

# Controversial Muslim preacher to face trial

From [In 2017](#) he was heard to have preached "Oh Allah, I beg you to destroy the enemies of our religion. Destroy the Jews, Christians, Hindus, Russians and the Shia," he is heard saying. "He who befriends a disbeliever is cursed until the Day of Judgment." The sermon was delivered at the Ar'Rahman mosque in canton Bern.

The 68-year-old Libyan national is also accused of claiming welfare payments despite having an income from organising pilgrimages for Muslims.

He reportedly received about CHF590,000 (\$652,000) in benefits between 2003 and 2017. He was granted asylum in Switzerland in 1998 but lost that legal status after it was discovered that he received a valid Libyan passport in 2013.

Ramadan has denied any wrongdoing, saying his sermons have been misinterpreted. He faces deportation from Switzerland if found guilty. *In 2017 Ramadan spoke out against the allegations against him, calling the interpreter who translated his sermons a "liar".*

"... I only ask Allah for justice. The translator is a liar. I will take this to court once my life quietens down," he added.