

Abdullah - Complete case

Michael is an ordinary 17-year-old boy from a one-parent family in The Hague. His father died five years ago. Until half a year ago, Michael was a big soccer talent in the A1-team of ADO. He was then told, to his sorrow, that there would be no future for him in soccer. He has since changed. His results dropped at the Hogeschool - which were fine until then. He also skipped classes more and more.

In the many hours in which he formerly played soccer, he has since joined up with a few Moroccan and Antillean friends who are Islamic. Michael has a growing interest in Islam. He wants to know everything about it. He has always been quite fanatic with certain things for some periods; in his adolescence he also enthusiastically joined a Pentecostal church.

A few months ago he started calling himself Abdullah. He grew a beard, changed his clothes and started to live as pure as possible and listen to prayers on his iPhone throughout the day. He is already able to read reasonably Arabic, which earns him respect from his brothers. A few brothers are married in the Islamic traditions. Abdullah is popular with the 'sisters'.

The police have observed that they meet in an old company building and at a Sharia4Belgium brother's home. The youth worker sees that Abdullah and his friends are often on the TheTruthReligion website and listen to Radio Ghurabaa. They also share all kind of tips for videos, sites and Twitter with each other. The boys isolate themselves from other visitors that they used to interact with.

Abdullah recently started long distant running again. He was seen by police at a soccer match with his brothers. Lately, he is also going more and more to Jimmy's gym and he visits a few shoarma-restaurants that are mainly visited by devout Muslims. They also go to a few mosques, to pray together. After prayer they often stick around for a chat, also with men who say they just returned from Syria.

Outside the mosque it is not known that the group of young people cause conflicts, openly criticize the imam and do not want to pray behind him. His mother notices that he has become quieter at home. She thinks he is struggling with the loss of his father and his dream of becoming a soccer-player. She allows him to seek comfort and support from his new friends.

She finds it annoying to hear from him that he can't sleep "because of Syria". She starts to worry, but also thinks it's just a phase. She asks at school if a Moroccan physical education teacher could talk to her son, but Abdullah refuses contact with him and says that the man is not a good Muslim.

During discussions in the classroom, Abdullah is very fierce on things that are about religion. He finds the West hypocrite and wonders aloud why people are not allowed to travel to the Islamic State. He causes trouble a couple of times when he accuses other pupils about the way they experience their religion. During one of these discussions he shows pictures of Dutch men who help to build the Islamic State. When two brothers from Delft die in Syria he praises the fact that they took their responsibility. A couple of Muslim women in the class support him.