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EUROPEAN **ISLAMOPHOBIA** REPORT 2018

INFOGRAPHICS

LEGALIZING ISLAMOPHOBIA



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Governments and political parties implement or demand legislations that directly target Muslims as religious subjects, treating them differently than members of other religious communities

AUSTRIA

- The Austrian government introduced a hijab ban for children in kindergarten.
- The Austrian government attempted to close mosques and the Arab Islamic Community of the Islamic Religious Authority (IGGÖ).
- The general secretary of the governing ÖVP demanded to ban fasting for pupils in school.

BULGARIA

- Municipalities periodically hand out fines for the Friday sermons and calls for prayer. A member of the European Parliament and deputy chair of the VMRO party sent a formal request for control and a ban.
- The municipal council in Stara Zagora decided to resume the activity of renaming the Turkish-Arab toponyms in the territory with Bulgarian ones. As a result of the initiative, 838 toponyms of lands and sites with Turkish-Arab origin were replaced.
- Archaeologists from the National Archaeological Institute of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences started new excavations in the local Kurshun Mosque (built in 1485) by order of the Ministry of Culture and the Municipality of Karlovo. According to the Office of the Grand Mufti, the new excavations in the historical mosque aimed to stop the Muslim community's attempts to reconstitute the property and to replace its function by another. As the lawsuit continued, the mosque was excavated by archaeologists, and an attempt to turn it into a museum of religions was made by the municipality.

CZECH REPUBLIC

- The SPD (Freedom and Direct Democracy) proposed a law to forbid veiling.

DENMARK

- The Danish government introduced a new set of laws to regulate life in low-income and heavy Muslim enclaves, known as the "Ghetto Package." The government may implement this package with, among others, the following initiatives: greater penalties for crime, less money from the public sector, and restrictions on how to raise children. In total, there are 22 initiatives that are believed will contribute to achieving the government's desired goals.

- Reform of the law on day care. The new law prevents Muslim parents their right to choose freely where their children will go to day care.
- Burqa ban. A violation of the ban triggers a fine of 1,000 Danish Kroner (134 €) and the fine will increase if the ban is subsequently violated again.
- Handshake with local mayor (approved in December 2018): "handshakes with the local mayor are mandatory at the citizenship ceremony if one wants to be a Danish citizen. The law has the undertones of being aimed at Muslims because a share of Muslims refuses to shake hands with the opposite sex."
- The Danish People's Party also demanded serving pork in schools and public institutions. At the same time, they wanted a ban on halal meat in public institutions; however, this was rejected by the Minister of Education Merete Riisager.

FINLAND

- The Diakonia College of Finland, located in Helsinki, bans students from wearing niqabs and burkas but allows hijabs on campus.

FRANCE

- At the French Assembly, Eric Ciotti (The Republicans) proposed to ban exterior religious signs for workers in public companies and for users of public services - today there is only a ban for workers in public services.
- The UN Human Rights Committee criticized French justice for not having condemned the dismissal of an employee wearing the hijab from the private nursery where she was working. The committee considered this dismissal as unfair and as a discrimination based on religion.
- A group of UN experts condemned France for having banned the niqab in 2010.

GREECE

- The New Right Party made a series of suggestions in order to confront immigration:
 - Ban of funding coming from foreign Islamic organizations.
 - Exclusive use of the Greek translation of the Koran.
 - Ban of religious symbols used in public places.
 - Ban of use of any kind of head covering (meaning especially the headscarf and all its variations) deriving from a religious obligation in public and private places and of all clothing that conceals the face. High fines in case of violation of this legislation.
 - Investigation on the legality of purposes and activities of every organized Islamic structure, e.g. unions, clubs, associations, etc.

- Ban of Sharia law in every part of the country. In the case of the implementation of Sharia, the consequence will be the removal of citizenship, if this is the case, and immediate deportation.
- Closure of every illegal mosque.
- Annulment of the first (official) mosque of Athens.

HUNGARY

- MP Dúró Dóra, formerly of Jobbik Movement for a Better Hungary, suggested a draft law on the banning of burkas in public.
- The Fundamental Law of Hungary (known as the Constitution prior to 2011) was amended for the seventh time. Changes included that foreign populations cannot be settled in the country and that all state bodies are obliged to protect Hungary's identity and Christian culture.

KOSOVO

- Kosovo limited police officers' rights to attend prayers during their working hours.

NETHERLANDS

- The SGP (Reformed Political Party) filed a motion regarding the right to refuse participation in school trips which involve visiting religious institutions (like mosques, churches, and synagogues) which is part of the school curriculum. Parents can apply for an exemption for their children but the schools are not obliged to comply with the exemption request. By calling a ban on Muslim call for prayer, issuing the manifesto, and excluding visiting mosques, it is apparent that the SGP is attempting to split society in general and exclude Muslims in particular.
- Restrictions on ritual slaughtering have been discussed for years. According to the new law, if an animal is not insensitive to pain within 40 seconds of slaughter, based on measures called "induced eyelid reflex" and "corneal reflex," it must be shot.

NORTH MACEDONIA

- The primary school Krste Petkov Misirkov in Radovish was fined for allowing an iftar dinner to be organized on the school premises.

NORWAY

- The parliament passed a bill banning cloth covering of the face during classes at educational institutions as well as day-care centers, which included face-covering Islamic veils such as the burka and niqab.

SLOVAKIA

- Amendment of Law No. 308/1991 Coll. on Freedom of Religious Faith and the Status of Churches and Religious Communities. The law: (a) increased the number of signatures required to register churches and religious communities in Slovakia from 20,000 to 50,000; (b) determined that the signatories must be citizens of the Slovak Republic who are members of the church or the religious community; (c) the signatories must confirm their signature by submitting personal data. These conditions of registration are discriminatory because only four churches from the 18 currently registered churches and religious communities in Slovakia meet the conditions.

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