

Faith Digest: Jihawg Ammo

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Pork-laced bullets designed to send Muslims straight to hell. Still angry about the idea of an Islamic cultural center opening near Ground Zero, a group of Idaho gun enthusiasts decided to fight back with a new line of pork-laced bullets. South Fork Industries, based in Dalton Gardens, Idaho, claims its ammunition, called [Jihawg Ammo](#), is a “defensive deterrent to those who violently act in the name of Islam.” The bullets are coated in pork-infused paint, which the company states makes the ammo “haram,” or unclean, and therefore will keep a Muslim shot with one of the bullets from entering paradise. “With Jihawg Ammo, you don’t just kill an Islamist terrorist; you also send him to hell. That should give would-be martyrs something to think about before they launch an attack. If it ever becomes necessary to defend yourself and those around you, our ammo works on two levels,” the company said in a press release. However, Shannon Dunn, assistant professor of religious studies at Gonzaga University, said South Fork’s concept is based on an inaccurate understanding of the Quran. “There is no penalty for coming into contact with pork given by the Quran,” she said, pointing to verses that prohibit the consumption of pork are reminiscent of Jewish dietary laws outlined in Leviticus. “To my knowledge, Muslims, especially unknowingly, would not be banned from heaven for eating or getting hit by pork.”

Britain’s Girl Guides drop oath to God. For more than 100 years, Britain’s [Girl Guides](#) took an oath to “love God and serve the King/Queen.”

British Girl Scouts

an attempt to broaden its appeal and attract children from secular, nonbelieving families. Beginning in September, all new members who make the promise to be good and useful citizens will pledge an oath to “be true to myself and



develop my beliefs” and “to serve my Queen (Elizabeth II) and my country.” Chief Guide Gill Slocombe explained the reference to God sometimes “discouraged some girls and volunteers from joining,” adding that the new wording would help the organization “reach out to girls and women who might not have considered guiding before, so that even more girls can benefit from everything guiding can offer.” Girl-guiding attracts more than half a million members in Britain. An estimated 10 million members comprise the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts from 144 countries. The Girl Guides’ Association was formed in 1910 under the leadership of Agnes Baden-Powell, sister of Lord Robert Baden-Powell, who founded the Boy Scouts. Within a few weeks, the Boy Scouts in Britain probably will announce a decision about the wording of their Oath of Loyalty, including how best to accommodate people who do not believe in God.

Religious oppression rises despite Arab Spring. People who hoped the Arab Spring would lead to greater religious freedom across the Middle East have been sorely disappointed, and a new Pew study confirms the region has grown even more repressive for various religious groups. “In 2011, when most of the political uprisings known as the Arab Spring occurred, the Middle East and North Africa experienced pronounced increases in

social hostilities involving religion, while government restrictions on religion remained exceptionally high,” according to the report by the Pew Research Center. The study shows the number of countries in the Middle East or North Africa with sectarian or communal violence between religious groups doubled from five to 10 during 2011, a year that coincided with most of the political uprisings of Arab Spring. Among those groups most adversely affected were Egypt’s Coptic Christians, whose churches have been bombed and burned both before and after the February 2011 fall of former Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. Globally, the Pew survey of 198 countries found the share of countries with high or very high restrictions on religion rose from 37 percent in mid-2010 to 40 percent by the end of 2011.