

Mulhouse Again

The Mulhouse guys and their project may reflect similar experiences of Gulf-funded Islamic centers that have ended up being centers of sectarianism, intolerance, and Islamophobia. Why? Because in the Gulf, we fund those projects emotionally rather than rationally. These projects need administrations which represent the state, with strict controls, a clear vision and strategy, and supervision from the host countries. Otherwise, the fate of these centers may fall into the hands of people who can't be trusted, giving counterproductive results that offend our religion and countries. A government agency funded a similar project in France with an amount of € 5 million. Years later, the municipality of Paris cancelled the project after the terrorist attacks there and the amount was refunded. Long story short, the French simply said, "Come and take your money. We want absolutely nothing from you!" These delegations come from abroad and we know nothing about them other than their ability to stir up our emotions. So, we hand them our money without a second thought and without supervising their expenditure, their management, or their vision and strategy. I'm not talking about any particular project here, nor am I trying to discredit the Mulhouse team because I do not know them. I am neither encouraging nor discouraging contributions to them. All I am saying is that caution is required in dealing with contributions to such large projects, and the state should protect its benefactors by imposing its current and future control. Otherwise, the consequences may be grave. Let's not forget what happened to those who donated to the Mujahideen of Afghanistan and the legal prosecution they are suffering up until now!