



# THE EGYPTIAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION IN NORTH AMERICA (ESANA)

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## ESANA's Stance on the Danish Cartoon Row

The Egyptian Student Association in North America (ESANA) extends its firm condemnation of the acts of publication and republication of the cartoons depicting Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). Such acts have been committed in the name of freedom of speech and expression; however, we strongly believe that this freedom has exceeded the limits into chaos. We strictly adhere to our right as humans to define the limits of what is offensive to our core beliefs and values. Those limits should be respected by others in return for our mutual respect. The fact that these cartoons were clearly described by Muslim communities worldwide as an act of blasphemy and an offense to Muslims leaves us with only one conclusion regarding their republication. Unfortunately, that conclusion is that it was done to provoke Muslims.

While we deeply condemn the publication and republication of the cartoons, we also stand strongly against the violent reactions towards the Danish properties in Damascus and Beirut. Nevertheless, it is our opinion that the continuous provocation on the side of the Western media was, without doubt, the main cause in throwing the whole matter in the hands of extremists.

Therefore, ESANA calls upon the voices of reason to take action. We demand a clear apology from those who participated in these provocative acts, knowingly or inadvertently. We ask for the respect of our beliefs in the future. We also call on the

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Muslim governments to take every feasible effort to prevent any future violent attacks on Danish and European properties.

In the case when Muslims of the World see no action taken to appease them, ESANA calls upon its members and upon the Muslim Communities to boycott Danish products. The boycott will be a strong, effective and appropriate reaction to such irresponsible and inconsiderate practice of freedom of speech.

**Egyptian Student Association in North America**

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