

ANATOMY OF #FAKENEWS IN THE ERA OF DONALD TRUMP

A CASE STUDY OF UNETHICAL JOURNALISM

DIANE WEBER BEDERMAN



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and it is the duty of the historian to ensure that
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George Orwell, author of ‘1984’

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Diane Weber Bederman is an author, chaplain, journalist, blogger and speaker who is passionate about religion, ethics, politics, and mental health. Her first book, *Back to the Ethic: Reclaiming Western Values*, published by Mantua, is available on [Amazon](#). She has been published in many media outlets including Huffington Post Canada, Times of Israel and Canada Free Press. She is a proud member of Leading Women for Shared Parenting ([LW4SP](#)).

“Freedom of the press is essential to the preservation of a democracy; but there is a difference between freedom and license. Editorialists who tell downright lies in order to advance their own agendas do more to discredit the press than all the censors in the world.” Franklin D. Roosevelt, the 32nd President of the United States.”

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Introduction

The Roman satirist Juvenal, in a famous passage, asked, “Who will watch the watchmen?”

One cannot write about Fake News in the 21st century without referencing Donald Trump, the 45th President of the United States of America. History will record his failures and accomplishments, but when it comes to the discussion about fake news- #FakeNews and #FakeNewsMedia, Donald Trump has shared his views on the behaviour of the media and shaken our trust in journalism.

As this book is readied for the internet, the Robert Mueller report on Trump’s alleged collusion and obstruction with Russia has been brought forward. The main stream media (MSM) and their acolytes stated over and over that Trump and members of his family, would be found guilty. He wasn’t. They weren’t. But the damage had been done to America. The country, because of the failure of MSM to share all facts, and not just some facts, mixed with a great deal of opinion, has been deeply divided.

Glenn Greenwald stated: “This is the saddest media spectacle I’ve ever seen, since I began practicing journalism in 2005. And what makes it even sadder is to watch all of the people who vested their journalistic credibility into what proved to be a complete and total fraud and scam continue to try and cling to some vestige of credibility by continuing to spin conspiracy theories that are even more reckless and more unhinged than the ones to which we’ve been subjected for three years.

“The media got this story wrong. They obsessed on this for three years, and all this time there was no evidence for it. It was just a conspiracy theory. Rachel Maddow, the most influential liberal TV host in the country, every single night misled millions of liberals into believing something that was totally false, and there will be no media consequences for it.

The Washington Post and *The New York Times* won the 2018 Pulitzer Prize for their national reporting of President Donald Trump's alleged collusion with Russia. They were awarded \$15,000 in a joint prize. The “award winning” journalists include Maggie Haberman, Jo Becker, Matt Apuzzo and Mark Mazetti from *The*

Times and Rosalind Helderman, Tom Hamburger, Ellen Nakashima, Adam Entous and Greg Miller from *Washington Post*.

They received the award “for ***deeply sourced***, relentlessly reported coverage in the public interest that dramatically furthered the nation’s understanding of Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election and its connections to the Trump campaign, the President-elect’s transition team and his eventual administration. (The New York Times entry, submitted in this category, was moved into contention by the Board and then jointly awarded the Prize.

But they were wrong. Very wrong. How can people ever trust them again? How will we ever be sure that media sources are legitimate? That they verified their information? And if they did and got it so wrong; what’s next?

Right now, the only conclusion that can be drawn is that journalists, editors and publishers have written articles based on *their hopes and dreams, their human biases*, not facts. Their wishful thinking blinded them to facts. And they played into human bias, thus dividing the people along greater fault lines.

The media in a democracy has the most important role of protecting and defending free speech and our institutions from attack. Franklin D. Roosevelt, the 32nd President of the United States, from 1933 until his death in 1945, said “Freedom of the press is essential to the preservation of a democracy; but there is a difference between freedom and license. ***Editorialists who tell downright lies in order to advance their own agendas do more to discredit the press than all the censors in the world.***”

Here we are in the 21st century facing the same concerns about the free press. We are bombarded by what has come to be labeled “social justice journalism” which is diametrically opposed to the ethics taught in journalism schools. Lara Logan, a journalist for twenty years, much of it at CBS, shared her views on the state of journalism in 2019. “Although the media has always been left-leaning, we’ve abandoned our pretense or at least the effort to be objective today. We’ve become political activists, and some could argue propagandists, and there’s some merit to that.”

In 2019, a group of white Catholic school boys from Kentucky were eviscerated in main stream media as well as social media for racism, based on a short excerpt from a video taken at a Pro-life protest at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C. An encounter had taken place amongst leftist activist, Nathan Phillips, a black supremacist group the Black Hebrew Israelites and students from Covington Catholic High School; now referred to as the Covington Boys. When the entire video was released the boys were exonerated. But stigmatized.

The story is a symbol of media gone amok because the media had internalized a narrative that white people are racist and ran with the story without verifying facts. The role of media is to present the facts. It is also the one public institution that must hold government and all institutions to account so that the people can trust their leadership. As we go to publication the families of the young people have gone to court, suing media outlets for damages.

Then came the Jussie Smollett fabricated story that was accepted by main stream media without verification. They believed him when he said he was attacked, verbally abused and that the two people attacking him mentioned that he was in MAGA country-a reference to Donald Trump.

The story was falling apart, but still Main Stream Media tried to protect him and his story. Good Morning America's Robin Roberts interviewed him to give him another opportunity to share what had already become a controversial story. Why? Although the charges against him were dropped, he was not exonerated. But the damage had been done.

Main Stream Media pushed a narrative; then checked the facts. Human bias had already settled in.

Sadly, too many main stream media outlets and journalists have abdicated their moral and ethical responsibilities.

Fake News is not new. But I suggest that the definition of fake news is evolving. And in the world of Trump, the term #FakeNews has forced us to look at journalism up close and personal.

Victor Davis Hanson wrote in his column “Auditing our auditors,” January 2019, “Journalists now see themselves as social justice warriors who are immune from the scrutiny to which they subject others.”

Has main stream media forgotten the relationship between a newspaper and its readers must be one of trust?

While a majority of voters think Trump has done more to divide the country than unite it since he took office —the national news media are even worse. Sixty-four percent said the media was dividing the country while just 17 percent credited the press with uniting America.

In this book, #FakeNews discusses the danger of factual errors but focuses more on the egregious omission of facts. This type of #FakeNews is dangerous because the omission of facts about events and sources, especially on a regular basis, can promote a particular narrative; a bias, that affects perspective and can lead to the polarization of a country. The reason the omission of facts is so dangerous is that the consumer of news has no idea that facts have been omitted. This #FakeNews becomes propaganda. And media outlets together can form a coalition of #FakeNewsMedia.

Alan Bloom wrote “The most successful tyranny is not one that uses force to assure uniformity but the one that removes awareness of other possibilities...that makes it seem inconceivable that other ways are viable, that removes the sense that there is an outside.”

While media outlets and journalists, as well as politicians and professors are talking about Fake News, I decided it was time to write an exposé. This book is a case study in unethical journalism; Fake News, based on a four page article, promoted on the front page of the Toronto Star in Canada which refers to their content as “leading progressive journalism.”

Think about that statement: “progressive journalism.” Let’s define Progressive: “Given the predilection to progress, the past is viewed as an inferior state of existence with various afflictions that wither away over time.”

The Toronto Star, part of Star Media Group, has the largest circulation and readership of any daily newspaper in Canada, and includes thestar.com which has

monthly unique visitors of approximately 2.7 million. In addition, Star Media Group includes Toronto.com, Torstar Syndication Services, Shop TV, Eye Weekly, Sway Magazine, Real Estate News, and The Canadian Immigrant. Star Media Group also includes the jointly owned Metro free daily newspapers in Toronto, Ottawa, Vancouver and Calgary, the Chinese language newspaper Sing Tao, and LiveDeal.ca. Star Media Group is a division of Toronto Star Newspapers Limited, which is a subsidiary of Torstar Corporation. Although this article was distributed in a Canadian newspaper, the journalistic standards are not exclusive to the Toronto Star or Canada, nor are the failures on the part of the journalist, editors and publisher.

In this book, I will provide the definitions of fake news - unethical journalism; Canada's guidelines for ethical journalism as well as the journalistic practices for the Toronto Star. The rest of the book consists of the Toronto Star article, and my series of articles which include the media inquiries sent to the journalist, the editor, the media inquiry department and the publisher. I am providing the information that was sent to the journalist before the article was written and the information sent after publication trying to correct the errors in the article and most importantly, facts that were left out of the article that would have affected the direction of the story.

A good question to ask yourself as you read this book is "Why did the Toronto Star publish this article?"

In the book, *Beyond Belief*, Deborah Lipstadt argues that from 1933 to 1945, the American press failed to treat the destruction of European Jews as urgent news. When newspapers did report on the horrors being perpetrated, they adopted a skeptical posture, burying small stories with ambiguous headlines on inside pages. Lipstadt documents how the demand for objectivity, the cynicism or gullibility of reporters, the incredulity of editors, and an atmosphere of isolationism helped to shape the news - and influenced policymakers who might have saved countless lives.

Rex Murphy, a journalist in Canada, wrote about journalism, today, in his article in December 2018: "*Time is wrong.*" Today's journalists are not guardians of truth."

“It has long since replaced the attempt to be objective with a commitment to activism and advocacy. Much of contemporary journalism does not report on the game. It sees itself as part of the game — it seeks to massage opinion, reinforce favoured perspectives, take down its “enemies” and shield its heroes.” He later wrote, March 30, 2019, that journalists “abandoned principle, journalistic ethics, and in some cases rationality; and that “disgust at or for Donald Trump does not excuse and should not motivate, deliberately sloppy partisan journalism.”

There is a three hundred year old tale about gossip. A teacher instructs a boy to cut open a pillow and spread the feathers into the wind. He does. And they fly away in all four directions. Then he tells the young boy to gather them in. All of them. An impossible task.

This story was told to give insight into the danger of gossip. But it holds true, today, regarding the media. When a story is shared, and not properly fact checked; when editors who receive information rebutting an article and refuse to make corrections; we end up with #FakeNews blowing in the wind. With the advent of social media we will never be able to retrieve all the posts. The damage is not only done; it cannot be undone.

Think about these comments, now, as you read this book. Whether you choose to be a journalist in dangerous times or consumers of journalism, it is important to pay close attention to the “words” in all media, and practice critical thinking.

Freedom of the press must include freedom from bias.

The media, too, must be held accountable if we are to continue to enjoy the freedoms we hold dear.

Chapter One

Sins of Omission

I write about ethics. My first book is Back to the Ethic: Reclaiming Western Values. I studied ethics during my residency in Clinical Pastoral Education at Toronto Hospital, the largest hospital in Canada in the most diverse city in the world. I represented the Chaplaincy Department on the obstetric//gynecology ethics committee. This book is about ethics in journalism. I am taking the ethical lessons from chaplaincy into journalism.

I am writing about sins of commission, errors in fact, and sins of omission, what was left out of the report, by chance or by design. For me, the most egregious form of fake news is the sin of omission; the intentional omission of facts in order to promote a narrative. George Orwell, author of '1984' said, "The omission is the most powerful form of lie, and it is the duty of the historian to ensure that those lies do not creep into the history books." The second most serious attack on journalism is the refusal to correct errors.

Journalism, including investigative reporting and opinion-making, is a truly honorable vocation and is a prerequisite for freedom-loving countries. Most main stream media outlets have their own journalistic ethical codes of conduct based on universal codes. In democracies these are laws, not suggestions, regarding the freedom of the press and freedom of speech.

We have learned over time that a free, unbiased press is required for a free society to exist. We know this because we have watched countries, that turn toward fascism and tyranny, silence their journalists.

At the time of writing this book, Mexico is the most dangerous country for journalists in the Western Hemisphere. And there is trouble in Turkey, China and Egypt.

When you read this book ask yourself what kind of journalist do you want to be? Do you have the courage to stand up to those who try to stifle the freedom of the press? Are you the type of journalist prepared to go to jail for questioning government institutions and possible corruption? Think about that. What would you do if faced with the call by your government or your publisher to repress

information that you know is ethically required for your story? Facts that have nothing to do with confidentiality but could take down an institution, even the leader of your country.

And as consumers, how far are you willing to go to report #FakeNews and #FakeNewsMedia?

Silence is collusion.

Chapter Two

What is #FakeNews

So what is #Fake News? The hashtag stormed the internet when Donald Trump became President. But fake news has been with us for more than a century. It is important to know the meaning of the word we are discussing because words change meaning diachronically and synchronically.

According to the Cambridge Dictionary, Fake News is false stories that appear to be news, spread on the internet or using other media, usually created to influence political views or as a joke.

The Merriam-Webster dictionary said: The printing and dissemination of spurious news is hardly new, but the term fake news is quite simply, news (“material reported in a newspaper or news periodical or on a newscast”) that is fake (“false, counterfeit”).

Fake news has been with us for some time, but it is far more insidious, today, because of social media.

Darren Lilleker, a professor of political communication, argues that “fake news is the deliberate spread of misinformation, be it via traditional news media or through social media.”

Fake news is “deliberately misleading” and involving “intentionally or knowingly false statements of fact,” “deliberate spread of misinformation,” along with the “intention to deceive.” “News that contains false or inaccurate information,” “‘News’ with an agenda”, “News that is stretched in one way or another/tailored to a certain audience rather than raw facts,” “Clickbait material created without regard for actual true content” (Chapman 2017).

Roger Plothow, editor and publisher of the Idaho Post Register, in a column on media literacy, argues that, “Fake news should be defined as a story invented entirely from thin air to entertain or mislead on purpose.” (Plothow 2017, p. A5)

Fake news, if it is not directly equated with false news (Oremus 2017), is thought to consist of stories “invented entirely from thin air,” to be “completely

fabricated”, to transmit “new content [that] is 100% false”, and to have “no factual basis.”

Fake news is often spread on fake websites that look and “feel” real and have just enough information to lead you to believe that the site is an ethical media outlet.

Fake news can destroy a country by polarizing the population. We have been warned about fake news outlets that have spread false information to potential voters. But in my experience, fake news is disseminated not just by fake sites but reputable main stream media outlets who promote an agenda (too often political), and social justice journalism, often done by deliberately omitting facts in order to rile us up by feeding on human bias.

Chris Meserole from The Brookings Institution, a non-profit public policy organization based in Washington, DC wrote:

“Human biases play an important role: Since we’re more likely to react to content that taps into our existing grievances and beliefs, inflammatory tweets will generate quick engagement...this cycle can turn social media into a kind of confirmation bias machine, one perfectly tailored for the spread of misinformation.”

And now we come back to the definition for this book. In this book #FakeNews is the insidious ***omission of facts***: facts that are critical to understanding the incident; the manipulation of facts to promote a narrative; and outright lies.

Omission of facts. Think about that. In 2002, the United States Secretary of Defense, Donald Rumsfeld said:” There are known knowns. These are things we know that we know. There are known unknowns. That is to say, there are things that we know we don't know. But there are also unknown unknowns. There are things we don't know we don't know.” I remember that. People were laughing. Pity, because what he said is true. We don’t know what we don’t know. We don’t know what has been left out of the story.

If facts are missing from a report; online, newspaper, television, radio, how do you know? And how can you trust main stream media outlets if they do not make corrections?

Chapter Three

What are journalistic ethics?

An unbiased media is absolutely necessary to hold all institutions to account, particularly the government and the individuals in that government. We must be able to trust the media, and that investigative reporters will investigate. We must be able to rely on them to reign in their biases; no easy feat, in order to bring to us ALL the facts. Not some. All of the facts.

No matter which party is in office in any of the western democracies, their media must be fearless. And, when told, as has been done in Europe, that some facts must not be released, that some stories may not be shared, all of us are in peril.

Journalism is failing us: from the Cologne New Year's Eve rape fest which was held back for three days, to stories about child rape and child sex trafficking in Britain, kept quiet for fear of being labeled “racist.”

It has been suggested by the ECRI, the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance that Britain should consider regulating reporting on Islamic terrorism because it says it is fueling a backlash against Muslims.

ECRI has delivered an 83 page report which states: “ECRI considers that, in light of the fact that Muslims are increasingly under the spotlight as a result of recent ISIS-related terrorist acts around the world, fueling prejudice against Muslims shows a reckless disregard, not only for the dignity of the great majority of Muslims in the United Kingdom, but also for their safety.

“In this context, it draws attention to a recent study by Teeside University suggesting that where the media stress the Muslim background of perpetrators of terrorist acts, and devote significant coverage to it, the violent backlash against Muslims is likely to be greater than in cases where the perpetrators' motivation is downplayed or rejected in favour of alternative explanations.”

Chair of the ECRI, Christian Ahlund, said: “It is no coincidence that racist violence is on the rise in the UK at the same time as we see worrying examples of intolerance and hate speech in the newspapers, online and even among politicians.”

The report “strongly recommends that the authorities find a way to establish an independent press regulator according to the recommendations set out in the Leveson Report. It recommends more rigorous training for journalists to ensure better compliance with ethical standards.”

“Over the next few years, the Swedish government intends to introduce three major changes to the Basic Laws of the Realm. The first proposition “Revised Fundamental Laws for the Media” (2017) has already been sent to the Riksdag (parliament) for preparation by the Committee on the Constitution.

“The proposal has been criticized, for example by Judge Katarina Rikte of the Court of Appeal for Skåne and Blekinge:

“What they do with these rules is to open up a giant black hole in the constitution. It’s not the case that you can’t publish or express anything in a media outlet covered by constitutional protection. You may publish anything, but you can be punished afterwards for certain publications.”

“Within just a few years, the journalists who do not agree with the government’s narrative, or who suffer from the poor judgement to embark on investigative reporting, may be in serious trouble.”

I am not out of line when I write that today, too many media outlets, main stream media outlets, are not honoring their ethical commitments. Today, my fear is that bias is more widespread because main stream media is intentionally omitting facts, from placating governments, to feeding their base, just as political parties feed theirs. When media omits facts and refuses to correct facts, they are breaking their own journalistic standards.

The Canadian Association of Journalists Guidelines

ACCURACY

- We are disciplined in our efforts to verify all facts. **Accuracy is the moral imperative of journalists and news organizations**, and should not be compromised, even by pressing deadlines of the 24-hour news cycle.
- **We make every effort to verify the identities and backgrounds of our sources.**

- We seek documentation to support the reliability of those sources and their stories, and we are careful to distinguish between assertions and fact. **The onus is on us to verify all information, even when it emerges on deadline.**
- We make sure to retain the original context of all quotations or clips, striving to convey the original tone. **Our reporting and editing will not change the meaning of a statement or exclude important qualifiers.**
- There is no copyright on news or ideas once a story is in the public domain, but if we can't match the story, we credit the originating source.
- While news and ideas are there for the taking, the words used to convey them are not. If we borrow a story or even a paragraph from another source we either credit the source or rewrite it before publication or broadcast. Using another's analysis or interpretation may constitute plagiarism, even if the words are rewritten, unless it is attributed.
- **When we make a mistake, whether in fact or in context, and regardless of the platform, we correct* it promptly and in a transparent manner, acknowledging the nature of the error.**
- We publish or broadcast all corrections, clarifications or apologies in a consistent way.
- We generally do not “unpublish” or remove digital content, despite public requests, or “source remorse.” Rare exceptions generally involve matters of public safety, an egregious error or ethical violation, or legal restrictions** such as publication bans.

Chapter Four

Toronto Star Journalist Standards

The Toronto Star has its own journalistic standards.

Publisher's Introduction

Ethical journalism is the foundation of the *Star* 's integrity and our credibility with our audiences. Accuracy, fairness and quality journalism have long been essential to a great metropolitan news organization such as the *Toronto Star* — never more so than in this ever — evolving digital world.

This 2011 version of the Toronto Star Newsroom Policy and Journalistic Standards Manual sets down a comprehensive code of journalistic principles and conduct to guide us in our mission to responsibly inform, educate, entertain and delight readers, whether in print or in our growing digital formats.

Of course, no code of conduct can cover every eventuality in the 24/7 production of news and information. **Common sense, good judgment and the journalist's own moral compass must be brought to bear to any set of guidelines.**

The policies and practices here have evolved over time. However, found in its principal tenets is the thinking of a number of former notable *Star* journalists who have been integral in giving voice to our journalistic standards and ensuring that we live up to them. These include Martin Goodman, Ray Timson, John Miller, Don Sellar, Fred Kuntz, John Ferri, Sharon Burnside and Ian Urquhart. Torstar chairman John Honderich's guiding wisdom has also long influenced the *Star* 's commitment to excellence in journalistic practice. So too have the Atkinson principles, which are included in the following overall statement of the *Star* 's guiding principles.

This 2011 version was undertaken by a newsroom committee led by **Public Editor Kathy English**, working with Editor Michael Cooke and Executive Editor Murdoch Davis, and including as its core members, Joe Hall, Lynn McAuley, Rita Daly, Roger Gillespie, Leslie Scrivener and Bert Bruser.

John D. Cruickshank

April, 2011

TORONTO STAR STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

Truth emerges from free discussion and free reporting. An informed public is essential to fostering and preserving Canada's democratic society.

Section 2 (b) of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms guarantees

“freedom of thought, belief, opinion and expression, including freedom of the press and other media of communication.”

With this right comes a responsibility for the media to be accurate, fair, honest and transparent. In its landmark 2009 decision on responsible communication in the public interest, Canada’s highest court asserts this principle: **“Freedom does not negate responsibility. It is vital that the media act responsibly in reporting facts on matters of public concern, holding themselves to the highest journalistic standards.”**

If the *Toronto Star* does not live up to this responsibility in everything it publishes — in the newspaper, on its websites and through social media — we undermine our credibility with the public. As the *Star*’s then-publisher, Beland Honderich said in November 1972 on the occasion of the opening of the *Star*’s new offices at One Yonge St.: **“The most valuable asset a newspaper can have is its reputation for telling the truth.”**

The *Star*'s basic aim as a news organization is to engage in the full and frank dissemination of news and opinion, and to do so working within the highest standards of journalistic integrity. In reporting news and opinion, the *Star* seeks to inform the public of the significant and interesting events of the day, with particular emphasis on politics and public affairs.

The *Star* operates according to the progressive values established by Joseph E. Atkinson, the *Star*’s legendary publisher from 1899 to 1948. These Atkinson principles are: A strong and united Canada, civic engagement, individual and civil liberties, a necessary role for effective government and the rights of working people.

Our core mission as defined by Atkinson is to **focus public attention on injustices of all kinds and on reforms designed to correct them.** “Humanity above all,” said Atkinson, who further set the tone of the “Paper for the People” with his advice for news-gathering - **“Get the news first, sew it up so the opposition cannot get it, leave not a crumb or a tidbit uncollected, and play it big.”**

Herewith are the general principles that guide the *Star*’s journalistic integrity:

RESPONSIBILITY

The *Star* has responsibilities to its readers, its shareholders, its employees and its advertisers. But the operation of a news organization is, above all, a public trust, no less binding because it is not formally conferred. Our overriding responsibility is to the democratic society.

Freedom of expression and of the press must be defended against encroachment from any quarter, public or private. Journalists must ensure that the public's business is conducted in public. They must be vigilant against all who would exploit the press for selfish purposes.

Journalists who abuse the power of their professional roles for selfish motives or unworthy purposes are faithless to that public trust.

In October 2018, the Toronto Star joined other media organizations in reworking their ethical standards. They became a partner in the Trust Project, a global consortium of news organizations working together to improve trust in journalism.

Public Editor, Kathy English wrote:

What is trusted news?

Across Torstar news organizations, we define trusted news as accurate, accountable and ethically produced. **Being accurate means verifying information before sharing it – and correcting mistakes when they happen.** Being accountable means being transparent and open about what we do and how we do it. Being ethical means producing news and information according to ethical standards as set out in Torstar’s recently updated Journalistic Standards Guide... the values that provide the foundation for these trust indicators are not new for the Star, a 126-year-old news organization that has put a high value on ethical

journalism and accountability to its readers for many decades. For me, that is evidenced by the fact that the Star has had a public editor/ombudsman to respond to reader concerns about accuracy and ethics since 1972.

And then, on May 2, 2019, Public Editor, Kathy English provided the Toronto Star readers with answers they had provided to her question “Why does journalism matter?”

She wrote: “I asked. You answered. In anticipation of today’s World News Day, a time to recognize and celebrate the power of journalism to make a difference in people’s lives, I asked for your perspectives on why journalism matters to you” The title for the responses was “Great journalism holds the mirror to our souls.” She shared the readers views in anticipation of World News Day 2019 which focused on the question :“Why does independent, fact-based journalism matter?”

Of all the comments she received, she chose this comment to be the lead.

“Good journalism speaks truth in the face of lies, without fear or prejudice. When the public is confused by those with powerful self-interest, then the duty of the journalist is to lay bare the facts as (s)he knows them, allowing the reader to make informed decisions. This should be seen by all in the profession as a sacred trust. But great journalism holds the mirror to our souls, allowing its readers to see the nobility that each of us holds within. It opens our minds to the beauty of the world around us, not for plunder and exploitation, but for the enrichment of us all. It uplifts the spirit in times of struggle by challenging us to find the joy that exists in this moment. It ennobles all who see that we truly are our brothers’ keepers, knowing that only in serving others do we truly serve ourselves and our children. With recent polls showing the depth of the public’s mistrust of all those who we entrust with our faith, more than ever we need our journalists to help us to see beyond our fears and anger.”

All media outlets have ethical standards. In the West, most would be similar to those at the Toronto Star. Keep these standards in mind when consuming the news or writing for media.

Chapter Five

The Toronto Star Article

This exposé will point out the failure of the Toronto Star to follow its own ethical principles particularly verifying information before sharing it – and correcting mistakes when they happen; as well as its failure to follow Canadian Association of Journalists Guidelines regarding the effort to verify the identities and backgrounds of sources and experts.

Here is the article.

A Toronto imam was accused of hate-preaching against Jews. But that wasn't the whole story.

Jennifer Yang, Identity and Inequality Reporter Sun., Oct. 22, 2017

Ayman Elkasrawy's controversial prayers sparked outrage and condemnation from many, including members of his own faith. In the aftermath, he reached out to the Jewish community to educate himself and learn from his mistakes. Still, a key question remained unanswered: did he really say what he was accused of saying?

Ayman Elkasrawy got the phone call late on a Sunday night in February. An incredulous friend was on the line, with a strange and troubling question.

“Did you pray for the killing of the Jews?”

The friend sent him an online article about Masjid Toronto, the downtown mosque where Elkasrawy worked as an assistant imam. It included a video: rows of Muslim worshippers standing under fluorescent lights, their eyes closed and hands cupped. At the front of the crowded room was Elkasrawy, dressed in white and praying to God in Arabic.

“O Allah! Count their number; slay them one by one and spare not one of them,” read the article's translation of his prayers. “O Allah! Purify Al-Aqsa mosque from the filth of the Jews!”

Elkasrawy remembered the scene, filmed during Ramadan eight months earlier. He also remembered praying for Jerusalem's Al-Aqsa mosque, a bitterly contested holy site.

But he was shaken by the English translation. “I was surprised,” he says. “When I (saw) that, I even doubted myself. Did I say that?”

Elkasrawy woke up the next morning feeling calamitously misunderstood. He was bursting with things he wanted to explain, but he also realized he had made serious mistakes, for which he needed to apologize.

“Neither I, Masjid Toronto or the congregation harbour any form of hate towards Jews,” he wrote on Twitter later that day. “And so I wish to apologize unreservedly for misspeaking during prayers last Ramadan ... I sincerely regret the offence that my words must have caused.”

His apology only fanned the flames. Elkasrawy was suspended from his mosque and fired from Ryerson University, where he worked as a teaching assistant. Toronto police opened a hate crime investigation and condemnations rained down, from Parliament Hill to the National Council of Canadian Muslims. Elkasrawy also became a bogeyman in the federal Conservative party leadership race, cited in campaign literature as an example of Muslim extremism.

“We need to clarify what is going on at this mosque,” Meir Weinstein, head of the far-right Jewish Defense League of Canada, told the Toronto Sun. “Is this a den of worship or a den of hate?”

Eight months later, the story is crystallized online as a putative reminder of the hatred that can fester within Canadian society. A Google search for “Ayman Elkasrawy” — once yielding just a smattering of academic papers and social media profiles — now turns up pages of hits that brand him a genocidal anti-Semite.

Offline, however, new layers of the story began to reveal themselves.

Elkasrawy went quiet soon after his Twitter apology, advised by everyone in his life to stop talking. But a month after the scandal broke, he reached out to a stranger for help.

Bernie Farber is a household name in Toronto’s Jewish community, the former head of what was once Canada’s leading Jewish advocacy group. Both affable and combative, the white-goateed Farber has spent most of his career tackling anti-

Semitism. For the past two years, until his retirement in early October, he also ran the Mosaic Institute, a non-profit that promotes diversity.

Farber opened his email one day to discover an unusual request: would the Mosaic Institute help Elkasrawy learn from his mistakes? Farber immediately said yes, assembling a team of experts and planning a cultural sensitivity curriculum.

But after meeting the young imam, Farber was puzzled by the facts of this case. Elkasrawy was always quick to admit he made a serious mistake — it was wrong to pray about “the Jews.” But he also insisted his words were twisted, an explanation he struggled to articulate.

Farber was bothered by the discrepancy between the “quiet, dignified” man he had come to know and someone who would pray for Jewish people to be slain. Over the years, he has developed “almost a sixth sense” for detecting anti-Semites. Elkasrawy did not fit the mould.

At a time when white supremacists are mobilizing across North America, the fight against anti-Semitism has taken on renewed urgency. But this is a story that is far more tangled than it first appeared.

It is about an imam who made hurtful mistakes that he could not adequately explain. But it is also about the slipperiness of language — especially in a climate of viral misinformation, polarized debate and geopolitical conflicts that have found fresh battlegrounds in Canada.

Elkasrawy’s prayers were undeniably problematic, but they were also distorted to fit a certain narrative that gave his words added potency amid rising anti-Islamic sentiment.

In a controversy that hinges on his words, a central question was never fully investigated: Did Elkasrawy really say Jews were filth? Did he really call for them to be killed?

According to several Arabic experts contacted by the Star, the answer is no.

“I’ve learned a personal lesson throughout this entire process,” Farber says. “Do not take anything for granted. Not even words.”

Ayman Elkasrawy prefers not to speak at all, whenever he can help it.

At about six feet and 285 pounds, the bearded and bespectacled 32-year-old has an understated presence for someone who looms so large. He speaks softly and hesitantly; in the presence of strangers, he tends to fade into the background.

“I’m not so good at being social,” he says. “The more you talk, the more you make mistakes.”

Born and raised in a devout family in Egypt, Elkasrawy has dual Canadian citizenship through his father, an agronomist who immigrated here in 1976. He spent three summers with his dad in Toronto, “a different planet” in the eyes of a 13-year-old kid from Cairo.

After university, he moved to Canada to continue his education and is now at Ryerson pursuing a PhD in electrical engineering. While he sometimes wears traditional dress at the mosque, at Ryerson he blends easily with the campus crowd — just another grad student riding his Bike Share in jeans, sneakers and a backpack that looks slightly shrunken on his broad frame.

Elkasrawy and his wife, Somaia Youssef, found a religious community in Masjid Toronto (“Toronto Mosque”) on Dundas St. W., located in an old bank building near the bus terminal. The mosque opened in 2002 but did not hire a resident imam until 2015, so it sometimes asked Elkasrawy — who had memorized the Qur’an — to lead prayers or Friday sermons.

He was timid at first, even avoiding eye contact with congregants, but received positive feedback and was officially hired as an assistant imam in 2015. Elkasrawy sees this work as a spiritual duty and found himself spending hours at the mosque nearly every day — not just leading prayers, but also teaching and planning events, such as networking socials for Muslim professionals. “I felt that’s like my second home,” he says.

Over the years, Canada has become home for Elkasrawy as well. But as with many immigrants, an invisible umbilical cord connects him to the part of the world where he was born. His Twitter feed is dominated by Egyptian and Middle Eastern politics. He mostly retweets accounts he follows, including one called “Friends of Al-Aqsa.”

The silver-domed Al-Aqsa mosque is located on an elevated limestone compound in East Jerusalem. The compound — known to Muslims as the Haram al-Sharif and to Jewish people as the Temple Mount — is Islam’s third holiest site (after Mecca and Medina), and Judaism’s holiest.

Over the past century, the compound has become an explosive flashpoint in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

In 2000, a provocative visit by Israeli politician Ariel Sharon sparked clashes that escalated into the deadly Second Intifada. This summer, the mosque was at the centre of some of the worst violence, and biggest demonstrations, Jerusalem has seen in years.

For many in the Muslim and Jewish diasporas, stories about the holy site are front-page news. On June 26, 2016, the latest headlines were about a skirmish between Israeli police and Muslim worshippers.

What people understood about the incident depended in part on the media they consumed. According to the Arab press, Israeli officers “stormed” Al-Aqsa mosque, beating worshippers and deploying tear gas and rubber-tipped bullets. According to Jewish newspapers, “masked Arab assailants” were arrested after hurling rocks, chairs and slurs at Jewish tourists.

For Muslims, the Al-Aqsa violence was particularly alarming because it broke out during the last 10 days of Ramadan, an especially sacred time in Islam’s holiest month. So Elkasrawy decided to include the mosque in his prayers at Masjid Toronto. “I thought maybe this will help, praying together for this place,” he says.

It was nearly midnight by the time he finished reciting the Qur’an and began his supplications.

Unlike sermons, which are more like religious lectures, supplications are invocations to God; during prayers, they are recited by imams who face away from the congregation. While made in the highly technical style of Quranic Arabic, and typically in a rhyming scheme, supplications are often improvised.

Elkasrawy spent 10 minutes thanking God and asking for help — for protection from evil and greed, for beneficial knowledge to humanity, for good health, empathy, benevolence and love of the poor.

He then prayed for victimized Muslims around the world. He thought of Syria, a recurring topic of prayer at his mosque, invoking a quote from the Hadith (reports of the sayings and deeds of the Prophet Muhammad and his companions). He also prayed for Al-Aqsa, repeating a supplication he had found on the internet earlier that day.

Meanwhile, someone was filming. This didn't bother Elkasrawy; prayers are sometimes recorded for worshippers unable to attend. When the mosque posted the video on YouTube, he scanned various parts, curious about his performance. Then he forgot about it.

The video sat there in its corner of the internet, barely seen. The next time Elkasrawy watched it was eight months later, when he got the phone call: "Did you pray for the killing of the Jews?"

On a sunny morning in May, Elkasrawy rode an elevator to the 34th floor of a Bloor St. office tower, where two prominent members of Toronto's Jewish community awaited him.

Dressed in jeans and an electric blue sweatshirt, Elkasrawy sat across a boardroom table from Bernie Farber — the one-time CEO of the Canadian Jewish Congress — and Karen Mock, a former director with B'nai Brith Canada and the Canadian Race Relations Foundation. He was also joined by his mosque's senior imam and officials from the Muslim Association of Canada, which owns Masjid Toronto.

Everybody was there for Mock's anti-racism workshop, one of five sessions Farber had organized to educate an accused anti-Semite. The mood was friendly and relaxed, with pleasantries and business cards exchanged.

Ayman Elkasrawy attended his first workshop at the Mosaic Institute in May. Human rights educator Karen Mock, centre, led the session. Also present were Bernie Farber, left, and three officials from the Muslim Association of Canada: Khalil Khan, Jawad Salman and Wael Shehab.

But those abhorrent words loomed over this group of newly acquainted Muslims and Jews: “Purify Al-Aqsa mosque from the filth of the Jews!”

When it comes to Jewish-Muslim relations, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is the ever-present “elephant in the room,” Farber says — even in Canada, where both minorities share the burden of religious discrimination. According to Statistics Canada, Jewish people are the most frequent targets of police-reported hate crimes, while attacks against Muslims are the fastest-growing.

But there is also enormous diversity within both groups, which are sometimes the source of one another’s pain. There is mounting concern over anti-Semitism in certain corners of the Muslim world; meanwhile, Jewish people on the far right are among the loudest voices in the anti-Muslim movement. Israeli-Palestinian debates also have a tendency to slide into accusations of anti-Semitism or Islamophobia.

Farber, who once ran for the provincial Liberals, says Muslim issues have become a divisive topic among Jewish Canadians. He says he has received criticism from right-leaning members of his own community for defending Muslim Canadians and for supporting M-103, the parliamentary motion to recognize and condemn Islamophobia, which prominent Jewish advocacy groups opposed.

But he remains a vocal ally of Canadian Muslims. After the Quebec City mosque shooting in January, he joined people who gathered at mosques to form “rings of peace” across the country — an act of solidarity spearheaded by a Toronto rabbi that was covered by media outlets around the world.

But just two weeks later, that feeling of solidarity crumbled. “Supplications at Masjid Toronto Mosque: Slay them one by one and spare not one of them,” read the headline on a story published by CIJ News, an obscure right-wing website that has since been taken down.

Elkasrawy’s prayers quickly gained widespread coverage, from the Star and Sun to the CBC and the Canadian Jewish News, the country’s largest Jewish weekly. B’nai Brith Canada, a Jewish advocacy group, also wrote about the incident after urging Ryerson to fire Elkasrawy from his job as a teaching assistant.

The imam became a topic of heated discussion around Farber’s Sabbath table. “I was very troubled by it,” he says. “I was hearing a lot of anger. I was also hearing a

lot of ‘How could this be? Just last week I was involved in a circle of peace, and now this happens.’”

Farber wasn’t exactly surprised, however. This was not the first time an imam had been accused of preaching hate against Jewish people, even in Canada.

Elkasrawy’s story emerged around the same time as other accusations of anti-Semitism in Canadian mosques. This summer, a Jordanian cleric was also charged by Montreal police after allegedly praying at a local mosque for Jewish people to be killed.

But something about the Elkasrawy case struck Farber as odd, and he was skeptical of the website that broke the story. “I’ve been in this business long enough to know that before judgments are made, you really need to get all the facts,” he says.

So in April, when a mutual friend reached out to Farber on Elkasrawy’s behalf, he was intrigued.

The imam said he wanted to gain a better understanding of Canadian norms and values, in the hopes of learning from his mistakes. Farber — who once helped a repentant neo-Nazi leave her white supremacist organization — agreed to help.

Given the disturbing anti-Semitic prayers Farber had read about in the news, his initial plan was to prescribe intensive anti-racism training. But he changed his mind after meeting Elkasrawy.

“We’re not dealing with a racist or anti-Semite,” he says of his gut reaction. “I really saw a young man who felt beaten down for something that he didn’t quite understand.”

Farber switched gears. He organized five workshops to help Elkasrawy develop a better understanding of Canada’s cultural, legal and human rights landscape. (The workshops were provided at no cost, though the mosque later made a small donation to the charity.)

Elkasrawy learned about anti-racism, hate crime laws and Canada’s human rights framework. He also visited his first synagogue — Beth Tzedec, Canada’s largest Jewish congregation — where he learned about Judaism and discussed interfaith issues with a rabbi and reverend.

Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl did not ask Elkasrawy to explain himself, but he expressed how his language was harmful. “We are concerned about discrimination against Muslims,” he said, as Elkasrawy nodded. “But we are also concerned about extremism that comes out of the Islamic community.

“Our people hear the extremism and when you speak that way, that’s what they hear. They become afraid. And they become angry.”

During each session, Elkasrawy listened intently and occasionally jotted notes. He also asked questions, including one he repeated several times: “How do you speak (clearly)? How do you *tell* things?”

When the program ended, Farber reached a conclusion. “I just do not believe that Ayman is a hateful person,” he says. “He came in here with an open heart and a real willingness to understand.”

But he still couldn’t wrap his head around the words Elkasrawy had been accused of saying, or the imam’s muddled attempts to explain himself.

Two things were clear: Elkasrawy was sorry. He also felt misunderstood.

“I made *this* mistake,” he said at one point. “But not *that* mistake.”

Translation is not an exact science. Words are like prisms, refracting different shades of meaning. A good translation is one that captures the right hue.

Elkasrawy’s prayers were first translated on CIJ News, a website founded and edited by Jonathan Dahoah Halevi.

Halevi describes himself as a retired lieutenant-colonel and intelligence officer with the Israel Defense Forces, who now researches the Middle East and radical Islam. He learned Arabic in school and university, he once explained to an interviewer.

He has also been a go-to pundit for the now-defunct Sun News Network and its offshoot Rebel News, a right-wing media website that has drawn controversy for its anti-Muslim coverage.

Jonathan Dahoah Halevi first published a translation of Ayman Elkasrawy’s prayers on CIJ News, a website Halevi founded and edited.

Halevi's writings and statements suggest that he sees himself as a soldier in the information wars — particularly when it comes to allegations against Israel, which he challenges by using "continuous, intensive and thorough" research, according to a profile on the Economic Club of Canada's website.

This work includes counting "Gaza fatalities in his free time," according to a 2009 NPR article that described his "macabre hobby." During the first Gaza war, NPR wrote, Halevi suspected Palestinians of exaggerating their civilian fatalities and spent six months scrutinizing 1,400 deaths listed by a human rights group — checking each name against a terrorist database he personally compiled and "whatever he finds on the internet."

Halevi has also written extensively about Islam and Muslim Canadians on CIJ News, where his Arabic translations have drawn praise from the "anti-Islamist" blog Point de Bascule. "His knowledge of the Arabic language gives him an advantage when it comes to understanding the ambitions of the enemy," the Quebec-based blog wrote last year.

On Feb. 18, CIJ News published a story about Masjid Toronto, which included his translation of Elkasrawy's controversial prayers.

Halevi later told the Toronto Sun that he was prompted to dig up the material after reading media coverage of a rally outside the mosque.

The rally was ostensibly to protest the federal Islamophobia motion, but demonstrators brought signs that read "Say no to Islam" and "Muslims are terrorists." The protest was roundly criticized, including by local politicians who denounced it as an Islamophobic "display of ignorance and hate."

But in his interview with the Sun, Halevi suggested the real hate was happening *inside* the mosque. "The double standard and hypocrisy was appalling," he said.

