

**STATEMENT BY
THE HONOURABLE DATO SERI ABDULLAH AHMAD BADAWI
ON THE PUBLICATION OF CARICATURES OF PROPHET MOHAMMED
BY CERTAIN NEWSPAPERS AND JOURNALS IN EUROPE
4 FEBRUARY 2006**

Malaysia wishes to express its deepest regret over a defamatory caricature of Prophet Mohammed which was first published by a Danish newspaper. This deplorable act is a blatant disregard for Islamic sensitivities over the use of such images which are particularly insulting and forbidden by Islam.

It is even more regrettable that newspapers and journals in some other countries such as Norway, France, Germany, Belgium, Italy and Spain had seen fit to reproduce the offending caricatures despite worldwide protests against the publication of those images. This is a deliberate act of provocation. They should cease and desist from doing so.

I would however call upon the people of Malaysia to remain calm and rational. Let the perpetrators of the insult see the gravity of their own mistakes which only they themselves can and should correct.

Office of the Prime Minister of Malaysia
PUTRAJAYA

4 February 2006