

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Rhonda R Shearer** <rhonda.r.shearer@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, Sep 26, 2014 at 2:13 PM
Subject: Re: SENT ON BEHALF OF FRANK W. RYAN
To: "Fitzgerald, Elizabeth" <elizabeth.fitzgerald@dlapiper.com>
Cc: "Ryan, Frank" <Frank.Ryan@dlapiper.com>

Dear Mr. Ryan,

I have sent your assistant the email response to your clients non-response. I have include an exchange with one of two lawyers I have had to consult.

For a news outlet to have lawyers respond to fair questions instead of editors or their PR is the opposite of transparency, a burden and gives the impression you are trying to intimate and silence me.

I hope you and your clients will reconsider your approach. Again my deadline is Sunday at 4pm EST.

Thank you,
Rhonda

Rhonda R. Shearer <rhonda.r.shearer@gmail.com>

Sep 26 (10 days ago)

to Elizabeth

Dear Mr. Ryan,

Thank you for your email. Please see email chain below. I would like to speak to the person responsible regarding answers to my questions. I have pushed my my deadline to Sunday afternoon which should give plenty of time. Transparency is practiced at all the credible news outlets and I expect the public will expect this from Al Jazeera.

I read your letter and plan to run it in full. But several points:

- Any debate of fact or disagreement about how to the handle the three imprisoned journalists cases between Mr. Farag and Al Jazeera, and now Khaled Abu Bakr, also gone, is a matter of great public interest.
- Please note that your blanket response of falsity and your charges of Farag's unethical character and acts, only addresses a few questions and the issues we raised.

- For example, the questions about the Al Jazeera letter to the press center. This has nothing to do with Farag and your letter does not address these questions.
- We have also verified with another lawyer --Khaled Abu Bakr--that he is also no longer on the case either. This also has nothing to do with Farag.
- We asked who are the criminal lawyers now, as we are trying to verify what we were told by multiple sources that the three journalists have gone without criminal lawyers and we want to verify if true.
- Farag's complaints about your client and the conflict with Al Jazeera is documented by emails, in part. I have asked for your client to verify a few emails to fact check their authenticity. But you or your clients have given no reply.

We are interested in the truth and finding out all we can about any and all mitigating circumstances and facts that your client has related to these serious accusations we understand Egyptian prosecutors are looking into, as well as report to us any specific errors of fact that they believe counter accusations. We have pushed back our deadline multiple times to accommodate your clients.

Again, we have given your client fair opportunity to verify documents linked below to determine their authenticity and address the specific and fair questions we have asked.

Best regards,
Rhonda

[Reply](#), [Reply All](#) or [Forward](#) | [More](#)



DLA Piper LLP (US)
1251 Avenue of the Americas, 27th Floor
New York, New York 10020-1104
www.dlapiper.com

Francis W. Ryan
frank.ryan@dlapiper.com
T 212.335.4850
F 917.778.8850

September 25, 2014

VIA E-MAIL AND OVERNIGHT MAIL

Rhonda Roland Shearer
Director, Art Science Research Laboratory
Editor-in-chief, publisher, iMediaEthics
62 Greene Street
New York, New York 10012

Re: Al Jazeera Journalists Wrongfully Detained in Egypt

Dear Ms. Shearer:

On behalf of our client Al Jazeera Media Network (“Al Jazeera”), we are writing in response to the emails you directed to AJMN earlier this week. Going forward, please direct all communications to me.

In response to your emails, we must emphasize that it would be irresponsible for anyone to accept as true any allegations made by Farag Fathy Farg, an attorney who previously represented Al Jazeera journalists wrongfully detained in Egypt. They are false. As should be clear to any objective observer, Farag Fathy Farg has breached the ethical duties owed by lawyers to their clients and is no longer acting to protect Al Jazeera’s journalists. As a result of these failures, the Al Jazeera journalists wrongfully detained in Egypt are no longer represented by Farag Fathy Farg. AJMN remains committed to doing all it possibly can to protect these journalists, who have done nothing wrong. Toward this end, AJMN is committed to enforcing the legal rights of their journalists and to ensuring that they are properly represented as Al Jazeera does everything within its power to secure their release as soon as possible.

Very truly yours,

DLA Piper LLP (US)

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Frank W. Ryan (MDH)'. The signature is written in a cursive style.

Frank W. Ryan

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Alison Carmody <Carmodya@aljazeera.net>

Date: Thu, Sep 25, 2014 at 8:18 AM

Subject: RE: Media Inquiry: RE Second story fact check

To: Rhonda R Shearer <rhonda.r.shearer@gmail.com>

Cc: Hoda Ayyad <ayyadh@aljazeera.net>, Hasan Salim Patel <Hasan.Patel@aljazeera.net>

Dear Rhonda,

Midnight Doha time today should be plenty of time.

Do note that I am on leave from end of day - my colleagues on the cc will respond accordingly.

