



MILITARY RELIGIOUS FREEDOM
f o u n d a t i o n

Thursday, March 25, 2021

The Honorable John E. Whitley
Acting Secretary of the Army
Defense Pentagon # 3E945
Washington DC 20310-1500

Re: Outrageous Islamophobic “news” article on official United States Army News website

Dear Acting Army Secretary John E. Whitley,

My name is Mikey Weinstein and I am the Founder and President of the [Military Religious Freedom Foundation](#) (MRFF). MRFF is a large civil rights advocacy organization that currently represents over 73,000 Active Duty, Reserve, and National Guard United States military personnel, as well as veterans, cadets and midshipmen at our service academies, and in OCS/OTS and ROTC and even Jr. ROTC.

Our mission is to protect the Constitutionally guaranteed wall separating church and state in our U.S. military.

In this regard, MRFF presently represents approximately 18% of Muslims who are in the U.S. military or are veterans.

I am writing you today because MRFF has received dozens of sincere complaints from furious U.S. military members who are Muslims in reaction to a truly OUTRAGEOUS “news” article put out on March 18, 2021, by the U.S. Army on the official United States Army News website entitled “Soldier Fights For Her Life to Serve in US Army”. This article is seen below at the link:

https://www.army.mil/article/244483/soldier_fights_for_her_life_to_serve_in_us_army

Acting Secretary Whitley, I will not belabor the point here. This “news” article is quite obviously both hideously and blatantly Islamophobic and simultaneously a wretched yet clear example of fundamentalist Christian supremacy, domination, and exclusivism.

This “news” article is also clearly violative of the No Establishment Clause of the First Amendment of the United States Constitution and, likewise, overwhelmingly breaches relevant Federal construing caselaw and a legion of DoD and U.S. Army Directives, Instructions, and Regulations.

Let me stress that neither MRFF nor our complainant clients on this matter have any issues with the female soldier who is the subject of this “news” article. Our issue is with the time, place, and manner in which the United States Army decided to publicly and officially tell her personal religious conversion story.

What a particularly horrid example of anti-Muslim bigotry and prejudice this “news” article has engendered

whilst concomitantly elevating Christianity to an unconstitutional level of unrivaled triumphalism and victory!

I should not have to enumerate to you, sir, as to why that is the case here. The “news” article vomits enough evidence on its own, sir.

Nevertheless, let me try one example, however, to bring our U.S. military Muslim client complainants’ understandably intense furor home to you and the Army and the DoD.

Imagine, if you will, Mr. Acting Secretary, the unbridled resentment, wrath, and rage which would have occurred if the religions in the “news” article above had simply been reversed from those in the article linked above. Indeed, if a formerly Christian young woman had been continuously brutalized by her Christian family, community, ethnicity, and culture but had attended a sermon at a mosque and had received a personal visit from Allah in her domicile room to confirm her conversion from her previously described cruelties of Christianity and Christians to the sublime victory of her literally miraculous conversion to Islam, there would have been torrents of blood in these streets.

And, you KNOW it, sir!

Sadly, this official U.S. Army “news” article is fanning the fires of increased anti-Muslim hatred even more as it came out just a few days before the tragic shootings at that King Soopers grocery store in Boulder, Colorado, where the alleged perpetrator has been identified with a clearly Arabic name.

Incidentally, here at MRFF, we have [seen and fought](#) this very same stench of disgusting examples of [anti-Muslim/pro-Christianity hatred](#) before.

Indeed, MRFF has seen where [former “alleged Muslims”](#) have conveniently abandoned and condemned what they themselves described as their prior vicious and savage Islamic faith in favor of accepting the DoD-“approved solution” of Jesus Christ as their only Lord and Savior. These alleged ex-Muslims, after becoming full-on proselytizing/evangelizing Christians, were invited to speak at U.S. military institutions including the [U.S. Air Force Academy](#).

Mr. Acting Secretary, this repulsive and constitutionally illicit “news” article, from the very same Army YOU are supposed to be providing civilian control and supervision over, has already caused enough justified rancor to significantly and seriously damage the good order, morale, discipline, and unit cohesion of countless U.S. military service members, both Islamic and non-Muslim!

Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin has admirably made it crystal clear that Job #1 for him and DoD is to root out deadly and divisive bigotry and prejudice from the ranks of our American armed forces. This reprehensible “news” article, directly produced by the U. S. Army ITSELF, accomplishes the exact OPPOSITE!

MRFF demands the Army immediately remove this appalling and shocking “news” article from its official U.S. Army website and swiftly issue a heartfelt, formal apology to all U.S. military members and civilian personnel, especially Muslim U.S. service members and civilian personnel.

Additionally, MRFF demands that whoever directly or indirectly composed, permitted, effectuated, and/or encouraged this racist, bigoted filth of a “news” article to ever see the public light of day on the U.S. Army’s OFFICIAL website be immediately investigated and aggressively punished to full extent of the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

Please advise MRFF of your specific ameliorative actions in this regard soonest.

Sincerely,



Michael L. “Mikey” Weinstein, Esq.
Founder and President
Military Religious Freedom Foundation
505-250-7727

CC: Lloyd J. Austin, Secretary of Defense
General Mark A. Milley, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff
General John E. Hyten, Vice Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff
General James C. McConville, Chief of Staff, United States Army
General Joseph M. Martin, Vice Chief of Staff, United States Army
Brigadier General Amy E. Hannah, Army Chief of Public Affairs