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Zanzibar Muslims move to ban Freddie Mercury party

August 28, 2006 Edition 1

Zanzibar: Outraged Zanzibari Muslims have sought to ban a 60th birthday party for the late Zanzibar-born rock star Freddie Mercury, complaining that the singer's flamboyant lifestyle offended Islam.

In a letter to the culture ministry, a group of conservative Muslims said plans to honour the lead singer of the supergroup Queen at a gala bash next month must be stopped.

"Associating Mercury with Zanzibar degrades our island as a place of Islam," the islands' association for Islamic Mobilisation and Propagation said in a letter.

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Group chief Abdallah Said Ali wrote that the singer was known to have been gay, had died of Aids and had lived a wild life many Muslims would condemn. "

The complaint follows the appearance in recent weeks of posters advertising a huge beach party in the islands' capital to mark what would have been Mercury's 60th birthday. - Sapa-AFP

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