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Open Doors condemns American pastor's plans to burn the Quran

Over the weekend, angry crowds in Kabul, Afghanistan and Jakarta, Indonesia protested and threatened retaliation if the non-denominational Dove World Outreach Center in Gainesville, Florida goes through with its plans to publicly burn the Quran on Saturday.

Reaction to the possible burning of the Muslim holy book on the ninth anniversary of the September 11 extremist Muslim terrorist attacks on America could unleash worldwide rage – directed not only at the United States and its troops overseas but also Christians, especially those living in Muslim-dominated countries.

Open Doors Australia CEO Pastor Nigel Rooke said, “the planned burning of the Quran is a disaster on two fronts: It violates the command of Jesus to love our neighbor and it would likely cause Christians worldwide to be more vilified and persecuted.”

Open Doors is concerned by a possible extremist Muslim backlash would probably focus on Christians living in predominately Muslim countries who are already caught in the crossfire, including those who have converted from Islam to Christianity.

"Brother Andrew has said that he believes - ISLAM stands for 'I Sincerely Love All Muslims'. The radical action that Pastor Jones calls for should be one of love for all Muslims, reaching out to them in prayer and practical support."

The burning of Qurans will only confirm what many Muslims believe – that Christians hate Muslims. That is exactly the opposite message we as Christians want to send.

"I urge the Dove World Outreach Center and its senior pastor, Terry Jones, to cancel the event. Hate is not biblical; it is not the message of Jesus."

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