

Brooke Goldstein: It's very dangerous when public interest law firms like, for example, the Southern Poverty Law Center act arguably without their mission statement and start publishing hate lists against people who are brave enough to speak openly about issues that some may deem offensive. Putting for example a courageous woman like Ayaan Hirsi Ali who escaped radical Islam, who herself was a subject to female genital mutilation, who risked her life to speak publicly and warn a general public about these threats, and to target her for doing so basically legitimizes those who want to attack her violently. To put somebody like Daniel Pipes, who is a scholarly researcher at the highest level of academia, who publishes theses on the history of Islam and the history of religion, to put him on a hate list, what kind of message does that send, for example, to young students in Middle Eastern Studies departments right now who want to publish their own books. It's going to discourage anyone from engaging in this type of learning and this type of research. And overall that is extraordinarily detrimental to our society. Why is a public interest law firm that is supposed to uphold the very basic tenants of our society--the rule of law, including the first amendment right to free speech--what are they doing publishing these hate lists targeting people for speaking freely their mind?