

Egyptian Press and the Industry of Bigotry

**Baha'is ... Pope Benedict...
Jews... The Brotherhoods...**

"Egyptian Press and the Industry of Bigotry" is part of the project "Eye on the Press", which is an observatory that monitors and evaluates media practices and their compatibility with the principles and values of plurality, tolerance as well as the struggle against violence and discrimination as per the criteria and values included contained in the Press Charter, the Egyptian Law, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the UNESCO Declaration of Principles on Tolerance, in addition to other international conventions that combat intolerance and discrimination based on color, religion, belief and thought.

The objective of this project is to develop the sensitivity of media and press workers towards these issues, due to the huge influence the Egyptian press has on the public opinion.

Publisher: Andalus Institute for Tolerance and Anti-Violence Studies

Address: 24 Husain Hijazi street – Qasr Al Aini -CAIRO

Tel/fax: (02)-27943897 - 27943298

E-mail: andalusitas@yahoo.com

Web site: www.andalusitas.org

Book deposition no. at Dar Al Kotob: 13433/2007

This book was published with the assistance of the United States Agency for International Development in Egypt

The Work Team

Academic advisor of the project

Dr. Gamal Abdel Gawad

Project Manager

Ahmed Samih

Unit Director

Safaa Essam Eddin

Researchers

Abdu Ibrahim

Hayam Salama

Bassem Samir

Rania Farouk

Mahmud Mohammed

Georgina Thabet

Andrew Nasr

Hassan Mohammed

Media and Politics

The importance of the media as an instrument of communication in modern society has been increasing until it reached a position where it became the most important tool of communication between the different factions of society, be that area of communication politics, economy, culture, arts, entertainment, or other. This goes for countries of traditions and ancient democratic systems, just as it goes for developing countries that are still taking their first steps into the world of democracy from authoritarian backgrounds, and even in countries that are far from even an emerging democracy.

In traditional societies, personal contact is the most powerful mode of communication and delivering messages among individuals; which is a role played mostly by individuals who play different social functions, such as holy men who represent a major source of knowledge, and the elites and influential people who have connections with the rulers. Personal contact has its obvious disadvantages, such as the fact that the messages are usually oral and do not provide a reliable source of information, as well as personal messages can easily be manipulated and corrupted through the transition between different people, which can offer a number of contradictory meanings to the same message.

Modern societies cannot, obviously rely on personal contact as a mode of communication, as modern societies are mostly characterized by centralization even in the most democratic and federal of them, as there is the rule of law upon all citizens, and all individuals must be aware of the set of laws ruling them. Also, the high demand for networking and the complex forms of communication necessitate individuals to require a regular flow of credible information about what is happening around them, whether inside their countries or in the world as a whole. Technological progress in printing and broadcasting methods provided this kind of credible flow of information through the evolution of the press and the media as two very reliable and highly important tools of communication. Also, the increased numbers and levels of readership gave way for further need of knowledge.

The more modern a society like the Egyptian becomes, the importance of personal contact decreases further, so the need for delivering political messages becomes the duty of the press and the media, especially political decisions that can have an impact on society as a whole.

Although media has existed since the entering stage of societies into modernity with the introduction of Gothenburg's invention of printing in 1456, the thing which paved the way for the emergence of the first form of periodicals in 1594 in Colon, Germany, which ironically was printed in Latin – the language of clerks and politicians in the –then dying- Western Roman Empire. However, the overall high percentage of illiteracy in Europe at this stage of history contributed to the decreased impact of the Press in the public sphere then. Only when the right social requirements were met, the Press started significantly touching people's lives.

This was approximately towards the end of the eighteenth century when literacy prevailed among wide categories of people in Europe, together with the introduction of Capitalism and the emergence of the 'national state' as we know it. These significant changes in Europe gave way to the press as a mobilizing driving force that pushed citizens into participating in the public sphere to emphasize the newly introduced ideas.

At a later stage, with the prevalence of the Capitalist Market mechanisms and the consequent decomposition of nationalistic movements and the emergence of new socio-economic classes of capitalist investors, laborers and middle class employees; new ideologies raced in that could only be expanded and expressed through credible, reliable and prevalent form of press.

National movements, followed by social conflicts were representative for the emergence of mass political community, where it became possible for millions of citizens to participate in political and public life. Although the press was a key mediator for the transfer and circulation of news and ideas among a large number of citizens that had just recently entered the political field, however, political parties - which included a large number of people- represented the regulatory framework and

became the most important political actor in the newly-emerging political life. Press was a tool that each individual could read alone, but political parties provided the institutional framework where social demands were expressed and transformed into programs and political decisions.

Bearing in mind the role that political parties – followed by trade unions – played at the beginning of the industrial revolution and the rise of socio-political ideologies as well as nationalistic and leftist movements as a main tool of mobilization and communication, however, this role has notably decreased during the past few decades as they have turned into voices for the elites of society, the thing that made ordinary citizens feel unrepresented and quit the political life as a whole.

The retreat of the role of political parties due to all of these reasons pushed towards a bigger role for media in political life, which made it an integral part of the political mechanisms of interaction in society, and required further understanding of its dimensions and mechanisms so that it plays its required role properly.

One of the main characteristics of media that signifies its important role is the fact that –although by the end of the day only a bunch of citizens work in the field of media, their decisions play a major role in drawing the paths of political development in society, hence setting the agenda of public debate.

