



Germany approves Islamic animal slaughtering

The German constitutional court in the city of Karlsruhe has issued a ruling that allows Muslim butchers in some cases to slaughter animals according to the Islamic Sharia.

Ruling in a case filed by a Turkish butcher in the state of Hessen, the court abolished the laws that bar Muslims from slaughtering animals that are not anesthetized.

The tradition of each religious group that follows the Islamic faith must be taken into account, the court ruling stated.

Armed with the differences in texts on animal slaughtering among some Islamic sects, German first-degree courts had prohibited in 1985 slaughtering animals in this fashion without permit, thus imposing anesthetization. But the courts allowed the Jewish community to slaughter animals in line with its religious rituals.

Other European countries, including Britain, France and Austria, allow slaughtering animals in this manner.

Rustum Altinkob, the Turkish butcher who won the case, said the constitutional court's ruling is a step forward in the effort to make Muslims blend in the German society.

"A massive problem was resolved in Germany," said Altinkob adding that the prohibition had forced Muslims to secretly slaughter animals in line with the Islamic Sharia. The court ruling will also mean that slaughtering will be subject to routine inspection by the government.

President of the Muslims' Central Council in Germany Nadim Elias said the constitutional court's ruling would strengthen Islam in the country besides making Muslims' life easier.

Lectures to change negative view on Islam in Australia

The Australian University of Adelaide is organizing a set of lectures that aim to change the way Australians view Islam. Studies had shown that Australians see Muslims as people who resort to violence and as grenade-hurlers. The director of the academic course, which will be attended by college students only, Dr Arthur Saniotes said it would go on for four weeks. Al-Jazira newspaper quoted Dr Saniotes as saying, "Muslims and Arabs are viewed in Australia as women dancers, billionaires or grenade throwers. A study on 21 Hollywood movies produced since 1990 has shown that those movies displayed Arabs as terrorists and Mid-Eastern people as impostors.



New converters in Indonesia

Indonesian Minister of Religious Affairs Aqil Bin Hussein al-Munawar said 100 thousand people had converted recently to Islam in Indonesia.

“The wide spread of Islam in South East Asia is taking place simply and easily due to the faith’s just and tolerant teachings,” al-Munawar said.

There are around five million new Muslims throughout the world as a result of efforts by individual missionaries, said the minister who urged Muslims to discover and employ their universal potentials to improve the status of the Islamic Ummah.

British journalist embraces Islam

The London local news program of the British Broadcasting Corporation - Channel One (BBC1) has hosted Joan Bradley, the British journalist that was detained by the Taliban in Afghanistan weeks before the American assault on that country began. The reason for holding the interview was that the journalist had declared her conversion to Islam ten months after her release and return to Britain.

Asked by the interviewer why she had converted to Islam, Mrs Bradley said, “When I was detained in Afghanistan, I was imprisoned with ten Christian people. Therefore, I vowed to study Islam more thoroughly. When I returned I studied Islam and found it a good religion that speaks to the soul and can cope with life?”

When I examined and understood Islam, I found it was a faith that had many qualities such as openness, tolerance, and respect of women; all these aspects astonished me, Bradley said.

The interviewer told her that the way Islam is applied in some Mid-Eastern and Asian countries does not indicate this, especially in the issues of women and injustice. Bradley responded, “This is a misconception; for when I studied Islam, I found it was different from what believe. The Islam that we see in the media is full of negative aspects, but the truth is that Islam is a liberal and just faith when it comes to women and their rights.”



Ahlul-Bait Foundation's Conference

Around 100 scholars and thinkers representing 34 Arab, Islamic, and non-Muslim countries took part in the Ahlul-Bait Foundation's 12th conference on Islamic thought that was held in Amman with the title "The Future of Islam in the 15th Hegira century".

The conference aimed at shedding light on Islam's attitude on violence and terrorism, its view on the clash of civilizations, the technology and communications revolution and the status of the Ummah in that, and the impacts of globalization and secularism in the Islamic World.

A number of scholars and researchers representing Islamic foundations affiliated with most schools, sects and intellectual trends in Islam participated in the conference.

committed themselves to observe and execute when setting their national policies in the domains of education, sciences and culture