**A JOURNALIST’S GUIDE TO VETTING MUSLIM LEADERS AND MOSQUES
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A Short Primer on Islam*From the** [**Sharia TipSheet**](http://www.liberato.us/sharia-in-america.html) **September 2016**

Too many stories are being written without adequate concern for whether the Muslims and mosques appearing therein have ties to terror or promote violence. The SPJ (Society of Professional Journalists) [Code of Ethics](https://www.spj.org/pdf/spj-code-of-ethics.pdf) imposes duties on journalists to “seek truth and report it,” as well as to provide “thorough” information and “context”.  The Code also states, “The public is entitled to as much information as possible to judge the reliability and motivations of sources.” Even if the reporter is sympathetic to the Muslims or mosques in the story, reporters should, “Support the open and civil exchange of views, even views they find repugnant.”

How should reporters vet Muslim leaders and mosques when writing a story? The steps below are objective standards you must meet. If you fail to vet your sources and interview subjects properly, you are violating journalistic ethics and will be held to account in the [Media Hall of Shame](http://www.liberato.us/media-hall-of-shame.html). Likewise, if you take what they say at face value; proceed in ignorance of basic precepts of Islam as set forth below; fail to consider common subterfuges Muslims use to trick Westerners (some are mentioned below); fail to disclose the connections of the leader or entity to dubious persons or groups; or fail to include experts with opposing views when the subject matter demands it.

**Muslim Leaders**

**Check whether the individual - in any writing, article, interview, quotation, YouTube video, etc. - advocates:**

* terrorism, violence, or jihad
* a caliphate (world domination by Islam)
* adherence to sharia law
	+ Sharia is the all-encompassing body of Islamic law based on the Koran, hadith (sayings and actions of Muhammad), and sunna (rules of law derived from hadith). Sharia prescribes both religious and secular duties, and punishments - guiding behavior in sex, marriage, crime, hygiene, diet, prayer, fasting, economics, and all other facets of life. Muslims consider sharia to be God’s law, not human law.
	+ Advocating adherence to sharia is problematic because sharia purports to apply to - and legally bind - non-Muslims. No other group makes such an aggressive claim. Thus, sharia is placed in the service of Islamist dreams of world domination. Moreover, sharia is totally incompatible with free speech rights, democracy, and limited government under the U.S. Constitution.
	+ More on sharia law at [Discover the Networks](http://www.discoverthenetworks.org/viewSubCategory.asp?id=774)
* extolling obedience to fatwas, condoning honor killings, executing apostates and homosexuals, stoning adulterers, chopping the hands of thieves, etc.
* forcing Americans to convert to Islam, pay jizya tax, or otherwise submit to Islam
* taqiya, hijra, and dawa (religious duties to lie, colonize, and prepare the ground for jihad), or
* interfaith dialogue
	+ Interfaith dialogue is a weapon of war by which Muslims seek to confuse believers of other faiths and prepare the ground for conversion to Islam. ([Catastrophic Failure](https://www.amazon.com/Catastrophic-Failure-Blindfolding-America-Jihad/dp/1511617500/ref%3Dsr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1473210889&sr=1-1&keywords=catastrophic+failure+stephen+coughlin) by Stephen Coughlin, Appendix One)

 **Google the individual for any association with Muslim Brotherhood-related organizations, or with other known terrorist or jihadi groups.**

* The [Muslim Brotherhood](https://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/misc/275.pdf) is “a radical Egyptian movement that seeks to spread Shariah law globally.” The Muslim Brotherhood’s own [*Explanatory Memorandum*](http://www.clarionproject.org/Muslim_Brotherhood_Explanatory_Memorandum)talks of destroying Western Civilization from within ‘by their own hand’ through ‘Civilization Jihad’. The Explanatory Memorandum identifies a number of Muslim Brotherhood-affiliated groups which are conveniently listed at [ShariahTheThreat.org](http://shariahthethreat.org/a-short-course-1-what-is-shariah/a-short-course-16-mapping-the-muslim-brotherhood-in-america/). The list includes the Islamic Association of Palestine, which was the predecessor to CAIR (Council on American-Islamic Relations). CAIR was created to replace IAP or, as some put it, IAP is CAIR’s former name. More on CAIR below.
* When you find the individual has ties to the Muslim Brotherhood or its front groups, you must not accept the individual’s representations at face value regarding the nature of Islam, ‘Islamophobia’, sharia law, the intent of Muslims toward America, the role of Muslims in American society, the role of mosques or Islamic centers in local communities, or anything else. If you include the individual in a story, experts with opposing views or knowledge of the individual’s unsavory connections must also be included.
* In-Depth – Also examine the leader’s ties to Tablighi Jamaat, a little-known but serious threat: “At best, they and their proxy groups form a powerful proselytizing movement that preaches extremism and disdain for religious tolerance, democracy, and separation of church and state. At worst, they represent an Islamist fifth column that aids and abets terrorism. Contrary to their benign treatment by scholars and academics, Tablighi Jamaat has more to do with political sedition than with religion.” An estimated 15,000 Tablighi operatives are active in America, posing a serious national security problem. [Center for Security Policy](http://www.centerforsecuritypolicy.org/2006/01/10/tablighi-jamaat-jihads-stealthy-legions-2/)
	+ There are other Jamaat groups, all apparently stemming from Jamaat-e-Islami, a political movement founded in 1941 in India.