After the story broke, Masjid Toronto took all its videos offline but it was too late; a new, edited clip was posted on YouTube, crediting Halevi with its translation and referencing an extreme anti-Muslim ideology known as "counter-jihad." The account hosting the clip also mentions "Vlad Tepes Blog" in its video description.

The “counter-jihad” is described by researchers as a loose network of people and groups united by the belief that Muslims are plotting to take over the West. A recent National Post investigation described Rebel News as a “global platform” for the counter-jihad, and linked Vlad Tepes Blog — regarded as a key website in the movement — to a frequent Rebel News contributor.

Rebel jumped on the story about Elkasrawy’s prayers, which it credited “our friend Jonathan Halevi” with breaking. In a video segment, “Rebel commander” Ezra Levant plays the YouTube clip while imploring his viewers to “look at what the folks inside the mosque were saying.”

“Look at the translation written on the screen,” Levant says in the video, which has now drawn more than 35,000 views. “Here they are talking about Jews — there’s a lot of Jews in Toronto — and how they need to be killed one by one.”

But such stories contained a glaring oversight: this was not at all what Elkasrawy said.

This is the consensus that emerged from five Arabic experts who independently analyzed Elkasrawy’s prayers at the Star’s request. The experts — from Canada, the United States and the United Kingdom — are Arabic translators, linguists and university professors with published book chapters, academic papers and textbooks. None of them knows Elkasrawy.

The experts found that the imam’s prayers were not without fault, and many clarified that they do not condone or excuse some of the language he used.

But they also described the initial, widely circulated translation as “mistranslated,” “decontextualized” and “disingenuous.” One said it had the hallmarks of a “propaganda translation.”

The YouTube clip was particularly troubling for Arabic sociolinguist and dialectologist Atiqah Hachimi, an associate professor at the University of Toronto.

This is because the clip was digitally manipulated: the first two seconds were cut and pasted from a different prayer Elkasrawy had made two minutes earlier. A slanted translation then transformed this Quranic verse from “Thou art our

Protector. Help us against those who stand against faith” to “Give us victory over the disbelieving people.”

“It changed their meaning in such a way as to promote the dangerous myths that violent extremism and hate are inherent to Islam,” Hachimi said.

Arabic sociolinguist and dialectologist Atiqa Hachimi, an associate professor at the University of Toronto was one of five Arabic experts the Star consulted for this story. Hachimi believes a clip of Toronto imam Ayman Elkasrawy's prayers was mistranslated and lacking in context.

Elkasrawy also was not referring to Jewish people when he said “slay them one by one,” a line from the Hadith that is often invoked as a cry for divine justice. This line was misunderstood as being part of his prayer about Al-Aqsa mosque; in fact, it was the closing line in a previous supplication that he made on behalf of suffering Muslims around the world, Hachimi said.

As for “Purify the Al-Aqsa mosque from the filth of the Jews,” a more accurate translation is “Cleanse Al-Aqsa mosque from the Jews’ desecration of it,” according to Nazir Harb Michel, an Arabic sociolinguist and Islamophobia researcher at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C.

The crucial word here is *danas*. Arabic-English dictionaries list several possible definitions — among them “besmirch,” “defile,” and spiritual “impurity” or “filth” — so context is key in determining the appropriate translation. Harb Michel said “no translator worth two cents” would choose the “filth” definition in the context of Elkasrawy’s prayer.

When *danas* is used in reference to a holy place — like Al-Aqsa — the common definition is “desecration,” the experts agreed. “He does not say ‘the filth of the Jews,’” said Jonathan Featherstone, a senior teaching fellow at the University of Edinburgh and former Arabic lecturer with the U.K. Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

But what did Elkasrawy mean by “desecration”? Again, context is instructive. Days before his prayers, he and his congregants were reading reports of Israeli police deploying tear gas and rubber-tipped bullets inside Al-Aqsa mosque —

actions many Muslims would consider to be a desecration of the site, especially during the 10 holiest days of Ramadan.

Elkasrawy now realizes how wrong it was to mention “the Jews,” especially since his intention was to pray for the mosque, not against people.

“If I could say it in a more clear way,” he says, “it would be ‘O Allah, protect the Al-Aqsa mosque from occupation. Or preserve the sacredness of the Al-Aqsa mosque from violation.’”

He said “Jews” is widely used in the Arabic-speaking world to mean “Israeli forces” or “Israeli occupiers,” not as a sweeping reference to all ethnic and religious Jews. But he acknowledges this common usage is problematic. And, he asks, “How is it perceived in my (current) community? It’s something I didn’t take into account.”

“I have never thought of anything against people of Jewish faith,” he says. “In Islam, we believe that no one should be forced into any religion. We cannot hate any people, any group, because of their ethnicity or their religion.”

Halevi declined requests for a phone interview but, in emailed responses, he stood by his original translation of Elkasrawy’s prayers. He did not answer specific questions, including why he chose the “filth” definition, but sent links to various websites and Arabic-English dictionaries.

He also did not answer questions about the source of the digitally manipulated clip, saying only that the original video was available on his website until the mosque deleted its YouTube channel.

But Halevi provided context that he considered important: excerpts from Islamic books that promote praying against disbelievers; translations of violent, aggressive or anti-Semitic statements made by other Muslims; links to CIJ News, which Halevi took down shortly after being contacted by the Star.

“Canadian imams deny any rights of the Jews over the Temple Mount or in (the) Land of Israel/Palestine,” Halevi wrote.

B’nai Brith Canada said two Arabic experts independently verified the original translation before the group urged Ryerson to fire Elkasrawy. B’nai Brith said it

also reached out to the imam on Facebook but did not get a response. (Elkasrawy deleted his account shortly after the story broke.)

“Statements like this have been made in many parts of the world and it’s actually been used directly as incitement,” said B’nai Brith CEO Michael Mostyn. “Jewish people have lost their lives over statements like this.”

Mostyn rejects the linguistic opinions obtained by the Star, in one case accusing an expert of having an anti-Israel bias. But he would not identify his own translators, citing concerns over their safety. The Star’s request to interview them anonymously was also declined.

In response to the Star’s questions, B’nai Brith solicited a third opinion from Mordechai Kedar, an assistant professor with the Arabic department at Israel’s Bar-Ilan University.

In a phone interview, Kedar did not remember being asked to evaluate Elkasrawy’s entire supplications, just the phrase that referred to “Jews” and *danas*. But he said he didn’t need any context to interpret Elkasrawy’s prayers because “when it comes to what Israel is doing, it is the worst meaning of the word.”

“Nobody should give them the benefit of the doubt that they mean something else, because they don’t,” he said. “(They want) to make the mainstream media in the free world believe them that they are the targets, when they are the problem in the whole world.”

Like Halevi, Kedar is a former Israeli intelligence officer and media pundit. His views have also drawn controversy, and Kedar once served on the advisory board for Stop Islamization of Nations — an organization co-founded by the anti-Muslim activist Pamela Geller and designated a hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center, a U.S.-based civil rights watchdog.

Kedar argued Elkasrawy’s language was “meant to create a religiously charged rage and anger against the Jews.”

“Reacting violently against (Jewish people) in revenge for their deed is almost a required reaction,” he wrote in an email. “You can call it, in one word, terrorism.”

B'nai Brith Canada has not gone so far as to allege verbal terrorism, and said it is glad Elkasrawy has undergone cultural training, but its position remains unmoved: “Mr. Elkasrawy’s message at the mosque was irrefutably offensive and anti-Semitic.”

Farber feels differently. He says Elkasrawy chose his language poorly, especially when he referred to “the Jews,” and failed to understand the harmful impact of his words.

But he now believes Elkasrawy’s prayers were misrepresented to the public. Like many people, Farber accepted the initial translation unquestioningly, but now says “if people were going to take that and ruin lives, we should have been a lot more careful.”

“He said something that’s highly charged and highly political and could be anti-Zionist — but it’s not anti-Semitic,” Farber says. “And that changes the flavour of this.”

In the rush to condemn Elkasrawy’s prayers, Muslim organizations were among the first in line.

“Unacceptable” and “inappropriate,” his mosque said in a statement. “Appalling and reprehensible,” wrote the National Council of Canadian Muslims, the country’s largest Muslim advocacy group.

There was much to disapprove of, in addition to the mention of “Jews.” Many Muslim Canadians disagree with praying negatively and feel frustrated when religious leaders speak in ways that reinforce harmful stereotypes.

Prayers like “slay them one by one” also have no place inside a Canadian mosque, says Mohammad Aboghodda, a lecturer with the Understanding Islam Academy, an educational charity in Mississauga. Aboghodda was one of the Arabic translators consulted by the Star.

This quote from the Hadith has a specific reference to ancient Islamic struggles but is sometimes used in prayers for divine justice; Elkasrawy says he invoked it on behalf of Syrian people killed and tortured by the government regime or by Daesh (ISIS) terrorists.

But Aboghodda finds this language inappropriate, even if well intentioned — it would be like a priest delivering a Sunday sermon and quoting Bible verses that say “wrongdoers will be completely destroyed.”

“That’s a very common old prayer, but it implies violence that we don’t need,” he says. “I think many young and novice imams go to the old books and just copy these from it.”

These were some of the concerns Muslim groups had in mind when they denounced Elkasrawy’s prayers — public statements that many took as an implicit acceptance of the initial translation. But those statements did not reveal whether the Muslim community thought the translation was accurate, or whether they understood Elkasrawy’s words at all.

How many Canadian Muslims speak Arabic? Contrary to assumption, only about 20 per cent of the world’s Muslims are native Arabic speakers; according to the latest census, 1.2 per cent of Canadians cite Arabic as their mother tongue. Quranic Arabic, which Elkasrawy used in his prayers, is also notoriously complex and difficult to deconstruct.

Hachimi pointed out that several Arabic-language newspapers also clearly relied on English reports of the incident, because when they back-translated the word “filth,” they chose a different Arabic word — *najas* — from the one Elkasrawy used in his prayers.

And who bothered to check the original video? The translation was not verified by the National Council of Canadian Muslims, executive director Ihsaan Gardee confirmed in an emailed statement.

He said the organization is now “deeply troubled” to learn that the widely circulated clip of Elkasrawy’s prayers was manipulated and the translations called into question. But in the fast-moving aftermath of the scandal, he said, the organization “could only respond to what was being reported” — in other words, it reacted to the CIJ News translation.

“Unfortunately, we are living in a time where the very worst is believed about Canadian Muslims — contrary to the reality that the vast majority are contributing positively,” Gardee wrote. “So when a story like this emerges that contains the

words of religious leaders speaking in a way that is understood — rightly or wrongly — to be promoting hatred against anyone, it is critical that human rights advocates be quick to condemn such language.”

Officials from the Muslim Association of Canada said their first priority was to reach out to the Jewish community and apologize for their employee’s inappropriate language, which violated the mosque’s stated policies.

But that doesn’t mean they considered the translation to be accurate — they didn’t. “We avoided this detail because a clear position was required so that there will be no confusion of our stand on this,” spokesperson Abdussalam Nakua wrote in an email.

Elkasrawy’s prayers exploded into view at a particularly fraught time.

Only weeks had passed since a gunman stormed into a Quebec City mosque and massacred six Muslim worshippers. The United States had just inaugurated a new president who campaigned on a Muslim travel ban. The acrimonious debate around the Canadian Islamophobia motion had reached a fever pitch, with Liberal MP Iqra Khalid even receiving death threats.

Elkasrawy’s prayers were quickly taken up by politicians. A month after they emerged, MP Steven Blaney — who was then running for the federal Conservative party leadership — cited Elkasrawy in a campaign email seeking donations to “stand against violence and radicalization.” (“Should Allah kill all the Jews? I don’t think so but frighteningly, some do.”)

Right-wing groups also latched on to the story and Elkasrawy’s picture was used on a poster at a rally against M-103. A hate crimes complaint was filed by the Jewish Defense League, which has been active in anti-Islamic protests. (A local JDL member is himself facing possible hate crime charges in the U.S. in connection with an alleged assault on a Palestinian-American man in Washington, D.C., earlier this year.)

“We’re dealing with a community in fear,” Farber says of Muslim Canadians. “Even if the community itself might feel that ‘Well no, this translation isn’t exactly right ... we don’t want to make people more angry.’ In the end, I’m not

particularly surprised that the mosque and others involved said, ‘Let’s shut this down and apologize.’”

Elkasrawy said his first priority after the story broke in February was to apologize to the Jewish community. He worried, too, about further inflaming the situation. “I feared for the people inside the mosque, that they might be attacked because of this.”

He decided to let things calm down before attempting to explain himself. But within days, posters were plastered around Ryerson’s campus, where Elkasrawy had been a teaching assistant on and off since 2008, a job that partially funds his graduate studies.

The posters had a picture of his face and the words “Fire him now” — a demand that was echoed by B’nai Brith Canada. The student who led the postering campaign, Aedan O’Connor, recently announced on Facebook that she is now working with Rebel Media.

Ryerson and its new president, Mohamed Lachemi, were already under pressure to respond to previous reports of anti-Semitism on campus. A meeting was quickly called between Elkasrawy and the dean of Ryerson’s engineering department.

Elkasrawy attended the meeting and brought a more accurate translation of his prayers, assuming this would be a first step in the university’s investigation. According to Elkasrawy, his translation was disregarded and Ryerson officials deliberated for about 15 minutes before handing him a two-page termination letter.

Ryerson declined to be interviewed for this story, stating that it does not discuss human resources matters.

For Elkasrawy, this was the moment that killed any hope he had of eventually explaining his side of the story. The YouTube clips, the media coverage, the public statements, his suspension, the police investigation, the termination — it all braided together into a knot that felt impossible to unravel. It all happened in 10 days.

Elkasrawy says he agreed to speak with the Star because “I have nothing to hide.” He has contemplated leaving Toronto or changing careers, but for now, he wants to move forward.

He has returned to his mosque, which conducted its own internal probe into the incident. He has applied, unsuccessfully, for new teaching jobs at Ryerson. And while the hate crime complaint against him remains active, Elkasrawy says he has yet to be contacted by police.

When asked what this experience has been like, Elkasrawy sighs heavily, his eyes drifting to the floor of his modest downtown apartment. He explains in a wavering voice that he has tried to take an Islamic point of view.

“People go through difficult times, hard times, in which they have to be patient and have some forbearance,” he says. “You have to listen to people and learn from this experience.”

He is holding tight to the lessons he’s learned, including those from the Mosaic Institute. Chief among them: when you speak, your meaning has to be clear — not just in your own head or to the people in front of you, but to Canadians of all backgrounds.

“Once the word comes out, even if the person who was hurt later understands your meaning, it will leave something in his heart,” Elkasrawy says. “It will not be the same as before.”

The translators

The Star consulted five Arabic experts for this story. They are:

Mohammad Aboghodda, Understanding Islam Academy

Atiqa Hachimi, University of Toronto

Nazir Harb Michel, Georgetown University

Jonathan Featherstone, University of Edinburgh

Kristen Brustad

Chapter Six

The Toronto Star article in context.

In February of 2017, eight months prior to the publishing of the story, there was an anti-Islam protest outside the Toronto Masjid Mosque in which Imam Elkaswary was sharing prayers.

Reported in the Toronto Star:

A spontaneous outpouring of support for the Muslim community was the response to a small short-lived anti-Islam protest outside a downtown Toronto mosque.

Photos online showed a small crowd with signs stating “No Islam.”

After seeing pictures of the protest online, approximately 20 to 30 people showed up outside of Masjid Toronto, a mosque in the heart of downtown Toronto, armed with last-minute signs. But before any of them arrived, the protest had already dispersed.

A Facebook event for the initial protest said that attendees would go to the court hearing of Eric Brazau, a Toronto man who was convicted of willfully promoting hatred against Muslims and criminally harassing a Muslim man and was “detained briefly last week for countering an anti-Trump protest.” The event said attendees would then march from the courthouse to a mosque with “anti-Islam signs.”

The group was also protesting Motion M-103, which made news this week as it was debated in the House of Commons, claiming it would violate freedom of speech rights. The motion’s goal is to study how the government can tackle systematic racism and religious discrimination including Islamophobia.

“There’s always going to be the sort of people who are pressing buttons of division everywhere and my understanding of the protest is it was a handful of people, not thousands. So for us to expect that such people are not around and such people don’t exist is unrealistic,” said Abdul-Basit Khan, who attends the Masjid Toronto mosque and is a former member of the mosques executive committee.

Khan said the mosque has not seen a similar protest in its 15-year history.

“The first protest was probably planned and organized. You don’t have people naturally coming to a mosque and saying bad things about its attendees and their faith. But the counter-protest, it was spontaneous. That’s more telling,” Khan said.

Khan also said he believes there’s “no better place to be a Canadian Muslim than in the GTA.”

“The GTA is so diverse,” Khan said. “It is so full of decency.”

The reaction of Torontonians to the initial protest just further proved that to him.

Katie Berger had just finished up a dance class when she saw a photo of the protest on Facebook. She immediately messaged some friends to meet her there and headed over to the mosque.

“It’s horrifying,” she said. “It’s completely unacceptable for people or groups to be targeted this way.”

She arrived to signs taped to the building’s walls: “We stand with our Muslim brothers and sisters,” “We welcome our fellow Canadians of all religions,” and “Whoever you are our heart is the same our blood is the same all over the world.”

“This is not an isolated incident,” Berger said of the protest. “They’ve always happened. They didn’t just start happening but they’re happening more and more. People are less ashamed about it but it’s up to us to respond as soon as we can.”

Michelle Robidoux, who also showed up outside the mosque after seeing a picture of the initial protest online, said it was “stressful” seeing the picture, especially so soon after six Muslims were murdered in a Quebec City mosque on Jan. 29.

Lane Patriquin, who was one of the first to arrive at the counter-protest, said it’s more important than ever for marginalized groups to “stand together.”

“I feel like solidarity among marginalized people now is particularly important because I worry the right wing is using a divide and conquer tactic with marginalized groups,” Patriquin said.

Kat Stoughton and her children Mia and Lily made hurried signs before attending the counter-protest.

“My best friend is Muslim,” Mia’s sign read.

“Everyone is Welcome!” read Lily’s.

Stoughton said they weren’t sure if others would come out but they wanted to “stand up for justice.”

“We wanted to make sure there was the alternate voice here,” Stoughton said. “[The protestors] don’t speak for most Canadians. They don’t speak for me.”

Adila Mulla, 23, and Leya Jasat, 19, who attend school in the area and are both Muslim, said they happened to be walking by when they saw the gathering. They stopped to thank some of the counter-protestors. Mulla even started tearing up.

“It’s heartwarming to say the least. I got emotional,” Mulla said. “I want to give a big hug to everyone here.”

“It’s nice to see someone supporting us especially with what’s going on in the world,” Jasat said. “I’ve felt less safe after all the hate crimes but it’s good to see there’s someone out there to help out.”

Global News in Canada also reported on the protest.

There was an anti-Islam protest outside the Masjid Toronto Mosque in downtown Toronto, Friday, February 17, 2017. Global News described it this way:

“Some of the signs posted on social media from the protest showed hateful slogans such as “Say No To Islam,” “Ban Islam,” “Muslims Are Terrorists” and “Less Islam Brings Less Terror No Islam No Terror.”

Mohamed Abdi, a member of the mosque, said he was disappointed after hearing of the demonstration.

“It’s pretty sad and a little bit surprising since I’ve been seeing so much positive responses lately so it’s a little bit sad to hear that that happened,” he said.

“I think that people who still want to come for Friday Prayer and just in general are hopefully still going to come but it could be the opposite.”

Toronto Mayor John Tory said in a tweet that “Islamophobia has NO place in our city,” adding he had visited Masjid Toronto many times and he denounces “all acts of hatred towards our Muslim citizens.”

Kristyn Wong-Tam, a Toronto city councillor, made a similar statement on social media and called the protest “awful.”

Abdi said members of the mosque would be holding an open house on Feb. 25 to have a conversation with Muslim and non-Muslim community members so they can learn more about the mosque.

“It’s a good time to have a conversation to see a community maybe different than yours and to meet some good positive people,” he said.

On February 18, 2017, the following day, an article appeared that shared the prayers of several Imams in Canada, as well as those Imam Elkaswary had repeated inside that Mosque eight months earlier in 2016 at Ramadan; prayers that dehumanized and demeaned Christians, Jews, atheists, all non-Muslims and enemies of Islam. The article included information about the concept of Jihad and the call to fight Jews and non-Muslims from a Canadian perspective.

Chapter Seven

The article that started it all

The article was posted by Lt. Col. (ret.) Jonathan D. Halevi, co-founder of CIJnews. The article contained translations of Muslim prayers from Arabic to English that were taken from Islamic sources.

Supplications at Masjid Toronto Mosque: “Slay them one by one and spare not one of them”

Posted by: Jonathan D. Halevi February 18, 2017

Masjid Toronto mosque in downtown Toronto is affiliated with the Muslim Association of Canada (MAC).

The mosque operates in two locations in downtown Toronto: Masjid Toronto at Dundas (168 Dundas St. West) and Masjid Toronto at Adelaide (84 Adelaide St. East).

Dr. Wael Shihab was appointed in April 2014 to a full-time resident Imam of the mosque Masjid Toronto.

Shihab has a PhD in Islamic Studies from Al-Azhar University and he was the head of the Fatwa (Islamic opinion) Unit of IslamOnline.net (English website) and the Shari’ah (Islamic Law) consultant of the Shari’ah department of Onislam.net.

He is also a member of the International Union for Muslim Scholars (IUMS) headed by Sheikh Yusuf Qaradawi, who played a major role in launching both aforementioned websites.

The following are some of Shihab’s views as presented in articles and Islamic rulings posted on Onislam.net:

- The solution to the global violence, extremism and oppression is Islam
- Qaradawi’s book “Jurisprudence of Jihad” should serve as a guidance to Muslims
- Thieves’ hands should be chopped off no matter their social status

- Person who underwent gender reassignment surgery should return to his original gender
- Muslims should avoid gays as homosexuality is evil and succumbing to the temptations of the Satan
- Wife should not reject her husband's call for having sex

For more information click [HERE](#).

In 2016, imams (religious leaders who lead the prayers) at the mosque recited supplications to Allah in support of the “mujahideen (those of engage in jihad) everywhere”, the total destruction of the enemies of Islam and the purification of Al-Aqsa Mosque from the “filth of the Jews.”

The following are excerpts from these supplications (originally in Arabic):

O Allah! We ask you... [to give us] victory over the enemies

O Allah! Raise the standing of Islam and the Muslims

O Allah! Give victory (help) to your oppressed slaves all over the world, east to west

O Allah! Give victory (help) to your slaves who believe in the oneness of Allah, O the Lord of the Worlds!

O Allah! Destroy the criminals

O Allah! Destroy anyone who inflicts injustice on your slaves, O the Lord of the Worlds!

O Allah! Count their number; slay them one by one and spare not one of them.

O Allah! Do not defer [it] from them

O Allah! Seize them with the seizure of One Mighty, Omnipotent [referring to a Quranic verse that deals with the punishment Allah inflicted on Pharaoh and his people]

The sermon was delivered on June 15, 2016 and published on YouTube on June 17, 2016

[[Original video](#) embedded in the Article]

[O Allah!] Give us victory over the disbelieving people...

O Allah! Give victory to Islam and raise the standing of the Muslims

And humiliate the polytheism and polytheists

O Allah! Give victory (help) to your slaves who believe in the oneness of Allah, O the Lord of the Worlds!

O Allah! Give them victory over the criminal people

O Allah! Destroy anyone who killed Muslims

O Allah! Destroy anyone who displaced the sons of the Muslims

O Allah! Count their number; slay them one by one and spare not one of them

O Allah! Purify Al-Aqsa Mosque from the filth of the Jews!

O Allah! Purify Al-Aqsa Mosque from the filth of the Jews!

The sermon was published on YouTube on July 4, 2016. According to Masjid Toronto YouTube channel: "Isha [night-time prayer] and 1st part of Taraweeh [special evening prayer in Ramadan] led by Br. Murshid, 2nd part of Taraweeh led by Dr. Mustafa Hannout, 3rd part of Taraweeh and Witr [night prayer] led by Br. Aymen Elkasrawy." Dr. Mustafa Hannout is seen standing next to Aymen Elkasrawy when he was reciting the above supplication.

[[Original video](#) embedded in the Article]

O Allah! Raise the standing of Islam and the Muslims

And humiliate the polytheism, the polytheists, the infidels and the atheists

And Give victory (help) to your slaves who believe in the oneness of Allah

O Allah! Give victory to our oppressed and deprived Muslim brothers and the mujahideen (those who engage in jihad) everywhere

O Allah! Pour on them patience and steadfast their feet

And give them victory over the disbelieving people

And give them victory over the evildoers

And give them victory over the criminals

[Original video embedded in the Article]

The sermon that was delivered by Shaykh Abdool Hamid. It was published on YouTube on July 8, 2016 (click [HERE](#)). He recited similar supplications at Masjid Toronto mosque also on:

June 6, 2016 (click [HERE](#)) December 11, 2015 (click [HERE](#)) November 13, 2015 (click [HERE](#)) August 14, 2015 (click [HERE](#)) June 12, 2015 (click [HERE](#)) May 13, 2015 (click [HERE](#)) May 8, 2015 (click [HERE](#)) January 8, 2016 (click [HERE](#))

Similar prayers were also delivered in 2014 by Imam Sayed AlGhitawi at Al Andalous Islamic Center in Montreal, Quebec. At the end of his sermons AlGhitawi recited supplications to Allah to support the mujahideen (Muslims who engage in jihad) in Palestine and to inflict total destruction on the Jews.

See also: ICNA Canada online syllabus: “Muslims will dominate the Jews”, kill them (click [HERE](#)).

The following are excerpts from Sayed AlGhitawi’s supplications in 2014 (originally in Arabic – click [HERE](#) and [HERE](#)):

Supplication – A

“O Allah, give victory to our brothers who engage in Jihad for Your sake in everywhere, O Lord of the Worlds. O Allah, give victory to our brothers who engage in Jihad in Palestine. O Allah, connect to their hearts. O Allah, make their feet firm. O Allah, make their feet firm. O Allah, give them victory over their enemy. O Allah, destroy the accursed Jews. O Allah, show us the black day you inflict on them. O Allah, show us the wonders of your power and ability inflicted on them, O the most Merciful. O Allah, show us how you do to them what you did to [the peoples] of ‘Ād and Thamud [ancient peoples that perished by Allah because they didn’t heed the warnings of the prophets]. O Allah, show us how you do them what you did to [the people] of ‘Ād and Thamud. O Allah, rain down on

them rain of stones made of Sigil stones, O Lord of the Worlds. O Allah, rain down on them rain of stones made of Sigil stones, O the most Merciful. O Allah, make their children orphans and their women widows.”

Supplication – B

“O Allah, give victory to our brothers who engage in Jihad in Palestine, O Lord of the Worlds. O Allah, make their feet firm. O Allah, make their feet firm. O Allah, unite their ranks... O Allah, destroy the accursed Jews. O Allah, show us the black day you inflict on them. O Allah, show us the wonders of your power and ability inflicted on them, O the most Merciful. Shook the ground beneath their feet. O Allah, kill them one by one. O Lord, don’t leave any of them [alive]. See also Quebec mosque says calls for death of Jews were taken out of their “real context” (click [HERE](#))

Free books at Dundas Square promoting supplications against the disbelieving people

Activists at the Islamic booth at Toronto’s Dundas Square have been offering for passerby free literature on Islam. CIJnews obtained some of these books and booklets:

Muslim Prayer Handbook for Beginners

The booklet recommends Muslims to recite a number of supplications to Allah to overcome and defeat the enemies of Islam who are identified as the disbelieving people (click [HERE](#)):

“...Our Lord! Forgive us our sins and our transgressions, establish our feet firmly, and give us victory over the disbelieving people. Our Lord! Bestow on us patience, make our foothold sure, and give us help against the disbelieving folk. Our Lord! Punish us not if we forget, or fall into error. Our Lord! Let not on us a burden like that which You laid on those before us. Our Lord! Put not on us a burden greater than we have strength to bear. Pardon us and grant us forgiveness . Have mercy on us. You are our protector, and give us victory over the disbelieving people.”

24 Hours With The Prophet

The booklet recommends on the following supplications (click [HERE](#)):

P. 71-73

The Witr (Night Prayer)

“... O Allah, we seek your help and request Your forgiveness and believe and trust in You and we praise You in the best manner and we thank You and we are not ungrateful to You, we also abandon and reject anyone who disobeys You.

“O Allah, we worship nothing but You, and we perform prayers for You, we Prostrate to You, and we hope for Your mercy and we fear Your punishment. Your punishment. Your punishment surely overtakes the disbelievers.”

P. 120-121

“For Patience and endurance

“Our Lord! Bestow on us patience, make our foothold, and give us help against the disbelieving folk.” [2:250]

“The most comprehensive Supplication

“...Our Lord! Punish us not if we forget, or fall into error. Our Lord! Lay no us a burden like that which You laid on those before us. Our Lord! Put not on us a burden greater than we have strength to bear. Pardon us and grant us forgiveness. Have mercy on us. You are our Protector, and give us victory over the disbelieving people.” [2:286]

“The Prophet PBUH said: “Whoever recites the two verses [2:285:286] at night, it will sufficient to protect him from misfortune.” (Bukhari)

P. 122

“To overcome enemies

“Our Lord! Forgive us our sins and our transgressions, establish our feet firmly, and give us victory over the disbelieving people.” [3:147]

P. 124

Protection from oppressors

“...Our Lord! Make us not a trial for the people who are Zalimun (polytheists and wrongdoers) (i.e. do not make them overpower us). And save us by Your Mercy from the disbelievers.” [10:85:86]

P. 156

“Protection from the enemies

“O Allah, we beg You to restrain them by their necks and we seek refuge in You from their evil.” (Abu Dawood)

The Accepted Dua by Abu Umar Abdulazeez, the Imam of Abu Huraira Center in Toronto click [HERE](#)):

“Our Lord, forgive us our sins and the excessiveness [committed] in our affairs and plant firmly our feet and give us victory over the disbelieving people.”

O Allah, destroy the disbelievers that deny Your messenger, and block others from Your path, and descend upon them Your punishment, O Allah, destroy the disbelievers who were given the Book [Jews and Christians]. You are the True God.

Chapter Eight

Just a little research would have sufficed

Lt. Col. (ret.) Jonathan D. Halevi's article was posted on social media. The Rebel reported on it a day later. A few days later, main stream media reported on the prayers. Politicians and Muslim organizations, including the **National Council of Canadian Muslims** (NCCM), the **Muslim Association of Canada** and the **leaders of the Masjid Mosque**, where Imam Elkaswary shared the prayers, disavowed his prayers as hateful. Ryerson, where he worked as a teaching assistant did not accept Elkasrawy's prayers and fired him. The Muslim President of the University called them anti-Semitic.

The Imam temporarily lost his job at the Mosque, as well.

Had Halevi not shared the prayers and Islamic literature in this article, including the views of Imams Abdool Hamid, Sayed Al Ghitawi, Abu Umar Abdulazeez, who shared views on the jihad against the enemies of Islam; and Wael Shihab's views on jihad, corporal punishments in Islam and LGBTQ, no one would have been the wiser. No one would know what was taking place inside the mosque was as disconcerting as the protest outside.

The article, written by Jennifer Yang months later, and approved by the editor Kathy English, came about because Lt. Col. (ret.) Jonathan D. Halevi had posted the meaning of the prayers previously shared inside that mosque and he embedded three original and unedited videos from Masjid Toronto's YouTube channel, including Elkasrawy praying in 2016. In one of the videos, the head Imam Wael Shihab was present.

The Toronto Star article omitted the fact that several Imams shared prayers and sermons with similar meanings in their mosques, including Shaykh Abdool Hamid at Masjid Toronto Mosque.

Jennifer Yang, the Toronto Star, and Bernie Farber who brought Yang aboard, decided that the Imam, who shared the prayers, had been misunderstood; despite the facts contradicting that perspective, that were shared with the reporter, the editor and the publisher from July 24, 2017, until the article appeared.

This Imam was not the first to claim innocence by misunderstanding, and sadly, he is not the last. I suppose one might ask why national media outlets feel the need to justify explicit hateful prayers from Imams.

On Tuesday April 19, 2019, the Zionist Organization of America (ZOA) National President Morton A. Klein forwarded his testimony on: Hate Crime and the Rise of White Nationalism to the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on the Judiciary.

“It is unfortunately incumbent upon us to speak about the major issue threatening violence against Jews and all Americans: Muslim antisemitism, which is strengthened by significant institutional support, and is becoming mainstream....

During more than 15 years that ZOA has been combating campus antisemitism, ZOA has never received a single complaint about antisemitic discrimination, harassment or intimidation perpetrated by neo-Nazis or white supremacists. By contrast, ZOA’s Center for Law and Justice and campus professionals receive hundreds calls from students about antisemitic harassment, discrimination and intimidation perpetrated by the hate group “Students for Justice in Palestine” (SJP) –which reportedly has approximately 200 chapters on campuses across the country – and SJP’s allies. It’s always about the Muslims and left attacking, verbally abusing, and threatening Jewish and pro-Israel students...

“There’s institutional support for violence by leading Imams. Al-Azhar University, the pinnacle of Islamic academe, and the Sunni Islamic equivalent to the Vatican, trains Imams who fan out all over the world. A highly influential 766-page treatise by Al-Azhar’s former Grand Imam Tantawi, cites Koranic sources to justify Muslim Jew-hatred and violence, and advises that “gentle persuasion can do no good with [Jews], so use force with them and treat them in the way you see as effective in ridding them of their evil...”

“During the past year and a half, in mosques in North Carolina, New Jersey, California, Texas, Pennsylvania, and elsewhere, Imams were videotaped preaching anti-Jewish sermons including the same genocidal “come and kill the Jew hiding behind the tree” hadith. Sermons in U.S. mosques also accused Jews of killing the prophets; called for cleansing the Temple Mount of “**the filth of the Jews**” (The same translations as offered by Lt. Col. (ret.) Jonathan D. Halevi; prayed to “turn Jerusalem and Palestine into a graveyard for the Jews” and **annihilate Jews one by**

one; accused Zionists of treating Palestinians the way Nazis treated the Europeans; charged that some Jews literally turned into monkeys and pigs; and claimed that Jews are running everything; and that the pro-Israeli lobby has been using the United States as a cash cow.”

Can you imagine the outcry if clerics of other faiths preached sermons calling for the death of any other group? These sermons encourage actual violence. ZOA urged that these Imams should be fired. The reaction was woefully inadequate.

“When caught on tape preaching to murder Jews, the Imams or mosques involved have sometimes offered some sort of apology –often an insincere “sorry if I offended you” non-apology. Commenters have described this pattern as “Kill all the Jews. Oops, I’m sorry.” Sometimes these Imams have attempted to justify their clear, videotaped calls for genocide by claiming **they were misinterpreted or taken out of context.**”

The ZOA report continued:

“Imam Sheik Ramadan Elsabagh, head of the Islamic Services Foundation Quran Institute in Garland, Texas, and a featured Quran reader on many Internet sites, posted a recorded prayer on his Facebook page to ‘destroy the Zionists and their allies, and those who assist them and those who allowed them into the abodes of the Muslims. . . Oh Allah save [Al Aqsa] from the hands of the accursed violators. . . . **Oh Allah destroy them.**”

Yet the complaints made by ZOA were often ignored.

Like the reaction to the complaints and concerns lodged by ZOA, my attempts over the next year to address discrepancies, factual errors and egregious omissions of facts, particularly regarding the translation of the word “*danas*” in the Toronto Star article were met with silence.

Had Ms. Yang done her due diligence, had Kathy English the Public Editor done her job, this article would never have seen the light of day. Ms. Yang had written an email to Lt. Col. (ret.) Halevi, “I have been told that the initial translation contains some inaccuracies. For example: The line that was most controversial was the one that refers to the ‘filth of the Jews,’ which implies that “Jews are filthy” – a clearly unacceptable and anti-Semitic sentiment.” If the

meaning of the prayer said by Elkaswary included a reference to “filth of the Jews,” then the Imam would be guilty of antisemitism.”

Yang had to prove that the translations Lt. Col. (ret.) Halevi and Dr. Kedar supplied were wrong and /or discredit them. Had she but researched the Toronto Star’s archives she would have discovered an article written by Daniel Dale entitled “Speakers at Muslim conference noted for disparaging gays and Jews.”

Published on **October 18, 2011, the Star’s article** discussed a prayer by Abdullah Hakim Quick, Canadian imam and scholar (and today’s Vice President of the Canadian Council of Imams) in which he recited the following (originally in English):

“May Allah, Glorified and Exalted be He, clean and purify al-Aqsa Mosque from the filth of the Yahood [Jews].”

Another example of the use of the “filth of the Jews/Israel appeared in another Star article that quoted then Iran’s President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad as saying: “Occupied Palestine will be liberated from the filth of occupation by the strength of resistance and through the faith of the resistance.”

According to Yang’s own definition of anti-Semitism, Imam Elkasrawy is an anti-Semite. This article in the Star's archive should have ended the story. And if not, Halevi's detailed and informative response to Yang's questions should have.

To know the truth about the beliefs of the Imam, all that had been required of them was to read Imam Elkaswary’s social media footprint to know that he was not “misunderstood.” That footprint was available for the Star. Halevi recommended that Yang read Elkaswary’s social media posts. “Ayman Elkasrawy's posts on social media may help you a great deal in your research,” Halevi wrote to Yang. Were the posts read? And if not, why not?

This article was only possible because Ms. Yang and Ms. English chose to turn a blind eye to the facts and/or intentionally omit them. Did they have an agenda? Was it a concern about exposing radical Islam in contradiction to the “peaceful Islam” narrative promoted by the Liberal government and the mainstream media? Was that concern far more important than the rise in antisemitism in Canada?

Ultimately, the Toronto Star article is the definition of #FakeNews.

Chapter Nine

Bernie Farber, Jennifer Yang and Imam Elkasrawy meet

Let's start this exposé at the very beginning when Jennifer Yang was contacted by Bernie Farber who had been introduced to the tribulations of Imam Elkasrawy by a Facebook friend.

Bernie Farber, with Elkasrawy's permission, contacted Toronto Star's Jennifer Yang, in whom he has "great faith," to come on board and help Elkasrawy. Mr. Farber had explained his role in a podcast on Treyf. By the way, *treyf* refers to foods Jews are forbidden to eat; unkosher. Farber was introduced as the former CEO of the Canadian Jewish Congress. He was CEO in 2005. The Canadian Jewish Congress no longer exists. According to Treyf: [The podcast is] "about his recent role in helping uncover the truth about Ayman Elkasrawy, a Toronto Imam fired from his job due to false accusations of Anti-Semitism. We talked about the uneven relationship between Jewish and Muslim communities in Canada, the rise of the far-right, and how mainstream Jewish groups no longer understand what Anti-Semitism really means."

Ms. Yang seems to have come to the article with preconceived notions, a narrative about Imam Elkasrawy's "outreach to the Jewish community to educate himself and learn from his mistakes" that required that she discredit sources: two Jewish experts, one Israeli, Dr. Mordechai Kedar, one Canadian, Lt. Col. (ret.) Jonathan D. Halevi, and a Jewish organization, B'nai Brith

And, perhaps tap into Islamophobia; the irrational fear of Islam, and what it appears to be the Star's far-left agenda that extensively promotes Islam while avoiding reports on issues that may interfere with this narrative. As stated in the article:

"Elkasrawy's prayers exploded into view at a particularly fraught time.

"Only weeks had passed since a gunman stormed into a Quebec City mosque and massacred six Muslim worshippers. The United States had just inaugurated a new president who campaigned on a Muslim travel ban. The acrimonious debate around the Canadian Islamophobia motion had reached a fever pitch, with Liberal MP Iqra Khalid even receiving death threats."

Perhaps she wanted to expose people whom she believed were Islamophobes. As Dr. Moredechai Kedar shared: “You posed us as bigots and Islamophobes.”

On the other hand, Ms. Yang spoke highly of Bernie Farber, the man credited with rehabilitating Imam Elksawy; the man to whom Imam Elkasrawy reached out. She wrote about two prominent members of Toronto’s Jewish community coming to his aid.

“Bernie Farber — the one-time CEO of the Canadian Jewish Congress — and Karen Mock, a former director with B’nai Brith, Canada and the Canadian Race Relations Foundation.” Many seem to have a need to associate Mr. Farber to accredited Jewish organizations. He was CEO in 2005. Ms. Mock was last associated with B’nai Brith in the previous century.

Yang wrote “Bernie Farber is a household name in Toronto’s Jewish community.” Interesting description. Was it Farber’s? She omitted the fact that neither Bernie Farber nor Karen Mock are associated with any leading Jewish recognized organizations, anymore. Mock is currently on the board of the Canadian Peres Centre for Peace and Jspace Canada and Farber is chair of the Canadian Anti-Hate Network (CAHN), which focuses only on hate from the right, not the left and the Islamists, where Islamic anti-Semitism resides. Amira Elghawaby is also a founding board member of CAHN. She was director of communications at the National Council of Canadian Muslims (NCCM) between 2012 to the fall of 2017 and is an advisor to the Muslim Fellows in Toronto.

Farber has decided that white supremacists pose the greatest threat. “They have committed mass murders in Canada.” He “works to limit their hatred.”

So Bernie Farber, a man who fights hate, but from the right, not the home of Islamic hate, was the one to whom the Imam turned.

“Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl of Beth Tzedek was also involved. He did not ask Elkasrawy to explain himself, but he expressed how his language was harmful. “We are concerned about discrimination against Muslims,” he said, as Elkasrawy nodded. “But we are also concerned about extremism that comes out of the Islamic community.”

The one Jewish representative involved, the Rabbi, was the only one to share his concern about antisemitism coming from the Islamic community.

Farber, on the other hand, previously stated the following “While anti-semitism remains a scourge worldwide, in Canada it now hovers along the edges of society. Not so Islamophobia which is, unfortunately, front and centre.”

