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 Gogh

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. Witnesses to the murder reported that the killer was wearing a traditional Moroccan jallaba.

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. Other Dutch citizens have called for the deportation of all immigrants or have demanded that the country be closed off to immigrants. 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)
5 De Jong, supra note 3.
Dutch citizen who was educated by the Dutch school system, speaks perfect Dutch, and is well-acquainted with 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.