



February 24, 2009

BY FACSIMILE: (202) 228-3612

Senator John Kyl
730 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Kyl:

At a time when honest, interfaith dialogue is so critical to the progress of our nation, it is unfortunate that you have chosen to sponsor a screening of the film "Fitna", which presents a dangerously unbalanced view of the religion of Islam and the Muslim world.

The scheduling of this film presentation is all the more troubling because it coincides with the date of a major outreach to Muslims and Muslim leaders initiated by Senator John Kerry.

Like other organizations in our community, MAS Freedom has vigorously condemned religious bigotry, extremism, and all forms of violence perpetrated in the name of God. But these reprehensible acts are not limited to Muslims alone. The portrayal of Islam in the film "Fitna" serves merely a radically intolerant, anti-Muslim agenda.

Numerous Muslims serve honorably in the diverse institutions that form the core of American life-including, I might add, the Congress of the United States. They, and we, work to build a better society through nonviolent civic engagement with other Muslims and interfaith partners. But the portrayal of singularly negative images of Muslims and the Muslim community in productions like "Fitna" only incite religious intolerance, and add fuel to the flames of division that are both fundamentally un-American and unfair.

MAS Freedom sincerely hopes that you will support the efforts of Senator Kerry, President Obama's faith-based and neighborhood partnership initiative, and similar initiatives to promote inter-religious collaboration and the best practices of the different religious communities in our nation.

I would be happy to introduce you to more positive and balanced portrayals of Muslims in America if you are interested in knowing more about your Muslim-American neighbors, and the contributions that we strive to make in society, with the help of God.

Sincerely yours,

Ibrahim Abdil-Mu'id Ramey

Ibrahim Abdil-Mu'id Ramey
MAS Freedom Civil and Human Rights Director

British Parliament Calls Off Screening of Controversial Film; Wilders to be Tried for Public Statements Against Islam
(<http://www.masnet.org/aroundworld.asp?id=5289>)