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## Gender Clash: Why Is Saudi Arabia So Angry at Sweden?

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**@MaysamBehavesh**

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Last updated: March 23, 2015

**Gender clash: Why is Saudi Arabia so angry at Sweden?**

**"Probably, the situation would have been different, had those statements been presented by a male politician hailing from another state"**

🚩 **HIGH POLITICS** The recent diplomatic row between Saudi Arabia and Sweden has raised serious concerns about Swedish relations with the Arab world in general and the oil-rich Gulf country in particular. The controversy emerged after Riyadh blocked Swedish Foreign Minister Margot Wallström's speech at an Arab League summit in Cairo on 9 March, where she had been invited as a guest of honor to address the Arab foreign ministers on the rights of Palestinians, the threat of



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**Mentalizing Yemen's chaos**

growing extremism and the need for development and democracy in the region. One day later, on 10 March, Sweden **announced** the termination of a controversial decade-long arms deal with the Kingdom.

**SUCH DISPUTES** are not uncommon between Islamic governments in the Middle East and their liberal peers in the West, which often confront each other publicly on how issues like human rights, civil liberties, treatment of minorities, and respect for divine religions should be dealt with.

What sets this diplomatic spat apart, however, is Riyadh's unexpectedly harsh reaction first to an honorary talk, which it obstructed, and then to the scrapping of a commonplace arms deal. After all, Wallström's undelivered **speech** did not single out any specific country over its putatively abusive human rights practices nor did it contain any strong word of criticism against Islam or Muslims at large. The most prominent part of the address is perhaps where she emphasizes the International Women's Day (8 March) and its meaning: "This is a day to celebrate women's achievements, recognise challenges, and focus attention on women's rights, women's representation and their adequate resources. Our experience is that women's rights do not only benefit women, but society as a whole."

In a similar vein, given Saudi Arabia's close partnership with some of the world's preeminent military powers, the Swedish refusal to renew the arms agreement could hardly be perceived to damage its national security or defense planning and thus was not expected to elicit an angry reaction. Yet, Saudis recalled their ambassador to Stockholm on the same day that the deal was scrapped citing Sweden's "flagrant interference" in their internal affairs, and further on mobilized the 22-member **Arab League** (AL) as well as the 57-member **Organization of Islamic Cooperation** (OIC) in vocal condemnation of the Swedish government, so much so that even the United Arab Emirates, a Saudi regional ally, summoned its ambassador to Sweden too. In a rare escalation shortly afterwards, the Kingdom **declared** on 19 March that it would no longer issue business visas for Swedes or extend the current visas of Swedish nationals staying in the country.

*"After all, Wallström's undelivered speech did not single out any specific country"*

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A backlash of this intensity and magnitude is quite puzzling and unconventional in diplomatic practice and thus requires a different set of analytic lenses to understand.

Far from being essentially a dispute over democratic governance or even human rights, the current Saudi-Swedish row basically represents a clash of **state genders**, pitting a "masculine" religious autocracy against a "feminine" social democracy. A combination of historical, religious and political forces has turned Saudi Arabia into "a most masculine state", where women are trapped between a patriarchal push for piety and a modern aspiration for liberty. Notoriously, it is the sole state in the world that practically bans women from driving. Women in the Kingdom are also required to secure a "**male guardian's**" permission to be able to work or travel. Along these lines, the inflated Saudi reaction to the Swedish foreign minister's address is indeed the reaction of a masculinist state to a "woman" speaking on behalf of a feminine state and promoting a



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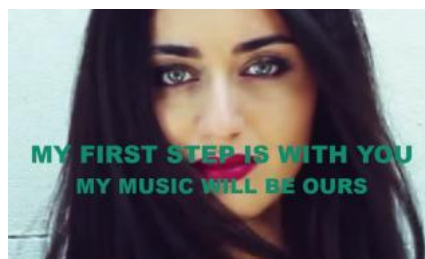
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“feminist foreign policy”. For Saudi patriarchs ruling over such a state, the rub of the issue lies in the fact that they simply cannot “take it” from a “woman”. Probably, the situation would have been different, had those statements been presented by a male politician hailing from another state.

