

enter for your chance to **WIN** 24 hrs
1 of 5 all-inclusive sunny destination getaways for two

your getaway contest
CLICK HERE

Sponsored by:



MASSIVE MODEL YEAR END EVENT

- 0% Financing up to 84 Months
- Cash Credits up to \$12,000 on Pickups
- 100 Vehicles In-Stock & Counting Down....

Be 4 U Buy Anywhere Else
Visit Beautiful Gananoque

OR get a quick
online quote

NEWS LOCAL

Street preacher's claims 'illogical': Local imam

By Holly Tousignant

Tuesday, July 17, 2012 7:24:27 EDT PM



Sikander Hashmi, imam for the Islamic Centre of Kingston, says the Muslim street preacher whose comments about sexual assault made headlines earlier this week has been incorrectly identified as an imam. Whig-Standard

KINGSTON - A Muslim street preacher whose comments about sexual assault made headlines earlier this week has been incorrectly identified as an imam, Kingston imam Sikander Hashmi said.

Al-Haashim Kamena Atangana, a Toronto street preacher, publicly announced on Sunday that a law should be put in place that requires women to dress modestly to prevent sexual assault. He later told the Toronto Sun that “the reason ... a woman gets raped is because of the way she (dresses),” and praised Const. Michael Sanguinetti, the Toronto police officer whose advice to York University student to not dress like “sluts” in order to avoid assault launched worldwide demonstrations.

Antangana has been referred to in the press as an imam – a Muslim religious leader – but this label is inaccurate, Hashmi said.

Hashmi is the imam of the Islamic Centre of Kingston, a post he has held for two years. He said Antangana should not be taken as an authority on Islam.

“You would assume that if one is a leader, they have a following, and that doesn’t appear to be the case in this situation,” he said, adding that studying the religion is also a given for imams, which Atangana hasn’t appear to have done.

Prior to the story making headlines, Hashmi heard from contacts in Toronto that other street preachers were distancing themselves from Atangana.

“He’s just one person with some strange views,” he said.

If Atangana had studied Islam, Hashmi added, he would have been aware of the religion’s view on individual accountability.

“To say that the responsibility for a rape or sexual assault lies with the victim is ridiculous,” Hashmi said. “There’s no question that the sin and the blame for the act... falls on the perpetrator.”

He added that Atangana’s calls for women to cover up are “quite illogical.”

“There are a number of Muslim societies where many Muslims dress in a way that is considered to be modest but nevertheless sexual assault is a major problem,” he said.

Hashmi said he believes one of the reasons Atangana has gained attention is because of common misconceptions about Muslims, which are “perpetuated by people like him who spread these misunderstandings and make things worse.”



If you already have an account on this newspaper, you can login to the newspaper to add your comments.

By adding a comment on the site, you accept our terms and conditions and our netiquette rules.

Real-time updating is **enabled**.

Comments for this page are closed.

Showing 20 of 32 comments

Sort by newest first ▼



Imam Sikander Hashmi

If you have any concerns or questions, please let me know and I'd be happy to welcome you to our centre. We can sit down over coffee and have an honest conversation. That'll be a lot more meaningful (I hope) than an anonymous online exchange! :)

1 month ago 5 Likes Flag

Like



Funlovingmom

I sincerely hope that people take you up on this offer. A lot of problems would never be problems if we could only learn to talk to each other instead of about each other.

**1966voiceoftreason**

The Muslims in Kingston are no different than the rest of us - practicing their faith, raising their families and making a living.

I'm more worried about Christian fundamentalists - they are the real threat to our Canadian way of life.

2 months ago 3 Likes | Flag

Like

**Funlovingmom**

Some of you need to relax and take a long hard look at yourselves. Their religion is not being pushed on you. They simply want what we all want, to be able to practice our religion in peace, without all the negativity. The Imam in Kingston is trying to reach out to the Kingston community to enlighten you on what the Muslim religion is actually about. They don't preach or condone hate, and it seems to me that in Kingston, it is the non-Muslims who are condemning and hating. Have they ever asked you to become a Muslim or torn down your religion? They have not, so why do you feel that it is acceptable to do that to them? I am a practicing Anglican and my daughter had the pleasure of visiting the local Mosque with her youth group to meet up with the youth from the Mosque. From what I have seen, they are a fantastic bunch of youth, who are being raised to care for their families and their communities. What exactly is wrong with that? They choose to practice their faith in a different way than I do, but if I want to practice my own faith in peace with acceptance, then I must also do the same for them. My daughter is friends with a girl whose family practices the Muslim faith and they are a wonderful, caring, and loving family. They eat dinner together, play together, go on family trips, just like my family does. I am Anglican, they are Muslim, so what! Some of you need to ask yourselves why you believe it is acceptable to be friends or friendly with Catholics, Anglicans, Buddhists, Hindu's, and non-believers, but it is not acceptable to give the same courtesy to people of the Muslim faith. It is you who has a very large problem, not the Muslim people. You are living a life full of hate, and life is too short to live that way. It is people like some of the previous posters on this site that are trying to fuel a fire that wouldn't otherwise be there.

