

5th November 2013

The Editor-in-Chief
The West Australian
Newspaper House
50 Hasler Road
Osborne Park
WA 6017

Dear Editor

‘Jihad (Southwest Cell)’ Alston’s Cartoon

WE write this protest letter on behalf of the Western Australian Muslim community expressing our abhorrence at *The West Australian* Alston’s depiction of West Australian Muslims in the ‘Jihad (Southwest Cell) cartoon published in the *Weekend West Australian* on 2 November 2013.

Our respected and law abiding members of the Muslim community if required will offer every assistance to federal and local law enforcement agencies to help solve this bizarre discovery of lethal bomb making chemicals. No credible evidence or adverse criminal intelligence published data that we know incriminates our local Muslim community. So what is the actual purpose and agenda of this sub-standard fear-mongering and islamophobic racist cartoon?

Portraying fellow West Australians as Afghani rebels or terrorists is nothing but pure contempt the West Australian newspaper has against the West Australian Muslim community.

Is Alston poking cheap fun at Muslim West Australians of the Southwest?; or is he cowardly provoking fellow Australians to blame or fear fellow Muslim Australian citizens for the lethal chemical substances found in Australind estuary?

Alston is renowned for his previous Islam phobic and racist caricatures of Muslims and Islam. This ‘Jihad in South West Cell’ sketch is further evidence of his cognitive prejudice and a disturbed agenda aimed to incite religious hatred of the other in our harmonious Multicultural society that is totally unacceptable. Alston’s anti-Muslim caricature has no social commentary value or journalistic merit. Whenever the Australian community is faced with a challenge or crisis, there are people like Alston who lack insight and fairness, openly promote discriminatory and Islamophobic views in the name of freedom of speech. We are appalled by the Alston’s cartoon that is Islamophobic, discriminatory and totally unacceptable.

In the Name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

المجلس الإسلامي لأستراليا الغربية

THE ISLAMIC COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

We demand an apology for the hurt caused to our respected members of the Muslim community and I put the *West Australian* newspaper on notice.

I look forward to your earliest reply in this matter.

Dr Rateb Jneid
President
Islamic Council of WA

Shiek Faizel Gaffoor
President
Muslim Theological Council of WA

Cc: Australian Press Council
Cc: ABC Media Watch
Cc: The Premier of Western Australia,
Government of Western Australia
Cc: WA Police Commissioner

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