

June 20, 2018

JOINT STATEMENT BY ORGANIZATIONS DEFAMED BY THE SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER

We, the undersigned, are among the organizations, groups and individuals that the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) has maligned, defamed and otherwise harmed by falsely describing as “haters,” “bigots,” “Islamophobes” and/or other groundless epithets. We are gratified that the SPLC has today formally acknowledged that it has engaged in such misrepresentations.

In an out-of-court settlement announced today, the Southern Poverty Law Center formally apologized in writing and via video for having falsely listed Maajid Nawaz and the Quilliam Foundation as “anti-Muslim extremists” in one of the SPLC’s most notorious products, *The Field Guide to Anti-Muslim Extremists*. It also agreed to pay them \$3.375 million, tangible proof that the SPLC, which amounts to little more than a leftist instrument of political warfare against those with whom it disagrees, fully deserves the infamy it has lately earned. For example, in addition to its settlement with Nawaz and Quilliam, the organization has had to disavow multiple misstatements and other errors in its reporting in the past few months. Journalists who uncritically parrot or cite the SPLC’s unfounded characterizations of those it reviles do a profound disservice to their audiences.

Editors, CEOs, shareholders and consumers alike are on notice: anyone relying upon and repeating its misrepresentations is complicit in the SPLC’s harmful defamation of large numbers of American citizens who, like the undersigned, have been vilified simply for working to protect our country and freedoms.

With this significant piece of evidence in mind, we call on government agencies, journalists, corporations, social media providers and web platforms (i.e., Google, Twitter, YouTube and Amazon) that have relied upon this discredited organization to dissociate themselves from the Southern Poverty Law Center and its ongoing effort to defame and vilify mainstream conservative organizations.

Sincerely,

Lt. Gen. (US Army-Ret.) Jerry Boykin
Executive Vice President
Family Research Council

Tom DeWeese
President
American Policy Center

William Becker
President
Freedom X law

Peter M. Friedman
Author
Pleasant Hills, California

Dr. Jennifer Roback Morse
Founder and President
The Ruth Institute

Elaine D. Willman, MPA
Willman-Davis Intergovernmental
Resource Services

Brian Camenker
Executive Director
MassResistance

Dr. Bill Warner
Center for the Study of Political Islam

Frank Gaffney
Founder and President
Center for Security Policy

Dr. Christopher Hull
Executive Vice President
Center for Security Policy

Clare Lopez, Vice President for
Research and Analysis - Center for Security
Policy

Cathy Hinnens
Security Advisor and Founder
dailyrollcall.com

David Barton
Founder
WallBuilders

Tim Barton
President and COO
WallBuilders

Mat Staver
Founder and Chairman
Liberty Counsel

Eunie Smith
President
Eagle Forum

Austin Ruse
President
C-FAM

Christopher Doyle
President
National Task Force for Therapy
Equality

Philip B. Haney
DHS Founding Member & CBP
Officer (Retired)

Tom Trento
Director
The United West

Pamela Geller
Editor in Chief - Geller Report
President - AFDI

David Smith
Executive Director
Illinois Family Institute

George Rasley
Editor
ConservativeHQ.com

Jim Simpson
Freelance Investigative Journalist
and Author - *The Red-Green Axis*

Louie Johnston, Jr.
Founder - Patriot Pastors,
American Constitution Center

Trevor Loudon
Author, Filmmaker, Speaker

Shahram Hadian
Founder
The TIL Project Ministry

Michal Cook
Editor
MercatorNet

Trayce Bradford
President
Texas Eagle Forum

Tim Wildmon
President
American Family Association

Marissa Streit
CEO
PragerU

Michael P. Farris,
President, CEO and General Counsel
Alliance Defending Freedom

Dr. Karen Siegemund
President
American Freedom Alliance

Gunnery Sergeant (Ret.)
Jessie Jane Duff, Senior Fellow - London
Center for Policy Research

Rick Manning
President
Americans for Limited Government

Sandy Rios
Host - Sandy Rios in the Morning
AFR Talk Radio

Gary Bauer
President
American Values

Dr. Frank Wright
President and CEO
D. James Kennedy Ministries

Dale Wilcox
Executive Director and General Counsel
Immigration Reform Law Institute

Ken Cuccinelli
Former Attorney General
Virginia

Dr. Tom Barton, MPH

Brigitte Gabriel
Founder and Chairman
ACT for America

Peggy Dau
Civil Rights Activist

J. Christian Adams
President
Public Interest Legal Foundation

C. Preston Noell III
President
Tradition, Family, Property, Inc.

Martin Mawyer
President
Christian Action Network

Janet Porter
President
Faith2Action