

"No concealment but enlightenment"

Critical Islam conference

The "friends of Islam" bloc with adherents from the economy, politics, the media, science, the churches and so forth, is a tightly-knit movement that spans various ideologies, such as 'professional dialogue-seekers', post-Stalinist anti-imperialists or even right-wing extremists who admire Islam. As opposed to these groups, the supporters of a democratic-emancipatory critical stance towards Islam and Islamism are not yet sufficiently linked.

That is regrettable, even more so because there exists a common opinion in Germany among the domestic population, which is wide-spread but, nevertheless, scarcely voiced. This opinion allows accurate insights in the reactionary constitution common to the Islamic culture of authority, even though critics of Islam see themselves confronted with stereotypical defamation, like being "racist" and "xenophobic". That's why it is about time to gather those domestic and foreign forces in Germany that deal critically with the "Islam complex" and recognise it as a global, socio-political challenge, in a discussion forum (e.g. authors, project groups, organisations).

Only recently, some now well-recognised critics, like Ayan Hirsi Ali, Necla Kelek or Seyran Ates, have managed to poke some holes into that misty curtain of taboos, censorship and the defamation of viewpoints that are critical towards Islam. That has been done by raising issues in public like the oppression of women, genital mutilation, forced marriages, honour killings and so on. That activism has been answered at once by propaganda of Muslim lobbyists and their various supporters. We want to oppose that anti-enlightenment alliance by forming a progressive-emancipatory league of domestic and immigrated critics of Islam.

We would therefore like to call on all progressive-democratic forces to join in a dialogue about the potential global and domestic threats of the Islamic tradition of authority and, to that end, plan to organise a critical Islam-conference in autumn/winter 2007.

Following are the issues that are going to be discussed:

- I. Islam as religion and tradition of authority
- II. Causes and characteristics of Islamism
- III. Varieties and characteristics of islamistic terrorism
- IV. Islamic patriarchy, Muslim socialisation and the role of the woman
- V. Islam/Islamism and immigration
- VI. Islam/Islamism and antisemitism
- VII. Islamicmanism as common German culture and enlightenment as a response to the Islamic tradition of authority

We are going to publicly announce the precise date and the location of the conference in good time.

Contact:

Hartmut Krauss; "Hintergrund" magazine, tel: +49 (0)541 444229, e-mail: hintergrund-verlag@t-online.de;
Arzu Toker, Zentralrat der Ex-Muslime, <http://www.ex-muslime.de>