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Muslim Youths Meet in Denmark to Discuss Cartoon Crisis
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One hundred Muslim youths from 15 western countries will meet in Denmark July 7-9 to address the problems they face and to seek a solution.

The forum will focus on the difficulties Muslim youths face today, looking at how they can be overcome, and at the circumstances surrounding the "Prophet-insulting cartoons."

The forum was timed to coincide with the anniversary of the attack on London's Underground.



Turkish youths from Germany, Belgium, Netherlands, Britain, and the United States will attend the forum that will be attended by Flemming Rose from Jyllands Posten newspaper, responsible for publishing the cartoons that lead to the international crisis.

Attending the forum from the United States, Salih Memecan will present caricatures depicting Christ that he created during the crisis to counter the insulting cartoons of the Prophet Mohammad.

"I will also draw what happens during the forum," said Memecan, who was asked to publish his cartoons.

Muslim youths from the US, Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Netherlands, Italy, Denmark, Australia, Belgium, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Portugal, Spain, and Switzerland will attend the meeting co-organized by the American Society for Muslim Advancement (ASMA) and the Cordoba Initiative titled, "Muslim Leaders of Tomorrow."

ASMA was founded in 1997 by Muslims born and raised in America.

The Cordoba Initiative is headed by Feisal Abdul Rauf, renowned for his initiatives to improve inter-religious dialogue.

The "Muslim Leaders of Tomorrow" conference is sponsored by the World Economic Forum, which also organizes the Davos meetings.

Briefing Zaman Daily, Organizing Committee Chair and American Society for Muslim Advancement (ASMA) Director General Daisy Khan underscored that the meeting will take place at a time for the need for religion and religious identity.

“The purpose of this initiation is to forge a healthy Muslim identity. Thus, the forum will listen to different voices from around the Muslim world,” said Khan, who noted that the forum will focus on fight against the religious extremism.

Stating the reason for withholding the names of participants was to prevent speculation; Khan explained that they also considered inviting Turkish Muslims, but that they only invited Muslims living in Western Europe. Khan revealed that they would invite participants from all over the world for next year’s meeting.

There are also Turks among the 100 participants, most of whom are young Muslim leaders raised in the West.

Salih Memecan, a famous Turkish caricaturist, is also among the participants.

Memecan, who decided to participate in the forum upon the invitation of Daisy Khan, whom he met at a Davos meeting, said that he would respond to the caricatures published by Jyllands Posten daily in Denmark in his own fashion.

Memecan added that the Danish newspaper offered to publish his works.

Kuwaiti religious leader Faysal Abdul Rauf, Tariq Ramazan, grandson of Egyptian religious leader Hasas al-Benna, and American comedian Azhar Usman will appear as well.