This statement is discredited by B’nai Brith Canada, which has been tracking anti-Semitic incidents for 35 years, said 1,728 anti-Semitic incidents were reported across the country last year — a 26 per cent increase from 2015 and the highest number the group has ever recorded. That means an average of four to five incidents of anti-Semitic harassment, vandalism or violence occurring every day in our country...”

The Toronto-based Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies commissioned a study which found that one in six Canadians express views that could be considered anti-Semitic. Avi Benlolo, the centre’s president and CEO, says the Jewish community is the most targeted ethnic community in Canada.

Official data collected by Statistics Canada confirms that the Jewish community is consistently the most targeted faith group in the category of hate crimes.

Yang wrote “Over the years, he (Farber) has developed “almost a sixth sense” for detecting anti-Semites.” What does that mean? Is that like having a sixth sense about a Jew? A popular belief in Nazi Germany.

She included this statement by Farber:

“He (the Imam) said something that’s highly charged and highly political and could be anti-Zionist — but it’s not anti-Semitic,” Farber says. “And that changes the flavour.”

The Imam prayed against “the Jews,” not the Zionists. Some of his social media posts also dealt with the Jews.

Furthermore, how is it possible that Bernie Farber, a self-proclaimed expert on antisemitism and anti-Zionism is unaware that “One of the lessons that the late Soviet anti-Zionist campaign teaches is that anti-Zionism and antisemitism have historically been deeply and, possibly, inextricably intertwined. True to their

ideological tenets, the Soviets never attacked the Jews in purely racist terms. Accused of antisemitism, they indignantly claimed that they were simply anti-Zionist. But wherever and whenever they employed anti-Zionism for their political purposes, antisemitism blossomed.”

The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of anti-Semitism (ratified by over 32 states but not the EU) adopted the following non-legally binding working definition of antisemitism in 2016: “Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.”

Here are some examples to serve as illustrations: “**Manifestations might include the targeting of the state of Israel, conceived as a Jewish collectivity.** However, criticism of Israel similar to that leveled against any other country cannot be regarded as antisemitic. Antisemitism frequently charges Jews with conspiring to harm humanity, and it is often used to blame Jews for “why things go wrong.” It is expressed in speech, writing, visual forms and action, and employs sinister stereotypes and negative character traits.”

French Prime Minister Macron stated that France “will be uncompromising with anti-Zionism, because it is the reinvented form of anti-Semitism.

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said “**Let me go on the record anti-Zionism is anti-semitism.**”

The Labour peer Lord Levy told the BBC’s Newsnight: “There can be criticism of the state of Israel, but anti-Semitism – using the word ‘Zionist’ as another form of anti-Semitism – frankly can no longer be tolerated.” But it’s been widely argued that the term “Zionist” has, in some circles, become a code word for “Jew” and that bigotry against Jewish people has been expressed using the language of anti-Zionism.

Mr. Farber later participated in bullying the Rabbi of Beth Tikvah, a prominent synagogue in Toronto, Canada, for allowing a conference for Canadians for the Rule of Law, dealing with groups that pose a threat to Canadian freedoms,

specifically **“far-left, Islamist, and far-right”** to take place in the synagogue. Farber’s email made it clear to Rabbi Grover that unless Beth Tikvah condemned the event, the media around it would not be positive. The very next day, there was an article in NOW magazine by Michael Coren talking about the anti-Muslim element in the Jewish community with a picture of Beth Tikvah in the article. Farber shared his disappointment “to see **some otherwise respected players within Toronto’s Jewish leadership lending their good names to those who preach anti-Muslim hatred, homophobia and bigotry.**”

Farber decided that attending a conference dealing with groups that pose a threat to Canadian freedoms, specifically **“far-left, Islamist, and far-right”** is unacceptable. Jews attending would be tainted because Farber had decided that these people preach anti-Muslim hatred. Farber decided.

This was the man that the Toronto Star accepted as the expert to assist the Imam. Contrary to Yang and Farber, his views do not match the views of the majority of people in the Jewish community, including the well-respected Rabbi who “assisted.”

When Lt. Col. (ret.) Jonathan D. Halevi and B’nai Brith Canada requested the opportunity to publish a response to Yang’s defamatory article, the Toronto Star’s Public editor, Kathy English, refused. Why? If the Toronto Star, or any media outlet, stands by their reporting they would have no problem allowing an op-ed rebuttal. How else does someone who feels defamed speak up?

English’s response seems to conflict with their stated values. The Toronto Star position regarding sources: “If it is below our standards we should not have it.” According to their Torstar Journalistic Standards Guide “We do not provide anonymity to those who attack individuals or organizations or engage in speculation — the unattributed cheap shot. People under attack in our publications have the right to know their accusers...If it is below our standards we should not have it.”

But what about named sources who have been attacked? Why does the Toronto Star not allow these people to respond to factual errors and false allegations? To what end? What purpose?

We have recently watched the response to the Robert Mueller report. For two years main stream media outlets and journalists all over the world, reported, with certitude that the President of the United States had colluded with the Russians to steal the 2016 election from Hillary Clinton after stating that she was going to win. Two years.

Here is a link to some of the statements made by journalists for those years. Those two years of promises from the media were dispelled with the report. Yet, their influence is so far and wide that millions of people do not believe the Mueller report. They believe that Donald Trump colluded. Bill Maher, late night TV host knows that President Trump is a liar. He knows because he watched TV!

Remember the media is powerful. Politicians have access to the public sphere, but not private citizens. Trying to sue a media outlet for defamation is costly. Media outlets are well aware of this and by refusing private citizens the right to respond to errors is an attempt to silence opposing views. And there is another problem. Other people will refer to the article and then share their views on it. Edward Said wrote about this phenomenon in his book Orientalism. If the first premise upon which a thesis/narrative is based is wrong, then all of the other commentaries on it are false, too. When journalists, editors, publishers, refuse to correct their posts, then others are free to refer to them. The Toronto Star article was shared in other outlets. Metro Toronto and The Spectator reprinted the entire article. Canadian Jews News (CJN) and Buzzfeed published articles about it.

Dimitri Lascaris, Steven Zhou and Mohammed Hashim also repeated the Toronto Star accusations regarding Halevi's translations and then added more false accusations. Responding to my media inquiry Lascaris failed to provide evidence supporting his allegations and later published another article in which he reprinted yet more false allegations ("Halevi has also been a go-to pundit for... Rebel News") made by the Toronto Star even though he received a link to my article that debunked them ("Ezra Levant's statement:.. Halevi is not and has not been a pundit for The Rebel media"). When I reached out to Steven Zhou and Mohammed Hashim for providing evidence to their false and defamatory accusations, all I received was silence. Mohammed Hashim removed his Facebook post a short time after receiving my media inquiry. And the cycle of #FakeNews, the spreading of the feathers, goes on.

Chapter Ten

And so it began

The Toronto Star article by Jennifer Yang, written October 22, 2017, was posted six months after the prayers were reported. Much of the article revolves around the translation of one word: *danas*, shared in prayers at the Mosque by Imam Elkasrawy. The links provided to Yang, before and after the publication of the article, regarding the prayers said at that mosque and mosques around the world, as well as the translations shared by eminent Muslim scholars clearly indicated that the meaning of *danas* is often translated as “filth of the Jews.” None of the links were shared. Why not? Nor did Ms. Yang share the facts about the five experts to whom she turned for translation. Errors of omission.

Prior to the publication of Ms. Yang’s article, she was aware of the condemnations of Ayman Elkasrawy made by Muslim Members of Parliament and three prestigious Muslim organizations. She was also aware of the Imam’s social media posts where he expressed his views on Jews, Israel and Zionism. But that did not interfere with her story. In order to make her point Yang not only questioned the veracity of the Jewish translators and the video, she shared “facts” that demeaned them in what appears to be an effort to destroy their credentials.

Monday July 24, 2017, six months after Lt. Col. (ret.) Halevi’s article, Jennifer Yang contacted him about a series of articles he had written regarding the prayers at the Masjid Mosque in Toronto said the day of the anti-Islam protest outside the mosque. This is one of the largest mosques in the city which is the most diverse city on the world.

“I hope this email finds you well. My name is Jennifer Yang and I’m a reporter with the Toronto Star. I’m writing you today to request an interview about a series of stories that you wrote earlier this year regarding Masjid Toronto and the video of Ayman Elkasrawy’s supplications. I’ve been looking into this incident to try and better understand what happened here, and I’m hoping you’d be available to answer a few questions regarding the video and its translation. My understanding from speaking with other Arabic translators is that the supplications in the video have been mistranslated and decontextualized in a way that distorts their original meaning.

“Please let me know if you'd be available for a phone interview; I'm hoping we could connect today or tomorrow. Many thanks in advance for your time, Mr. Halevi -- I look forward to hearing from you.”

The next day, July 25, 2017, Lt. Col. (ret.) Halevi responded with **12 pages of information including the prayers that are said at the mosque** to which I refer in my articles.

She was informed that February 22, 2017, a letter signed by Canadian Members of Parliament had been shared; four days after Mr. Halevi had published his articles including the prayers said that day at that mosque.

“As Canadians, we rise and fall together. Polarization doesn’t only hurt targeted groups, it hurts all Canadians.

“As Parliamentarians, we feel it is our responsibility to rally Canadians around our shared values of human rights, equality and respect for each other. It is our duty to speak out and set an example for Canadians in confronting stereotypes and prejudice, and advancing understanding and education.

“We are horrified by reports that two Imams in Montreal and Toronto called for the death of Jews during sermons. We condemn such behaviour and call on the mosques’ administration to take appropriate action. We are equally troubled by reports of hate notes posted outside identifiable Jewish homes in Toronto this past weekend, as well as deeply concerning accounts from university campuses of Jewish students being targeted and vilified. Anti-Semitism is real and we must stand together against it.”

Members/ Député(e)s :

Hon./L’ Hon. Jim Carr, Winnipeg South Centre/ Winnipeg-Centre-Sud.

Hon./L’Hon. Karina Gould, Burlington.

Hon./L’Hon. Ahmed Hussen, York South-Weston/York-Sud-Weston.

Hon./L’Hon. Maryam Monsef, Peterborough-Kawartha

Omar Alghabra, Mississauga Centre/Mississauga-Centre

Julie Dabrusin, Toronto — Danforth.

Ali Ehsassi Willowdale

David Graham, Laurentides — Labelle.

Anthony Housefather, Mount Royal/Mont-Royal.

Majid Jowhari, Richmond Hill.

Iqra Khalid, Mississauga — Erin Mills.

Michael Levitt, York Centre/ York-Centre.

Yasmin Ratansi, Don Valley East/ Don Valley-Est.

Dan Ruimy, Pitt Meadows — Maple Ridge.

Marwan Tabbara, Kitchener South — Hespeler/ Kitchener-Sud — Hespeler.

Arif Virani, Parkdale — High Park.

Salma Zahid, Scarborough Centre/ Scarborough-Centre.

Other statements were released to the public:

Feb 20, 2017, Masjid Toronto mosque's statement:

“It has come to our attention that an **inappropriate supplication that was offensive to those of Jewish faith**, was made in our downtown mosque, Masjid Toronto. **Such language is unacceptable** and against the values and practices of the Muslim Association of Canada (MAC), Masjid Toronto and the Muslim Community at large. **Masjid Toronto condemns all forms of hate and racism towards any faith group or others** and is committed to offering a safe spiritual space for all congregants.”

February 21, Muslim Association of Canada's statement:

“It has come to the attention of the Muslim Association of Canada (MAC) that a junior employee in our downtown mosque, Masjid Toronto, **used language during prayers that was unacceptable** and against the values and practices of MAC, Masjid Toronto and the Muslim community at large. The incident occurred when **inappropriate supplications**, in Arabic, were added without authorization, and in

contravention to MAC's code of conduct for participants. Upon learning of this incident, **MAC issued an immediate apology**. The employee involved has also offered an apology of his own. Today MAC has initiated an internal investigation into this incident. We will be looking both at what happened, and at how to make certain such incidents do not happen again. The employee has been suspended from his duties. Today **we have also reached out to leaders in the Jewish community to express our sincere apology for this incident**, and to continue the dialogue between our communities. MAC is committed to our shared Canadian values of diversity, respect and religion."

NCCM (The National Council of Canadian Muslims) sent out a news release

"(Ottawa - February 27, 2017) The National Council of Canadian Muslims (NCCM), a prominent civil liberties & advocacy organization, strongly and unequivocally condemns a series of **hateful incidents against Jewish communities** that have come to light in recent days.

"Recently, videos surfaced of **appalling and reprehensible comments made by two individuals leading prayers at a mosque in Toronto** in 2016 and in Montreal in 2014. The comments included supplications that contained **incendiary speech towards the Jewish community**. Both mosque administrations have since issued public apologies.

"All of our communities must remain free of hate and intolerance towards any group and must uphold the values of human rights, mutual respect and inclusion. We categorically repudiate such comments, and stand firm with our fellow Canadians in denouncing hate in all its forms, including anti-Semitism," says NCCM Executive Director Ihsaan Gardee.

"Institutions must ensure that they create and enforce policies that protect the human rights of all. This should include providing human rights training for all staff and volunteers," adds Gardee."

What happened between the time the Muslim organizations shared their condemnation of the Imam, in February, and the date of the publication of the article in the Toronto Star, in October, when they reversed their opinions?

On August 4, 2017, Ms. Yang sent another email to Mr. Halevi, which included questions regarding the translation of the Arabic Prayers said at the mosque. Keep in mind that the people whose condemnations to these prayers I have just shared had listened to the prayers in Arabic. It was their understanding of Arabic and their familiarity with the prayers that led them to condemn the prayers.

Ms. Yang was concerned about the initial translation of the prayers into English. At the same time, she began her questioning of Mr. Halevi's credentials and his intent when writing his articles.

She also wrote: "I have been told that the initial translation contains some inaccuracies. For example: The line that was most controversial was the one that refers to the "filth of the Jews," which implies that "Jews are filthy" – a clearly unacceptable and anti-Semitic sentiment. However, I have spoken to four Arabic translators from Canada, the U.S., and U.K. who interpreted the word "danas" in this context as meaning "desecration." You reference Wehr in one of your emails but my understanding is that there are criticisms of Wehr as a flawed and incomplete reference text (see AL-Tahir Hafiz's 2001 article "Major lexicographic problems in Hans Wehr's Arabic-English dictionary that hinders the translator's reference process.") In the report that I shared with you, it is explained that "danas," when used in reference to a place, "can have a range of meanings: "to desecrate, debase, dishonour, violate or defile the sanctity of the place." Were you aware of these definitions for the word "danas" when referencing places — and if so, can you explain why you chose the "filth" translation?

"...You have sent me several references and links to what other religious leaders have said, both at Masjid Toronto and other mosques. Can you explain why you think the words of other individuals are relevant to understanding the specific meaning of what Mr. Elkasrawy said?"

Now think about this last question. Halevi shared the translations of respected Islamic centres and Muslim scholars to point out a consistency of translation amongst them; translations that Halevi relied on in his article. The Toronto Star sent out requests to other experts for translations. And shared them. Why were their words relevant and not the words of the Muslim experts to whom Halevi referred?

He had forwarded the MEMRI translation of *danas*-the word in contention. The Middle East Media Research Institute is a non-profit press monitoring and analysis organization with headquarters in Washington, D.C. MEMRI publishes and distributes free English language translations of Arabic, Persian, Urdu, Pashto, and Turkish media reports. He sent her prayers of an Nashat Ahmed, an Senior Egyptian Scholar who was a guest speaker in mosques in Canada. The prayers expressed the same message: “the filth of the Jews.”

Halevi’s translations were taken from Islamic sources. Yang was given the links to the books, sites and Islamic literature from which Halevi had taken the translations. Some of the links referred back to the English translation of the Koran by Saheeh International, a book that is promoted by major Islamic organizations in Canada.

Yang failed to research the fact that the reference to the “filth of the Jews (infidels)” applies not only to sacred places, like Al Aqsa, but to all Islamic lands. Here is a Nashat Ahmed's prayer that was made available to her.

October 5, 2016:

“[O Allah] Destroy the Russians and purify the Muslim lands from their filth. O Lord, destroy all aggressors, including the Shiites, Bashr [Assad], Alawites and others. O Allah, destroy the aggressors who are the Jews and those who support them... O Allah, they corrupted your land and You do not like the corruption... O Allah, purify the Muslim land from their filth and squalor. O Allah, purify imprisoned al-Aqsa [mosque] from their hands [of the Jews]. O Allah, restore the Caliphate [Islamic State] for the Muslims.”

She not only rejected these translations, she did not share Halevi’s sources in her four page article. Why?

The following chapters contain my articles about the Yang story as well as the information that was made available to her and not shared. You will discover the egregious omission of facts and the attempt by the Toronto Star to discredit the reputations of the two Jewish specialists, Lt. Col. (ret.) Jonathan Halevi and Dr. Mordechai Kedar, in order to whitewash the statements made by Imam Elkasrawy. Statements that promote hatred toward Jews and non-Muslims.

Chapter eleven

Is the Toronto Star Canada's #FAKENEWS media outlet?

This article presents differing views on one word; “*danas*.” Note the number of experts to whom Yang turned for assistance after asking Lt. Col. (ret.) Halevi why he shared the opinions of experts with her. Also remember that a number of Muslim organizations and Members of Parliament had already expressed their shock at the prayer Elkasrawy had shared.

Note, too, the Star's own online archive has an article written by Daniel Daleu entitled “Speakers at Muslim conference noted for disparaging gays and Jews.”

Published on **October 18, 2011**, the Star's article discussed a prayer by Abdullah Hakim Quick, Canadian imam and scholar (and today's Vice President of the Canadian Council of Imams) in which he recited the following (originally in English):

“May Allah, Glorified and Exalted be He, clean and purify al-Aqsa Mosque from the filth of the Yahood [Jews]”.

Is the Toronto Star Canada's #FAKENEWS media outlet?

On October 22, 2017, The Toronto Star dedicated four pages, including its front page, in an attempt to exonerate Ayman Elkasrawy, an imam at “Masjid Toronto” mosque, from anti-Jewish and anti-infidel prayers during Ramadan 2016.

Relying on “experts” the Star's Jennifer Yang alleged that Elkasrawy's prayers were mistranslated and taken out of context. **The Star's “experts” described the translation by Jonathan Halevi as “propaganda”, “mistranslated”, “decontextualized”, “disingenuous” and “slanted translation.”**

Investigating this story I've learned that Jennifer Yang was explicitly told in an email by Halevi that his translation was “mainly based on Islamic sources” and that he provided her with a few examples.

Ms. Yang did not mention this fact in her article. **When asked to explain why she edited out any reference to Halevi’s statement regarding the Islamic sources, Ms. Yang decided not to respond to Mr. Halevi’s email.**

Arabic dictionaries are a wealth of information in Islamic sources and support Halevi’s translation. The evidence will be presented in a series of articles on this blog.

This article will deal with the main sentence in question that was translated by Halevi based on Islamic sources as “purify al-Aqsa mosque from the *filth of the Jews.*”

Here is what the Star **wrote** in this regard:

As for “Purify the Al-Aqsa mosque from the filth of the Jews,” a more accurate translation is “Cleanse Al-Aqsa mosque from the Jews’ desecration of it,” according to Nazir Harb Michel, an Arabic sociolinguist and Islamophobia researcher at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C.

The crucial word here is *danas*. Arabic-English dictionaries list several possible definitions — among them “besmirch,” “defile,” and spiritual “impurity” or “filth” — so context is key in determining the appropriate translation. Harb Michel said “no translator worth two cents” would choose the “filth” definition in the context of Elkasrawy’s prayer.

When *danas* is used in reference to a holy place — like Al-Aqsa — the common definition is “desecration,” the experts agreed. “He does not say ‘the filth of the Jews,’” said Jonathan Featherstone, a senior teaching fellow at the University of Edinburgh and former Arabic lecturer with the U.K. Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

But what did Elkasrawy mean by “desecration”? Again, context is instructive. Days before his prayers, he and his congregants were reading reports of Israeli police deploying tear gas and rubber-tipped bullets inside Al-Aqsa mosque — actions many Muslims would consider to be a desecration of the site, especially during the 10 holiest days of Ramadan.

Elkasrawy now realizes how wrong it was to mention “the Jews,” especially since his intention was to pray for the mosque, not against people.

“If I could say it in a more clear way,” he says, “it would be ‘O Allah, protect the Al-Aqsa mosque from occupation. Or preserve the sacredness of the Al-Aqsa mosque from violation.’”

He said “Jews” is widely used in the Arabic-speaking world to mean “Israeli forces” or “Israeli occupiers,” not as a sweeping reference to all ethnic and religious Jews. But he acknowledges this common usage is problematic. And, he asks, “How is it perceived in my (current) community? It’s something I didn’t take into account.”

“I have never thought of anything against people of Jewish faith,” he says. “In Islam, we believe that no one should be forced into any religion. We cannot hate any people, any group, because of their ethnicity or their religion.”

In an email to Jonathan Halevi on August 4, 2017 Ms. Yang wrote:

“The line that was most controversial was the one that refers to the “filth of the Jews,” which implies that “Jews are filthy” — a clearly unacceptable and antisemitic sentiment.”

The Star acknowledged the phrase “filth of the Jews” is antisemitic. By dismissing Halevi’s translation as “propaganda” and “mistranslation,” Ms. Yang presented *her chosen* “correct” translation that reads “the Jews’ desecration of it [al-Aqsa Mosque]” insisting that it has no antisemitic meaning.

On October 30, the Toronto Star’s Public Editor, Kathy English, **told** <https://honestreporting.ca/toronto-star-downplays-imams-anti-semitic-comments/18383/> Honest Reporting Canada that “the reporters [Jennifer Yang] and her editors put an immense amount of thought and consideration into this piece.”

Apparently the Star’s reporters and editors didn’t do their homework properly. **Had they searched the Star’s own online archive they would have found an article penned by Daniel Daleu entitled “Speakers at Muslim conference noted for disparaging gays and Jews.”**

Published on **October 18, 2011**, the **Star's** article discussed a prayer by Abdullah Hakim Quick, Canadian imam and scholar (and today's Vice President of the Canadian Council of Imams) in which he recited the following (originally in English):

“May Allah, Glorified and Exalted be He, clean and purify al-Aqsa Mosque from the filth of the Yahood [Jews]”.

The following is an **excerpt** from the Star's article:

“Toronto's Abdullah Hakim Quick, an African-American convert, has been lauded for his work to promote women's rights, improve interfaith relations and eradicate female genital mutilation; he wrote a column for the Star in the 1990s. Later, however, he said AIDS was caused by “sick” homosexuals who want “to take us all down with them” and referred to the “filth” of Christians and Jews. He has rejected accusations of bigotry. **His “filth” comment, he wrote, was merely a plea for “God to heal the spiritual corruption that afflicts some members of religious groups**, which in turn leads to injustice against innocent people.”

Toronto Star's article contains a link to Abdullah Hakim Quick's **statement** that reads the following:

“A clip taken from another lecture made me appear to be intolerant of Christians and Jews. Toward the end of my talk **I made a supplication for God to purify Islam's third holiest shrine from the “filth of the Christians and the Jews.”** The implicit — and obvious understanding for anyone who heard my lecture — was that **I was asking God to heal the spiritual corruption that afflicts some members of religious groups** which in turn leads to injustice against innocent people.”

Quick's supplication urging Allah “to purify al-Aqsa Mosque from the filth of the Yahood [Jews]” was widely reported also by other Canadian media outlets such as the, The Globe and Mail, Maclean's Magazine, Brampton Guardian, Xtra, Canadian Jews News (CJN), The Muslim Times.

Furthermore, on October 14, 2010 the Star reposted Associated Press' news **report** that read:

“Occupied Palestine will be liberated from the filth of occupation by the strength of resistance and through the faith of the resistance,” Ahmadinejad said to the crowd.

Ironically, the Star’s own archived articles support Jonathan Halevi’s translation and show that the phrase “purify al-Aqsa mosque from the filth of the Jews” was recited by none other than the Vice President of the Canadian Council of Imams.

Stay tuned for the next articles.

Jennifer Yang refused to answer these follow-up questions sent on January 8 and 10.

Ms. Yang, Jonathan Halevi told you in an email that his translation was based on Islamic sources. Why did you not include in your article that Mr. Halevi relied on Islamic sources? According to the Star Journalistic Standards “Every effort must be made to ensure that everything published in the *Star* is accurate, presented in context, and that all sides are presented fairly.”

Ms. Yang, please provide other sources for Mr. Elkasrawy’s statement that “Jews” is widely used in the Arabic-speaking world to mean “Israeli forces” or “Israeli occupiers,” not as a sweeping reference to all ethnic and religious Jews.

Ms. Yang how do you explain this quote from the October 14, 2010 Star **“Occupied Palestine will be liberated from the filth of occupation** by the strength of resistance and through the faith of the resistance,” Ahmadinejad said to the crowd.

Ms. Yang, Ms. English stated that much “thought and consideration into this piece.” How do you explain your failure to search your own archives or find references to Abdul Hakim Quick’s sermon (“purify al-Aqsa Mosque from the filth of the Jews”) in other media outlets, including Muslim organizations, or Daniel Daleu’s article entitled “Speakers at Muslim conference noted for disparaging gays and Jews”?

Most importantly, **when you received information that your article contained errors, why did you not make the appropriate corrections** as required by the Toronto Star's own Journalistic Standards Guide:

“Journalistic integrity demands that significant errors of fact, as well as errors of omission, should be corrected promptly and as prominently and transparently as warranted”?

Chapter Twelve

Toronto Star publishes fake news but refuses to retract even after being proven wrong

Take note of the attempts to have incorrect information corrected, especially about one of the Jewish experts.

On May 9, 2018 I sent the following media inquiry to Jennifer Yang, the Toronto Star's Identity and Inequality Reporter, and Kathy English, the Star's public editor:

You [Yang] wrote in your article regarding Jonathan Halevi:

He has also been a go-to pundit for the now-defunct Sun News Network and its offshoot Rebel News, a right-wing media website that has drawn controversy for its anti-Muslim coverage.”

Toronto Star Pubic Editor Kathy English stated:

“Understanding the sensitivity of the subject matter, the reporters and her editors put an immense amount of thought and consideration into this piece.”

I have recently discovered that Jonathan Halevi sent you an **email November 23, 2017** in which he wrote:

I am not the “go-to-pundit” for Rebel Media. **I was interviewed in one singular instance by The Rebel Media before it was incorporated.** I was not hired or paid by The Rebel Media and did not and does not represent or speak on its behalf.

He asked you to “correct the biographical information” about him.

Here is the text of Ezra Levant's statement (November 10, 2017):

To whom it may concern:

This is to confirm that Jonathan Dahoah Halevi is not and has not been a pundit for The Rebel media. Mr. Halevi was interviewed once by The Rebel in early 2015. He was not hired or paid by The Rebel and did not and does not represent or speak on behalf of us.

Yours truly,

Ezra Levant

TheRebel.media

Unless you have information that can support your allegation, does it not behoove you to correct the article; unless, of course, the Toronto Star possesses any information that can support the allegation that Jonathan Halevi was a “go-to-pundit” or a “pundit” for Rebel Media?

If you do not correct/remove the statement would that not be an indication of support for false information (fake news) about Jonathan Halevi even after being notified by Mr. Halevi about it?

One more question. **Why did the Toronto Star not mention that Jonathan Halevi appeared several times on CTV as an expert on the Middle East?**

Please respond by 11 AM May 10. If you need more time, please let me know.

Neither Jennifer Yang nor Kathy English responded to this media inquiry or corrected the false information they published on Jonathan Halevi.

This is classic #FAKENEWS. Errors are made in articles. A professional corrects them.

Here are links to other articles about The Toronto Star.

Is the Toronto Star Canada's #FAKENEWS media outlet?

Toronto Star's "Fake News" Serving "Political Islam"

UPDATED: Toronto Star Downplays Imam's Anti-Semitic Comments

Chapter Thirteen

Was Toronto Star's front page exposé defamatory fake news?

Take note: The Star clearly and unequivocally stated that all five experts:

- “independently analyzed Elkasrawy's prayers”
- “described the initial, widely circulated translations “mistranslated...”
- “None of them knows Elkasrawy”

Yet one of the experts wrote to me_“I was told that he was Egyptian and that he had said to the Star then (sic) he never meant to cause offence to Jews.”

Also note that some of the experts to whom the Star turned seem to be biased.

Was Toronto Star's front page exposé defamatory fake news?

You might wonder why I spend a great deal of time on the word “danas” and the various translations. It is the translation that was a primary cause for the writing of the Star article. And in trying to prove that Lt. Col. (ret.) Halevi was incorrect, the journalist also tried to defame him.

(Updated July 17, 2018 11:30 AM)

On October 22, 2017, The Toronto Star dedicated four pages, including its front page, in an attempt to exonerate Ayman Elkasrawy, an imam at “Masjid Toronto” mosque, from anti-Jewish and anti-infidel prayers during Ramadan 2016.

I wrote about that report in my article “Is the Toronto Star Canada's #FAKENEWS media outlet?”

Jonathan Halevi, internationally respected investigative journalist and researcher **who testified before the Senate on radical Islam in Canada**, exposed the Islamic views of Masjid Toronto mosque's imam on LGBTQ, jihad, Shariah Law and the content of prayers that were recited in the mosque in support of the mujahideen and against the enemies of Islam.

Halevi's article contained quotes and provided translations of the relevant text into English alongside links to the original videos and online archives. Following journalistic standards, Mr. Halevi reported the various translations without adding opinion, allowing readers to come to their own conclusions.

The Toronto Star took issue with Halevi's translation of the two prayers recited by Imam Ayman Elkasrawy and specifically with the two following lines:

“O Allah, Purify al-Aqsa Mosque from the filth of the Jews”

“O Allah, give us victory over the disbelieving people.”

The result was their four page article which includes opinions by 5 experts refuting Halevi's translation. And it seems the Star has chosen to ignore the fact that the translation by leading Islamic organizations and scholars, including Canadian, of the lines in question, as well as official translations of the Quran, Arabic dictionaries and grammar, support Halevi's translation.

Yang, the reporter, quoted the experts as describing it as “mistranslated,” “decontextualized”, “disingenuous”, “slanted” and “propaganda translation.”

Yet, the Toronto Star had previously published an article, October 18, 2011, that **discussed** a prayer by Abdullah Hakim Quick, Canadian Imam and scholar (and today's Vice President of the Canadian Council of Imams) in which he recited the **same prayer** (originally in English):

“May Allah, Glorified and Exalted be He, clean and purify al-Aqsa Mosque from the filth of the Yahoood [Jews]”.

The prayer was also widely reported by other Canadian media outlets including the The Globe and Mail, Brampton Guardian, Xtra, Canadian Jews News (CJN), The Muslim Times.

A year earlier the Star had **reported** the Iranian President's statement that uses the word “filth” in a similar context:

“Occupied Palestine will be liberated from the filth of occupation by the strength of resistance and through the faith of the resistance.”

I have contacted the reporter, Jennifer Yang and Kathy English, the public editor, many times regarding statements in the article. I have not had the courtesy of a response.

My latest request to the Star was July 12, 2018 with a request for information by 5 PM July 16. I sent my request to reporter Jennifer Yang; public editor, Kathy English; John Boynton Publisher; and Bob Hepburn Media inquiries. They did not respond.

Here is the note I sent.

Media Inquiry: Was Toronto Star's front page exposé defamatory fake news?

John Boynton, Publisher

Jennifer Yang, Toronto Star's Identity and Inequality Reporter

Kathy English, Toronto Star's Public Editor

This is a follow-up email request regarding the Toronto Star article

On October 22, 2018 the Toronto Star published an article entitled "A Toronto imam was accused of hate-preaching against Jews. But that wasn't the whole story." The article was researched and written by Jennifer Yang, Toronto Star's Identity and Inequality Reporter, and it was approved by Kathy English, Toronto Star's Public Editor.

Responding to a complaint about inaccuracies/ false information filed by Honest Reporting Canada, Kathy English wrote on October 30, 2017 the following:

"We have looked at your concerns and do not see any need for correction or clarification here. Understanding the sensitivity of the subject matter, the reporters and her editors put an immense amount of thought and consideration into this piece. The Star stands by its reporting and writing of this feature article. I would also like to assure you that no one was paid by the Star."

Toronto Star's article states the following:

"This is the consensus that emerged from five Arabic experts who independently analyzed Elkasrawy's prayers at the Star's request. The experts — from Canada,

the United States and the United Kingdom — are Arabic translators, linguists and university professors with published book chapters, academic papers and textbooks. None of them knows Elkasrawy. The experts found that the imam's prayers were not without fault, and many clarified that they do not condone or excuse some of the language he used. But they also described the initial, widely circulated translation as “mistranslated,” “decontextualized” and “disingenuous.” One said it had the hallmarks of a “propaganda translation.”

The Star clearly and unequivocally states that all five experts:

- “independently analyzed Elkasrawy’s prayers”
- “described the initial, widely circulated translations “mistranslated...”
- “None of them knows Elkasrawy”

One of the five experts provided an account that seems to contradict the Toronto Star’s statements. The following are excerpts from this expert’s statements:

- “I was just asked about the line where the word ‘danas’ was used in respect of the al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem. I was not aware of his name or his social media profile and I have not seen any video-clips of what he has said before and I would be very interested in seeing these.”
- “I was simply asked to comment on the use of the word ‘danas’ which as I have said before normally refers to ‘desecration’ and it is up to people to decide in their minds what this actually means.”
- “I was told that he was Egyptian and that he had said to the Star then (sic) he never meant to cause offence to Jews.”
- “You are right that context is important.”

According to the expert’s account:

- Toronto Star sent the expert ONLY one line (“purify al-Aqsa Mosque from the filth of the Jews”) of the two prayers in question that were recited by Ayman Elkasrawy;

- Toronto Star **DID NOT** send the expert the prayers (text or video).
- Toronto Star **provided the expert with BACKGROUND INFORMATION** about the imam: that the Imam “never meant to cause offence to Jews”

If the expert’s account is true, it appears that the Toronto Star’s statements are inaccurate, misleading, and perhaps, false. **The Toronto Star asserted that all five experts “analyzed the prayers” and the “the initial, widely circulated translation” while in fact, according to the expert, these statements are not true.** Moreover, The Toronto Star tried to create the impression that the experts’ translation was objective and unbiased while concealing from its readers the fact that the Star provided this statement to one expert: the Imam “never meant to cause offence to Jews” in the context of reciting the line in question.

On February 17, 2017 Kathy English wrote:

“I think it’s safe to say, the Toronto Star is not in the business of fake news. While this news organization’s work does sometimes fall short of its own journalistic standards, to suggest that the Star would deliberately publish false information is wrong. We don’t make stuff up.”

On February 17, 2017 Kathy English tweeted:

“I am already tired of the new “fake news” charges from Toronto Star critics.”

On December 1, 2017 Kathy English wrote:

“trustworthy journalism from journalists and news organizations that hold themselves to high professional standards and do the real work of reporting to verify facts matters more than ever... Just because someone says it’s true, does not make it so.”

Based on Kathy English’s definition of ethical journalism I have the following questions.

Questions:

If the expert’s account is correct, it puts into question the statements made by the Toronto Star and its credibility. Is the expert’s account I provided correct?

Please send to me the text of the original emails that were sent to all five experts and their responses.

Do you see “any need for correction or clarification” in light of the expert’s statements?

Do you stand by the “reporting and writing of this feature article”?

Do the aforementioned statements by the Toronto Star that were refuted by the expert reflect “trustworthy journalism” and its self-proclaimed “high professional standards”?

If the expert’s account is uncontested by The Star would you then describe the article as biased, slanted, defamatory, or even fake news based on Kathy English’s own definition of fake news?

These questions asked by Honest Reporting have not been answered. I am asking them again based on Kathy English’s definition of ethical journalism.

With respect to Mohammed Aboghodda of the Understanding Islam Academy, the Star describes him as an “expert” – please explain on what grounds he can be described as an “expert” in Arabic and a trusted source when it comes to translation work?

Is the Star aware that one of its “experts”, **Nazir Harb Michel** of Georgetown University, was previously accused of providing “whitewashed translations” of an Islamic hate preacher’s sermon in America? **In fact, he’s an ardent anti-Israel detractor** (see here and here). Shouldn’t this be disclosed?

Is the Star aware that one of its “experts”, according to the ADL, Kristin Brustad of the University of Texas at Austin, wrote a letter to the editor that appeared in the Atlanta Journal Constitution in 2001 where **Brustad claimed that Israel had violated international law with its “brutal, dehumanizing military occupation and confiscation of Palestinian land, home demolition and agricultural stranglehold.”** Shouldn’t this be disclosed?

Is the Star aware that **Atiqa Hachimi** of the University of Toronto is a signatory to several anti-Israel campaigns? Shouldn’t this be disclosed?

You have not responded to my previous media inquiries on this article.

Here is a link to the questions.

Here is a link to more information.

The following is an excerpt from the Star's article from October 18, 2011 referring to the prayer (in English) of **Abdullah Hakim Quick, Director and former Vice President of the Canadian Council of Imams**: "purify al Aqsa Mosque from the filth of the Yahood [Jews]."

"Toronto's Abdullah Hakim Quick, an African-American convert, has been lauded for his work to promote women's rights, improve interfaith relations and eradicate female genital mutilation; he wrote a column for the Star in the 1990s. Later, however, he said AIDS was caused by "sick" homosexuals who want "to take us all down with them" and referred to the "filth" of Christians and Jews. He has rejected accusations of bigotry. His "filth" comment, he wrote, was merely a plea for "God to heal the spiritual corruption that afflicts some members of religious groups, which in turn leads to injustice against innocent people."

My article will be published on Monday July 16, 2018. Please respond by 5 PM July 16 2018. If you require more time please let me know.

July 12, I sent this email to the expert with whom I have been in contact.

I have one question still left unanswered.

The Star claimed that "they [ALL five experts] described the initial, widely circulated translation as "mistranslated," "decontextualized" and "disingenuous." One said it had the hallmarks of a "propaganda translation."

Did you tell the Toronto Star that Jonathan Halevi's translation ("Purify al-Aqsa Mosque from the filth of the Jews" and "Give us victory over the disbelieving people") is "propaganda", "mistranslated", "decontextualized", "disingenuous" and/ or a "slanted translation"?

His response, July 13, 2018 came after I sent my email inquiry to the Toronto Star.

I did not comment on Jonathan's translation at all.

I simply offered my thoughts on the use of the word ‘danas’ in that particular line regarding the al-Aqsa mosque.

Here are links to other articles relating to the Yang report.

1 <http://www.honestreporting.ca/toronto-star-downplays-imams-anti-semitic-comments/18383>

2 https://www.thestar.com/opinion/public_editor/2017/02/17/the-facts-about-fake-news-public-editor.html

3 <https://twitter.com/kathyenglish/status/832727192014458881>

4 https://www.thestar.com/opinion/public_editor/2017/12/01/journalistic-standards-protect-against-fake-news.html

For your information, here are some Islamic sources regarding the translation of the prayers.

“Purify Al-Aqsa Mosque from the filth of the Jews”		
	English text	Arabic text
Hizb ut-Tahrir	liberate Jerusalem from the filth of the Jews and their evils	وتحرر القدس من دنس يهود وشرورهم
Ata Abu al-Rashta (HT, Ameer)	the liberation of Jerusalem by Salah Ad-Din from the #Crusaders, and since he established the first Friday after the purification of Jerusalem from the filth of the Crusaders	حرر صلاح الدين #بيت المقدس من الصليبيين وأقام الجمعة الأولى بعد تطهير القدس من دنس الصليبيين
Hamas Al-Qassam Brigades	and liberating army that will enter into the courtyards of Al-Aqsa Mosque until we cleanse all of our land of the filth of the remaining occupiers	الجيش الذي يدخل باحات مسجد الأقصى فاتحاً محرراً وحتى نطهر أرضنا كل أرضنا من دنس آخر المحتلين
Mohamed Badie - Muslim Brotherhood, Supreme Leader (General Guide)	their sole goal for all of them the recovery of al Aqsa Mosque, freeing it from the filth of the Zionists... We are also commanded to rescue the holy sites of Christianity and even Judaism from the filth of those Zionists	وهدفهم الأوحده جميعاً استرداد المسجد الأقصى، وتخليصه من دنس الصهاينة... كما أمرنا باستنقاذ المقدسات المسيحية بل واليهودية من دنس هؤلاء الصهاينة
Al-Qaeda's statement (translated by Reuters)	To purify all Islamic land from the filth of the Jews and Americans, including Jerusalem and Kashmir	تطهير جميع الأراضي الإسلامية من دنس اليهود والأمريكان بما فيها القدس وكشمير
ISIS - The Islamic State (translated by Aymenn Jawad Al-Tamimi)	And after God Almighty granted conquest for His mujahideen servants in Wilayat Ninawa and other wilayats of the Islamic State, and they cleansed them of the filth of the Safavids and secularists	وبعد أن فتح الله تعالى لعباده المجاهدين في ولاية نينوى وغيرها من ولايات الدولة الإسلامية وكهورها من دنس الصفويين والعلمانيين
The Accepted Dua, compiled and translated by Abu Umar Abdulazeez	O Allah, cleanse my heart with the water of snow and hail, and cleanse my heart from all sins as a white garment is cleansed from filth	كَمَا يُنَقَّى الثَّوْبُ الْأَبْيَضُ مِنَ الدَّنَسِ

“Give us victory over the disbelieving people”		
The Clear Quran-A Thematic English Translation, Dr. Mustafa Khattab, Siraj Publications, Canada, 2016, pp. 76, 84, 102. Approved by Al-Azhar and the Canadian Council of Imams	Give us victory over the disbelieving people (Surah 2, 250)	فانصرنا على القوم الكافرين
	So grant us victory over the disbelieving people (Surah 2, 286)	فانصرنا على القوم الكافرين
	Give us victory over the disbelievers (Surah 3, 147)	وانصرنا على القوم الكافرين
THE QURAN English Meanings English Revised and Edited by Saheeh International, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia	Give us victory over the disbelieving people (Surah 2, 250)	فانصرنا على القوم الكافرين
	So give us victory over the disbelieving people (Surah 2, 286)	فانصرنا على القوم الكافرين
	Give us victory over the disbelieving people (Surah 3, 147)	وانصرنا على القوم الكافرين
The Accepted Dua, compiled and translated by Abu Umar Abdulazeez	Give us victory over the disbelieving people	فانصرنا على القوم الكافرين
Hosam Helal, Senior Canadian Imam	Grant us victory over those who made us their enemies	انصرنا على من عادانا
ICNA Canada's official publication	Give us victory over the disbelieving people	انصرنا على القوم الكافرين
Markaz-ul-Islam (Islamic Centre in Edmonton, Alberta)	Give us victory over the disbelieving people	انصرنا على القوم الكافرين

The meaning of “[danas](#)”

The meaning of “[danas](#)” دنس in Arabic-Arabic, Arabic-English, Arabic-Hebrew, Arabic-Persian, Arabic-Urdu and Arabic-Turkish dictionaries supports Jonathan Halevi's translation “purify [al-Aqsa](#) Mosque from the filth of the Jews”:

[Lisan al-'Arab](#) - [الدَّنَسُ : الْوَسَخُ ؛ وَرَجُلٌ دَنَسٌ الْمَرْوَّةُ](#) -

[Al-Mawrid](#) - [نجاسة دنس: impurity, uncleanness, dirtiness; dirt, filth, squalor](#)

[رَجُلٌ دَنَسٌ :- : وَسِيحٌ ، نَحِسٌ ، مُتَلَطِّحٌ بِالْقَبِيحِ](#) - [Dictionary الغني](#)

[الدَّنَسُ بفتحيتين الوسخ](#) - [Dictionary مختار الصحاح](#)

[Al-Faraid](#) - [impurity, stain](#)

[Wehr](#) - [uncleanness, dirt, filth, squalor, stain, blemish, fault](#)

[Al Munjid](#)-[الوسخ](#). [الدينس مص](#).