“Striving toward gender equality”, in the words of Wallström, “is therefore not only a goal in itself, but also a precondition for achieving our wider foreign, development and security policy objectives”. With a “feminist” foreign policy thus formulated, Sweden is naturally expected to be on a collision course not only with practitioners of state “masculinism” in world politics, but also with those of state “militarism” as another face of aggressive corporate masculinity. Diplomatic dispute with Israel following the recognition by Sweden of a Palestinian state is one remarkable example of the latter clash. “Our decision to recognise Palestine”, according to her, “aims at making the parties of the conflict less unequal...They need to see that there is an alternative to violence”.



**OBVIOUSLY**, implementing this gender- and equality-oriented foreign policy will come at a price in a world still dominated by masculine power relations and structures, and particularly if it marks a palpable break from the past. As a Stockholm-based writer contends, “(t)he truth is that Sweden’s ‘progressive’ foreign policy is a decades-long study in *äta tortan och ha den kvar*—having your cake and eating it (too). The self-described ‘humanitarian superpower’ is, *per capita*, simultaneously the EU’s most generous humanitarian-aid donor and its biggest arms exporter”.

This is basically why the current diplomatic row makes for an historic litmus test for Sweden under Social Democrats. The Swedish government should stand its ground against Saudi business threats, as the way it deals with the situation will demonstrate the viability of a “feminist foreign policy” in practice. More significantly, however, resistance will earn Sweden the moral high ground in the community of nations as well as in the global public opinion, setting an important normative precedent other Western democracies may be encouraged to follow. It is only then we can start speaking of Sweden as a true “normative power” in the world.

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Magnus Widman · 4 days ago

Let's hope that all women will wear a "Je suis Margot" T-shirt tomorrow. it's a bit optimistic to hope it will happen in Saudi Arabia considering the risks involved with a



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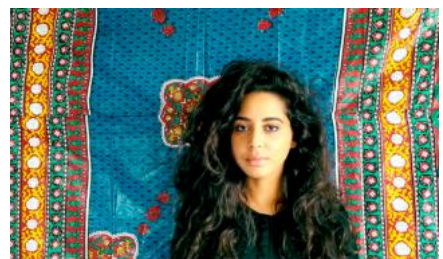
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Sharia law in full swing. But just to support all the voiceless women in the world I write it here so that they can acknowledge it in silence without risking corporal punishment - that is if they have access to internet.

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ·



**Nawaaf Almutanbi** → Magnus Widman · 3 days ago

LOL

You are so cheap! (different names, same idiot!)

^ | v · Reply · Share ·



**Bader Al Omar** · 4 days ago

What an idiot! Why isn't there a mention of Wallstrom's tweets? Don't you know that she called the Kingdom medieval, a dictatorship, and demanded a stop to a ruling by court in a clear interference by a foreign state?? Get your facts right before writing up an article full of holes!

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ·



**ertomanse1** → Bader Al Omar · 4 days ago

But it says itself it bases its laws on medieval laws? And it is a dictatorship? So why are you so upset?

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ·



**Bader Al Omar** → ertomanse1 · 4 days ago

The so called "writer" has hijacked the issue and suggested that Saudi's strong reaction was because of Wallstrom's gender. He wiped out the fact that Wallstrom, a state representative, has flagrantly interfered in Saudi internal affairs by her tweets which were written before the Cairo speech. Those tweets abused diplomatic conventions and norms. If you are not familiar with how states interact with each other, I suggest you go learn before commenting here.

^ | v · Reply · Share ·



**Screwtape** → Bader Al Omar · 3 days ago

Are you claiming that her gender had naught to do with the reaction? I'm sure the Kingdom could ignore those just as easily as the international outcry for clemency for Raif Badawi.

^ | v · Reply · Share ·



**Bader Al Omar** → Screwtape · 3 days ago

Where was gender when late King Khalid signed one of the biggest defence project deals with Margaret Thatcher? Where was gender when two weeks ago the current King Salman signed a nuclear deal with the South Korean female president in Riyadh? Did they somehow come disguised as men to Riyadh? Why did Queen Elizabeth lower the Union Jack flag to half mast because of King Abdullah's death in January if Saudi Arabia was so Medieval?

