



Al Jazeera Plus

Qatar's Foreign
Intervention Masked
as an American
News Outlet

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March 2023

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Main Findings & Recommendations

- The Al Jazeera Media Network (AJMN) is owned, funded, and controlled by the government of Qatar, and it is used to promote Qatar's foreign policy. However, neither AJMN nor its subsidiaries are registered under the Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA).
- In September 2020, the Department of Justice stated that "AJMN is an agent of the Government of Qatar under FARA" because "[it] and its affiliates are controlled and funded by the Government of Qatar." The DOJ further explained that the "Government of Qatar has ultimate authority through its control of AJMN's Board of Directors and AJMN's budget [and] exercises ultimate control of AJMN."
- The DOJ's letter explicitly ordered one of AJMN's subsidiaries, the Washington D.C.-based AJ+, to register under FARA.
- Despite the clear findings of the DOJ, Al Jazeera and its subsidiaries continue to flout U.S. law by failing to register under FARA.
- Both Democrats and Republicans have also expressed significant concerns regarding Al Jazeera's content and failure to register under FARA. Congressional letters regarding Al Jazeera were sent to the DOJ in 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021.
- Over the past decade, Al Jazeera has carried out a unique two-track approach: 1) using its legacy TV networks, Al Jazeera International and Al Jazeera English, to promote and/or whitewash the Muslim Brotherhood and an array of Islamic terrorist groups, such as Nusra Front (formerly known as al Qaeda of Syria), the Taliban, Hamas, and Hezbollah; and 2) using its online/social media subsidiary, AJ+, to aggressively court young, progressive Americans by criticizing both U.S. foreign and domestic policies from the Left.
- AJ+ was launched by AJMN in 2014 as a subsidiary that focuses on targeting teenagers and young adults, with its content only available online and on social media. AJ+ rarely acknowledges that it is owned and controlled by the State of Qatar, whose laws are based on Islamic Shari'a law and where homosexuality is a crime. The name AJ+ was likely chosen to obfuscate its direct connection to Qatar.

Main Findings & Recommendations

- A content analysis of AJ+ reveals that the Qatar-owned brand appears to function in a manner resembling a propaganda outlet by promoting anti-American, anti-West, anti-Israel, divisive, and polarizing content designed to intensify divisions within the US.
- AJ+ has considerable influence within the United States, with millions of followers on major social media platforms and over 17 billion collective views of its content.
- AJ+ aims to influence young Americans through social media by publishing short-form videos that take socially progressive positions on controversial issues, in stark contrast to the Qatari government's policies.
- Whereas the most high-profile AJMN subsidiaries, Al Jazeera International and Al Jazeera English, have somewhat limited influence inside the U.S., AJ+ successfully reaches millions of Americans—and its content is not labeled as being a product of Qatari propaganda.
- FARA requires the clear labeling of “Informational Materials.” As such, AJMN and/or AJ+ registering under FARA – and then complying with it – would enhance transparency to the American public regarding the propagandistic nature and purpose of Al Jazeera and AJ+.
- Similarly, social media platforms, including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, TikTok, and others, should follow YouTube's lead and add a “state-affiliated media” disclaimer to AJ+'s accounts and posts.

Executive Summary

Established in Qatar in 1996, Al Jazeera is a media news network that describes itself as an “independent news organization funded in part by the Qatari government.”¹ The network has an extensive global reach, broadcasting to an estimated 430 million households in over 150 countries.²

AJ+, a digital content brand owned by Al Jazeera, is based in Washington D.C. and produces shorter, more digestible content in video form in English, Spanish, French, and Arabic, mainly on topics related to US politics and geared towards a younger audience. AJ+ operates exclusively online and maintains accounts on all major social media platforms, with followers numbering in the millions. Since its official inception in 2014³, its content has been collectively viewed over 17 billion times.

AJ+ rarely publicly acknowledges its connection to Al Jazeera or Qatar and projects the image of a modern, socially progressive digital news brand. This starkly contrasts with the Qatari government’s positions on various social issues, which is likely why the name AJ+ was chosen – to obscure the brand’s connection to the Islamic monarchy.

Accordingly, its content focuses on several broad topics fraught with social tension in contemporary American society, including racism, sexism, immigration, LGBTQ+ rights, and addressing historical injustices contested in the US.

The reason for this curious discrepancy, as this report will demonstrate, is that the Qatari government effectively uses AJ+ as a tool to influence the American public and promote its agenda by exacerbating social and cultural rifts within American society, ultimately delegitimizing and tarnishing the image of the United States and its key allies.

Due to AJ+’s explicit links to Qatar and the nature of the content it disseminates, the US Department of Justice issued an official order in September 2020 for AJ+ to register as a foreign entity under the Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA). Yet, as of March 2023, AJ+ has failed to register, despite repeated requests by lawmakers that the DOJ compel it to do so.

The ensuing chapters of this report will offer proof of Qatari ownership over AJ+ and examples of the brand’s anti-American messaging. Based on this report’s findings, the DOJ should swiftly compel AJ+ to abide by US law and register under FARA. Failure to do so would signal a willingness on the part of the US government to allow illegal foreign influence on its soil.

Likewise, social media platforms should uphold their internal guidelines and attach a “state-affiliated media” label to Al Jazeera and AJ+ accounts.

1 “About Us,” Al Jazeera, accessed December 2022, <https://network.aljazeera.net/en/about-us>

2 Ibid.

3 “The Power of Al Jazeera,” Al Jazeera, accessed December 2022, <https://commercial.aljazeera.net/>

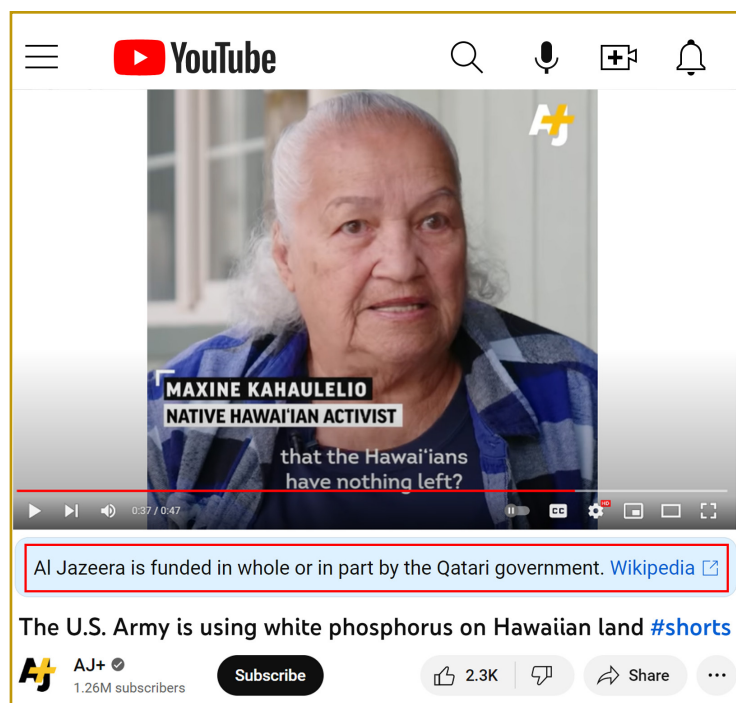
Qatari Ownership and Control of AJMN and AJ+

Numerous reports, both independent and those commissioned by the US government, have found that Qatar owns and funds Al Jazeera, the parent company of AJ+.

Al Jazeera International's own corporate disclosures in the United States from 2008-2018 reported that AJI and its parent, AJMN, are owned **"by the State of Qatar."**⁴ Furthermore, Al Jazeera Media Network, the network's umbrella company, is owned by QMC, Qatar's official state broadcasting authority, which is controlled by the Emir of Qatar.⁵ While Al Jazeera claims to be an "independent news organization funded in part by the Qatari government," its Board of Directors is chaired by Sheikh Hamad bin Thamer Al Thani, a member of the Qatari royal family, whose purview "encompasses all of the channels under the Al Jazeera umbrella."⁶ Qatar's Ministry of Finance controls Al Jazeera's budget.⁷

AJ+, in turn, is fully owned and operated by the Al Jazeera Media Network. Its original trademark was filed in Qatar (see Appendix 1), and its US trademark filing lists Al Jazeera Media Network as the entity's owner, with a mailing address in Qatar (see Appendix 2).

The "About Us" section of the AJ+ website explicitly acknowledges that it is part of the Al Jazeera Media Network and funded by Qatar.⁸ While AJ+ rarely notes this fact on its social media pages, YouTube regularly adds a disclaimer to videos uploaded by the network's account that "Al Jazeera is funded in whole or in part by the Qatari government" (image on the right). However, based on a test conducted in multiple countries, it appears as though the **disclaimer only shows up for users based in the US.**



Example of [YouTube disclaimer](#) about Qatari funding on AJ+ videos.

- 4 Immediately following a bipartisan Congressional letter sent to DOJ in March 2018 stating that Al Jazeera seemed to qualify for mandatory FARA registration, Al Jazeera International changed its "Person with Significant Control" from the Qatari Emir to AJMN, which is still listed as the ultimate controlling entity in the most recent filings. AJI's UK corporate filings can be found at: <https://beta.companieshouse.gov.uk/company/05233333/filing-history>
- 5 Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, "Report Concerning Qatar's Al Jazeera Media Network & The Foreign Agents Registration Act," July 2020, p. 15 <https://efile.fara.gov/docs/3492-Informational-Materials-20200708-59.pdf>
- 6 "Sheikh Hamad bin Thamer Al Thani," Al Jazeera, <https://network.aljazeera.net/en/profile/leadership/sheikh-hamad-bin-thamer-al-thani>, accessed January 2023
- 7 Ros-Lehtinen, 2020, p.16
- 8 "About Us," AJ+, <https://www.ajplus.net/about>, accessed January 2023

Foreign Agents Registration ACT: AJMN & AJ+

In light of its Qatari ownership and wide reach in the United States, the DOJ issued a directive for AJ+ to register under FARA in September 2020. The directive was the culmination of a years-long process that began in March 2018, when several members of Congress sent a letter to then-Attorney General, Jeff Sessions, urging him to enforce the FARA guidelines concerning Al Jazeera. The letter accused Qatar of using Al Jazeera to “incite violence, glorify terrorists as ‘martyrs,’ and broadcast hateful, extreme content,” as well as secretly filming American nonprofits in Washington, D.C.⁹

In June 2018, a letter was sent from the DOJ to AJ+'s attorneys, explaining why they may be required to register under FARA.¹⁰

In June 2019, another letter was sent by members of Congress to then-Attorney General William Barr, asking the DOJ for information on “any steps taken” to determine if Al Jazeera should be required to register under FARA. This 2019 congressional letter specifically mentions AJ+ as Al Jazeera’s main foothold in the United States:

