

Pressrelease, 3.07.2009

Call it, what it is – the first anti-Islamic Murder in Germany

The victim: Marwa El-Sherbini from Egypt

We are shocked and frustrated about the murder of Marwa El-Sherbini in a Court in Dresden. Media and Politicians in Germany still deny the anti-Islamic impact of the act. With adjectives like “xenophobe” or “racist” our officials try to hide the fact, that the seed of anti-Islamic agitation planted during the last 30 years is obviously prospering.

The attempts of explaining anti-Islamic stereotypes were not enough. This shows the murder of Marwa El-Sherbini: the killer called her “Islamist” and “Terrorist”. And a policeman shot her husband into his leg, instead of even focussing the real murderer – which seems to hint at an effect of phenotypical interpretation of acts of violence, as we are shown almost every night on TV. It is racist, but also and clearly anti-Islamic, which is actually becoming of the same quality as anti-Jewish (so called anti-Semitic) acts.

For many years now our Media presents topics of war and terrorism by using symbols of Islam in order to “illustrate” the findings – not being aware of sense-inductive effects, which make interpretations like “Muslims are ...” possible. Instead of following the warnings of our Media Responsibility Institute, our Politicians still speak of freedom of speech when anti-Islamic discourses are held. We must come to the same judgement of anti-Semitic (still a topic of explosiveness in Germany) and anti-Islamic allegations.

We are very sad for the family and especially the child of the young mother Marwa El-Sherbini. Please, accept our sincere condolences – of, course we can't compensate the loss, but only leave a sign of commiseration and solidarity.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Sabine Schiffer
and the team of the Media Responsibility Institute