**Check to see if the leaders are listed as members/experts of the Assembly of Muslim Jurists of America** ([AMJA](http://www.amjaonline.org/en/))

* AMJA has been linked to the Muslim Brotherhood. [Clarion Project](http://www.clarionproject.org/content/muslim-jurists-america-urge-hostility-us-legal-system) AMJA’s members advocate the use of sharia law by Muslims appointed as judges in American courts, as well as hatred of ‘man-made’ (i.e., American) law. [Catastrophic Failure](https://www.amazon.com/Catastrophic-Failure-Blindfolding-America-Jihad/dp/1511617500/ref%3Dsr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1473210889&sr=1-1&keywords=catastrophic+failure+stephen+coughlin), p. 58.

**Mosques and Islamic Centers**

**Review the bylaws on their website.** Look for:

* Connections to the Islamic Society of North America. ISNA is [a Muslim Brotherhood front group and unindicted co-conspirator in the *Holy Land Foundation* trial](https://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/misc/275.pdf). The case concerned material support for terrorism. A cache of unearthed documents discussed destroying Western Civilization from within “by their own hand” – more on HLF in the Primer below).
* Connections to other Muslim Brotherhood-linked groups, e.g. Islamic Circle of North America (ICNA), Assembly of Muslim Jurists of America (AMJA), etc.
* Whether sharia adherence is required
* Whether land titles are held by the [North American Islamic Trust](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_American_Islamic_Trust) (NAIT – “[an ‘entity’ of the Muslim Brotherhood’s Palestine Committee](https://shariaunveiled.wordpress.com/2015/11/28/radical-mosques-in-america-is-there-one-near-you/), a sub-division secretly established to support the Hamas terrorist group”. NAIT controls a number of [terrorism-connected mosques](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_American_Islamic_Trust#Controversy), including those implicated in 9/11, the Boston Marathon bombing, and the Ft. Hood shooting.
	+ NAIT is also variously described as an [affiliate of ISNA](http://www.globalmbwatch.com/north-american-islamic-trust/) or as having been [created by a predecessor of ISNA](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_American_Islamic_Trust). Regardless, NAIT was an [unindicted co-conspirator](http://nypost.com/2015/07/26/the-us-mosque-link-between-islamic-attacks-that-authorities-are-ignoring/) in the *Holy Land Foundation* trial described below.
	+ “NAIT holds title to more than 300 mosques and has helped finance more than 500 Islamic centers in America.” [New York Post](http://nypost.com/2015/07/26/the-us-mosque-link-between-islamic-attacks-that-authorities-are-ignoring/)
	+ “Because NAIT controls the purse strings of these many properties, it can exercise ultimate authority over what they teach and what activities they conduct. Specifically, the Trust seeks to ensure that the institutions under its financial influence promote the principles of [Sharia Law](http://www.discoverthenetworks.org/viewSubCategory.asp?id=774) and Wahhabism.”  [Discover the Networks](http://www.discoverthenetworks.org/printgroupProfile.asp?grpid=7423)

**Vet the imam’s qualifications and background for any connection to sharia law.**

* Vet the imam, board members, and visiting speakers following the guidelines for vetting Muslim leaders above
* Examine the imam’s resume or curriculum vitae for the schools he attended, the names of the degrees he earned, and content of any subject he teaches.
* In-Depth - For individual imams, try to derive or find their names in Arabic or Urdu and search Arabic or Urdu sites in those languages. This can also be done in Malay and Indonesian.

