

Moslem Characters

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| <p>1. Imam Ahmed Abdullah Mümünzade 55 / Married 4 children</p> <p><i>The religious leader of the community (imam), a preacher, instructor of the faith, the key decision maker in the community</i></p> <p><i>Feelings:</i> I am outraged by the murder! I am cautious about the rising tensions in our city and the provocations, but especially from the Christian side...The police have no ground to arrest our boy without proper investigation! This could never happen in the old times when we had the power. We all know that the dead boy threatened the honour of a very respected Moslem family...</p> <p><i>Position:</i> I condemn the killing of any human being, but only Allah knows what the truth is! I am concerned by the growing misunderstanding and by the provocations threatening the peace among the communities. We should stick to the Islamic tradition. Authorities should carry out proper investigation. Nobody should be imprisoned without a proper investigation and impartial treatment by the authorities.</p> | <p>4. Mustafa Efendi 46 / Married 3 children.</p> <p><i>Member of the National Parliament</i></p> <p><i>Feelings:</i> I blame the city police for not carrying out a proper investigation and for breaking the law. I am sad about the murder, but I am mostly worried about the impact it will have on our community and the interrelations with other communities, especially with the Christians.</p> <p><i>Position:</i> I am deeply concerned about the status of our community and the image of our city and harbour abroad. We need to find a solution soon to avoid further complications and escalations of the tensions. I will suggest to the Parliament to establish a multiethnic police force so that we share the responsibility for the well being of all citizens.</p> |
| <p>2. Bediha Hanum 36 / widow 6 children</p> <p><i>The mother of the Selma (the bride) and Omer (her imprisoned brother)</i></p> <p><i>Feelings:</i> I am worried about the honour of my family. I should have prevented this love story. Allah puts me on trial – first was this impossible love story of my daughter, now he is testing me once again with my beloved son in prison.... I am ready to sell everything I have in order to free my son.</p> <p><i>Position:</i> I am angry with my daughter! What a shame! To be in love with a Christian! I am sorry for the dead boy, but my son is innocent! He is not a killer... Why Allah is punishing me! I am afraid that my family will be destroyed.</p> | <p>3. Ayse Cadin 32/ widow 1 son and 2 daughters</p> <p><i>Widow of the late Osman pasa; a rich and influential woman; aristocratic. She is somewhat educated as her husband could afford appropriate teacher for her and their children.</i></p> <p><i>Feelings:</i> I was sympathetic to the young couple. Such a romantic story! Who are we to decide who is right and who is wrong? Allah decided for love in this case!</p> <p><i>Position:</i> I support the lovers! No matter Christians or Moslems, we were created by Allah... I am against using the love story for political or economic and egoistic interests of certain very well known figures in our city.</p> |

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| <p>5. Ibrahim Efendi 32 / married 4 children</p> <p><i>Journalist and editor of the local Moslem community newspaper “Haber”.</i></p> <p><i>Feelings:</i> I am shocked by this unthinkable love story! I am afraid that it will have long lasting consequences... I sympathize to Bediha Hanum, but she should have taught her daughter better... I have published an article in the newspaper about our Moslem values... The young man who is arrested is wrongly accused and has to be liberated.</p> <p><i>Position:</i> We must defend our traditional Moslem values... What example shall we give to our children?! We survived up until now because of preserving our traditions... Safeguarding the tradition is a must for the future generations as well... Impartial and just investigation is needed. If the accused boy was a Christian he would have been treated differently...</p> | <p>6. Ömer Ademoglu 60 / married 11 children, 18 grandchildren</p> <p><i>The head of the Ship Owners’ Union and a grain trader.</i></p> <p><i>Feelings:</i> I initiated the blocking of the harbour and I will keep it blocked as long as it is needed. I am frustrated by the arrogant act of arresting an innocent boy! Policemen didn’t have proofs that he is guilty. I am upset at this absurd love story... Christians should better teach their children to respect the traditions and the culture of the others... Mixed marriages are unthinkable!</p> <p><i>Position:</i> The Christians will not get their goods – food, grain, or whatever – until the arrested boy is released! We all will be hungry but no Christian ship will ever enter the harbour... The arrested boy is a just a child. The Christians are further damaging his reputation that is already damaged by this foolish love story of his sister!</p> |
| <p>7. Refik Bülbül 25 / married No children</p> <p><i>A poet famous with a collecting of love poems called ‘The Rose of the East’</i></p> <p><i>Feelings:</i> I am moved by this impossible love story. I will write a poem about it. Such a big tragedy for both communities! I am afraid this will have long lasting effect on the peaceful life in our city... What has trade to do with the love?! Rioting is useless and endangers the peace in our city... How shall we live together in the future?!</p> <p><i>Position:</i> We should live together, but we should follow the tradition... If you fall in love with a Christian girl, write a poem... We should not betray our culture and traditions with a public scandal... We should find a way for a peaceful solution of this situation...</p> | <p>8. Hasan 20 / married 2 newly born baby-twins</p> <p><i>A docker selected by the Dockers and sailors gathering at the harbour.</i></p> <p><i>Feelings:</i> I am afraid this will cause further riots and the harbour might stay closed for a too long period. I am very disappointed with this situation. That girl went against the tradition and that is why Allah decided to punish her... But why should we all suffer by her deed?</p> <p><i>Position:</i> The harbour has to be opened. I need my job and so are my fellow colleagues. We all have families to feed... Another way of protest has to be found immediately and the police has to do her job.</p> |

