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26<sup>th</sup> July 2011

Dear Mr Pollard,

We are somewhat alarmed at the content of the column contributed by Geoffrey Alderman to the paper ('Wilders serves freedom's cause', JC, Friday 15<sup>th</sup> July).

Mr Alderman writes of the recent Dutch ban on ritual slaughter of animals stating "In a frenzy of passion against Islam, the Dutch have punished the Jews."

Would Mr Alderman find it reasonable then if the ban applied to only 'halal' processes and not kosher ones, the better to allow the Dutch to focus their "frenzy of passion" against the 'right' community? Surely if there is an area in which Muslims and Jews share common interest and concern, and there are many, it is in the provision for meat slaughtered according to the Divine Law?

Mr Alderman goes on to make egregious claims in seeking to draw an equivalence between Islam, Islamic states and fascism and defends Geert Wilders' acquittal in the case involving incitement to religious hatred arguing *that "The oppressive regime of political correctness, which prevented honest opinions being voiced and unpleasant truths being uttered, is now at an end."*

We doubt Mr Alderman would be quite so enthusiastic in cheering free speech if the acquittal had involved one accused of inciting hatred against Jews.

And it is positively farcical that he could write of the championing of honest opinions, unpleasant truths and due process of law when in recent days the Government, at the behest of Jewish organisations, have imprisoned Sheikh Raed Salah, leader of the Palestinian Islamic Movement, on unfounded allegations of anti-Semitism while pushing ahead with amendments to the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill to allow Israeli officials to travel to the UK unhindered by arrest warrants for prosecution for alleged war crimes.

Yours sincerely,

Mohammed Asif  
CEO