



**WRITERSWORLD Newsletter - Issue No. 76**

## **Muhammad Cartoons Get Harper's Pulled from Canadian Bookstores**

**By Kimberly Maul: First published The Book Standard in May 30, 2006**



Copies of the June issue of *Harper's Magazine* have been removed from 260 Canadian bookstores because of a ten-page article by Art Spiegelman about the Danish cartoons depicting the prophet Muhammad. Indigo Books and Music, Canada's largest retail bookstore, pulled the magazines because the article, titled "Drawing Blood," included reproductions of the 12 cartoons that led to demonstrations and riots in the Muslim world when they were originally published in the Danish daily newspaper *Jyllands-Posten* in September.

A company email to store managers, quoted in *The Globe and Mail*, said: "The decision was made based on the fact that the content about to be published has been known to ignite demonstrations around the world."

Indigo [and its subsidiaries] Chapters and Coles will not carry this particular issue of the magazine but will continue to carry other issues of this publication in the future."

"I'd expect an American company to do this, not a Canadian," *Harper's* president John MacArthur told *The Globe and Mail*. Both Borders and Waldenbooks are still selling the issue of the magazine, despite previously pulling copies of the April/May issue of *Free Inquiry*, a small magazine that reproduced four of the Danish cartoons.

Indigo, which accounts for about 11 percent of Harper's distribution in Canada, carries up to 3,000 copies of the magazine each month.....**THE END**

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