*“In 2016, its [Al Jazeera’s] off-shoot, Al Jazeera America, closed. However, Al Jazeera expanded its digital presence via Al Jazeera Plus (AJ+), its online news channel which is headquartered in the United States. As of May 2019, AJ+ had 11.1 million cumulative followers and subscribers on Facebook. In that same month, AJ+ was the fortieth ranked ‘overall creator’ of content cross-platform. By comparison, in May 2019 the Washington Post had 6.3 million cumulative followers and subscribers on Facebook and was the one-hundredth ranked ‘overall creator’ of content cross-platform. **Clearly, Al Jazeera has established and is building a significant reach within the United States**”¹¹ [emphasis added].*

In August 2020, an additional congressional letter was sent to Attorney General William Barr, requesting that the “DOJ require Al Jazeera, the media network owned and funded by the state of Qatar, to register under FARA...” The signatories also asked for clarification as to why Al Jazeera had not been ordered by the DOJ to register under FARA.¹²

In September 2020, the DOJ officially issued an order for AJ+ to register as a foreign entity under FARA within 30 days.¹³ The letter addressed to AJ+ attorneys, identifies AJ+ as an

9 “Gottheimer, Zeldon, Cruz, Colleagues Demand DOJ Investigation Into Qatar’s Al Jazeera Network,” Office of Rep. Josh Gottheimer, March 6, 2018, <https://gottheimer.house.gov/posts/gottheimer-zeldin-cruz-colleagues-demand-doj-investigation-into-qatars-al-jazeera-network>

10 See letter from Empower Oversight to Department of Justice, January 28, 2022, <https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/21192459-2022-01-28-jf-to-doj-fara-al-jazeera>

11 Letter from Senator Marco Rubio et. al to Attorney General William Barr, July 18, 2019, <https://www.cotton.senate.gov/news/press-releases/lawmakers-seek-fara-evaluation-of-qatari-owned-al-jazeera>

12 Letter from Senator Marco Rubio et. al, to Attorney General William Barr, August 07, 2020, <https://www.floridadaily.com/marco-rubio-brian-mast-urge-doj-to-make-al-jazeera-register-as-a-foreign-agent/>

13 US Department of Justice, Obligation of AJ+ to Register Under the Foreign Agents Registration Acts, September 14, 2020, <https://empowr.us/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/2020-09-14-DOJ-Jay-Bratt-to-DLA-Piper-Al-Jazeera-FARA-Registration.pdf>

“agent of the Government of Qatar and Al Jazeera Media Network” and notes that “AJ+ broadcasts are designed to influence the opinions and perspectives of its US audience as directed by the foreign principals and for their principal benefit.” Al Jazeera responded by alleging that the order was a political act resulting from UAE lobbyists supposedly insisting on Al Jazeera’s FARA registration as a precondition for the normalization of the UAE’s relations with Israel.¹⁴

Although the DOJ’s determination letter specifically ordered AJ+ to register, the reasoning detailed in the September 2020 letter applies equally to the Al Jazeera parent company, AJMN, as well as fellow subsidiaries Al Jazeera International and Al Jazeera English. The DOJ letter stated that “AJMN is an agent of the Government of Qatar under FARA” because “[it] and its affiliates are controlled and funded by the Government of Qatar.” The DOJ letter further explained that the “Government of Qatar has ultimate authority through its control of AJMN’s Board of Directors and AJMN’s budget [and] exercises ultimate control of AJMN.”

In July 2021, five senators sent a letter to the current Attorney General, Merrick Garland, demanding to know why AJ+ had not yet registered as a foreign agent under FARA, as ordered, and asking what steps the DOJ had taken to ensure compliance. Notably, the letter states that “...it is unclear whether DOJ has required Al Jazeera Media Network to register as a foreign agent in addition to AJ+.”¹⁵

In January 2022, the anti-corruption NGO Empower Oversight submitted a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request asking for all records relating to Al Jazeera and FARA between 2018 and the present, stating: “The public has a right to know why the Justice Department has failed to enforce FARA in this instance and failed to be responsive to congressional oversight on this topic.”¹⁶ At the time of writing, no response has been made available.

In January 2023, after 12 months passed without a response, Empower Oversight **filed a lawsuit against the DOJ** for its failure to comply with FOIA requirements for responding to information requests in a timely manner.¹⁷ The lawsuit notes that “When the available evidence is taken as a whole, it appears that Al Jazeera’s broadcasts, including AJ+, mirror the policies and preferences of the Qatari government, which, together with the state funding and other indicia of agency, demonstrate that Al Jazeera and its media subsidiaries act as alter egos of the Qatari government in ensuring dissemination of the government’s viewpoints.”¹⁸

As of the writing of this report in March 2023, it has been two and a half years since the DOJ determined that “AJMN is an agent of the Government of Qatar” and specifically required

14 “Al Jazeera Condemns AJ+ FARA registration order in US,” Al Jazeera, September 17, 2020, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/9/17/al-jazeera-condemns-aj-fara-registration-order-in-us>

15 Letter from Sen. Charles Grassley et. al to Attorney General Merrick Garland, July 1, 2021, <https://www.rubio.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/2021/7/rubio-joins-colleagues-in-pressing-doj-on-why-al-jazeera-is-not-registered-as-a-foreign-agent>

16 See letter from Empower Oversight to Department of Justice, January 28, 2022, <https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/21192459-2022-01-28-jf-to-doj-fara-al-jazeera>

17 “Empower Oversight Sues DOJ for Answers on its Failure to Force Al Jazeera to Register as Foreign Agent,” Empower Oversight, January 23, 2023, <https://empowr.us/empower-oversight-sues-doj-for-answers-on-its-failure-to-force-al-jazeera-to-register-as-foreign-agent/>

18 Empower Oversight Whistleblowers & Research vs. U.S. Department of Justice, Case no. 1:23-cv-95, January 20, 2023

its subsidiary, AJ+, to register under FARA within 30 days, yet neither AJ+ nor any other Al Jazeera entity appears on the Department of Justice's official list of FARA registrants.¹⁹

Al Jazeera's and AJ+'s failure to comply with US law stand in stark contrast to other foreign state media outlets who registered under FARA after similarly being ordered to do so by DOJ.

AJMN's Radicalism: Mouthpiece for the Muslim Brotherhood, Al Qaeda, and Other Terrorists

For decades, the Al Jazeera Media Network has served as a platform for radical Islamic terror groups to disseminate their ideology and promote their agenda to a broad audience. This includes the United States' geopolitical adversaries, such as officials in the Iranian regime, as well as leaders of US-designated terrorist organizations Al Qaeda and Hamas (the latter being the Gaza-based offshoot of the global Muslim Brotherhood).

For many years, Muslim Brotherhood religious leader Yusuf al-Qaradawi had a weekly program on Al Jazeera Arabic, where he advocated for terrorist attacks on US soldiers in Iraq, promoted Jihad against the West, and praised the Holocaust and attacks on Israeli civilians.

He proclaimed during two sermons broadcast on Al Jazeera that Allah used Adolf Hitler to inflict the Holocaust upon the Jews as "divine punishment" and praised him for "putting [Jews] in their place." He also expressed hope that Allah will send him to Israel before he dies to become a martyr, stating, "I will shoot Allah's enemies, the Jews, and they will throw a bomb at me, and thus, I will seal my life with martyrdom."²⁰

Upon his death in 2022, Al Jazeera published a glowing obituary of Qaradawi on its website that portrayed him in a heroic light.²¹

Al Jazeera television channels regularly broadcast interviews and serve as platforms for leaders of US-designated terrorist groups. In 2022, it published an interview with the leader of Hamas, Ismail Haniyeh, who during the interview, threatened to abduct additional Israeli



One of Qaradawi's sermons on Al Jazeera.
Source: [MEMRI](#)

19 Department of Justice, List of Active FARA Registrants, <https://efile.fara.gov/ords/fara/f?p=1381:17:3857056925234>, accessed March 01, 2023

20 Al-Qaradawi: Qatar's Islamist Empire Builder, MEMRI, accessed March 14, 2023, <https://www.memri.org/reports/al-qaradawi-qatars-islamist-empire-builder>; Allah Imposed Hitler upon the Jews to Punish Them, MEMRI, accessed March 14, 2023, <https://www.memri.org/tv/sheik-yousuf-al-qaradhawi-allah-imposed-hitler-upon-jews-punish-them-allah-willing-next-time-will>

21 Yusuf al-Qaradawi, the Muslim scholar who influenced millions, Al Jazeera, accessed March 14, 2023, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/9/27/yusuf-al-qaradawi-the-muslim-scholar-who-influenced-millions>

soldiers to hold as bargaining chips against Israel.²²

In 2013, Al Jazeera aired an interview with Abu Mohammed al-Joulani, leader of the US-designated foreign terror organization Jabhat al-Nusra (which has since been renamed to Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham). This was allegedly al-Joulani's first media appearance.²³

In July 2001, Al Jazeera's debate program, The Opposite Direction, showed the host and one of his guests glorify Al Qaeda leader Osama Bin Laden throughout the program.²⁴ Although the episode aired months before the September 11th attacks, Bin Laden's Al Qaeda was already an infamous international terror group, having orchestrated several attacks on US institutions, including the 1998 bombings of US embassies in Africa that killed 224 people.²⁵ Furthermore, Al Jazeera was heavily scrutinized during the 2000's for almost always being the first outlet to receive recordings from Bin Laden and Al Qaeda.²⁶

In addition to its television programming, Al Jazeera's website also publishes troubling content from guest opinion writers. In January 2023, it published an op-ed written by the Iranian foreign minister alleging that the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), a branch of the Iranian Armed Forces designated by the US government as a foreign terrorist organization,²⁷ is a "leading counterterror force," and condemned America's categorization of it as a terrorist entity.²⁸

Similarly, an op-ed in Al Jazeera from November 2021 asserted that Britain's designation of Hamas as a terrorist group was somehow "another attempt to suppress pro-Palestinian activism."²⁹

On social media, Al Jazeera downplays acts of terrorism as mere "operations," including a



Referring to the Jerusalem attack on January 27th.
Source: [Al Jazeera Breaking News Twitter](#)

22 Haniyeh to Al Jazeera: We will force Israel to conclude a prisoner exchange deal, [Al Jazeera](#), accessed March 14, 2023

23 Al-Qaeda leader in Syria speaks to Al Jazeera, Al Jazeera, accessed March 14, 2023, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2013/12/19/al-qaeda-leader-in-syria-speaks-to-al-jazeera/>

24 Bin Laden - The Arab Despair and American Fear, Al Jazeera, accessed March 14, 2023, https://web.archive.org/web/20010715095434/http://aljazeera.net/programs/op_direction/articles/2001/7/7-12-1.htm

25 East African Embassy Bombings, FBI, accessed March 14, 2023, <https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/east-african-embassy-bombings>

26 Al-Qaida tapes often come through Al-Jazeera, NBC News, accessed March 15, 2023, <https://www.nbcnews.com/id/wbna10948626>

27 US State Department, Foreign Terrorist Organizations, <https://www.state.gov/foreign-terrorist-organizations/>, accessed March 14, 2023

28 'Terrorist' designation for Iran's IRGC would harm EU security, Al Jazeera, accessed March 14, 2023, <https://www.aljazeera.com/opinions/2023/1/23/348>

29 The UK government is on the wrong side of history... again, accessed March 14, 2023, <https://www.aljazeera.com/opinions/2021/11/25/the-uk-government-is-on-the-wrong-side-of-history-again>

January 2023 attack next to a Jerusalem synagogue in which 7 Israelis were murdered.³⁰

Al Jazeera also lionizes leaders of US-designated terrorist groups as “martyrs,” including Palestinian Islamic Jihad leader Bahaa Abu al-Ata.³¹

AJ+: AJMN's US-based Arm for Influencing Young Americans

As demonstrated above, Al Jazeera tends to post radical Islamic content and platform terrorists, including on television and its multiple websites. These vehicles are impactful in many parts of the world, including the US.