2 months ago 21 Likes | Flag

Like

**Rick**

I had the misfortune to live in the Middle East for four years, and I can tell you that you have no idea what they're up to.

2 months ago in reply to Funlovingmom 1 Like | Flag

Like

**Teeps74**

And clearly, neither do you.

2 months ago in reply to Rick | Flag

Like

**yanni123**

You're delusional. You need to talk to some of them and they will tell you the agenda for Islam. Wake up and stop turning the proverbial cheek. I agree not all are extremist, but all have the same goal. Take a trip to Toronto or Montréal and listen to the "street muslim clerics" you will soon change your tune. Better still have you relatives in London England or Paris France. Check it out. Watch a few YouTube videos where they threaten to kill some one for taking videos of them. Or right here at home when a guy taking photos in Toronto was assaulted by muslim

women. Its not a joke its real and I am neither paranoid or fearful.

They do have an agenda. Read Noni Darwish's book. She is a ex muslim. Tells it like it is.

Why are you so stupid ?


2 months ago in reply to Funlovingmom 5 Likes 

Like



Funlovingmom

Excuse me, but did I call you stupid? Not only are you a bigot, but you seem to believe that you have the right to abuse just about anyone. For your information, there are extremists in every religion and in any religion they are dangerous. Bigots like yourself are also extremely dangerous. Many a person has lost their life because a bigot thought it was within his/her rights to remove another individual from their community. Christianity actually has a bloodier past than Islam does. More people in history have been killed over failure to convert to Christianity than any other religion in history. Nobody is ragging on us Christians though. You need to treat people as individuals, not as a whole. There are Muslims who have done terrible terrible things, but there are people who belong to all the other religions who have also done terrible things in the name of their religion. This is not a problem that is exclusive to Muslims. Why are you so hell bent on blaming only the Muslims for the evil we see in the world today. You have a very narrow and uneducated view of world issues. As a mother I can only hope that you are not raising children to hate their neighbours. Behaviour such as yours is harmful to this community and to humanity.

2 months ago in reply to yanni123 6 Likes 

Like



yanni123

Suspicion confirmed ! You're nuts !

2 months ago in reply to Funlovingmom 

Like



Teeps74

Intelligent and concise. Well said mom!

2 months ago in reply to Funlovingmom 3 Likes 

Like



Teeps74

Thanks for coming out and playing, "who's the bigoted, inbred, ignorant moron!" Guess what yanni123?! You won!

2 months ago in reply to yanni123 2 Likes 

Like



yanni123

Yes, when the politically incorrect facts are said the racist, bigot and moron gets tossed around. Back at ya !

2 months ago in reply to Teeps74 

Like



Teeps74

You have not presented facts... You presented prejudiced and bigoted opinion.

2 months ago in reply to yanni123 | Flag

Like



Man_About_Town

Hmmm..14 likes to funloving mos to your one. I think we know who is delusional.

2 months ago in reply to yanni123 3 Likes | Flag

Like



Man_About_Town

mos=mom

2 months ago in reply to Man_About_Town | Flag

Like



Clarke McMurray

You do know that there is an "edit" button, right?

2 months ago in reply to Man_About_Town | Flag

Like



Rick

I like how in Dubai muslims complain about how women are not "covering up" and have no respect for the culture there. But when these same people emigrate to a Western country, they make no attempt to respect and adopt our culture, but instead attempt to force their own culture and religion down our throats. Incidentally, there is no official "Iman University"; anyone can call himself an imam, the primary prerequisites seem to be a large beard and a small mind.

2 months ago 10 Likes | Flag

Like



Sue Weber-Armstrong

Right on Rick that is so true,,but if we say that or voice our thoughts we are the bad ones,who cares they can tell there views so we have every right too tell ours!!!There should be more Rick's around.....

2 months ago in reply to Rick 2 Likes | Flag

Like



Man_About_Town

With your comment you have proven you have a smaller mind than an Iman and the general population of Canada. While there is some bigotry of the type you spew here throughout the country fortunately it is not the case for the majority of the people. Educated people at least. YO should work on getting an education. It may help to lower your bigotry levels.

2 months ago in reply to Rick 7 Likes | Flag

Like



Perrfect Anon

I can't fathom that Kingston's local Iman would even comment on the spectacle in Toronto, it's obvious to me that the man

wandering the streets in TO has mental issues.
And I agreed I for one am tired of having this religion shoved down my throat!

2 months ago 9 Likes  Flag

Like

 [Subscribe by email](#)  [RSS](#)

Load more comments