

# We will take the Muslims over Hadian

**Devin Rokyta/Moscow-Pullman Daily News**

Not that long ago, Idaho was best known nationally for potatoes and being home to the Aryan Nations.

Idaho, of course, is still famous for its potatoes - it even says so on our license plates - and fortunately the state has been able to expel the majority of the white supremacist group from its borders, although that brief bit of history remains a terrible stain on the state's reputation.

In recent years the state - thanks to its leaders in Boise - hasn't helped itself in the image department, showing its intolerance by refusing to provide basic protections for the non-heterosexual members of our society and, most recently, attacking Muslims and spreading fear of Shariah law.

Just a couple of weeks ago, a House panel killed a child support enforcement bill in a blunder that could cost the state millions in federal dollars and make it easy for deadbeat parents to flake out on child support payments, all because a few wackos - the kind who are certain President Barack Obama is a Muslim - believe the bill would potentially make Idaho subject to Shariah law.

It'd be hilarious if it didn't have real world consequences.

Then, last week, a former Muslim turned Christian pastor, Shahram Hadian, as part of his so-called "Truth and Love Tour," warned a crowd in Sandpoint at an Idaho Republican Party event about the dangers of Muslims coming into Idaho. He preached about the "fallacy of a 'Peaceful Islam,'" called Islam "a culture of death" and said Muslims supporting Shariah law are hell-bent on coming to the United States and Idaho with plans of killing anyone who doesn't agree with their interpretation of Islam.

Again, it would be laughable if people weren't buying into his hate and nonsense.

Hadian also met with more than a dozen lawmakers in Boise last month to expose the Muslim "threat," and, considering the death of the child support bill soon thereafter, his words appear to have moved some of those lawmakers. He also called for limiting Islamic immigration and blocking refugees from settling in the state.

We would be better off turning our focus toward keeping people who preach hate - like Shahram Hadian and Aryan Nations founder Richard Butler - out of our state and, more importantly, unseating the ignorant politicians who follow their lead.