Kind regards,

Alison

From: Rhonda R Shearer [mailto:rhonda.r.shearer@gmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 2:57 PM

To: Alison Carmody

Subject: RE: Media Inquiry: RE Second story fact check

Importance: High

Dear Alison,

Certainly. I appreciate that you need time to reply as you are taking this seriously. That is why I asked you to estimate how much time. As you have seen, and I hope you appreciate, that we even fact check and ask for comment on commentaries which is not a frequent practice for opinion pieces as you know. How much time are asking to be given?

Thank you,
Rhonda

At 07:25 AM 9/25/2014, you wrote:

Dear Rhonda,

Thank you.

As the questions are quite in-depth, and this requires us due time to respond.

Now there are additional questions, we do ask you grant us further time on this as a matter of right of reply.

I assure you we are taking this seriously.

Kind regards,

Alison

From: Rhonda R Shearer [<mailto:rhonda.r.shearer@gmail.com>]
Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 1:33 PM
To: Alison Carmody
Subject: Media Inquiry: RE Second story fact check
Importance: High

Dear Alison,

Here are fact check questions and an opportunity for you to respond to a commentary iMediaEthics will publish in approx. 48 hours by Nader Gohar. Please see below.

Also, would you give me an approx. time when you will be responding to my other inquiry? I am concerned about the deadline.

Thank you,
Rhonda

Fact checking, opportunity to respond regarding forthcoming iMediaEthics commentary by Nader Gohar.

1. During the raid, the head of the Al Jazeera English channel, Abdullah Mousa, was not present. Yet on the same day he decided to fly to Doha without informing anyone instead of remaining in Cairo to face the authorities.

Question: Why did Abdullah Mousa leave the country instead of facing authorities after the raid?

2. A lawyer sent by Al Jazeera Arabic confirmed to Egyptian authorities that the two channels operated as a single entity, contradicting the previous notion that the English Channel worked separately, and confirming that the two had cooperated in illegal ways.

Questions:

a. Why did your lawyer at that time confirm to authorities that AJ English and AJ Egypt Live worked as a single entity?

b. What did you do to fix this?

3. Nader's opinion: Al Jazeera blindly supported the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt and played a major role in bringing them to power

Question: Does Al Jazeera support the Muslim Brotherhood monetarily, either currently or in the past?

4. Nader stated: Farag advised you that the \$150 million dollar lawsuit against Egypt was harmful to his case.

Questions:

a. Why did Al Jazeera send out a press release, 28 April 2014, timed right before the critical court session, May 15, 2014 when the lawyers were going to present the defense case?

" AL JAZEERA SERVES NOTIFICATION OF DISPUTE ON EGYPT."

http://www.carter-ruck.com/Documents//Press_Release_Al_Jazeera_Egypt-280414.pdf

b. Why wouldn't you delay the lawsuit until after the criminal matter was settled since aggravating the relationship between Qatar and Egypt is, by commonsense of an average person standard, an obvious negative to the three journalists' cases?.

At 02:48 PM 9/24/2014, you wrote:

Dear Rhonda

Do bear with me as this may take time to respond to as it's evening here.

Kind regards

Alison

Sent from my iPhone

On 24 Sep 2014, at 9:44 pm, "Rhonda R Shearer" <rhonda.r.shearer@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Alison,

Many thanks for your email. Here are my questions--please see list below. I will likely have follow-ups. Looking forward to your timely response.

Call me anytime. [212 925 8812](tel:2129258812) or [917 3794250](tel:9173794250). Again, thanks for your kind consideration of this matter.

**Best regards,
Rhonda**

RE The Al Jazeera letter to the press center

1. Did Al Jazeera submit this letter --see this --

http://www.imediaethics.org/misc/2014/Al_Jazeera_press_center_letter.pdf --

to the press center ?

1a. Is there any other document you sent the Press Center besides this one?

2. Why are only three employees listed in the letter?

3. Why is the Mostafa Samir Hawaa [the tea and coffee man, office help] listed as a "sound" ?

3. Why didn't you submit all the names of all of your workers?

4. Did Mohamed Fahmy, bureau chief, request that his name be submitted to obtain press credentials from the press center and you told him it was taken care of?

Lawyers

5. The lawyer, Khaled Abu Bakr, who represented Mohamed Fahmy as a friend [after Farag], verified with me that he was no longer representing Fahmy or the case. Why? Did he quit or was he fired?

5a. I am told by multiple sources that there is no lawyer now for the three imprisoned journalists, Fahmy, Greste, Mohamed. If this is not true, what is the name of the lawyer or lawyers?

5b. Have you paid all legal bills? Are you now paying for Fahmy, Greste, Mohamed's lawyer? Did you pay for Farag and Abu Bakr's legal representation? If it was another lawyer, please say who, so I can verify with them.

Unlicensed channel,

6. Did you ever broadcast Al Jazeera Arabic content on Al Jazeera English?

7. My understanding is you operated out of the Marriott Hotel instead of following the rules for having an office in Media City and keeping a required amount of monies in a bank account. Is this correct?

7b. Why did you run a pirate channel that in any country, not just Egypt, would be criminal instead of following rules for licensing?

Mubashir Masr

8. Was Al Jazeera ever in possession in Egypt of illegal equipment such as TVUs and Thuraya Satellite phones?

9. On Egypt Live you continually broadcast footage of protests in Egypt, likely using such equipment. How do your workers have legal access to, or use of, such expensive equipment in Egypt that produces footage sent to Doha now and before the raid?

