

Sweden charges two men for Quran desecration amid global backlash

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Swedish prosecutors have formally charged Salwan Momika and Salwan Najem with inciting ethnic hatred for desecrating copies of the Holy Quran during several protests in 2023. The charges involve four separate incidents last summer, where the men allegedly burned Quran copies and made derogatory remarks about Muslims, including one event outside a Stockholm mosque.

Senior Prosecutor Anna Hankkio stated that the men's actions and statements expressed clear contempt for Muslims based on their faith, underscoring the importance of addressing this issue in court. Video recordings of the incidents will be central to the prosecution's case.

Momika, an Iraqi Christian who obtained Swedish residency in 2021, gained notoriety for organizing multiple Quran desecrations across the Nordic country. His actions, alongside those of Swedish-Danish right-wing protester Rasmus Paludan, who was charged earlier this month for a similar incident in Malmo, have ignited widespread outrage in Muslim-majority nations.

These provocations have prompted Denmark to pass legislation banning public Quran burnings, while Sweden is currently considering legal options that would allow police to reject demonstration permits on national security grounds. The Organisation for Islamic Cooperation (OIC) has called on its member states to implement political and economic measures against Sweden, Denmark, and other countries that permit such acts, warning that they spread hatred, threaten global peace, and undermine religious harmony.