In recent years, however, the Qatari state-owned AJMN has amplified its efforts to influence susceptible young Americans on a level yet unseen. It accomplishes this via its Washington D.C.-based subsidiary, AJ+, which serves as a radicalization vehicle to young Americans, primarily those identifying as political progressives.

Despite its foreign ownership, AJ+ is a massive and prolific purveyor of content on social media to the Western world, with followers numbering in the millions and publishing hundreds of posts and videos per week.

AJ+ maintains and regularly updates accounts on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, and TikTok, broadcasting its content to audiences on a massive scale. The following chapter will deconstruct AJ+'s reach on each of the platforms, to glean a better understanding of how many Americans can potentially consume its content.

AJ+ is most active on Facebook and Twitter, publishing dozens of posts daily, while only uploading several weekly on Instagram and TikTok. The table below illustrates the overall reach AJ+ had on social media in a randomly selected week:

30 Seven killed, three injured in Jerusalem synagogue massacre, Jerusalem Post, accessed March 14, 2023, <https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/article-729860>

31 Al Jazeera Breaking News Twitter, accessed March 14, 2023, <https://twitter.com/AJABreaking/status/1194157004576739328>

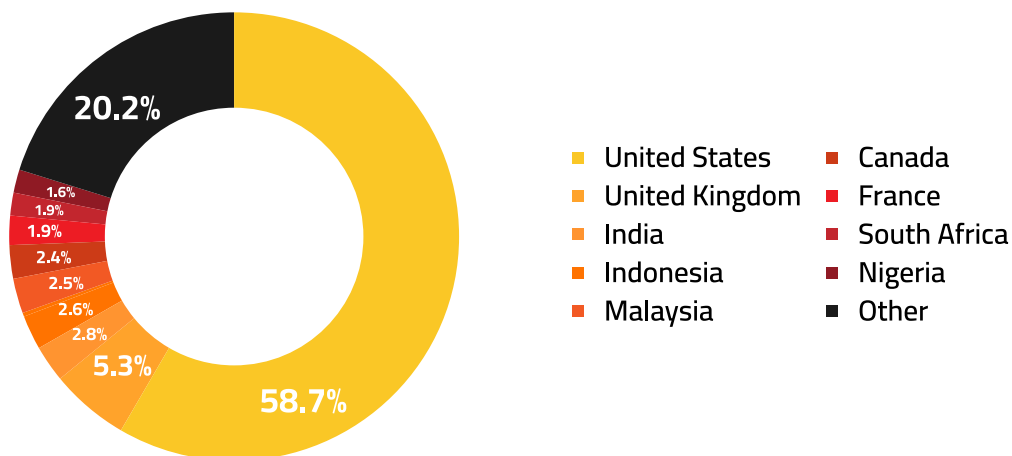
AJ+'s Reach on Social Media (January 8 – 15, 2023)

Platform	Followers	Posts/ Videos	Total Views (approx.)	Average Views (per. post)	Likes/ reactions (avg. post)	Shares (avg. post)
Facebook	11.55 M	59 posts	1.8 M	30.7 K	611	265
YouTube	1.25 M	3 videos	51.2 K	17 K	900	---
Twitter	1.2 M	157 tweets	11.68 M	74.4 K	280	156
Instagram	913 K	20 posts	4.36 M	132 K (per reel)	7.3 K	---
TikTok	317 K	9 short videos	284.4 K	31.6 K	2.9 K	---

An additional sample analyzed during the week of September 26 – October 2, 2022, yielded similar results, indicating that the above figures reflect AJ+ viewing statistics in a typical week.

A geographic analysis revealed that nearly 60% of users who regularly interacted with and shared content from AJ+ accounts are based in the United States:

Location of users interacting with AJ+ content across platforms*

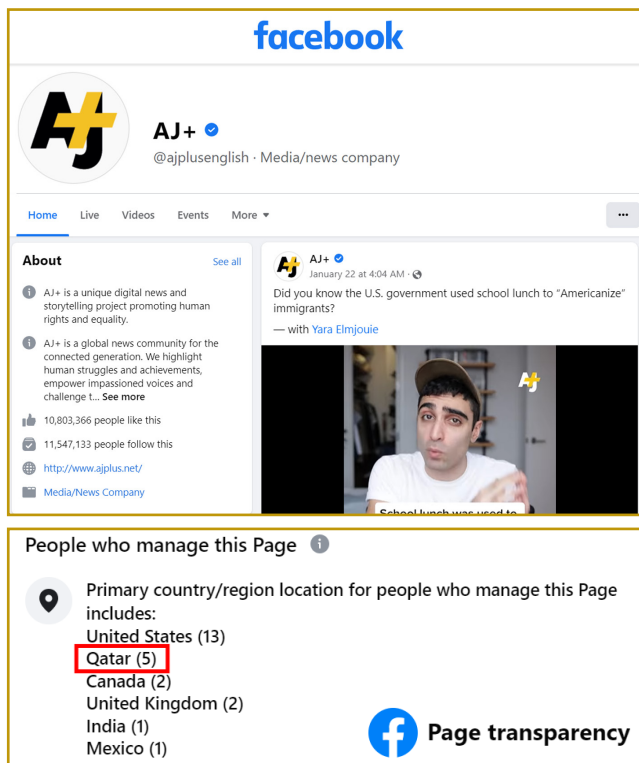


*Data based on frequency of appearance of the handle @ajplus across social media platforms.

Facebook

Facebook is AJ+'s largest platform by a large margin, with over 11 million followers and over 50 posts in a given week.³² Most AJ+ Facebook posts are videos that are cross posted to other platforms. Videos posted on AJ+'s Facebook account are viewed at an average of 31,000 views per post, while some videos are posted multiple times.

Facebook's transparency data lists Al Jazeera International as the manager of the AJ+ page. The country with the largest number of page administrators is the United States, followed by Qatar.



AJ+ Facebook page and transparency data, January 2023

Twitter

AJ+ has 1.2 million followers on Twitter, averaging 23 tweets per day. In a sample of 153 tweets analyzed during the week of

September 26 - October 2, 2022, each video posted to Twitter by AJ+ was viewed by an average of 91,000 users and was retweeted an average of 159 times.



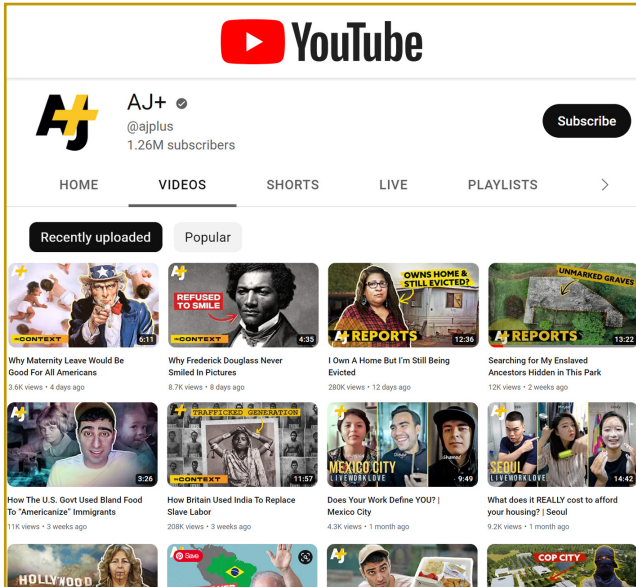
Figure 1AJ+ Twitter page, January 2023

YouTube

AJ+'s YouTube channel of 1.25 million subscribers boasts a library of more than 5,400 videos which have been cumulatively viewed more than 335 million times. Videos on the AJ+ channel are categorized into thematic "playlists" for easier navigation (e.g., Occupied Palestine / Israel, #BlackLivesMatter, COVID-19). Videos uploaded to the AJ+ YouTube channel receive an average of 62,000 views per video. AJ+ also uploads content to YouTube using the platform's "Shorts" feature, usually heavily edited videos up to three minutes long.

YouTube displays a message under every AJ+ video alerting viewers that they are watching content that is funded "in whole or in part by the Qatari government."

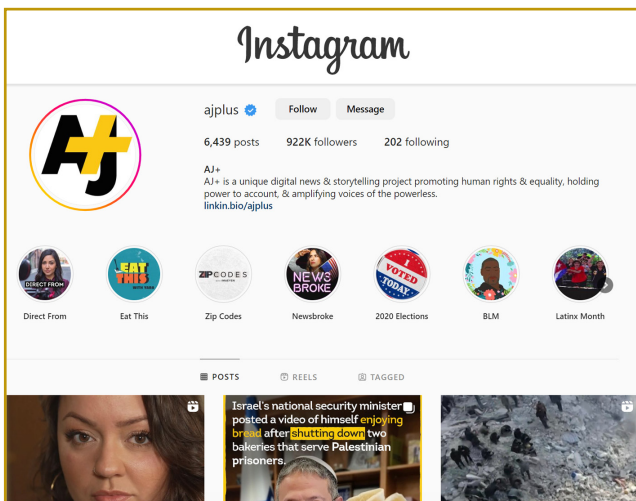
³² Based on 53 posts published during the week of September 26 – October 3, 2022.



AJ+ YouTube page, January 2023

Instagram

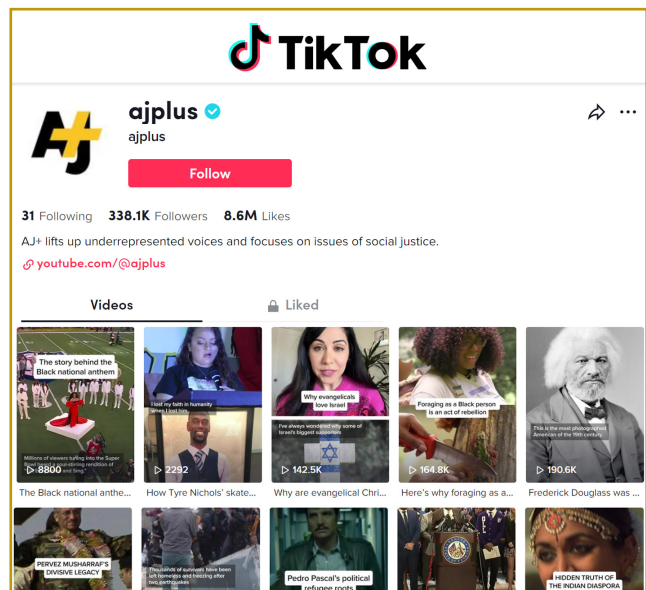
AJ+'s Instagram page has nearly 1 million followers and over 6,300 posts. AJ+'s Instagram content typically takes the form of either "post sliders" (a slider of successive graphics which the user swipes through) or videos. AJ+ also regularly uses Instagram's "Story" feature to upload shorter content or to highlight a piece of content. AJ+ Instagram posts receive a high level of engagement – nearly 9,000 likes and 240 comments on average, and their reels receive an average of 132,000 views each.



