

May 10, 2017

Dear Facebook administrators,

We, the undersigned organizations, represent hundreds of thousands of ex-Muslims, secularists, humanists, atheists, and agnostics who are dedicated to safeguarding the universal human rights for freedom of religion, belief, and expression.

Due to abuse of Facebook's reporting tools, atheist and ex-Muslim organizations and groups find themselves yet again the target of censorship campaigns by religious conservatives. We respectfully ask that Facebook create mechanisms to prevent abuse of its features so that our organizations and groups do not fear unjust restriction and removal.

Following what appears to be a coordinated reporting and flagging campaigns, multiple Facebook Groups and Pages are routinely restricted or shut down. Each time, Facebook claims that the restriction or removal is due to violations of its terms of service and community standards. However, each time, no details are given as to which standards are violated. Sometimes, the decision is overturned after appeals and campaigns, sometimes it is not.

Online spaces like Facebook are the last refuge for many atheists and secularists in the Muslim world. Apostates are [persecuted](#) by [governments](#), [threatened by fundamentalist theocrats](#), and [murdered](#) by [vigilantes](#) all over [the Muslim world](#) and [beyond](#). Even in the West, many apostates hide their lack-of-faith from friends and family for fear of retribution and social ostracization.

The internet, however, has provided this vulnerable minority with a sense of community that can be impossible to attain in their everyday lives. Atheists can share their beliefs, spreading their ideas and literature in anonymity – considered by many to be a key factor in the [rise of atheist visibility](#) in the Muslim world. Facebook in particular has been a boon to community-building efforts among persecuted minorities around the world. In fact, the greater the persecution faced by the group, the more vital the online connectivity and activism.

However, even online, our groups maintain a precarious position, as coordinated attacks using Facebook's reporting tools are simple and effective. The same social media which empowers religious minorities is susceptible to abuse by religious fundamentalists to enforce what are essentially the equivalent of online blasphemy laws. A simple English-language search reveals hundreds of public [Groups](#) and [Pages](#) on Facebook explicitly dedicated to this purpose – giving their members easy-to-follow instructions on how to report public groups and infiltrate private ones.

Attacks of this nature are not new. Arab atheists, Bangladeshi secularists, and numerous other groups have been under attack for years, as religious conservatives in the Muslim world learn to abuse Facebook's reporting system to their advantage. Early last year, [multiple atheist and](#)

[secularist groups were targeted](#) with mass, coordinated infiltration and reporting – leading to the closure of many groups. These groups were eventually restored, but only after a lengthy and sustained effort by organizers to draw public attention to the issue.

However, they, along with dozens of other atheist and ex-Muslim groups and organizations, remain vulnerable to future harassment and targeted campaigns, and many face regular cycles of removal, appeal, and restoration.

So long as the procedures for reporting are liable to be easily misused, the most vulnerable groups will again find themselves without the support and connectivity so vital to their existence and growth.

We, the undersigned, request that Facebook take measures to improve their reporting mechanisms and protect vulnerable groups which rely on its services.

Facebook should create a whitelist for Groups and Pages which are determined as vulnerable to malicious attacks. Reports and flags aimed at these groups should not be handled by automated mechanisms but reviewed and given due consideration by a trained Facebook employee.

Facebook should also penalize individual accounts and groups which are found to have been repeatedly abusing its reporting system.

These measures will help ensure that social media continues to be a valuable asset for empowerment of dissenting and minority voices - we respectfully ask Facebook to develop and implement these measures as soon as possible.

Signed:

Atheist Republic  
Ex-Muslims of North America (EXMNA)  
American Atheists  
American Humanists Association  
Arab Atheist Network  
Association of Mindfulness Meditation  
Ateizm Derneği  
Atheist Alliance of America  
Atheist Alliance International  
Atheist Nexus  
Black Nonbelievers, Inc.  
British Humanist Association (BHA)  
Center for Inquiry (CFI)

Central Council of Ex-Muslims  
Council of Ex-Muslims of Britain  
Council of Ex-Muslims of France  
Council for Secular Humanism  
Ex-Muslims of Norway  
Faith to Faithless  
Foundation Beyond Belief  
Freethought Action  
Freethought Society  
Hispanic American Freethinkers  
Institute for Humanist Studies  
International Humanist and Ethical Union (IHEU)  
Society for Humanistic Judaism  
The Humanist Community at Harvard  
The Humanist Hub  
Institute for Science and Human Values, Inc.  
Military Association of Atheists & Freethinkers  
Mukto Mona  
One Law for All  
Pakistani Atheists and Agnostics  
Richard Dawkins Foundation for Reason & Science (RDFRS)  
Secular Buddhism  
Secular Coalition for America  
Secular Students Alliance  
United Coalition of Reason  
UU Humanist Association  
#VoteSecular  
دخلك بتعرف؟ / dkhlak.com



### Filter Results

#### SHOW ONLY

- Any group
- Public groups
- Closed groups

#### MEMBERSHIP

- Any group
- Friends' groups
- My groups



#### Report Anti-Islamic pages

+1 Join

11,493 members · 81 new members

لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ مُحَمَّدٌ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ ... THERE IS NO GOD BUT ALLAH AND MUHAMMAD SALLALLAHU ALAIHY WASSALAM IS THE MESSENGER OF ALLAH... Muslim Brothers and sisters!!! The Mai...