[לכלוך, זוהמה, טומאה](#)-[Dictionary שרונ](#)

[לכלוך, טינופת](#)-[Dictionary איילון שנער](#)

[טינוף, כתם, רבב, לכלוך, טומאה](#)-[Dictionary אלמאליח](#)

[چرکی , آنکه آبروی او لکه دار یا جامه ی او چرک یا](#) -[Arabic-Persian Dictionary-قاموس عربي-فارسي](#)

[اخلاق او ناپسندیده باشد](#)

[آلودگی](#) - [Arabic-Urdu Dictionary](#)

[pislik, pasak](#) - [Arabic-Turkish Dictionary](#)

See also Fatwa on [IslamWeb.net](#): [فالدنس لغة الوسخ](#)

Chapter Fourteen

Toronto Star #FAKENEWS It's not manipulation...it's an ellipsis

The Toronto Star's 4 page article to exonerate Ayman Elkasrawy is filled with errors in fact and the gross omission of facts. I have sent many media inquiries to the Publisher, John Bolton; Bob Hepburn media inquiries; Kathy English, public editor and Jennifer Yang, the reporter.

There has been nothing but silence. The banality of evil.

On October 22, 2017, the Toronto Star dedicated four pages, including its front page, in an attempt to exonerate Ayman Elkasrawy, an imam at "Masjid Toronto" mosque, from anti-Jewish and anti-infidel prayers during Ramadan 2016.

The following are excerpts from the article:

"After the story broke, Masjid Toronto took all its videos offline but it was too late; a new, **edited clip was posted on YouTube...** [The] Rebel jumped on the story about Elkasrawy's prayers... In a video segment, "Rebel commander" Ezra Levant plays the YouTube clip while imploring his viewers to "look at what the folks inside the mosque were saying"... The YouTube clip was particularly troubling for Arabic sociolinguist and dialectologist Atiq Hachimi, an associate professor at the University of Toronto. This is because **the clip was digitally manipulated:** the first two seconds were cut and pasted from a different prayer Elkasrawy had made two minutes earlier. **A slanted translation then transformed this Quranic verse** from "Thou art our Protector. Help us against those who stand against faith" to "Give us victory over the disbelieving people." "It changed their meaning in such a way as to promote the dangerous myths that violent extremism and hate are inherent to Islam," Hachimi said."

The Toronto Star alleged that the short video clip that was broadcast on The Rebel by Ezra Levant:

- "was **digitally manipulated:** the first two seconds were cut and pasted from a different prayer Elkasrawy had made two minutes earlier"

- contained “**a slanted translation**” that **transformed this Quranic verse** from “Thou art our Protector. Help us against those who stand against faith” to “Give us victory over the disbelieving people.”
- Atiqa Hachimi, the Star’s “expert” stated: “**It changed their meaning in such a way as to promote the dangerous myths that violent extremism and hate are inherent to Islam,**” Hachimi said.”

All allegations made by The Star in this regard are not true. The Rebel’s video clip was not “manipulated” but edited to remove irrelevant lines.

On July 25, 2017 Jonathan Halevi wrote to Jennifer Yang:

“The original videos were embedded in CIJnews with no editing, manipulation etc. They were available till Masjid Toronto YouTube Channel was deleted... CIJnews translation was mainly based on Islamic sources (see my previous email and below).”

Lt Col. (Ret) Jonathan Halevi’s translation on CIJnews site of the Quranic verse in question was based on credible Islamic sources and is accurate. The article: “Why doesn’t the Toronto Star correct and apologize for its front page #FakeNews article?” showed that Halevi’s translation of the line in question; “Give us victory over the disbelieving people,” is supported by leading Islamic organizations and scholars in Canada.

Media inquiries containing a wealth of evidence supporting Jonathan Halevi’s translation were sent to the Toronto Star and its five experts. The Star and four experts never responded to contest the overwhelming evidence or to defend their original position. One claimed that the Toronto Star didn’t ask for an opinion regarding this line. (See HERE)

Here is the text of the prayer in question that was recited by Ayman Elkasrawy on July 4, 2016:

NOTE: The Italic and underlined lines and the “Ameen” chants by the congregants were omitted by Jonathan Halevi in his original article. Following journalistic standards, Halevi marked the missing lines with an ellipsis and enclosed the

original and unedited video to the article. The Rebel's short clip did not include the Italic and underlined lines.

Here is the English translation of the prayer by Lt Col. (Ret) Jonathan Halevi (based on Islamic sources):

You are our Protector and give us victory over the disbelieving people.
[congregants:] Ameen [declaration of affirmation]

Our Lord, let not our hearts deviate after You have guided us and grant us from Yourself mercy. Indeed, You are the Bestower. [congregants:] Ameen.

O Allah, Controller of the hearts make my heart steadfast in Your religion. [congregants:] Ameen.

O Allah, Controller of the hearts and minds, direct our hearts to Your obedience. [congregants:] Ameen.

O Allah, we ask You for Your Love, and the love of whoever loves You. [congregants:] Ameen, and the love of deeds that will bring us closer to Your Love. [congregants:] Ameen.

And those who say, "Our Lord, avert from us the punishment of Hell. Indeed, its punishment is ever adhering; [congregants:] Ameen.

Indeed, it is evil as a settlement and residence. [congregants:] Ameen.

Our Lord, grant us from among our wives and offspring comfort to our eyes. [congregants:] Ameen, and make us an example for the righteous. [congregants:] Ameen.

O Allah, forgive us and our parents of our sins. [congregants:] Ameen.

O Allah, have mercy upon them as they brought us up [when we were] small. [congregants:] Ameen.

O Allah, protect the youths of the Muslims. [congregants:] Ameen.

O Allah, protect the girls of the Muslims. [congregants:] Ameen.

O Allah, grant them with righteous husbands and righteous wives. [congregants:] Ameen.

O Allah, grant them with a righteous offspring. [congregants:] Ameen.

Our Lord, give us in this world [that which is] good, [congregants:] Ameen, and in the Hereafter [that which is] good, [congregants:] Ameen and protect us from the punishment of the Fire. [congregants:] Ameen.

O Allah! Give victory to Islam and raise the standing of the Muslims. [congregants:] Ameen.

And humiliate the polytheism and polytheists. [congregants:] Ameen.

O Allah! Give victory (help) to your slaves who believe in the oneness of Allah. [congregants:] Ameen.

O Allah! Give them victory over the criminal people.

O Allah! Destroy anyone who killed Muslims. [congregants:] Ameen.

O Allah! Destroy anyone who displaced the sons of the Muslims. [congregants:] Ameen.

O Allah! Count their number; [congregants:] Ameen, slay them one by one, [congregants:] Ameen, and spare not one of them. [congregants:] Ameen.

O Allah! Purify Al-Aqsa Mosque from the filth of the Jews! [congregants:] Ameen.

O Allah! Purify Al-Aqsa Mosque from the filth of the Jews! [congregants:] Ameen.

Questions:

Given the fact that Jonathan Halevi's translation of the line in question is accurate (see above), please explain in what way skipping the irrelevant segment "changed their meaning in such a way as to promote the dangerous myths that violent extremism and hate are inherent to Islam" as it published by the Star?

Why did The Star appear to accept (or at least refrained from contesting) Atiqah Hachimi's allegations about the video being "manipulated"?

Did the Star independently examine the text of the entire prayer including the omitted segment?

Based on the text of the prayer presented above can The Star defend the statements in the article that strongly suggest the video was "manipulated"?

Why does The Star insist on refraining from answering all my media inquiries that contain simple and fair questions about its credibility and journalistic standards?

Why does The Star keep republishing the false and potentially defamatory article even after being proven again and again as inaccurate, misleading and even false (fake news)?

My article will be published on July 26, 2018. Please respond by 1 Pm July 26 2018. If you require more time please let me know.

No one dared disturb the sound of silence

Chapter Fifteen

Why doesn't the Toronto Star correct and apologize for its front page #FakeNews article?

The Star questioned Lt. Col. (ret.) Halevi's translations. Yet Halevi's translation of this verse is supported by a many credible Islamic sources in the Muslim world as well as in Canada.

Does the Toronto Star suggest that translation offered/ endorsed by the Islamic sources (including Al-Azhar, Canadian Council of Imams, ICNA and ISNA) that supports Jonathan Halevi's translation are also "propaganda", "mistranslated", "decontextualized", "disingenuous" and/ or "slanted translation"?

Media inquiry: Why doesn't the Toronto Star correct and apologize for its front page #FakeNews article?

This new inquiry was sent to Publisher John Boynton, Director, Community Relations and Communications, Bob Hepburn, public editor Kathy English, and the reporter Jennifer Yang.

It includes Islamic sources praised by the most prominent Imams in Canada and around the Muslim world. One would think that The Star would want to protect its reputation and share this information.

According to Kathy English:

"I think it's safe to say, the Toronto Star is not in the business of fake news. While this news organization's work does sometimes fall short of its own journalistic standards, **to suggest that the Star would deliberately publish false information is wrong.** We don't make stuff up."

On February 17, 2017 Kathy English tweeted:

"I am already tired of the new "fake news" charges from Toronto Star critics."

On December 1, 2017 Kathy English wrote:

“trustworthy journalism from journalists and news organizations that hold themselves to high professional standards and do the real work of reporting to verify facts matters more than ever... Just because someone says it’s true, does not make it so.”

If this is their stance, how do they justify not responding to information that contradicts their reporting? Why do they continue to decline to respond to my questions?

Here is the latest request made to The Star.

On October 22, 2017, The Toronto Star dedicated four pages, including its front page, in an attempt to exonerate Ayman Elkasrawy, an Imam at “Masjid Toronto” mosque, from anti-Jewish and anti-infidel prayers during Ramadan 2016.

I wrote about that report in my article “Was Toronto Star’s front page exposé defamatory #FAKENEWS?”

The Star has chosen to dispute the translation of a Muslim prayer by Lt. Col. (ret.) Jonathan Halevi, internationally respected investigative journalist and researcher who testified before the Senate on radical Islam in Canada.

From your article Sun., Oct. 22, 2017:

“The YouTube clip was particularly troubling for Arabic sociolinguist and dialectologist Atiqa Hachimi, an associate professor at the University of Toronto.

This is because the clip was digitally manipulated: the first two seconds were cut and pasted from a different prayer Elkasrawy had made two minutes earlier. *A slanted translation then transformed this Quranic verse from “Thou art our Protector. Help us against those who stand against faith” to “Give us victory over the disbelieving people.”*

“It changed their meaning in such a way as to promote the dangerous myths that violent extremism and hate are inherent to Islam,” Hachimi said.

Original text in Arabic	Jonathan Halevi's translation	Toronto Star's translation
انصرنا على القوم الكافرين	Give us victory over the disbelieving people	Help us against those who stand against faith

From my investigation on this matter I learned that on July 25, 2017, Jonathan Halevi provided The Star with a few examples of the Islamic sources he used to translate the Ayman Elkasrawy's supplications. Halevi added:

"Other parts of the supplications recited at Masjid Toronto can be found translated into Arabic on Islamic sites and in free books at the Islamic booth at Toronto's Dundas Square (see below)."

In yet another detailed email on the same day Halevi wrote amongst other things:

"The original videos were embedded in CIJnews **with no editing, manipulation etc. They were available till Masjid Toronto YouTube Channel was deleted.** CIJnews published Elkasrawy's statement in its entirety in which he explained the context of his supplications. CIJnews translation was mainly based on Islamic sources (see my previous email and below)."

"CIJnews translation: "[O Allah] give us victory over the disbelieving people." (Translation Saheeh International. Copies of Saheeh International are being distributed for free across Canada by Dawah groups including at Dundas Square. They were also handed out to visitors at Jam'e Abu Bakr Siddique Masjid, a Sunni mosque located at 2665 Lawrence Ave. East in Toronto, during an open house celebrating the first Ontario Islamic Heritage Month on October 29, 2016.)"

The Star DID NOT publish Halevi's statements clarifying that his translation was based on Islamic sources.

The Star also DID NOT mention that Halevi relied on an official translation of the Quran (Saheeh International) in his translation of the Quranic verse: "Give us victory over the disbelieving people."

Halevi's translation of this verse is supported by a many credible Islamic sources in the Muslim world as well as in Canada.

In his translation of the Quran “The Clear Quran”, Dr. Mustafa Khattab, Imam of Anatolia Islamic Centre in Mississauga, Ont., and member of the Canadian Council of Imams, **translated the Quranic verse in question exactly as Jonathan Halevi**: “Give us victory over the disbelieving people.” Source: The Clear Quran-A Thematic English Translation, Dr. Mustafa Khattab, Siraj Publications, Canada, 2016, pp. 76, 84, 102.

“The Clear Quran” page on Amazon states the following:

“About the translation... To achieve accuracy, the translator has made use of the greatest and most celebrated works of old and modern tafsir (Quran commentaries), and shared the work with several Imams in North America for feedback and insight...

“This translation has been officially approved by Al-Azhar (the most prestigious school of Islamic knowledge in the world) and endorsed by ISNA and the Canadian Council of Imams...

About the translator... With two decades of experience in Islamic translation, Dr. Mustafa Khattab is an authority on interpreting the Quran... Dr. Khattab received his Ph.D., M.A., and B.A. in Islamic Studies in English with Honors from Al-Azhar University’s Faculty of Languages & Translation... He is a member of the Canadian Council of Imams...”

In his endorsement letter on July 7, 2016 (more than a year BEFORE Toronto Star’s article), Dr. M. Iqbal Nadvi Chair of the Canadian Council of Imams and the President of ICNA Canada, wrote the following:

“Canadian Council of Imams’ Endorsement of The Clear Quran by Dr. Mustafa Khattab... Dr. Khattab’s ground-breaking work, which is noted for clarity, eloquence, and flow, makes the Quran more accessible than ever... I’m confident that this translation will be well received and recognized as a scholarly and timely work.”

Dr. Jamal Badawi, Canadian leading Muslim scholar and Professor Emeritus, Saint Mary’s University, Halifax, NS, also endorsed The Clear Quran. Here are excerpts from Badawi’s endorsement letter:

“A Long Overdue English Translation of the Qur’an. I have been involved as a Muslim speaker, teacher, and writer on Islam for more than 50 years. Like many others, I always hoped for a translation of the meaning of the Qur’an that combines clarity, accuracy, understanding of the historical background of many Qur’anic verses... The Clear Quran translated by Dr. Mustafa Khattab, a qualified graduate of the famous Al-Azhar University came the closest to my long-standing dream.”

The Clear Quran was also endorsed by Canadian imams Navaid Aziz and Musleh Khan and American imam and scholar Omar Suleiman who wrote: “The Clear Quran—which is noted for clarity, accuracy, eloquence, and flow - is indeed a scholarly and timely work that reflects the beauty and relevance of Islam. I highly recommend Dr. Mustafa Khattab’s translation.”

Canadian imams liked Omar Suleiman’s endorsement of The clear Quran including: Taha Ghayyur, Ibrahim Hindy, Refaat Mohamed, Shakir Pandor, Abdul Raouf Kabbar, Sherif Ayoup, Muhammad Abuelezz, Aarij Anwer and Muhammad Robert Heft.

Copies of The Clear Quran have been distributed for free by various Canadian Dawah groups, including the Muslim Students Association at York University.

Other Islamic sources that support Jonathan Halevi’s translation of the Quranic verse: “Give us victory over the disbelieving people”:

- Shaikh Abu Umar Abdul Azeez (Abdul Azeez al-Athari), Scholar, Author, Translator and Imam at Abu Huraira Center, Toronto انصرنا على القوم الكافرين “Give us victory over the disbelieving people”. Source: The Accepted Dua [Supplication], compiled and translated by Abu Umar; Abdulazeez, <http://abenefitaday.com/> in conjunction with Abu Hurairah Centre, Third Edition, 2013, Toronto, Canada, pp. 25, 82, 85. The book has been distributed for free by Canadian Dawah groups, including Walk-In Islamic infoCenter.
- Hosam Helal: “Grant us victory over those who made us their enemies” انصرنا على من عادانا Imam Hosam Helal currently serves as the Imam and Religious Affairs Director at Islamic Society of St. Catharines. He also serves as the Associate Chaplain at Brock University, an instructor at ISNA

Canada, and a director of Mishkah Social Services. He previously served as the Imam at the Muslim Association of Hamilton and Program Coordinator at ISNA Canada. He has served as Imam, khateeb, teacher, and instructor for the last 10 years at several universities throughout Canada and the United States.

- 24 Hours with the Prophet, reviewed by Sheikh Abu-Khalid Almadani, Islamic Communication Trust, Karachi, Pakistan, p. 122 – انصرنا على القوم “Give us victory over the disbelieving people”. The book has been distributed for free by Canadian Dawah groups. The first page of the book states the following: “Available in Canada for \$2.00 {postage extra}. DAWAH CENTRE: Tel: #(416) 536-84433, Fax: # (416) 536-0417. e-mail: comments@islaminfo.com.”
- Fortress of the Muslim, invocations from the Quran & Sunnah (Arabic, English & transliteration), reviewed by Sheikh Imam Ahmed Shahab, www.collectfreequran.com, pp. 43-45 – انصرنا على القوم الكافرين “Give us victory over the disbelieving people”. The book has been distributed for free by Canadian Dawah groups, including Walk-In Islamic infoCenter and the Muslim Students Association at York University.
- Muslim Prayer Handbook, compiled by Muhammad Obaidullah, Islamic Communication Trust, Karachi, Pakistan, p. 4 – انصرنا على القوم الكافرين “Give us victory over the disbelieving people”. The book has been distributed for free by Canadian Dawah groups. The first page of the book states the following: “Available in Canada for \$2.00 {postage extra}. DAWAH CENTRE: Tel: #(416) 536-84433, Fax: # (416) 536-0417. e-mail: comments@islaminfo.com.”
- The Quran: English Meanings and Notes, Saheeh International, Al-Muntadsa Al-Islami Trust, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, 2012, pp. 37, 44, 61 – انصرنا على القوم الكافرين “Give us victory over the disbelieving people”. The book has been distributed for free by Canadian Dawah groups, including Walk-In Islamic infoCenter, Street Dawah Toronto, Street Dawah near St. Lawrence Market in downtown Toronto, the Muslim Students Association at York University and Canadian Muslim Students Associations.

- Syllabus for the Month of April for MGAs and Workers issued by ICNA Canada (Islamic Circle of North America-Canada) headed by Dr. Iqbal al-Nasvi, the Charman of the Canadian Council of Imams – انصرنا على القوم الكافرين “Give us victory over the disbelieving people”.
- Race To Jannah-5, Group B: Grade 1 to 3, Quran & Tafsir: Surah Al-Baqarah (285-286), <http://www.bdhalahaqa.ca/> ((Islamic organization in Edmonton, Alberta that teaches the Quran), p. 3, 4 – انصرنا على القوم الكافرين “Give us victory over the disbelieving people”.
- The Markaz Oasis, Markaz-ul-Islam (Islamic Centre in Edmonton, Alberta), Issue: Spring 2012, p. 8 – انصرنا على القوم الكافرين “Give us victory over the disbelieving people”.
- Dua Qunoot [Supplication], Complete Qunoot in Arabic, English, translation and transliteration, Mashary Rashod, p. 6 – انصرنا على القوم الكافرين “Give us victory over the disbelieving people”.
- A selection of Supplications From Al-Qur’an and Authentic Hadith, ISLAMIC KNOWLEDGE TEAM, p. 3 – انصرنا على القوم الكافرين “Give us victory over those who deny the truth”.
- Daily Dua [supplication] – Authentic Adhkar prescribed by the Messenger of Allah, Ummah Welfare Trust, 2016, pp. 45-46 – انصرنا على القوم الكافرين “Give us victory over the disbelieving people”.
- Dua [supplication] of the Prophet, <http://www.islamsbudskap.com>, p. 20-21 – انصرنا على من عادانا “Give us victory over our enemies”.
- Dua [supplication]-The Weapon of the Believer, Abu Ammaar Yasir Qadhi, Al-Hidaayah Publishing and Distribution (2001), p. 52 – انصرنا على القوم الكافرين “Make us victorious over the disbelieving people.”
- What to Do When a Muslim Dies, The Islamic Bulletin, pp. 36-37 – انصرنا على القوم الكافرين “Give us victory over the disbelieving people”.
- FORTY RABBANA, Collection of Short Qur’anic Du’a, FISABILILLAH PUBLICATIONS, pp.6-7, 11-12. انصرنا على القوم الكافرين “Give us victory over the disbelieving people”. See also:

“Give us victory over the disbelieving people”		
The Clear Quran-A Thematic English Translation, Dr. Mustafa Khattab, Siraj Publications, Canada, 2016, pp. 76, 84, 102. Approved by Al-Azhar and the Canadian Council of Imams	Give us victory over the disbelieving people (Surah 2, 250)	فانصرنا على القوم الكافرين
	So grant us victory over the disbelieving people (Surah 2, 286)	فانصرنا على القوم الكافرين
	Give us victory over the disbelievers (Surah 3, 147)	وانصرنا على القوم الكافرين
THE QURAN English Meanings English Revised and Edited by Saheeh International, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia	Give us victory over the disbelieving people (Surah 2, 250)	فانصرنا على القوم الكافرين
	So give us victory over the disbelieving people (Surah 2, 286)	فانصرنا على القوم الكافرين
	Give us victory over the disbelieving people (Surah 3, 147)	وانصرنا على القوم الكافرين
The Accepted Dua, compiled and translated by Abu Umar Abdulazeez	Give us victory over the disbelieving people	فانصرنا على القوم الكافرين
Hosam Helal, Senior Canadian Imam	Grant us victory over those who made us their enemies	انصرنا على من عادانا
ICNA Canada's official publication	Give us victory over the disbelieving people	انصرنا على القوم الكافرين
Markaz-ul-Islam (Islamic Centre in Edmonton, Alberta)	Give us victory over the disbelieving people	انصرنا على القوم الكافرين

Questions:

Why didn't Toronto Star publish Jonathan Halevi's statements that his translation was based on Islamic sources?

Jonathan Halevi provided the Star with evidence from Saheeh International supporting his translation. Why didn't Toronto Star publish it?

Why doesn't the Toronto Star correct its article after receiving modern Islamic sources that clearly prove Halevi's translation to be main-stream? By not retracting, it appears that The Star is participating in promoting Fake News.

See [HERE](#), [HERE](#), [HERE](#) and [HERE](#).

Does the Toronto Star suggest that translation offered/ endorsed by the Islamic sources (including Al-Azhar, Canadian Council of Imams, ICNA and ISNA) that supports Jonathan Halevi's translation are also "propaganda", "mistranslated", "decontextualized", "disingenuous" and/ or "slanted translation"?

Why does the Toronto Star systematically refrain from responding to my media inquiries and refuse to answer simple questions? Does this behaviour reflect the Star's journalistic standards?

Chapter Sixteen

#FakeNews: What didn't Toronto Star tell readers about its "independent" experts?

Jennifer Yang stated that all five experts didn't know Ayman Elkasrawy who served as an imam at Masjid Toronto mosque that was established and is owned by the Muslim Association of Canada (MAC). One of the so called "independent" experts, Mohammad Aboghodda was presented by Yang as only "a lecturer with the Understanding Islam Academy.

A quick online search found that Mohammad Aboghodda has an affiliation to the Muslim Brotherhood's ideology and strong ties to the Muslim Association of Canada (MAC), and to the Masjid Toronto mosque, where he served as an imam alongside Imam Ayman Elkasrawy.

On October 22, 2017, the Toronto Star **dedicated** four pages, including its front page, in an attempt to exonerate Ayman Elkasrawy, an imam at "Masjid Toronto" mosque, from anti-Jewish and anti-infidel prayers during Ramadan 2016. It is filled with errors in fact and the gross omission of facts.

The article was penned by Jennifer Yang and approved by Kathy English, the Star's public editor.

I have sent several media inquiries to the Publisher, John Bolton; Bob Hepburn media inquiries; Kathy English and Jennifer Yang. None responded.

In a previous article, I presented Toronto Star's dubious statement about one of the five experts who allegedly analyzed Ayman Elkasrawy's prayers and their translation and didn't know Elkasrawy.

According to this expert:

- **Toronto Star sent the expert ONLY one line ("purify al-Aqsa Mosque from the filth of the Jews") of the two prayers in question that were recited by Ayman Elkasrawy;**
- **Toronto Star DID NOT send the expert the prayers (text or video).**

- **Toronto Star provided the expert with BACKGROUND INFORMATION about the imam: that the Imam “never meant to cause offence to Jews”.**

To read more on this see my article “Was Toronto Star’s front page exposé defamatory fake news?” (click **HERE**).

Through my investigation I’ve come across more information that once again puts the credibility of the Toronto Star in question.

Jennifer Yang stated that all five experts didn’t know Ayman Elkasrawy who served as an imam at Masjid Toronto mosque that was established and is owned by the Muslim Association of Canada (MAC). One of the so called “independent” experts, Mohammad Aboghodda was presented by Yang as only “a lecturer with the Understanding Islam Academy.”

A quick online search found that Mohammad Aboghodda has an affiliation to the Muslim Brotherhood’s ideology and strong ties to the Muslim Association of Canada (MAC), and to the Masjid Toronto mosque, where he served as an imam alongside imam Ayman Elkasrawy.

The following are excerpts from the Toronto Star’s article:

- “Mohammad Aboghodda, a lecturer with the Understanding Islam Academy, an educational charity in Mississauga. Aboghodda was one of the Arabic translators consulted by the Star.”
- “The experts — from Canada, the United States and the United Kingdom — are Arabic translators, linguists and university professors with published book chapters, academic papers and textbooks. **None of them knows Elkasrawy.**”

Toronto Star was adamant in its statement that Mohammad Aboghodda like the other four experts did not know Ayman Elkasrawy.

I reached out, again, to The Toronto Star and asked about Mohammad Aboghodda. And, once again, The Toronto Star responded with resounding silence.

Here is my media inquiry.

From my investigation I've learned that:

- **Mr. Mohammad Aboghodda does not work at Understanding Islam Academy.** This is the message I received from Understanding Islam Academy in response to a media inquiry.
- Mohammad Aboghodda **has been serving** as an imam and religious guide and mentor at Masjid Toronto mosque including during the years 2015-2018 while Ayman Elkasrawy also served as an imam at the mosque.
- Mohammad Aboghodda is **publicly affiliated** with the **Muslim Association of Canada (MAC)** that established and owns Masjid Toronto mosque.
- The Muslim Association of Canada **states** that “it strives to practice Islam as embodied in the Quran and the teachings of the Prophet (peace be upon him) and as understood in its contemporary, comprehensive, and balanced context by the late Imam Hassan Albanna, the founder of the Muslim Brotherhood.”
- Abd al-Fattah Abu Ghudda, Mohammad Aboghodda's father, was the **third Supreme Guide** of the Syrian Muslim Brotherhood.

Questions:

- Why didn't the Toronto Star disclose the fact that Mohammad Aboghodda has been serving as an imam at Masjid Toronto mosque?
- Why didn't Toronto Star disclose the fact that Mohammad Aboghodda is strongly affiliated with the Muslim Association of Canada (MAC) that established and owns Masjid Toronto mosque?
- Why didn't Toronto Star disclose the fact that Mohammad Aboghodda is linked to the ideology of the Muslim Brotherhood through his father and MAC?

Chapter Seventeen

#FAKENEWS Toronto Star concealed Ayman Elkasrawy's affiliation with the Muslim Brotherhood

Yang wrote in her article: “Elkasrawy says he agreed to speak with the Star because “I have nothing to hide.”

Yang emphasized: “[The] context is key in determining the appropriate translation [of Elkasrawy's prayers].”

Yang **DID NOT** publish any information in her article about Elkasrawy's social media posts. She also **DID NOT** tell the readers that Jonathan Halevi recommended that she look into Elkasrawy's social media posts.

Ayman Elkasrawy's social media reflects his support of the Muslim Brotherhood government in Egypt headed by Mohammad Morsi and his affiliation with Hassan al-Banna, the founder of the Muslim Brotherhood.

Toronto Star concealed Ayman Elkasrawy's affiliation with the Muslim Brotherhood.

On October 30, 2017 the Toronto Star's Public Editor, Kathy English, told Honest Reporting Canada that “the reporters [Jennifer Yang] and her editors put an immense amount of thought and consideration into this piece.”

Background

On October 22, 2017, the Toronto Star dedicated four pages, including its front page, to an attempt to exonerate Ayman Elkasrawy, an imam at “Masjid Toronto” mosque, from anti-Jewish and anti-infidel prayers during Ramadan 2016. It is filled with errors in fact and the gross omission of facts.

The article was written by Jennifer Yang and approved by Kathy English, the Star's public editor.

I have sent several media inquiries to the Publisher, John Boynton; Bob Hepburn media inquiries; Kathy English and Jennifer Yang. None responded.

Responding to a media inquiry from Jennifer Yang, The Toronto Star reporter, Jonathan Halevi wrote the following on July 25, 2017:

“Ayman Elkasrawy’s posts on social media may help you a great deal in your research.”

Yang wrote in her article: “Elkasrawy says he agreed to speak with the Star because “I have nothing to hide.”

Yang emphasized: “[The] context is key in determining the appropriate translation [of Elkasrawy’s prayers].”

Yang DID NOT publish in her article any information from Elkasrawy’s social media posts. She also DID NOT tell the readers that Jonathan Halevi recommended that she look into Elkasrawy’s social media posts.

The following are some of Elkasrawy’s statements on Facebook and Twitter:

February 12, 2017 (archived file) – Ayman Elkasrawy shared with a “love emoticon sticker” مصر – الجزيرة’s an album featuring statements praising Hassan al-Banna the founder of the global movement of the Muslim Brotherhood on anniversary of his assassination by the Egyptian secret police in 1949.

December 9, 2016 (archived file) – [Abdel Fattah] el-Sisi [Egypt’s President] is a Kafir [unbeliever, infidel].

October 9, 2016 (archived file) – Ayman Elkasrawy shared انصار بورسعيد’s video adding (originally in Arabic): “May Allah have mercy on [Saad Mohamed el-Husseiny] el-Shazly [Egypt’s chief of staff during the October/ Yom Kippur War against Israel in 1973] and may Allah free President [Mohammad] Morsi [leader of the political party of the Muslim Brotherhood] from his captivity.”

September 22, 2016 (archived file) – Ayman Elkasrawy shared CNN’s Erin Burnett’s tweet “On whether saying “radical Islamic” terror is fair, the Muslim leader of the ‘most populous Arab country [Egypt’s President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi] says. YES “It is Islamic extremism.” Elkasrawy added the following comment (originally in Arabic): “The head of the hypocrisy of this era, the criminal, the traitor.”

August 8, 2016 (archive file) – Ayman Elkasrawy posted the following (originally in Arabic): “O Allah do not defer [it] to this butcher and criminal [Egypt’s President Abdul Fattah Sissi] and his soldiers... O Allah avenge... remove their kingdom.”

July 4, 2016 (archived file) – Ayman Elkasrawy shared كلنا خالد سعيد نسخة كل المصريين’s photo adding (originally in Arabic): “May Allah free the President Dr. Mohammad Mursi [leader of the political party of the Muslim Brotherhood] from captivity.”

April 3, 2014 (archived file) – Ayman Elkasrawy tweeted (originally in Arabic): “Morsi is my President.”

Mohammad Morsi is a former President of Egypt and the leader of the political party of the Muslim Brotherhood who was overthrown and arrested by the current President of Egypt Abdul Fattah Sissi.

Ayman Elkasrawy’s social media reflects his support of the Muslim Brotherhood government in Egypt, headed by Mohammad Morsi and affiliation with Hassan al-Banna, the founder of the Muslim Brotherhood.

The ideology of the Muslim Brotherhood – Background

Excerpts from “The Way of Jihad” by Hassan al-Banna:

“All Muslims Must Make Jihad. Jihad is an obligation from Allah on every Muslim and cannot be ignored nor evaded. Allah has ascribed great importance to jihad and has made the reward of the martyrs and the fighters in His way a splendid one. Only those who have acted similarly and who have modelled themselves upon the martyrs in their performance of jihad can join them in this reward. Furthermore, Allah has specifically honoured the Mujahideen with certain exceptional qualities, both spiritual and practical, to benefit them in this world and the next. **Their pure blood is a symbol of victory in this world and the mark of success and felicity in the world to come...**

“Islam is concerned with the question of jihad and the drafting and the mobilisation of the entire Umma into one body to defend the right cause with all its strength than any other ancient or modern system of living, whether religious or civil. The

verses of the Qur'an and the Sunnah of Muhammad (PBUH) are overflowing with all these noble ideals and they summon people in general (with the most eloquent expression and the clearest exposition) **to jihad, to warfare, to the armed forces, and all means of land and sea fighting...**

“Why Do the Muslims Fight?... jihad is used to safeguard the mission of spreading Islam. This would guarantee peace and the means of implementing the Supreme Message. This is a responsibility which the Muslims bear, this Message guiding mankind to truth and justice... The Muslims in war had only one concern and this was to make the name of Allah Supreme, there was no room at all for any other objective...

“Many Muslims today mistakenly believe that fighting the enemy is jihad asghar (a lesser jihad) and that fighting one's ego is jihad akbar (a greater jihad). The following narration [athar] is quoted as proof: “We have returned from the lesser jihad to embark on the greater jihad.” They said: “What is the greater jihad?” He said: “The jihad of the heart, or the jihad against one's ego.” This narration is used by some to lessen the importance of fighting, to discourage any preparation for combat, and to deter any offering of jihad in Allah's way. **This narration is not a saheeh (sound) tradition...**

“My brothers! The ummah that knows how to die a noble and honourable death is granted an exalted life in this world and eternal felicity in the next. Degradation and dishonour are the results of the love of this world and the fear of death. Therefore prepare for jihad and **be the lovers of death.** Life itself shall come searching after you.”

“The Goals of the Muslim Brotherhood” – **Excerpts** from the Muslim Brotherhood's official website

“The prophet Muhammad as its leader and ruler, and jihad as its path.”

“We want a Muslim individual, a Muslim home, a Muslim people, a Muslim government and state that will lead the Islamic countries and bring into the fold the Muslim Diaspora and the lands robbed from Islam and will then bear the standard of jihad and the call [da'wah] to Allah. [Then the] world will happily accept the

precepts of Islam....The problems of conquering the world will only end when the flag of Islam waves and jihad has been proclaimed.”

“The goal is to establish one Islamic state of united Islamic countries, one nation under one leadership whose mission will be to reinforce adherence to the law of Allah...and the strengthening of the Islamic presence in the world arena....**The goal...is the establishment of a world Islamic state.**”

“And if prayer is a pillar of the faith, then jihad is its summit...and death in the path of Allah is the summit of aspiration.”

Muslim Brotherhood’s Global Goals according to Yusuf Qaradawi and Muhammad Mahdi ‘Akef Sheikh Yusuf Qaradawi, a staunch Islamist, who in the past was a candidate for the Muslim Brotherhood leadership, issued a fatwa in April 2003, describing how **Islam would conquer Europe and defeat Christianity by exploiting Western liberalism and democracy.** It would be made possible, he promised, by spreading Islam until it was strong enough to take over the entire continent. He wrote that “it is eminently clear that the future belongs to Islam, and that the religion of Allah will be victorious and will, by the grace of Allah, conquer all other religions.” His prediction was based on an Islamic tradition according to which the prophet Muhammad said that one of the signs of redemption in Islam would be the initial conquest of Constantinople and then the conquest of Rome.

According to Qaradawi, “Constantinople was conquered in 1453 by a 23-year old Ottoman named Muhammad ibn Murad, whom we call Muhammad the Conqueror. Now what remains is to conquer Rome. That is what we wish for, and that is what we believe in. After having been expelled twice, Islam will be victorious and reconquer Europe....I am certain that this time, victory will be won not by the sword but by preaching and [Islamic] ideology....The conquest of Rome and the spread of Islam East and West will be the fruit of the seed we plant and entail the return of the Caliphate, which treads the straight path [of Islam] and is based on the path of the prophets....[The Caliphate] is worthy of leading the nation to victory.”

Like Qaradawi, ‘Akef does not hide the Muslim Brotherhood’s aspirations to lead a world Islamic revolution. He has stated that “the path of the Muslims is global,” and Islam is the “religion of humanity.” The Caliphate, he explained, is “the home

of the entire [Islamic] nation, not only of the Muslim Brotherhood....We want... the Arab-Muslim world to be one nation, relying on the words of Allah: ‘This is your nation, one nation.’”

Questions:

Toronto Star maintained that “[The] context is key in determining the appropriate translation [of Elkasrawy’s prayers].” So why didn’t the Toronto Star disclose the fact that Ayman Elkasrawy’s affiliation with the Hassan al-Banna, the founder of the Muslim Brotherhood and his support of the Muslim Brotherhood’s government in Egypt headed by Mohammad Morsi?

Why didn’t the Toronto Star tell its readers about Jonathan Halevi’s recommendation to Jennifer Yang to look into Elkasrawy’s social media posts?

On October 30, the Toronto Star’s Public Editor, Kathy English, told Honest Reporting Canada that “the reporters [Jennifer Yang] and her editors put an immense amount of thought and consideration into this piece.”

Did Jennifer Yang or anyone else at Toronto Star heed Jonathan Halevi’s recommendation and read Elkasrawy’s social media posts?

Chapter Eighteen

Toronto Star #FakeNews: Writing about social media posts but neglecting to check them!

Toronto Star: “Elkasrawy deleted his account shortly after the story broke.” One might ask “why” if he had nothing to hide.

But did the Toronto Star investigate his tweets, and YouTube?

Toronto Star DID NOT provide any information about Elkasrawy’s tweets that dealt with the Muslim Brotherhood, Mohammad Morsi, who headed the Muslim Brotherhood government and the use of word “Jew” by Elkasrawy.

Are the omissions just laziness? Sloppiness? Inexperience? Or, are the omissions intended to protect the narrative that the Imam at the Masjid really had no animus toward the enemies of Islam including the Jews/ Zionists/ Israelis?

Those of you who have been following my articles on media inquiries to the Toronto Star for their publication of an article on October 22, 2017, here is another chapter in the saga.

This inquiry is about social media posts. It seems the Toronto Star did not investigate most of Ayman Elkasrawy’s posts in what appears to be an attempt to whitewash the Imam of the prayers he recited “purify al-Aqsa Mosque from the filth of the Jews” and “slay them one by one”.

Are the omissions just laziness? Sloppiness? Inexperience? Or, are the omissions intended to protect the narrative that the Imam at the Masjid really had no animus toward the enemies of Islam including the Jews/ Zionists/ Israelis?

One is left wondering what ethical means at the Toronto Star. Their response to my inquiry was the usual. SILENCE.

To:

John Boynton, Publisher; Bob Hepburn, Media inquiries; Kathy English,

Public Editor; Jennifer Yang, reporter.

The Toronto Star **dedicated** four pages, including its front page, in an attempt to exonerate Ayman Elkasrawy, an imam at “Masjid Toronto” mosque, from anti-Jewish and anti-infidel prayers during Ramadan 2016. It is filled with errors in fact and the gross omission of facts.

The article was written by Jennifer Yang and approved by Kathy English, the Star’s public editor.

I have sent several media inquiries to the Publisher, John Bolton; Bob Hepburn media inquiries; Kathy English and Jennifer Yang. None responded.

Responding to a media inquiry from Toronto Star reporter, Jennifer Yang, Lt. Col. (ret.) Jonathan Halevi wrote the following on **July 25, 2017**:

“Ayman Elkasrawy’s posts on social media may help you a great deal in your research.”

In her article the Toronto Star’s Jennifer Yang emphasized that the **“context is key in determining the appropriate translation.”**

Lt. Col. (ret.) Halevi told Yang to investigate social media posts. It appears that the Toronto Star did not investigate all of his social media posts.

Yang had written in the article that Elkasrawy said he agreed to speak to the Star because **“I have nothing to hide.”**

Let’s investigate that statement.

Here are the references in the Toronto Star’s article to Ayman Elkasrawy’s posts on social media followed by the findings of my investigation:

Ayman Elkasrawy’s Facebook page

Toronto Star: “Elkasrawy deleted his account shortly after the story broke.” But did the Toronto Star investigate his tweets, and YouTube?

