

**News and Current Events :: Islam's New Front Line: Germany**

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November 22, 2004 Â· The death of a Dutch filmmaker, at the hands of a suspected Muslim extremist, has Germans anxious that religious unrest will spread to their own country. NPR's Sylvia Poggioli continues a five-part series on Europe as the emerging battlefield in the struggle to define Muslim identity.

Unease about Islamic radicalism was sparked by a German television broadcast in which an imam at a Berlin mosque was secretly filmed calling Germans "unbelievers" who "can only burn in hell." A spokesman for the mosque later asked for the public's forgiveness and said Imam Yakub Tasci spoke in error.

Muslims make up about 4 percent of the German population, but their influence on German society is growing. For example, a German Muslim group won a court battle to impose its own Islamic teaching in Berlin's public schools.