



جمعية العلماء ومدرسي الدين الإسلامي بسنغافورة

PERSATUAN ULAMA DAN GURU-GURU AGAMA ISLAM (SINGAPURA)  
SINGAPORE ISLAMIC SCHOLARS & RELIGIOUS TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

**PERGAS**

## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

16 January 2015

### **RESPONSE BY PERGAS REGARDING THE RECENT PUBLICATION OF A CARTOON DEPICTING PROPHET MUHAMMAD (P.B.U.H) BY FRENCH SATIRICAL MAGAZINE, CHARLIE HEBDO.**

We refer to the recent edition of the French satirical weekly magazine, 'Charlie Hebdo', published last Wednesday, which featured a cartoon claimed to depict Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him). This irresponsible move by the magazine is not new, and in fact, it has featured other cartoons claimed to depict Prophet Isa. Both Christians and Muslims believe in Prophet Isa. (May Allah be pleased with him).

2 Pergas sees the move by 'Charlie Hebdo' as an absolute insult and vilification of Islam and Muslims. In fact, such irresponsible acts may stir up the feelings of the global Muslim community, and may provoke and lead to responses from extremists.

3 The previous publications of cartoons by the magazine, said to depict Prophet Muhammad (p.b.u.h) ended with the tragic and senseless murder of several cartoonists from Charlie Hebdo and three French police officers including a Muslim, Ahmed Merabat; which then led to revenge attacks against the Muslim community in France; including a bomb thrown at a mosque in Le Man, bombing of a restaurant beside a mosque in Villefranche-sur-Saone and shootings aimed at a mosque Port-la-Nouvelle, as reported by local and international media.

4 Due to this incident, we would like to affirm that Pergas deeply regrets and strongly condemns the senseless killings and any acts of violence that affects both Muslims and non-Muslims.

5 Islam deeply respects and places high importance on Prophets and Messengers. Thus, Muslim scholars prohibit any pictorial depiction of the Prophets and Messengers, including Prophet Muhammad (p.b.u.h). It was highlighted in a fatwa by Egypt-based Dar Al-Ifta' (an organisation of Muslim scholars) which explained that this prohibition is to ensure the nobility and high stature of the Prophets and Messengers. It is on this basis that any pictorial depiction of the Prophets and Messengers, be it in the form of drawings, sculptures or even using actors, are strictly prohibited.

6 Pergas would also like to commend the Singapore Muslim community for displaying maturity in dealing with this issue. The local Muslim community must maintain its maturity and rationality in dealing with provocations by irresponsible as well as extremist groups like the issue of 'Charlie Hebdo' cartoons.

7 At the same time, Pergas would like to remind Singaporean Muslims not to disseminate and share these cartoons that insult Islam. Any action to do so is in fact a form of free publicity for Charlie Hebdo, and will boost the magazine's circulation.

8 Pergas hopes that this issue will be a lesson for the Muslim community in Singapore to be grateful for the peaceful relations that we have achieved in this country and value the harmonious living that we continue to enjoy. Hopefully, any religious and racial tensions can be resolved and the good relations between people of various faiths can be strengthened through mutual respect and understanding.

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