



Political Islam Online

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Israel Honored at “Le Salon du Livre” – Arabs Object

Two European countries (Italy and France) decided this week to commemorate the sixtieth anniversary of the creation of the state of Israel by inviting many Israeli writers as guests of honor at their respective book fairs in Turin and Paris. Arab and Egyptian writers’ associations angrily



protested the news. In a statement presented to the French foreign ministry, the associations complained that the action was in blatant disregard of the feelings of Palestinians and asked that the French, who have long championed freedom and human rights, to show more consideration, particularly in view of recent Israeli actions towards Palestinians in the Gaza strip. Islamist *Tariq Ramadan* called for a boycott of the book fairs.

Source: http://www.al-khayma.com/culture/salondulivreparis_21022008.htm 2/25/2008



“Love and Sex of the Prophet”

Al-Azhar decided this week to censure and seize all copies of the book “Love and Sex in the Prophet’s Life.” The book was written by a young Egyptian woman psychologist from Alexandria, *Basnat Rashad*, and was published this past July. The controversy did not erupt until this month when a satellite station known for its radical views, *Al-Hikmah*, attacked the author for having insulted the prophet Muhammad and Muslim clerics publicly ordered her

killed even if she repents. The publisher of the book, *Hamadah Imam Al-Sayyid*, has also received death threats.

Source: <http://www.asharqalawsat.com/details.asp?section=64&article=459250&issueno=10675> 2/19/2008



Qaddafi’s Son Takes Leading Role in Reconciling with Militants

Libya announced Sunday that several jailed members of the “Libyan Fighters” group will be released. Qaddafi’s son, *Sayf Al-Islam*, was seen as instrumental in brokering the agreement under which the militants promised to give up the use of force and spreading of radical views as a condition of their release. The agreement comes three weeks after the death of *Abu al-Layth al-Libi* in Pakistan, who was considered Libya’s best known *al-Qaeda* member.

Source: <http://www.aljazeera.net/NR/exeres/E125720D-C997-479B-BE73-527EEFD18514.htm> 2/25/2008

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