

Education By Murder

Written by Lady Logician

Tuesday, 03 November 2009 07:06 -

Five years ago today, [Theo Van Gogh](#) (of [THAT Van Gogh family](#)) was [murdered](#) by a radical Islamist for the crime of making a film critical of Islam. Many people are taking the time to honor the film maker today, including the folks at Islam Watch who remind us that free speech is still under attack - just in a more subtle way.

...Islamists still answer free speech with violence. Two Chicago-area Muslims were charged last week with [plotting attacks](#) against those involved in publishing the [Danish Muhammad cartoons](#). Shortly before that, Dutch MP [Geert Wilders was welcomed](#) to the UK by Islamist thugs who [warned him](#) — and everyone else — to "take lessons from people like Theo van Gogh," because "whoever insults the prophet, kill him."

Yet the greatest threat to free speech does not come from homegrown jihadists who wish to make examples of rabble-rousing Westerners. It arises from governments and related entities blinded by the fanciful notion that radicals will leave us alone if we only stop saying things that offend them. Some recent happenings:

- Last month the UN Human Rights Council [passed](#) yet another [resolution](#) — this time, with support from the U.S. and Europe — urging governments "to take all necessary measures" to combat "religious stereotyping" and "hatred." While noting a few improvements over previous years' text, law professor Eugene Volokh [called it](#) "a step backward" for the constitutional rights of Americans. The resolution will be considered in November by the General Assembly, where the Islamic bloc hopes to use it as a springboard for banning criticism of Islam and enacting global blasphemy statutes.

- Paul Belien [reports](#) that "if all goes as planned, the 27 member states of the European Union will soon have a common hate crime legislation, which will turn disapproval for Islamic practices ... into crimes." The [text](#) names an "intimidating, hostile,

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degrading, humiliating, or offensive environment" as one (extremely subjective) facet of discrimination. No doubt Bouyeri would be pleased. It passed the European Parliament and will be debated by the Council of Ministers this month.

- Geert Wilders continues to serve as a lightning rod for those who wish to stifle Islam's critics. First, a [court order](#) was needed to convince the British government to let him [set foot on UK soil](#) last month. Second, Pennsylvania's Temple University, which accepts state funds, [pressured students](#) to cancel an October [appearance](#) by the legislator; they refused. Third, in what may be the trial of the century, at least in the Netherlands, Wilders is preparing to defend himself against [speech crime charges](#); the start date is [January 20](#).

Daniel Pipes referred to the van Gogh slaying as "[education by murder](#)," part of the "slow and painful way people wake up to the problem of radical Islam." Unfortunately, for many of our drowsy leaders, the only lessons learned are the wrong ones.

This is just another reason why the silent majority can be silent no more. We are losing our rights faster and faster every day and if we don't stand up and advocate for ourselves, no one else will.