



NEWS REPORT

Date:	3 September 2010
Expert:	Dieter Schindlauer
Title:	Province of Styria FPÖ political party under inquiry for inciting hatred towards Muslims with an online game
Country:	Austria
Context	
Issue at stake:	FPÖ Styria publishes online shooting game targeting muezzins on minarets
Ground of discrimination:	Racial/ethnic origin, Religion/beliefs
Source:	Media
Field:	Other: incitement
Legislative provisions:	Article 9. ECHR. §§ 283 and 188 Penal Code

Content

Case: In the course of the ongoing campaigns for the 2010 provincial elections in the province of Styria, the Styrian FPÖ (Freedom Party) has launched a link to an online game on its website called "Moschee Baba" [Mosque bye bye] where players can collect points by shooting at muezzins (persons at the mosque in charge of the Friday service call and the 5 daily prayers calls) on minarets on 26 August 2010. When the player points the mouse pointer on the muezzin a stop-sign appears and the muezzin disappears.

The game has been developed for an anti-minaret-initiative in Switzerland in 2009. At the end of the game a notice appears, saying: "Styria is full of minarets and mosques! To prevent this, vote for Dr. Gerhard Kurzmann [Styrian FPÖ-chair] and the FPÖ!"

The game is also linked to an opinion-poll regarding a building-ban for mosques and minarets and a ban on burkas.

Very quickly after notification by members of the Green party and the Islamic Faith Community, the Public Prosecutor's office has started an official inquiry against Kurzmann for alleged incitement to racial hatred [§ 283 Penal Code] and vilification of religious faiths [§ 188 Penal Code]. These infringements can result in maximum imprisonment of two years [§ 283 Penal Code] and half a year [§ 188 Penal Code], respectively.

A request for the suspension of Kurzmann's immunity as a member of the National Parliament is pending in Parliament.