Comments

In my investigation I’ve learned that as of November 20, 2017 Ayman Elkasrawy’s Facebook was not deleted as Toronto Star claimed but deactivated. Facebook message **read**: “This isn’t an active profile.” Facebook **explains** the differences

between deactivating and deleting accounts – “If you deactivate your account: You can reactivate whenever you want. People can’t see your timeline or search for you. Some information may remain visible to others (example: messages you sent). If you delete your account: You can’t regain access once it’s deleted.”

Ayman Elkasrawy’s Twitter account

Toronto Star: “His Twitter feed is dominated by Egyptian and Middle Eastern politics. He mostly retweets accounts he follows, including one called “Friends of Al-Aqsa.”

Comments

On July 24, 2017, the day Jennifer Yang sent the first media inquiry to Jonathan Halevi, Ayman Elkasrawy’s Twitter account contained 263 tweets and 13 Likes. 59 were Elkasrawy’s own tweets (22.4%) and 204 retweets.

Jennifer Yang stated:

“He mostly retweets accounts he follows, including one called “Friends of Al-Aqsa.”

I found that Elkasrawy retweeted only **1** tweet of “Friends of Al Aqsa”. Jennifer Yang did not mention that **Elkasrawy retweeted 8 tweets of محمد منتصر @montaseregy, the official spokesperson of the Muslim Brotherhood and 2 tweets of Mohammad Morsi, the first Muslim Brotherhood prime minister in Egypt.** The name of Mohammad Morsi, appears **19** times in Elkasrawy’s tweets and retweets. In **4** tweets Elkasrawy stated: “Morsi is my President” (originally in Arabic).

Yang’s only reference to the content of Elkasrawy’s tweets was summarized in the following line: “his Twitter feed is **dominated** by Egyptian and Middle Eastern politics.”

Toronto Star DID NOT provide any information about **Elkasrawy’s tweets that dealt with the Muslim Brotherhood, Mohammad Morsi, who headed the Muslim Brotherhood government and the use of word “Jew” by Elkasrawy.** It also failed to mention the content of the tweets of the official spokesperson of the Muslim Brotherhood that Elkasrawy chose to retweet, including the excerpts from

a statement by the scholars of the Muslim nation on the legitimate fight against the new Egyptian regime that overthrew the Muslim Brotherhood government and the “Zionists”.

On May 27, 2015 Ayman Elkasrawy **retweeted** <https://twitter.com/montaseregy> the following message by محمد منتصر @montaseregy (originally in Arabic):

“This is our religion and these are our scholars. Egypt is calling, we will not go back. Being loyal to the Zionist aggressors, supporting and protecting them and being hostile to the Palestinian resistance/ struggle/ fight [muqawamah] and conspiring against it, and imposing a siege on it by destroying Sinai [Peninsula] and displacing its people, is a betrayal of the religion [Islam] and the homeland [Egypt].”

U.S. Department of State’s report (2016) on the terrorism originating from the Sinai Peninsula **states** the following: “In Egypt, terrorists conducted numerous deadly attacks on government, military, and civilian targets throughout the country. Several high-profile attacks at the end of the year indicated the threat level remained high despite a focus on counterterrorism by the government. ISIS continued its terrorist campaign in the Sinai through the local ISIS-affiliate, ISIL-Sinai Province (ISIL-SP, formerly Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis). The Egyptian Armed Forces conducted a counterterrorism campaign against ISIL-SP in North Sinai, known as Operation “Right of the Martyr” starting in September 2015 through 2016.”

On April 2, 2013 Ayman Elkasrawy used the word the “Jew” in allegedly derogatory context. In this **tweet** (no longer available) Elkasrawy mocked Egyptian television host Dr. Bassem Youssef by saying among other things that **“the Jew is defending him.”** Elkasrawy didn’t elaborate on the identity of “the Jew”, but from the context it may refer to Israel or to Abdul Fattah Sissi, then the Chief Commander of the Egyptian Armed Forces and Minister of Defense. Within Egyptian Islamist circles Sissi is **called** in a derogatory context **“the son of the Jewish woman”**.

Ayman Elkasrawy’s YouTube account

No reference in Toronto Star’s article.

Comments

As of **November 13, 2017**, Ayman Elkasrawy “**Liked**” the following videos on his YouTube account:

“I love the Muslim Brotherhood” – The **song clip** features a slide with the Muslim Brotherhood official motto: “Allah is our objective; the Prophet [Mohammad] is our leader; the Quran is our law; Jihad is our way; dying in the way of Allah is our highest hope.”

“9/11 – Israel’s Advance Knowledge of Attacks” – This conspiracy theory **video** was later removed by YouTube. It is available **here**.

“The Lion of Palestine, the martyr Abdel Aziz Rantisi. Words that history will preserve forever. We will win, Allah willing” [originally in Arabic] – The almost 9 minute **video clip** (**archived file**) features a compilation of some of some of the most fiery speeches by Abdel Aziz Al-Rantisi, co-founder of Hamas and later the supreme leader of Hamas (2004). In these speeches **Rantisi vowed to continue the jihad against Israel, including by attacking Israeli cities and communities that at that time during the al-Aqsa Intifada were targeted by hundreds of Palestinian suicide bombers and attackers.**

“Undermine the security of Israel, like an earthquake” [originally in Arabic] – The song clip was produced by al-Qassam Brigades, the “military” wing of Hamas that is designated by Canada as a terrorist organization. It was was later removed by YouTube, but still available **here**. (**archived file**) The clip features Palestinian rockets attacks on Israel by Hamas and Islamic Jihad. The lyrics of the al-Qassam Brigades’ song **read**: “**Attack, carry out operations... kill all Zionists... undermine the security of Israel, set it on fire, destroy it, even its foundations... drive out all Zionists.**”

Hamas leader Khaled Mashaal’s interview with Al Jazeera (**archived file**) in which he justified all types of “struggle/ resistance” against Israel, including the armed struggle.

Al-Qassam Brigades’ video clip on the 26 anniversary of the establishment of Hamas. The video clip (later was removed by YouTube (**archived file**)).

features armed operatives of al-Qassam Brigades and its **lyrics** Praise their determination to fight Israel and to liberate Palestine, al-Quds and al-Aqsa Mosque. The clip ends with the following oath chanted by al-Qassam Brigades' operatives:

Al-Qassam Brigades' commander: "Your objective is"

Al-Qassam Brigades' operatives: "Allah"

Al-Qassam Brigades' commander: "Your leader is"

Al-Qassam Brigades' operatives: "The Prophet [Mohammad]"

Al-Qassam Brigades' commander: "Your law is"

Al-Qassam Brigades' operatives: "The Quran"

Al-Qassam Brigades' commander: "Your way is"

Al-Qassam Brigades' operatives: "The jihad"

Al-Qassam Brigades' commander: "Your highest hope is"

Al-Qassam Brigades' operatives: "Dying in the way of Allah"

Al-Qassam Brigades' commander: "Your movement is"

Al-Qassam Brigades' operatives: "Hamas"

Al-Qassam Brigades' commander: "Your army is"

Al-Qassam Brigades' operatives: "Al-Qassam [Brigades]"

A video featuring Saudi Imam Muhammad Al-Arifi reciting a supplication in which he said ([archived file](#)): **"O Allah, give victory to the mujahideen (*Muslim fighters for Jihad*) in Greater Syria. O Allah give victory to our brothers in Palestine over the usurping Jews."**

Questions

Why did the Toronto Star claim that Ayman Elkasrawy's Facebook account was "deleted" rather than deactivated?

Did the Toronto Star ask Ayman Elkasrawy for an access to his deactivated Facebook account?

The Toronto Star emphasized that the “context is key in determining the appropriate translation.” **Why didn’t the Toronto Star ask Ayman Elkasrawy for the reasons that drove him to “delete” his Facebook account shortly after Jonathan Halevi’s article was published?**

Why didn’t the Toronto Star provide its readers any content from Ayman Elkasrawy’s Twitter account?

Why didn’t the Toronto Star provide its readers any content from Ayman Elkasrawy’s YouTube account?

I also sent a request to Elkasrawy.

To Ayman Elkasrawy

You stated: “I have nothing to hide.”

Why did you deactivate your Facebook account a few days after Jonathan Halevi’s article was published?

Did you tell Toronto Star that you “deleted” or deactivated your Facebook account?

Did Toronto Star ask you why you “deleted” your Facebook account? If yes, what did you tell them?

Why did you remove “Likes” from your YouTube account?

Please explain why you Liked and tweeted/ retweeted the below mentioned videos and tweets?

Neither Toronto Star nor Ayman Elkasrawy responded to the media inquiries

These inquiries are about ONE article. ONE. The omission of facts is breathtaking.

Chapter Nineteen

#FAKENEWS Toronto Star ignored Ayman Elkasrawy's sympathy with Hamas, Al-Qassam Brigades

When you read this chapter, keep in mind that Imam Elkasrawy was a supporter of Hamas. The reporter, Yang, omitted that piece of information.

“Hamas, the Arabic acronym for the group Harakat Al-Muqawama Al-Islamiya, is a radical Islamist-nationalist terrorist organization that emerged from the Palestinian branch of the Muslim Brotherhood in 1987. It uses political and violent means to pursue its goal of establishing an Islamic Palestinian state in Israel.

I continue to send media inquiries to the Toronto Star because they published a four page article, *A Toronto imam was accused of hate-preaching against Jews. But that wasn't the whole story*: that whitewashed Ayman Elkasrawy, an imam at “Masjid Toronto” mosque, of his views on Jews and Israel in order to treat him as a victim of mistranslation and manipulation. The article appears to be an attempt to exonerate him of anti-Jewish and anti-infidel prayers during Ramadan 2016.

The article focused on Elkasrawy's “outreach to the Jewish community to educate himself and learn from his mistakes.”

Toronto Star maintained that “[The] context is key in determining the appropriate translation [of Elkasrawy's prayers].” So why didn't the Toronto Star disclose the fact that Ayman Elkasrawy's Facebook posts express sympathy with Hamas/ al-Qassam Brigades, a Canadian designated terrorist organization?

The reporter also wrote “he also realized he had made serious mistakes, for which he needed to apologize.”

“Neither I, Masjid Toronto or the congregation harbour any form of hate towards Jews.”

And according to Yang, Elkasrawy just “made hurtful mistakes that he could not adequately explain.” And Elkasrawy himself said

“I’m not so good at being social. The more you talk, the more you make mistakes.”

Yang, the reporter, and English the public editor, appear to have missed his social media posts which paint a different picture.

Honest Reporting Canada also reached out to the Toronto Star, Kathy English the public editor. On October 30, 2017 the Toronto Star’s Public Editor, Kathy English, **told** Honest Reporting Canada that “the reporters [Jennifer Yang] and her editors put an immense amount of thought and consideration into this piece.”

But, the article is filled with errors in fact and gross omission of facts pertinent to the Imam’s views.

Here is some background. And then I will focus on Elkasrawy’s views on Hamas which were sent to The Toronto Star in the form of a media inquiry. I sent a similar inquiry to Elkasrawy with the following questions:

Please explain why did you share and post the Facebook posts and tweets mentioned in the article?

You stated: **“I have nothing to hide”. Why did you change on August 6, 2018 the status of your tweets into “protected” which means that only your 40 (forty) followers can have access to read them?**

Why did you remove on August 6, 2018 all Likes from your YouTube Channel?

And heard nothing.

Jennifer Yang, The Toronto Star reporter, contacted Lt. Col (Ret.). He replied July 25 2017, three months before the article was published.

“Ayman Elkasrawy’s posts on social media may help you a great deal in your research.”

Yang wrote in her article: “Elkasrawy says he agreed to speak with the Star because “I have nothing to hide.”

Yang emphasized: “[The] context is key in determining the appropriate translation [of Elkasrawy’s prayers].”

Yang DID NOT publish any information from Elkasrawy’s social media posts. She also DID NOT **tell the readers that Jonathan Halevi recommended that she look into Elkasrawy’s social media posts.**

“Why?” is my question.

Here are some of Elkasrawy’s statements on Facebook that are about Hamas. His Facebook posts on Hamas and al-Qassam Brigades are available [here](#).

December 19, 2016 ([archived file](#)) - Ayman Elkasrawy shared شبكة قدس الإخبارية’s video on Mohammed Zawari adding the following comment (originally in Arabic): “A real hero and a great loss... We belong to Allah and to Him we shall return... May Allah have mercy on his soul and accept him as a martyr.”

Zawari was an operative of Hamas’s armed wing, the Qassam Brigades (Canada-designated terrorist organization) who supervised its drone program. In December 2016 he was gunned down near the city of Sfax, Tunisia. Hamas **blames** Israel for killing of its drone expert.

November 24, 2016 ([archived file](#)) - Ayman Elkasrawy shared Al Jazeera’s news report entitled “Egyptian – Israeli cooperation to thwart smuggling weapons to Hamas” adding (originally in Arabic) “Verily, the curse on Allah on [Abdel Fattah] el-Sisi [Egypt’s President] and his soldiers.”

I am going to assume here that Elkasrawy is familiar with Hamas.

Hamas is designated by Canada as a terrorist entity since November 27, 2002.

According to [Public Safety Canada](#): “Hamas, the Arabic acronym for the group Harakat Al-Muqawama Al-Islamiya, is a radical Islamist-nationalist terrorist organization that emerged from the Palestinian branch of the Muslim Brotherhood in 1987. It uses political and violent means to pursue its goal of establishing an Islamic Palestinian state in Israel. Since 1990, Hamas has been responsible for several hundred terrorist attacks against both civilian and military targets. Hamas has been one of the primary groups involved in suicide bombings aimed at Israelis since the start of the Al-Aqsa intifada in September 2000. In 2006, Hamas

participated in and won Palestinian parliamentary elections, leading to negotiations between the group and the Palestinian Authority over the establishment of a unity government. In 2007, however, Hamas overthrew the Palestinian Authority in the Gaza Strip and seized power of the coastal territory. Although the group's political leadership resides in Damascus, Hamas uses the Gaza Strip as a base for terrorist operations aimed against Israel."

July 27, 2016 ([archived file](#)) - Ayman Elkasrawy posted in relation to a post on Mohammed Faqih the following (originally in Arabic): "May Allah accept him as a martyr at uppermost heaven."

Mohammed Faqih was an operative of Hama's al-Qassam Brigades, who murdered (July 1, 2016) Israeli Rabbi Miki Mark and later was killed after he opened fire at Israeli troops who surrounded the house in which he was hiding. Hamas is **designated** by Canada as a terrorist entity since November 27, 2002.

Hamas website posted the following on Mohammed Faqih:

"The Hamas Movement has mourned the death of 29-year-old Mohamed al-Faqih, who carried out in early July a heroic shooting attack near Otniel settlement, calling him one of the bravest members of its armed wing al-Qassam Brigades. Faqih was killed at dawn Wednesday during armed clashes with Israeli soldiers in the West Bank village of Surif, north of al-Khalil. "The brave martyr, al-Faqih, was one of Palestine's finest sons and noted prisoners [in Israeli jails], who served their homeland and their cause," Hamas stated. The Movement also hailed the martyr for the great sacrifices he made for the dignity of his people, and saluted the residents of Surif town for their steadfastness in the face of the occupation and its troops. The Movement renewed its vow to uphold the path of martyrs and noble fighters, and to continue making precious sacrifices for Palestine, its people and holy sites."

April 1, 2016 ([archived file](#)) - Ayman Elkasrawy shared a post stating the following (originally in Arabic): [Hamas'] al-Qassam Brigades [Canada-designated terrorist entity] publish for the first time the pictures of the four soldiers of the occupation who are being held prisoners by it. May Allah bless the factory of men #Hamas and bless in its jihad. # We are proud of you."Elkasrawy added (originaly in Arabic): "Be aware, and have a doubt [meaning Hamas message

keeps Israel in the dark with regard to the fate of the four soldiers]” accompanied with a *laughing emoticon sticker*.

More Background information on Hamas and its al-Qassam Brigades

Hamas Prime Minister Ismail Haniya Reaffirms Hamas’ Commitment to Armed Resistance and Says: We Will Liberate Palestine in Its Entirety, from the Mediterranean to the Jordan River

Following are **excerpts** from a public address delivered by Hamas Prime Minister Ismail Haniya, which aired on Al-Aqsa TV on December 14, 2011:

Ismail Haniya:

This is the message of Hamas. This is the identity of Hamas. This is the very being of Hamas. Today, Hamas marches along parallel tracks: the track of da’wa and education, the track of resistance and Jihad, and the track of rule and of politics. This is the best response to those who think to themselves, or imagine, that Hamas has withdrawn from the line of resistance, and has withdrawn from the confrontation with this enemy.

Today, we say, in a clear and unambiguous fashion: The armed resistance and armed struggle are our strategic choice and our path to liberate the Palestinian land, from the [Mediterranean] Sea to the [Jordan] River, and to drive the usurping invaders out of the blessed land of Palestine.

The Hamas movement, which was born in the first Intifada, and lived through the second Intifada, with the grace of Allah, and with the help of this people and all its free man, and with the strong-willed resistance factions of the people, will continue to lead one Intifada after the other, until we liberate Palestine in its entirety, Allah willing...

Jerusalem is Palestinian, Arab, and Islamic. I don’t mean only East Jerusalem. Jerusalem in its entirety is the capital of the state of Palestine, Allah willing.

Therefore, in an effort to strengthen the bond of the Islamic nation and the capitals of the Arab revolution to Jerusalem and to Al-Aqsa, we issue a call from this place, from the heart of glorious Gaza, from Jerusalem and its environs to establish the

“Army of Jerusalem” in the Arab capitals and the capitals of the revolution, in order to take action to liberate Jerusalem and Al-Aqsa, Allah willing...

The principles [of Hamas] are definitive and non-negotiable: Palestine means Palestine in its entirety, from the River to the Sea. There will be no concession of a single inch of the land of Palestine... We will work with our people with regard to the things upon which we agree politically, and we will exert all our efforts and our power of resistance to achieve this common goal. However, we maintain two conditions – as I am sure do many of our people, as well as the factions of the mujahideen and the resistance: first, that we will not concede a single inch of the land of Palestine, and second, that we will not recognize Israel.

Hamas Interior Minister Fathi Hammad: The Americans and the Jews Are Abhorred Worldwide; The Americans Are Led by the Jews, “Outcasts Who Live Off Corruption and Plundering”

Following are **excerpts** from an interview with Hamas Interior Minister Fathi Hammad, which aired on Al-Aqsa TV on December 14, 2010:

Fathi Hammad:

The Jews have become abhorred and loathed outcasts, because they live off corruption and the plundering of the peoples – not only the Arab and Islamic peoples, but all the peoples of the world. The world has begun to be aware of this corrupting danger, and to applaud Hamas. **The entire world says: “Bravo, Hamas, for confronting these people pf corruption.” Whenever we score a goal, by achieving something against the Jews, the world applauds us. When we are playing, the entire world supports us.**

Therefore, I expect that in the future, support for Hamas will grow. I also expect that in addition to the aid convoys, Hamas will get some “heavy stuff,” which will help it be victorious. Hamas will receive its means of survival, its arms, and its supporters from where it is least expected, because the hatred for the Jews is on the rise, and people who hate the Jews find no [other] way to fulfill their hatred of the Jews and of the Americans – the Americans too have become abhorred throughout the world, because of their corruption, for they are led by the Jews – and they will support us.

Former Hamas Interior Minister Fathi Hammad: We Will Annihilate the Brothers of Apes and Pigs

Following are **excerpts** of a transcript from a public address delivered by former Hamas Interior Minister Fathi Hammad, which aired on Al-Jazeera Network on October 31, 2014:

Fathi Hammad:

We say to the brothers of apes and pigs: No matter how much you destroy, dig, and try to build settlements around the Al-Aqsa Mosque, we are coming to uproot you, to annihilate you, and to destroy you...

The hypocrites will find themselves in the lowest level of Hellfire. Whoever shackles his people and their resistance, whoever shackles the AK-47s, will be trampled under the feet of our people in this world, and will find himself in the lowest level of Hellfire in the world to come.

Here are some questions I asked of John Boynton, Bob Hepburn, Kathy English and Jennifer Yang:

Toronto Star maintained that “[The] context is key in determining the appropriate translation [of Elkasrawy’s prayers].” So why didn’t the Toronto Star disclose the fact that Ayman Elkasrawy’s Facebook posts express sympathy with Hamas/ al-Qassam Brigades, a Canadian designated terrorist organization?

Why didn’t the Toronto Star tell its readers about Lt. Col. (Ret.) Jonathan Halevi’s recommendation to Jennifer Yang to look into Elkasrawy’s social media posts?

I was overwhelmed with silence-again.

Here are links to my articles about this ONE article by the Toronto Star. Ask yourself why the Toronto Star wrote this article.

Toronto Star #FakeNews: Writing about social media posts but neglecting to check them!

#FAKENEWS Toronto Star concealed Ayman Elkasrawy’s affiliation with the Muslim Brotherhood

#FakeNews: What didn't Toronto Star tell readers about its "independent" expert?

Toronto Star #FAKENEWS It's not manipulation...it's an ellipsis

Why doesn't the Toronto Star correct and apologize for its front page #FakeNews article?

Was Toronto Star's front page exposé defamatory fake news?

Toronto Star publishes fake news but refuses to retract even after being proven wrong

Is the Toronto Star Canada's #FAKENEWS media outlet?

Toronto Star obfuscates Jew hatred: Islamophobia in action?

Dr. Rachel Ehrenfeld wrote the **article** Toronto Star's "Fake News" Serving "Political Islam".

Chapter Twenty

#FakeNews Toronto Star-where were Elkasrawy's anti-Jewish/ Israel posts?

Why did the Toronto Star ignore Ayman Elkasrawy's negative comments about Jews, Israel, Zionists and the Zionist lobby? Why didn't the Toronto Star investigate Elkasrawy's rush to "delete" his Facebook account as a suspicious behaviour? Is the Toronto Star hiding something?

Why am I writing so many articles about #FakeNews at the Toronto Star and focusing on one article? Because the complaints sent to the publisher, public editor, and reporter about facts and the gross omission of facts were ignored. And this, for me, is at the heart of unethical journalism-the omission of facts; especially after those facts were provided.

Jennifer Yang, the reporter, contacted Lt. Col. (ret.) Jonathan Halevi on July 25, 2017. He responded on July 25, 2017 to her inquiry:

"Ayman Elkasrawy's posts on social media may help you a great deal in your research."

Why did the Toronto Star ignore Ayman Elkasrawy's negative comments about Jews, Israel, Zionists and the Zionist lobby? Why didn't the Toronto Star investigate Elkasrawy's rush to "delete" his Facebook account as a suspicious behaviour? Is the Toronto Star hiding something?

I contacted John Boynton, Publisher, Bob Hepburn, Media Inquiries, Kathy English, public editor and Jennifer Yang, reporter many, many, many times. No answer. No explanation. Nothing.

On October 22, 2017, the Toronto Star dedicated four pages, including its front page, in an attempt to exonerate Ayman Elkasrawy, an imam at "Masjid Toronto" mosque, from anti-Jewish and anti-infidel prayers during Ramadan 2016. It is filled with errors in fact and the gross omission of facts.

Jennifer Yang wrote in her article: “Elkasrawy says he agreed to speak with the Star because “I have nothing to hide.” She emphasized that the “context is key in determining the appropriate translation.”

Yang added: “Elkasrawy says he agreed to speak with the Star because “I have nothing to hide.”

I am enclosing some of Ayman Elkasrawy’s social media posts that directly or indirectly mention or deal with the Jews, Israel, Zionists and the Zionist lobby. You decide.

Does he have something to hide?

On April 2, 2013 Ayman Elkasrawy used the word the “Jew” in an allegedly derogatory context. In this [tweet \(archived file\)](#) Elkasrawy mocked Egyptian television host Dr. Bassem Youssef by saying, among other things, that “the Jew is defending him.” Elkasrawy did not elaborate the identity of “the Jew”, but from the context it may refer to Israel or to Abdul Fattah Sissi, then the Chief Commander of the Egyptian Armed Forces and Minister of Defense. Within Egyptian Islamist circles Sisi is called in a derogatory context “the son of the Jewish woman”.

January 21, 2017 (archived file) – **Ayman Elkasrawy shared Anti NWO [New World Order] Alliance’s photo featuring American Presidents Donald Trump and Barack Obama with the caption “NEW BOSS, OLD BOSS” and underneath another photo featuring David Rockefeller [perceived by some conspiracy theorists as Jewish], Jacob Rothschild [Jewish banker] and Guy de Rothschild [Jewish banker] with the caption “SAME OWNERS”. Anti NWO Alliance added: “Thoughts?”. The Anti NWO Alliance Facebook page shares conspiracy theories, including claiming that the 9/11 attack was an inside job. Another meme read: “The Rothschilds still have black slaves [accompanied with a picture of President Barack Obama].”**

October 28, 2015 (archived file) - Ayman Elkasrawy shared a link to a YouTube video entitled “9/11 – Israel’s Advance Knowledge of Attacks”. Elkasrawy “Liked” this video on his YouTube channel. This conspiracy theory video was later removed by YouTube. It is available [here](#).

November 10, 2016 (archived file) - Ayman Elkasrawy shared a video dealing with the US presidential elections. He added the following comment (originally in Arabic): “An important and useful episode... shows the lie of the American democracy (in terms of electing candidates by the people)... and shows the staggering amount of loopholes that explain how the Zionist lobby can control the presidency of America and who comes to it [becomes a President]!!!”

April 17, 2012 (archived file) - Elkasrawy tweeted (originally in Arabic): “The election committee announces the names of candidates chosen by the United States and Israel. Farouk Sultan will announce the victory of Amr Moussa over them and will become the President of Egypt !!!”

February 11, 2016 (archived file) - Ayman Elkasrawy shared كلنا خالد سعيد – نسخة كل المصريين's photo adding the following comment (originally in Arabic): “We have said it a long time ago that the [United Arab] Emirates are the Zionists of the Arabs!!!!”

April 10, 2016 (archived file) - Ayman Elkasrawy called Israel a “usurping enemy.” (originally in Arabic)

On May 27, 2015 Ayman Elkasrawy retweeted (archived file) the following message by محمد منتصر @montaseregy (originally in Arabic): “This is our religion and these are our scholars. Egypt is calling, we will not go back. Being loyal to the Zionist aggressors, supporting and protecting them and being hostile to the Palestinian resistance/ struggle/ fight [muqawamah] and conspiring against it, and imposing a siege on it by destroying Sinai [Peninsula] and displacing its people, is a betrayal of the religion [Islam] and the homeland [Egypt].”

September 28, 2016 (archived file) - Ayman Elkasrawy shared a YouTube video featuring Turkey's President Erdogan confronting Israel's President Shimon Peres at the World Economic Forum in Davos and added the following comment (originally in Arabic): “This is the only beautiful memory from the life of the deceased butcher [Shimon] Peres.”

February 24, 2016 (archived file) - Ayman Elkasrawy shared an article entitled “Muslim MPs Stayed On The Sidelines As Parliament Condemned Boycotts Of Israel” adding the following comment (originally in English): “So shocking!”

December 13, 2016 (archived file) - Ayman Elkasrawy shared Dar Al-Tawheed Islamic Centre's photo featuring an ad inviting the public to attend a lecture by the "renowned scholar from Egypt" Shaykh Nash'at Ahmad.

According to Al Jazeera Center for Studies, Shaykh Nash'at Ahmad is affiliated with the Egyptian Salafi movement which was subjected to security restrictions and even arrest and trial in various cases related to fatwas, or Islamic edicts, urging the support of Mujahideen (Muslims who engage in jihad) in Palestine and justifying the 9/11 attacks. Shaykh Nash'at Ahmad is also known for his anti-Jewish sermons:

"O Allah, destroy the Jews and whom they ally with... count their number; slay them one by one and spare not one of them"; "O Allah, destroy the Jews and all others who support them in countries around the world"; "O Allah, purify the Muslims lands from their filth and squalor, O Allah liberate the imprisoned Al-Aqsa [mosque]"; "Allah, destroy the aggressors who are the Jews and those who support them"; "O Allah don't give the infidel or the oppressor a way to overcome us... Destroy the Jews, the Christians, the Americans, the Europeans, the Shiites, the Communists, the Russians, the Hindus, the traitors, the oppressors and the criminals"; "O Allah, return the Muslims countries to the Muslims and purify [the Muslim lands] from the filth of the infidels and the polytheists [also identified by Muslim scholars as Christians]."

Ayman Elkasrawy also "Liked" the following videos on his YouTube channel:

"The Lion of Palestine, the martyr Abdel Aziz Rantisi. Words that history will preserve forever. We will win, Allah willing" [originally in Arabic] – The almost 9 minute video clip (archived file) features a compilation of some of the most fiery speeches by Abdel Aziz Al-Rantisi, co-founder of Hamas and later the supreme leader of Hamas (2004). In these speeches Rantisi vowed to continue the jihad against Israel, including by attacking Israeli cities and communities that at that time during the al-Aqsa Intifada were targeted by hundreds of Palestinian suicide bombers and attackers.

"Undermine the security of Israel, like an earthquake" [originally in Arabic]. The song clip was produced by al-Qassam Brigades, the "military" wing of Hamas that is designated by Canada as a terrorist organization. It was later removed by

YouTube, but still available [here](#). ([archived file](#)) The clip features Palestinian rockets attacks on Israel by Hamas and Islamic Jihad. The lyrics of the al-Qassam Brigades' song [read](#):

“Attack, carry out operations... kill all Zionists... undermine the security of Israel, set it on fire, destroy it, even its foundations... drive out all Zionists.”

[A video featuring Saudi Imam Muhammad Al-Arifi reciting a supplication](#) in which he said ([archived file](#)):

“O Allah, give victory to the mujahideen in Greater Syria. O Allah give victory to our brothers in Palestine over the usurping Jews.”

So I asked the Star “Why didn’t the Toronto Star publish Ayman Elkasrawy’s social media posts and “Likes” on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube that directly or indirectly mention or deal with the Jews, Israel, Zionists and the Zionist lobby?

I also asked questions of Ayman Elkasrawy:

Please explain why did you share and post the Facebook posts and tweets mentioned in the article?

You stated: “I have nothing to hide”. Why did you change on August 6, 2018 the status of your tweets into “protected” which means that only your 40 (forty) followers can have access to read them?

Why did you remove on August 6, 2018 all Likes from your YouTube Channel?

Screenshots of Ayman Elkasrawy’s social media posts are available **here**.

And in return I received from all: **SILENCE**

Chapter Twenty-One

Toronto Star #FAKENEWS What did Ayman Elkasrawy mean by reciting “slay them one by one”

Please note that Elkasrawy promoted Shaykh Nash’at Ahmad on social media. Yet Elkasrawy declared he was misunderstood.

Shaykh Nash’at Ahmad is also known for his anti-Jewish sermons (“O Allah, destroy the Jews and whom they ally with... count their number; slay them one by one and spare not one of them”; “O Allah, destroy the Jews and all others who support them in countries around the world;” “O Allah, purify the Muslims lands from their filth and squalor, O Allah liberate the imprisoned Al-Aqsa [mosque]”; “Allah, destroy the aggressors who are the Jews and those who support them”; “O Allah don’t give the infidel or the oppressor a way to overcome us... Destroy the Jews, the Christians, the Americans, the Europeans, the Shiites, the Communists, the Russians, the Hindus, the traitors, the oppressors and the criminals;” “O Allah, return the Muslims countries to the Muslims and purify [the Muslim lands] from the filth of the infidels and the polytheists [also identified by Muslim scholars as Christians].”

Ayman Elkasrawy’s social media posts dealt with ISIS (a.k.a. Islamic State, ISIL, Daesh, Caliphate) and the jihad against the enemies of Islam and/ or the Muslim nation.

I have been writing a series of articles about a four-page article, October 22, 2017 by the Toronto Star, dedicated to an attempt to exonerate Ayman Elkasrawy, an imam at “Masjid Toronto” mosque, from anti-Jewish and anti-infidel prayers during Ramadan 2016.

The reporter, Jennifer Yang, believed that the Imam had been misunderstood and so she met with him to talk about the supplication he had made in the Majid Mosque in which he may have said the “filth of the Jews.”

I have sent several media inquiries to the Publisher, John Boynton; Bob Hepburn media inquiries; Kathy English and Jennifer Yang.

None responded.

In this article I am again going to take you back to Elkaswary's social media posts.

Please note that Elkaswary promoted Shaykh Nash'at Ahmad on social media.

Shaykh Nash'at Ahmad is also known for his anti-Jewish sermons (“O Allah, destroy the Jews and whom they ally with... count their number; slay them one by one and spare not one of them”; “O Allah, destroy the Jews and all others who support them in countries around the world;” “O Allah, purify the Muslims lands from their filth and squalor, O Allah liberate the imprisoned Al-Aqsa [mosque]”; “Allah, destroy the aggressors who are the Jews and those who support them”; “O Allah don't give the infidel or the oppressor a way to overcome us... Destroy the Jews, the Christians, the Americans, the Europeans, the Shiites, the Communists, the Russians, the Hindus, the traitors, the oppressors and the criminals;” “O Allah, return the Muslims countries to the Muslims and purify [the Muslim lands] from the filth of the infidels and the polytheists [also identified by Muslim scholars as Christians].”

On **July 25, 2017** Lt. Col. (ret.) Jonathan Halevi sent an email to the reporter Jennifer Yang:

“Ayman Elkasrawy's posts on social media may help you a great deal in your research.”

The Toronto Star either refused to read them when the suggestion was made or they chose to ignore them. If the social media posts were ignored, the question that needs to be asked is “Why”?

Yang had written in her **October 2017** article:

“Elkasrawy says he agreed to speak with the Star because “I have nothing to hide.”

Yang emphasized: “[The] context is key in determining the appropriate translation [of Elkasrawy's prayers].” Yet it appears that Yang did not include the context-that came from the social media posts.

How would a reporter verify views and thoughts, today? Social media posts can help analyse views; they reflect “context” that was so important to Jennifer Yang and the public editor Kathy English.

Today, I am writing about Elkasrawy’s posts about ISIS. From the article:

“Elkasrawy says he invoked it [“slay them one by one”] on behalf of Syrian people killed and tortured by the government regime or by Daesh (ISIS) terrorists.”

It *appears* that he is attacking ISIS.

Is he?

Ayman Elkasrawy’s social media posts dealt with ISIS (a.k.a. Islamic State, ISIL, Daesh, Caliphate) and the jihad against the enemies of Islam and/ or the Muslim nation. Here are some of his Facebook posts on these issues and others:

July 20, 2016 ([archived file](#)) – Ayman Elkasrawy posted the following (originally in Arabic):

“With regard to the Libyan brothers who equate between the group of the traitor and criminal [Khalifa Belqasim] Haftar [commander of the armed forces loyal to the elected, internationally backed legislative body, the Libyan House of Representatives] and the nobles of Libya. How are you now? Is asking assistance from the French is a natural thing? And if not should we sit [idle] and say ISIS and not ISIS and this nonsense.

“Regarding France, I don’t know why they are yet again become upset when they get slapped on the neck [attacked] in their own country. Blessed are the hands of those who shoot down their plane.”

Between December 2014 and July 2016 France had experienced a wave of terrorist attacks. **The latest major attack took place a week before Ayman Elkasrawy published his post.** On the evening of 14 July 2016, a 19 tonne cargo truck was deliberately driven into crowds of people celebrating Bastille Day on the Promenade des Anglais in Nice, France, resulting in the deaths of 86 people and the injury of 458 others. The driver was Mohamed Lahouaiej-Bouhlel, a Tunisian

resident of France. The attack ended following an exchange of gunfire, during which Lahouaiej-Bouhlel was shot and killed by police.

ISIL [Islamic State a.k.a ISIS, Daesh] claimed responsibility for the attack, saying Lahouaiej-Bouhlel answered its “calls to target citizens of coalition nations that fight the Islamic State”. On 15 July, François Molins, the prosecutor for the Public Ministry, which is overseeing the investigation, said the attack bore the hallmarks of jihadist terrorism... French President François Hollande called the attack an act of Islamic terrorism.”

July 19, 2016 (archived file) – Ayman Elkasrawy posted the following (originally in Arabic): “Look what [Turkey’s President] Erdogan’s position on using Incirlik [air] base to kill Muslims? Allah never forgets [or Allah gives the wrongdoers a chance but He doesn’t ignore what they’re doing]... And the divine punishment will inevitably come !!!” In a comment to his post Elkasrawy wrote: “On the Day of Judgment, Erdogan will be held accountable for this [allowing the US army to use Turkish military bases “to attack Muslims in Iraq and Syria”. He added, “personally I wish he [Erdogan] will be innocent before Allah Exalted be He from this great sin.”

Two days earlier, on July 17, 2016 the Pentagon Press Secretary tweeted:

“UPDATE: After close coordination with our Turkish allies, **counter-ISIL** coalition air operations in Turkey have resumed.” On the same day, Time reported that the U.S. resumed its anti-ISIS airstrikes from Turkish Incirlik airbase.

August 5, 2016 (archived file) – Ayman Elkasrawy shared a YouTube video featuring **Jabhat Fateh al-Sham’s** attack in Aleppo adding (originally in Arabic):

“O Allah, let them hit their targets.”

CBC reported that “[Jabhat] Al-Nusra changed its name to Jabhat Fateh al-Sham(Front for the Conquest of the Levant).”

On November 7, 2013 Jabhat Al-Nusra was designated by Canada as a terrorist entity. Public Safety Canada states:

“According to the Canadian Security Intelligence Service, Jabhat Al-Nusra is an Al Qaida affiliated Sunni militant Islamist group in Syria. Jabhat Al-Nusra aims to

overthrow Syrian President Bashar Al Assad's Ba'athist regime, establish an Islamic state and expel the minority Alawite and Christian communities from Syria.

Jabhat Al-Nusra has claimed responsibility for nearly 600 attacks-such as ambushes, kidnappings, assassinations, Improvised Explosive Device attacks and suicide bombings-in major city centers including Damascus, Aleppo, Hamah, Dara, Homs, Idlib, and Dayr al-Zawr. **During these attacks numerous innocent Syrians have been killed."**

May 27, 2015 – Ayman Elkasrawy retweeted ([archived file](#)) the following message by محمد منتصر @montaseregy (originally in Arabic):

"This is our religion and these are our scholars. Egypt is calling, we will not go back. Being loyal to the Zionist aggressors, supporting and protecting them and being hostile to the Palestinian resistance/ struggle/ fight [muqawamah] and conspiring against it, and imposing a siege on it by destroying Sinai [Peninsula] and displacing its people, is a betrayal of the religion [Islam] and the homeland [Egypt]."

U.S. Department of State's [report](#) (2016) on the terrorism originating from the Sinai Peninsula states the following:

"In Egypt, terrorists conducted numerous deadly attacks on government, military, and civilian targets throughout the country. Several high-profile attacks at the end of the year indicated the threat level remained high despite a focus on counterterrorism by the government. ISIS continued its terrorist campaign in the Sinai through the local ISIS-affiliate, ISIL-Sinai Province (ISIL-SP, formerly Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis). The Egyptian Armed Forces conducted a counterterrorism campaign against ISIL-SP in North Sinai, known as Operation "Right of the Martyr" starting in September 2015 through 2016."

[December 15, 2016 \(archived file\)](#) – Ayman Elkasrawy shared شبكة رصد's video accompanied with the following caption (originally in Arabic):

"Graphic pictures! of the Umayyad Mosque in Aleppo before and after it was destroyed by Assad forces and Russia." In this context Elkasrawy posted the following comment (originally in Arabic): "The impure [anjas] rejectionists

[“rawafid” – derogatory manner by Sunni Muslims to describe the Shiite Muslims].”

December 7, 2015 (archived file) – Ayman Elkasrawy posted the following comments on 2015 San Bernardino terrorist attack (originally in English):

“Both victims were found dead in handcuffs. Are we supposed to believe that they initiated a gun battle with police while wearing handcuffs and shooting through rolled-up windows?! It seems that the two patsies were handcuffed, set in place for execution according to a scripted plan, and summarily shot dead.”

On December 2, 2015, 14 people were killed and 22 others were seriously injured in a terrorist attack consisting of a mass shooting and an attempted bombing at the Inland Regional Center in San Bernardino, California. The perpetrators, Syed Rizwan Farook and Tashfeen Malik, a married couple living in the city of Redlands, targeted a San Bernardino County Department of Public Health training event and Christmas party of about 80 employees in a rented banquet room. Farook was a U.S.-born citizen of Pakistani descent, who worked as a health department employee. Malik was a Pakistani-born lawful permanent resident of the United States. After the shooting, the couple fled in a rented sport utility vehicle (SUV). Four hours later, police pursued their vehicle and killed them in a shootout, which also left two officers injured.

December 13, 2016 (archived file) – Ayman Elkasrawy shared Dar Al-Tawheed Islamic Centre’s photo featuring an ad inviting the public to attend a lecture by the “renowned scholar from Egypt” *Shaykh Nash’at Ahmad*.

According to Al Jazeera Center for Studies, **Shaykh Nash’at Ahmad** is affiliated with the Egyptian Salafi movement which was subjected to security restrictions and even arrest and trial in various cases related to fatwas, or Islamic edicts, urging the support of Mujahideen (Muslims who engage in jihad) in Palestine and justifying the 9/11 attacks.

Shaykh Nash’at Ahmad is also known for his anti-Jewish sermons (“O Allah, destroy the Jews and whom they ally with... count their number; slay them one by one and spare not one of them”; “O Allah, destroy the Jews and all others who support them in countries around the world;”

“O Allah, purify the Muslims lands from their filth and squalor, O Allah liberate the imprisoned Al-Aqsa [mosque]”; “Allah, destroy the aggressors who are the Jews and those who support them”; “O Allah don’t give the infidel or the oppressor a way to overcome us... Destroy the Jews, the Christians, the Americans, the Europeans, the Shiites, the Communists, the Russians, the Hindus, the traitors, the oppressors and the criminals”; “O Allah, return the Muslims countries to the Muslims and purify [the Muslim lands] from the filth of the infidels and the polytheists [also identified by Muslim scholars as Christians].”

