

## Exposing the Failure of Secularism and its Fanatical Supporters

### News:

France has urged Middle Eastern countries to end calls for a boycott of its goods in protest at President Emmanuel Macron's defence of the right to show cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad.

The president said the teacher, Samuel Paty, "was killed because Islamists want our future", but France would "not give up our cartoons".

But state secularism - or *laïcité* - is central to France's national identity. Curbing freedom of expression to protect the feelings of one particular community, the state says, undermines unity.

On Sunday, Mr Macron doubled down on his defence of French values in a tweet that read: "We will not give in, ever. We respect all differences in a spirit of peace. We do not accept hate speech and defend reasonable debate. We will always be on the side of human dignity and universal values."

In a statement, the French foreign ministry acknowledged the moves, writing: "These calls for boycott are baseless and should stop immediately, as well as all attacks against our country, which are being pushed by a radical minority."

Germany expressed "solidarity" with Mr Macron after the Turkish president's comments, with government spokesman Steffen Seibert calling the remarks "defamatory" and "completely unacceptable" and Foreign Minister Heiko Maas calling Mr Erdogan's personal attacks "a particular low point".

Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte said the Netherlands "stands firmly with France and for the collective values of the European Union", while Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte also expressed his "full solidarity" with Mr Macron.

"Personal insults do not help the positive agenda that the EU wants to pursue with Turkey," he wrote in a tweet. (BBC)

### Comment:

None of these European leaders appear capable of seeing the sick irony in them protesting the personal insults against Macron, which are entirely as a result of him promoting the continued personal insults against the Prophet Muhammad, on whom are Allah's blessings and peace.

What is completely unacceptable and defamatory are the repeated arrogant publishing and displaying of the cartoons which depict the Prophet (saw) in a derogatory way. The fact that Muslims all over the world call for a boycott of French products is a gesture to show their rejection of the right to insult a Prophet of Allah, as Europeans claim to have, and a symbol of their love for the last and final Messenger to humankind.

It hardly needs to be said that boycotting supermarkets, clothing and hair products will not solve the problem of ardent secularists acting with impunity to spread their vile