^ | v · Reply · Share ·



**Jayberto** → Bader Al Omar · 2 days ago

Thatcher doesn't count, dude, everybody knows that!! Lowering the flag is sometimes a sign of (whew) relief!! Anyone so familiar with international diplomatic protocols would know this Bader.. your repressive and entitled dictatorship is on a course of self destruction and sooner the better... better take up a trade, son as your free money is soon to stop flowing!!! :->...

^ | v · Reply · Share ·



**Bader Al Omar** → Jayberto · 2 days ago

Plz try to make sense. Do you speak English?

^ | v · Reply · Share ·



**Magnus Widman** → Bader Al Omar · 3 days ago

Which sort of goes to the core of this. The only way for Saudi Arabia to muffle criticism is to pay to avoid it. They happen to do so by buying weapons. Everybody is selling to Saudi Arabia. That Sweden stopped selling was internal politics. The moment they run out of cash the respect will be gone. If not every country in EU plus US is selling weapons to Saudi Arabia they will keep a low profile. The kind of respectful silence you get for money only lasts as long as you continue to pay. The reaction by Saudi Arabia is significant. instead of calming down and discuss, they went into a petulant frenzy, The Arab League has denounced her for criticizing the lack

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The Tunis attack and a new world order

of human rights in Saudi Arabia, and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), which represents 57 Arab and Muslim states. And for what? For saying that a sentence of 1,000 lashes and a decade in prison for secular blogging is medieval. Raef Badawi's blogging is quite harmless I can assure you. Actually from where she comes from it was unusual with punishment that harsh during the middle ages.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**Bader Al Omar** → Magnus Widman · 3 days ago

It's up to you to stick to the narrow picture. This is the bigger picture if it interests you: Saudi was shocked at how Obama threw his long time ally, Egypt's Mubarak, under the bus in 2011. Obama decided to interfere on the side of the brotherhood's led riots which ignited long and bloody revolutions throughout the Arab world. By being aggressive to Sweden, Saudi wants to set an example for other Western powers that any future interference will be met with hard measures. Even though I'm disgusted by the flogging and the whole affair, I stand firmly by my government. Without domestic security and stability, reforms will have no chance anyway.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**Sylvia Suttor** → Bader Al Omar · 18 hours ago

Your government is an epitome of corruption and hypocrisy . While Sweden appears be the "only" country that decided to sanction Saudi Arabia over their record of human rights abuses, I can assure that many European countries share the same revulsion towards the Saudis. Following Sweden's heroism Claudia Roth (Vice President of the German Parliament) stated in an interview for with a German newspaper Welt am Sonntag that Saudi Arabia is "the top terror exporter in the Middle East," adding that "a large portion" of extremist militants in Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq hail from Saudi Arabia. She also remarked on Germany's guidelines on weapons exports which make it "crystal clear that deliveries cannot be made to such countries." Sweden as a country may not have immense economic power to put enough pressure on the Saudis-- BUT--- unified EU countries are an economic force not to be dismissed lightly ... it's only a matter of time before Saudis will have to compromise and transform their political and judiciary systems to accommodate freedom of expression, equality under the rule of non-sectarian law, religious freedom and freedom of choice.

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**Bader Al Omar** → Sylvia Suttor · 18 hours ago

Sorry Madam! The European Union is not an economic force anymore.. It's a sinking ship sweetie.. Go find yourself a life boat, or ask us nicely, we might give you one of our many spare ones. Psst.. China and the ASEAN is the new economic power, so plz update your info. Now I leave you to deal with Mr Putin's bombers.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**Magnus Widman** → Bader Al Omar · 3 days ago

The bigger picture from my perspective and probably everybody else in the west, is that Saudi Arabia has oil money which everybody wants to participate in sharing. It's blood money of course because you have to be silent about a despicable system. I don't understand how you can say that you are disgusted by the flogging. The flogging is a part of the structure of that society that you stand by. The Sharia laws ARE that society and that government. You can't have the cake and eat it at the same time. Sweden are missing out on the military deal but the overall arms industry in Sweden is soaring. And the root for the malfunctioning arms deal is that Sweden are not allowed to sell weapons to a country with such an appalling human rights record. Often they ignore that and sell anyway because the money is sweet. This time it became too political so they had to back out. The aggressive stance against Sweden will not be easy to sustain over time when as you know Sweden is an EU country and will be supported by it's members. For Saudi Arabia, it will be hard to single out one country for extinction without getting into trouble with them all as they are obligated to support each other


1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**Nawaaf Almutanbi** → Magnus Widman · 2 days ago

 >> The bigger picture << and >> from my perspective and probably everybody else in the west << please don't inflate your self so much, you might burst. a small picture, according to your knowledge, is more correct, and talk on behalf of your self, not everybody else! coz we all know that there are some real educated people in the west, with great minds and vast knowledge and respect to other cultures and systems. Thank you and no buns intended.

