

NATIONAL POST  
**Letters**

Extreme Islam

November 10, 2004

Re: Filmmaker's Alleged Killer Linked To Terror Suspect, Nov. 4.

The murder of director Theo van Gogh -- allegedly by a suspected Islamic militant -- is reminiscent of several other events involving extremist Islamic elements. For example, the former leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ayatollah Khomeini, issued a fatwa calling for the murder of Salman Rushdie in response to his book which allegedly insulted Islam. Here in Canada, author Irshad Manji has received numerous death threats from radical Islamists in response to her supposed insults to Islam.

It is increasingly obvious that radical Islam, with its dogma and intolerance, is incompatible with a democratic society such as Canada where dissent and divergent views are permitted. The presence of these fanatics here is a grave threat to our freedom and values. Our government must take firm action to eliminate these extremist elements from our society.

Ron Banerjee, Toronto.