August 30, 2016 – Ayman Elkasrawy shared an article written by Jamal Abdul Sattar, a professor at al-Azhar University and the Secretary General of the Association of Sunni Scholars, summarizing its main points: “a killer, a rapist and a person who attacks property of people and their dignity, regardless of his identity whether he is the ruler or the governed, has no sanctity [the sanctity of his blood does not apply to him] and has no protection. Islam made it permissible to spill his blood and it is a duty to punish him [in accordance to his actions].”

December 19, 2016 (archived file) – Ayman Elkasrawy posted the following (originally in Arabic): “The ambassador of the butchers was annihilated [*smiley face emoticon*].”

Andrei Karlov, the Russian Ambassador to Turkey, was assassinated by Mevlüt Mert Altıntaş, an off-duty Turkish police officer, at an art exhibition in Ankara, Turkey on the evening of 19 December 2016. The assassination took place after several days of protests in Turkey over Russian involvement in the Syrian Civil War and the battle over Aleppo.

August 8, 2016 (archived file) – Ayman Elkasrawy posted the following (originally in Arabic):

“O Allah do not defer [it] to this butcher and criminal [Egypt’s President Abdul Fattah Sissi] and his soldiers... O Allah avenge... remove their kingdom.”

Here are other Facebook posts by Ayman Elkasrawy on political matters:

October 8, 2016 (archived file) – Ayman Elkasrawy posted (originally in Arabic): “... The Malaysian Muslim is closer to me than the Egyptian Christian...”

October 20, 2015 (archived file) – Ayman Elkasrawy (originally in English):
“Yeaaaaay, the bigot PM Stephen Harper is finally out. Bye Bye Mr. Harper. Welcome Mr. #Trudeau #anyonebutharper”

October 19, 2015 (archived file) – Ayman Elkasrawy (originally in English): Just voted **Let’s kick Harper out of office. Vote Harper out #anyonebutharper #strategicvoting — feeling hopeful.**

October 7, 2015 (archived file) – Ayman Elkasrawy posted: “Vote for the strongest opposition candidate in your riding! **#anyonebutharper**”

Ayman Elkasrawy” from Toronto signed (Feb 24, 2015) a petition entitled “Stop Graphic Revisions to Ontario’s Sex Education Curriculum.”

Screenshots of Ayman Elkasrawy’s social media posts are available here.

These are the questions I sent to the Toronto Star. I received SILENCE in return. AGAIN.

Ayman Elkasrawy told the Toronto Star that he invoked the “Slay them one by one” prayer “on behalf of Syrian people killed and tortured by the government regime or by Daesh (ISIS) terrorists.” A few weeks later he criticized Turkey’s President for allowing the US to use Incirlik airbase for attacks in Syria and Iraq (against ISIS). Do you think Ayman Elkasrawy was sincere and truthful?

Toronto Star quoted Ayman Elkasrawy’ “I have nothing to hide.” Why didn’t the Toronto Star challenge this statement and demand an explanation from Elkasrawy why he deactivated his Facebook account a few days after Lt. Col. (ret.) Jonathan Halevi’s article was published?

Why did the Toronto Star’s Public editor, Kathy English, refuse to allow Jonathan Halevi and B’nai Brith Canada to publish a response to Yang’s defamatory article? Does this decision reflect the Toronto Star’s journalistic standards and ethics?

My investigative articles debunked many of the foundations of Yang’s article and brought forward new information. Why does the Toronto Star refuse to answer any of my questions or correct errors found in the article in question? Does such an approach reflect the Toronto Star’s journalistic standards and ethics?

I also sent an email inquiry to Ayman Elkasrawy: He, too, responded with SILENCE. AGAIN.

You told the Toronto Star that you invoked the “Slay them one by one” prayer “on behalf of Syrian people killed and tortured by the government regime or by Daesh (ISIS) terrorists.” A few weeks later you criticized Turkey’s President for allowing the US to use Incirlik airbase for attacks in Syria and Iraq (against ISIS). Were you sincere and truthful in your statement to Toronto Star?

Did you post the following: “Regarding France, I don’t know why they are yet again become upset when they get slapped on the neck [attacked] in their own country”? Did your Facebook post refer to ISIS attack in Nice?

Why did you oppose the American use of the Turkish airbase for attacks in Syria and Iraq?

Please explain your Facebook posts that deal with ISIS and the jihad.

You told the Toronto Star: “I have nothing to hide.” Why did you deactivate your Facebook account a few days after Jonathan Halevi’s article was published? Why did you remove all “Likes” from your YouTube account? Why did you change your Twitter account to “protected”?

Chapter Twenty-Two

#FakeNews Toronto Star: What prayers are shared in the Masjid Toronto Mosque?

In this article I'm focusing on two of the *taraweeh* prayers at Masjid Toronto mosque during Ramadan in 2016. These are the prayers under contention. The prayers were analyzed minute by minute to better understand their content and context with regard to the Jews and the disbelievers. Please note that in this article I added another prayer which Elkasrawy recited at Ramadan 2016, that was not mentioned in the CIJNews article in order to add more context.

What are the prayers recited by the congregants in the Mosque?

On October 22, 2017, the Toronto Star **dedicated** four pages, including its front page, to an attempt to exonerate Ayman Elkasrawy, an imam at "Masjid Toronto" mosque, from anti-Jewish and anti-infidel prayers during Ramadan 2016. It is filled with errors in fact and the gross omission of facts.

The article was written by Jennifer Yang and approved by Kathy English, the Star's public editor.

I have sent several media inquiries to the Publisher, John Boynton; Bob Hepburn media inquiries; Kathy English and Jennifer Yang. None responded.

In my 12 previous investigative articles I've published on my blog, I showed that **Toronto Star's front page exposé spread over four pages contained major factual errors, rejected reliable contradicting evidence and ignored the social media posts of Ayman Elkasrawy that could have helped to understand the context of his supplications. Context was very important to Jennifer Yang, the reporter.**

In this article I'm focusing on three of the *taraweeh* prayers at Masjid Toronto mosque during Ramadan in 2016. These are the prayers under contention. The prayers were analyzed minute by minute to better understand their content and context with regard to the Jews and the disbelievers.

Notice how often these words are shared.

Surah Al-Fatiha (1) including Verses 6-7: “**Guide us to the straight path** – The path of those upon whom You have bestowed favor, **not of those who have evoked [Your] anger or of those who are astray.**” **Note:** Canadian Muslim scholars explain that “those who have evoked [Your] anger” **refers to the Jews** and “those who are astray” refers to the **Christians**.

The chapters of the Quran recited by Masjid Toronto’s imams in the taraweeh prayers included verses condemning the Jews, Christians and other disbelievers reminding them that Allah annihilates the disbelieving people and Allah promises punishment.

After every segment of the *taraweeh* prayers the imams recited the first chapter of the Quran, Surah Al-Fatiha including Verses 6-7: “**Guide us to the straight path** – The path of those upon whom You have bestowed favor, **not of those who have evoked [Your] anger or of those who are astray.**”

Canadian Muslim scholars explain that “those who have evoked [Your] anger” **refers to the Jews** and “those who are astray” refers to the **Christians**.

It should be noted that **Wael Shehab, the head imam of Masjid Toronto, attended the prayer in which Ayman Elkasrawy recited a supplication invoking Allah to “destroy” the enemies of Islam and “slay them one by one and spare not one of them.”** The congregants said Ameen as a sign of approval after every line of the supplications.

Here is another example showing that the Toronto Star’s article ignored the context of the prayers.

Ramadan 1437 Hijri_2016 – 29th Taraweeh (July 4, 2016)

Imam leading the prayer: “Brother Murshid” / Chapters of the Quran recited by “Brother Murshid”:

- Surah Al-Fatiha (1) including Verses 6-7: “**Guide us to the straight path** – The path of those upon whom You have bestowed favor, **not of those who have evoked [Your] anger or of those who are astray.**” **Note:** Canadian

Muslim scholars explain that “those who have evoked [Your] anger” **refers to the Jews** and “those who are astray” refers to the **Christians**.

- Surah Abas (80) including the following verses 17, 42: “Cursed is man; how disbelieving is he... Those are the disbelievers, the wicked ones.”
- Surah Al-Fatiha (1) including Verses 6-7: “**Guide us to the straight path** – The path of those upon whom You have bestowed favor, **not of those who have evoked [Your] anger or of those who are astray.**” **Note:** Canadian Muslim scholars explain that “those who have evoked [Your] anger” **refers to the Jews** and “those who are astray” refers to the **Christians**.
- Surah al-Takwir (81)
- Surah Al-Fatiha (1) including Verses 6-7: “**Guide us to the straight path** – The path of those upon whom You have bestowed favor, **not of those who have evoked [Your] anger or of those who are astray.**” **Note:** Canadian Muslim scholars explain that “those who have evoked [Your] anger” **refers to the Jews** and “those who are astray” refers to the **Christians**.

Imam leading the prayer: “Brother Murshid” and next to him in the first line of the prayer Ayman Elkasrawy and Mostafa Hanoot,

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/mostafa-hanout-02b46365?originalSubdomain=ca>
Clinical Fellow, Ocular Oncology at University of Toronto Chapters of the Quran recited by “Brother Murshid”:

- Surah Al-Fatiha (1) including Verses 6-7: “**Guide us to the straight path** – The path of those upon whom You have bestowed favor, **not of those who have evoked [Your] anger or of those who are astray.**” **Note:** Canadian Muslim scholars explain that “those who have evoked [Your] anger” **refers to the Jews** and “those who are astray” refers to the **Christians**.
- Surah Infitar (82) including Verses 14-15: “And indeed, the wicked will be in Hellfire. They will [enter to] burn therein on the Day of Recompense,”
- Surah Al-Mutaffifin (83) including verses 10-12, 16-17, 34-36: “Woe, that Day, to the deniers, Who deny the Day of Recompense. And none deny it except every sinful transgressor... Then indeed, they will [enter and] burn in

Hellfire. Then it will be said [to them], “This is what you used to deny... So Today those who believed are laughing at the disbelievers, On adorned couches, observing. Have the disbelievers [not] been rewarded [this Day] for what they used to do?”

- Surah Inshiqaq (84) including verses 22-24: “But those who have disbelieved deny, And Allah is most knowing of what they keep within themselves. So give them tidings of a painful punishment,”
- Surah Al-Buruj including verses 10, 17-18: “Indeed, those who have tortured the believing men and believing women and then have not repented will have the punishment of Hell, and they will have the punishment of the Burning Fire... Has there reached you the story of the soldiers – [Those of] Pharaoh and **Thamud**?”
- Surah At-Tariq (86)

Imam leading the prayer: Mostafa Hanoot and next to him in the first line of the prayer Ayman Elkasrawy. Chapters of the Quran recited by Mostafa Hanoot:

- Surah Al-Fatiha (1) including Verses 6-7: “**Guide us to the straight path** – The path of those upon whom You have bestowed favor, **not of those who have evoked [Your] anger or of those who are astray.**” **Note:** Canadian Muslim scholars explain that “those who have evoked [Your] anger” **refers to the Jews** and “those who are astray” refers to the **Christians**.
- Surah Al-Ghashiyah (88) including verses 23-26: “However, he who turns away and disbelieves -Then Allah will punish him with the greatest punishment. Indeed, to Us is their return. Then indeed, upon Us is their account.”
- Surah Al-Fatiha (1) including Verses 6-7: “**Guide us to the straight path** – The path of those upon whom You have bestowed favor, **not of those who have evoked [Your] anger or of those who are astray.**” **Note:** Canadian Muslim scholars explain that “those who have evoked [Your] anger” **refers to the Jews** and “those who are astray” refers to the **Christians**.

- Surah Al-Fajr (89) including verses 6-13: “Have you not considered how your Lord dealt with ‘**Aad** – [With] Iram – who had lofty pillars, The likes of whom had never been created in the land? And [with] **Thamud**, who carved out the rocks in the valley? And [with] Pharaoh, owner of the stakes? – All of] whom oppressed within the lands And increased therein the corruption. So your Lord poured upon them a scourge of punishment.”
- Surah Al-Balad (90) including verses 19-20: “But they who disbelieved in Our signs – those are the companions of the left. Over them will be fire closed in.”
- Surah Al-Fatiha (1) including Verses 6-7: “**Guide us to the straight path** – The path of those upon whom You have bestowed favor, **not of those who have evoked [Your] anger or of those who are astray.**” **Note:** Canadian Muslim scholars explain that “those who have evoked [Your] anger” **refers to the Jews** and “those who are astray” refers to the **Christians**.

Fund-raising speech for expanding the Mosque. **Imam leading the prayer: Mostafa Hanoot and next to him in the first line of the prayer Ayman Elkasrawy.**

Chapters of the Quran recited by Mostafa Hanoot:

- Surah Al-Fatiha (1) including Verses 6-7: “**Guide us to the straight path** – The path of those upon whom You have bestowed favor, **not of those who have evoked [Your] anger or of those who are astray.**” **Note:** Canadian Muslim scholars explain that “those who have evoked [Your] anger” **refers to the Jews** and “those who are astray” refers to the **Christians**.
- Surah Ash-Shams (91) including verses 11, 14: “**Thamud** denied [their prophet] by reason of their transgression... But they denied him and hamstrung her. So their Lord brought down upon them destruction for their sin and made it equal [upon all of them].”
- Surah Al-Layl (92)
- Surah Al-Layl (92)
- Surah Ad-Duhaa (93)

- Surah Ash-Sharh (94)
- Surah At-Tin (95)
- Surah Al-Fatiha (1) including Verses 6-7: “**Guide us to the straight path – The path of those upon whom You have bestowed favor, not of those who have evoked [Your] anger or of those who are astray.**” **Note:** Canadian Muslim scholars explain that “those who have evoked [Your] anger” **refers to the Jews** and “those who are astray” refers to the **Christians**.
- Surah Al-‘Alaq (96)
- Surah Al-Qadr (97)
- Surah Al-Bayyinah (98) including verses 1, 6: “Those who disbelieved among the People of the Scripture and the polytheists were not to be parted [from misbelief] until there came to them clear evidence... Indeed, **they who disbelieved among the People of the Scripture and the polytheists will be in the fire of Hell**, abiding eternally therein. **Those are the worst of creatures.**” **Note:** “**the People of the Scripture**” **refers to Jews and Christians**.
- Surah Az-Zalzalah (99)
- Surah Al-‘Adiyat (100)
- Surah Al-Qari’ah (101)

Imam leading the prayer: Ayman Elkasrawy and next to him in the first line of the prayer Mostafa Hanoot. Chapters of the Quran recited by Ayman Elkasrawy:

- Surah Al-Fatiha (1) including Verses 6-7: “**Guide us to the straight path – The path of those upon whom You have bestowed favor, not of those who have evoked [Your] anger or of those who are astray.**” **Note:** Canadian Muslim scholars explain that “those who have evoked [Your] anger” **refers to the Jews** and “those who are astray” refers to the **Christians**.
- Surah At-Takathur (102)
- Surah Al-‘Asr (103)

- Surah Al-Humazah (104)
- Surah Al-Fil (105) including verses 1, 4-5: “Have you not considered, [O Muhammad], how your Lord dealt with the companions of the elephant?... Striking them with stones of hard clay, And He made them like eaten straw.”
- Surah Quraysh (106)
- Surah Al-Ma’un (107)
- Surah Al-Kawthar (108)
- Surah Al-Fatiha (1) including Verses 6-7: “**Guide us to the straight path** – The path of those upon whom You have bestowed favor, **not of those who have evoked [Your] anger or of those who are astray.**” **Note:** Canadian Muslim scholars explain that “those who have evoked [Your] anger” **refers to the Jews** and “those who are astray” refers to the **Christians**.
- Surah Al-Kafirun (109)
- Surah An-Nasr (110) including verses 1-2: “When the victory of Allah has come and the conquest, And you see the people entering into the religion of Allah in multitudes”
- Surah Al-Masad (111)
- Surah Al-Ikhlās (112)
- Surah Al-Falaq (113)
- Surah An-Nas (114)
- Surah Al-Fatiha (1) including Verses 6-7: “**Guide us to the straight path** – The path of those upon whom You have bestowed favor, **not of those who have evoked [Your] anger or of those who are astray.**” **Note:** Canadian Muslim scholars explain that “those who have evoked [Your] anger” **refers to the Jews** and “those who are astray” refers to the **Christians**.
- Surah Al-Baqara (2) verses (1-5)

Supplications recited by Ayman Elkasrawy that also included the following:

You are our Protector and give us victory over the disbelieving people.
[congregation:] Ameen [declaration of affirmation]...

O Allah! Give victory to Islam and raise the standing of the Muslims.
[congregation:] Ameen.

And humiliate the polytheism and polytheists. [congregation:] Ameen.

O Allah! Give victory (help) to your slaves who believe in the oneness of Allah.
[congregation:] Ameen.

O Allah! Give them victory over the criminal people.

O Allah! Destroy anyone who killed/ fought against Muslims. [congregation:]
Ameen.

O Allah! Destroy anyone who displaced the sons of the Muslims. [congregation:]
Ameen.

O Allah! Count their number; [congregation:] Ameen, slay them one by one,
[congregation:] Ameen, and spare not one of them.[congregation:] Ameen.

O Allah! Purify Al-Aqsa Mosque from the filth of the Jews! [congregation:]
Ameen.

O Allah! Purify Al-Aqsa Mosque from the filth of the Jews! [congregation:]
Ameen.

Ramadan 1437 Hijri _2016 – 11th Night Taraweeh (June 16, 2016)

Imam leading the prayer: Wael Shehab, the head imam of Masjid Toronto.

Chapters of the Quran recited by Wael Shehab:

- Surah Al-Fatiha (1) including Verses 6-7: “**Guide us to the straight path** – The path of those upon whom You have bestowed favor, **not of those who have evoked [Your] anger or of those who are astray.**” **Note:** Canadian Muslim scholars explain that “those who have evoked [Your] anger” **refers to the Jews** and “those who are astray” refers to the **Christians**.
- Surah Al-Ahzab (33) verses (38-44)

- Surah Al-Fatiha (1) including Verses 6-7: “**Guide us to the straight path – The path of those upon whom You have bestowed favor, not of those who have evoked [Your] anger or of those who are astray.**” Note: Canadian Muslim scholars explain that “those who have evoked [Your] anger” refers to the **Jews** and “those who are astray” refers to the **Christians**.
- Surah Al-Ahzab (33) verses (43-48)

Imam leading the prayer: Mostafa Hanoot. Chapters of the Quran recited by Mostafa Hanoot:

- Surah Al-Fatiha (1) including Verses 6-7: “**Guide us to the straight path – The path of those upon whom You have bestowed favor, not of those who have evoked [Your] anger or of those who are astray.**” Note: Canadian Muslim scholars explain that “those who have evoked [Your] anger” refers to the **Jews** and “those who are astray” refers to the **Christians**.
- Surah Al-A’raf (7) verses (47-64)
- Surah Al-Fatiha (1) including Verses 6-7: “**Guide us to the straight path – The path of those upon whom You have bestowed favor, not of those who have evoked [Your] anger or of those who are astray.**” Note: Canadian Muslim scholars explain that “those who have evoked [Your] anger” refers to the **Jews** and “those who are astray” refers to the **Christians**.
- Surah Al-A’raf (7) verses (65-79). Note: The verses tell the story of the tribes of ‘**Aad** and **Thamud**, ancient peoples annihilated by Allah because they didn’t heed the warnings of the prophets.
- Surah Al-Fatiha (1) including Verses 6-7: “**Guide us to the straight path – The path of those upon whom You have bestowed favor, not of those who have evoked [Your] anger or of those who are astray.**” Note: Canadian Muslim scholars explain that “those who have evoked [Your] anger” refers to the **Jews** and “those who are astray” refers to the **Christians**.
- Surah Al-A’raf (7) verses (80-93.) The verses tell the story of the peoples of Lut and Madyan that were annihilated by Allah because they didn’t heed the warnings of the prophets.

- Surah Al-Fatiha (1) including Verses 6-7: “**Guide us to the straight path – The path of those upon whom You have bestowed favor, not of those who have evoked [Your] anger or of those who are astray.**” Note: Canadian Muslim scholars explain that “those who have evoked [Your] anger” **refers to the Jews** and “those who are astray” refers to the **Christians**.
- Surah Al-A’raf (7) verses (94-116)

**Khutbah and supplications by Wael Shehab. Imam leading the prayer:
Ayman Elkasrawy and behind him Wael Shehab.**

Chapters of the Quran recited by Ayman Elkasrawy:

- Surah Al-Fatiha (1) including Verses 6-7: “**Guide us to the straight path – The path of those upon whom You have bestowed favor, not of those who have evoked [Your] anger or of those who are astray.**” Note: Canadian Muslim scholars explain that “those who have evoked [Your] anger” **refers to the Jews** and “those who are astray” refers to the **Christians**.
- Surah Al-A’raf (7) verses (117-137). The verses tell the story of Pharaoh and his punishment by Allah.
- Surah Al-Fatiha (1) including Verses 6-7: “**Guide us to the straight path – The path of those upon whom You have bestowed favor, not of those who have evoked [Your] anger or of those who are astray.**” Note: Canadian Muslim scholars explain that “those who have evoked [Your] anger” **refers to the Jews** and “those who are astray” refers to the **Christians**.
- Surah Al-A’raf (7) verses (138-149)
- Surah Al-Fatiha (1) including Verses 6-7: “**Guide us to the straight path – The path of those upon whom You have bestowed favor, not of those who have evoked [Your] anger or of those who are astray.**” Note: Canadian Muslim scholars explain that “those who have evoked [Your] anger” **refers to the Jews** and “those who are astray” refers to the **Christians**.
- Surah Al-A’raf (7) verses (150-159)

- Surah Al-Fatiha (1) including Verses 6-7: “**Guide us to the straight path** – The path of those upon whom You have bestowed favor, **not of those who have evoked [Your] anger or of those who are astray.**” Note: Canadian Muslim scholars explain that “those who have evoked [Your] anger” refers to the **Jews** and “those who are astray” refers to the **Christians**.
- Surah Al-A’raf (7) verses (160-170). Verse 166: “So when they [Israelites] were insolent about that which they had been forbidden, We said to them, “**Be apes**, despised.” Based on this verse the **Jews** are often portrayed by imams as the “**descendants of apes** and pigs”.
- Surah Al-Fatiha (1) including Verses 6-7: “**Guide us to the straight path** – The path of those upon whom You have bestowed favor, **not of those who have evoked [Your] anger or of those who are astray.**” Note: Canadian Muslim scholars explain that “those who have evoked [Your] anger” refers to the **Jews** and “those who are astray” refers to the **Christians**.
- Surah Al-Ikhlās (112)
- Surah Al-Fatiha (1) including Verses 6-7: “**Guide us to the straight path** – The path of those upon whom You have bestowed favor, **not of those who have evoked [Your] anger or of those who are astray.**” Note: Canadian Muslim scholars explain that “those who have evoked [Your] anger” refers to the **Jews** and “those who are astray” refers to the **Christians**.
- Surah Al-Falaq (113)
- Surah Al-Fatiha (1) including Verses 6-7: “**Guide us to the straight path** – The path of those upon whom You have bestowed favor, **not of those who have evoked [Your] anger or of those who are astray.**” Note: Canadian Muslim scholars explain that “those who have evoked [Your] anger” refers to the **Jews** and “those who are astray” refers to the **Christians**.
- Surah An-Nas (114)

Supplications recited by Ayman Elkasrawy that also included the following:

O Allah, we ask You for... victory over the enemies. [congregation:] Ameen,

O Allah! Raise the standing of Islam and the Muslims. [congregation:] Ameen.

O Allah! Give victory (help) to your oppressed slaves all over the world, east to west. [congregation:] Ameen.

O Allah! Give victory (help) to your slaves who believe in the oneness of Allah, O the Lord of the Worlds! [congregation:] Ameen.

O Allah! Destroy the criminals. [congregation:] Ameen.

O Allah! Destroy anyone who inflicts injustice on your slaves, O the Lord of the Worlds! [congregation:] Ameen.

O Allah! Count their number; [congregation:] Ameen, slay them one by one, [congregation:] Ameen and spare not one of them. [congregation:] Ameen

O Allah! Do not defer [it] from them, O the Lord of the Worlds! [congregation:] Ameen

O Allah! Seize them with the seizure of One Mighty, Omnipotent [referring to a Quranic verse that deals with the punishment Allah inflicted on Pharaoh and his people] [congregation:] Ameen

Ramadan 1437 Hijri _2016 – 8th Night Taraweeh (June 13, 2016)

Imam leading the prayer: Ayman Elkasrawy. Chapters of the Quran recited by Ayman Elkasrawy:

- Surah Al-Fatiha (1) including Verses 6-7: “**Guide us to the straight path** – The path of those upon whom You have bestowed favor, **not of those who have evoked [Your] anger or of those who are astray.**” Note: Canadian Muslim scholars explain that “those who have evoked [Your] anger” **refers to the Jews** and “those who are astray” refers to the **Christians**.
- Surah Al-Ma'idah (67-77)
- Surah Al-Fatiha (1) including Verses 6-7: “**Guide us to the straight path** – The path of those upon whom You have bestowed favor, **not of those who have evoked [Your] anger or of those who are astray.**” Note: Canadian

Muslim scholars explain that “those who have evoked [Your] anger” **refers to the Jews** and “those who are astray” refers to the **Christians**.

- Surah Al-Ma'idah (78-89) including the following verses “**Cursed were those who disbelieved among the Children of Israel...** You will surely find **the most intense of the people in animosity toward the believers [to be] the Jews...** those who disbelieved and denied Our signs – they are the companions of Hellfire.”
- Surah Al-Fatiha (1) including Verses 6-7: “**Guide us to the straight path –** The path of those upon whom You have bestowed favor, **not of those who have evoked [Your] anger or of those who are astray.**” **Note:** Canadian Muslim scholars explain that “those who have evoked [Your] anger” **refers to the Jews** and “those who are astray” refers to the **Christians**.
- Surah Al-Ma'idah (90-100)
- Surah Al-Fatiha (1) including Verses 6-7: “**Guide us to the straight path –** The path of those upon whom You have bestowed favor, **not of those who have evoked [Your] anger or of those who are astray.**” **Note:** Canadian Muslim scholars explain that “those who have evoked [Your] anger” **refers to the Jews** and “those who are astray” refers to the **Christians**.
- Surah Al-Ma'idah (101-108)
- Surah Al-Fatiha (1) including Verses 6-7: “**Guide us to the straight path –** The path of those upon whom You have bestowed favor, **not of those who have evoked [Your] anger or of those who are astray.**” **Note:** Canadian Muslim scholars explain that “those who have evoked [Your] anger” **refers to the Jews** and “those who are astray” refers to the **Christians**.
- Surah Al-A'la (1-19)
- Surah Al-Fatiha (1) including Verses 6-7: “**Guide us to the straight path –** The path of those upon whom You have bestowed favor, **not of those who have evoked [Your] anger or of those who are astray.**” **Note:** Canadian Muslim scholars explain that “those who have evoked [Your] anger” **refers to the Jews** and “those who are astray” refers to the **Christians**.

- Surah Al-Kafirun (1-6)
- Surah Al-Fatiha (1) including Verses 6-7: “**Guide us to the straight path – The path of those upon whom You have bestowed favor, not of those who have evoked [Your] anger or of those who are astray.**” **Note:** Canadian Muslim scholars explain that “those who have evoked [Your] anger” **refers to the Jews** and “those who are astray” refers to the **Christians**.
- Surah Al-Ikhlās (1-4)

Supplications recited by Ayman Elkasrawy that also included the following:

You are our Protector and give us victory over the disbelieving people.

[congregation:] Ameen [declaration of affirmation]...

O Allah, give victory to Islam and raise the standing of the Muslims.

[congregation:] Ameen.

O Allah, give victory to Islam and raise the standing of the Muslims.

[congregation:] Ameen.

O Allah, whoever wishes good for Islam and the Muslims bestow all goodness upon him

O Allah, whoever wishes ill for us and wishes ill for Islam and the Muslims, make his plot (tied) around his neck. [congregation:] Ameen.

O Allah, turn fate against them, [congregation:] Ameen, and destroy/ annihilate them as You destroyed/ annihilated [the peoples] of ‘Ād and Thamud [ancient peoples annihilated by Allah because they didn’t heed the warnings of the prophets]. [congregation:] Ameen.

Copies of the original videos are available [here](#).

The anti-Jewish message of the Muslim prayer and Surah (chapter) Al-Fatiha

The Muslim prayer (also known as salah, salat or namaz) is one of the Five Pillars in the faith of Islam and an obligatory religious duty to be observed five times a day for every Muslim who has reached the age of puberty.

On Fridays, the noon congregational prayer (salat al-Jum'a) substitutes for the regular noon prayer, and it includes the Khutba, or the Friday sermon, by the imam (religious leader) who gives the congregants guidance in Islamic teachings.

The purpose of the prayer is to demonstrate a total submission to Allah and a commitment to follow his path unconditionally.

At the start of each unit of prayer (rakah), Muslims must recite Surah (chapter) al-Fatihah ("The Opening"), the first chapter of the Quran. In total, Surah (chapter) al-Fatihah is recited at least seventeen times a day by a practising Muslim. The prayer also includes supplications to Allah.

The Friday prayer is performed in public schools across the US and Canada and also during Islamic events at the Federal, State and provincial legislatures and City Halls.

Surah (chapter) al-Fatihah – its text and meaning

The following is the translation of Surah (chapter) al-Fatihah as provided by Omar Subedar, Imam at Brampton Makki Masjid, The Islamic society of Peel, Vice President of Mathabah Institute and CEO & Founder of Bukhari Publications (see [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#)):

- In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful
- All praise is for Allah, the Sustainer of every creation
- The Most Merciful and the Ever Merciful
- Master of the Day of Compensation
- It is only You who we worship and only You Who we seek assistance from
- Guide us to the straight path
- The path of those you bestowed favours upon, not those who have incurred [Your] wrath and those who have deviated

American and Canadian Muslim religious leaders explain the context of Surah Al-Fatiha

Osman Haji Madad, Sahaba Masjid. Edmonton, Alberta:

“Who are those who earned the wrath of Allah?... They are the Jews... Those who were cursed by Allah. Allah was angry at them and turned them into monkeys and pigs.”

Muhammad Alshareef – Founder and President of Al-Maghrib Institute (Born and raised in Canada): “Adiyy ibn Hatim [one of the companions of Muhammad], May Allah, Exalted be He, be please with him, asked the Prophet, blessings and peace of Allah be upon him, he said: Who are the “Al-Maghdoubi Alaihim”? Who are those that evoked Allah’s anger? that made Allah angry at them? And the Prophet, blessings and peace of Allah be upon him, said: “Houm Al-Yahood” [Arabic], they are the Jews. And so every time you’re reciting Surah [chapter] Al-Fatiha [first chapter of the Quran], and in fact is some Muslim countries they want to take out the verses because they want to have good relationships with Israel... they said let’s not teach in our curriculum the verses that deal of and speak about the Jews and praise be to Allah, the scholars said: what are going to do with “Ghairi Al-Maghdoubi Alaihim” [not those who have incurred [Your] wrath]? Are they going to take Surah [chapter] Al-Fatiha from the curriculum? They cannot take it out... And so because the Muslim youth aren’t growing up on the “Aqida” [Islamic faith] and most beloved people to them are becoming actors and actresses, Jewish actresses, Christian actresses, when they hear a speech about how Allah, Exalted and Glorified be He, condemned the Jews, they say: What’s wrong with Seinfeld? Every Wednesday at 8 pm, prime time television, they’re watching Seinfeld and he’s funny. [They say:] Are you telling me Seinfeld is going to hellfire? And that’s in their mind. Because they have laughed and spent very joyous moments with the sitcom and now they cannot understand what Allah, Exalted and Glorified be He, is telling them in the Quran... If the Jews evoked Allah’s anger then they did it for a reason and Allah page after page in the Quran shows us the reason why the Jews evoked Allah’s, Exalted and Glorified be He, anger.”

Omar Subedar, Imam at Makki Masjid in Brampton, Ontario and Vice President of Mathabah Institute: “First I’m going to recite the verse. I seek refuge in Allah from Satan the accursed. In the name of Allah the Beneficent the Merciful. Not the path of those who have incurred Your anger or the path of those who have

deviated, who have fallen astray. Now, who are these people? Whom are these categories Allah (swt) is referring to? The first group, the prophet (pbuh) has identified as the Jews (اليهود), and the second group ‘those who have deviated’, the prophet, peace and blessing be upon him, has identified them as the Christians (النصارى).”

Musleh Khan, Toronto Police Muslim Chaplain: “Al-Timidhi reports in an authentic Hadith the the Prophet (PBUH) was asked by a companion: those who have earned your anger غير المغضوب عليهم, the Prophet (PBUH) says this refers to the Yahoudi [Jews] and then companion continue to ask والضالين the Prophet responds and says this refers to the Nasara [Christians] and those who have gone astray...”

Younus Kathrada, Vancouver, British Columbia: “Pointing specifically at different groups here. As we said, although the Ayat (verses) include all non-Muslims whether they’d be Christians or Jews or other than them. But we speak about المغضوب عليهم those who earned the wrath and the anger of Allah, Exalted and Glorified be He, specifically here the scholars (علماء) speak of the Jews Al-Yahoud. Why? Well, if you look in the Quran, it’s because they are the ones who are the most argumentative. They’re the ones who knew, they have knowledge of things and yet they rejected it. So of course they earned the wrath and the anger of Allah, Exalted and Glorified be He... We find that even in the Sunnah [narrations attributed to Muhammad statement or deeds] the Prophet [Mohammad], peace be upon him, they, because they know and yet they reject. والضالين those who went astray, you know, because they don’t base things on knowledge. It’s all about emotion. And Glorified be Allah, the more we think about it, look at today even, you know, if you look at many of the Christians today, they like to talk about, everything is love, it’s not based on knowledge. Nothing is knowledge-based. Everything is emotions, ok, and so they’ve gone astray because they refused to seek that knowledge and they refuse to act upon this knowledge that is present غير المغضوب عليهم ولا الضالين.”

Sheikh Mashhoor Hasan explained in a lecture in a Toronto mosque the meaning the this chapter. The following are excerpts from his lecture translated by Abu Umar Abdulaziz: “Not those whom you have become angry on, not those who have deviated. The prophet [Mohammad], peace be upon him, said in Jami’ at-

Tirmidhi [collection of hadiths, narrations attributed to Mohammad], after he recited this verse, he said: Those whom Allah is angry on [are] the Jews, and those who deviated they are the Christians. Why were the Jews called the ones whom Allah is angry on? And why the Christians called the ones went astray? It is very easy, but most of the Muslims they resemble themselves with these ones [Jews] or with these ones [Christians]... The Jews have been called the ones whom Allah is angry on because they had knowledge. They have knowledge but they don't act on this knowledge. And those who are astray [the Christians] are called astray because they do actions and they do acts of worship but they do have knowledge."

Website: gloriousquranhistory.ca, <http://gloriousquranhistory.ca/> **Quran exegesis** by Muhammad ash-Shawkani:

"In this 7th and last Ayah [verse] of [Surah – chapter] Al Fatiha, Allah [SWT] mentions the Muslims who practice Islam, the Jews and Christians... Those who have evoked the Wrath of Allah [SWT] are the Jews [or Israelites] who knew the full truth through Prophet Mousa [Alyhi Al Salam: AAS] but deviated from this truth with selfishness, pride and prejudice. They thus deserved the Wrath of Allah [SWT]. The astray, on the other hand, are the Christians who deviated from the Message of Prophet Isa [AAS] out of ignorance and ill-knowledge..."

"In his book "**Commentary on The Holy Quran**" (Volume 1, SURAH AL-FATIHA), Mirzā Ghulām Ahmad, the leader and the founder of the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam, explained verse no. 7 of of Al-Fatiha. The following are excerpts from the book (p. 338-340): "All commentators are agreed that those who incurred Divine wrath and those who went astray are the Jews and Christians respectively. A prayer to be safeguarded against these mischiefs, not to be included among those who went astray, nor among those who incurred Divine wrath, has been taught. This must be repeatedly offered in the five daily Prayer services. It is thus clear that this is the biggest and most serious mischief which must be safeguarded against. It should be called the mother of mischiefs... Those who incurred Divine displeasure are the Jews and those who went astray are the Christians..."

The booklet "**Muslim Prayer Handbook For Beginners**" has being handed out at the Islamic booth at Toronto's Dundas Square. Printed and distributed by the

Walk-In Islamic InfoCenter located at Toronto (collectfreequran.org), the booklet introduces the daily prayers for Muslims.

In some of the supplications dealing with the “Kafiroun,” the disbelievers or infidels, Muslims are ordained to ask Allah to help them overcome and defeat their enemies who are identified as the disbelieving people.

The following are the recommended daily prayers for Muslims in which the disbelievers are mentioned: “Du’a [supplication] to overcome enemies... Our Lord! Forgive us our sins and our transgressions, establish our feet firmly, and give us victory over the disbelieving people.” (3:147)... The Witr (The Last Night prayer)... we also abandon and reject anyone who disobeys you... Your punishment surely overtakes the disbelievers... The most comprehensive Supplication... You are our protector, and give us victory over the disbelieving people.”

The importance of the reciting supplications and jihad during Ramadan

“Dua during the month of Ramadan – Ramadan is month full of many blessings, thus the du’a of Ramadan is a blessed one. This can be inferred from the Prophet (SAW) saying: ‘When Ramadan comes, the Doors of Mercy (another narration says Paradise) are opened, and the doors of Hell are closed, and the Shaitans are locked up’ Thus, it is clear that du’a during Ramadan has a greater chance of being accepted, as the Gates of Paradise and Mercy are opened. [[Sahih al-Bukhari](#) #1899, Muslim #1079 and others]

“Get in high gear for the next 10 nights and days – Time is of the essence. Every moment counts. Whatever you need to do for the next ten days to make the most in Ibada, good deeds, reciting Quran, dhikr, making dua, etc., rewards are going to be multiplied. No one knew about the importance of these days more than the prophet (saws).

[Al-Bukhari and Muslim](#) narrated from ‘Aishah (may Allah be pleased with her) that when the last ten days of Ramadan began, the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) would stay up at night, wake his family and tie his lower garment tight. According to Ahmad and Muslim: he would strive hard in worship during the last ten nights of Ramadan as he did not do at other times. Imam Ahmad

recorded that Abu Hurayrah said “When Ramadan would come, the Messenger of Allah would say, Verily, the month of Ramadan has come to you all. It is a blessed month, which Allah has obligated you all to fast. During it the gates of Paradise are opened, the gates of Hell are closed and the devils are shackled. In it there is a night that is better than one thousand months. Whoever is deprived of its good, then he has truly been deprived.)” An-Nasa’i recorded this same Hadith.”

Mississauga based Al Ayam Arabic bi-weekly newspaper published (Issue 8, June 30, 2014, P. 10) an article on the month of Ramadan, which was written by Canadian Imam Ahmed Shehab. In this article, Ahmed Shehab emphasized the importance of Ramadan in the life of Prophet Mohammad urging Muslims to follow the path of the last messenger of Allah. The following are excerpts from the article (originally in Arabic):

“[Title:] With the Prophet, peace and blessing be upon him, during the month of Ramadan... The [Prophet], peace and blessing be upon him, used to carry out the jihad during the [month of] Ramadan and to order his companions to strengthen themselves for encountering their enemy... The [Prophet], peace and blessing be upon him, was the greatest of the mujahideen. Fasting did not stop him from taking part in invasions. He took part in six invasions during nine years; all of them occurred during the [month of] Ramadan. He carried out formidable actions during the [month of] Ramadan such as destroying al-Darrar Mosque [built by the ‘hypocrites’], smashing the famous statues of the Arabs, meeting with delegations, marrying the mother of the believers Hafsa and conquering Mecca during the [month of] Ramadan. The bottom line is that the month of Ramadan was a month of diligence, jihad and sacrifice in the life of the Prophet, peace and blessing be upon him, and not as many Muslims in our time who do not understand this and turn it into month of indulgence, laziness, inactivity and idleness. O Allah, help us to follow the tradition of your Prophet, peace and blessing be upon him, and bless us with his way of life [Sunnah], and our nation with his [Islamic] Law [Sharia].”

Chapter Twenty-Three

Why did #FakeNews Toronto Star ignore Elkasrawy's Third Supplication

Why did Toronto Star ignore the THIRD supplication recited by Elkasrawy in which he asks Allah to destroy whoever wishes ill to Islam and Muslims in the same manner Allah annihilated rebellious communities?

[O Allah!] Give us victory over the disbelieving people... O Allah! Give victory to Islam and raise the standing the Muslims. And humiliate the polytheism and polytheists. O Allah! Give victory (help) to your slaves who believe in the oneness of Allah, O the Lord of the Worlds! O Allah! Give them victory over the criminal people. O Allah! Destroy anyone who killed Muslims. O Allah! Destroy anyone who displaced the sons of the Muslims. O Allah! Count their number; slay them one by one and spare not one of them. O Allah! Purify Al-Aqsa Mosque from the filth of the Jews! O Allah! Purify Al-Aqsa Mosque from the filth of the Jews!

Why did Toronto Star ignore Shaykh Abdool Hamid's supplications that contain similar messages to Elkasrawy's prayers?

Why do I continue to share these media inquiries to the Toronto Star with you? **Because I hope to bring to the forefront the true meaning of #FakeNews all over mainstream media (MSM);** the omission of relevant facts. I believe that this is the point of President Trump's constant attack on MSM regarding Fake News. Yes, all media outlets at some point make mistakes. A statement is proven incorrect and honest media outlets will share that information and apologize.

But #FakeNews is more insidious. You don't know what you don't know, to paraphrase Donald Rumsfeld. The greatest experiment in #FakeNews came during the 2016 American elections. MSM left out important facts about the Republicans. The MSM was sure that Hillary was going to win and so it came as a shock-to the "journalists" themselves, let alone the millions of people who relied on them to report the news, when Hillary lost. They had not done their job. They had not covered the story. And when Hillary lost they couldn't believe it and so came the Russian conspiracy that the main stream media continue to share; that Trump only

won by cheating, when we have since learned that the Democratic Party paid for the fake dossier. How many on the left know about the facts behind that dossier?