^ | v · Reply · Share ·

 **Bader Al Omar** → Magnus Widman · 3 days ago

That system you are claiming to be despicable is slowly being reformed at its own pace after overcoming many obstacles with out endangering domestic stability. Those obstacles are too hard for you, as a Westerner, to understand. The sad thing is that you are judging a conservative Muslim Middles Eastern country from a Western perspective. Its like wearing a snow Jacket in the Arabian Empty Quarter desert. You are adding salt to coffee. Learn about how Saudi was formed, its founder, the history of Wahhabism and then come complaining. As for the rest of the EU, trust me those countries are lead by more mature politicians who value the Kingdom. Haven't you read the latest regarding this issue, Sweden is starting to have conciliatory statements while the Head of state, The Swedish King himself is "worried" and is offering to intervene. Your populist Western mentality have no place in real politics buddy.

^ | v · Reply · Share ·

 **Magnus Widman** → Bader Al Omar · 2 days ago

After having seen this discussion develop and seeing it the light of Swedish governments feminist stance declared last year, in particular by, Margot wallström one can only come to the conclusion that feminism violates Sharia and it's this that creates an insurmountable obstacle in the dialogue between the two countries. What they see as holy law, she just sees as institutional oppression. It's not surprising, when you think about it, a society where every woman is obligated to have a Guardian who is responsible for all her major decisions - like child. This reality is never going to transcend into understanding and respect. But can in the west only at best be quiet criticism which some countries apply due to financial and political ties, more highly regarded than human rights and women's rights etc.

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ·


 **Magnus Widman** → Bader Al Omar · 3 days ago

For the first. The Swedish King has no political power. Head of State only means figurehead, in this case. Even though Sweden de facto is a Monarchy, the King has no executive power. That is why he is used in this context. He is outside politics and can operate without any political affiliation just create a peaceful resolution. Something the politicians cannot do here without sacrificing ideology. Margot Wallström, for instance, cannot be made to apologize (not that she has any interest in doing so), not even by the King. And I understood that she has no intention of doing so. She said bluntly: "I haven't done anything wrong". And she is right.

For a country to develop, any country, it is essential to create an atmosphere of change- not rigidity. A government in the right can handle a lot of criticism. A weak government must suffocate all dialogue in order for imminent problems within the society not to reveal themselves and surface. For instance, when you have a public execution or flogging. This is also done as a warning. This can happen to you -too. Fearmongering is always in the heart of a

[see more](#)

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ·

 **Nawaaf Almutanbi** → Magnus Widman · 2 days ago

To start with, I personally, don't care, with all respect, for the King to come or to make, what you termed " peace", those politicians, whose job is to be politicians and not Ideologists, ought not break things to start with, having broken them, they themselves ought to fix them. dealing between nations ought not be a tribal way of go between.

Your ideology, is not more important, to us, than our religion.

First of all, Quoting you: Making peace: "Something the politicians cannot do here without sacrificing Ideology."

Secondly, about Margot, Quoting you again: " She said bluntly:"I haven't done anything wrong". And she is right. " - end quote.

Well,somebody, somewhere, somehow, have done something wrong.

Here is the chronology of events:

1) We don't care to hear a speech about ideology, thank you, move away from the Cameras.

