

## **Geert Wilders Confidante and Former Far-Right Politician Arnoud Van Doorn Converts to Islam**

Is Van Doorn's conversion sincere or a Far-Right political stunt? He claims it is sincere and confirmed the speculation regarding his conversion to AlJazeera.

The Dutch anti-hate site [Krapuul.nl](http://Krapuul.nl) has also carried the story, (original Dutch, English translation).

**This will really rattle the "counterjihadists," no doubt Geert Wilders is shaken, as everything he stands for has been undermined by an individual who used to be a close confidante.**

- **Far-right Dutch Politician Finds Islam** (OnIslam)

**AMSTERDAM – A leading member in far-right Dutch politician Geert Wilders' party has reverted to Islam after an extensive study about the Islamic religion and Muslims.**

"I can understand people are skeptic, especially that it is unexpected for many of them," Arnoud Van Doorn told Al-Jazeera English satellite channel.

**"This is a very big decision, which I have not taken lightly."**

The news about Doorn's reversion first came to the surface last month when he tweeted "new beginning".

He **later posted a tweet in Arab pronouncing the Shahadah** (proclamation of faith).

The **politician later announced that he reverted to Islam**, giving no more information about the reasons behind the decision.

"In my own close circle people have known that **I have been actively researching the Qur'an, Hadith, Sunnah and other writings for almost a year now**," he said.

"In addition, **I have had numerous conversations with Muslims about the religion.**"

**Driven by his party's anti-Islam discourse, Doorn decided to dig in for the truth** about the religion himself.

**"I have heard so many negative stories about Islam, but I am not a person who follows opinions of others without doing my own research,"** he said.

**"Therefore, I have actually started to deepen my knowledge of the Islam out of curiosity.**

"My colleague Aboe Khoufani from the City Council in The Hague has brought me further into contact with the as-Soennah mosque, which has guided me even further."

A member of the Dutch parliament and The Hague city council, **Doorn's name has long been associated with Wilders' anti-Islam, far-right PVV party.**

Wilders himself is known for his rants against Islam, Muslims and the Noble Qur'an.

### **New Beginning**

Doorn's decision to embrace Islam has won mixed reactions in the Netherlands.

**"According to some people I am a traitor**, but according to most others I have actually made a very good decision," he told Aljazeera.

**"The reactions are generally positive and I also received quite some support via twitter.**

**"It feels good that people who do not know me personally have understanding of my situation and support me in my choice."**

For the Dutch politician, finding Islam was finally guiding him to the true path in his life.

**"I have made mistakes in life as many others. From these mistakes I have learned a lot,"** Doorn said.

**"And by my conversion to Islam I have the feeling that I finally found my path.**

"I realize that this is a new start and that I still have much to learn as well."

**Departing from his earlier life as a PVV member,** Doorn expects much resistance in his political life.

**"The expectation is that I will continue to face much resistance, also from certain government institutions,"** he said.

**"I have all faith in Allah to support me and to guide me through these moments."**