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Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2011

Dear Sir,

Ephraim Hardcastle's column in Tuesday's paper mentions the new three part series produced by the BBC on the Life of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) to be broadcast from Monday 11<sup>th</sup> July.

Hardcastle writes:

*"But how will they get round the fact that no images of Mohammad are permitted and believers are prone to riot if infidels disobey this rule? By having a spoken description of the Prophet."*

We would like to draw Hardcastle's attention to Islamic history, past and contemporary.

Images of the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) can be found in archives of Islamic art and miniaturism, ranging from blanked out faces to veils screening his face, in reverence of his status and in adherence to Islamic doctrine forbidding idolatry. The BBC documentary sensibly makes use of this archival material.

As for *"believers [being] prone to riot if infidels disobey this rule,"* we would expect Hardcastle to be rather more discerning and less glib in his appraisal of the Dutch cartoons controversy.

The point of contention was not that images and caricatures of the Prophet (pbuh) were produced by cartoonists but that their nature – one showing a bomb concealed beneath a turban being the most monstrous – was deeply offensive to Muslims everywhere. We would hope that Hardcastle would understand the inappropriateness of cartoons that associate Islam or the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) with terrorism as much as cartoons portraying Jews using tropes that are clearly anti-Semitic.

Hardcastle might find it beneficial to tune in to the BBC's three part series on the Life of Muhammad (pbuh). It may prove enlightening.

Yours sincerely,

Mohammed Asif  
CEO