[see more](#)

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**Magnus Widman** → [Nawaaf Almutanbi](#) · 2 days ago

Maybe that is a touchy spot. Ideology and Humanism is closely linked in the Western world. It's under the protection of a western framework discussions like these can be held, and the humanism is at the core of this. It's a philosophical and ethical stance that emphasizes the value of human beings, individually and collectively, and generally prefers critical thinking and evidence (rationalism, empiricism) over established doctrine or faith (fideism). The meaning of the term humanism has fluctuated, according to the successive intellectual movements which have identified with it. Generally, however, humanism refers to a perspective that affirms some notion of a "human nature" (sometimes contrasted with anti-humanism) In modern times, today, humanist movements are typically aligned with secularism, and today "Humanism" typically refers to a non-theistic life stance centered on human agency, and looking to science instead of religious dogma in order to understand the world. So this is what Badawi was sentenced for, being secular. I can see why you don't like the idea of ideology as it puts the humanity in the forefront

[see more](#)

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**Magnus Widman** → [Magnus Widman](#) · 2 days ago

And I said "peaceful resolution" not peace. Don't take it out of context. The King is not used for political means, or at least are not supposed to. He is working as a mediator which makes his role easier. He represents Sweden without political affiliations. He is also not a dictator like a Saudi King ruling over life and death. That's all gone in Sweden. To have a mediator is quite the normal thing when things go astray. If not God is your mediator - as would be the fact in a tribal society such as Saudi Arabia- then a human mediator is superfluous. God tells you what is right and wrong with unchanging crystal precision. And in conjunction with fundamentalism and with a rigid position nothing can ever change.

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**Nawaaf Almutanbi** → [Magnus Widman](#) · a day ago

You are lying again, you said: "To make peace", then few hours after my post, you went back, revised your statement, then came to the above post to reply!

Not that I care, one way or another, you are full of lies from head to heels.

[^](#) | [v](#) · [Reply](#) · [Share](#) ·



**Magnus Widman** → [Nawaaf Almutanbi](#) · 21 hours ago

I'm lying again? When did I lie the first time? Yeah, lets resume to name calling that's the ticket. The wording in my comment was in discussing the role of the Swedish King [...] He is outside politics and can operate without any political affiliation just to create a peaceful resolution." Observe, I didn't deny that i used the root-word peace in a word." The way you paraphrased me, made it into something different. As you probably have noticed there is not a single opinion from the King in media. This is because he is not aloud to have a public opinion about politics. He is aloud to say: "Hey, let's be friends and not bicker". That is also what he is doing. He might be worried. But he certainly cannot do anything about it.

So now tell me what is this head to heel business? About me being full of lies. Just present a solid argument to me and everything will



be fine. You can only fight an argument with another argument, not with name calling. And after all - and to quote your Prophet - "Be honest because honesty leads to goodness, and goodness leads to Paradise. Beware of falsehood because it leads to immorality, and immorality leads to Hell." Who can lie after having read that.

^ | v · Reply · Share ·



**Islaye** → Bader Al Omar · 2 days ago

You or Nawaaf, on reforms. Some of us who have a tiny bit of knowledge of how it works in your country, can understand how difficult it is to do these reforms. We know that even kings have a problem fighting ingrained religious beliefs and customs and the power of the clerics.

What would be more appreciated is that 'moderates' as yourselves as you call yourselves, could be a bit less aggressive and more humble as to the work to be done. We even (I do) see the dangers of writing even on comments, you can be seen and get flogged, jailed and extortionate fine for the slightest words out of place.

You have said that you're disgusted with these sorts of punishments. That could no doubt cost you..

But do try and stop being aggressive towards westerners and less defensive because it just clashes with anybody who sees KSA as the most hellish place on earth, after N Korea. After all, we do see videos of these horrific practises, even if leaked. You cannot justify such things, and then be against beheadings by IS. It's the same thing in our eyes.

^ | v · Reply · Share ·



**Nawaaf Almutanbi** → Islaye · 2 days ago

Speaking for myself, I truly believe with all of my heart,, that your Media is portraying anunfair picture of our country, culture and people. there is so much miss -information, half truth, tottaly wrong and some put in the wrong prespective.

My father, God bless his soul, taught me that people fear what they don't know. and you westerners don't know much about us, and you come full force, telling us what we have is bad and must be changed, while, we think, it's what is in your heads -about us that needs to be changed, by really knowing the truth on how we are living.. how we view the world, which, i promise, is not threatening.

westerners who had the chance to live among us, i know many of them who did not wish to leave, and many brought thier families to, according to them. enjoy life here, in our country.