Another characteristic of increasing importance is that the societal development granted media and its workers significant political influence through the support of people. Not only media workers enjoy this privilege; holy men, and certain senior officials in certain entities enjoy it too. This poses a serious challenge to any democratic (or democratizing) society where it is necessary to regulate the professional performance of these categories according to the rules that guarantee the interests of society, including the provision of tools and the conditions necessary to enable these groups to achieve the highest levels of professional performance.

The third distinctive feature of the role of media in political life has to do with the relationship between media on the one hand and social and political forces in

society on the other. Understanding these forces to the importance of the role played by media in society stimulates these forces to subjugate media to their control, or to influence it so that it becomes a means to their ends.

As much as media is considered an active player in political life, it is also an arena of conflict between various social and political forces. Commitment to the rules of professional performance is hence the most effective way to liberate the media from the control of such parties in the political competition, and to avoid its transformation into an instrument or an arena of social and political conflict.

The political role of media workers due to the growing role of the media in modern society requires a higher degree of attention from society regarding the level and quality of neutrality and professional ethics that should characterize its performance. This is what this project is trying to do.

Fortunately, the principles that we seek to consolidate through this observatory are consistent with the principles and professional ethics governing the profession of journalism, which were developed by consensus through representative bodies of journalists and interested entities on the local and the international levels. These principles can be summarized as follows:

- 1) The first obligation of the press is to present the truth.
- 2) The first loyalty of the press goes to citizens.
- 3) The essence of journalism is to verify and audit.
- 4) Press workers are independent of persons and entities that represent the themes of their press coverage.
- 5) Press is an independent observatory for the performance of the centers of power in society.
- 6) Press provides a platform for societal criticism and for reaching compromises among the components of society.
- 7) Press coverage should be comprehensive and proportionate to what is happening in reality.

- 8) The journalist must rely on original sources of information, including talking to people with direct relevance to the theme event coverage. A journalist should also rely on authentic documents, and should refer to this fact as published.
- 9) The journalist should quote his sources of information if they are taken from previously published literature.
- 10) The journalist has to use a variety of sources of information, particularly in the coverage of controversial issues.
- 11) The journalist has to ascertain the accuracy of the information that is presented to him/her.
- 12) The journalist has to cover the different aspects related to the case which he/she is writing about.
- 13) The journalist has to avoid bias to any of the parties in a certain conflict, and to clarify to the reader the contradictory viewpoints in any controversial issue.
- 14) The journalist has to refuse receiving benefits, gifts or privileges from the parties of the press reportage, and has to avoid even looking as if he/she had been subjected to the influence of his/her sources.
- 15) The journalist has to avoid press coverage of topics that may be associated with his/her personal interests, or that he has a personal bias towards.

Agreeing on these principles does not mean that there is commitment on the part of journalists or the different institutions; as these principles represent an ideal vision of how the press should be. However, in reality, the press represents different approaches to this vision.

Certainly, these principles do not happen on their own, but have to be achieved through extensive efforts by the various press institutions and with utter transparency and participation of the public opinion so that the process of developing the press does not turn to a further restriction on the freedom and ethical commitment of the press.

Consolidating pluralism and combating intolerance

We have chosen to focus in this observatory on issues relating to pluralism, tolerance, and acceptance of others. Previous studies have shown that the performance of the press in Egypt is generally insensitive towards this kind of issues, which shows in the limited press coverage of these issues, and in the recurrence of press reportages that do not take into account the values of freedom, diversity, pluralism, relativity and respecting privacy. Sometimes this insensitivity reaches the level of violating the principles of freedom, which is the cornerstone of the profession of journalism and the norms and ethics of professional work.

Freedom of expression, although one of the most important rights that we all have to deepen and emphasize in society, certain values have to be adhered to such as pluralism, tolerance, and acceptance of others. The absence of adequate respect for these values can turn freedom of expression into a state of civil and political war with words and more, which may justify to some of the opponents of freedom, and perhaps to some who are concerned on the cohesion of society and civil peace, restricting freedoms of expression and the press itself, which will lead to sacrificing prospects of democratic reform that a large sector of Egyptians is seeking.

It is expected that these issues are among the concerns of the general entities in the field of journalism, particularly newspaper publishers and journalists' union. However, the central role played by the press in shaping public life requires the attention of civil society organizations and contributing to the protection of freedom of expression and the consolidation of the constructive role of the press in the political reform process until we reach democracy.

In this framework comes this Observatory as an attempt to raise the awareness regarding certain aspects relevant to the issues of pluralism, tolerance and countering violence and discrimination, hoping that other entities would exert similar efforts on other issues of equal importance. In this context, we have to refer to the periodic report published by the Supreme Council of the Press about

the commitment of newspapers to the traditions, customs and laws governing the profession of journalism, and wish that the reports that we intend to publish add in the same direction and achieve the same purpose.

This project aims to launch a media observatory to monitor and evaluate journalistic practices and their commitment to the principles and values of pluralism, tolerance and countering violence and discrimination based on the criteria, principles and values contained in the Press Honor Charter, the Egyptian law, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Declaration of Principles on Tolerance, in addition to other international charters that adopt the principles of countering intolerance and discrimination based on gender, religion, belief and thought. The objective of this project is to develop the sensitivity of media workers towards these issues which will reflect on the way they perform press coverage.

And because the diversity of opinions and trends and their conflict is an essential element needed for asserting pluralism and freedom of expression, this observatory was designed to promote pluralism and freedom of expression through assisting media workers to express their differences in opinion and vision in a manner devoid of intolerance, which can be a threat to freedom of expression itself.

This observatory defines intolerance as "discrimination or exclusion, restriction or preference, or contaminating the image or reputation on the grounds of religion, belief, gender, sex, nationality, cultural or political background in order to impose restrictions on practicing human rights and fundamental freedoms by certain categories".