**Example:** [Islamic Society of Greater Houston (ISGH)](https://isgh.org/)

* + Page B1 of the [Bylaws](https://isgh.org/isgh-constitution-and-bylaws/) stipulates that all dues-paying members are members of ISNA.
	+ Page C2 requires obedience to sharia.
	+ Page 99 of the [Policy Manual](https://isgh.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/ISGH-Policy-Manual_Dec-2013.pdf) says that the ISGH land titles are held by NAIT.
	+ It is a red flag if the entity’s Bylaws, policy manual, constitution, etc. are not publicly disclosed.
	+ If you find such connections in your situation, no story you write will be accurate without disclosing the connections to your readers.

**Example:** [Muslim Community Center (Silver Spring, Maryland)](http://mccmd.org/)

* + The imam in 2016, Sh. Mohamed Abdullahi**,** is a graduate of Al-Azhar and has a diploma in sharia law from the National Somali University. He teaches sharia fiqh and tafsir at the MCC. <http://mccmd.org/services/about-imam>

**Check to see whether the imam or mosque has sought the assistance of CAIR in any matter** (including [RLUIPA](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Religious_Land_Use_and_Institutionalized_Persons_Act) cases - Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act).

* CAIR is not a ‘civil rights organization’. CAIR is a Muslim Brotherhood affiliate and conspires to support terrorists. This is documented in [footnote 13 of the government’s brief](http://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/case_docs/542.pdf) in the jihadi case of United States v. Sabri Benkahla. Proof that CAIR uses deception to conceal its connections to terrorists from the American public has been introduced in court on more than one occasion. Id.
	+ CAIR has been designated a terrorist organization by the [United Arab Emirates](http://www.discoverthenetworks.org/printgroupProfile.asp?grpid=6176).
	+ Much more on CAIR’s influence operations and foreign ties at [CAIRunmaked.org](http://cairunmasked.org/)

**See what’s in the bookstore.**

* Books such as *Reliance of the Traveller* (a manual of sharia law) and *Milestones* by Sayyid Qutb (a treatise on political Islam) indicate aspirations to world domination under sharia law.
* Additional violence-positive books are described at [Mapping Shari’a](http://mappingsharia.com/) (navigate to ‘Sanctioned Violence: The Texts’)

**Example:** The Abstract from the studies at [Mapping Sharia](http://mappingsharia.com/) imparts a flavor of the analysis required to size up an Islamic center or mosque:

*A random survey of 100 representative mosques in the U.S. was conducted to measure the correlation between* ***Sharia adherence*** *and* ***dogma calling for violence against non-believers****.  Of the 100 mosques surveyed, 51% had texts on site rated as* ***severely advocating violence****; 30% had texts rated as* ***moderately advocating violence****; and 19% had* ***no violent texts*** *at all.  Mosques that presented as Sharia adherent were more likely to feature* ***violence-positive texts*** *on site than were their non-Sharia-adherent counterparts.  In 84.5% of the mosques, the imam recommended studying violence-positive texts.  The leadership at Sharia-adherent mosques was more likely to recommend that a worshiper study violence-positive texts than leadership at non-Sharia-adherent mosques.  Fifty-eight percent of the mosques* ***invited guest imams known to promote violent jihad****.  The leadership of mosques that featured violence-positive literature was more likely to invite guest imams who were known to promote violent jihad than was the leadership of mosques that did not feature violence-positive literature on mosque premises.*[emphasis added]

**Short Primer on Islam (basic concepts and resources)**

* **Basic Concepts** (if you don’t know these, you are ignorant and your story will be ignorant):
	+ Taqiya, hijra, and dawa (religious duties to lie, colonize, and prepare the ground for jihad)
	+ [“Understanding Shari’ah’s Role in the War”](http://www.wired.com/images_blogs/dangerroom/2012/05/guandolo_jihad_islamic_law.pdf) by John Guandolo (former FBI agent)
		- Islam’s stated threat doctrine (jihad)
		- Dar al Harb (‘house of war’, i.e., non-Muslims)
		- Ijma (scholarly consensus – considered authoritative by Muslims; requires the establishment of a caliphate)
		- Abrogation (later war-like provisions of the Koran nullify earlier peaceful proclamations) (n.b. – a common subterfuge is to quote earlier peaceful passages of the Koran without telling you they have been abrogated by later passages)
		- More concepts and terms in this six-page document
* **Islam is not a ‘religion of peace’.
Jihad is core doctrine of mainstream Islam, not off to the side or added later by ‘extremists’.**