AJ+ Instagram page, January 2023

TikTok

Despite being AJ+'s smallest platform with only 300,000 followers, AJ+ uploads an average of 11 clips a week to TikTok, usually shortened versions of videos uploaded to other platforms. The account has a high engagement rate of roughly 4,000 likes per post, totaling about 8 million likes since the account's launch. During the week of September 26 – October 2, 2022, each AJ+ TikTok video was viewed an average of 52,000 times.



AJ+ TikTok page, January 2023

These findings demonstrate that AJ+ has an extensive presence on major social media platforms and reaches millions of people every day, particularly in the United States. Much of the audience is likely unaware of AJ+'s links to the Qatari government. As the following chapters show, this little-known link enables AJ+ to exploit its considerable influence to advance an anti-American and anti-West agenda.

Analysis of AJ+'s Content

AJ+ content is characterized by short, easily digestible videos tailored to social media, along with accompanying text that summarizes the video's topic. The network bills itself as a "unique digital news and storytelling project promoting human rights and equality, holding power to account, and amplifying the voices of the powerless."

As such, much of its content deals with sensitive social issues such as inequality, racism, and minority rights. AJ+ frequently highlights injustices in American society pertaining to women's rights, issues facing the Black community, and discrimination against LGBTQ+ people.

This agenda stands in stark contrast to that of AJ+'s ultimate owner, the state of Qatar, which has been frequently criticized for its problematic human rights record, particularly towards women and the LGBTQ+ community.³³ AJ+'s coverage portrays American society as divided and often contributes itself to widening those divisions, creating a fertile ground for harming the legitimacy of the American government and its institutions.

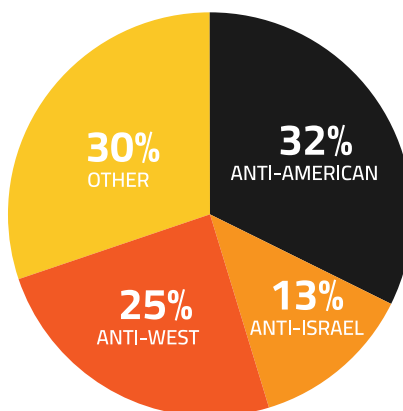
AJ+ also frequently covers international affairs, placing a particular emphasis on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, to which it dedicates an entire section of its YouTube channel, labeled "Occupied Palestine / Israel." No other international conflict was deemed worthy of its own category on the AJ+ YouTube page. Like its other content, AJ+'s regularly critical assessment of Israel is done with no disclaimer as to the origin of its reporting and editorial decisions.

Invariably, AJ+ takes a highly critical approach to both the internal and external affairs of the US and its allies, thus contributing to their delegitimization in the eyes of its audience, which numbers in the millions. The following sub-chapters will illustrate this phenomenon.

A quantitative analysis of AJ+ content published on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and TikTok during the week of January 8-15, 2023, found that 70% of the content published was negative towards or critical of either the United States, Israel, or other Western countries.

AJ+ content analysis across platforms

(January 8-15, 2023)



Platforms analyzed included Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and TikTok

33 "Qatar: Male Guardianship Severely Curtails Women's Rights," Human Rights Watch, March 29, 2021, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/03/29/qatar-male-guardianship-severely-curtails-womens-rights>; "Qatar: Security Forces Arrest, Abuse LGBT People," Human Rights Watch, October 24, 2022, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/10/24/qatar-security-forces-arrest-abuse-lgbt-people>

Anti-US

AJ+ content is highly critical of the United States, its history, and politics. Many of its videos deal with highly divisive and polarizing issues in American society, usually taking a one-sided approach. This includes content that deals with the United States' history of slavery and racism, the displacement of Native Americans, the Black Lives Matter movement, police brutality, poverty, and American intervention overseas. While these may all be worthy issues for reporting, AJ+'s single-minded fixation on the woes and failures of American society implies a deeper agenda.

For example, the #BlackLivesMatter playlist on the AJ+ YouTube channel contains 67 videos on racial tensions and injustices in the United States, with titles such as "When Do Black Americans Get Their Human Rights?" and "Being Black in America: 'This is not the land of the free.'" Other videos on American social issues include titles such as "The Racist Origins of the US Police Force," "Why It's Time to Give Native Americans Their Land Back," and "The US Owes \$350,000 to Every Black American."

AJ+ adopts a similar approach to US foreign policy. In June 2022, three months into Russia's invasion of Ukraine, AJ+ posted a video on Facebook titled "How Both the US and Russia Get Away with War Crimes," with the accompanying text: "American politicians are calling on Russia to be charged with war crimes at the International Criminal Court. The only problem is the US has been dodging accountability for its own alleged war crimes for decades." Other examples of AJ+ videos disparaging US foreign policy are videos such as "How the Threat of China Was Made in the USA," and "Why the US Could Never Win in Afghanistan."

Finally, AJ+ promotes content that erodes public trust in US institutions and government, particularly in elections. For example, on election day in 2016 AJ+ uploaded a video titled "Why Your Vote Didn't Count," characterizing the Electoral College system as undemocratic. AJ+ has also produced videos titled "Why Voting Rights Are Under Attack in America" and "Why is it still so hard to vote in the US?" In 2022, AJ+ posted a video titled "The US Isn't a Democracy." The video's caption calls the US Constitution "old and outdated" and "written by men who enslaved people." Another 2022 video is "The Supreme Court is Really Not That Supreme," which questions whether the Supreme Court should even exist.

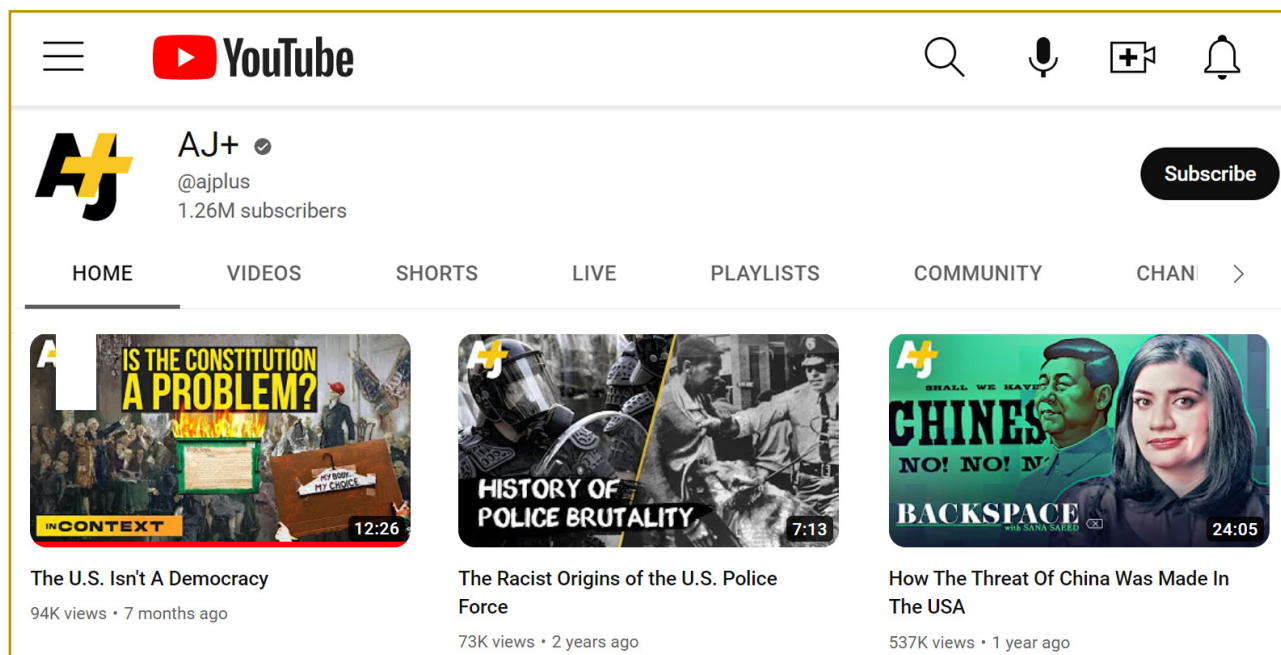
AJ+ content plays on some of the most fraught and polarizing issues in American



Source: [AJ+ Twitter](#)

society, often using inflammatory and hyperbolic rhetoric while doing so. The result is content that deepens political and social schisms and undermines public confidence in US institutions.

All this activity, highly political in nature and with an obvious intent to influence the American public, is done without clear and prominent acknowledgement of AJ+'s Qatari ownership and funding.



