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Muslim Spokespersonship in the Multicultural Debate in the Netherlands

In the debate on multicultural society, which rages in many western countries, there is a lack of adequate representation from within the Muslim community. In this period during which non-Muslims harbor considerable doubts on the subject of Islam, but also during which there aren't any Muslims who feel the need to take responsibility for everything being done in Allah's name, there's a natural reaction: those Muslims who *are* willing to speak out about Islam will certainly be listened to.

In my article I will examine *Current affairs* television shows and newspapers from the Netherlands. I will analyse the representatives of the Dutch Muslim community who spoke out during critical moments in the debate on the multicultural society. These few Muslims contradicted people like rightwing politician Geert Wilders and Islam critic Ayaan Hirsi Ali. The question is on what pillars do their spokespersonship rest; what entitles them to this role of spokesperson? Based on what authority are their voices heard? All of this will be undertaken on the basis of the discourse theory of Laclau and Mouffe about politics, power and the role of discourses.