

# Austria Launches Hate Speech Investigation of Wilders while his Freedom Party leads Dutch Polls



Geert Wilders, leader of the Dutch Freedom Party (PVV)

Source: AP

Public Prosecutors in Austria launched a criminal investigation of Geert Wilders, leader of the Dutch Freedom Party (PVV), based on his remarks in March 27, 2015 before the Austrian Freedom Party (FPÖ) at the Hofburg in Vienna. He had journeyed there to meet with Heinz-Christian Strache, his counterpart in the Austrian Freedom Party (Freiheitliche Partei Österreichs, FPÖ) and deliver a speech on “The Threat to Europe”. Austria has a hate speech law under which Elisabeth Sabaditsch-Wolff, a leader of the Bürgerbewegung Pax Europa (Citizen movement Pax Europa) and the International Civil Liberties Alliance (ICLA) has been similarly [prosecuted and convicted](#) for remarks offensive to the country’s Muslim community regarding Islamic doctrine and criticism of their Prophet Mohammed. Wilders had compared the Koran to Hitler’s *Mein Kampf* in his FPÖ speech and suggested that it be banned.

Both Sabaditsch-Wolff’s and Wilders’ remarks would be considered protected speech under the First Amendment of the US Constitution. Wilders has suggested that the European Parliament adopt an equivalent form of free speech protection. Wilders is still under investigation by public prosecutors in the Hague for his [remarks](#) about “fewer Moroccans” during a campaign rally on March 19, 2014 prior to the European

Parliamentary elections.

[Watch](#) Wilders' March 27, 2015 Speech before the Austrian Freedom Party (FPÖ) on this Vlad Tepes YouTube Video:

*NL Times* [reported](#):

The Austrian Public Prosecutor has started an investigation against PVV leader Geert Wilders on charges of sedition.