

**MEDIA RELEASE  
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**CDP Questions Zapiro's Mohammed Cartoon**

"The CDP regards religion as a very important part of the life of any individual. The ridiculing therefore, of those who are venerated by a specific religion can be seen as an attack on the very dignity of the individual, who, according to chapter 2 section 10 of the Bill of Rights in the Constitution has '..... the right to have their dignity respected and protected'" says Rev Botha Leader of the Christian Democratic Party and Deputy Leader of the Christian Democratic Alliance. This principle is further demonstrated by a decision by the United Nations human Rights Council to declare blasphemy as an offence."

"Although the CDP does not support the Muslim Faith it nevertheless supports any individual's Constitutional right to choose his or her own religion. Zapiro may feel that freedom of the press gives him the license to draw any cartoon of his choice. Although, the CDP fully supports freedom of the press, it is imperative that such freedom be used responsibly and tastefully. It appears that cartoonists and comedians are going to great lengths to ridicule religion and Christianity in particular. The fact that Christians do not react in the same way as Muslims does not mean that they do not consider what is taking place, as an affront."

"Editor's on their part, have the responsibility of weighing up the pros and cons before allowing the publication of offensive material. One would not only expect but demand greater sensitivity on the part of cartoonists, in this case Zapiro, and editors, in this case of the Mail and Guardian."

**CDP bevraagteken Zapiro se Mohammed-spotprent**

"Die CDP beskou godsdiens as 'n baie belangrike deel van mense se daaglikse lewe. Om 'n bespotting van iemand se geloof te maak kan dus as 'n aanval op die waardigheid van daardie individu beskou word, terwyl die grondwet se Handves van Menseregte verklaar dat mense die reg het ...'dat hul waardigheid gerespekteer en beskerm sal word.' " So sê ds. Theunis Botha, leier van die Christen-Demokratiese Party (CDP) en waarnemende voorsitter van die Christen-Demokratiese Alliansie (CDA). Dié beginsel word verder gedemonstreer deur 'n besluit van die VN se Menseregteraad om godslastering tot 'n oortreding te verklaar. "

"Hoewel die CDP nie die Moslem-geloof aanhang nie, steun die ons wel die individu se grondwetlike reg om sy eie godsdiens te kies. Zapiro mag meen dat die vryheid van die pers aan hom 'n vrypas gee om enige spotprent na goeddunke te teken. Hoewel die CDP persvryheid volmondig ondersteun, is dit ook noodsaaklik dat hierdie vryheid verantwoordelik en smaakvol toegepas word. Dit wil voorkom asof sommige spotprenttekenaars en komedianten tot die uiterstes gaan om die spot met godsdiens, en Christenskap in die besonder te dryf. Die feit dat Christene anders as Moslems reageer, beteken nie dat hulle nie aanstoot neem nie. "

"Redakteurs het die verantwoordelikheid om die voor- en nadele teen mekaar op te weeg voor besluit word om aanstootlike materiaal te publiseer. Ons verwag, en dring aan op groter sensitiwiteit deur spotprenttekenaars soos Zapiro, en in die geval van die Mail & Guardian, van die redakteur."