\$ 1.5 million

10. Documents indicate that AlJazeera deposited \$1.5 million into Farag Farthy Farag's bank account and he was told to pay staff in cash. Farag refused and it was worked out with you where he signed checks to pay 10 million in taxes. Do you have any comment?

11. Farag said he was eventually told that the cash you said was to be picked at his office, was not for staff, but to pay protesters. Did you tell him this?

11a. Are you paying protesters? How many?

11b. Was the budget \$1.5 million a month?

12. If yes, who, specifically did Al Jazeera want paid in cash, and what were these people being paid for?

13. Does Al Jazeera have a separate bank account in Egypt to distribute salaries to your employees still there?

14. How are Mubasher Misr workers paid?

Emails

15. Are the emails between your legal office and Farag authentic?

http://www.imediaethics.org/misc/2014/emails_a1-2.pdf

http://www.imediaethics.org/misc/2014/emails_b1-2.pdf

http://www.imediaethics.org/misc/2014/emails_c1-2.pdf

At 12:22 PM 9/24/2014, you wrote:

Hi Rhonda

Do send the list of questions - that would be best with the time difference.

Kind regards

Alison

Sent from my iPhone

On 24 Sep 2014, at 6:39 pm, "Rhonda R. Shearer" <rhonda.r.shearer@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Ms. Carmody,

I am trying to reach someone in your office to verify documents and to obtain comment. Please see below. Thank you.

Best regards,

Rhonda

On Wed, Sep 24, 2014 at 10:54 AM, Rhonda R. Shearer <rhonda.r.shearer@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Mr. Osama,

I am trying to reach someone for comment. Please see below.

Thank you,

Rhonda

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Rhonda R. Shearer <rhonda.r.shearer@gmail.com>

Date: Wed, Sep 24, 2014 at 8:00 AM

Subject: Fwd: Media Inquiry: On deadline for a story about allegations

To: legal@aljazeera.net

Dear Lynn, Thank you for your help. I understand that Egyptian prosecutors are looking into this matter now. I am seeking comment and fact checking documentation from all parties.

Please find email below.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Rhonda R. Shearer <rhonda.r.shearer@gmail.com>

Date: Tue, Sep 23, 2014 at 9:41 PM

Subject: Media Inquiry: On deadline for a story about allegations

To: paul.quinn@aljazeera.net

I have sent this from a second email account to help ensure that you have received it.

Dear Mr. Quinn,

I am the editor-in-chief of iMediaEthics, a not-for-profit US based media ethics news site. See more about us below my signature.

I wanted to give you an opportunity to respond and ask some fact check questions for a story about serious allegations made about Mubasher Misr and Al Jazeera English, and its impact on your three imprisoned journalists.

I would also like to verify with you the authenticity of documents I have obtained. Please view linked documents below.

Al Jazeera Emails with Farag Fathy Farg, regarding representation for three Al Jazeera English journalists.

http://www.imediaethics.org/misc/2014/emails_a1-2.pdf

http://www.imediaethics.org/misc/2014/emails_b1-2.pdf

http://www.imediaethics.org/misc/2014/emails_c1-2.pdf

Al Jazeera English to Press Center letter

http://www.imediaethics.org/misc/2014/Al_Jazeera_press_center_letter.pdf

I must tell you in fairness, I am not a lawyer, but based on the facts and testimony I have gathered and on belief, the revelations in my report involve possible crimes committed in Egypt by Al Jazeera in its operation, including wiring money to your lawyer's bank account to be paid out in cash, to, who you claimed at the time, was your "staff." I am told the money that you wired (\$1.5 million), your lawyer discovered, was instead to pay protesters. You asked to allow someone to arrive at his office to pick up cash instead of registered payments by cheque. Other allegations include your use of illegal TVU equipment for Mubasher Misr broadcasts and the attempt to operate this live news channel in Egypt without registering properly in compliance with Media City rules including money to be kept on deposit and maintaining an office.

If you have rebuttals or mitigating facts, I am very interested to learn them for fairness, balance and accuracy in my story. So how would you like to proceed? Would you like me to send you a list of questions? I am on deadline and planning on publishing this report in approximately 36 hours (Thurs. mid-day EST).

Best regards,
Rhonda

Rhonda Roland Shearer
director, Art Science Research Laboratory
editor-in-chief, publisher, iMediaEthics

As background: Art Science Research Laboratory, a 501 (c) (3) not-for-profit that I co-founded with my late husband, Harvard professor and scientist, Stephen Jay Gould, publishes [iMediaEthics](http://www.imediaethics.org) as part of non-partisan journalism ethics program. Students and young journalists work with professional researchers to foster the media's use of scientific methods and experts before publication. We also publish international media ethics news stories and investigations of factual errors and ethical breaches by media outlets.

**2012 mirror
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iMediaEthics | Art Science Research Laboratory, publisher
62 Greene Street, New York, New York 10012

phone: 212-925-8812 | fax: 212-925-0459

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