Examples of AJ+'s videos on highly polarizing subjects in the US

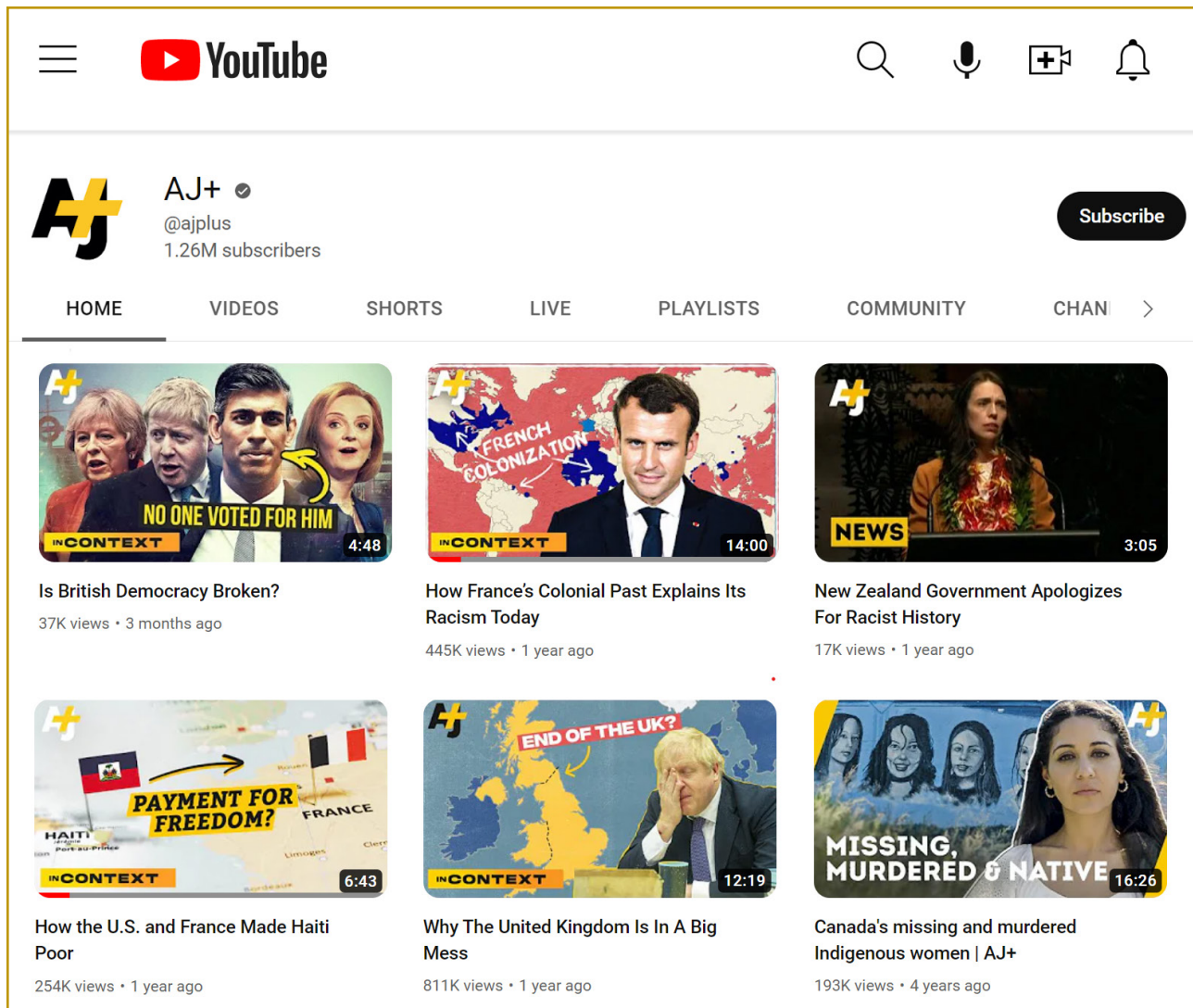
Anti-West

While the bulk of AJ+ content focuses on the United States and Israel, the network regularly criticizes other countries as well, usually Western liberal democracies politically aligned with the US. AJ+ coverage of these countries usually focuses disproportionately on their own histories of colonialism and racism, or highlights modern-day social strife in their societies, while downplaying or ignoring human rights violations in other parts of the world. For example, AJ+ videos about France include "How the US and France Made Haiti Poor," "How France's Colonial Past Explains its Racism Today," and "What You Don't Hear About France's Muslims." The last video is accompanied by the following text:

"Ah, France. The country of decadent cuisine, fine art and fashion, and the shining example of European democracy. At least, that's what France in the American imagination looks like. In reality, France's sterling image neglects its history of colonial violence, never-ending religious repression of Muslims, and racist political rhetoric, on the left and right. In this episode of "Backspace," host Sana Saeed explores the pitfalls of romanticizing France and suggests how Western media can do a better job framing the country in the context of its inconsistent values and colonial past."

Analysis of AJ+'s Content

This discourse is hardly limited to France. Recent AJ+ videos on current events in the United Kingdom include titles such as “Why the United Kingdom is a Big Mess,” “The UK Mess Just Got Worse,” and “Is British Democracy Broken?” The first result when searching for “Canada” on AJ+’s YouTube channel is a video titled “Canada’s Cultural Genocide.” Content related to Germany is dominated by videos detailing the difficulty of refugees in integrating into German society. Indeed, in 2015 AJ+ went as far as to attempt to produce a video series titled “My Country’s Not That Racist,” a series tackling “countries all around the world denying their own racism.” According to AJ+ archives, the series appears to have ended abruptly after producing only two videos, one on Australia and one on Canada. Non-Western countries where discrimination based on ethnicity is commonplace or even enshrined in law were not deemed worthy of being included in the series. The disproportionate level of criticism leveled at Western democracies and US allies serves as further evidence of AJ+’s overt ideological slant.



The screenshot shows the AJ+ YouTube channel page. The channel name is AJ+ (@ajplus) with 1.26M subscribers. The navigation bar includes HOME, VIDEOS, SHORTS, LIVE, PLAYLISTS, COMMUNITY, and CHAN. The video grid contains the following items:

Video Title	Thumbnail Description	Duration	Views	Time Ago
Is British Democracy Broken?	Thumbnail with UK politicians and text "NO ONE VOTED FOR HIM"	4:48	37K	3 months ago
How France's Colonial Past Explains Its Racism Today	Thumbnail with a map of France and text "FRENCH COLONIZATION"	14:00	445K	1 year ago
New Zealand Government Apologizes For Racist History	Thumbnail with a woman speaking at a podium	3:05	17K	1 year ago
How the U.S. and France Made Haiti Poor	Thumbnail with a map of Haiti and text "PAYMENT FOR FREEDOM?"	6:43	254K	1 year ago
Why The United Kingdom Is In A Big Mess	Thumbnail with a map of the UK and text "END OF THE UK?"	12:19	811K	1 year ago
Canada's missing and murdered Indigenous women AJ+	Thumbnail with portraits of women and text "MISSING, MURDERED & NATIVE"	16:26	193K	4 years ago

Examples of anti-West content on AJ+’s YouTube page

Antisemitism

AJ+'s English-language channels, aware of the sensitivities and cultural norms of their Western audiences, are usually careful to avoid any language or phrasing that could be identified as antisemitic or as a potential violation of the terms of services of social media platforms. However, a brief look at the network's parallel Arabic-language social media, which is not geared towards an American audience, provides a more instructive view of AJ+'s attitudes towards antisemitism and the Jewish people. In 2019, AJ+ Arabic was embroiled in controversy when a caption in Arabic for one of its videos appeared to engage in Holocaust denial, reading "Gas ovens killed millions of Jews...So the story says. How true is the #Holocaust and how did the Zionists benefit from it?" According to the newspaper *The Forward*, the video, which has since been deleted, alleged that Israel and the Jews were the Holocaust's "greatest beneficiary," exploiting the genocide and inflating victim statistics to extract money from Germany.³⁴ In contrast, AJ+ English content takes a far more innocuous approach, publishing interviews with Holocaust survivors and deferentially acknowledging the dark chapter in history.



Source: Twitter, @jenanmoussa

Anti-Israel

AJ+ coverage of events in Israel and the Palestinian territories is overwhelmingly critical of Israel, whitewashes Palestinian terrorism, and contributes regularly to incitement against the Jewish state. As noted above, AJ+ devotes a disproportionate amount of its videos to coverage of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Not one of the videos portrays Israel in a positive, or indeed even a neutral light. Instead, AJ+ content regularly shows Israel as a ruthless and murderous occupier, ignores Palestinian violence against Israeli civilians, and omits crucial context such as Israel's own security concerns.

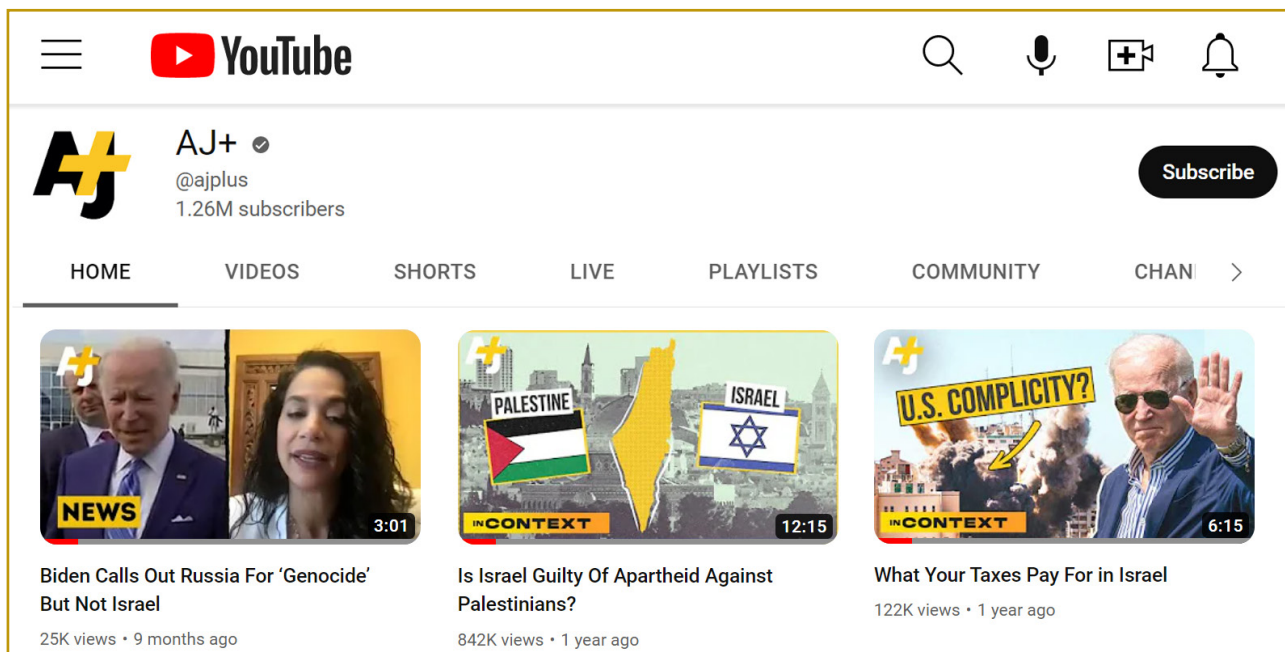
AJ+'s bias against Israel manifests itself in several ways, the foremost being its characterization of Israel as an apartheid state engaged in the act of genocide against the Palestinian people. For example, its May 2021 video "Is Israel Guilty of Apartheid Against Palestinians?" concluded categorically that Israel is guilty of the crime of apartheid, while presenting interviews only with those who shared the same viewpoint and dismissing any

34 "Al Jazeera Pulls Video Claiming Jews Inflated Numbers Of Holocaust Victims," *Forward*, May 20, 2019, <https://forward.com/fast-forward/424589/al-jazeera-anti-semitic-holocaust-twitter-video/>

dissenting opinions as “Israeli propaganda.” Other suggestively named videos on the same topic include “How Israeli Apartheid Destroyed My Hometown,” “Israel’s wall: Security or Apartheid?”, and “They Could Kill Me at Any Time: Life Under Israeli Occupation.”

Most notably, AJ+ has recently begun to imply that Israel is guilty of the crime of genocide, in contrast to international consensus. In April 2022, AJ+ published a video in which Palestinian legal scholar Noura Erakat criticized the Biden administration’s perceived “double standard” for calling the Russia-Ukraine war a “genocide” but not applying the same label to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. While AJ+ later issued a clarification that Erakat was “not advocating for the word genocide to be used in the context of Israel and the Palestinians,”³⁵ the video’s title (“Biden Calls Out Russia for ‘Genocide’ But Not Israel”) suggests that this was, in fact, exactly the conclusion that the network intended for the video’s viewers to reach.

