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Muslim preacher who runs Britain's biggest sharia court denies raping two Dutch women in UK when they were young schoolgirls

- Police are investigating allegations made by two Dutch women about cleric
- He is the principal of a college in the Midlands and has set up sharia courts
- Sheikh voluntarily spoke to police and insists claims against him are unfounded

By [RICHARD SPILLET, CRIME CORRESPONDENT FOR MAILONLINE](#)

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A Muslim cleric who has worked towards opening sharia law courts in the UK has been questioned over historic rape claims.

Faiz-ul-Aqtab Siddiqi, 51, voluntarily spoke to officers looking into claims two Dutch women were sexually abused when they were children in the 1990s.

The women went to West Midlands Police over allegations they were attacked while staying with the sheikh's religious community in the UK, Dutch newspaper [De Telegraaf](#) reported.



Faiz-ul-Aqtab Siddiqi has spoken to police investigating alleged sex abuse in the 1990s

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Mr Siddiqi told the paper the claims were 'unfounded' and were part of a campaign to discredit his family.

A West Midlands Police spokesman said: 'A 51-year-old man from Nuneaton has been voluntarily interviewed in relation to allegations of historical rape cases. Enquiries remain on-going.'

Lawyer Sheikh Faiz-ul-Aqtab Siddiqi is principal of a religious college outside Nuneaton, Warwickshire.

He was a leading figure in protests against Charlie Hebdo magazine after 11 of their journalists were massacred by Muslim extremists

He helped set up Muslim Arbitration Tribunal panels around the UK, described in 2008 as Britain's first legally binding sharia courts.

Speaking about the courts at the time, he said: 'This method is called alternative dispute resolution, which for Muslims is what the sharia courts are.'

The courts were criticised at the time, with then shadow home secretary Dominic Grieve said: 'These tribunals have no place in passing binding decisions in divorce or criminal justice hearings.'



Mr Siddiqi is principal at a religious college (pictured) near Nuneaton in the Midlands

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