Sometimes,we feel offended, Just look at the title up above, the title

[see more](#)

^ | v · Reply · Share ·



**Islaye** → Nawaaf Almutanbi · 2 days ago

People do judge without knowing, but others judge because they've lived there, written books or films about it, and we've seen the OFFICIAL things and leaked things.

That's quite a lot.

^ | v · Reply · Share ·



**Nawaaf Almutanbi** → Islaye · 2 days ago

What have you seen? " the OFFICIAL things and leaked things.", tell me some. because all that I see in your posts are generalities, stereo types, misconceptions, and judgments and pre-judgments, from outside!

your hardest hitting facts are derived from Google, and Movies! and to top all of that, there is a venomous hatred, that creeps between the words and sentences you write.

^ | v · Reply · Share ·



**Islaye** → Nawaaf Almutanbi · an hour ago

And you, what do you do except write generalities about the 'west'. 'Shallow principles', calling women politicians 'feminists' as if it was a dirty word.

Official things are the laws, the edicts, fatwas, leaked things are like people filming beheadings, whippings, parties with men drinking alcohol, sex with prostitutes or girl friends, in between are numerous people living there, telling or writing books on their experiences, behaviour of Saudis abroad, etc. The list is long.

^ | v · Reply · Share ·



**Magnus Widman** → Nawaaf Almutanbi · 10 hours ago

Well for one, There is nothing in Islamic, or Shariah law, that sets a minimum age limit on marrying girls. The Saudi justice ministry had tried but failed to set 15 as a minimum age to marry a girl in the kingdom. But Grand Mufti Abdulaziz does it even "better," declaring there is nothing prohibiting Muslim men from marrying girls even younger. Grand Mufti Abdulaziz's more recent ruling on marrying young girls comes following a similar ruling in 2011 by Dr. Salih bin Fawzan, a prominent cleric and member of the Saudi's highest religious council, who issued a fatwa, or religious edict, that there is no minimum age to marry girls, "even if they are in the cradle." So institutionalised pedophilia is quite okay. These are not things that leaks out, but rather defended as a divine right - that is to have sex with children. This practice alone is grounds to cut all contact with the country or at least serve as a defense of Margot Wallströms stance. For those who can stomach this I paste a link: <http://www.dcclothesline.com/2...>

^ | v · Reply · Share ·



**Nawaaf Almutanbi** → Bader Al Omar · 2 days ago

Bader, please, don't sound apologetic It is our system, and we reform it, change it, with our own sweet time, fast or slow, it is our business and no one else.. Here is five for your bare chested great fight. lol

^ | v · Reply · Share ·



**Bader Al Omar** → Nawaaf Almutanbi · 2 days ago

Not apologetic buddy.. I'm only trying to find common ground with rather extremist Western commentators. Its proving hard, but we the moderates have to debate with reason. Extremism is evil on both sides of the line. Thnx for the support buddy :)

^ | v · Reply · Share ·



**Andrew Waqar** → Bader Al Omar · 3 days ago

u won't get it,keep riding camels.

^ | v · Reply · Share ·



**Bader Al Omar** → Andrew Waqar · 3 days ago

Clearly you have no argument, no idea how to debate, and probably you barely passed basic education. So the easiest way to take aim at me is to try a rude comment. So Congrats! You did pass rudeness but failed the debate :)

^ | v · Reply · Share ·



**Screwtape** → Bader Al Omar · 3 days ago

So, the Kingdom is cordial when there may be some gain, but cannot stomach criticism from a woman? And why invoke the OIC? That gives the impression that the affront was to the religion, potentially deepening a rift between nations structured around rationalism rather than theocracy.

Also, I have no inkling why the UK lowered their flag. I thought it was out-of-line, but wasn't consulted on the matter.

^ | v · Reply · Share ·



**Magnus Widman** → Screwtape · 20 hours ago

Good question Screwtape: Why invoke OIC? It doesn't seem to be that dramatic or such a biggie. A small country that talks about human rights, women's rights, and a minister calling flogging medieval. Would they have reacted the same if it was US or would they compromise with their pride?

^ | v · Reply · Share ·



**Bader Al Omar** → Screwtape · 3 days ago

I worry about your comprehensional abilities. This is about internal interferences between states, Saudi wouldn't have given a damn if she was a member of a human rights organisation. The fact that a

foreign country decided to meddle in the Saudi internal affairs is the sole reason behind the Saudi aggressive reaction. The OIC took issue because calling Sharia medieval is insulting to Islam. I totally disagree with the whole case against Badawi, but stand behind my government in putting a stop to any interference by any foreign state. This is solely for us Saudi's to deal with, not Sweden.

