



Lt. Gen. Sir Michael Willcocks KCB
The Black Rod
House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PW

11 February 2009

Dear Black Rod,

It has come to our attention that Baroness Caroline Cox and Lord Pearson are in the process of showing the controversial film 'Fitna' by Dutch Parliamentarian Geert Wilders on Thursday 12th February within the House of Lords.

I am quite distressed that two of our parliamentarians are using the House of Lords to disseminate such vulgar and grotesque portrayal of Islam by airing 'Fitna'. The documentary incites hatred towards Muslims and it will only gain resonance amongst those who seek to promote discord and xenophobia amongst Britons.

Geert Wilders has been condemned in his native Holland for his anti-Islamic statements and currently in the middle of a prosecution by the Amsterdam appeals court as according to the appeals courts themselves his "hate speech is considered serious." Wilders has already been condemned by his own Dutch government who see his works and views as an attack on dialogue between Islam and Christianity. The Dutch Foreign Affairs Minister, Maxime Verhagen has publically "asked for people to the head cool and relations warm; as Fitna could have the potential to provoke rather than bridge the differences between cultures".

Whilst we have no power to contest the will of their Lordships, we must ask ourselves whether Parliament is a suitable platform to promote hate. Would a similar treatment of another faith community be permitted without censure?

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Muhammad Abdul Bari'.

Muhammad Abdul Bari MBE
Secretary General