The methodology adopted here is the result of a number of encounters and meetings that brought together a number of experts in relevant fields so as to lay the foundations and rules of the monitoring methodology as well as the analysis and evaluation of the press materials. The Advisory Committee comprised the following experts:

- Negad Al Bura'i (A prominent lawyer and chairman of the United Group)
- Said Abdel-Hafiz (Director of the Dialogue Forum for Development and Human Rights Institute)
- Hossam Bahgat (Director of the Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights)
- Motaz Al Fogeiri (Program Manager at the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies)
- Samir Morkos (A specialist in citizenship affairs)
- Magdy Al Gallad (Chief editor of the Masri Al Yom newspaper)
- Salah Issa (Chief editor of the Al Qahira newspaper)
- Sayed Ali (Assistant of the Chief editor of Al-Ahram newspaper)
- Ali Salem (author)
- Khalid Salah (Journalist)
- Amr Khafagi (A journalist and director of Dream Channel)
- Fatima Khafagi (Former head of the Women Ombudsman Office)
- Dr. Amal Abdul Hadi (Member of the Board of Trustees of the New Woman Foundation)

According to international standards on the issues of concern to this observatory, certain definitions were set as follows:

Prejudice: is willfully depriving a group or entity from objective or fair treatment, in a way that implies covering the affairs related to this group or entity with certain negative and arbitrary interpretations. Accidentally misjudging a certain cause is, however, accepted but not when it is persistent and repeatedly recurring as it may lead to a great damage to the image of a certain group or party in the public domain.

Exclusion and Negligence: is addressing a certain cause in a manner that ignores the existence of one of the concerned parties of this cause.

Degradation: involves implicit or explicit expressions involving ridicule and offending the dignity and worth of the party that is being written about, and often this kind of violations is directed at individuals, but the position occupied by these individuals, which makes them symbols for a certain broad social group, justify including to the group of violations directed at social groups.

Intolerance: Is extreme or exaggerated judgments and attitudes as well as the tendency to generalize, especially in negative judgments towards a certain group or even an opinion.

Racism: includes contempt, overstated negative generalization on a certain social group or an ethnic sect because of their beliefs or their very being.

Instigating Hate: involves the use of explicit expressions that instigate hatred or contempt against a certain individual or a particular group.

Instigating Violence: involves explicit invitation to resort to repression or violence against an individual or a particular group.

This project started when it was noted that an increasing level of bias in the expression of issues affecting faiths, races and cultures, which are characteristics that distinguish human beings since birth, without much of a choice from their part.

However, during the stages of preparation and training for the implementation of this project, we noted that there were different shapes of bias that were apparent in the political discourses that usually contributed to poisoning the public sphere in a way that obstructs the transition to democracy in our society, as well as negatively affected issues that are mostly related to national unity.

It has to be stated that the gravity of these practices and the harm caused by them is not flagrant in the sense that it may not directly damage these ethnic or religious groups, however, the prevalence of this type of professional practices is a

risk that cannot be ignored as it generally leads to the poisoning of the general political and cultural climate as they instigate feelings of lack of credibility, indifference, and hatred which does not exactly provide proper conditions for peaceful democratic political transitions. Moreover, resorting to methods involving verbal abuse, and the indifference of society and its entities towards this abuse, even by noting them creates a climate conducive to the expansion of such verbal abuses against ethnic and religious groups.

Despite the numerous areas of application, however, methods of thinking remain the same and if society tolerates the expansion in the use of verbal abuse in the context of general political and cultural discourse, it will find itself deemed to tolerate abuse with other even more serious and substantive issues.

That is why the project team felt the need to expand this research to embrace areas of general political discourse. This has necessitated some amendments to the method of research, so as to also monitor biases and abuses related to issues that touch upon identity and primary affiliations, as well as prejudices and attitudes concerning political and ideological trends. This in turn called for further development of the list of definitions we use, as thus:

Mockery: is mocking the policies embraced by a certain political party without a substantive and objective criticism.

Degradation: Offending a political person using inappropriate personal comments and implications related to political trends and affiliations espoused by this person. This is usually done through the use of selective or unjustified generalizations.

Defamation: Offending an institution or a political group to tarnish their image and prestige in the public sphere, usually done through the use of selective or unjustified generalizations.

Incitement: Unjustified or weak criticism intended to incite against a certain political group or a specific institution.

This report

The main product of this project is a periodic report that includes quantitative and qualitative monitoring of irregularities detected in the Egyptian press during the reporting period. The team managed to establish a huge number of monitoring rules, especially in quantitative terms; however, we wanted to involve the press community and civil society with us in what we do, particularly in order to obtain the views and suggestions that can guide us especially as we approach the stage of preparing international reports.

Therefore, we offer a series of reports following this introduction, which are qualitative reports that present the performance of the press regarding a number of issues which claimed much of the public attention during the last year.

This report had been prepared over the past year, so the reader will notice that there is a gradual increase in the number of newspapers monitored in the transition from one report to the next, hoping to be able to provide comprehensive coverage of all Egyptian newspapers in upcoming phases of the project.

The report is divided into four sections:

Section I: Baha'is: doubts about freedom of religion

We tackled this issue following the appeal presented by the Ministry of Interiors in the Court Verdict issued on their behalf, which approved the codification of their right to registering their religion in official records.

Section II: Israeli war on Lebanon: Mixing the religious with the political

The idea of this report emerged during the Israeli aggression against Lebanon in July 2007, after we observed the confusion that occurred when a large number of journalists mixed between Zionists and the Jewish religion.

