

**Parliamentary Office**

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HOUSE OF COMMONS  
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES

**Hon. Jason Kenney, PC, MP**

Calgary Southeast

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Mr. Khurram Awan

Mississauga, Ontario

[khurramawan@osgoode.yorku.ca](mailto:khurramawan@osgoode.yorku.ca)

Dear Mr. Awan:

Thank you for your correspondence regarding comments I made about the Canadian Islamic Congress complaint against Maclean's magazine and one of its journalists.

I confess to being unmoved by your criticism of my characterisation of the complaint as "a pretty bold attack on the basic Canadian value of freedom of the press and freedom of expression."

In fact, the *Canadian Press* article that raised your ire failed to cite the entirety of my remarks. For instance, I told the reporter that "I find that this attack on freedom of expression by Mr. Elmasry [Mohamed Elmasry, Chairman and President of the Canadian Islamic Congress] ironic given his own track record, which is not exactly one of tolerance and respect for others."

I would like to draw your attention to an exchange from the Michael Coren Show from October 2004. It featured an interview of Mohamed Elmasry, Canadian Islamic Congress Chairman and President. During the interview, Mr Coren asked Mr Elmasry: "So everyone in Israel, so anyone and everyone, irrespective of gender, over the age of 18, in Israel is a valid target?" Elmasry answered with an unequivocal, "Yes."

Remarks such as these are deeply troubling. It requires what can only be described aschutzpah for you to be associated with Mr Elmasry while accusing others of promoting hatred towards another group. Whatever credibility you may have as a proponent of anti-racism is compromised by your continued association with someone who would hold such odious views.

Lastly, I would appreciate your clarification of one aspect of your letter. At the end of the

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cover note that accompanied your letter, you identified yourself as:

Khurram Awan  
Judicial Law Clerk / Articling Student at Law Office of the  
Chief Justice Ontario Superior Court of Justice

Were you writing on your own behalf? Or were you writing on behalf of the Ontario Superior Court of Justice? I have taken the liberty of copying Roslyn Levine, Executive Legal Assistant in the Office of the Chief Justice of the Ontario Superior Court of Justice for clarification.

Yours sincerely,

The Honourable Jason Kenney, PC, MP  
Secretary of State (Multiculturalism and Canadian Identity)

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c.c.:

Roslyn Levine – Executive Legal Assistant, Office of the Chief Justice of the Superior Court of Justice (of Ontario)

Individuals Mr Awan c.c.:d in his initial letter:

Muneeza Sheikh - complainant

Naseem Mithoowani - complainant

Daniel Simard - complainant

Jesse Greener - Ontario Chairperson, The Canadian Federation of Students

Pam Frache - Education Director, The Ontario Federation of Labour

James Clark - Toronto Coalition to Support the War.

Ali Mallah - National President, The Canadian Arab Federation

Imam Dr. Zijad Delic - Executive Director, The Canadian Islamic Congress

Zafar Bangash - Director, The Islamic Society of York Region

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Mohamad Shokr - Coordinator, The Muslim Unity Group  
Imam Salam Elmenyawy - The Muslim Council of Montreal  
Dr. David Liepert - Spokesperson, The Muslim Council of Calgary  
Mumtaz Akhtar - The Ottawa Muslim Association  
Sikandar Khan - The British Columbia Muslim Association  
Dr. Hafizur Rahman - The Islamic Society of Kingston  
Khalid Tarabain - The Canadian Islamic Centre, Edmonton  
Dr. Jamal Badawi - The Islamic Information Foundation, Halifax  
Fayyaz Mehdi - The Muslim Services, Toronto  
Mohamed S. Kamel - Forum Musulman Canadien \ Canadian Muslim Forum (FMC-CMF)