



**Statement of the German Muslim League on the legal case brought forward against
Dr. Tariq Ramadan**

For two weeks Prof. Dr. Tariq Ramadan, a distinguished and well-reputed scholar of Islam, who is the president of the European Muslim Network (EMN), of which the German Muslim league is a co-founder, and who has always been dedicated to the realization of a European Islamic culture, is in custody in France. He is subjected to unsubstantiated and appalling accusations that have no reference to his character and his impeccable behavior in the past. Dr. Tariq Ramadan is currently exposed to a judicial treatment that is inconsistent with the principle of presumption of innocence as stated in Article 11 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: "Everyone charged with a crime is presumed innocent until his guilt has been legally proven in a public trial in which he had all the necessary guarantees for his defense".

In a climate of growing Islamophobia in France in particular and Europe in general the case of Dr. Tariq Ramadan is progressively turned into a political affair and the judiciary seems to be under pressure to give up its impartiality for the sake of ill-intended dogmatic considerations by interested parties.

While we reaffirm our active solidarity with our Dr. Ramadan and stand with him against the baseless accusations leveled against him, the German Muslim League appeals to the European Islamic community, and in particular the Muslim community in France, to remain articulate and watchful and not to fall prey to the malicious campaign against Dr. Ramadan. Factually, the campaign against him is a campaign directed against all of us.

The question that is being debated is simple: Is Dr. Tariq Ramadan innocent or guilty?

He has been accused of crimes against women. At present it is an accusation at best. There is an ongoing investigation but no conclusion has been drawn. A guilty verdict can only be determined by an objective investigation and until a person has been proven guilty we must always assume that he/she is innocent. We are hearing a lot of charges flying around about Dr. Tariq Ramadan but we

have not heard the conclusion of any investigation yet. Quite to the contrary, we do detect more and more flaws in the judicial proceedings against Dr. Ramadan, like the seemingly willful suppression of exculpatory hard evidence.

Unfortunately we are also hearing some voices from the Muslim community who are campaigning to ban Dr. Ramadan from speaking. They are spreading aspersions against him on the internet and even suggesting that "there is no smoke without fire".

This amounts to defamation and we find this ludicrous, selfish, egotistic attitude of some members of the Muslim community totally unacceptable and against the basic ethical values and teachings of Islam.

Is it too much to ask from these presumably enlightened Muslims of the West to not draw such quick and sweeping conclusions based on sheer accusations, insinuations and innuendos? Is it too much to ask that they should remember the teachings of our Creator on backbiting and slandering? Is it too much to suggest that one should save one's judgments for the courts?

We should not forget the monumental contribution of Dr. Tariq Ramadan in normalizing Islam in the West by giving a robust, highly educated and intellectually sound basis to western audiences. He has been at the forefront in the support for woman's rights and of proposing a balanced, philosophically grounded and contextualized interpretation of Islam for the people of the 21st century in general but in the West in particular. He has tirelessly worked to show Islam's intellectual and peaceful core values and championed Islam's contribution to the modern European narrative. He stood up against academics who made discrediting Islam their modus operandi and their profitable business model. And he stands up against politicians who are distorting the image of Islam and Muslims for electoral gains. His upright position in confronting racism, discrimination and extremism made him a target by those who want to shut up this voice of reason, logic, Islamic thinking. Because he offered sanity in the jungle of insane Islam haters.

Today Dr. Tariq Ramadan is being accused of some hitherto unproven crimes. We stand with him against this slander and lend him our full support so that he gets a fair hearing. We do demand that the French authorities offer him the same privileges as they would offer any other citizen or resident in France, independent of his race, color, cultural background and religion. It is not only the reputation of Dr. Ramadan that is on the block, the reputation of France as a state governed by the Rule of Law is on the block as well!

The ill-informed and self-declared representatives of public opinion, prejudiced intellectuals, biased media and racist politicians are attempting to undermine the Rule of Law and the objectivity of judges with their relentless, bigoted and spiteful campaign against Dr. Tariq Ramadan. In the past they were unable to respond to Dr. Ramadan's intellectual brilliance in a productive manner and it is

for this reason that they are resorting to character assassination now. They want to silence the most prominent Muslim voice of reason in Europe. We from the German Muslim League will not allow them to succeed.

Evidence against and in favor of Dr. Ramadan is to be obtained by the investigating authorities in an unprejudiced manner and it should be placed in a court of law and a judge or a jury should hear the case from the prosecution and defense. We demand that Dr. Ramadan is released immediately so that he can prepare his legal defense with his lawyers against these heinous and baseless accusations. Once the court has completed its process, a fair and just verdict ought to be reached. We are appalled by today's decision of a judge in Paris to keep Dr. Ramadan under arrest, despite the fact that he is seriously ill and needs special medical attention. This is an inhumane and completely biased decision.

If it is proven beyond any reasonable doubt that Dr. Tariq Ramadan is guilty, he will face the consequences of his actions. But if he is found innocent we must do everything to exonerate him. And we must take those to task who have tried to vilify him in this most disgraceful way. That would be the normal thing to do, that would be the civilized thing to do and that is what we expect the judicial authorities in particular to do.

Nonetheless, we are convinced that in the end the investigation will prove the innocence of Dr. Ramadan and that the nefarious designs of his accusers and their supporters will be finally exposed and visible to all.

In the meantime we at the German Muslim League request and appeal to all people to refrain from becoming the judge, the jury and the executioner all in one.

May Allah support us all in this time of trial!

The Board of the German Muslim League

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The DML is Germany's oldest continuously existing Islamic Organization, representing the interests of Muslims in Germany. It was founded 1949 by German Muslims in the city of Hamburg. The DML is founding member of the Central Council of Muslims in Germany. The DML proves with its constructive and creative presence, that Muslims and Islam are part and parcel of Germany's past, present and future.

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