
Tuesday, October 5th, 2010

Re: 'We Can't Be Complacent,' Rory Leishman, Sept. 30.

I take exception to this column's attack against the Muslim Association of Canada (MAC). MAC, despite this column's characterization of our organization, is a wholly Canadian, national, grassroots organization dedicated to the growth of the Canadian Muslim community. We advocate for a balanced understanding of Islam and its principles, as well as a constructive approach to citizenship and integration of Muslims into the fabric of Canadian life.

The statement that homegrown Islamist extremists are liable to draw inspiration from groups like MAC, a fundamentalist organization with chapters in 11 Canadian cities, is not only misleading, it is misinformed. Neither our members or our organization condone or promote extremism or terrorism; we believe these actions are an insult to Islamic teachings. We do not aid or abet extremism in any form.

Before pointing out the exceptions to the rule, we urge the Post and its readers to better understand our organization and our mission.

Sharaf Sharafeldin, president, Muslim Association of Canada, Ottawa.

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