

Blasphemy charge over Facebook page that mocked monk – sign the petition

Posted: Fri, 28th Sep 2012

A man in Greece has been charged with blasphemy after he made fun of a revered monk on his Facebook page. It is thought the arrest was brought due to agitation from the right-wing Golden Dawn political party.

Police allege the unnamed 27-year-old set up a Facebook page referring to the late Elder Paisios by the mocking name Geron Pastitsios, which is a Greek pasta and beef dish. In a screenshot of the Facebook page, which has now been removed from the social network, the monk is shown with a plate of pastitsios in front of him. The monk, who died in 1970, has a large cult following who believe he had some kind of prophetic power.

The suspect was arrested and his laptop confiscated on the island of Evia at the weekend. Police said that his computer contained "blasphemy" against the dead monk and against Orthodox Christianity in general.

He faces a possible prison sentence or a fine of €3,000 under Greece's strict blasphemy laws.

'Remind me again, which country gave rise to (ancient Greek satirist) Aristophanes?' one user posted on Twitter, while others compared Greece to Iran and Saudi Arabia.

[Sign the petition](#) calling for the release of the Facebook "blasphemer" and for the abolition of blasphemy law in Greece.

- [Share on What's App](#)
- [Share on Facebook](#)
- [Share on Twitter](#)
- [Share on Email](#)
- [Subscribe to RSS Feed](#)

Tags: [Free speech](#)

Related Campaigns

•

[Protect freedom of expression](#)

We promote free speech as a positive value.

[Read More](#)

Related Articles

NSS: Report reveals ‘inherent danger’ of Islamophobia definition

Creeping restriction of free expression illustrated in report's account of increasingly spurious accusations of 'Islamophobia'. [Read More »](#)

We must empower secular schools to assert their ethos

When Islamists tried to bully Michaela Community School, the school refused to back down. Other schools have not been so successful in challenging religious intimidation. Megan Manson explores what made Michaela different. [Read More »](#)

NSS announces major conference on protecting liberal values

Kenan Malik, Joan Smith and more speaking at NSS Secularism 2024 conference in London. [Read More »](#)

NSS hosts talk with author of Annie Besant book

Renowned author Michael Meyer discusses 'A Dirty, Filthy Book' in online event. [Read More »](#)

Three years on, the lessons of Batley are yet to be learned

The Batley affair exposed the Islamist threat to UK schools. We're still yet to come to terms with its implications, says Jack Rivington. [Read More »](#)