



Bryan White <zebrafactcheck@gmail.com>

IFCN stonewalling legitimate journalistic inquiry

4 messages

Bryan White <zebrafactcheck@gmail.com>
To: nbrown@poynter.org

Fri, Dec 6, 2019 at 12:40 PM

Dear Mr. Neil Brown,

This is my second email message to you on this topic.

The International Fact-Checking Network is stonewalling legitimate journalistic inquiry into its activities.

The IFCN commissioned two reviews of challenged Facebook posts. The analysis of at least one of them was significantly flawed.

Also, the IFCN collected no fewer than 10 complaints about PolitiFact's adherence to its policy on corrections. The justification for dismissing the complaints relied primarily on astonishingly flawed analysis of *one complaint* by outside assessor Michael Wagner (University of Wisconsin).

I sent material refuting Wagner's analysis to Wagner and to the IFCN. Neither has replied to address the substance of the refuting material.

Director Orsek initially welcomed an in-person meeting to discuss the situation before apparently reversing course to adopt the stonewall strategy.

If the IFCN can undermine my analysis then it should release its counterargument as a matter of basic transparency. I would welcome that action.

Keeping its reasoning under wraps produces the impression that the IFCN has involved itself in suppressing the truth about one of its verified signatories. PolitiFact's close relationship to Poynter does nothing to reduce the appearance of wrongdoing.

Please, in the interest of transparency, confirm receipt of this email and detail for the record the actions you are taking to address this matter.

Thanks. I hope you enjoy a magnificent holiday season.

--

Sincerely,

Bryan W. White
editor
zebrafactcheck.com

Neil Brown <nbrown@poynter.org>
To: Bryan White <zebrafactcheck@gmail.com>

Fri, Dec 6, 2019 at 1:47 PM

Bryan --
I've been traveling and am now catching up on correspondence.

Thanks, as always, for your interest in these matters. A number of the principals involved are also traveling. I'll take up your issues with them upon their return, and then send you my feedback. I would anticipate getting back to you in about week, based on their schedules.

Have a great holiday season, as well.

Neil

[Quoted text hidden]

--

Neil Brown
President
The Poynter Institute for Media Studies
(727) 553-4244

Bryan White <zebrafactcheck@gmail.com>
To: Neil Brown <nbrown@poynter.org>

Fri, Dec 6, 2019 at 4:12 PM

Mr. Neil Brown,

Thanks. I greatly appreciate you making time to respond to my email. I look forward to resolving this situation, which ought to improve fact-checking and accountability over the long run.

Cheers.

[Quoted text hidden]

Bryan White <zebrafactcheck@gmail.com>
To: Neil Brown <nbrown@poynter.org>

Mon, Dec 16, 2019 at 12:46 PM

Update?

Thanks!

I remain interested in a transparent statement from IFCN/Poynter either decisively debunking the key complaint or else acknowledging the problem and laying out a path forward addressing the problem.

Thanks again.

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