



NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

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

by Steve Ahn, Zvi Rosen, Scott Sanderson, Miriam Szatrowski

“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<sup>1</sup>

On the morning of November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 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.<sup>2</sup> Witnesses to the murder reported that the killer was wearing a traditional Moroccan jallaba.<sup>3</sup>

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.<sup>4</sup> Other Dutch citizens have called for the deportation of all immigrants or have demanded that the country be closed off to immigrants.<sup>5</sup> 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

<sup>1</sup> Theo van Gogh, *ALLAH WEET HET BETER (ALLAH KNOWS BEST)*, (2001)

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

<sup>3</sup> 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).

<sup>4</sup> *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).

<sup>5</sup> De Jong, *supra* note 3.

<sup>6</sup> 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.<sup>6</sup> 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.

<sup>1</sup> Theo van Gogh, *ALLAH WEET HET BETER (ALLAH KNOWS BEST)*, (2001)

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