

Street Preacher Charged With 'Religious Aggravation' for Comparing Jesus and Muhammad

Street evangelist Mike Overd, a client of the Christian Legal Centre, is being prosecuted in the United Kingdom for an alleged religious aggravation public order offense.

The charges follow a complaint to police in Taunton, that Overd made a comparison between the perfect life of Jesus and the life of Islam's prophet, Muhammad.

Police have informed the former paratrooper that the Crown Prosecution Service wishes to bring three charges against him under Section 5 of the Public Order Act.

A Taunton police sergeant recently gave an interview to BBC television and a newspaper locally, urging residents to film the evangelist's preaching as it was alleged that Overd's preaching was "causing offense."

The officer has also asked local traders to film Overd if they believed he was preaching "offensively."

Overd insists that when he made a comparison between the perfect life of Jesus and the life led by Muhammad, he did not speak in a hateful way.

"It was a simple comparison and it was factual. Muhammad did marry a 9-year-old girl. I have no hatred of Muslims in me at all and only preach the truth of the gospel. Recently a Muslim man came to my defense when I was preaching and a local shopkeeper started to shout at me.

"The Muslim gentleman didn't take offense because he said he knew I was simply preaching what I believed and agreed there was no hatred in me. I've got this incident on video, and I

also have video evidence of the incidents which have led to this forthcoming prosecution."

Overd has been told his case will come to court before the end of this year.