

Human Rights Individual Rights and Responsibilities.

The Netherlands – Muslim Cleric Charged

Rex Wockner / International News – 24-Dec-01

A Muslim cleric in The Netherlands who told TV viewers that homosexuality is a sickness was charged with promoting discrimination Dec.5.

Imam Khalil el Moumni said: “Homosexuality damaging for Dutch society. Homosexuality isn’t limited to people with this disease. It can spread.”

He could be jailed for up to one year.

The Netherlands is the only nation in the world where gays can marry under exactly the same laws as straight people. About 1,900 same-sex couples *have tied the knot* since April 1, 2001, when the laws were expanded.

Idiom
Tie the knot
– get married

Discussion questions

1. What is the charge against Imam el Moumni?
2. Which *freedoms* and *rights* that we have discussed have an effect on this case? Explain.
3. Do you agree with the Dutch government? Explain.
4. **Mock Trial** – Roleplay with your group. One person is the prosecuting attorney representing the people of the Netherlands. Another person is the defense attorney representing Mr. El Moumni. Another person is the judge. The judge will facilitate the “trial”. The other students are the jury. The Jury members may question the attorneys. Then the jury will vote on their decision. (Make sure there is an odd number on the jury.) Everyone should take 10 minutes to prepare. Attorneys will prepare their cases and judge and jury will prepare questions to ask.