

Egypt's cartoonists pen their condemnation and journalists syndicate to condemn Charlie Hebdo attack

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Egypt's journalists syndicate to condemn Charlie Hebdo attack

A rally is set to take place on Sunday in Cairo in front of the syndicate's headquarters.

Egypt's journalist syndicate has called on its members to hold a rally on Sunday in front of its headquarters in downtown Cairo to condemn the terrorist attack on the Charlie Hebdo office in Paris.

At least 12 people, mostly journalists, were killed in Paris on Wednesday when gunmen opened fire inside the office.

General secretary of the syndicate, Karem Mahmoud, told Al-Ahram's Arabic news website that the rally will start at 2pm local time with the aim of "defending the honour of the word and freedom of expression."

Mahmoud also said that all members of the syndicate and its council will participate in the rally while holding up their pens and cameras.

He added that there will be a press conference following the rally held by the council of the syndicate.

The incident has sparked worldwide fury and debates on freedom of expression.

The satirical magazine is known for its controversial cartoons on political and religious leaders and has published numerous drawings lampooning the Islamic Prophet Mohamed.

Egypt's journalists syndicate condemned the attack and said that the assailants who staged it "cannot belong to any religion, especially Islam. They are only savage killers".

Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi and Al-Azhar, the country's highest Islamic institution, also condemned the attack.

* Ahram Online , Friday 9 Jan 2015:

<http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/1/64/119888/Egypt/Politics-/Egypts-journalists-syndicate-to-condemn-Charlie-He.aspx>

Egypt's cartoonists pen their condemnation against Charlie Hebdo attack

The attack left 12 people dead, most journalists, and sparked worldwide fury

Egyptian cartoonists have marked their condemnation of Wednesday's deadly attack on the French satirical magazine, Charlie Hebdo by inking more cartoons.

Young cartoonist Makhoulf, drew a caricature of himself holding up his hand in what looks like a military salute, but with an oversized pen in the place of the gun expected to be on his shoulder.

He also drew a portrait of himself holding up a pencil in the face of an assailant wearing a balaclava, with almost alien-like eyes, as he points a gun at him.

In another powerful cartoon, artist Anwar depicts a French cartoonist, smiling, as he draws a smile with a red-stained brush, on the balaclava of an assailant holding up a gun.

Similarly, Makhoulf drew a third cartoon showing a fighter with a gun running away from a large smiling face that appears to be coming after him.

Together Makhoulf and Anwar also wrote short profiles in the privately-owned daily Al-Masry Al-Youm on the French cartoonists killed in the attack.

Artist Hicham Rahma, meanwhile, drew three fighters, with "ISIS" labeled on their turbans, and one of them saying "this was a hard day," while another has a CIA official hidden inside his turban.

Cartoonists signed their fresh drawings with the French words "Je suis Charlie" [I am Charlie] which has become a global statement of support for the magazine.

Makhoulf and other cartoonists including Doaa El-Adl and Abdallah have written statements of support on their public Facebook pages.

On his Facebook page, Makhoulf wrote a "Letter to the Masked" where he addressed the assailants saying cartoonists shall continue their work.

"We do not need more deaths to know that you are coward. After you killed cartoonist Naji Al-Ali [influential Palestinian cartoonist killed in 1987], and your bullet settled in his head... his head that frustrated and threatened you... we knew that our weapon is stronger than yours," he wrote.

Makhoulf also pointed out that Charlie Hebdo has been critical of their French government and other religions, not just Islam. He closed off by bidding farewell to the dead cartoonists describing them as "great, brave and strong".

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Reem Gehad, Thursday 8 Jan 2015

To see the cartoons, go to:

<http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/1/0/119789/Egypt/0/Egypt-cartoonists-pen-their-condemnation-against.aspx>
