes’) most important religion. Therefore, I find it depressing to inform you, that these cartoons have led to a widespread scepticism towards Muslims and towards Islam in particular. But not because of the cartoons. Absolutely not. The negative view of Muslims and Islam was a consequence of the Muslim world’s reactions. That view was exacerbated by the “Muslim ambassadors”, who travelled to Denmark from the Middle East with their very own pictures, pictures which had never appeared in a single newspaper and which they seem to have created themselves for the occasion. Their intention was to harm a country that had fed and clothed them and permitted them the freedom to practice their religion. Danes do not like this sort of behaviour. We despise lies and deceit.

It is interesting that, before the first publication of the cartoons, most Danes regarded Jyllands Posten as a right wing provincial newspaper, who just did what it was told by “Pia Kærsgaard’s semi Nazi party”. But then came the embassy burnings, riots and boycotts. The Danes were shocked. They were
not used to Denmark being attacked in this violent manner. In Lebanon and Syria people were killing one another just for the opportunity of burning Danish flags to ashes. This really caused Danes to scorn Muslims and to question Islam as a religion and phenomenon. This is something most Danes had never done before.

How many Danes had previously heard that the prophet had sexually abused a young girl from the tender age of six? Not many. Now the whole of Denmark knows it and they hate it.

Before the Mohammed cartoons, how many people were aware that the Koran gives a man the right to kill his wife, if she does not satisfy him?

That women have virtually no rights, when it comes to inheritance and even less when testifying in court? Not many. But now nearly everyone in Denmark knows it and they do not like it.

I really hope, Mr Yamani, that you can try and explain to your clients, the descendents of Mohammed (some evidently survived the many bloody power struggles for “the religion of peace”, which began with the battle between Aisha and Ali just a few days after the prophet’s death), that Scandinavians are not ignorant savages, but well educated, knowledgeable human beings. We can read the Koran, the Hadith and Sira. We know what religion is and many of us have come to the decision that it is not for us, even though our state desperately holds on to a state integrated religion.

Before 9/11 there were just a handful of people with a firm opinion and who were against Islam and the sizeable migration of Muslims to our part of the world. After 9/11, Bali, Madrid and London there was a rapid increase in the number of people, who realised that Islam was not the innocent religion many would have us believe. Even ordinary people started to realise that something would have to be done, if Denmark was not to turn into another Lebanon, which was a flourishing nation before the religious wars began in the 1970s.

The Mohammed cartoons and everything that has taken place in the Muslim world have had had a profound influence on the spirit of the Danish people. We became split in a debate about right or wrong. What was more important: freedom of speech or respect for “other people’s feelings”? But it is important to emphasise that I have not heard a single person, who read Jyllands Posten’s introduction to the cartoons and understood it, deny Jyllands Posten’s right to do what it did. Some still believe that it was unnecessary, but nonetheless, in the spirit of Voltaire, they will “die for the right to say and express what they think”.

Today 75% of the Danish population are tired of the Islamic demands advanced by threatening Muslims with Allah in their rucksacks and Mohammed on the luggage rack. To stress, as they do, “that there will be serious consequences for Danish export to Arabic countries, if Denmark does not deliver a proper apology” is interpreted by the majority of Danes as an unpleasant threat that rules out any hope of intelligent dialogue.
Danes are generally pleasant people. They are good-hearted and willing to help when others are having problems. But they do not like being patronised or being told what to do, especially not by people, who live in a patriarchal society with no respect for the ideals of human rights, which we consider of paramount importance and will protect with tooth and nail. Let me put it another way. When a lawyer belonging to the Saudi Arabian nobility comes out with ambiguous threats that undermine the most sacred values of the Danish people, it is like waving a red rag in an arena full of snorting bulls. Even the good bull, Ferdinand, has recently begun to scrape menacingly in the sand.

Neither the population nor the institutions of Denmark will ever accept a legal attack at the hands of the Arabian aristocracy. We can support the “weak”, those who are “persecuted” and those who flee (or those who just say they are fleeing because everyone else is after them), but if those who are after them also start coming after us and our nation, then we will really show our true colours. Even the most unwilling will support someone whose views he does not share, if that means protecting our greatest treasures, freedom of speech and personal freedom. If we are invaded by outrageous vandals who, in the name of some self-invented god, oppress women, stone rape victims and whip their citizens just for drinking a beer, then we will be united in our stand against these barbarians.

Our mythical hero Holger Danske this time will, without a doubt, be followed by the other western countries. After the massive attacks on our faithful “freedom, equality and fraternity” they will awaken simultaneously and, in a memorable minute, understand that New York, Bali, Madrid, London, Theo van Gogh and the hundreds and thousands of other victims of Islam will never be forgotten, but honoured as champions of the freedom we now possess and which you Muslims threaten time after time to take from us.

Dear Ahmed Zaki Yamani, I hope you are not intending to provide the triggering factor for a massive fight against your prophet’s right to tell us what we should do. Let me remind you that, during the worst boycotts at the time of the Mohammed crisis, Denmark exported more than ever before in the history of Denmark. The USA was our biggest expanding trading partner during that difficult period. Maybe you should learn a bit more about the mechanisms of the west and other places in the world where knowledge is to be found, before you let your clients rally forth with their Wahhabistic ideas of “rule by terror”. Because I am convinced that your clients underestimate their opponents’ real strength and their will and capacity to strike back against their destructive urges in the guise of religion.

Before 9/11 we did not know that Mohammed was immoral in every respect. After the Mohammed cartoons we attempted to find out all we could about your religion. So now 80% of us are completely convinced that the prophet does not deserve our respect. We will never bow down in the dust to him or his lackeys. Let me also remind you that it was a Dane, Niels Bohr, who won the Nobel Prize for his investigation of atomic structure, thus paving the way
for modern atomic technology. Meanwhile your Great Mufti, Hussein of Jerusalem was sitting in Berlin, discussing the size of the gas chambers at Auschwitz.

In memory of my deceased father, I would like to quote his last words. “There is no God, Heaven or Hell. People who believe in that sort of thing are the ones who create hell on earth, both for themselves and others.” Behold your prophet and your faith. Do not bring this baggage into our homes. We scorn the violence and oppression to which this brutal ideology leads and, if your clients do not lay down their threatening sword, not only will we scorn your religion, but we will also start to despise you as human beings.

Yours sincerely,

Hans Erling Jensen.
Managing Director.

Sweden