Section III: Pope Benedict statements: reviving historical sensitivities

Here, we monitor the reactions of a number of Egyptian newspapers towards the statements of Pope Benedict XVI following the lecture which he delivered in Regensburg, Germany, and how the press dealt with crisis.

Section IV: Brotherhood militias: affirming political exclusion

In this section, we deal with the way the Egyptian press dealt with the Muslim Brotherhood following the semi-military show that the Azhar University students in the university complex and how the state launched mass arrests of students that included some of the businessmen accused of financing the banned Muslim Brotherhood group and of money laundering.

Section I

Baha'i: Doubts about freedom of religion

This case started when Rania Enayet Abdel Rahman Rushdie headed in 2004 to the Immigration Department to add her daughters on her passport. When the employees recognized that she has "Baha'i" as her religion in her ID card as well as in the birth certificates of her daughters, they confiscated her ID card and refused to issue her passport. This case started a series of lawsuits before the Egyptian courts between Baha'is on the one hand and the Ministry of Interiors and the Department of Civil Status on the other. The later insisted on refusing to codify the Baha'i religion in official papers and refused even to give them the option of leaving the religion slot blank in official records, while the Baha'is insisted on registering their religion.

Despite a ruling from the Administrative Judicial Court which recognized the right of the Baha'is to register their religion in official documents, however, the Supreme Administrative Court accepted the appeal of this provision and passed a verdict that contradicts with the values and principles of international conventions and treaties on human rights and the Egyptian Constitution, which stated in Article 46 that "the State shall guarantee the freedom of belief and freedom to practice religious rites" based on narrow interpretations of this article to suggest that this article is limited to only the three monotheistic religions.

This report monitors, analyses and evaluates the role played by the Egyptian press during this period with all its various trends by analyzing the content of press articles published on this issue.

General observations on the press coverage

- National newspapers monitored (Al Gomhoureya and Rose Al Yusuf) implied direct incitement to hatred against Baha'i and the adherents of this religion, through a variety of press forms (reports, investigations, articles and news coverage).

- Al Fagr newspaper was characterized by its neutrality and objectivity as it allowed for a balanced expression of this belief and discussed, objectively, the holy book of Baha'is, and did not try to link this religion to Zionism and colonialism like other newspapers did.
- Al Masri Al Yom newspaper tried to maintain neutrality and balance in the discussion of this issue, but in some cases, the subjects were published with racial orientation against Baha'i believers. However, the article published in it by Dr. Saad Eddin Ibrahim was the only one that discussed that issue as a basic human right.
- Al-Ahrar came at the top of partisan newspapers which launched a fierce attack on Baha'i' Egyptians which amounted to an unequivocal direct incitement to hatred, and was reflected in the hostile headlines which linked their religion to global Zionism.
- Al-Wafd launched yet another attack against Baha'is and Baha'ism through articles and investigations, and even the news failed to meet the criteria of neutrality and objectivity.

Most of the newspapers that covered this issue, whether in the form of articles, reports or news coverage, did not publish the correct information or background on the issue, and mainly based their views on wrong information since the plaintiffs did not bring forward a request for registering their religion in official papers, but merely demanded retaining their passports that the Immigration Department abstained upon discovering that they were Baha'is.

Although a number of writers supported the right of Baha'is in registering their religion in official papers, and thus enabling them to obtain other official documents that they are deprived of, especially their passports, however, most of these writers were still opinionated and based their views on racial arguments that mainly wanted to protect Islam and Muslims, which implied that registering their religion will be used as another instrument of discrimination, and not as an expression of the right of all citizens to enjoy equal rights of citizenship.

This issue was touched upon by a wide scale of newspapers, whether national, partisan or private, however no one touched upon the negative impact of not writing Baha'i in the slot of religion in official documents; this is a problem that 2,000 Baha'is in Egypt suffer from and for which you can find a number of complaints in reports issued by some human rights organizations such as the Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights, and the Arab Network for Human Rights Information, beside the complaints included in the report of the National Council for Human Rights, which, according to the Council's last report, reached 19 complaints, including a number of specific problems faced by Baha'is in Egypt such as extracting birth or death certificates etc..

A number of newspapers still attacked Baha'is linking them to Zionism and the colonial powers, and in fact, this view did not verify its allegations and many newspapers criticized the absence of the same systems and provisions that legalize marriage, divorce and inheritance according to Islamic laws in Baha'ism, arguing that it is considered heresy and poses a threat to public order. Andalus Institute finds that it is unfair to judge a belief or a religion from the perspective of another.

Many newspapers promoted previous verdicts issued against Baha'is, in contradiction to the value of freedom upon which the press as a profession is established.

The following highlights the topics that were monitored during follow-up:

First: national newspapers

The overall trend of national newspapers in this case was mainly against Baha'i believers, especially Rose Al Yusuf and Al Gomhoureya newspapers. The following are details of their assault on Baha'is:

Rose Al Yusuf newspaper

The general feature of the subjects published in Rose Al Yusuf newspaper indicated bias against the Baha'is, but in some editions they even explicitly incited hatred against Baha'ism as a religion, such as what came on the front page of the

edition issued on 8/5/2006, Rose Al Yusuf newspaper published the appeal made by the Minister of Interiors against the verdict which came in favor of the Baha'is' right to register their religion in official documents. The news included a part of that appeal that stated: "... Baha'ism is not one of the three monotheistic religions... practicing it destabilizes public order and civil peace, hence no one should be registered as a follower of this belief in official documents..."