When the mainstream media take on biased views, when they refuse to report facts that don't agree with their perspective, which in and of itself is gross unethical journalism, the populace suffers, terribly. Divisions in the population grow wider.

Here are two more important questions that the #FakeNews Toronto Star continue to avoid answering.

Why did Toronto Star ignore the THIRD supplication recited by Elkasrawy in which he asks Allah to destroy whoever wishes ill to Islam and Muslims in the same manner Allah annihilated rebellious communities?

Why did Toronto Star ignore Shaykh Abdool Hamid's supplications that contain similar messages to Elkasrawy's prayers?

On October 22, 2017, the Toronto Star dedicated four pages, including its front page, to an attempt to exonerate Ayman Elkasrawy, an imam at "Masjid Toronto" mosque, from anti-Jewish and anti-infidel prayers during Ramadan 2016. It is filled with errors in fact and the gross omission of facts.

The article was written by Jennifer Yang and approved by Kathy English, the Star's public editor.

I have sent numerous media inquiries to the Publisher, John Boynton; Bob Hepburn media inquiries; Kathy English and Jennifer Yang. None have responded.

In her article Jennifer Yang wrote: "[The] context is key in determining the appropriate translation."

The Toronto Star claimed that Lt. Col. (ret.) Jonathan Halevi's translation of Ayman Elkasrawy's prayers at Masjid Toronto mosque was ***"propaganda", "mistranslated", "decontextualized", "disingenuous" and/ or "slanted translation."***

In previous articles (search Toronto Star Fake News on my website I showed in detail that Jonathan Halevi's translation was accurate and supported by

authoritative Islamic sources, including Canadian. I also exposed that **the Toronto Star ignored Elkasrawy's social media posts on antisemitism, Muslim Brotherhood, Hamas, ISIS and the jihad that uncover his views and mindset at the time he recited the prayers in Masjid Toronto mosque.**

The Toronto Star also disregarded other relevant information that may help understand the context of Elkasrawy's prayers. In the article in question, Jonathan Halevi added the translation of other prayers recited in the mosque that contain similar messages.

Here is an excerpt from the Halevi article:

O Allah! Raise the standing of Islam and the Muslims

And humiliate the polytheism, the polytheists, the infidels and the atheists

And Give victory (help) to your slaves who believe in the oneness of Allah

O Allah! Give victory to our oppressed and deprived Muslim brothers and the mujahideen (those who engage in jihad) everywhere

O Allah! Pour on them patience and steadfast their feet

And give them victory over the disbelieving people

And give them victory over the evildoers

And give them victory over the criminals

The sermon that was delivered (archived file) by Shaykh Abdool Hamid was published on YouTube on July 8, 2016. He recited similar supplications at Masjid Toronto mosque also on:

June 6, 2016 (click HERE) (archived file)

December 11, 2015 (click HERE) (archived file)

November 13, 2015 (click HERE) (archived file)

August 14, 2015 (click HERE) (archived file)

June 12, 2015 (click HERE) (archived file)

May 13, 2015 (click [HERE](#)) ([archived file](#))

May 8, 2015 (click [HERE](#)) ([archived file](#))

January 8, 2016 (click [HERE](#)) ([archived file](#))

Moreover, responding to the Toronto Star's media inquiry, Jonathan Halevi sent to Jennifer Yang the translation of a THIRD supplication recited by Ayman Elkasrawy that was not included in his original article. In this supplication Elkasrawy asked Allah to "destroy" "those who wish ill for Islam and Muslims" in the same way Allah annihilated other communities that refused to follow the teachings of the prophets.

Elkasrawy's THIRD prayer enhanced the message of his two other prayers in which he asked Allah to "slay them one by one and spare not one of them."

Ayman Elkasrawy (July 2016):

[O Allah], give us victory over the disbelieving people... O Allah, give victory to Islam and raise the standing of Muslims. O Allah, give victory to Islam and raise the standing of Muslims. [O Allah], as for those who wish ill for Islam and Muslims, restrain them by their neck and destroy them as you destroyed [the peoples of] 'Ād and Thamud [ancient peoples that perished by Allah because they didn't heed the warnings of the prophets].

O Allah! We ask you... [to give us] victory over the enemies. O Allah! Raise the standing of Islam and the Muslims. O Allah! Give victory (help) to your oppressed slaves all over the world, east to west. O Allah! Give victory (help) to your slaves who believe in the oneness of Allah, O the Lord of the Worlds! O Allah! Destroy the criminals. O Allah! Destroy anyone who inflicts injustice on your slaves, O the Lord of the Worlds! O Allah! Count their number; slay them one by one and spare not one of them. O Allah! Do not defer [it] from them. O Allah! Seize them with the seizure of One Mighty, Omnipotent [referring to a Quranic verse that deals with the punishment Allah inflicted on Pharaoh and his people].

[O Allah!] Give us victory over the disbelieving people... O Allah! Give victory to Islam and raise the standing the Muslims. And humiliate the polytheism and polytheists. O Allah! Give victory (help) to your slaves who believe in the oneness

of Allah, O the Lord of the Worlds! O Allah! Give them victory over the criminal people. O Allah! Destroy anyone who killed Muslims. O Allah! Destroy anyone who displaced the sons of the Muslims. O Allah! Count their number; slay them one by one and spare not one of them. O Allah! Purify Al-Aqsa Mosque from the filth of the Jews! O Allah! Purify Al-Aqsa Mosque from the filth of the Jews!

In addition, Jonathan Halevi provided Yang with the translation of the supplications of imams Mostafa Hanout and Shaykh Abdool Hamid in the Masjid Toronto mosque.

Here is an excerpt from Halevi's email to Yang on July 25, 2017:

The following are the supplications recited at **Masjid Toronto** that deal with non-Muslims:

Mostafa Hanout (July 2016):

O Allah give victory to the oppressed Muslims everywhere. O Allah give victory to the oppressed Muslims everywhere. O Allah help them in Palestine, help them in Syria, help them in Burma. Help them in any place in which they are treated unjustly, O Lord of the Worlds... O Allah don't give the disbelievers over the believers a way [to overcome them].

Shaykh Abdool Hamid (July 8, 2016):

O Allah! Raise the standing of Islam and the Muslims and humiliate the polytheism [identified by Muslim scholars also as Christianity], the infidels and the atheists, and give victory (help) to your slaves who believe in the oneness of Allah. O Allah! Give victory to our oppressed and deprived Muslim brothers and the mujahideen (those who engage in jihad) everywhere. O Allah! Pour on them patience and steadfast their feet and give them victory over the disbelieving people and give them victory over the evildoers and give them victory over the criminals.

Shaykh Abdool Hamid (June 6, 2016):

O Allah! Raise the standing of Islam and the Muslims and humiliate the polytheism [identified by Muslim scholars also as Christianity], the infidels and the atheists, and give victory (help) to your slaves who believe in the oneness of Allah. O Allah! Give victory to our oppressed and deprived Muslim brothers and the

mujahideen (those who engage in jihad) everywhere, in Syria, Libya, Jordan, Egypt, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria and in other countries in the world. O Allah! Pour on them patience and steadfast their feet. And give them victory over the disbelieving people and give them victory over the evildoers and give them victory over the criminals.

Shaykh Abdool Hamid (May 13, 2016):

O Allah! Raise the standing of Islam and the Muslims and humiliate the polytheism [identified by Muslim scholars also as Christianity], the infidels and the atheists, and give victory (help) to your slaves the mujahideen (those who engage in jihad). O Allah! Give victory (help) to our oppressed and deprived Muslim brothers and the mujahideen everywhere. O Allah! Pour on them patience and steadfast their feet and give them victory over the disbelieving people and give them victory over the evildoers and give them victory over the criminals.

Shakyh Abdool Hamid (January 8, 2016):

O Allah! Raise the standing of Islam and the Muslims and humiliate the polytheism [identified by Muslim scholars also as Christianity], the infidels and the atheists, and give victory (help) to your slaves who believe in the oneness of Allah. O Allah! Give victory to our oppressed and deprived Muslim brothers and the mujahideen (those who engage in jihad) everywhere. O Allah! Pour on them patience and steadfast their feet and give them victory over the disbelieving people and give them victory over the evildoers and give them victory over the criminals.

Shaykh Abdool Hamid (December 11, 2015):

O Allah! Raise the standing of Islam and the Muslims and humiliate the polytheism [identified by Muslim scholars also as Christianity], the infidels and the atheists, and give victory (help) to your slaves who believe in the oneness of Allah. O Allah! Give victory to our oppressed and deprived Muslim brothers and the mujahideen (those who engage in jihad) everywhere. O Allah! Pour on them patience and steadfast their feet and give them victory over the disbelieving people and give them victory over the evildoers and give them victory over the criminals.

Shaykh Abdool Hamid (November 13, 2015):

O Allah! Raise the standing of Islam and the Muslims and humiliate the polytheism [identified by Muslim scholars also as Christianity], the infidels and the atheists, and give victory (help) to your slaves who believe in the oneness of Allah. O Allah! Give victory to our oppressed and deprived Muslim brothers and the mujahideen (those who engage in jihad) everywhere. O Allah! Pour on them patience and steadfast their feet and give them victory over the disbelieving people and give them victory over the evildoers and give them victory over the criminals.

Shaykh Abdool Hamid (August 14, 2015):

O Allah! Raise the standing of Islam and the Muslims and humiliate the polytheism [identified by Muslim scholars also as Christianity], the infidels and the atheists, and give victory (help) to your slaves who believe in the oneness of Allah. O Allah! Give victory to our oppressed and deprived Muslim brothers and the mujahideen (those who engage in jihad) everywhere. O Allah! Pour on them patience and steadfast their feet and give them victory over the disbelieving people and give them victory over the evildoers and give them victory over the criminals.

Shaykh Abdool Hamid (July 10, 2015):

O Allah! Raise the standing of Islam and the Muslims and humiliate the polytheism [identified by Muslim scholars also as Christianity], the infidels and the atheists, and give victory (help) to your slaves who believe in the oneness of Allah. O Allah! Give victory to our oppressed and deprived Muslim brothers and the mujahideen (those who engage in jihad) everywhere. O Allah! Pour on them patience and steadfast their feet and give them victory over the disbelieving people and give them victory over the evildoers and give them victory over the criminals.

Shaykh Abdool Hamid (June 12, 2015):

O Allah! Raise the standing of Islam and the Muslims and humiliate the polytheism [identified by Muslim scholars also as Christianity], the infidels and the atheists, and give victory (help) to your slaves who believe in the oneness of Allah. O Allah! Give victory to our oppressed and deprived Muslim brothers and the mujahideen (those who engage in jihad) everywhere. O Allah! Pour on them patience and steadfast their feet. And give them victory over the disbelieving

people and give them victory over the evildoers and give them victory over the criminals.

Shaykh Abdool Hamid (May 8, 2015):

O Allah! Raise the standing of Islam and the Muslims and humiliate the polytheism [identified by Muslim scholars also as Christianity], the infidels and the atheists, and give victory (help) to your slaves who believe in the oneness of Allah.

O Allah! Give victory to our oppressed and deprived Muslim brothers and the mujahideen (those who engage in jihad) everywhere. O Allah! Pour on them patience and steadfast their feet and give them victory over the disbelieving people and give them victory over the evildoers and give them victory over the criminals.

I often wonder what is going on in the minds of these people at the Toronto Star. Why do they refuse to respond to fair questions?

Chapter Twenty-Four

Ibrahim Hindy sets his own definition of antisemitism in Muslim prayers

Were Ayman Elkasrawy's prayers at Masjid Toronto Mosque antisemitic? Toronto Star and Bernie Farber vehemently opposed such characterization. However, a senior Canadian Imam and a close friend with Bernie Farber, classified similar prayers as “very antisemitic”.

On April 3, 2018 Ibrahim Hindy, Imam of Dar Al-Tawheed Islamic Centre in Mississauga, Ontario was asked on 1010 News Radio if his mosque had been associated with any speaker who embarrassed him in anyway. He said yes. But:

“Apparently, you know, he came, he gave a speech and, you know, he didn’t say anything really wrong in it, but then I found out later and I was embarrassed later that in other countries yet said things that really were anti-Semitic, not only anti-Semitic, a couple other things he said that were kind of hateful towards other countries and I had no idea, right, so I mean I felt embarrassed. I reach out to the Jewish community right after that cause I felt, I felt really bad about that, and you know it’s challenging, but we have to do better.”

The “he” about whom Hindy referred is Shaykh Nash’at Ahmad, a well-known scholar from Egypt. Hindy has now described some of Shaykh Nash’at Ahmad’s sermons as “anti-Semitic.” Ahmed had been invited to speak at the Dar Al-Tawheed Islamic Centre in December 2016.

According to Al Jazeera Center for Studies, Shaykh Nash’at Ahmad is affiliated with the Egyptian Salafi movement which was subjected to security restrictions and even arrest and trial in various cases related to fatwas, or Islamic edicts, urging the support of Mujahideen (Muslims who engage in jihad) in Palestine and justifying the 9/11 attacks.

What statements are considered “anti-Semitic” according to Ibrahim Hindy? The following are excerpts from Shaykh Nash’at Ahmad’s sermons in Egypt (originally in Arabic) that were published by media outlets in Canada and “embarrassed” Ibrahim Hindy:

January 6, 2016:

“O Allah, destroy the Jews and whom they ally with... count their number; slay them one by one and spare not one of them.”

October 5, 2016:

“[O Allah] Destroy the Russians and purify the Muslim lands from their filth [danas]. O Lord, destroy all aggressors, including the Shiites, Bashr [Assad], Alawites and others. O Allah, destroy the aggressors who are the Jews and those who support them... O Allah, they corrupted your land and You do not like the corruption... O Allah, purify the Muslim land from their filth [danas] and squalor. O Allah, purify imprisoned al-Aqsa [mosque] from their hands [of the Jews]. O Allah, restore the Caliphate [Islamic State] for the Muslims.”

Based on Hindy’s own statement, it appears that he defines supplications to invoke Allah to “destroy” the Jews and to annihilate them all as expressions of antisemitism. Asking Allah to “purify” the Muslim lands from the “filth” of other nations is perceived as “hateful”.

Imam Ayman Elkasrawy said on Ramadan 2016 in the “Masjid Toronto” mosque:

“Purify the Al-Aqsa mosque from the filth [danas] of the Jews.

Would Hindy agree that Elkaswary’s supplication is also antisemitic and hateful based on Hindy’s own definition?

On April 2, 2018 Bernie M. Farber, an expert on white supremacism, a board member of JSpace and the former chief executive officer of the Canadian Jewish Congress, set his own definition of antisemitism. According to Farber:

“Denying Israel’s right to exist, virtually the only country of which such a sentiment is expressed, crosses the line into antisemitism.”

These definitions of antisemitism should serve as guidelines for organizations that fight antisemitism such as the newly minted Canadian Anti-Hate Network (CAHN), which takes its inspiration from the Southern Poverty Law Center in the

U.S. The CAHN is led by executive director Evan Balgord and is chaired by Bernie Farber.

Chapter Twenty-Five

National News Media Council in Canada appears to support #FakeNews

This was one of my first articles. I am sharing it last because it sums up all of my concerns regarding #FakeNews at the Toronto Star and the lack of ethical oversight by the National News Media Council.

According to the Council, it is appropriate to pick and choose translations to fit one's narrative rather than sharing all translations that would cast doubt-because according to you the narrative matters the most. Not the truth. The narrative. That I provided sources that clearly point out that this Imam knew full well what he was saying because all Imams have been taught the same translation is not important. It would affect the credibility of this Imam's "apology." Pity you didn't read his Facebook postings which were available to the journalist at the time of writing her article.

In my not so humble opinion, The Toronto Star and the National News Media Council promote Jew hatred.

There was an article in the Toronto Star that attempted to rehabilitate the reputation of an Imam in Canada whose comments about Jews were not flattering.

I lodged a complaint with the Toronto Star Public Editor, Kathy English, and was told that the article was just fine, thank you but I could take my concerns to the National News Media Council. So I sent a complaint to the National News Media Council (4219 words). I am enclosing my complaint, their response (624 words) and my retort to their response.

Needless to say the National News Media Council turned down my complaint.

Once again it behooves me to warn you, my dear readers, that this is a long post; a very, very long.

May I suggest you make yourself comfortable, have a libation at your side, and then take the time to read how Jew hatred is normalized in this world

which is fearful of accusations of Islamophobia, accusations that lead to #FakeNews or silence.

Here is my complaint to the National News Media Council:

I am writing to you to lodge an official complaint against the Toronto Star, journalist Jenny Yang and the public editor Kathy English for the October 22 article in the Toronto Star.

I left a message at your office on Monday November 20 that I would be forwarding the complaint. I only received notification from Ms. English on November 14 that she would not take on my complaint. I assume my complaint did rise to this level:

This office handles queries about accuracy and the Star's journalistic standards as set out in its Newsroom Policy and Journalistic Standards Guide.

The article has an agenda in mind rather than a report on events that took place. The end result includes an attack on two Jews, while appearing to clear Imam Elkasrawy of any wrong-doing, particularly toward the Jewish people and non-Muslim Canadians.

The consequences of such an article could increase antisemitism already higher than ever before in history.

The title of the article itself speaks to an agenda rather than “News” under which it was published.

When I was turned down by the Public editor I wondered if my concerns had been shared with the *Star*’s publisher and editor because I had been told by a member in the editorial department that the “Buck stops with the Public Editor” when I received her refusal to investigate my complaint.

The journalist with her editor contravened the ethical standards of the Toronto Star. I have enclosed the relevant points from this link.

“Freedom does not negate responsibility. It is vital that the media act responsibly in reporting facts on matters of public concern, holding themselves to the highest journalistic standards.”

Beland Honderich said in November 1972 on the occasion of the opening of the *Star* 's new offices at One Yonge St:

“The most valuable asset a newspaper can have is its reputation for telling the truth. Our core mission as defined by Atkinson is to focus public attention on injustices of all kinds and on reforms designed to correct them.

It should provide for the expression of disparate and conflicting views. It should give expression to the interests of minorities as well as majorities, of the powerless as well as the powerful.

Every effort must be made to ensure that everything published in the *Star* is accurate, presented in context, and that all sides are presented fairly.

Journalistic integrity demands that significant errors of fact, as well as errors of omission, should be corrected promptly and as prominently and transparently as warranted.

It is not appropriate for *Star* journalists to play the roles of both actor and critic.

Sound practice, however, demands a clear distinction for readers between news and opinion. All content that contains explicit opinion or personal interpretation should be clearly identified as opinion or analysis, as appropriate.

The *Star* will seek independent or documentary proof of information that shows an individual in a bad light.

In order to learn from our mistakes, the public editor's office, working with senior editors, tracks errors, reports to the *Star*'s publisher and editor, and may recommend processes and identify training needs to remedy systemic errors.”

Here are some of my concerns regarding the article: I will address the attempt to denigrate the reputation of two of the people referred to in the article; both Jews.

The *Star* wrote:

“Mordechai Kedar, an assistant professor with the Arabic department at Israel's Bar-Ilan University.

“Like Halevi, Kedar is a former Israeli intelligence officer and media pundit. His views have also drawn controversy, and Kedar once served on the advisory board for Stop Islamization of Nations — an organization co-founded by the anti-Muslim activist Pamela Geller and designated a hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center, a U.S.-based civil rights watchdog.”

The Biography of Mordechai Kedar:

Dr. Mordechai Kedar is a scholar of Arabic literature and a lecturer at Bar-Ilan University. He holds a Ph.D. from Bar-Ilan University. Dr. Kedar is an academic expert on the Israeli Arab population. He served for twenty-five years in IDF Military Intelligence, where he specialized in Islamic groups, the political discourse of Arab countries, the Arabic press and mass media, and the Syrian domestic arena. Dr. Kedar drew attention with a June 2008 al-Jazeera interview in which he challenged the moderator’s assertion that “You cannot erase Jerusalem from the Quran,” pointing out that Jerusalem is not mentioned in the Quran. He is fluent in Arabic, Hebrew and English.

I am including a series of emails between the Star and Mr. Kedar.

2017-10-25 15:53 GMT+03:00 Kedar the Speaker:

Dear Jennifer,

I read your article in the Sun (Star) about the filth/desecration issue, as a translation of Danas al-Yahood. **I am sorry to tell you that this article is extremely biased in favor of the Imam, and depicted Dahoh-Halevi and myself, experts on Islam with MANY years of experience, those who told you the TRUE meaning of Danas. You posed us as bigots and Islamophobes.**

However, the readers of the Sun can see the TRUE meaning of Danas not in YOUR article but in many other places, since – as I told you – **filth and impurity is a COMMON meaning, which is shared by ALL the Islamist imams when they relate to Jews, especially in Israel, Jerusalem and the Temple Mount.**

For example, you can read [this](#):

Mordechai Kedar

Hello Dr. Kedar,

My apologies, something went wrong with the connection and the line disconnected. I tried calling you back but there was no answer.

I wanted to ask you one last question, about your affiliation with Stop the Islamization of Nations. Are you still a board advisor with this group, Dr. Kedar? Can you tell me why you've decided to get involved with this group?

Thank you very much for your time and help.

Best wishes,

Jennifer

2017-08-28 19:59 GMT+03:00 Kedar the Speaker:

Dear Jennifer,

You can call now.

As much as I know, SION is inactive for some years. I did not see any publication by it at the last 5 years. I took part only in two events, in 2011 and 2012, as much as I remember.

Pamela Geller asked me to join it's international board and I did, because Islamists tried to shut her up: **She was at that time fighting the OIC attempt to criminalize any criticism of Islam, and this meant a ban on exposing the reality of Islam, which Muslim clerics try to hide, just like Danas al-Yahood.**

Later came up the issue of Islamophobia, which I oppose totally: phobia is an irrational fear from something which is not dangerous. **The fear from Islam is not a phobia but a real fear from a real threat, since Islam is the basis of the ideology of ISIS, Hamas, Hizballah, Boco Haram and hundreds of other terror organizations, both Sunni and Shi'i.**

If the OIC succeed to criminalize saying what I wrote in the previous sentence, and THAT is EXACTLY what they want, I'd go to jail for saying it, and you, Jennifer, and your employer will be thrown to jail because you published it in the Sun.

Would you agree to such a thing? This is why I joined SION, to protect your and the Sun's freedom of speech and freedom.

Dr. Mordechai Kedar

Department of Arabic and Research Associate at the Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies,

Bar Ilan University Israel

The Star wrote:

“Halevi describes himself as a retired lieutenant-colonel and intelligence officer with the Israel Defense Forces, who now researches the Middle East and radical Islam. He learned Arabic in school and university, he once explained to an interviewer.

“He has also been a go-to pundit for the now-defunct Sun News Network and its offshoot Rebel News, a right-wing media website that has drawn controversy for its anti-Muslim coverage.

“Halevi's writings and statements suggest that he sees himself as a soldier in the information wars — particularly when it comes to allegations against Israel, which he challenges by using “continuous, intensive and thorough” research, according to a profile on the Economic Club of Canada's website.

“This work includes counting “Gaza fatalities in his free time,” according to a 2009 NPR article that described his “macabre hobby.” During the first Gaza war, NPR wrote, Halevi suspected Palestinians of exaggerating their civilian fatalities and spent six months scrutinizing 1,400 deaths listed by a human rights group — checking each name against a terrorist database he personally compiled and “whatever he finds on the internet.”

Halevi has also written extensively about Islam and Muslim Canadians on CIJ News, where his Arabic translations have drawn praise from the “anti-Islamist” blog Point de Bascule. “His knowledge of the Arabic language gives him an advantage when it comes to understanding the ambitions of the enemy,” the Quebec-based blog wrote last year.

The Biography of Jonathan Halevi

Lt. Col. Jonathan D. Halevi is a **senior researcher of the Middle East and radical Islam at the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs**. He is a co-founder of the Orient Research Group Ltd.

Jonathan Halevi published more than 300 investigative articles in English in addition to many hundreds of articles in Hebrew, including translations of Palestinian laws and documents/booklets.

A quick search on Google shows that Jonathan Halevi also consulted on Middle East and Arab affairs to the Wall Street Journal, a special consultant to the Linde vs. Arab Bank lawsuit and Senior Advisor for policy planning in the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Ms. Wang wrote:

“But Halevi provided context that he considered important: excerpts from Islamic books that promote praying against disbelievers; translations of violent, aggressive or anti-Semitic statements made by other Muslims; links to CIJ News, which Halevi took down shortly after being contacted by the Star.

“I contacted Mr. Halevi regarding the date of the shutdown of CIJnews. He told me that he was first contacted by Toronto Star on July 24, 2017. Approximately two months earlier (June 1, 2017), this statement had been posted on CIJnews.

“Canadian Investigative Journal to explore new business models. Due to exploring new options and business models, **CIJnews site will not be updated starting June 1, 2017**. Further details to be announced soon.”

On the other hand Bernie Farber was treated with kid gloves. From the article: “Over the years, he (Farber) has developed “almost a sixth sense” for detecting anti-Semites.” *I wonder is it like the “smell” test for Jews? The belief about a unique Jewish odor was so powerful that it not only persisted throughout the ages, but also became the object of study by Nazi scientists.*

Farber: “We’re not dealing with a racist or anti-Semite,” he says of his gut reaction. “I really saw a young man who felt beaten down for something that he didn’t quite understand.”

It has been brought to my attention that Ayman Elkasrawy has made statements about ISIS (a.k.a. Islamic State, Daesh), a Qaeda affiliated group, Al-Qassam Brigades (the military/ terrorist wing of Hamas), the Muslim Brotherhood, Jews and conspiracy theories about Jews, “Zionists” and Israel on Facebook. I have contacted Mr. Elkasrawy. I will forward the information at a later date.

Was Mr. Farber aware of the Facebook postings of the Imam?

What about the Rabbi at Beth Tzedek? Was he aware of the Imam’s Facebook postings? If he were do you think he might have had a different perspective?

“Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl did not ask Elkasrawy to explain himself, but he expressed how his language was harmful. “We are concerned about discrimination against Muslims,” he said, as Elkasrawy nodded. “But we are also concerned about extremism that comes out of the Islamic community.

“Our people hear the extremism and when you speak that way, that’s what they hear. They become afraid. And they become angry.”

Mr. Farber made this statement in the article:

“He (the Imam) said something that’s highly charged and highly political and could be anti-Zionist — but it’s not anti-Semitic,” Farber says. “And that changes the flavour of this.”

Yet information easily accessible puts Farber’s statement in question. Why were the opinions of others not included to present a fair and balanced report?

The Labour peer Lord Levy told the BBC’s Newsnight: “There can be criticism of the state of Israel, but anti-Semitism – using the word ‘Zionist’ as another form of anti-Semitism – frankly can no longer be tolerated.” But it’s been widely argued that the term “Zionist” has, in some circles, become a code word for “Jew” and that bigotry against Jewish people has been expressed using the language of anti-Zionism.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. put it this way when he was approached by a student who attacked Zionism, When people criticize Zionists, King said, they mean Jews. You’re talking anti-Semitism. There is a dangerous confluence between anti-

Zionism and anti-Semitism, though the two concepts are not always identical. Anti-Zionism is often used as a euphemism to conceal hatred of Jews.

Today, writer Howard Jacobson observed, Israel has become the pretext [for anti-Semitism]...All the unsayable things, all the things they know they can't say about Jews in a post-Holocaust liberal society, they can say again now. Israel has desacralized the subject. It's a space in which everything is allowed again."

Here are several additional ways to distinguish between people who are expressing legitimate criticism and anti-Semites Who seek to delegitimize Israel:

Legitimate critics expose Israel's flaws in the hope of improving society.

Delegitimizers highlight Israel's imperfections for the purpose of embarrassing, isolating and demeaning the nation.

Legitimate critics seek to change Israel through its democratic processes.

Delegitimizers attempt to use nondemocratic means to impose changes on Israel, many of which are opposed by the citizens of Israel.

Legitimate critics want to see Israel adopt policies that will help it grow and prosper and coexist with an equally prosperous Palestinian state.

Delegitimizers want to see Israel weakened or destroyed.

Legitimate critics believe the free flow of ideas, culture and trade between peoples is the best way to promote peace and understanding.

Delegitimizers advocate blacklists, censorship and demonization of Israelis.

Speaking at a Conservative Friends of Israel event in Manchester, Michael Gove — currently the secretary of state for environment, food and rural affairs — said, "At a time when people say that 'I'm not an antisemite, I'm just anti-Zionist,' it is important that we should say no, anti-Zionism is antisemitism." In March 2016, Gove — who was the secretary of state for justice at the time — "In medieval times, antisemitism was religious, and it found its manifestation in ghettoization and forced conversion," Gove said. "In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, antisemitism, under the perverted guise of scientific racism, led to eliminationist

politics in Austria, in Germany, and the greatest crime that mankind has ever witnessed.”

But, he continued, “antisemitism has changed. And now, it finds its expression in opposition to the Jewish people’s collective identity and the existence of the State of Israel.”

“Ken Jacobson, deputy national director of the Anti-Defamation League: With the new country came a new vocabulary; words like anti-Zionism and anti-Israel entered the lexicon. In some cases, these prejudices drew on older ones: Criticizing the young country became “a convenient cover for those who had anti-Semitic attitudes but didn’t want to be seen that way.”

“There is a political culture on the radical left that sees Zionism as inherently racist and is hostile towards anyone who might support it. Jews — unless they are willing to pass a political test by publicly opposing Israel — are often treated as political enemies on the wrong side of every social and political dividing line. In this political culture, Israel, Zionism and Jews (excluding those Jews who loudly declare their anti-Zionism) are seen as part of a global network of power, on the side of the oppressors against the oppressed.

Western colonialism, Zionism is solely an ideology of racial and ethnic supremacy and Jews are too white and too wealthy to ever suffer racism. To support Israel is to support apartheid and to be on the wrong side of the fixed colour lines that increasingly demarcate radical politics.

“Last month, the Institute for Jewish Policy Research and the Community Security Trust published the largest ever survey of British attitudes towards Jews and Israel (full disclosure: I work for CST and was involved in designing this study). The survey found that the more anti-Israel attitudes a person holds, the more likely they are to also hold anti-Semitic attitudes.”

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. put it this way when he was approached by a student who attacked Zionism. When people criticize Zionists, King said, they mean Jews. You’re talking anti-Semitism. There is a dangerous confluence between anti-Zionism and anti-Semitism, French Prime Minister Macron stated that France “will be uncompromising with anti-Zionism, because it is the reinvented form of anti-

Semitism.” Netanyahu stated that “One cannot say ‘I have nothing against Jews but I don’t want their country to exist’” In 1972, then Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat persuaded the United Nations General Assembly to pass a resolution likening Zionism to racism. To this day, his successor Mahmoud Abbas refuses to recognize Israel as a “Jewish state”.

Mr. Farber stated in the following article “While anti-semitism remains a scourge worldwide, in Canada it now hovers along the edges of society. Not so Islamophobia which is, unfortunately, front and centre.”

This belief affects his decision-making. His belief is not based on facts.

Keep in mind there are 14 million Jews in the world; 350,000 in Canada:

B’nai Brith Canada, which has been tracking anti-Semitic incidents for 35 years, said 1,728 anti-Semitic incidents were reported across the country last year — a 26 per cent increase from 2015 and the highest number the group has ever recorded. That means an average of four to five incidents of anti-Semitic harassment, vandalism or violence occurring every day in our country...”

There are 1.7 billion Muslims in the world. There are 1,054,000 Muslims in Canada:

In 2015, police across the country recorded 159 hate crimes targeted at Muslims, up from 45 in 2012, representing an increase of 253 per cent.

During the Israeli-Hezbollah war in 2006 there was a demonstration against Israel on Bloor St. in Toronto in which there were 10,000 Arab supporters carrying Hezbollah flags and banners calling for “Death to the Jews.”

Elias Hazineh, former President of Palestine House spoke these words loud and clear to a cheering crowd at the annual al-Quds Day gathering in downtown Toronto, Saturday, August 3, 2013.

“We say get out or you’re dead! We give them two minutes and then we start shooting. And that’s the only way that they will understand.”

He was talking about Jews, in Israel.

He added “Zionism preaches corruption and oppression and tyranny around the world. All these insurgencies you see in Syria they are blaming it on us... These Zionist thugs you see over there they are the representation of all these problems and *fitnas* in the world...they are behind the insurgencies... Israel is falsehood, they’re tyranny, they’re corruption, they’re cancers and they’re terrorizing all the Palestinians... Israel is an illegal terrorizing racist group which works for the destruction of humanity and peace in the world.”

The student union of the University of Ontario Institute of Technology willfully and without grounds refused to allow Hasbara Fellowships Canada to participate in a social justice-themed campus event in 2016 because of the group’s “ties to Israel.”

Hasbara took them to the Ontario Human Rights tribunal and won the case.

“The number of antisemitic incidents in Canada set a record in 2016, rising by 26 *percent* over the previous year. In total, B’nai Brith Canada recorded 1,728 incidents nationwide last year, according to its annual Audit of Anti-Semitic Incidents, compared to 1,277 incidents in 2015. The previous record was 1,627 in 2014. Possible reasons for the increase, the audit reported, included Holocaust denial on social media, ***university campus anti-Zionism*** and anti-Israel sentiment found in some Arabic-language newspapers.”

Antisemitic activities on Canadian campuses include a staged walkout of a vote on Holocaust education at Toronto’s Ryerson University and the support for a former student rep who tweeted “punch a Zionist” at McGill. Four Canadian universities – the University of Toronto, McGill, McMaster and York – made the *Algemeiner*’s “1st Annual List of the U.S. and Canada’s Worst Campuses for Jewish Students,” released last month by the New York-based weekly publication. U of T landed at No. 3, behind Columbia University in New York and Vassar College. McGill University in Montreal followed at No. 4, while McMaster in Hamilton was ranked at 13, and York University in Toronto came in at number 17.

And then we have incidents like this.

A student was removed from office for the crime of being Jewish.

Please note that the Toronto Star does not have a working definition of Islamophobia.

The words shared by Imam Ayman Elkasrawy are no different from the words shared by Imams around the world. Ms. Yang suggested in her “news” piece that an attempt was made to distort the Imam’s words.

In a series of lectures on the “Minor Signs of Qayamaah – The Last Day”, Toronto Imam Said Rageah said that the Muslims will eventually defeat the Christians and take over Rome, the Capital of Italy where the Vatican City is located.

On Family Day (February 5, 2016), the Alberta Islamic Welfare Association headed by Shaban Sherif Mady hosted (archived file) Syrian refugees and their families for a social gathering with members of the local Muslim community in Edmonton. He emphasized the merits of the people of Greater Syria in the eyes of Allah for defeating the Crusaders and the Tatars and ended with a supplication to Allah. The following is an excerpt from the supplication (archived file) (originally in Arabic):

O Allah! O Allah! Destroy your enemies, the enemies of religion (Islam). O Allah!

Mostafa Hanout, Imam at Masjid Toronto mosque, recited on Ramadan 2016 the following supplication:

“O Allah give victory to the oppressed Muslims everywhere. O Allah give victory to the oppressed Muslims everywhere.

On December 23, 2016 Sheikh Muhammad bin Musa Al Nasr (محمد بن موسى آل نصر) led the Friday prayer at Dar Al-Arqam mosque (Mosquée Dar Al-Arqam) in Montreal. In his sermon, Sheikh Muhammad bin Musa Al Nasr, a Jordanian cleric, called the Jews the “most evil of mankind” and “human demons...” *“What is the disease of the Jews?”*

This article is under the heading of “News” yet language was used that is judgemental.

The words in bold are examples of distortion in reporting a “news” piece, not an opinion piece.

‘Elkasrawy’s prayers were undeniably problematic, but they were also distorted to fit a certain narrative that gave his words added potency amid rising anti-Islamic sentiment.’”

“On a sunny morning in May, Elkasrawy rode an elevator to the 34th floor of a Bloor St. office tower, where two prominent members of Toronto’s Jewish community awaited him.

Dressed in jeans and an electric blue sweatshirt, Elkasrawy sat across a boardroom table from Bernie Farber — the one-time CEO of the Canadian Jewish Congress — and Karen Mock, a former director with B’nai Brith Canada and the Canadian Race Relations Foundation.”

Prominent? Who said? Who decided this? I suggest that this description is open for much discussion in the larger Jewish community that extends far beyond these two left wing ideologues. I noticed that the adjectives for Jews on the left were far more flattering than the adjectives for the Jewish experts on the right.

“Jewish people on the far right are among the loudest voices in the anti-Muslim movement.”

Who are these people-how are they defined, who defined them? What is the difference from being on the right and being on the far right, often associated with white supremacists? Are Jews on the far right considered white Supremacists? Nazis?

Anti-Muslim or anti-Islam? Islam is an ideology.

Halevi’s writings and statements suggest that he sees himself as a soldier in the information wars — particularly when it comes to allegations against Israel, which he challenges by using “continuous, intensive and thorough” research, according to a profile <https://www.economicclub.ca/speakers/264> on the Economic Club of Canada’s website.

This is a blatant piece of opinion.

“anti-Islamist” blog Point de Bascule, from the article-why the quotes? *What does that mean? What is the meaning of Islamist here? There seems to be an interchange between Islamist and Muslim in the article.*

I didn't notice a similar reference to Farber- "pro-Muslim" or "pro-Islam" or the fact that he is on the left and ran for a position in the Liberal government. Karen Mock also ran for government and she, too, is considered on the left, perhaps we could say the far left, with Mr. Farber. Why are Mr. Farber and Ms. Mock not described by these terms-left and far left?

I leave you with statements made by prominent Muslims.

Masjid Toronto described the Elkasrawy's sermons as "offensive to those of Jewish faith" and condemned "all forms of hate and racism towards any faith group or others."

MAC "reached out to leaders in the Jewish community to express our sincere apology for this incident."

NCCM described the Elkasrawy's sermons as "supplications that contained incendiary speech towards the Jewish community."

Muslim and Jewish Liberal MPs stated: **"two Imams in Montreal and Toronto called for the death of Jews during sermons."**

Ryerson president Mohamed Lachemi described Elkasrawy's sermons as **"disturbing, anti-Semitic comments."**

It appears that these experts were aware of the meaning of the prayers and supplications. And named them.

And this link to an article that includes the al Quds Day rally that took place in Toronto on June 24, 2017

I look forward to your review of this complaint.

Here is the response

Pat Perkel <pperkel@mediacouncil.ca>

Sent: January 3, 2018 3:37 PM

To: Diane Bederman; English, Kathy

Cc: John Fraser

Subject: National NewsMedia Council complaint

Dear Ms. Bederman,

Thank you for contacting the National NewsMedia Council with your concern about an article in the Star, and thank you for your patience in waiting for a response.

The article of concern is “A Toronto Imam was accused of hate preaching against Jews but that wasn’t the whole story”, dated October 22 2017. Your stated complaint is that the article was an attack on two Jewish people, with concern that it could inflame anti-Semitism.

You also stated that the article advanced an agenda rather than being news.

We have reviewed in detail both the article and your complaint. As a starting point, we find this article could reasonably be viewed as falling under the news category of explanatory or investigative work. This is an important part of journalism that looks beyond headlines and breaking news into an event, the people and circumstances around it as a way to help the public understand more about society or an issue.

Taking your numbered concerns in order, you allege denigration of reputation of two people mentioned in the article. As evidence you offered different biographies of the two individuals than those used in the article. **The NNC does not consider the existence of different sources to be evidence of a breach of journalistic standards. Widely accepted journalistic practice allows a journalist the right to choose his or her sources.**

You also included a series of emails, which we decline to read in the absence of permission from either the sender or receiver.

Your second concern relates to Mr. Farber’s comment that a statement was anti-Zionist but not anti-Semitic. That reference was to the very narrow case of what one individual said and how it was interpreted. Otherwise the article is not about the Zionist issue. We decline to comment on that aspect of your complaint.

Your third concern cited Mr. Farber’s article about Canadian levels of anti-Semitism compared to Islamophobia. It is no doubt true that Mr. Farber has beliefs that affect his decision making. **Mr. Farber’s view point is well known, and**

presumably he was chosen for the task described in this article because of his attitudes and actions. His beliefs, however based, are his right.

Fourth, you stated the words used by the Imam in question are no different from those used by other Imams, and that the journalist suggested an attempt was made to distort the words. Reading the article's description of research into the controversial recording, including five different translations, there seems to be great question over what words were spoken and if the same ones were posted to social media. The article describes the discovery that the tape was altered, but it also makes it clear that the Imam admits he mis-spoke himself with no intent to harm. We find no breach of journalistic standards in the reporting around these aspects of the story.

Finally, you raised concern that the news article was judgmental. As noted, it was an explanatory piece that gathers facts, opinions, perspectives, and information about similar situations. It is within acceptable practice to summarize or characterize that information for the reader. Given that supporting information is provided, we would not consider such characterization to be opinion in this context.

Regarding your complaint about describing Mr. Farber's leaning, how far left or right a person may be depends in part on the point of view of the assessor. While acknowledging that many points of view exist, a typical, informed reader would view the characterizations made as reasonable.

We decline to comment on the statements made by others following the posting of the clip described in the article.

In light of the above review, we decline to take action on your complaint. We do, however, recognize your engagement and appreciate the time you took to make your point of view.

Kind regards,

Pat Perkel

And lastly, here is my retort to Pat Perkel

Thank you for your response.

I wrote a complaint that contained 4219 words. It is filled with sources. Your response to this complaint was 624 words, including your recognition of my engagement and appreciation of the time I took to make my point of view.

Yet there were no links to sources upon which you based your decision. I assume you have guidelines.

You overrode and undermined the ethical demands of the Toronto Star itself.

Every effort must be made to ensure that everything published in the *Star* is accurate, presented in context, and that all sides are presented fairly.

Journalistic integrity demands that significant errors of fact, as well as errors of omission, should be corrected promptly and as prominently and transparently as warranted.

