



NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

**Windmills, Tulips and Falafels: Turkish and Moroccan
Integration to the Netherlands in the Age of Terror**

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“There is a Fifth Column of goatfuckers in this country, who
despise and spit at its native people. They hate our freedom.”
-Theo van Gogh¹

On the morning of November 2nd, 2005, Theo van Gogh, a controversial critic of Islam, filmmaker, columnist, and general provocateur, was shot and stabbed to death while riding his bike to work in Amsterdam. Pinned to his body was a five-page letter declaring the murder a justified retaliation for Van Gogh's criticism of Muslims and Islam.² Witnesses to the murder reported that the killer was wearing a traditional Moroccan jallaba.³

The suspect in the crime is one Mohammed Bouyeri, a 26 year-old Dutchman of Moroccan descent. Unfortunately, the suspect's skin color and his radical Islamic declarations were all some Dutch citizens needed to know about the suspect before they retaliated – in the following weeks, there were more than 20 incidents of fires or vandalism at Muslim buildings across the Netherlands.⁴ Other Dutch citizens have called for the deportation of all immigrants or have demanded that the country be closed off to immigrants.⁵ What is not quite as visible but possibly more troubling to the Dutch is the fact that the suspect, Bouyeri, was born and raised in the Netherlands; he is a naturalized

¹ Theo van Gogh, *ALLAH WEET HET BETER (ALLAH KNOWS BEST)*, (2001)

² Oliver Burkeman, *Going to Pot*, *THE NEW REPUBLIC*, Feb. 21, 2005, at 10.

³ Perro de Jong, *Dutch Fear Loss of Tolerance*, *BBC NEWS WORLD EDITION* (Nov. 3, 2004), available at <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/3980371.stm> (last visited, May 2005).

⁴ *Mosque Set on Fire in Netherlands*, *BBC NEWS WORLD EDITION* (Nov. 13, 2004), available at <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/4057645.stm> (last visited, May 2005).

⁵ De Jong, *supra* note 3.

⁶ Ian Buruma, *Final Cut*, *THE NEW YORKER* (Jan. 3, 2005).

Dutch citizen who was educated by the Dutch school system, speaks perfect Dutch, and is well-accustomed to Dutch society.⁶ As a result of this murder, not only have anxieties surfaced about the relative criminality of Moroccan immigrants, but much broader anxieties about Dutch Muslims have emerged – anxieties which had either been largely ignored or suppressed until this point.

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