



Posted 3rd August

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**UN Alliance of Civilizations, British Council and top US universities release timely video series: *100 Questions About Islam***

**New York; Washington; Columbia, MO (August 2, 2011)** - Debates on the role xenophobic anti-Muslim rhetoric played in influencing Anders Breivik have abounded in the aftermath of the Norway attacks. Separately, the role of Islam in democracy is being widely discussed as uprisings in the Arab world continue apace. In this context--and ahead of the ten-year anniversary of 9/11--a new and timely video series, launched by the UN Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) and the British Council, seeks to provide insight on these and other current issues around perceptions of Islam and Muslim communities.

The series consists of video interviews with scholars, journalists and policymakers from a diversity of geographical and professional backgrounds on major social, foreign policy, and historical questions. Marc Scheuer, Director of the UNAOC, commented, "With the Arab Spring, people's views on Muslims and Arabs are evolving in unprecedented ways, and the ***100 Questions About Islam*** video project taps into a lot of unanswered questions."

The 100 videos, which average two minutes in length, address common misconceptions about Islam. Participating commentators -members of the [Our Shared Future Opinion Leaders Network](#) and some UNAOC [Global Experts](#) - expertly draw parallels between Muslims and other minority groups in Western countries, such as American Jews.

Topics discussed include the role of women in Islam, the place of democratic principles in theocratic governments, the veil, the Arab Spring, Shariah law, among many others. A selection of clips also features the findings of a recent poll by Gallup of a billion Muslims around the world, the largest such survey ever undertaken.

***100 Questions About Islam*** aims, above all, at being a digital resource for the general public. It is a joint endeavour by the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations' Media Program; the British Council's *Our Shared Future* project, and was produced by students from the University of Missouri School of Journalism during a symposium hosted by Georgetown University's Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding.

The entire collection of videos can be found at the following sites:  
<http://vimeo.com/groups/100questionsaboutislam>  
<http://www.youtube.com/100qsaboutislam>

**Contact:**

UN Alliance of Civilizations:  
Stephanie Durand  
Media Development Manager  
T: 212.457.1851  
E: [stephanied@unops.org](mailto:stephanied@unops.org)

British Council:  
Alexandra Dimsdale  
Head of Press and Communications (USA)  
T: 202-588-7837  
E: [alexandra.dimsdale@britishcouncil.org](mailto:alexandra.dimsdale@britishcouncil.org)

**About the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC)**

The United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) is an initiative of the UN Secretary-General which aims to improve understanding and cooperative relations among nations and peoples across cultures and religions. It also helps to counter the forces that fuel polarization and extremism. The UNAOC was established in 2005, at the initiative of Spain and Turkey, under the auspices of the United Nations and under the leadership of Jorge Sampaio, former President of Portugal, as High Representative for the UNAOC.

The Chrysler Building 405 Lexington Ave | New York, NY 10174 US