AJ+ content also regularly downplays and whitewashes Palestinian violence and terrorism. For example, during the May 2021 riots throughout Israeli cities, AJ+ chose to cover the events by headlining its video “Israeli Mobs Hunt Down and Attack Palestinians,” completely omitting the context of violent attacks perpetrated by Palestinian citizens against Jewish Israelis in mixed cities such as Lod and Haifa. During the riots at the Temple Mount in April 2022, AJ+ released a two-minute video titled “Israeli Forces Raid Al-Aqsa Mosque During Ramadan,” failing to mention that the clashes began when worshippers threw stones and firecrackers at Israeli police officers and then barricaded themselves in the Al-Aqsa Mosque. The video also refers to the previous year’s Operation Guardian of the Walls, saying that “In 2021, raids and protests led to an 11-day assault on Gaza,” while neglecting to mention that the operation was in fact a response to the terror group Hamas’ indiscriminate firing of rockets at civilian population centers from the Gaza Strip.



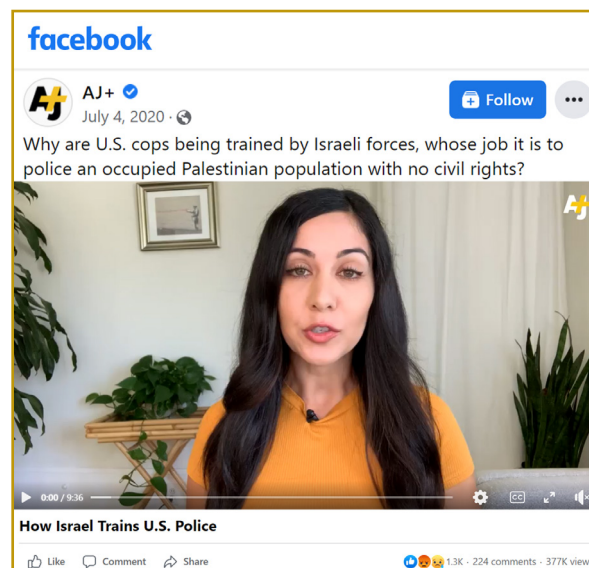
Examples of anti-Israel content on AJ+'s YouTube page. Source: [AJ+ YouTube](#)

35 AJ Plus [@ajplus], Twitter, April 19, 2022, <https://twitter.com/ajplus/status/1516416536445169665>

AJ+ content also frequently uses tenuous analogies between American racial strife and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict so that its message will better resonate with a young American audience. For example, a video posted to AJ+'s Instagram in September 2020 drew parallels between the arrest of a Palestinian protestor and the death of George Floyd, a black man killed in May 2020 during an arrest by police in Minneapolis. The video's caption reads, "An Israeli soldier knelt on a Palestinian protestor's neck. The 65-year-old man survived, but the incident is drawing comparisons to the death of George Floyd." Another video published during the same year on exchange programs between US and Israeli police implied that Israel in fact shared responsibility for Floyd's death, noting that the police forces in Minneapolis "received Israeli training."

The above examples are a small sample of the ways in which AJ+ uses its considerable platform to delegitimize and demonize the state of Israel, a key US ally. This too is a direct reflection of the foreign policy of Qatar, which provides significant financial support to Hamas³⁶ and has repeatedly rejected the prospect of normalization with Israel.³⁷

Relatedly, in November 2020, AJ+ Arabic posted a video to its Instagram page with a caption referring to the "alleged" Jewish temple at Jerusalem's Temple Mount, echoing the antisemitic trope of denying the Jewish people's connection to Jerusalem and to the land of Israel.³⁸



Source: [AJ+ Facebook](#)



Source: [AJ+ Twitter](#)

36 "Hamas: Qatar paying public salaries by sending fuel to Gaza," AP News, December 1, 2021, <https://apnews.com/article/business-africa-israel-egypt-qatar-167abbe0cf82ab374e3fc1c0c84ca1fa>

37 "Qatari foreign minister rules out normalization with Israel," Times of Israel, February 2, 2022, <https://www.timesofisrael.com/qatari-foreign-minister-rules-out-normalization-with-israel/>

38 AJ+ Arabic [ajplusarabi], Instagram, November 17, 2020, <https://www.instagram.com/p/CHsVn1QnG-9/>

AJ+'s Deceptive Liberalism: How Al Jazeera Speaks Differently to Arabs vs. Americans

Although AJ+ claims to report the news through a social justice lens, this is not the case with its parent company, Al Jazeera, whose coverage of the myriad social and political issues facing the West takes a decidedly unprogressive approach. This is peculiar considering that Al Jazeera (i.e. the Qatari government) owns AJ+, and raises the question as to why the messages they promote would differ so starkly. The discrepancy is perhaps most clear in their contradictory coverage of antisemitism and the LGBTQ+ community.

Al Jazeera's LGBTQ+ Phobia

AJ+ publishes content supportive of LGBTQ+ rights and critical of US policies that appear to discriminate against them, such as a North Carolina law telling transgender people which bathroom they can and cannot use.

Yet, Al Jazeera's Arabic website publishes content containing messages that contradict those of AJ+ as it relates to the LGBTQ+ community.

For example, Al Jazeera's Arabic website has published articles opposing the notion that gender identity is inherent to the individual, instead suggesting that it is the product of external factors,³⁹ as well as columns decrying the growing representation of LGBTQ+ people in Hollywood productions.⁴⁰

Other columns condemned the so-called "Islamization of sexual perversion [i.e. homosexuality],"⁴¹ described a Quran with the colors of the pride flag as **"very dangerous,"**⁴² and referred to "sexual perversion" (i.e. homosexuality) as **"a cause for social shame and disgrace for whoever engages in it."**⁴³

Moreover, a 2016 news article in Al Jazeera's health section wrote that "Sexual perversion [i.e. homosexuality] is a practice that is forbidden by monotheistic religions."⁴⁴



AJ+ supporting LGBTQ+ community.
Source: [AJ+ YouTube](#), accessed 02/12/2023

39 "The scientific justification for homosexuality is falling apart," [Al Jazeera](#), published 02/08/2017, accessed 02/12/2023.

40 "Why does Hollywood focus on scenes of homosexuality?!" [Al Jazeera](#), published 05/02/2019, accessed 02/12/2023.

41 "Islamization of homosexuality!" [Al Jazeera](#), published 09/01/2022, accessed 02/12/2023.

42 "A second message to the Organization of Islamic Cooperation after distributing Qurans in gay colors," [Al Jazeera](#), published 08/02/2022, accessed 02/12/2023

43 "They want it to be crooked. The world is fighting a battle of homosexuality," [Al Jazeera](#), published 07/09/2022, accessed 02/12/2023

44 "Chemical castration. Will pedophiles be punished?" [Al Jazeera](#), published 09/04/2016, accessed 02/12/2023.



Al Jazeera anti-LGBTQ+ news article. Source: [Al Jazeera](#), published 02/08/2017, accessed 02/12/2023



Al Jazeera anti-LGBTQ+ column. Source: [Al Jazeera](#), published 05/02/2019, accessed 02/12/2023

Al Jazeera's Antisemitism

While AJ+ has at times publicly opposed antisemitism, Al Jazeera in Arabic frequently publishes highly antisemitic content, even publishing glowing reviews of the infamous "Protocols of the Elders of Zion," a fictitious text purporting to describe Jewish plans for world domination.

In one column published on Al Jazeera Arabic's site, the author writes that:

*"The Zionists tried with all their influence to prevent the publication of this book. However, these attempts failed because confronting them would only proof of the validity of these protocols. The main goal of the Zionists is to **pave the way for the Synagogue of Satan to take over the world, that is, to wait for the Antichrist to rule the chosen people in the Promised Land.**"⁴⁵*

In that same piece, the author describes the **September 11th attacks as "fabricated."**⁴⁶

Furthermore, an author of a different column wrote that:

"...whoever exposed the Protocols of the Elders of Zion to the world knows very well that the Zionist power imposed itself on the Arabs, the West, America and Russia. Thus, there is no need for secrecy, as the Second Protocol confirms that Israel has international agents with millions of eyes which own means that are absolutely unlimited...."

45 "The Protocols of the Elders of Zion, [Al Jazeera](#), published 07/03/2018, accessed 02/12/2023

46 Ibid.

In one notable instance from the 2000's, the host of a popular debate show on Al Jazeera called "The Opposite Direction," hosted by Dr. Faisal Al-Qasim, saw the guests discuss the "authenticity" of the Protocols. According to the Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI), Dr. Al-Qasim "not only presents the view that the Protocols truly document a Jewish scheme as a legitimate one, but even raises the possibility that it is the Jews themselves who disseminate the Protocols in order to strike fear in the hearts of their enemies."⁴⁷

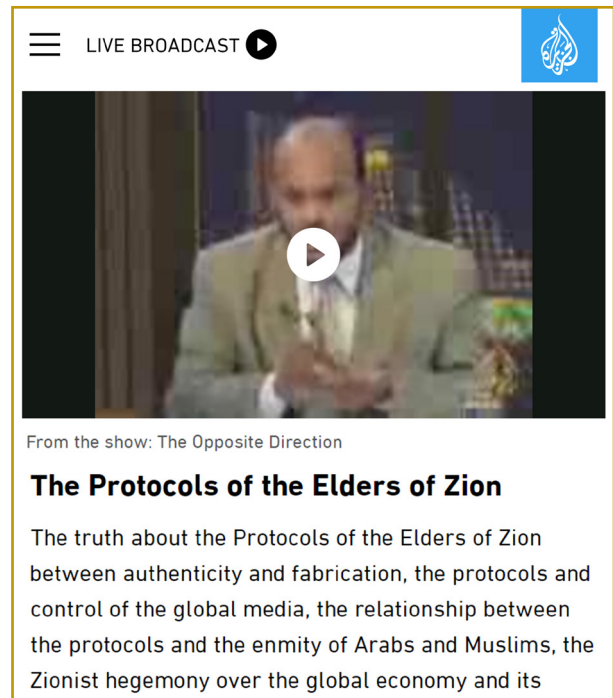
Why would the Qatari government maintain two state-owned outlets that contradict one another, with one of them (AJ+) directly opposing its worldview? Simply put, the difference between AJ+ and Al Jazeera's content is not based on different target audiences but a reflection of the government's strategy.

On the one hand, Qatar aims to intensify preexisting cultural rifts and sow internal discord in the US through the progressive AJ+. On the other hand, it promotes its actual radical Islamic ideas in Al Jazeera Arabic.

This duplicitous agenda demonstrates that, in effect, the **American public is being used as a political pawn by the Qatari government.**



AJ+ opposing antisemitism. Source: [AJ+ YouTube](#), accessed 02/12/2023



"The Opposite Direction" Debate Show Source: [Al Jazeera](#), published 03/19/2002, accessed 02/12/2023

47 "The Opposite Direction: The Protocols of the Elders of Zion," [Al Jazeera](#), published 03/19/2002, accessed 02/12/2023; "A European Plot on the Arab Stage: The Protocols of the Elders of Zion in the Arab Media," MEMRI, published 05/20/2011, accessed 02/12/2023, https://www.memri.org/reports/european-plot-arab-stage-protocols-elders-zion-arab-media#_ednref30

Conclusion and Recommendations

This report has provided documented evidence proving that **AJ+ is owned and funded by the state of Qatar** and used as a vehicle to spread its influence and promote its agenda in the West, particularly the United States.