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| <p>9. Ali Efendi 27 / not married</p> <p><i>Teacher at the Medrese. more a scholar than a zealous religion follower. Often spends time with poets and artists from other communities.</i></p> <p><i>Feelings:</i> I am shocked by the speedy escalation of the events! I am worried and concerned it will provoke a lot of intense emotions in all communities and prevent us from dealing with it rationally... I believe the girl was seduced by sweet words and promises of that young Christian. She was misguided, but our community has to welcome her back and support her to find the right path. I believe the proper education would help her.</p> <p><i>Position:</i> The arrested Moslem guy has to be released. We need proper investigation to find the guilty one. I know the boy – he cannot kill anyone, he is innocent... The riot at the harbour is an uncivilised and barbaric act... The harbour has to be opened as soon as possible or we shall starve... There is no need to escalate the situation, we need to find a peaceful solution...</p> | <p>10. Uzunosman 55 / married 5 children</p> <p><i>Goldsmith, famous jewellery maker; everyone is buying from his shop; zealous Moslem.</i></p> <p><i>Feelings:</i> I condemn the killing and I sympathise with the family of the arrested boy! I'm quite concerned about the economic consequences that this incident will have on our community. I am worried about our safety. We have to live in peace with all communities...</p> <p><i>Position:</i> I can offer some money to free the innocent Moslem boy and search for a faster way out of this rioting situation. I am against mixed marriages. Traditions need to be kept untouched... Both Christians and Moslems need to have religious education that will not allow other unthinkable love stories to bother our everyday life... We need to find a solution, open the harbour and have the peace back in our city. We cannot allow that one single love story influences the lives of all citizens.</p> |
| <p>11. Mustafa Ibrahim 25 / married 4 children</p> <p><i>Baker, famous burek maker</i></p> <p><i>Feelings:</i> I am surprised by what has happened! The love story between the two kids should not damage our city life... The arrested guy is innocent. We, the Moslems are peaceful people. This riot at the harbour is a provocation, not a tendency in our society.</p> <p><i>Position:</i> I condemn the killing... Whoever did it should be punished. I hope everything will end in a peaceful way. I know the boy who is in prison – he is buying every day bürek from my shop. He is a good boy...</p> | <p>12. Abdurahman 18 / Single</p> <p><i>A friend of the imprisoned guy</i></p> <p><i>Feelings:</i> I am angry at the Christians! How could they have thought that my friend is a killer! I am worried about him and the way they treat him in the prison... We need to keep the traditions of our predecessors and to defend the honour of our families...</p> <p><i>Position:</i> I demand the immediate release of my friend otherwise we will take decisive actions... We should do something to free my friend, he is innocent... The harbour should stay closed till the authorities release my friend... There is no other way in which we could enforce a just and rightful solution of this situation...</p> |