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"French Court Backs Magazine Over Prophet Cartoons"

(Reuters, March 12, 2008)

Paris, France - A French court on Wednesday upheld a ruling in favor of a magazine that published cartoons of the Prophet Mohammad, rejecting an appeal by a Muslim group which said they incited hatred of Islam.

The cartoons, published in the satirical weekly Charlie Hebdo in February 2006, originally appeared in a Danish newspaper five months earlier.

They provoked violent protests in Asia, Africa and the Middle East in which 50 people were killed. Several European publications reprinted them as an affirmation of free speech.

"These caricatures, which clearly target a fraction and not the whole of the Muslim community, do not constitute an insult or direct personal attack against a group of people because of their religion and do not breach the limits of freedom of expression," the court in Paris ruled.

The decision was the culmination of a long legal battle over the cartoons.

A lower court ruled last year that the cartoons fell into the category of freedom of speech and did not constitute an attack on Islam in general.

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files Complaint Against
France to United Nations
2002-02-05
- Al-Qaida, the sect
2002-01-17
- French author who
derided Islam to appear
in court
2001-12-25
- Antoinism : Divorce
and Cults
2001-12-07
- An Open Letter to M.
Raymond Forni, Speaker
of the French National
Assembly
2001-09-29
- Muslims angered by
French author's Islam
remarks
2001-09-06
- "Cosmoplanetary"
French statue plunges to
earth
2001-09-06
- Huge guru statue
escapes French
demolition, for day
2001-09-06
- Statue of Cult Leader
Destroyed
2001-09-06
- French to blow up huge
guru statue in Provence
2001-09-05
- No sects, please - we're
French
2001-09-04
- Bishop who concealed
sexual abuse by priest
convicted
2001-09-04
- Let them preach cake
2001-08-18
- Church of Scientology
sues French state over
anti-sect law

- 2001-08-09
- *France's Anti-Sect Law*
2001-07-27
- *France's anti-cult law undermines religious-liberty rights*
2001-07-22
- *Congress Focuses On Religious Persecution In France*
2001-07-12
- *French sect lists criticized in House hearing*
2001-07-12
- *Congressman Blasts French Sect Law*
2001-07-10
- *Chinas French Connection*
2001-07-10
- *U.S. congressman assails French law on sects*
2001-07-09
- *France joins list of religious-liberty violators*
2001-07-03
- *French court clears conductor of cult deaths*
2001-06-25
- *Solar Temple families no closer to knowing truth*
2001-06-25
- *Meeting against Illegal Activities of Sects in Europe held in Paris*
2001-06-18
- *Bishop would keep silent again on priest's crimes*
2001-06-15
- *Priest, confessions sanctity on trial in France*
2001-06-14
- *French Anti-Sect Law: Christian Lawyers Prepare For Action*
2001-06-04
- *Journal for the Scientific Studies of Religion Publishes Symposium on Brainwashing and Anti-Cultism in Europe*
2001-06-01
- *France arms itself with legal weapon to fight sects*
2001-06-01
- *France Approves Anti-Cult Law on May 30, 2001*
2001-05-31
- *French assembly toughens anti-sect legislation*
2001-05-31
- *French Toughen Laws on Religious Sects*

- 2001-05-31
- *French anti-sect law fuels precedent fears*
2001-05-31
- *French Christians Fear Ramifications Of Anti-Sect Law*
2001-05-31
- *French lawmakers OK sect regulation*
2001-05-30
- *France in controversial cult crackdown*
2001-05-30
- *New French anti-sect law attacked as abuse of human rights*
2001-05-30
- *Probe urged on French sect list*
2001-05-25
- *French anti-sect bill controversial*
2001-05-16
- *Religious freedom in France*
2001-05-15
- *I can't say to a wife of 20 years she has to go'*
2001-05-09
- *Millions of Believers Still Flock to Lourdes*
2001-05-06
- *France: Senate Approves Anti-Cult Law*
2001-05-03
- *France to vote on anti-sect bill*
2001-05-02
- *France: Anti-religion law voted on earlier than expected*
2001-05-02
- *Anti-cult law in France: Washington concerned*
2001-05-01
- *French Anti-Cult Bill*
2001-05-01
- *Prosecutor seeks jail for conductor in sect deaths*
2001-04-27
- *Council of Europe: France Accused of Religious Discrimination*
2001-04-27
- *Conductor tells court how New Age guru inspired doomsday cult*
2001-04-25
- *Accused conductor became leader of new doomsday cult: magistrate*
2001-04-24
- *French magistrate rejects idea that outsiders killed cultists*
2001-04-24
- *Cultists chose fiery graves after UFOs didn't show up: expert*
2001-04-23

- *France may limit religious practices*
2001-04-23
- *Nostalgic cultists defend suicide sect*
2001-04-19
- *Conductor Denies Role in Solar Temple Deaths as Trial Begins*
2001-04-18
- *Conductor may hold keys to cult*
2001-04-18
- *Cult members say Solar Temple leaders ordered mass suicides*
2001-04-18
- *Lawyer blames Swiss police at French cult trial*
2001-04-18
- *Cult link to conductor tested*
2001-04-17
- *Lured by the cult*
2001-04-17
- *Swiss orchestra conductor to be tried in Solar Temple deaths case*
2001-04-15
- *Anti-sect groups and the MILS tear each other apart*
2001-04-12
- *Satanist convicted of murdering priest*
2001-04-06
- *French Satanist on Trial for Priest Murder*
2001-04-03
- *Church of Scientology sent to trial in France*
2001-04-03
- *Religious Liberty in France Still in the Balance*
2001-03-18
- *French Bible College Faces Persecution*
2001-03-01