The newspaper copied that appeal on a full-page, and the sub-headings reflected the viewpoint of the newspaper such as "The grounds of the appeal: Islam is the state religion... Baha'i does not belong to the three monotheistic recognized religions". This viewpoint implies racist comments as the newspaper overstated the appeal submitted by the Ministry of the Interiors, and justified denying the Baha'is' right to register their belief in official documents without balancing that justification with counter views.

On May 12, 2006, Rose Al Yusuf newspaper published the statements of Dr. Abdel Mo'ti Gaballah, Dean of the Faculty of Islamic Studies in Dessouk, under the title: "Mirza Ali Mohamed, leader of Baha'is: Is he a descendant from God?" His statements were in response to a question posed by a student on the truth behind the allegation of Baha'is that a divine revelation descended upon their leader. Dr. Gaballah's article included verbal abuse against the founder of Baha'i and his followers, which makes his arguments an explicit call for hating the followers of this religion.

In the edition issued on May 14, 2006, two opposite pages copied a previous verdict that was against acknowledging Baha'i as a religion, under the title: "Rose Al Yusuf newspaper publishes the text of the provision, which no one recalls: The Administrative Judicial Court refused to recognize Baha'i in 1952".

The subheadings explicitly significant of negative judgments, such as "the Court affirms that the Constitution does not protect the newly-created doctrines that are merely heresy and blasphemy, and has nothing to do with monotheistic religions", "Egypt's Mufti considered the plaintiff of the lawsuit is an apostate .. and his marriage

is considered void," " The Baha'i faith is based on human paganism and alleging divinity", "The Jurists' Complex deems Baha'is a criminal group backed by colonial powers".

Certainly, publishing such documents is a great service to the reader, but at the same time, the publication of the texts as they are, without adding a statement that indicates that they are non-representative of the newspaper's point of view, especially when we are talking here about texts that involve judgments and expressions of strong negative implication on the front pages of the newspaper. All of this makes it sound as if the newspaper is promoting the content of these documents.

With all due respect to the judicial rulings, but the difference between the role of the judiciary and the press necessitates that the latter avoids promoting the values and ideas contained even within some of the provisions of the judiciary, especially if it conflicts with the values of freedom on which the press is based. Cautiousness is also needed by the press due to its commonality compared to judicial rulings.

On May 16, 2006, the front page of Rose Al Yusuf published an article under the title: "Supreme Administrative Court rescinds the recognition of Baha'i", where the newspaper presented the proceedings of the session in which the Court abolished the enforcement of the judgment that came out earlier in favor of the Baha'is. The news has expressed the enthusiasm felt by the audience that attended the court and who have demanded the abolition of the Administrative Judiciary Court verdict in favor of the Baha'is. The article was explicitly in favor of the appeal presented by the Minister of Interiors against recognizing Baha'i as a religion in official documents.

Portraying this image is exactly required of the press as part of its role, but what is not is totally excluding the Baha'i that attended the court and even going further to accuse the lawyer that defended them of apostasy, which is contrary to the principle of the right to proper legal representation.

The newspaper was sarcastic and explicitly ridiculed Baha'is when it commented that recognizing any other belief other than the three recognized religions will open

the door for bizarre beliefs and one day a man will want to register in his ID that he is a Cats' worshipper!!

Al Gomhoureya

What Al Gomhoureya newspaper published regarding this issue can only be considered as an explicit incitement to hatred of the Baha'is, such as the following:

On May 8, 2006, the newspaper published a report under the title: "Islamic Research Complex after the ruling of the Administrative Court: Baha'i is a man-made invention and its followers are outlaws as per the norms of Islam". The report reviewed the viewpoint of the former Al-Azhar Sheikh Gad Al Haq Ali Gad Al Haq, who stated that the Baha'ism is a man-made invention that works for serving Zionism and colonialism, as it stems from ideas that should be considered as a tough test to the Islamic nation and should be fought under the name of Islam". The report also noted several views of sheikhs from the Islamic Research Complex, as well as narrated the differences between Islam and Baha'i stating that some of the teachings of the Baha'i religion are unacceptable to society and religion, which is a clear incitement to hatred against anyone belonging to this religion. Perhaps our most concern here is dealing with the issue of the Baha'i as an opportunity to compare religions and not an issue concerning the rights of some Egyptian nationals to be treated equally before the law.

On May 12, 2006 the newspaper published a report under the title: "The Court receives the Fatwa of the Islamic Research Complex regarding Baha'i on Monday". The report contained a reference to the circumstances of the emergence of the Baha'i, but the subtitles implicitly incite hatred of this religion where it stated that "The founder of Baha'i had strong relations with Russian colonialism ... and that the Jews of Palestine had placed him in Al Bahga Palace".

The writer referred to the propaganda that was raised on this issue and the views of the Parliament members who demanded to stand against them, as well as described them as "Misguided" and "Crooks". The report also pointed out to some of the teachings of Baha'i as if they were essential and obligatory in their faith, such as

the "The Communism of their women and money" and "Forbidding Jihad" citing the strong bonds between Baha'is and Zionists without mentioning clear arguments on these accusations. It was clear that the information of the writer was mainly derived from rumors and that he interpreted them from a subjective viewpoint without justifying his views as per the cornerstones and true teachings of the Baha'i.

The newspaper also published a report under the title "An angry revolution against the Baha'is" which dealt with what came during the Parliament session regarding the Baha'is. It tackled the press bulletin that was proposed by Parliament member "Ahmed Schubair" on the subject, explaining the anger that overshadowed that session. The report published some selected viewpoints, including that of the representative of the Brotherhood Movement, Parliament member "Mr. Sayed Askar" who said that these people are misguided and are infidels and we should never recognize any faith other than the three monotheistic religions, as recognizing any pagan religion is against Islam. This reflects clear bias against the Baha'is to the extent of inciting hatred.