#### Report Anti Islamic pages

+1 Join

196 members



#### Report Anti-Islamic Pages

+1 Join

94 members

Help us to Shut down all The Anti-Islamic Pages by Reporting them. If You See Any Page against Islam, Just Post the Page link in this group. We will Report those Pages.



#### Report Anti Islamic Pages

+1 Join

2,081 members · 2 new members

Request To All new and old members of this group, please report All the links in this group, here we will post the anti Islamic pages, post your link here in this group we will make the direct report link ...



#### Report abuse to anti islamic pages

+1 Join

126 members

Assalam o Alaikum, dear brother and sister plz promote this group and join us to report abuse to anti islamic community



#### REPORT ANTI ISLAMIC PAGES

+1 Join

76 members

the aim of this page is to report those pages which are anti islamin,proper way to report is 1- Click on "report page". 2- Click on "Hate Speech" 3- Choose "targets on Religious group" 4- Click on...



#### Report Anti Islamic Pages

+1 Join

56 members · 1 new member

Report anti Islamic pages is one of a group who reports the pages/profiles/posts/comments or anvthing else which does against

Filter Results

LIKED BY FRIENDS

Liked by Friends

VERIFIED

Verified

CATEGORY

- Any category
- Local Business or Place
- Company, Organization or Institution
- Brand or Product
- Artist, Band or Public Figure
- Entertainment
- Cause or Community



**Anti Islamic Pages - Plz Rep...**

Message Like

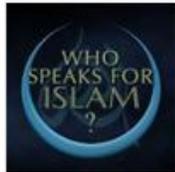
Community · 1,764 like this  
HELP US SHUT DOWN ALL THE ANTI ISLAMIC PAGES BY REP...



**Report and remove anti isla...**

Message Like

Community · 5,064 like this



**Report Anti Islamic Pages**

Message Like

Community · 253 like this  
Join us to Report All Anti Islamic pages and groups on facebook.



**Report Anti Islamic Pages**

Message Like

Community · 722 like this  
report Anti islamic Pages



**RePort All "Anti Islamic Pag..**

Message Like

Book · 567 like this  
our target 1000000000000..... members only for Islam ...plx shar...



**Let's Report Anti Islamic / A...**

Message Like

Community · 175 like this  
The purpose of this page is to Report anti Islamic / anti Shia pages...



**Muslims Report And Delete...**

Message Like

Company · 585 like this

# Report Anti-Islamic pages

Closed Group

Join this group to see the discussion, post and comment.

[+ Join Group](#)

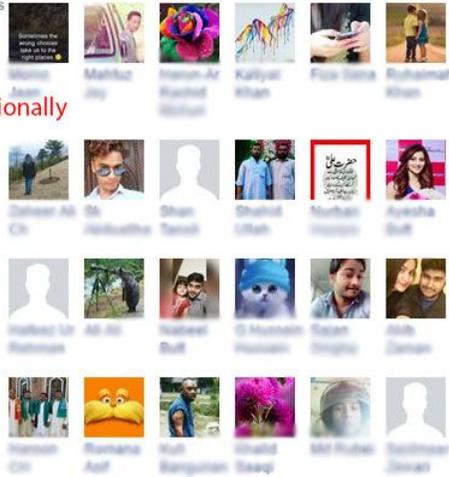
Members (11,493)

[See All](#)

### Admins



### Other Members



\*\* Names of members intentionally blurred

MEMBERS

11,493 Members



### DESCRIPTION

لا اله الا الله محمد رسول الله  
THERE IS NO GOD BUT ALLAH AND MUHAMMAD SALLALLAHU ALAIHY WASSALAM IS THE ...MESSENGER OF ALLAH

!!!Muslim Brothers and sisters  
The Main aim of this Group is to report those Pages/Groups which are against Islam (Anti islamic .(Pages/Groups

..HowToReportAPage#

Open the Page -1

..Click on "report page -2

"Click on "Hate Speach -3

"Choose "targets on Religious group -4

"Click on "Continue -5

"Click on "report to FaceBook -6

..click "Continue" button -7

"Click "OK -8

### Important Instructions About Reporting

Brothers don't comment & post on any anti-islamic page this would result of promotion of them just silently report

Kindly do not report more than 5 pages at a time..

Wait or 10 minutes and do it again for further

WakuUp\_Muslims#

PLEASE READ FB COMMUNITY\*\*\*\*

...STANDARDS

[https://www.facebook.com/communitystandards?refid=18&\\_\\_tn\\_\\_=%2As](https://www.facebook.com/communitystandards?refid=18&__tn__=%2As)

### TAGS

Islam · Security · Report