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CAIR-CAN condemns Point de Bascule “for slandering (Islamist) conference participants and guests”

Original address:

http://www.caircan.ca/downloads/2012_12_12_RIS_press_release.pdf?utm_source=streamsend&utm_medium=email&utm_content=17608269&utm_campaign=Action%2520Alert%253A%2520Thank%2520Justin%2520Trudeau%2520for%2520standing%2520by%2520RIS%252C%2520call%2520on%2520me

Date: December 12, 2012

Original title: CAIR-CAN condemns anti-Muslim website for slandering conference participants and guests

Excerpts:

The Canadian Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-CAN) today condemns the attempts of anti-Muslim bloggers to smear Canada’s largest gathering of Muslims at the annual Reviving the Islamic Spirit (RIS) Conference.

[...] Point-de-Bascule describes itself as a “non-partisan” website that “defends our liberties by educating people on the Islamist threat”. However, its Islamophobic bias regularly takes aim at Muslims using misinformation to foster fear and suspicion.

The blog’s attempt at using scare tactics in calling the conference ‘Islamist’ in order to prevent guests like Liberal MP Justin Trudeau from addressing thousands of Muslims, many of whom are young people, should be rejected, says Mr. Gardee.

“To suggest that there is something untoward about a conference that invites leading thinkers like John Ralston Saul and Karen Armstrong to speak on topics such as inter-faith dialogue and mutual understanding is ludicrous. This is yet another example of Islamophobic vitriol aimed at marginalizing and vilifying Muslims.”



CAIR-CAN condemns anti-Muslim website for slandering conference participants and guests

- For Immediate Release -

(Ottawa, Canada – December 12, 2012) – The Canadian Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-CAN) today condemns the attempts of anti-Muslim bloggers to smear Canada’s largest gathering of Muslims at the annual Reviving the Islamic Spirit (RIS) Conference.

“With 30,000 attendees last year alone, the RIS conference has become one of the leading events of its kind, anywhere in the world,” says Ihsaan Gardee, CAIR-CAN’s Executive Director. “To suggest that there is something untoward about a conference that invites leading thinkers like John Ralston Saul and Karen Armstrong to speak on topics such as inter-faith dialogue and mutual understanding is ludicrous. This is yet another example of Islamophobic vitriol aimed at marginalizing and vilifying Muslims.”

Point-de-Bascule describes itself as a “non-partisan” website that “defends our liberties by educating people on the Islamist threat”. However, its Islamophobic bias regularly takes aim at Muslims using misinformation to foster fear and suspicion.

The blog’s attempt at using scare tactics in calling the conference ‘Islamist’ in order to prevent guests like Liberal MP Justin Trudeau from addressing thousands of Muslims, many of whom are young people, should be rejected, says Mr. Gardee.

“We welcome Mr. Trudeau’s statements that he will not back away from participating in this conference. He is not going to pander to bigots who believe that a Muslim is automatically a threat because they follow their religion,” he adds.

Their latest critique of the youth-led Toronto conference is that IRFAN-Canada, Islamic Relief, and Human Concern International (HCI) are event sponsors. Of the three, only IRFAN-Canada has seen its charitable status revoked in recent years because of its work in Gaza. However, the humanitarian aid organization has challenged the grounds on which the Canadian Revenue Agency made its decision.

“With themes exploring love, the environment, and harmony, this conference is about empowering Muslims to be better Canadians,” says Mr. Gardee. “And it’s open to everyone to see for themselves.”

CAIR-CAN is a national, non-profit, grassroots organization striving to be a leading voice that enriches Canadian society through Muslim civic engagement and the promotion of human rights.

CONTACT:

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