

NEWS RELEASE

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Rushdie 'not worth defending'

Francis Bennion has resigned as a member of the International Committee for the Defence of Salman Rushdie. In a letter to the Defence Committee's chairperson he says-

'I am resigning for two reasons. One is that the Defence Committee has proved ineffective. The other is that Rushdie has proved not worth defending.

The Defence Committee has failed to do what was needed effectively to defend Rushdie's freedom of speech. It failed to collect evidence of incitement by British Muslims to murder Rushdie. It failed to press the Attorney General to prosecute those guilty of such incitement. It failed to urge the British Government to insist that the Iranian Government procure withdrawal of the infamous *fatwa* (death sentence) against Rushdie. In fact the Defence Committee has done nothing useful at all.

There are several reasons why Rushdie is not worth defending. He has never indicated that he wishes the Defence Committee to take any positive steps. He has decided not to proceed with the paperback of *Satanic Verses*, so surrendering to his would-be murderers. He has decided not to proceed with translated editions of the book, another form of surrender. Worst of all, he has now confounded his supporters by embracing the bigoted creed that holds its followers entitled to murder a novelist for what he has written in a novel.

I hasten to dissociate myself from this man.'

See also:

<http://www.francisbennion.com/pdfs/fb/1993/1993-011-dt016-salman-rushdie.pdf>

<http://www.francisbennion.com/pdfs/non-fb/1991/1991-001-nfb-fb-attacked-over-rushdie.pdf>

<http://www.hvk.org/articles/0597/0220.html>