The scale of AJ+'s reach and social media presence means that a foreign government wields disproportionate influence over millions of Americans, and uses that influence to advance anti-American rhetoric, inflame social tensions, and weaken confidence in democratic institutions.

The American people are entitled to full transparency about the entities they rely on to bring them news, as well as historical and contemporary information about domestic and global affairs. There is nothing political about requiring transparency and FARA reporting obligations do not impact the foreign agent's right to speech in the US. The only thing requiring AJ+ to comply with FARA obligations will do is provide American media consumers with a basic understanding of where their media come from.

Therefore, it is imperative that the **US Justice Department compel AJ+ to comply with the law and register under the FARA act** as it was ordered to over 2 years ago.

Furthermore, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and TikTok should adopt a similar approach to that of YouTube by clearly **labeling AJ+ content as produced by "state-affiliated media"** at every feasible opportunity, as they do with the state-linked media of other countries.

Appendix 1: Trademark of AJ+ in Qatar

TMP Agents
Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property

TRANSLATION FROM ARABIC
Form No 20 "Trademarks"

State of Qatar
Ministry of Business & Trade
Commercial Affairs
Department
Industrial Property Office

CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION OF A TRADEMARK

The Mark : AJ & device



The Head of Trademark Office hereby certifies that, in accordance with the application filed on (21/09/2014), the trademark represented above has been registered under No. (91923) in class 9 on ()

In the name of : AL Jazeera Media Network

Residing at : P.O. Box 23123 Doha - Qatar

For the following goods

Devices electronic registration of the send and reply to audio, images, movies, documentaries and drama documentaries, videos pre-recorded, optical disks, and magnetic tape recorded sound and images to display the news comments, sound recordings to display news and commentary, handsets and Computer Peripheral Computer to send information and data, video tapes, the empty signal audio and video units, video display, keyboards hardware computer programs used to display information graphical, modular Computer memory, accessories for computer interfaces, digital signal converters to convert the sound to digital data and vice versa, and optical transmitters.

Date :

Sign. : Head of Industrial Property Office
Stamp : Industrial Property Office

Trademark Law No. 3 of 1978, Article (22)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the initials 'AJ' followed by a flourish.

(استثمار رقم ١١ ، علامات تجارية)

STATE OF QATAR
Ministry of Economy & Commerce
Intellectual Property Department
Industrial Property Office

صندوق التحصيل
١٠٠٠ ريال (فقط الف ريال قطري)
رسم طلب تسجيل علامة تجارية
٢٠١٤ / /



دولة قطر
وزارة الاقتصاد والتجارة
إدارة حماية الملكية الفكرية
مكتب الملكية الصناعية

طلب تسجيل علامة تجارية
العلامة

سداد الرسوم بالقسيمة رقم ()
بتاريخ ٢١ / ٠٩ / ٢٠١٤
٩١٩٢٣



(١) اسم و لقب طالب التسجيل ومهنته وجنسية ومحل إقامته وإن كان الطالب شركة فيذكر اسمها وعنوانها ونوعها والغرض من تأليفها ومركزها العام .

شبكة الجزيرة الإعلامية / إنشأت بوثيقة تأسيس ونظام أساسي ، وفقا للقانون رقم ٢١ حتى ٢٠٠٦ / عرضها ، تشغيل وإدارة و بث قنوات تليفزيونية وفضائية وإصدار ونشر مطبوعات صحفية وايضا وسائل اعلامية اخرى

مركزها العام في ، ص.ب ٢٢١٢٢٢ ، الدوحة - دولة قطر

(٢) البضائع والمنتجات المطلوب تسجيل العلامة عنها ؛

الفن (٩) ، اجهزة التسجيل الالكترونية للإرسال والرد على الصوت والصور ، الافلام السينمائية الوثائقية والدراما الوثائقية ، اشرطة الفيديو المسجلة مسبقا ، الاقراص البصرية ، والاشربة المغناطيسية المسجلة بالصوت والصور لعرض الاخبار التعليقات ، التسجيلات الصوتية لعرض الاخبار والتعليقات ، اجهزة الفاكس ، الات المبرقة الكاتبة لارسال المعلومات ، اجهزة الهاتف والحاسب الالى ، ملحقات الحاسب الالى لارسال المعلومات والبيانات ، طابعات الحاسب الالى الالكترونية للمعلومات الرسومية غير التصوير الفوتوغرافي ، الاقراص المغناطيسية الفارضة ، اشرطة الفيديو

qf 7126/1 rev.a

الفارضة ، اشروط الفيديو الفارضة للاشارات السمعية والمرئية ، وحدات عرض الفيديو ، لوحات مفاتيح اجهزة الحاسب
الالى برامج الحاسب الالى المستخدم عرض المعلومات الرسومية ، وحدات ذاكرة الحاسب الالى ، الملحقات البيئية
للحاسب الالى ، محولات الاشارة الرقمية لتحويل الصوت لبيانات رقمية والعكس ، واجهزة الارسال البصرية .الواردة
بالفئة (٩)

بالفئة رقم : (٩)

الجهة التي يوجد بها المحل التجاري أو مشروع الاستغلال الذي تستخدم العلامة- أو يراد أن تستخدم في
تمييز بضاعه أو منتجاته ،

قطر

حسب العنوان الوارد بالبند رقم (١)

(٤) المحل المختار بقطر الذي ترسل إليه المكاتبات والمستندات المتعلقة بالتسجيل

أبو غزالة للملكية الفكرية (تي أم بي آجنتس)

ص.ب (٢٦٢٠)

السيد رئيس مكتب الملكية الصناعية بالدوحة

أنا الموقع على هذا : سامي شفيق عبد الوهاب / عن أبو غزالة للملكية الفكرية (تي أم بي آجنتس)

ملاحظة كافة الوثائق مرفقه بملف العلامة رقم (٢٧٠٢٠)

بصفتي : وكيلاً عن الشركة بموجب التوكيل المرفق بالطلب رقم (٢٢٤)

أطلب تسجيل العلامة المرسومة في هذا الطلب بالبيانات الموضحة أعلاه . .

ومرفق مع هذا أربع صور للعلامة . . .

التوقيع :

تحريري :

Appendix 2: US Trademark of AJ+

United States of America

United States Patent and Trademark Office



Reg. No. 5,005,875

Registered Jul. 26, 2016

Int. Cl.: 9, 16, 35, 38, 41

Service Mark

Trademark

Principal Register

AL JAZEERA MEDIA NETWORK (QATAR CORPORATION)

P.O. Box 23123

Al Jazeera Media Bldg., Khalifa St.

Doha QATAR

CLASS 9: Electronic apparatus and devices for controlling access to pay-television services, cable broadcast transmission machines and apparatus; pre-recorded optical disks featuring sound and images in the field of news commentary; sound recordings featuring news and commentary; remote controls for televisions; computer peripherals; computers to send information and data; pre-recorded video tapes featuring news and documentaries, movies and current events; cables for electrical and optical signal transmission, digital signal processors, electrical signal attenuators, electronic interconnectors for audio and video signals; video display cards; keyboards; computer hardware; computer cameras; blank hard disks; computer mice; computer programs used in cinema production to convert and display text and information into a graphical format; modular telephone outlet; computer memory hardware featuring memory cards, accessories for computer interfaces, namely, computer network interface devices; digital signal converters to convert the sound to digital data and vice versa, namely, digital signal processors; and optical transmitters

CLASS 16: Printed materials, namely, books, magazines and newsletters in the field of current events and current news; photographs; printed reports featuring economic, cultural and political information; printed educational materials and printed teaching materials in the field of media and multimedia and related news reporting and gathering fields

CLASS 35: Advertising services, namely, television advertising; television advertising services for others; and commercial advertising services provided to others

CLASS 38: Television broadcasting services; cable television broadcasting; radio broadcasting

CLASS 41: Entertainment services, namely, creation, development, and production of television programming; and entertainment production of television programs, namely, news and documentaries and sports programs, cultural and financial reporting, economic, political, and current events; production of movies; news agency services, namely, compilation and dissemination of news

OWNER OF QATAR REG. NO. 91927, DATED 09-21-2014, RENEWED AS REG. NO. 91927, EXPIRES 09-21-2024



Michelle K. Lee

Director of the United States
Patent and Trademark Office

Appendix 2: US Trademark of AJ+

OWNER OF QATAR REG. NO. 91926, DATED 09-21-2014, RENEWED AS REG. NO. 91926 , EXPIRES 09-21-2024

OWNER OF QATAR REG. NO. 91923, DATED 09-21-2014, RENEWED AS REG. NO. 91923 , EXPIRES 09-21-2024

OWNER OF QATAR REG. NO. 91924, DATED 09-21-2014, RENEWED AS REG. NO. 91924 , EXPIRES 09-21-2024

OWNER OF QATAR REG. NO. 91925, DATED 09-21-2014, RENEWED AS REG. NO. 91925 , EXPIRES 09-21-2024

The mark consists of the stylized letters "AJ" with a "+" (plus sign) imposed over the letters.

SER. NO. 86-576,061, FILED 03-25-2015

KATHERINE M DUBRAY, EXAMINING ATTORNEY

REQUIREMENTS TO MAINTAIN YOUR FEDERAL TRADEMARK REGISTRATION
WARNING: YOUR REGISTRATION WILL BE CANCELLED IF YOU DO NOT FILE THE
DOCUMENTS BELOW DURING THE SPECIFIED TIME PERIODS.

Requirements in the First Ten Years*

What and When to File:

- *First Filing Deadline:* You must file a Declaration of Use (or Excusable Nonuse) between the 5th and 6th years after the registration date. See 15 U.S.C. §§1058, 1141k. If the declaration is accepted, the registration will continue in force for the remainder of the ten-year period, calculated from the registration date, unless cancelled by an order of the Commissioner for Trademarks or a federal court.
- *Second Filing Deadline:* You must file a Declaration of Use (or Excusable Nonuse) and an Application for Renewal between the 9th and 10th years after the registration date.* See 15 U.S.C. §1059.

Requirements in Successive Ten-Year Periods*

What and When to File:

- You must file a Declaration of Use (or Excusable Nonuse) and an Application for Renewal between every 9th and 10th-year period, calculated from the registration date.*

Grace Period Filings*

The above documents will be accepted as timely if filed within six months after the deadlines listed above with the payment of an additional fee.

***ATTENTION MADRID PROTOCOL REGISTRANTS:** The holder of an international registration with an extension of protection to the United States under the Madrid Protocol must timely file the Declarations of Use (or Excusable Nonuse) referenced above directly with the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). The time periods for filing are based on the U.S. registration date (not the international registration date). The deadlines and grace periods for the Declarations of Use (or Excusable Nonuse) are identical to those for nationally issued registrations. See 15 U.S.C. §§1058, 1141k. However, owners of international registrations do not file renewal applications at the USPTO. Instead, the holder must file a renewal of the underlying international registration at the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, under Article 7 of the Madrid Protocol, before the expiration of each ten-year term of protection, calculated from the date of the international registration. See 15 U.S.C. §1141j. For more information and renewal forms for the international registration, see <http://www.wipo.int/madrid/en/>.

