

The Islamic Foundation of Ireland

Statement in response to Joe Duffy's Liveline show on the subject of Muslim schools

We would like to express our deep concern about the RTE Radio 1, being a respectable national radio station giving free air time to two persons spreading false accusations against two respectable Muslim institutions namely the Islamic Foundation of Ireland and the Muslim National School in Clonskeagh, Dublin 14.

We were surprised that someone like Mr. Kamel Ghanem who has no qualification whatsoever in evaluating scholastic standards can be allowed to give judgement on standards of education in the Muslim National School in Clonskeagh in contradiction to the views of professional school evaluators of the Department of Education. A whole school evaluation was carried on the School two years ago and was very positive.

Mr. Ghanem also made very serious allegations about financial records insinuating irregularities about the School finances. The School accounts are audited by chartered accountants and made available to the Department of Education and Science and any concerned person who has an interest in them.

Mr. Ghanem stated that secondary school teachers have expressed the views that the standard of education of students coming from the Muslim National School in Clonskeagh is low. It is inconceivable that secondary school teachers would openly make such a prejudicial statement. Unfortunately such irresponsible allegations can have their repercussions on our past, present and future Muslim students and our teachers in the School.

The issue of the Mosque finances not being disclosed for public scrutiny was brought up during the show by Mr. Liam (Mujahid) Egan. The Islamic Foundation of Ireland is a registered 'Friendly Society' and is a recognised charity. The accounts of the Islamic Foundation of Ireland for the year 2008 have already been submitted to the Registry of Friendly Societies. They were posted on the notice board in the Mosque a week before the Society's last annual general meeting, presented during the meeting and are always made available for inspection by the members of the Society as required.

There is no doubt that the vicious attack by Mr. Ghanem on the Islamic Foundation of Ireland and the Muslim schools is prompted by personal dispute with the School Patron and the Chairman of the Board of Management. Mr. Ghanem's conduct is a subject of Garda investigation following an assault which happened in the offices of the Islamic Foundation of Ireland on South Circular Road. As for Mr. Egan his continued unwarranted attack on the Imam is well documented.

Many members of the Muslim community are aware of the grudges which both men hold who have been consistently causing difficulties.

In the circumstances, Mr. Ghanem and Mr. Egan's allegations are frivolous, untrue, founded in ulterior motives, and should be totally disregarded as the words of disgruntled and disaffected persons. Accordingly their complaints should be treated with the contempt they deserve.

Islamic Foundation of Ireland
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