

# The New Criterion

## Letters

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### "Free speech in an age of jihad"

by [Tom Blackburn](#)

To the Editors:

No disagreement with Stanley Kurtz and Andrew McCarthy ("Free Speech in an Age of Jihad: A Special Pamphlet") about Canadian hate speech laws, but several points need to be made about their premise that "ill-advised" English libel law is stifling the investigation of terrorism and—what is implicit in their suggestion that such laws are purposefully being used by a malevolent enemy—preventing the actual exposure of terrorists and their sympathizers.

First, they take it as fact that the litigious Mr. bin Mahfouz and his sons have done that which they have been accused of. Have they?

Secondly, if, as they both suggest, Dr. Ehrenfeld's book was the result of a responsible investigation, then even if untrue its contents would have been protected by the *Reynolds* defense mentioned by Mr. Kurtz. It didn't spring into existence with *Jameel v. Wall Street Journal*, ...

Tom Blackburn

[more from this author](#)

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