NOTE: Fees and requirements for maintaining registrations are subject to change. Please check the USPTO website for further information. With the exception of renewal applications for registered extensions of protection, you can file the registration maintenance documents referenced above online at <http://www.uspto.gov>.

NOTE: A courtesy e-mail reminder of USPTO maintenance filing deadlines will be sent to trademark owners/holders who authorize e-mail communication and maintain a current e-mail address with the USPTO. To ensure that e-mail is authorized and your address is current, please use the Trademark Electronic Application System (TEAS) Correspondence Address and Change of Owner Address Forms available at <http://www.uspto.gov>.

Appendix 3: Extreme Rhetoric of AJ+ Employees

AJ+'s anti-West and anti-Israel agenda does not end only with the content its official channels broadcast to millions of followers. Senior employees and former employees of the network also leverage their prominent roles at AJ+ to cultivate a social media following of their own, where they regularly spread incitement, hate, and demonization of the state of Israel.

The following section includes a selection of 4 AJ+ employees and their social media activity.

Dena Takuri

Dena Takuri has been employed as a senior producer at AJ+ since 2013. She hosts the network's series "Direct From with Dena Takuri," which "explores injustices, conflict, and turmoil impacting our world."⁴⁸ For over a decade, Takuri has used social media to spread hatred and delegitimization of the state of Israel. She has also tweeted in support of the BDS movement⁴⁹ and in defense of members of terror groups. For example, in November 2020 she tweeted that Khalida Jarrar, a member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), is a "remarkable woman I had the honor of meeting and interviewing over a year ago in Palestine."⁵⁰ The PFLP is designated as a terror organization by the United States, Canada, the European Union, and Israel.

Takuri frequently characterizes Israel as an "apartheid state" in her tweets, using the word "apartheid" to describe Israel on at least 27 separate occasions.⁵¹ In March 2021, in response to a news item on Israel's COVID-19 vaccination campaign, she tweeted: "If you're reporting on Israel as a "global leader in vaccinations" without also contextualizing that it's a global leader in apartheid, you're not telling the full story."⁵²

In September 2022, Takuri published a book titled



Source: [Dena Takuri Twitter](#)



Source: [Dena Takuri Twitter](#)



Source: [Dena Takuri Twitter](#)

48 Dena Takuri, LinkedIn, <https://www.linkedin.com/in/denatakruri>

49 Dena Takuri [@Dena], Twitter, June 6, 2016, <https://twitter.com/Dena/status/739844952067186689>

50 Dena Takuri [@Dena], Twitter, November 3, 2020, <https://twitter.com/Dena/status/1323521365211639812>

51 Analysis of Dena Takuri [@Dena] Twitter account, January 2023

52 Dena Takuri [@Dena], Twitter, March 17, 2021, <https://twitter.com/Dena/status/1371988753326088195>

“They Called Me a Lioness: A Palestinian Girl’s Fight for Freedom,” coauthored with Ahed Tamimi, a Palestinian activist who was jailed in 2017 for physically assaulting an Israeli soldier.⁵³

Takuri is also highly critical of the US, producing several videos for AJ+ accusing the US Border Patrol of racist and abusive behavior.⁵⁴

Sana Saeed

Sana Saeed has been employed at AJ+ since 2014 and has been a senior producer since 2018. She currently produces “Backspace,” AJ+’s media critique series. According to Canary Mission, Saeed “has expressed support for Hamas, promoted terrorists, spread anti-Israel conspiracy theories and defended violent anti-Israel agitators.”⁵⁵ Saeed was previously associated with National Students for Justice in Palestine and was a keynote speaker at their 2017 conference.

Saeed too has a decade-long resumé of inciting against and demonizing the state of Israel online, occasionally even defending terror.⁵⁶ She has accused Israel of, among other things, intentionally targeting Palestinian children, “coordinating” with Al Qaeda, and ethnic cleansing. She has also frequently voiced support for the BDS movement against Israel. For example, in November 2020 Saeed tweeted, “I support the boycott of, divestment from and sanctioning of the State of Israel for its continued theft of Palestinian land, its ethnic cleansing of Palestinian lives and culture, and its continued institution of apartheid.”⁵⁷ In October 2021 she tweeted, “I don’t think there’s any genocide/ethnic cleansing project today (and there have been many) as well documented and explicit as the one of the Palestinians.”⁵⁸ She has



Source: [Canary Mission](#)

53 Haaretz, “Palestinian Teen Ahed Tamimi, Jailed for Assaulting Israeli Soldier, Released,” July 29, 2018, [https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/2018-07-29/ty-article/palestinian-teen-ahed-tamim\[...\]ased-from-israeli-prison/0000017f-dc4f-d856-a37f-fdcf6c6a0000](https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/2018-07-29/ty-article/palestinian-teen-ahed-tamim[...]ased-from-israeli-prison/0000017f-dc4f-d856-a37f-fdcf6c6a0000)

54 Dena Takuri [@Dena], Twitter, July 21, 2021, <https://twitter.com/Dena/status/1417608461421092864>

55 “Sana Saeed,” Canary Mission, updated January 23, 2023, https://canarymission.org/individual/Sana_Saeed

56 See tweet from May 14, 2018 defending Hamas <https://twitter.com/SanaSaeed/status/996125446050754560>; and tweet from February 18, 2012 defending Khader Adnan, a senior member of Palestinian Islamic Jihad <https://twitter.com/SanaSaeed/status/170790206646136833>

57 Sana Saeed [@SanaSaeed], Twitter, November 19, 2020, <https://twitter.com/SanaSaeed/status/1329465868565311491>

58 Sana Saeed [@SanaSaeed], Twitter, October 11, 2021, <https://twitter.com/SanaSaeed/status/1447335279489007619>

also called Israel a “client state of US imperialism.”⁵⁹

In November 2022, Saeed produced a video for AJ+ titled “Why Israel Matters to Americans,” which aimed to explain the “special relationship” between Israel and the United States. In the video, Saeed refers to Israel as “an arm of the American empire,” claiming that both are “settler colonial states that have been built on the displacement and ethnic cleansing of other peoples.”⁶⁰

Francesca Fiorentini

Francesca Fiorentini has been a host and producer with AJ+ since the channel’s founding in 2013, and hosts the show “Newsbroke,” AJ+’s “female-led comedy division and news satire show.”⁶¹ Fiorentini, too, has a history of frequent harsh criticism of Israel. In 2015, Fiorentini tweeted, “Whenever I think U.S. politics couldn’t get any more right-wing, racist, and all around scary, I simply look to Israel.”⁶² In May 2021, in the midst of Hamas rockets being fired at Israeli civilian targets, Fiorentini tweeted “Israel has a right to debase itself,”⁶³ as a response to the common refrain that Israel has the right to defend itself.

Fiorentini has also occasionally engaged in veiled antisemitism. In February 2019, in a tweet advertising an episode of her own podcast “The Bitchuation Room,” Fiorentini wrote that the episode would feature her and “a few good Jews” (namely, anti-Zionist ones) weighing in on Israel.⁶⁴

Matt Lieb

Matt Lieb has been a writer, producer, and co-host for AJ+ since 2016. He is married to



Source: [Sana Saeed Twitter](#)



Source: [Sana Saeed Twitter](#)



Source: [Francesca Fiorentini Twitter](#)

59 Sana Saeed [@SanaSaeed], Twitter, May 21, 2021, <https://twitter.com/SanaSaeed/status/1395756757440466953>

60 “Why Israel Matters to Americans,” AJ+, YouTube, November 4, 2022, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kIXaDgmM8Fs&list=PLZd3QRtSy5LPARSmHiuVuhwCj6KU55W6p&index=1>

61 NewsBroke Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/newsbroke/>

62 Francesca Fiorentini [@franifio], Twitter, March 18, 2015, <https://twitter.com/franifio/status/578272048113401856>

63 Francesca Fiorentini [@franifio], Twitter, May 17, 2021, <https://twitter.com/franifio/status/1394373086481240064>

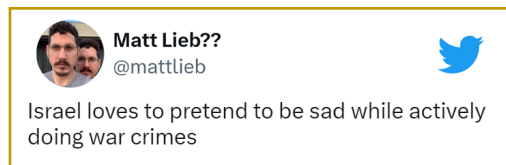
64 Francesca Fiorentini [@franifio], Twitter, February 28, 2019, <https://twitter.com/franifio/status/1100927333064757250>

Fiorentini and is the co-creator of “Newsbroke.” Lieb also engages in frequent demonization of Israel and has frequently referred to it as an “apartheid state.” In May 2021, Lieb tweeted, “Israel loves to pretend to be sad while actively doing war crimes.”⁶⁵ In a separate tweet, he wrote, “You don’t need a PhD in Middle East studies to see that when it comes to Israel and Palestine, Israel are the baddies.”⁶⁶

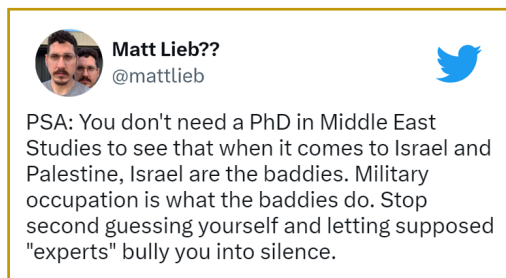
In 2019 Lieb released a video for AJ+ claiming that the “narrative of left-wing antisemitism is used to uphold white supremacy,” in which he defended Rep. Ilhan Omar’s “it’s all about the Benjamins” and “Israel has hypnotized the world” tweets, both widely denounced as antisemitic, saying that accusations of antisemitism were due to a “bad faith reading” of the tweets.⁶⁷ In the same video, Lieb also defended former CNN commentator Marc Lamont Hill’s call to free Palestine “from the river to the sea,” (for which Lamont Hill was fired), a phrase generally understood to be calling for the destruction of the Jewish state.



Source: [Francesca Fiorentini Twitter](#)



Source: [Matt Lieb Twitter](#)



Source: [Matt Lieb Twitter](#)

The above list is just a small selection of the rhetoric regularly spread by AJ+ senior staff. The incitement and vitriol regularly directed towards the United States and Israel by employees of AJ+, as well as their ideological homogeneity, is indicative of the channel’s larger policy agenda. The fact that media professionals based in the United States are receiving salaries from a state sponsor of terrorism to spread anti-US, anti-Israel, and anti-West propaganda in both their professional and personal capacities should raise serious questions regarding the scope of AJ+ activity within the United States.

65 Matt Lieb [@mattlieb], Twitter, May 14, 2021, <https://twitter.com/mattlieb/status/1392960251670896643>

66 Matt Lieb [@mattlieb], Twitter, May 12, 2021, <https://twitter.com/mattlieb/status/1392569957368492032>

67 “Why Criticism of Israel Isn’t Antisemitism,” AJ+, YouTube, September 20, 2019, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zi_Mu_781KU



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