

Bryan White <zebrafactcheck@gmail.com>

IFCN's unaccountable accountability

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Thu, Mar 21, 2024 at 8:00 AM

To: "Angie D. Holan" <aholan@poynter.org>

Cc: amahadevan@poynter.org, Neil Brown <Nbrown@poynter.org>

Dear Angie Drobnic Holan (and co.),

Thanks for the reply, albeit not a word of it addresses my complaint of false claims about me in IFCN documents, and you neglected to support so much as one of your personal attacks against me with a specific example. For example, my supposed confrontation with Poynter employees was none other than a cordial and brief discussion with Alex Mahadevan. Indeed, I assumed he was unknown to me until he identified himself as "Alex" when I asked him his name as he was leaving. We had no words after that, perhaps with the exception of a friendly parting salutation, until the email I sent.

When it is impossible to prompt an email reply from anyone at Poynter (save for the good Enock Nyariki), that effectively leaves the supplicant no choice but to appear in person. And so I did, at the cost of some personal inconvenience.

I don't argue in bad faith. It is reasonable to expect a journalism organization that counts accuracy and transparency among its core values to correct false information it has published, even if the documents are mostly hidden from public view. The responses from Poynter seem to indicate you (collectively) feel that is far too tall a task. That, in turn, would suggest that Poynter's core values are optional. That's a bad look. There's no good excuse for leaving these falsehoods intact.

Cheers, and please see the attachment to review an example (source page) of the IFCN publishing a false report about me.

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