JOINT STATEMENT BY ORGANIZATIONS DEFAMED BY THE SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER

We, the undersigned, are among the organizations, groups and individuals that the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) has maligned, defamed and otherwise harmed by falsely describing as “haters,” “bigots,” “Islamophobes” and/or other groundless epithets. We are gratified that the SPLC has today formally acknowledged that it has engaged in such misrepresentations.

In an out-of-court settlement announced today, the Southern Poverty Law Center formally apologized in writing and via video for having falsely listed Maajid Nawaz and the Quilliam Foundation as “anti-Muslim extremists” in one of the SPLC’s most notorious products, *The Field Guide to Anti-Muslim Extremists*. It also agreed to pay them $3.375 million, tangible proof that the SPLC, which amounts to little more than a leftist instrument of political warfare against those with whom it disagrees, fully deserves the infamy it has lately earned. For example, in addition to its settlement with Nawaz and Quilliam, the organization has had to disavow multiple misstatements and other errors in its reporting in the past few months. Journalists who uncritically parrot or cite the SPLC’s unfounded characterizations of those it reviles do a profound disservice to their audiences.

Editors, CEOs, shareholders and consumers alike are on notice: anyone relying upon and repeating its misrepresentations is complicit in the SPLC’s harmful defamation of large numbers of American citizens who, like the undersigned, have been vilified simply for working to protect our country and freedoms.

With this significant piece of evidence in mind, we call on government agencies, journalists, corporations, social media providers and web platforms (i.e., Google, Twitter, YouTube and Amazon) that have relied upon this discredited organization to dissociate themselves from the Southern Poverty Law Center and its ongoing effort to defame and vilify mainstream conservative organizations.

Sincerely,

Lt. Gen. (US Army-Ret.) Jerry Boykin
Executive Vice President
Family Research Council

William Becker
President
Freedom X law

Dr. Jennifer Roback Morse
Founder and President
The Ruth Institute

Tom DeWeese
President
American Policy Center

Peter M. Friedman
Author
Pleasant Hills, California

Elaine D. Willman, MPA
Willman-Davis Intergovernmental Resource Services
Brian Camenker  
Executive Director  
MassResistance  

Dr. Bill Warner  
Center for the Study of Political Islam  

Frank Gaffney  
Founder and President  
Center for Security Policy  

Dr. Christopher Hull  
Executive Vice President  
Center for Security Policy  

Clare Lopez, Vice President for Research and Analysis - Center for Security Policy  

Cathy Hinners  
Security Advisor and Founder  
dailyrollcall.com  

David Barton  
Founder  
WallBuilders  

Tim Barton  
President and COO  
WallBuilders  

Mat Staver  
Founder and Chairman  
Liberty Counsel  

Eunie Smith  
President  
Eagle Forum  

Austin Ruse  
President  
C-FAM  

Christopher Doyle  
President  
National Task Force for Therapy Equality  

Philip B. Haney  
DHS Founding Member & CBP Officer (Retired)  

Tom Trento  
Director  
The United West  

Pamela Geller  
Editor in Chief - Geller Report  
President - AFDI  

David Smith  
Executive Director  
Illinois Family Institute  

George Rasley  
Editor  
ConservativeHQ.com  

Jim Simpson  
Freelance Investigative Journalist and Author - The Red-Green Axis  

Louie Johnston, Jr.  
Founder - Patriot Pastors, American Constitution Center  

Trevor Loudon  
Author, Filmmaker, Speaker  

Shahram Hadian  
Founder  
The TIL Project Ministry  

Michal Cook  
Editor  
MercatorNet
Trayce Bradford  
President  
Texas Eagle Forum

Ken Cuccinelli  
Former Attorney General  
Virginia

Tim Wildmon  
President  
American Family Association

Dr. Tom Barton, MPH  
Brigitte Gabriel  
Founder and Chairman  
ACT for America

Marissa Streit  
CEO  
PragerU

Peggy Dau  
Civil Rights Activist

Michael P. Farris,  
President, CEO and General Counsel  
Alliance Defending Freedom

J. Christian Adams  
President  
Public Interest Legal Foundation

Dr. Karen Siegemund  
President  
American Freedom Alliance

C. Preston Noell III  
President  
Tradition, Family, Property, Inc.

Gunnery Sergeant (Ret.)  
Jessie Jane Duff, Senior Fellow - London Center for Policy Research

Martin Mawyer  
President  
Christian Action Network

Rick Manning  
President  
Americans for Limited Government

Janet Porter  
President  
Faith2Action

Sandy Rios  
Host - Sandy Rios in the Morning  
AFR Talk Radio

Gary Bauer  
President  
American Values

Dr. Frank Wright  
President and CEO  
D. James Kennedy Ministries

Dale Wilcox  
Executive Director and General Counsel  
Immigration Reform Law Institute