



Muslims for Peace & Justice

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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 5, 2006

SASK. MUSLIMS SAY DOUBLE STANDARD EXISTS FOR HATE SPEECH

REGINA - A Saskatchewan-based Muslim advocacy organization today called on federal Minister of Citizenship and Immigration Monte Solberg to immediately clarify an apparent double standard when it comes to barring controversial foreign speakers from coming to Canada.

In June 2006, the federal government decided to deny entry to a British Muslim speaker based on his past comments. A spokesperson for the Immigration Minister had said, "We do not welcome hate-mongers in Canada."

Yet, a leading American Christian evangelist, the Reverend Franklin Graham, is slated to speak at the Central Canada Franklin Graham Festival in Winnipeg on October 20. Graham previously remarked that Islam is "a very evil and wicked religion" and that Hindus were "locked in the darkness of Hinduism" and "bound by Satan's power."

SEE: <http://society.guardian.co.uk/societyguardian/story/0,7843,861580,00.html>
http://cbs2.com/topstories/topstories_story_075065149.html

In a statement released today, Muslims for Peace & Justice (MPJ) said:

"As Canadians, we must all stand firmly against hate propaganda. Based on the reaction to the statements of these two religious leaders, Muslims in Saskatchewan and across Canada are wondering whether a double standard is being applied by the federal government.

"Freedom of speech cannot be selectively applied and we urge the Minister of Immigration to publicly clarify the government's position without delay."

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