

Controversial German author takes Random House to court after it axes his book on Islam

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Publishing giant Random House has declined to release a new book by controversial German politician-turned-author Thilo Sarrazin over fears it could whip up anti-Muslim hatred.

The dispute, which will be heard before a court in Munich on Monday, revolves around Sarrazin's new book "Hostile Takeover – How Islam Hampers Progress and Threatens Society", Bild Zeitung reported on Friday.

In 2010 Sarrazin, a former central banker and Berlin state finance minister, published the incendiary book "Germany Does Away With Itself", arguing that undereducated Muslim migrants were making the country "more stupid".

The volume became a runaway bestseller and is now seen as having helped pave the way for the anti-Islam Alternative for Germany party which entered parliament last year with nearly 100 deputies.

The new book was to have hit shelves in late August and is billed as a critical close reading of the Koran.

Sarrazin, 73, told Bild that he had signed a contract with Random House in November 2016 and delivered the manuscript last February, but after “a lot of back and forth about the publishing date,” the title was yanked.

Random House, which is owned by German media behemoth Bertelsmann, said the dispute will be heard in court on Monday. Random House said in a statement that Sarrazin “is free to publish his book at any time with another house.”