**Sharia law prescribes required conduct in all spheres of life, not just the spiritual realm, and demands conformity from all non-Muslims in the world. No other religion has such a code.**

* + 270 million people have been killed by jihad, by one estimate. Other estimates are higher (e.g., Pamela Geller uses 300 million).
		- <https://www.politicalislam.com/tears-of-jihad/>
	+ [164 Jihad Verses in the Koran](http://www.answering-islam.org/Quran/Themes/jihad_passages.html) – violent jihad is core doctrine; there is no way around it.
	+ [*Catastrophic Failure*](https://www.amazon.com/Catastrophic-Failure-Blindfolding-America-Jihad/dp/1511617500/ref%3Dsr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1472164261&sr=8-1&keywords=catastrophic+failure+by+stephen+coughlin) by Stephen Coughlin - 600 pages of definitive and irrefutable documentation that jihad is central to the sources that Muslims themselves deem authoritative – the Koran, hadith, and scholarly consensus. The Muslims who say jihad is not in their core doctrine either don’t understand their own doctrine, or they are lying to you as a matter of deliberate strategy (taqiya).
	+ Muslims redefine ‘peace’ to mean ‘peace with Muslims but not non-Muslims,’ or say peace will come when everyone else submits to Islam. [Answering-Islam.org](http://www.answering-islam.org/Terrorism/peace_concept.html)  ‘Peaceful coexistence’ is premised on subordinating free speech to Islamic laws. Coughlin, *Catastrophic Failure*, p. 331. Redefinition of terms that play well to Western ears is a common Muslim subterfuge.
		- You are on notice that Muslims use such terms as ‘peace’, ‘peaceful coexistence’, and ‘free speech’ as terms of art to trick you into believing that their doctrine and intentions are benign and compatible with Western values.
* [**Shariah: The Threat to America**](https://www.centerforsecuritypolicy.org/upload/wysiwyg/article%20pdfs/Shariah%20-%20The%20Threat%20to%20America%20%28Team%20B%20Report%29%20Web%20Version%2009302010.pdf)(‘Team B II report’ by top national security professionals)
	+ - [1. What Is Shariah?](http://shariahthethreat.org/a-short-course-1-what-is-shariah/)
		- [2. How Does Shariah Define Jihad?](http://shariahthethreat.org/a-short-course-1-what-is-shariah/a-short-course-2-how-does-shariah-define-jihad/)
		- [3. ‘Civilization Jihad’ – the Muslim Brotherhood’s Potent Weapon](http://shariahthethreat.org/a-short-course-1-what-is-shariah/a-short-course-3-civilization-jihad/)
		- [4. True Lies – the Paradox of Debating Shariah](http://shariahthethreat.org/a-short-course-1-what-is-shariah/a-short-course-4-debating-shariah/)
		- [5. Taqiyya – A Concept of Deceit that Security Professionals Must Know](http://shariahthethreat.org/a-short-course-1-what-is-shariah/a-short-course-5-taqiyya/)
		- [6. Slander – How it is Used and Abused Under Shariah](http://shariahthethreat.org/a-short-course-1-what-is-shariah/a-short-course-6-slander/)
		- [7. How Shariah ‘Blasphemy’ Laws are Being Imposed On Us](http://shariahthethreat.org/a-short-course-1-what-is-shariah/a-short-course-7-blasphemy/)
		- [8. What is the Muslim Brotherhood and How Does it Operate?](http://shariahthethreat.org/a-short-course-1-what-is-shariah/a-short-course-8-what-is-the-muslim-brotherhood-and-how-does-it-operate/)
		- [9. Genesis of the Muslim Brotherhood](http://shariahthethreat.org/a-short-course-1-what-is-shariah/a-short-course-9-genesis-of-the-muslim-brotherhood/)
		- [10. Movement of the Muslim Brotherhood into the West](http://shariahthethreat.org/a-short-course-1-what-is-shariah/a-short-course-10-movement-of-the-muslim-brotherhood-into-the-west/)
		- [11. The Muslim Brotherhood’s Westward Infiltration](http://shariahthethreat.org/a-short-course-1-what-is-shariah/a-short-course-11-the-muslim-brotherhood%E2%80%99s-westward-infiltration/)
		- [12. The Muslim Brotherhood in America](http://shariahthethreat.org/a-short-course-1-what-is-shariah/a-short-course-12-the-muslim-brotherhood-in-america/)
