

Meanwhile, Saudis Lash Blogger for "Insult" to Islam

[Charlie Hebdo](#), but Saudi Arabia's [a statement](#), the International Humanist and Ethical Union called Badawi's punishment "savage, and an absolute violation of human rights and dignity" intended to cow other potential free thinkers into silence.

"Only yesterday it was reported that Saudi Arabia condemned the Charlie Hebdo shootings, and yet the authorities choose this week to brutalize a young man because he had the audacity to stand up and say that his countrymen should have greater liberty," Union spokesman Bob Churchill said. "The Saudi state's condemnation of terror in Paris is hypocrisy of the highest order."

Amnesty International also [turned it down](#).

This has been a horrible week for violence waged in defense of Islam. It's not a great week for