

 **TODAY'S SHORT TOPIC**  
**BEN CARSON**  
**AND THE**  
**ISSUE OF HAVING**  
**A MUSLIM PRESIDENT**



By Stephen L. Bakke  September 22, 2015

*Here's what provoked me:*

*A editorial "took off" against Ben Carson's statement excluding a Muslim from the presidency. And while Carson's statement was very foolish as constructed, a credible editorial should have told "the rest of the story" which would have helped the reader interpret Carson's statement.*

*Here's my response:*

**Ben Carson and the Issue of Having a Muslim President**

The Editorial of 9-22, "Fanning the flames of anti-muslim bias" has as its main purpose to isolate the words of Ben Carson indicating a Muslim shouldn't be president because the religion "somehow violates the U.S. Constitution." It further asserts "Carson's ignorance about both Islam and the Constitution."

Carson's statement was foolish and he's paying the price. However, the editorial should have risen above the fray to point out "the rest of the story." For example:

- Officials of the leading U.S. Muslim organization, CAIR, HAVE stated their allegiance to Sharia law and their ultimate desire for it to apply nationally and world-wide.
- The U.K. has 85 separate Sharia Courts that have "standing" in determining legal rulings.
- In the U.S., only one American judge has cited using Sharia law in his decision. But why should even one decision rely on non-U.S. laws?

Regarding knowledge of the Constitution:

- Sharia Law IS intended to be a governance structure.
- The Constitution forbids the government establishment of a religion, but such is not the case with Sharia Law which officially ties together governance and religious beliefs.
- Countries governed by Sharia do not offer freedom of religion or anything similar to our Bill of Rights.

So, here's my opinion: ANYONE, even a professed Muslim, is eligible to serve as our president, as long as that person has sincerely pledged allegiance to the Constitution of the United States. I'm sure Ben Carson would join me in this opinion.