

First *Charlie Hebdo* since attacks sold out in many parts of France

PARIS, FRANCE: The first issue of satirical magazine *Charlie Hebdo* to be published since a jihadist attack decimated its editorial staff last week has sold out within minutes...



"It was incredible. I had a queue of 60-70 people waiting for me when I opened," said a woman working at a newspaper kiosk in Paris.

"I've never seen anything like it. All my 450 copies were sold out in 15 minutes."

The new issue features a cartoon of the Prophet Mohammed on its cover, holding a "Je Suis Charlie" sign under the headline "All is forgiven".

It has already drawn ire from Muslim groups in some countries that oppose depictions of Islam's founder. The magazine has printed up to three million copies of its "survivors' issue" -- profit from which will go to victims' families.

That dwarfs its usual 60,000 print run.

"Our Mohammed is above all just a guy who is crying," said cartoonist Luz, who designed the new front cover. "He is much nicer than the one followed by the gunmen."

New copies are expected to reach newsstands across France in the coming days.

Meanwhile... Muslim scholars condemn latest *Charlie Hebdo* prophet cartoon

DOHA, QATAR: A leading association of Muslim academics has criticised the decision by French weekly *Charlie Hebdo* to publish a new cartoon of the Prophet Mohammed, claiming it would "stir up hatred".

"It is neither reasonable, nor logical, nor wise to publish drawings and films offensive or attacking the prophet of Islam," the International Union of Muslim Scholars, based in Qatar and headed by preacher Yusuf al-Qaradawi, said in a lengthy statement.

The new issue of the satirical magazine, published on Wednesday, features a cartoon of the Prophet Mohammed on its cover holding a "Je Suis Charlie" sign under the headline "All is forgiven".

It was the first edition of the magazine to be published since Islamist gunmen killed 12 people in an attack on its Paris offices last week. According to the International Union of Muslim Scholars, publication of the drawing would give further "credibility" to the idea that "the West is against Islam".

It added that the images would further "stir up hatred, extremism and tension".

The statement, published late on Tuesday, continued: "If we agree that (those who committed the attacks) are a minority that do not represent Islam or Muslims, then how can we respond with actions that are not directed against them, but against the prophet worshipped by a billion-and-a-half Muslims?"

Al-Qaradawi, 88, is an influential Islamic scholar and is seen as a spiritual guide of Egypt's banned Muslim Brotherhood, the movement of ousted former president Mohamed Morsi.

Similarly, a prominent Saudi cleric, Sheikh Ahmed al-Ghamedi, told AFP that publication of the latest image was a mistake.

"It's not a good way to make the people understand us. Jesus or Moses, all messengers (of God) we should respect," and should not be made fun of in pictures or words, Ghamedi said. "I believe it will make more problems."

The magazine, which normally has a print run of around 60,000, said on Wednesday that it would print five million copies this week because of unprecedented demand. The magazine sold out across France within minutes of publication on Wednesday.

Source: AFP, via I-Net Bridge

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