

## **Anti-Islam Film: NMN's Response**

The Nigerian Muslims Network (NMN) condemns the utter disdain and lack of respect for the faith of over 1 billion Muslims all over the world in the name of freedom of speech and liberalism through the online film "innocence of muslims" in which our noble Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessing of Allah be upon him) was depicted in a false and disgraceful manner.

We believe that no freedom of speech should be allowed to infringe upon the sanctity of the faith of others. In a world where Holocaust denial and hate speech are considered a crime, it is surprising that nothing is being done by the United States in particular and European countries in general to prevent the film and cartoon from being released into the media.

The NMN believes any statements or actions that seek to portray any religion, be it is Islam, Christianity or Judaism, in a false, indecent and demeaning light should be considered a crime and punishable appropriately.

However, we also believe that violent protests leading to loss of innocent lives and destruction of properties in many countries that followed the release of the film are also condemnable and should be stopped.

While we share the anger of millions of Muslims all over the world, we appeal to them to realize that violence leading to loss of lives and properties is not the solution. We need to show our displeasure through better means keeping within the teachings of Islam. We, hereby, call on the Muslim political and spiritual leaders to educate the Muslims on the most appropriate manner to react and enlighten the non-muslims around us on their parochial and ignorant understanding of Islam.

Besides, they should make efforts to ensure that all the individuals that have contributed in whatever form to the production of this film should be brought to justice without delay.

Signed:

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Ameer

PRO