

**MEDIA RELEASE  
BY CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE (CDA)**

**13 SEPTEMBER 2010**

**Burning of the Koran – CDP reacts**

“The furore around Rev Terry Jones’ aborted decision to burn the Koran leaves much food for thought. That the pastor of a small evangelical church in Gainesville Florida, USA could evoke such an unanimous reaction of condemnation from such ‘illustrious’ world leaders as the Presidents of the USA and Pakistan, the Foreign Secretary of Great Brittan and even the Pope himself, to mention but a few, is indeed thought provoking,” says Rev Theunis Botha, Leader of the Christian Democratic Party.

“Never has a single unlit match kindled such a world wide fire. The question is why? The answer seems obvious. Fear! To a man, each of those attacking Jones, pointed to the consequences of his actions. In every instance it had to do with the expected reprisals from the world wide Moslem Community. The President of the mightiest military force in the world appeared to be shaking in his boots as he spoke of the event becoming a recruiting tool in the hands of Al Qaeda and a threat to Americans living and working abroad.

“The militant reputation of the Moslems has preceded them. Their disregard for human life, not only that of their innocent victims, but even of their own as they are willing to turn themselves into human bombs, is increasingly holding the world to ransom. “Burn a bible and no one says a word! Burn a Koran and Islam ignites and world leaders jump to its defence. Blaspheme the name of Jesus, the only Saviour of the world and only a few ‘fundamental’ Christians respond, say anything negative about Mohammed, and Islam takes to the streets as one man, burning the flags of Western democracies and uttering threats of death and destruction against them.

“The CDP believes in freedom of religion and supports every person’s right to their religion of choice. We therefore could not support the actions Rev Jones proposed. We are however nauseated by the hypocrisy displayed by, not only those holding office in politics, but in the Christian ‘Church’ as well. One must also ask, had the President of the United States been more sensitive to the feelings of his own people, when he was confronted with the issue of building a mosque at ground zero in New York, people such as Rev Jones might not have not been forced to revert to such extreme actions. Muslims have in the past built mosques as a sign of victory over the infidels. One must ask if the intention to build a mosque at ground zero is a sign that they see the bombing of the twin towers as an Islamic victory.”

**Verbranding van die Koran – CDP reageer**

“Die opskudding oor eerw. Terry Jones se afgelasde plan om Korans te verbrand los baie vrae onbeantwoord. Dat ‘n pastoor van ‘n klein evangeliese kerk in Gainesville in die Amerikaanse deelstaat Florida so ‘n eenparige veroordeling van ‘gerekende’ wêreldleiers soos die presidente van die VSA en Pakistan, die Britse minister van Buitelandse Sake en selfs die pous – om maar ‘n paar te noem – kon ontlok bied baie stof tot nadenke,” sê ds. Theunis Botha, leier van die Christen-Demokratiese Party (CDP).

“Nog selde indien ooit het ‘n vuurhoutjie wat nie eens getrek is nie so ‘n wêreldvuur tot gevolg gehad. Die vraag is: waarom? Die antwoord is voor die hand liggend: vrees. Sonder uitsondering het diegene wat Jones veroordeel het op die gevolge van so ‘n voorgenome daad gewys. Soos klokslag is op die verwagte weerwraak van die wêreld se Moslemgemeenskap gewys. Die president van die wêreld se sterkste militêre mag het

skynbaar van vrees gebewe toe hy daarop gewys het dat die voorneme as motivering sal dien vir Moslems om by Al Kaïda aan te sluit en 'n bedreiging vir Amerikaners sal inhou wat in die buiteland woon en werk.

“Die Moslems se militante reaksie loop hulle vooruit. Hul minagting van menselebens, nie net van onskuldige slagoffers nie maar van diegene wat bereid is om selfmoordaanvalle te loods, hou die wêreld toenemend gyselaar. Verbrand 'n Bybel, en niemand sê 'n woord nie. Verbrand 'n Koran en die Islam se toorn ontbrand en wêreldleiers val by die koor in. Laster die naam van Jesus, die enigste Verlosser van die wêreld, en slegs 'n handjievol 'fundamentalistiese' Christene laat hul stem hoor; sê iets negatiefs oor Mohammed en die Islam stroom na die strate, verbrand die vlae van Westerse demokrasieë en spreek dreigemente van dood en verwoesting teen dié demokrasieë uit.

“Die CDP glo in geloofsvryheid en ondersteun elkeen se reg om die godsdien van keuse te beoefen. Ons stem dus nie met Jones se planne saam nie. Ons is egter met naarheid vervul oor die skynheiligheid van nie net die politici nie, maar ook met mense wat hoë ampte in die kerk beklee.

“Die vraag ontstaan – sou die president van die VSA meer sensitief vir die sentimente van sy eie mense gewees het oor die Moslems se planne om 'n moskee naby Ground Zero in New York te bou, sou dit nodig gewees het dat mense soos Jones hulle tot sulke ekstreme planne moes wend? In die verlede het Moslems moskees gebou as simbool van hul oorwinning oor ongelowiges. Beteken dit nie dalk dat die planne om die moskee te bou so vertolk word dat die verwoesting van die Twin Towers deur hulle gesien word as 'n Islamitiese oorwinning is nie?”