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Islam's unlawful English parliament

Your obituary of Kalim Siddiqui (20 April 1996) speaks of his 'calling for the establishment of a non-territorial Islamic parliament'. It fails to make clear that in 1992 he was the prime mover in actually setting up in London an unlawful body asserting parliamentary functions and indeed calling itself the Muslim Parliament.

At the time I drew to the attention of the British government the unlawful nature of this body. I pointed out that it contravened section 2 of the Act 42 & 43 Vict. c. 28. This is still in force and makes it a criminal offence to take part in 'proceedings of any assembly, other than Parliament as by law constituted, which shall propose to take or shall take upon itself . . . functions of either House of Parliament'.

This was not the only unlawful act committed by Dr Siddiqui. As a member of the International Committee for the Defence of Salman Rushdie I was greatly concerned at his constant agitation in favour of the carrying out of the fatwa or death sentence against that author. This constituted the criminal offence of incitement to murder.

I am thankful that these iniquities will not continue from that source. However it remains pertinent to question why they were never prosecuted by our authorities charged with that function.¹

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¹ *The Times*, 29 April 1996.