In the last part of the report, which came under the subtitle "The other opinion", the newspaper reported what Dr. Hamdi Abdel Rahman stated (The former Dean of the Faculty of Law, University of Menoufiya), when he urged that these beliefs- and their rituals- should not be exercised in public, and that stating the Baha'i as a religion in identity cards and other official documents serves the public good as they were be seen from this perspective and treated accordingly.

From the views that supported this approach a Professor of Public Law, who said: "the religion of these people should be written in their identity cards so we can spot them". Some sub-headings were extremely racist as well such as "Religious Scholars: Baha'i is a group of Infidels and their relationship with Zionism is known to all", "They claim the divinity of Al Bahaa and forbid mass prayers and Jihad," "People's Deputies: Beware of sedition."

On May 15, 2006, on the front page, the newspaper published news under the title: "Appealing against the verdict in favor of Baha'i will be today". The internal

pages included a report under the title: "Al Gomhoureya newspaper publishes parts of the book of Baha'is "Al Aqdas" (a.k.a. The holiest)... Superstitions that contradict with Islam," The report asserted from the outset that the Baha'i "is an odd thought and is a mixture of philosophies and religions without a real novelty that is needed by the Islamic nation for its reform and reunification, and it that it works in the service of Zionism and colonialism as it is the fruit of ideas and that plagued the Islamic nation ... it is a war against Islam in the name of religion ..". The report also highlighted that the founder of the Baha'i is the one who wrote their "holy" book "Al Aqdas". The report was undoubtedly biased and explicitly expressed contempt and hate.

Second: private newspapers

The positions of private newspapers from the Baha'i case varied according to their political and ideological orientation, as follows:

Al Masri Al Yom

On May 4, 2006, Al Masri Al Yom published a press coverage under the title: "The government appeals the verdict in favor of Baha'i for registering their religion in official documents". The coverage touched upon the government's willingness to challenge the ruling of the Administrative Court in the case of the Baha'i, where it published the statements of Dr. Hamdi Zaqqouq, the Minister of Endowment who urged the Egyptian government to take all legal measures to counter this provision.

The coverage also published the statements of Dr. Zeinab Radwan, deputy of the People's Assembly, who supported the provision of registering the Baha'i religion in official documents so as to distinguish them from Muslims, not as citizens that have the right profess their faith.

On May 13, 2006, an article was published under the title: "The judiciary system and the Baha'i" which was written by the Islamic Attorney Essam Al-Islambouli where he presented the verdict that was issued in favor of the Baha'is to register their religion in official documents. The writer has considered that the verdict

confused between freedom of belief and the meaning of religion, and reviewed the Islamic Fatwas that tackled Baha'i and reached a commonplace since 1910, which is that Baha'i is not a religion. Although he proposed to leave the religion slot blank for those who wish to do so, however, he affirmed in the conclusion of the article "... how can we force the state to recognize a religion which is not recognized as per the three monotheistic religions or by the existing Constitution?"

The writer also expressed his expectations that the court ruling in favor of the Baha'is will be abolished and that things will go back to their right order, as he put it - which indicates a clear bias towards this religion and its believers.

On May 17, 2006, the newspaper published the text of the Supreme Administrative Court's ruling under the title: "bases of the Supreme Administrative Court ruling in the case of the Baha'i: The Constitution recognizes the Judaism, Christianity and Islam only... and the Court does not accept procrastination when it comes to protecting public order". Although the title adopted the point of view of the government that opposed the rights of the Baha'is, which justifies the racial implications, however the content came balanced and impartial as it expressed the point of view of Baha'is as well.

On June 2, 2006, the front page read: "Baha'i... From inception to Courts", and was resumed in internal pages, focusing on explaining the inception and origins of the Baha'i. Although the introduction to the report stated: "... The doctrine is a mix of the three monotheistic religions with many distortions, which justifies its rejection by Muslims, Christians and Jews, that is why in the 1960s a Presidential decree was issued to resolve all the forums and gatherings of Baha'i and hinder their activities," however, the report contained positive implications using the word "religion" instead of "doctrine" and was neutral.

On June 3, 2006, the newspaper published an article by Dr. Saad Eddin Ibrahim under the title "Hind Al Hennawy and Baha'is ... or Egyptians... or Muslims..." The writer touched upon the issue of the baby girl Lena Ahmed Al Fishawy then he turned to the Baha'i, and reviewed the general issues around it

although he focused on the need to recognize them in the light of the freedom of belief, which he emphasized that it exists at the heart of Islam, quoting the Koran verse "Whoever wishes to believe.. then be it, and whoever wishes to disbelieve, then be it..."¹

On June 9, 2006, the newspaper resumed its file "The Baha'i, From Inception to the Courts", but in this edition the level of balance and objectivity was not as strong. In the part that was published under the title "The Book "Secret Associations in the World" reveals its linkage to Judaism" where the writer based his words on Dr. Abdul Wahab Al Missiri's book under the same name in linking Baha'i to Zionism, without allowing for presenting opposing views in this edition or other. We find that the newspaper endorsed the trends that linked the Baha'i with underground organizations as well as linking it to Judaism which incite people to hate it, although the newspaper in other news coverage exhibited a tendency to adopt neutrality in this case.

