

In Protest, Iranian Paper Solicits Holocaust Cartoons

The New York Times

February 7, 2006

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TEHRAN, Feb. 7 — [Iran's](#) largest newspaper is holding an international competition for cartoons on the Holocaust to retaliate for the publication of cartoons of Prophet Muhammad in Danish newspapers last year.

The daily Hamshahri, which is run by the capital's municipal government, said the competition would be co-sponsored by the House of Caricatures, a cartoon exhibition center in Tehran. It said further information would be announced next week.

The newspaper made it clear that the contest was being held to see whether freedom of expression extended to mocking the Holocaust. It invited foreign cartoonists to enter the competition.

"The serious question for Muslims," the newspaper asked, "is whether the West extends freedom of expression to the crimes committed by the United States and Israel, or an event such as Holocaust?"

"Or is its freedom only for insulting religious sanctities?" it added.

The Iranian Student News Agency reported that the Commerce Ministry had called for changing the name of Danish pastry to the name of a flower that is named after Prophet Muhammad. The idea was proposed in a letter to the ministry, the news agency said.

The newspaper announced the contest today after hundreds of demonstrators hurled stones and petrol bombs at the Danish embassy in Tehran on Monday.

Iran's supreme religious leader, Ayatollah [Ali Khamenei](#), praised the anti-Danish protests in a speech today, and compared the cartoons with questioning whether the Holocaust happened.

"In this (Western) freedom, casting doubt or negating the genocide of the Jews is banned, but insulting the beliefs of 1.5 billion Muslims is allowed," IRNA news agency quoted him as saying. "The reaction of the Muslim world was in time and they should have reacted this way," he said. "This anger is not targeted at Christians but at those who planned this conspiracy." Mr. Khamenei was referring to the reaction of European leaders last year after Iran's conservative president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, called the Holocaust a myth and urged the destruction of Israel.

The Foreign Ministry has announced that it will hold a seminar on the Holocaust but no date has been set.