^ | v · Reply · Share ·



**Screwtape** → Bader Al Omar · 3 days ago

"Meddle" has a connotation that there is an active attempt to undermine the policy. She criticized the Kingdom and its policy as any leader should criticize a nation that refused to sign the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights on religious grounds.

^ | v · Reply · Share ·



**Bader Al Omar** → Screwtape · 3 days ago

She can criticize as she likes, and Saudi can react as it likes. Lets see who blinks first. Your ignorance of how Islam works is the sort of thing that contributes to the East West divide. Yet, with that ignorance, you go on to lecture Muslims on what to do instead of learning about the religion first. Don't expect a nation to give up its beliefs to appease Western shallow principles. Yes, most Muslims view western principles as being very shallow, yet they respect your choices and don't interfere!

^ | v · Reply · Share ·



**Hooman Parsa** → Bader Al Omar · 2 days ago

What Bader means is you should tolerate Saudi Arabia when they behead people according to Sharia, or flog people in public these are the requirements of religion of peace and you should respect it, if you don't respect beheading in public then you are an ignorant western citizen, why can't you guys just respect the religion of peace and it's be-headings and mutilating hands and legs in public?! Islam is the religion of peace and if you don't agree you should be beheaded too? right? see how peaceful it is?!

2 ^ | v · Reply · Share ·



**Magnus Widman** → Hooman Parsa · 2 days ago

Why can't the punitive Sharia legislation be separated from the religion of Islam itself? Is flogging, maiming, and executions such an instrumental part of the religion that you cannot criticize it as subhuman without getting into trouble. Modernize punishments and keep the religion as a religion of peace.

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**Nawaaf Almutanbi** → Hooman Parsa · 2 days ago

I peg to differ with you, what Badr meant, is that, we ought to listen to a preacher coming from the west, teaching us the high morality of not executing a system, in our own society, that has been working for us for years and years, and the vast majority of the people believe in because flogging an individual. or executing a criminal does not belong to Humanity, while if we look across the border, we see innocent people by the hundred of thousands being killed in the name of democracy and humanity. their countries being obliterated to smithereens., by that preacher's countries

^ | v · Reply · Share ·



**Magnus Widman** → Nawaaf Almutanbi · a day ago

If a system needs to bludgeon or beat to death everybody who opens their mouth to criticize the system, it is a dysfunctional system. Who criticized Saudi Arabia and lived to tell the story? Change comes from the grass roots and up. If you expect old guys at the top to represent change keep on dreaming. The people who are successful within the system does not change it they conserve it. That's how it is in every society. Saudi Arabia as well as Sweden. The only difference is that you don't put your life at risk in Sweden by criticizing it. I would love to have seen what would have happened if Wallstrom had been from Saudi Arabia and uttered any criticism against the system. Saudi Arabia only shows their people what happens if you want change and dare to open your mouth, by flogging them in public. The public flogging is directed not against the one who speaks but the one who thought of it but never did speak. And the use of excessive violence is, in this case, an act of the powerful who is in the wrong against the weak who is strong in

the soul and who is in the right. The blogger is flogged not for being wrong but for reminding the society of its faults.

^ | v · Reply · Share ·



**Bader Al Omar** → Hooman Parsa · 2 days ago

What would make Hooman happy, is to drop our religion, culture, open up bars and even ban anything Arabian just to make him happy. Hooman can't tolerate difference in beliefs, judicial systems, or culture. Saudi Arabia should actually mirror everything Western. Anything else would constitute a violation of human rights! I should actually buy my camels some sexy bras to make Hooman happy and not too scared of my camels being so different.

^ | v · Reply · Share ·



**Islaye** → Bader Al Omar · 2 days ago

KSA is biggest consumer of lingerie, especially Parisien for the wealthiest.

Nobody is saying KSA 'should mirror everything western', what they observe is that you take all the material comforts and hypocritically reject everything that made them possible. You want your cake and eat it. It's your hypocrisy, arrogance and cruelty that westerners find not only offensive, but literally dangerous.