Al Fagr newspaper

Al Fagr newspaper published a number of topics that maintained a balanced coverage of this issue, both through publishing letters by Baha'i readers, or presenting texts from their holy book without abusing them with harsh criticism. In the edition issued on May 8, 2006, it published a text that read: "Exclusively: the texts of the holy book of the Baha'is" which was followed by a full report on the Baha'i under the title: "The story of the Baha'i in Egypt", with a number of photographs of some of the Baha'i temples. The report was characterized by neutrality as it was keen to clarify the suffering of the Baha'is from persecution, and reviewed the history of this persecution.

Also, it published an article under the title: "Sacred texts of the holy book of the Baha'is", where the newspaper published some texts of their book and stated that the holy book of Baha'is contains provisions and rulings derived from the monotheistic religions and that it prohibits confessing sins to another human being.

¹ Translated by the translator of this document.

The report was neutrally written, as well as the introduction of the texts that were published. The report also avoided the comparison between the Baha'i and other religions, which is a desired method because the press is not the appropriate place for comparing religions, especially because doing so may start a sedition that may be difficult to put an end to.

On June 5, 2006, a topic was published under the title "A letter from a Baha'i reader: Baha'i is not the last Message from God". The newspaper published the text of a letter by a Baha'i reader which briefed the history of the Baha'i religion in the world, and the alleged relationship between Zionism and the Baha'i without abusing other religions, and even more stressed the respect of Baha'is to all the religions and prophets. The publication of this letter provided a useful balance that was needed for this controversy.

Al Osbou' newspaper

Over two editions, Al Osbou' newspaper dealt with the problem of the Baha'is with bias, hate and violence. In the edition issued on May 8, 2006, Al Osbou' newspaper wrote "Baha'i? Why?" which included an article under the title: "The Baha'i is against religion: the mystery of the relationship between it and Zionism" and a subheading under the title: "Israel is its guide and alleges that Muhammad (peace be upon him) is not the last prophet", describing the Baha'i as "a Misguided Sect".

The report stated that the court ruling which came in favor of Baha'i has aroused angry reactions and resentment by holy men and Parliament members. The report narrated the history of the Baha'i its resistance of the authorities, and the support it received from many colonial powers, as well as reviewed the views of some holy men who confirmed that the Baha'i is not a religion or that it is considered apostasy, but an anti-Islam idea and its followers aim to destroy religions. The report demanded the application of the provision of apostasy on them, which is an explicit instigation of hatred and violence against the Baha'is. This also strikes the idea of citizenship which poses a threat to the integrity of society.

On May 22, 2006, the newspaper published an article under the title: "A judicial triumph for Islam.. and citizens cried out against the Baha'i", which covered the proceedings of the session that took place in the Supreme Administrative Court, which issued its decision to suspend the implementation of the Court ruling to register the Baha'i as a religion in official documents. The newspaper explicitly indicated clearly that such a ruling is a victory as stated in the title, and listed a number of words that need no comment such as "Down Down to Baha'ism ..", and also included the attacks of the lawyer Murtada Mansur who was the opposing lawyer in the Baha'i case stating that this religion does not exist and that Al Bahaa who they take as a symbol is a gang leader. He urged the Court to save Islam from this vicious attack. This confirms how unprofessional the newspaper was in dealing with this issue; and went beyond that to picture it as a battle with enemies that must be eliminated, ignoring that they are Egyptian citizens regardless of their beliefs, and have rights in this country by virtue of their nationality and must not be ignored or eliminated as incited by the newspaper.

Third: Partisan newspapers

Despite their ideological and intellectual differences, partisan newspapers, such as Al Wafd and Al Ahrar, they eventually agreed in rejecting Baha'ism, denying the rights of its followers who are Egyptian nationals.

Al Wafd newspaper

On May 4, 2006, the newspaper published an article under the title "Baha'i before Parliament" which was a biased coverage against Baha'is and their rights as Egyptian citizens in registering their religion in official documents. The report stated the text issued by the Minister of Endowment in Parliament, which confirmed that the government will not keep a blind eye to this issue since the issuance of this ruling and has begun challenging it before the Supreme Administrative Court. It justified that Baha'ism is not a monotheistic religion pointing out that in spite of the absolute right of freedom of religious belief, however, religious practice must be restricted

according to the public order. The report pointed out to the positions of a number of deputies, especially those belonging to the Muslim Brotherhood, describing the Baha'ism as apostasy and that it incites people to follow a doctrine based on the principles of immorality and aims at the destruction of public order, in favor of Zionism.

The report quoted a statement by Mr. Fathy Sorour, who said "No to Baha'ism", which clearly recorded all anti-Baha'i views and ideas that deny their rights as citizens, without conveying any of the supporting opinions, which reflects clear bias on the basis of belief.

On May 13, 2006, on the front page, an article under the title: "Sheikh Al-Azhar: Followers of Baha'ism are infidels...", where the article reported in the words of the Sheikh, Al-Azhar utter rejection of Baha'ism affirming the views of the Islamic Research Complex on the Baha'ism stating that it promotes Freemason Zionist beliefs that aims at corrupting people's beliefs.

On May 22, 2006, Al Wafd published an article under the title: "Beware Gentlemen.. Baha'ism is the next danger" by Bahaa Eddin Abu Sha'a incited people to hate the Baha'ism when he stated that we do not need yet another calamity to be added to our woes, asserting that they are a plague that was planted in the Egyptian society.

The writer urges people to take a violent stance against them saying that it is the coming danger and that its followers should not be allowed to integrate with the rest of the Egyptian society as they are a tool for the destruction of Islam. He confirmed that the West supports Baha'is as it encourages homosexuality, and called the state to move to avert the danger of the adherents of this religion which exceeds the risk of a hurricane or avian influenza. We find that the writer exerted a huge effort to emphasize the dangers of Baha'ism and accused it even of contradictory accusations as he only cared to deliver a message to society, inciting hatred against its adherents. It would have been acceptable if the newspaper was keen to provide further views on this issue, which was not the case.

