

A Tale of Two Comedians

By *Alexander Baron* - Mar 20, 2015



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Hannibal Buress and Dieudonné M’bala M’bala are both comedians. They are also both black, but that is about all they have in common; they are separated by an ocean and a language – Dieudonné does not speak English. He appears also to speak a language officialdom does not like, for while Buress has won limited applause for reopening a can of worms and dragging the reputation of a fellow American comedian through the mud, Dieudonné has been dragged into court time and time again, the last time for making what was at worst a tasteless joke.



Hannibal Bures
(Image credits: Ezmosis)

In January this year, the terrorist attack on the Paris offices of the satirical magazine *Charlie Hebdo* provoked worldwide condemnation and use of the phrase *Je suis Charlie Hebdo*. Typically, Dieudonné went one better with the slogan *Je me sens Charlie Coulibaly*, a comment on his Facebook page, Amedy Coulibaly being one of the assassins. For this, Dieudonné had his collar felt by the same government that along with the leaders of *inter alia* the Palestinian Authority and Germany had marched through the streets of Paris to protest not only *against* the murders but *in support of* free speech.

Dieudonné is certainly a controversial figure, controversial by both nature and intent, but the French authorities have consistently over-reacted to his antics, which include the *quenelle* gesture, something that has not quite landed him in court, probably because they realise how ludicrous it would make them look if they tried to ban it.

He has though now been given a **two month suspended sentence** for his Facebook post.



*Dieudonné M'bala M'bala
(Image credits: Mickael Denet)*

Dieudonné is no court jester, while Hannibal Buress may have ignited a storm of controversy and led to powerful vested interests making a concerted attack on **the statute of limitations**, Dieudonné has exposed the hypocrisy and double think of Western establishments who will drag a man into court for mouthing a racial epithet while at the same time they are complicit in the murders of innocent civilians by drone attacks in the hinterlands of Pakistan and elsewhere. Which is why his name will be remembered long after Hannibal Buress is dead, buried and forgotten.

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