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#### WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

**altmuslim this week - september 14, 2009** - This week, more anti-Muslim protests in Britain (though vastly outnumbered by Muslims and anti-Fascists), more Western Muslims are unexpectedly flocking to Somalia (and some dying), and a planned Jumah pray-in in Washington DC is grist for the tea-party mill. [more](#)

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#### ASIDES

editor's blog

**A call to protect religious freedom** - Many have said that Muslims are curiously quiet when it comes to speaking out about the injustices suffered by the Uighur Muslims of Western China. A group of American Muslims, including us, have taken action to make sure that impression does not continue. [more](#) (July 23, 2009)

#### The lessons of Robert

**McNamara** - When I was invited to appear on "Nightline with Ted Koppel" back in 1990 to debate Robert McNamara (who died yesterday at 93), I thought I'd have an easy time of it. Little did I know that McNamara was entering a phase of his life where he would begin to be more introspective about war and its consequences. [more](#) (July 8, 2009)

[More asides here...](#)

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#### PODCASTS

**altmuslim review 032** - Muslim writers everywhere! We speak about the new wave of Western Muslim literature and interview two authors with recently released books. Our own Irfan Yusuf talks about his memoir, *Once Were Radicals* and Reza Aslan tells us more about his second book, *How to Win a Cosmic War* (June 11, 2009)

**altmuslim review 031** - Oh, Bama! What does the election of Barack Obama mean for American Muslims, who were both courted and shunned during a long campaign? We speak with American Muslim Democratic



#### MAERKISCHE ALLGEMEINE

## The m100 debates Muslims - and nearly gets caught in a fold in time

BY JAN STERNBERG, SEPTEMBER 16, 2009

POTSDAM - The Potsdam M 100 forum has the right, away from the daily hustle and bustle of a hundred major European media-makers the key issues between the public and politicians to discuss. In the past five years, usually worked quite well. 2008, when one turned to Eastern Europe, broke early August, the Russian-Georgian war directly in the preparation of the conference in mid-September. The debates, especially between Russian, Georgian and British foreign journalists in the former Soviet Union were strongly and thereafter according to date have been conducted - in total, were added by a sad occasion, it was a great moment for the Forum.

This year, just after the 90th Birthday of Lord George Weidenfeld initiator of last Sunday, we turned to the question of Muslims in the media. Since the last week of the fasting month of Ramadan was, there was in the courtyard of the Orangery in Sanssouci an unadorned Betzelt next to an absurdly luxurious toiletries containers. The service staff were instructed not to praise the food too offensive in the crowd.

The conference itself was nearly caught in a fold of time, speaks for their quality that they could free themselves from it. Loading was in fact also Flemming Rose, culture editor of expression and the Danish newspaper Jyllands-Posten. One recalls, 2005, Rose anprovoziert with the imprint of a series of (mostly bad) cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad against the prohibition of images of Islam - and Muslims around the world (partly triggered state-organized) protest.

Rose yesterday left no doubt that the decision he still thinks is right, spoke of the struggle against censorship in the arts and media, of absolute freedom of opinion and that there is no right not to be offended.

In some badly affected his tone while narrow-minded: The Berlin journalist Mely Kiyak, who writes mainly for the Frankfurter Rundschau, angrily left the Orangerie. "Who is this man that he believes to teach us about democracy?" She asked. Moderator Shaheed Amanullah of U.S. Internet magazine "altmuslim.com" was in disbelief after fascinated by these European issues. "In America, everyone, including Muslims, accustomed to extreme opinions," he says, "at least those who are born there." In Europe, like the scope of freedom of expression have traditionally been small, but Amanullah also sees the local Muslims on their way more composure against media provocations. He says: "The Internet already allows anyone more of a choice. Over the Internet every day someone insulted and attacked, and there are no campaigns that could stop somebody. Nobody can stop the media today." In the evening Plenarrunde the cartoons again played a role: The conservative Danish parliamentarian Naser Khader called the cartoon controversy in Denmark, at least a "good thing" because there had inherited the majority of society that are very different Opinions among Muslims there. And so, the conference still managed to leave the fold of the time, Flemming Rose.

The second discussion was the perennial question of how the major media depict Muslims and report on them. Still badly stereotyped, was the tenor - because there are too few experts and too few Muslims in the major media. "Still to be reports of terrorist threat, with men praying in the mosque illustrates," said the German writer and newspaper journalist Hilal Sezgin. "A Muslim editor could intervene as saying: Wait a minute, my grandfather prays the same way."

In the case of the recently murdered in a Dresden court Marwa El-Sherbini criticized Sezgin, as the late receipt of many German media on the xenophobic background indeed. To this criticism she received angry responses like: "We must not allow ourselves to be told by a Muslim woman." The episode illustrates the limitations of the claim that more migrants in the media were already the solution of the problem. "It is rather the integration of mainstream society," says Sabine Schiffer, who heads the Institute for Media Responsibility in Erlangen. The uptake of multi-religious reality also. As we lose, yesterday was not debated in the Orangerie in Sanssouci.

(Source: *Maerkische Allgemeine*, translated from German)

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