



ADOPT A PRISONER PROFILE: MOHAMMED BOUYERI PREPARED: Jan 2010

AGE	31
NATIONALITY	Dutch / Moroccan
COUNTRY HELD	Netherlands
SENTENCE	Natural Life
PRISON	PI Vught **



Personal Biography *

Mohammed Bouyeri was born in Amsterdam in 1978, the son of Moroccan parents. He completed his high school education in the mid-90s, and attended university until 2000. He volunteered with a community group in the Slotervaart area of Amsterdam. As he began to practice more, he found a lot of the activities he did whilst working in the community neighbourhood organisation, such as serving alcohol, were not permissible Islamically. Instead he spent more time at a local mosque in Amsterdam, meeting like-minded brothers and spending time studying the deen, until he was accused of killing the film director Theo van Gogh in 2004.

Brief Details about his Case

Mohammed was arrested in 2004, after being accused of murdering Theo Van Gogh. Theo van Gogh had irked many Muslims by seeking to ridicule Islam, provoke Muslims around the world and cause controversy. According to police, Van Gogh was killed by six bullets and an attempt at decapitation. Bouyeri was put on trial for this, where he refused to recognise the court as having any legitimate authority. He has stated however that the Islamic punishment for those who insult the Prophet (peace be upon him) is death, and the courts took this to mean that he would do the same given the opportunity. As such, he was given a "whole life" tariff, which means with the exception of clemency from the Dutch Monarch, he will spend the rest of his life in prison.

Why Should I Adopt Mohammed?

Mohammed's public persona if the press is to be believed is one of a near-psychotic individual who sounds like a monster. Nothing could be further from the truth. He is well-spoken, more articulate in his third language of English than others first language, extremely academic and scholarly, with a fine sense of humour. He is fluent in several languages, including Dutch, English and French, as well as knowing some Arabic. He enjoys reading, and if he is in possession of a good book or finds a good article, he has on occasion copied this whole article out by hand to share. He is worlds away from the demon created in the press, and a delight to write to.

MAILING ADDRESS

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* Disclaimer: This biography is written through availability of primary, secondary and tertiary sources and though efforts have been made to ensure its accuracy, this does not mean that it is free from error. As such, this item should not be referred to in newspaper reports, publications or court documents.

** Mailing Address correct at time of publication, however is subject to change. Please contact Global Voice for Justice campaigners team to ensure you have the correct address.

A Campaigners guide to writing letters and sending goods to the Prisoners:
http://globalvoiceforjustice.uma.hm/?page_id=124