



Council on American-Islamic Relations

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August 28, 2014

Mr. Bill Armstrong
President
Colorado Christian University
8787 W. Alameda Ave.
Lakewood, Colorado 80226
Fax: (303) 301-8350

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

We are writing to request that you cancel a campus event featuring conspiracy theorist John Guandolo scheduled for September 8, 2014. While we support academic institutions exposing student to a broad spectrum of ideas, Mr. Guandolo's anti-Muslim background places him in the same category as anti-Semites and white supremacists. After reviewing the below facts, we believe that you will conclude that his prejudice is inconsistent with your institution's academic and moral goals.

Background on Guandolo

Guandolo left the FBI shortly after reports surfaced that he had engaged in a sexual relationship with a key witness in a corruption trial targeting a Member of Congress. During a 2012 anti-Muslim training in Tennessee, he was videoed shoving a local news camera that attempted to cover the event. After a journalist at Kansas' *Wichita Eagle* covered a controversy over a scheduled Understanding the Threat training, Guandolo accused the reporter of material support of terrorism, a clear attempt at intimidation.¹

The Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC), an organization that tracks hate groups in America, describes Guandolo as "a disreputable character, who regularly attacks the U.S. government, claims that the director of the Central Intelligence Agency is a secret Muslim agent for the Saudi government and says that American Muslims 'do not have a First Amendment right to do anything.'"²

Army War College commandant says a claim in Guandolo's biography is "simply untrue"

Guandolo's biography for his Understanding the Threat, LLC asserts the he "served as an adjunct instructor at the Joint Forces Staff College and the U.S. Army War College." However, according to Major General Tony Cucolo, Commandant, US Army War College, "Mr. Guandolo's claim (in print) that he teaches at the Army War College and any other references (e.g., online) identifying him as an adjunct instructor here are simply untrue." Cucolo adds, "At some point during the Spring of 2011, during the elective portion of this course, Mr. Guandolo was invited to speak as a guest lecturer during one lesson of an elective entitled, 'Strategic Intelligence for Counterterrorism: Contemporary Threats to National

¹ Understanding the Threat. Mass distribution e-mail, May 21, 2014.

² Josh Glasstetter. "Virginia County Sheriff Hosting Anti-Muslim Training by Disgraced Conspiracy Theorist John Guandolo," Southern Poverty Law Center's Hatewatch blog, February 13, 2014, <http://www.splcenter.org/blog/2014/02/13/virginia-county-sheriff-hosting-anti-muslim-training-by-disgraced-conspiracy-theorist-john-guandolo/>.

Security.’ This invitation was made by the faculty member who was in charge of that elective. To our knowledge, Mr. Guandolo came here, participated in an academic small group discussion that lasted no more than three hours, and then departed. That is all.³”

Virginia-based Criminal Justice Academy pulls Guandolo’s accreditation, Kansas sheriff cancels training

In February 2014, Virginia’s Rappahannock Regional Criminal Justice Academy rescinded its earlier approval of in-service training credits for state law enforcement officers scheduled to attend a training Guandolo was conducting in Culpeper, Va. In an email obtained by CAIR, Mike Harvey, executive director of the academy, wrote in part:

“In speaking with another academy director who also pulled support for this training I learned Mr. Guandolo appears absolute in his message that all Muslims ascribe to a violent ideology against westerners. While I support much of his message I cannot support one that casts all people of one faith in the same light. Certainly there are Muslims who are terrorists and I support training that discusses this but I cannot in good faith support a training that espouses because one is Muslim he or she must support violence and hatred toward those who are not Muslim.”⁴

Similarly, a Sheriff’s department in Kansas canceled a Guandolo training after being contacted about his conspiracy theories.

Guandolo’s conspiracy theory-laden, anti-Muslim claims

Guandolo claims that CIA Director Brennan is a secret Muslim agent for a foreign power.⁵ Video of this is easily obtainable from the internet.

In 2014, Guandolo asserted, “We need to find the Islamic movement anywhere it is, including in the United States, and crush it and defeat it now.”⁶”

In his training materials, Guandolo refers to America’s mosques and Islamic centers as “barracks.”⁷ Guandolo falsely claims “it is a permanent command in Islam for Muslims to hate and despise Jews and Christians.”⁸

Guandolo believes that mosques are “front organizations for the Muslim Brotherhood with no right to exist.”⁹”

Of Guandolo the *Times-Gazette* reported, “Every major Muslim organization is controlled by the Muslim Brotherhood, the former FBI agent said, which he said was formed to overthrow America and establish Islamic law. ‘They’re having great success of implementing Shariah law, I could give you a thousand

³ Major General Tony Cucolo. Personal email to Ibrahim Hooper, March 6, 2014.

⁴ Mike Harvey, e-mail message to Sherriff Scott Jenkins, February 24, 2014. E-mail obtained by FOIA request.

⁵ “Islamophobe John Guandolo Claims CIA Director John Brennan is a Secret Muslim” Youtube video, 0:40, posted by CAIRtv, February 14, 2014 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aieUdwZoYMg>

⁶ Chad Groening, “Former FBI says only way to defeat Islam is to crush it,” OneNewsNow.com, August 15, 2014, http://www.onenewsnow.com/national-security/2014/08/15/former-fbi-says-only-way-to-defeat-islam-is-to-crush-it#.U_I5r010yM8.

⁷ No Attribution. “U.S. military school taught soldiers to wage ‘total war’ against Islam, Russian Television, May 10, 2012, <http://rt.com/usa/us-students-war-islam-930/>, accessed February 14, 2014.

⁸ John Guandolo, “Understanding Shari’ah’s Role in the War,” *Wired* (blog), May 10, 2012, http://www.wired.com/images_blogs/dangerroom/2012/05/guandolo_jihad_islamic_law.pdf

⁹ Bob Smietana and Tony Gonzalez. “Sheriff hires mosque foe to lead terrorism training,” *The Tennessean*, February 15, 2012, <http://usatoday30.usatoday.com/news/nation/story/2012-02-15/terrorism-training-tennessee/53102430/1>.

examples.” Guandolo¹⁰ also claims in his blog “100% of all published authoritative Islamic Law obliges Jihad until the entire world is subordinated to Islamic Law. 100% of all published authoritative Islamic Law ONLY defines Jihad as “warfare against non-muslims.”¹¹ All of Guandolo’s above claims are patently false and absurd.

While examination of violent extremists claiming that any faith endorses their actions is important, Guandolo represents only another facet of the prejudice that underlies many hate movements in the United States.

In the spirit of not offering hate speech a legitimizing platform, we hope you will cancel the event.

Sincerely,

Corey Saylor
Director
Department to Monitor and Combat Islamophobia

¹⁰ Brian Mosely, “Islamic subversion alleged by speaker,” *Times-Gazette*, February 17, 2009, <http://www.t-g.com/story/1502537.html>.

¹¹ John Guandolo. “Refusal by our leaders to know the enemy and destroy them leads to catastrophic consequences.” *Understanding the Threat* (blog), June 6 2014, <http://blog.understandingthethreat.com/2014/06/12/refusal-by-our-leaders-to-know-the-enemy-and-destroy-them-leads-to-catastrophic-consequences.aspx>.