It's not to say there's not hypocrisy in the western countries, if we were logical, we'd cut off everything to KSA. We have oil elsewhere and other energies. It will happen sooner than expected.

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ·



**Nawaaf Almutanbi** → Islaye · 2 days ago

The whole system of the west is, and the world for that matter, is built on consumption and consumerism. as a customer, I buy what pleases me, you can't sell me jeans and say: oh . by the way, you must adhere to Virginia Woolf's way of looking at men! If you do, I'll go to the shop next door, China that is.

They are from the east, and they have an old civilization, they understand me better maybe.

we are a proud people, culture and heritage, and we have our own Virginia woolfs.

thanks, am not going to buy yours. don't I, as a Human, a customer. have the right to decide for myself?

^ | v · Reply · Share ·



**Islaye** → Nawaaf Almutanbi · 2 days ago

Nobody is talking about Virginia Woolf. Denim came from France, made in Italy then the US. It represents western dress. You can buy it made in China if you want, they simply copied it.

The 'whole system of the west' is not based solely on consumerism. At least you love to consume western products. We dress how we like, not you. You impose dress as an ideology, from your religion. We don't. You men wear what you like but forbid women to do so. You hide arms, legs, faces because you think its sinful. We don't.

Nobody particularly cares how you dress, the only problem is that you continually accuse the west of things that are immoral, decadent, kaffirs, yet you consume all our products, inventions, technology with nothing to offer in exchange except a backward, repressive, cruel religion. You're not even allowed to write your personal ideas, let alone create something useful or interesting. Not even artistic.

You keep boasting about muslim greatness, we're waiting, waiting to see something... just a little bit creative

^ | v · Reply · Share ·



**Magnus Widman** → Bader Al Omar · 3 days ago

You are too cozy in relying on the fact that interference's between states are forbidden or in some way taboo. Not so. The violation of international law can always be called upon. it's true that Saudi Arabia doesn't subscribe to human rights, thinking that they have it all covered in Sharia. But just because it's written down doesn't automatically make it humane. Example in case, the holocaust. It wasn't really illegal in Germany. Based on an extra-legal jurisdiction authorized by Hitler as Führer, the concentration camp literally

stood outside the laws of the German state. It was intended to serve as a detention center for persons whom the Nazi leaders deemed to be a subversive danger to the German race. To sum up: concentration camps were not illegal. So relying on documents supported by insane or fundamentalist leaders can lead you astray. That's why human rights are important. It's Wallströms job to complain against atrocities. A universal declaration of human rights didn't come about until 1948 so concentration camps "truly" were Germany's own business legally - as horrible as it sounds. Today we have human rights even if some countries, such as Saudi Arabia, don't sign on to them. Are we obligated to respect their behavior against humans? No, human rights which she the Foreign Minister refers to is never an internal affair, but global. A country don't own it's population to do whatever they please with it.

2 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**Islaye** → Bader Al Omar · 2 days ago

You think KSA doesn't meddle and interfere in other countries' affairs? Hypocrit. They're continually exporting their/your wahhabite version of islam with their petro dollars. Building mosques and madrasses, funding groups that lobby and seek to influence politics and society. They fly into high rise towers and kill 3000 people but KSA immediately denied it was Arabs. Most still do. That's 'meddling' for you.

The problem is that KSA has nothing to offer except oil and crazy beliefs. Every single thing you have or use comes from western science and knowledge and Asian or African cheap labour.

If you call that having 'shallow', principles, just think that without them you would have nothing but camels and sand. Try giving them up LOL

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**Magnus Widman** → Islaye · 13 hours ago

Yeah, your right about meddling in other countries internal affairs. Tell that to Saman Rushdie, to the Danes after the Cartoon business, Tell That to the Swedish artist Lars Wilks, tell that to the French lately. I say that for Islam nothing is internal affairs. They operate over the globe and always have a fatwa in store for the infidels. Is Margot Wallström the next?

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**Screwtape** → Islaye · 2 days ago

" 'The textbook contained notions based on the radical Wahhabi school of thought (which is dominant in Saudi Arabia). Page 78, for example, says, "People who worship anything other than Allah are infidels and it is permitted to kill them.' "

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en...>

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