		- [13. The Holy Land Trial: On the Trail of the Muslim Brotherhood](http://shariahthethreat.org/a-short-course-1-what-is-shariah/a-short-course-13-the-holy-land-trial-on-the-trail-of-the-muslim-brotherhood/)
		- [14. The Muslim Brotherhood’s ‘Strategic Plan’](http://shariahthethreat.org/a-short-course-1-what-is-shariah/a-short-course-14-the-muslim-brotherhood%E2%80%99s-strategic-plan/)
		- [15. Penetration of the US Government: A Case Study](http://shariahthethreat.org/a-short-course-1-what-is-shariah/a-short-course-15-penetration-of-the-us-government-a-case-study/)
		- [16. Mapping the Muslim Brotherhood in America](http://shariahthethreat.org/a-short-course-1-what-is-shariah/a-short-course-16-mapping-the-muslim-brotherhood-in-america/)
		- [17. Who’s Who in the American Muslim Brotherhood](http://shariahthethreat.org/a-short-course-1-what-is-shariah/a-short-course-17-who%E2%80%99s-who-in-the-american-muslim-brotherhood-msa-isna/)
* ***Holy Land Foundation* (HLF) Trial for Funding Hamas, Dallas, 2007-2008**
	+ This is the key to understanding the Muslim Brotherhood (MB) drive for sharia in America
	+ Description of HLF with links to documents
		- <http://www.investigativeproject.org/case/65/us-v-holy-land-foundation>
	+ [Government’s Trial Brief](http://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/case_docs/422.pdf)
		- Most important HLF Document is “The Explanatory Memorandum” giving the action plan for sharia supremacy.
		<http://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/case_docs/445.pdf>
	+ Note that the first half of the Explanatory Memorandum is in Arabic and the English translation starts on page 18.
		- Page 21, item 4, calls for civilizational jihad to destroy us.
		- Page 24, item 17, calls for the mosque or Islamic Center to lead the battalions.
		- Page 32 lists the Muslim Brotherhood organizations, including ISNA, NAIT, IIIT and the IAP – the Islamic Association of Palestine – which is CAIR’s former name.
* **Detailed Information on the Muslim Brotherhood – USA**
	+ “The Muslim Brotherhood’s US Network”, Zeyno Baran, Center on Islam, Democracy and the Future of the Muslim World, 2008. <http://www.hudson.org/research/9882-the-muslim-brotherhood-s-u-s-network>
* **How Muslims view and treat non-Muslims:**
	+ Koran passages on non-Muslims - [The 13 Verses that reveal that a Muslim is not the friend of a Kafir](http://cspipublishing.com/statistical/pdf/Friends.pdf)
	+ “Islam's treatment of us can be found in one word — kafir. The Koran says that a kafir (unbeliever) can be robbed, killed, tortured, mocked, insulted, beheaded, raped, crucified and on and on. The Hadith and the Sira agree with the Koran. Every single reference to the kafirs is negative, offensive and hateful. The word "kafir" illustrates both of political Islam's principles — submission and duality. The Trilogy (Koran, Sira and Hadith) says that every kafir in the world must submit to political Islam. The Koran also establishes dualism with its ethical system. A Muslim is not to kill another Muslim; a kafir may be killed, or not. A Muslim is not to lie to another Muslim; a kafir may be deceived or not. And so on. Islam has one set of ethics for Muslims and another set of ethics for the kafir — dualistic ethics.” [Citizen Warrior](http://www.citizenwarrior.com/2011/05/golden-rule-in-islam.html)
* **Muslim Brotherhood Terror Designation Bill** - [H.R.3892](https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/3892?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22hr3892%22%5D%7D&resultIndex=1) / [S.2230](https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/2230?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22s2230%22%5D%7D&resultIndex=1) (2015)
	+ The findings of fact in the bill state that several countries have designated the Muslim Brotherhood as a terrorist organization. The findings also document terrorism financing inside the U.S. by the Muslim Brotherhood (also proven in the *Holy Land Foundation* trial cited above):
		- “The fact that the international Muslim Brotherhood engages in terrorism financing inside the United States was attested to in February 2011 by FBI Director Robert Mueller”