You wrote “The NNC does not consider the existence of different sources to be evidence of a breach of journalistic standards. Widely accepted journalistic practice allows a journalist the right to choose his or her sources.” **The right to choose-but not cherry pick to promote a narrative. That goes against the Star’s ethical standards that I included in my complaint.**

You pointed out that “Given that supporting information is provided, we would not consider such characterization to be opinion in this context.” But my complaint refers to the “supporting information” provided. That it was chosen to push the narrative. Other information was intentionally left out. That is the ethical sin of omission. This response is tautological.

According to the Council, it is appropriate to pick and choose translations to fit one’s narrative rather than sharing all translations that would cast doubt- because according to you the narrative matters the most. Not the truth. The narrative. That I provided sources that clearly point out that this Imam knew full well what he was saying because all Imams have been taught the same translation is not important. It would affect the credibility of this Imam’s “apology.” Pity you didn’t read his Facebook postings which were available to the journalist at the time of writing her article.

If I understand you, the attack on the reputation of other people is not a concern of the Council; it is appropriate and acceptable to attack the reputation of anyone by choosing sources. And of course sharing any negative comments about Mr. Farber is not permitted as it would affect the narrative of the “journalist.”

Regarding the emails: had you asked I would have provided permission from one of the people involved in the thread. I was given permission to share.

If ever you sit down together and discuss the state of affairs in journalism you might look at yourselves and the promotion of Fake News. Fake News is not made up facts. Fake News is the manipulation of facts to distort a story, to cherry pick for a particular narrative. You approved the defamation of two experts in order to make room for the “journalist” to prove her point which was to exonerate an Imam in Canada for calling out the Jews in ways that you would never condone if used against blacks, gays, or Muslims. You would never allow a journalist the right to override the definition of Islamophobia as you allowed this journalist to omit the accepted definition of antisemitism. As this piece is written and now approved by you, people in Canada will believe that anti-Zionism is not antisemitism, when it is. How did this “help the public understand more about society or an issue”?

You allowed a journalist to accept a statement by one person regarding the statistics on antisemitism and Islamophobia despite the fact that the statistics are wrong. A real journalist would have investigated that statement and presented the facts to Mr. Farber and question him. She didn’t because his response fit her narrative-to exonerate the Imam.

So please explain to me again how this is a news piece that fits into the category of “explanatory or investigative work” when there was no investigation into the statements made? That every attempt was made to undermine those people who provided information that did not fit the intent of the article-to exonerate the Imam.

I am now requesting that you forward the biographies of all of you who discussed my complaint and ruled on it.

It never ceases to amaze me, sadly, how Islamophobia has infected our institutions. Justifying attacks on the Jewish people is acceptable as long as we do not upset an

Imam. Or point out that Islam calls out against the Jewish people regularly; it has been normalized. Too bad there is no Jewophobia. In truth, there exists all over the world an irrational fear of the Jewish people. Yet my fear of Islam is without doubt based on fact. It comes from the Al Fatiha Prayer and the constant calls for death to the Jews, death to Israel (which according to you is not antisemitism because Bernie Farber is your arbiter of the definition of antisemitism) and Imams who share their hate for my people-which is defanged by “journalists” like Wang.

I am an ethicist. I am asking myself what ethical system do you use when making these decisions. **And how is that the demands made by the ethical practices espoused by the Star itself are not respected-by the Star or the Council.**

Perhaps it is a lack of knowledge that made it possible for you to side with the Star. So I am going to provide you with some information that I suggest will be new to all of you. Take the time to read it. One is never too old to learn something new. Sadly, my people in Nazi Germany woke up too late. Before you get all out of shape over that statement, it is well reported that the Muslims learned at the feet of the Nazis. The Grand Mufti was good friends with Hitler. They colluded in the Final Solution. I will, of course, be happy to provide information to you.

In the meantime here is one of my articles about Islam and Judaism.

I know in this day and age reading tweets takes time. Well, this article is more than 140 characters and more than 500 words. But if you care about the fact that the oldest hatred in the world-Jew hatred, is living and breathing in Canada, brought here by Muslims, *not radical Muslims*, then take the time to read this. And don't fool yourselves. This hate is for Christians, as well.

In a series of lectures on the “Minor Signs of Qayamaah – The Last Day”, Toronto Imam Said Rageah said that the Muslims will eventually defeat the Christians and take over Rome, the Capital of Italy where the Vatican City is located.

Rageah, who suggested that signs of the Last Day are already seen in our time, said in this regard the following (Published YouTube on January 12, 2013):

There would be a war [between Muslims and Christians] ... the third group would be victorious. They will win over the enemy [Christians] ... and then the Muslims will go again to Constantinople, which is known as Istanbul today... Muslims will

conquer that land without a fight. First time we did was with a fight. We fought them we won over them, but this time without a fight. Rome same thing. We'll go to Rome. We will not fight. The Muslim believers will pray Allah Akbar [Allah is the greatest] and then they will be victorious. Allah will them the victory over the enemy [Christians].

“In 2016, the Jewish community, which makes up 3.8% of the religious population in the Toronto, was victimized in approximately 30% of the total hate/bias crimes while the Muslim community, which makes up 8.2% of the population was victimized in approximately 15% of the hate/bias crimes include assault, assault with a weapon, criminal harassment, mischief interfere with property, threatening bodily harm, threatening death and wilful promotion of hatred. Out of 66 hate/bias occurrences involving religion, Jews were targeted 43 times and Muslims were targeted 22 times.”

Seems to be a repeat of the anti-Semitism pre-WWII, right through the war, and long after-those lovely signs “No Jews, Dogs or Irishmen” finally disappeared.

Dogs and Irishmen are doing far better here (unless you live in an area where Sharia Law exists-then dogs aren't welcome either) than the Jews. And I blame my government's policies of allowing people into this country who do not accept that we are all equal as is declared in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms section 15.1

YES. We have Canadian values as I have written in my book *Back to the Ethic: Reclaiming Western Values*.

Under the heading of “Equality Rights” this section states:

15 (1) Every individual is equal before and under the law and has the right to the equal protection and equal benefit of the law without discrimination and, in particular, without discrimination based on race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, sex, age or mental or physical disability.

My Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, said on the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination 2017

“On this important day, we reaffirm our ongoing responsibility to speak out against racism, hate, xenophobia, and bigotry in all its forms. Silence is not an option because progress is never permanent.”

Sounds lovely doesn't it? Except anti-Semitism is through the roof in this country. And I hear so little from him about that as he keeps telling Canadians that Islam is compatible with the West. And so many of us have been writing about Jew-hatred, yet we are, at best, spitting into the wind while inundated with calls to fight Islamophobia.

Well, read these anecdotes and then talk to me about Islamophobia.

I get to read articles like these on a regular basis.

So let's talk about tolerance and equality for all as is taught in Islam in Canada.

On December 23, 2016 Sheikh Muhammad bin Musa Al Nasr (محمد بن موسى آل نصر) led the Friday prayer at Dar Al-Arqam mosque (Mosquée Dar Al-Arqam) in Montreal. In his sermon, Sheikh Muhammad bin Musa Al Nasr, a Jordanian cleric, called the Jews the “most evil of mankind” and “human demons” emphasizing that their fate was predetermined by Allah to be killed by the hands of the Muslims.

The following are excerpts from his sermon (originally in Arabic):

What is the disease of the Jews? The Jews' disease was that they believed in part of the Scripture and disbelieve in part. Allah, Glorified and Exalted be He, said on their sin: Do you believe in part of the Scripture and disbelieve in part? And the reward for those of you who do it will be nothing else but failure in life in this world. Allah sentenced them to failure in life in this world.

Allah is not ignorant of what you are doing. What was said about the Jews is said on about those who behave like the Jews... At the end of time when the Muslims will triumph over the most evil of mankind [and] the human demons, the stone and the tree will say: O Muslim, O servant of Allah, O Muslim, O servant of Allah, there is a Jew behind me; come and kill him; but the tree Gharqad would not say, for it is the tree of the Jews.

Similar messages were echoed by other Canadian imams.

Sheikh Abdulqani Mursal, imam at Masjid Al Hikma mosque in Toronto (36 Colville Rd, North York – Lawrence and Keele), explains that the fate of the Jews is destined to be killed by the Muslims.

In a lecture at the **Masjid** Al Hikma mosque, Mursal read ([archived file](#)) the chapter “Turmoil And Portents Of The Last Hour” from Sahih Muslim (hadith collection, meaning narrations attributed to Mohammad), including the following narrations (01:07-07:24 – originally in Arabic, translated by Hadith Collection:

Ibn ‘Umar reported Allah’s Messenger (may peace be upon him) as saying: You will fight against the Jews and you will kill them until even a stone would say: Come here, Muslim, there is a Jew (hiding himself behind me); kill him.

How about this from the ICNA (Islamic Circle of North America) Canada on-line syllabus

“[Hadith] 1820. Abu Hurairah (May Allah be pleased with him) said: The Messenger of Allah(PBUH) said, “The Last Hour will not come until the Muslims fight against the Jews, until a Jew will hide himself behind a stone or a tree, and the stone or the tree will say: ‘O Muslim, there is a Jew behind me. Come and kill him,’ but Al-Gharqad tree will not say so, for it is the tree of the Jews.” [Al-Bukhari and Muslim].”

“Commentary: Gharqad is a thorny plant which is well-known in the area of Palestine. Allah can bestow the power of speech to whatever thing He likes. When Allah wills, He will give mastery to the Muslims. He will help them even by means of plants and stones which will assist the Muslims against the Jews by informing them about the whereabouts of the Jews.”

“The Jews have predominance over the Muslims in spite of the fact that they are a minority. But according to this true narration, the situation will definitely change before the Day of Resurrection, and the Muslims will dominate the Jews. Allah is the Master and Rubb of everything.”

And then there is this all-inclusive, tolerant behaviour on our diverse campuses.

“Anti-Israel activists covered up an Israeli flag with an Algerian flag in order to eliminate all traces of Israel from a multicultural festival at the University of

Ontario Institute of Technology (UOIT) in Oshawa, Ontario, B’nai Brith Canada wrote in a statement. A Facebook screenshot obtained by B’nai Brith, which has since been deleted, shows **members of the UOIT chapter of Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) “celebrating” their act of cultural vandalism by referring to Israeli Jews as “rodents” and telling a Jewish student to “go back to Palestine” after the student condemned their actions.**

And this:

“Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center (FSWC) has reported that on Monday, February 27, 2017 at 8.30 AM a class was dismissed following the discovery of swastikas etched into the walls of a lecture hall at the Victor Phillip Dahdaleh building on campus. “FSWC noted that a similar incident happened last semester in the same classroom when a swastika was found etched in the chalk board. Both incidents were reported to Toronto Police.”

During a sermon at a London, Ontario mosque in 2011 an imam chastised (archived file) his congregation **for hiring Jewish lawyers**. “Islamic institutions organizations are suing one another. All appointing lawyers. Who are these lawyers? Jews. And who is the judge? A Jew as well. Who is paying for these lawyers? You and I”, complained Riad Ouarzazi.

In November, 2016, a motion to hold Holocaust Education Week at Ryerson University was deliberately sabotaged by Obaid Ullah, Ryerson Student Union president, who orchestrated a mass walkout, causing a loss of quorum before the motion was put to a vote.

Prime Minister Trudeau, this is my Canada and I am tired of the continuing Jew hatred in my country. We worked so hard to get rid of it. And here it is again.

Until Islam cleans up its act, I will remain a #JEWISHISLAMOPHOBE

Here is one of my favourites.

Quebec Imam Sayed AlGhitawi (سيد الغتاوي) from the Al Andalous Islamic Center in Montreal, Quebec has recited prayers that include the following supplications (click HERE) (MEMRITV report):

O Allah, destroy the accursed Jews

O Allah, show us the black day you inflict on them

O Allah, show us the wonders of your power and ability inflicted on them,

O the most Merciful O Allah, show us how you do to them what you did to [the peoples] of 'Ād and Thamud [ancient peoples that perished by Allah because they didn't heed the warnings of the prophets]...

O Allah, make their children orphans and their women widows

My understanding of ethics and yours appear to be diametrically opposed.

I await your biographies.

Congratulations, dear readers, you have come to the end. In my not so humble opinion, The Toronto Star and the National News Media Council appear to be defending Jew hatred in the name of Islamophobia.

Chapter Twenty-Six

How many mistakes add up to #FakeNews?

Journalists and editors make mistakes. They are human. At what point does the number of “mistakes” add up to a pre-meditated bias? Like prunes: are five enough? Are six too many?

I set before you a table of more “mistakes” not exposed in the series of articles. You decide.

Yang wrote in the Star article:

“But what did Elkasrawy mean by “desecration”? Again, context is instructive. Days before his prayers, he and his congregants were reading reports of Israeli police deploying tear gas and rubber-tipped bullets inside Al-Aqsa mosque — actions many Muslims would consider to be a desecration of the site, especially during the 10 holiest days of Ramadan.”

True. But also fake. Ms. Yang left out the rest of the context. Why did the Israeli police deploy tear gas and rubber tipped bullets?

Ynet, the Israeli leading news site, reported that the Israeli Police responded to violent riots initiated by Muslims who demanded to ban Jews from visiting al-Aqsa Mosque, which is also known as the Temple Mount, the holiest site for Jews. Documented in video (archived file) by the Israeli Police the riots initiated (archived file) by Muslims included violent confrontations with the Police and throwing stones/ rocks at the Police and civilians (73-year-old woman was injured in her head).

Ms. Yang wrote, “Elkasrawy’s prayers **quickly** gained widespread coverage, from the Star and Sun to the CBC and the Canadian Jewish News, the country’s largest Jewish weekly.”

So what is the definition of quickly? Social media responds immediately. Was anything posted on social media immediately after the prayers were said? And main stream media? What is quickly? One day? Two? Five?

The CIJnews article on Masjid Toronto, including Elkasrawy's prayers, was published on February 18, 2017.

Toronto Sun's first article mentioning Elkasrawy's prayers was published on February 22, 2017.

CBC's first article mentioning Elkasrawy's prayers was published on February 22, 2017. CBC refrained from quoting the content of Elkasrawy's prayers.

CJN's first article mentioning Elkasrawy's prayers was published on February 22, 2017.

Toronto Star's first article mentioning Elkasrawy's prayers but **without** quoting their content was published on February 23, 2017. **Five days** (quickly?) after the CIJnews article.

After five days this is all that the Star reported.

Police spokesperson “Sidhu says police also received a second different complaint involving the mosque this week that police are looking into, but she could not provide details on the allegations involved. The Muslim Association of Canada, which runs the mosque, says it recently learned that “an inappropriate supplication that was offensive to those of Jewish faith” was made at the mosque last summer. The association has apologized for the incident and says it condemns all forms of hate and racism towards any faith group A spokeswoman says the incident involved a junior employee at the mosque who made the supplication in Arabic.”

The Toronto Stare wrote nothing at all about the prayers that became so important later that year.

Please note that the Muslim Association of Canada stated that the prayers were in Arabic. One would assume that those involved from this prestigious group in the decision to apologize would know the meaning of the prayers and that meaning led them to say “it condemns all forms of hate and racism towards any faith group.”

Yet, the premise for the four page article was the “misunderstanding” of the prayer. That the Imam did not understand the meaning of the prayers, in Arabic. That the prayers were taken out of context. That a word was taken out of context. A video was edited to make the Imam look bad. But the Muslim Association of Canada had no problem understanding the prayers and their context. Nor did Wael Shihab, the

head Imam of the Masjid Toronto Mosque who was present with Elkasrawy at one of his prayers.

Ms. Yang did her best to rehabilitate the reputation of Imam Elkasrawy. A noble task. It seems, though, that this was done at the expense of experts to whom she turned. As I wrote, a great deal of correspondence took place between Lt. Col. (ret.) Jonathan Halevi and Ms. Yang, both before publication and following.

Of all the information provided to Ms. Yang regarding Lt. Col. (ret.) Halevi she wrote that his work was a “macabre hobby” and that his research was based on “whatever he finds on the internet.”

Lt. Col. (ret.) Jonathan Halevi had supplied Ms. Yang with information regarding his credentials. He included links to his articles at the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs (JCPA). Yet, Ms. Yang chose to repost information that she had obtained from a 2009 NPR article on Palestinian fatalities during Operation Cast Lead (December 2008-January 2009).

She omitted the following “exculpatory” evidence:

Halevi's research on the Palestinian fatalities was submitted to the “United Nations Fact Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict.” Here is a quote from the UN's report:

“See Lt. Col. (ret.) Jonathan Dahoah-Halevi, “Fatal casualties of the Palestinian security forces

– Myth vs. Reality” (Orient Research Group Ltd., 2009). Its author is a former adviser to the Policy Planning Division of the Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs and current researcher at the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs and co-founder of the Orient Research Group Ltd. In a letter to the Mission, the author stated that the report had been commissioned “to identify the police officers killed and the extent of their affiliation with Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad and other terrorist organizations.” As to the sources and methodology employed, he explained that he had examined materials in the public domain, including official lists of policemen who were killed published by the Palestinian Police and the Gaza authorities, NGO reports and material published by Palestinian armed groups. “The operation in Gaza...” relies on this report, referring to it as “a recent study” (para. 247).”

Jennifer Yang also failed to mention that for more than a decade Jonathan Halevi has been a senior analyst for the JCPA and the articles he published on JCPA's site dealt with Palestinian casualties. These links had been made available to her prior to the publication of the article. Did she read them?

Blocking the Truth of the Gaza War: How the Goldstone Commission Understated the Hamas Threat to Palestinian Civilians-Jonathan D, Halevi

New Revelations About the UN Goldstone Report that Seriously Undermine its Credibility-Dr. Dore Gold and Jonathan D. Halevi

The fatalities of the Palestinian security forces- myth versus reality (Hebrew)-Jonathan D. Halevi⁴

The killing of Samoni family-war crime or blood libel (Hebrew)-Jonathan D. Halevi

List of Palestinian military operatives killed in Operation Cast Lead (Hebrew) - Jonathan D. Halevi

And she chose not to share the link to his testimony as an expert on radical Islam on behalf of the Jerusalem Center in front of the Canadian Foreign Affairs Committee on Dec. 9Th, 2014.

Lt. Col. (ret.) Jonathan D. Halevi has also spoken before legislators in Ottawa, Washington, London, Santo Domingo and Israel and in other prestigious forums in UK, US and Germany on matters relating to counter-terrorism and anti-Semitic incitement emanating from radical Islamist quarters.

Why was this information not shared?

Ms. Yang attempted to denigrate Lt. Col. (ret.) Halevi's translations and sources. Yet, two years earlier Halevi was complimented for his translations by Mazin AbdulAdhim a prominent Canadian Muslim scholar and Imam of Iraqi descent who is affiliated with the pro-Caliphate Islamic global movement of Hizb ut-Tahrir

The "he" refers to Halevi.

Mazin AbdulAdhim: “To be honest, I appreciate his clarification. Only one of those quotes is out of context (the “eye for an eye“ comment). He is actually surprisingly balanced in most of his reporting on me.”

Ms. Yang appears to paint a picture of Halevi as being a fringe radical, and a member of a loose network of right wing anti-Muslim activists.

The public was also left unaware of the comments sent to Ms. Yang from Dr. Mordechai Kedar. Following the publication of Yang’s article about the Imam and his prayers, Dr. Kedar sent the following message. He had been corresponding with her.

“I read your article in the Sun (Star) about the filth/desecration issue, as a translation of Danas al-Yahood. **I am sorry to tell you that this article is extremely biased in favor of the Imam, and depicted Dahoh-Halevi and myself, experts on Islam with MANY years of experience, those who told you the TRUE meaning of Danas. You posed us as bigots and Islamophobes.”**

“...see the TRUE meaning of Danas not in YOUR article but in many other places, since – as I told you – filth and impurity is a COMMON meaning, which is shared by ALL the Islamist imams when they relate to Jews, especially in Israel, Jerusalem and the Temple Mount.”

Ms. Yang also wrote that Lt. Col. (ret.) Halevi was the founder of CIJnews. He was a co-founder and that was clearly marked on each of his articles. “Co-founder and editor of CIJnews.” No research was required. Yes, pointing out this error seems petty and had this been the only factual error, one could forgive. But this small error speaks volumes about her research. She also wrote “CIJ News, an obscure right-wing website that has since been taken down.” Let’s forget about her description as obscure and right-wing. She inferred that CIJ News was taken down for some nefarious reason. She did not inform her readers that she had been told that the website had closed.

The Toronto Star referred to the JDL in Canada. “Right-wing groups also latched on to the story and Elkasrawy’s picture was used on a poster at a rally against M-103. A hate crimes complaint was filed by the Jewish Defense League, which has been active in anti-Islamic protests.” Yang felt the need to add “A local JDL

member is himself facing possible hate crime charges in the U.S. in connection with an alleged assault on a Palestinian-American man in Washington, D.C., earlier this year.” It all sounds so ominous. And then we were informed that Meir Weinstein is “head of the far-right Jewish Defense League of Canada.” There was a need to now refer to the JDL as “far right.” There are approximately 30 members of the JDL in Canada. Thirty. Most of the time the JDL acts in concert with police to provide security when Jews gather in synagogues or hold meetings. I have seen them act as security when police are not available.

When Lt. Col. (ret.) Jonathan Halevi and B’nai Brith Canada requested the opportunity to publish a response to Yang’s defamatory article, the Toronto Star’s Public editor, Kathy English, refused. Why? If the Toronto Star, or any media outlet, stands by their reporting they would have no problem allowing an op-ed rebuttal. How else does someone who feels defamed speak up?

Her response seems to conflict with their stated values.

The Toronto Star position regarding sources: “If it is below our standards we should not have it.” According to their Torstar Journalistic Standards Guide “We do not provide anonymity to those who attack individuals or organizations or engage in speculation — the unattributed cheap shot. People under attack in our publications have the right to know their accusers...If it is below our standards we should not have it.”

But what about named sources who have been attacked? Why does the Toronto Star not allow these people to respond to errors? To what end? What purpose?

How many mistakes are ethical journalists allowed to make and still be called ethical?

And one more question. The Star turned to Bernie Farber. Did they ever ask him if he read the Imam’s social media posts?

I leave you with the words of Bernie Farber, the man called in to help the Imam understand:

“I’ve been in this business long enough to know that before judgments are made, you really need to get all the facts.”

Chapter Twenty-Seven

Is the Toronto Star four page article an outlier?

One might ask if the four-page Toronto Star article was an outlier. A rare error.

It wasn't. Kathy English has her own interpretation of ethical journalism that seems to stray from her own specifications. Although she doth protest, English, the editor; the buck stops here; has also allowed biased op-eds to be published.

English stated "The notion that the office of the prime minister of Canada — or any other politician or public official — could simply "lineup all kinds of people to write op-eds" and expect them to be automatically published in newspapers like the Toronto Star, is both disturbing and laughable.

"It cynically suggests that our journalism is a passive process of publishing to appease powerful special interests."

Despite English's protests, op-eds were published that came from the supporters of the Prime Minister at the time, Justin Trudeau, whose policies were supported by the Toronto Star.

"Jamie Watt, executive chairman of Navigator, Canada's top public relations firm, is a regular freelance contributor to the Toronto Star and recently wrote a column titled 'Why SNC-Lavalin deserves to avoid prosecution.'

"Although a reader's note at the bottom of the article discloses that Watt's PR firm previously had SNC-Lavalin as a client, it begs the question why the Toronto Star thought it a good idea to publish Watt's opinion on SNC-Lavalin in the first place?"

Why did the Toronto Star publish these op-eds? To what end? To promote a narrative?

Which brings us full circle. Why did the Toronto Star, Kathy English, editor, and Jennifer Yang, reporter, write a four page article to clear an Imam whose social media posts clearly shared his animosity toward the Jewish people, Israel and Zionism? The information was available to them as it was available to me, yet

they either failed in their due diligence or consciously chose to ignore the facts. The sin of omission.

They staked much of the article on what could be construed as defamation against Lt. Col. (ret.) Halevi, the author of the post, by accusing him of “incorrectly” translating a video, yet the video, in Arabic, was familiar to all Imams all over the world. A “mistranslation” in ENGLISH would not affect their understanding of the video. To clear the Imam required attacking those who revealed the prayers and suggest that they were Islamophobic.

It is worth noting that Jennifer Yang was nominated for the 69th National Newspaper Awards under the category “Explanatory Work” for her 4 page article “delving into whether an imam who came under attack for anti-Semitic remarks had actually said what he had been accused of saying.”

Alan Dershowitz, lawyer, academic and a scholar of United States constitutional law criminal law and a noted civil libertarian, wrote about his experience with false narratives and biased sources. Sadly, it sounds familiar.

“Among the leading candidates for a Pulitzer Prize in investigative journalism is the Miami Herald and its reporter Julie K. Brown for its series on the Jeffrey Epstein case. The series, however, was not based on rigorous and objective investigation, but rather on one sided, and largely false tips from self-interested lawyers who used the series to their financial advantage. **Brown refused to investigate and/or publish highly credible information that undercut the simplistic and largely false narrative fed her by her biased sources. I know, because I have been providing her with much of the documents and information she chose to bury rather than report. Had she reported this contradictory material, she would have endangered the Pulitzer Prize she has been aiming to win.** The Pulitzer Committee should not reward such biased and result oriented “reporting“ by giving her the prize.”

You have read the four page article and my investigation. I believe the only reasonable conclusion to which one can arrive is that this article is an example of the fabrication of #FakeNews; the result of the egregious omission of the most important facts, particularly the credentials of the two Jewish specialists, the content of Imam Elkasrawy’s social media from Facebook to Twitter, and the

translations of many Muslim experts that agreed with the translation provided by Lt. Col. (ret.) Jonathan Halevi to the newspaper.

Ultimately, the Toronto Star, Jennifer Yang, Kathy English, Bob Hepburn and the Publisher of the Toronto Star all share in producing and protecting #FakeNews.

And, we the people, consumers of news, must hold main stream media to account. Democracy is fragile at the best of times. When the media is no longer trustworthy, democracy is out under greater pressure. And sadly, today, main stream media cannot be trusted. They abused our trust when they chose narrative over fact. Politics over democracy.

Epilogue

The era of Donald Trump has led to a tumultuous relationship between media and government. Now that you have read the book, here are some comments about journalism from other sources; sources especially important for those who choose to become ethical journalists.

Ted Koppel, the former host of ABC's "Nightline," expressed his concerns about the media.

"I'm terribly concerned that when you talk about The New York Times these days, when you talk about The Washington Post these days, we're not talking about The New York Times of 50 years ago. We are not talking about The Washington Post of 50 years ago. We're talking about organizations that I believe have, in fact, decided as organizations that Donald J. Trump is bad for the United States."

Brett Hume said: "Because of the sense among journalists that the election of Donald Trump constituted a national emergency and it was their duty as patriots to resist it and to do all they could to undo this presidency."

Both shared concerns: "blurring of lines separating commentary and coverage is a problem for outlets like the Washington Post and the New York Times." Conrad Black called the reporting an "almost suicidal failure of the media."

Lara Logan stated: "Journalists are not activists. We may share the passion for a particular cause, but our job is to follow the facts wherever they may lead. We can't ignore something that reflects badly on a noble cause, as an activist might. We have to care about the means as much as the end because our duty is to search for the whole truth.

"Nor are we lawyers in a court of law, cherry-picking facts to prove our case. Fortunately, there is only one truth. How we feel about it, how we perceive it, those things are subjective but the truth itself is not.

"Above all, we are not propagandists or political operatives. That is not our job. Many journalists who claim to be objective have publicly taken a political stand, saying the urgency of the time justifies a departure from journalistic standards. Yet they ask us to believe their reporting is still unbiased?"

Journalist Michael Goodwin wrote: “There was a time not long ago when young journalists were taught not to become the story. Apparently, many news organizations have flipped that lesson on its head.”

Chronicle Executive Editor Nancy Barnes wrote “The relationship between a newspaper and its readers is one of trust,” and “These are challenging times for our country, and for journalism. That makes it all the more important that readers trust that we will ferret out the truth, even if it concerns ourselves.”

In the 1920’s Humbert Wolfe wrote his famous poem about UK news hounds:

You cannot hope to bribe or twist
(thank God!) the British journalist.
But, seeing what the man will do
unbribed, there’s no occasion to.

To get the inestimable good that freedom of the press assures one must know how to submit to the inevitable evil it gives rise to. ~ Alexis de Tocqueville

All Americans value the freedom of speech and the freedom of the press, and I believe this is essential for our continued way of life. But with this freedom comes responsibility. That responsibility has been abdicated here by some in the media and some in the government. ~Steven Hatfill

Freedom of the press is the mortar that binds together the bricks of democracy — and it is also the open window embedded in those bricks.~ Shashi Tharoor

Without freedom of the press, there can be no representative government. ~ Charles Maurice de Talleyrand

Freedom of the Press, if it means anything at all, means the freedom to criticize and oppose. ~ George Orwell

No government ought to be without censors; and where the press is not free no one ever will. ~ Thomas Jefferson

Where the press is free and every man able to read, all is safe. ~ Thomas Jefferson

“When the public’s right to know is threatened, and when the rights of free speech and free press are at risk, all of the other liberties we hold dear are endangered.” ~ Christopher Dodd

Only a free and unrestrained press can effectively expose deception in government.
~ Hugo Black

The Founding Fathers gave the free press the protection it must have to bare the secrets of government and inform the people. ~ Hugo Black

There can be no higher law in journalism than to tell the truth and shame the devil.” ~Walter Lippmann

Freedom of the press, or, to be more precise, the benefit of freedom of the press, belongs to everyone – to the citizen as well as the publisher... The crux is not the publisher’s ‘freedom to print’; it is, rather, the citizen’s ‘right to know.’ ~ Arthur Hays Sulzberge

Appendix

Shabnam Assadollahi, a Canadian human rights activist of Iranian origin, challenged Jennifer Yang with a series of tweets exposing the errors in her Toronto Star Star. Yang did not respond to these tweets nor did she correct her mistakes.

Here are Shabnam's tweets to Jennifer Yang:

It's me, Shabnam @HamsedaCA

18 Dec 2017

Replying to @jyangstar

EMBARRASSING – #21 Canadian Palestinian senior activist: “Death of the 'impure' Zionists”

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Whpr0p5bws2RXEiAtGMsWxgjhcihITEC/view>

@TorontoStar @kathyenglish @BernieFarber @aelkasra @CIJAinfo

@ShimonFogel @bnaibrithcanada @BarbaraRKay

It's me, Shabnam @HamsedaCA

17 Dec 2017

Replying to @jyangstar

EMBARRASSING – #19: Official translation by #ICNA headed by Chairman of Canadian Council of Imams: “Give us victory over the disbelieving people”

@TorontoStar @kathyenglish @jyangstar @BernieFarber @aelkasra @CIJAinfo

@ShimonFogel @bnaibrithcanada @BarbaraRKay #cdnpoli

It's me, Shabnam @HamsedaCA

17 Dec 2017

@TorontoStar “experts” called this translation “propaganda”, “mistranslated”, “decontextualized”, “disingenuous” and “slanted translation”.

@TorontoStar @kathyenglish @BernieFarber @aelkasra @CIJAinfo

@ShimonFogel @bnaibrithcanada @BarbaraRKay

It's me, Shabnam @HamsedaCA

15 Dec 2017

Replying to @jyangstar

EMBARRASSING – 18 “Oh Allah, protect the Al-Aqsa mosque from the filth of the Jews... annihilate all the Jews... enable us to kill them!"

<https://www.memri.org/tv/al-aqsa-mosque-address-preacher-ali-abu-ahmad-prays-annihilation-jews>

@TorontoStar @kathyenglish @BernieFarber @aelkasra @CIJAinfo
@ShimonFogel @bnaibrithcanada @BarbaraRKay

It's me, Shabnam @HamsedaCA

14 Dec 2017

Replying to @jyangstar

EMBARRASSING – 17 official translation of Quran by scholar member of Canadian Council of Imams: “Give us victory of the disbelieving people”

@TorontoStar @kathyenglish @BernieFarber @aelkasra @CIJAinfo
@ShimonFogel @bnaibrithcanada @BarbaraRKay

It's me, Shabnam @HamsedaCA

14 Dec 2017

@TorontoStar “experts” called this translation “propaganda”, “mistranslated”, “decontextualized”, “disingenuous” and “slanted translation”.

@TorontoStar @kathyenglish @jyangstar @BernieFarber @aelkasra @CIJAinfo
@ShimonFogel @bnaibrithcanada @BarbaraRKay

It's me, Shabnam @HamsedaCA

13 Dec 2017

Replying to @jyangstar

EMBARRASSING – #16: Hamas senior leader Mahmoud Zahar: We'll fight to "liberate every inch of Palestine from the filth (danas) of the occupation."

@TorontoStar @kathyenglish @BernieFarber @aelkasra @CIJAinfo
@ShimonFogel @bnaibrithcanada

It's me, Shabnam @HamsedaCA

11 Dec 2017

Replying to @jyangstar

EMBARRASSING – #14 #Canadian imam and scholar: the hearts of the #Jews are “filthy” :

@TorontoStar @kathyenglish @aelkasra @CIJAinfo @ShimonFogel
@bnaibrithcanada #cdnpoli #hatespeech

It's me, Shabnam @HamsedaCA

12 Dec 2017

EMBARRASSING – 15 Hamas spokesperson: The intifada will continue till Quds, Aqsa & all Palestine is liberated from the “filth of occupation”

It's me, Shabnam @HamsedaCA

8 Dec 2017

Replying to @jyangstar

EMBARRASSING: #11 #Canadian #Islamic book of supplications: danas=filth & "give us victory over disbelieving people"

@TorontoStar @kathyenglish @BernieFarber @aelkasra @CIJAinfo
@ShimonFogel @bnaibrithcanada @NvrAgainCanada

It's me, Shabnam @HamsedaCA

7 Dec 2017

Replying to @jyangstar

EMBARRASSING – 10 Hamas translates “danas” as filth. “until we cleanse all of our land of the filth of the remaining occupiers”

<http://www.qassam.ps/q/web/statements/details/3>

@TorontoStar @kathyenglish @jyangstar @BernieFarber @aelkasra @CIJAinfo
@ShimonFogel @bnaibrithcanada

It's me, Shabnam @HamsedaCA

6 Dec 2017

Replying to @jyangstar

EMBARRASSING – 9 MEMRI's translation “Oh Allah, liberate the Al-Aqsa Mosque from the filth of the Jews”

<https://www.memri.org/tv/california-sermon-ammam-shahin-prays-allah-turn-jerusalem-palestine-into-graveyard-for-jews>

@TorontoStar @kathyenglish @jyangstar @BernieFarber @aelkasra @CIJAinfo
@ShimonFogel @bnaibrithcanada

It's me, Shabnam @HamsedaCA

3 Dec 2017

Replying to @jyangstar

EMBARRASSING #6: CNN translation: “purify Al-Aqsa mosque from the filth of the damned Jews”

@TorontoStar @kathyenglish @jyangstar @BernieFarber @aelkasra @CIJAinfo
@ShimonFogel @bnaibrithcanada see the link:

<http://www.cnn.com/2009/WORLD/meast/08/14/gaza.clashes/index.html>

It's me, Shabnam @HamsedaCA

2 Dec 2017

Replying to @jyangstar

EMBARRASSING #5; Reuters translates “danas al-Yahood” as “filth of the Jews”@TorontoStar @kathyenglish @jyangstar @BernieFarber @aelkasra @CIJAinfo @ShimonFogel @bnaibrithcanada

It's me, Shabnam @HamsedaCA

29 Nov 2017

Replying to @jyangstar

Your Gov sides with these jihadists: Toronto police investigating a video that shows music being played at this summer’s Al Quds Day rally at #QueensPark that calls for Jews to be stabbed, attacked and beheaded.

It's me, Shabnam @HamsedaCA

27 Nov 2017

Replying to @jyangstar

EMBARRASSING #4 : Another imam at #MasjidToronto : "O Allah, purify al-Aqsa Mosque from the filth of the Jews"

@TorontoStar @kathyenglish @jyangstar @BernieFarber @aelkasra @CIJAinfo @ShimonFogel @bnaibrithcanada

#Cdnpoli @rcmpgrcpolice

It's me, Shabnam @HamsedaCA

25 Nov 2017

Replying to @jyangstar

Embarrassing -2 @TorontoStar justifies translation “filth of the Jews” based on statement by Iran's President.

https://www.thestar.com/news/world/2010/10/14/zionists_will_perish_irans_ahmadinejad_tells_lebanese.html

@TorontoStar @kathyenglish @jyangstar @BernieFarber @MasjidToronto @aelkasra @CIJAinfo @ShimonFogel @bnaibrithcanada

It's me, Shabnam @HamsedaCA

26 Nov 2017

EMBARRASSING #3 : The #TorontoStar directed readers to official explanation of "filth of the #Jews"

<http://archive.is/4XZNs>

It's me, Shabnam @HamsedaCA

10 Jul 2018

Replying to @jyangstar

"#TorontoStar publishes #FakeNews but refuses to retract even after being proven wrong". Why haven't the false info being corrected by Toronto Star? @jyangstar @kathyenglish @TorontoStar @National_ethnic

<https://dianebederman.com/toronto-star-publishes-fake-news-but-refuses-to-retract-even-after-being-proven-wrong/> #cdnpoli #onpoli

It's me, Shabnam @HamsedaCA

11 Jul 2018

"#TorontoStar publishes #FakeNews but refuses to retract even after being proven wrong". Ms @kathyenglish: Why the false info by @jyangstar have not being corrected by Toronto Star yet? <http://dianebederman.com/toronto-star-publishes-fake-news-but-refuses-to-retract-even-after-being-proven-wrong/> ... by @DianeBederman #Cdnpoli #Onpoli @C_Mulroney @fordnation

It's me, Shabnam @HamsedaCA

18 Dec 2017

Replying to @jyangstar

EMBARRASSING – #20 Official translation by Alberta Islamic centre: “Give us victory over the disbelieving people”

@TorontoStar @kathyenglish @BernieFarber @aelkasra @CIJAinfo
@ShimonFogel @bnaibrithcanada @BarbaraRKay

It's me, Shabnam @HamsedaCA

18 Dec 2017

@TorontoStar “experts” called this translation “propaganda”, “mistranslated”,
“decontextualized”, “disingenuous” and “slanted translation”.

@TorontoStar @kathyenglish @jyangstar @BernieFarber @aelkasra @CIJAinfo
@ShimonFogel @bnaibrithcanada @BarbaraRKay

It's me, Shabnam @HamsedaCA

25 Nov 2017

Replying to @jyangstar

EMBARRASSING #News 1- @TorontoStar justifies translation “filth of the
#Jews” based on VP of #Canadian Council of Imams @CCImams

https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2011/10/18/speakers_at_muslim_conference_noted_for_disparaging_gays_and_jews.html

@TorontoStar @kathyenglish @jyangstar @BernieFarber @MasjidToronto
@aelkasra @CIJAinfo @ShimonFogel @bnaibrithcanada #Cdnpoli

It's me, Shabnam @HamsedaCA

10 Dec 2017

Replying to @jyangstar

EMBARRASSING – #13 Senior member of Canadian Council of Imams: Non-
Muslims have “internal filth” <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0By8I4tx-uQjCaUZtWUhMYIEtRDQ/view>

@TorontoStar @kathyenglish @aelkasra @CIJAinfo @ShimonFogel
@bnaibrithcanada @Blazingcatfur @NvrAgainCanada @DianeBederman
#Cdnpoli

It's me, Shabnam @HamsedaCA

25 Nov 2017

Replying to @jyangstar

Reminder - Vice-President of Canadian Council of Imams: “O Allah purify Aqsa Mosque from the filth of the Jews” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sQFaNZSufw8>

@TorontoStar @kathyenglish @jyangstar @BernieFarber @MasjidToronto
@aelkasra @CIJAinfo @ShimonFogel @bnaibrithcanada

It's me, Shabnam @HamsedaCA

4 Dec 2017

More

Replying to @jyangstar

EMBARRASSING – 7 Hizb ut-Tahrir: “Liberation of the blessed land from the filth of Jews”

<http://www.hizb-ut-tahrir.org/index.php/EN/nshow/2237/>

@TorontoStar @kathyenglish @jyangstar @BernieFarber @aelkasra @CIJAinfo
@ShimonFogel @bnaibrithcanada

It's me, Shabnam @HamsedaCA

5 Dec 2017

Replying to @jyangstar

EMBARRASSING – #8 FBIS (US Government service) translates “danas” as filth. Cleanse the land from “the filth of the Jews”

<http://www.imra.org.il/story.php3?id=14243>

@TorontoStar @kathyenglish @jyangstar @BernieFarber @aelkasra @CIJAinfo
@ShimonFogel @bnaibrithcanada

It's me, Shabnam @HamsedaCA

15 Jan 2018

Replying to @jyangstar

Is the @TorontoStar #Canada's #FAKENEWS media outlet? @DianeBederman
Article: <https://dianebederman.com/is-the-toronto-star-canadas-fakenews-media-outlet/>

@Kathleen_Wynne @JustinTrudeau @JohnTory @Blazingcatfur @christi237
@TorontoStar @kathyenglish @BernieFarber @aelkasra @CIJAinfo
@ShimonFogel @bnaibrithcanada @BarbaraRKay

It's me, Shabnam @HamsedaCA

3 Mar 2018

Replying to @jyangstar

Exclusive - #TorontoStar's fake news exposed! Watch the video as evidence:

<http://acdemocracy.org/toronto-stars-fake-news-in-service-of-political-islam/>

@Blazingcatfur @TarekFatah @JustinTrudeau @SpencerFernando
@AndrewScheer

It's me, Shabnam @HamsedaCA

9 Dec 2017

Replying to @jyangstar

EMBARRASSING – 12 Osama AbuIrshaid's duaa calling for liberating Aqsa
Mosque from “all danas” (filth)

@TorontoStar @kathyenglish @DianeBederman @NvrAgainCanada
@BernieFarber @aelkasra @CIJAinfo @ShimonFogel @bnaibrithcanada
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1abhmHb4145VMLygjCxzkxkHRsfC0Qo96/view>