On June 9, 2006, an investigation was published under the title "Baha'is .. the coming danger" which emphasized the stance of the newspaper from the issue, describing the teachings and doctrines of the Baha'i faith as odd and abnormal, who came to life again and found supporters who demanded their alleged right to register their religion in official documents on the grounds of personal liberty! The investigation asserted that Baha'is do not usually present themselves and that they could be one's neighbors or colleagues at work without realizing their danger. This was how the newspaper expressed its position on the Baha'ism topic from the outset as it compared between it and Islam, not on the basis that Baha'ism is an independent religion.

Al Ahrar newspaper

Al Ahrar launched fierce attacks on the Baha'ism and its adherents throughout the various editions that involved serious prejudice to the extent of inciting hatred against Baha'is, which is evident from the following:

On April 28, 2006, the newspaper published a reportage under the title: "Baha'ism, the coming danger", which represented the overall trend of the newspaper, which is that Baha'ism is merely man-made, heretic and is contrary to the principles of Islam. The newspaper focused on the comparison between Islam and Baha'ism, considering that the teachings of Baha'ism with regards to gender equality is merely a lie and implies granting women full freedom that amounts to moral degradation, as Baha'ism- according to the newspaper- did not give women their rights of inheritance known in the Quran and Sunna, in spite of their claim that they believe in the other religions. The reportage cited some sources that considered Baha'is a misguided and misguiding group of people, and that they are worse than infidels in the sense that they use Islamic terminology, which urges hatred.

On May 6, 2006, Al Ahrar newspaper published a report, whose headline read: "Dar Al Ifta'a states: Baha'is are a group of apostates .. that should not be allowed to exist in a Muslim society". The full-page report was totally inciting hatred as its sub -

headings read: "Baha'ism.. a destructive doctrine of thought driven by Zionist hands as Baha'is' pilgrimage to Akka is usually facilitated by the Israeli ambassador in Cairo", "Baha'ism seeks to destroy Islam and disseminate subversive ideas", "Religious scholars: denial of Jihad by the Baha'ism is supported by Israel and the United States", "Sheikh Gad Al Haq Ali Gad Al Haq decreed that Baha'is are a group of apostates that should not be allowed to exist in a Muslim society and Bin Baz acknowledged their infidelity". These are all titles that call for the rejection of this religion by linking them to colonialism and Zionism, as well as through describing them as apostates urging Muslims to discard them from Muslim communities.

On May 10, 2006, Al Ahrar published a reportage under the title: "The collapse of the religious institution" which discussed the position of religious institutions in Egypt, and linked the absent or weak role played by these institutions to the Baha'is' claim for their rights. The reportage described the Baha'ism as poisonous and destructive and as estranged ideas disseminated by the British and the Zionists in an attempt to emphasize the relationship between Baha'ism and the various forces of colonization, as well as to stir the already-existing popular rejection of colonialism and foreign interference to fan sentiments against the Baha'is, although it did not provide any evidence or justification for its accusations.

On the first page dated May 10, 2006, Al Ahrar published a news coverage under the title: "Baha'is, a gang of infidels and apostates, not an ideology, depicting the proceedings of the session of the Supreme Administrative Court which considered the appeal presented by the government against the ruling of the Administrative Judicial Court in favor of Baha'is to register their religion in official documents. The coverage totally neglected the defense of the Baha'is and their reasoning in the case.

In the same issue, there was an article under the title: "Baha'ism, an infidel misguiding conspiracy" by the writer Mamdouh Ismail, who depicted the reactions of the public when they learned of the appeal as he considered it to be a conspiracy against Islam for a number of reasons: (1) because they claim that Prophet Mohamed (peace be upon him) was not the last of all the prophets; (2) because they believe in the divinity of Ali Mohammed Al-Shirazi (head of Baha'is) and his son Abbas; and

(3)because their pilgrimage is in Haifa, Palestine. He believes that their first target is striking Islam and destabilizing political and religious systems in Muslim societies."

Through this vision, the writer launched a fierce attack on civil society organizations for supporting the rights of Baha'is as citizens. In any news coverage by Al Ahrar, there was an obvious imbalance in writing about the opinion of the other party, as most of its writings are biased.

Section II

Israeli war on Lebanon.. Mixing the religious with the political

The idea of this report emerged during the meetings of the Advisory Committee of the project "Eye on the Press", which was held in the same timing with the Israeli aggression on Lebanon in July 2006, as the Committee noted the confusion that most newspapers fall in when they mix Judaism as a religion with Israeli/Zionist aggressive practices, which leads to portraying the conflict in the light of religions' conflict, which was not the case in Lebanon, in place of sound political analyses. This instigates hatred based on religious grounds outside its real context.

One of the things that prompted our attention to this case is that the situations that were expressed in the press coverage of the Israeli aggression on Lebanon involved a retreat from the positions that landed in the heart of nationalistic movements in Egypt, which distinguished Zionism and Israel as ideological and political phenomena that we can disagree (and even become enemies) with, and between the Jewish religion that deserves our respect and should receive equal treatment like the rest of religions.

In the monitoring process, we covered the following newspapers: Al Osbou', Al Masri Al Yom, Al Wafd, Al Karama, Al Arabi, Al Ahram, and Rose Al Yusuf. The following are the significant observations that came out during the monitoring process:

- 1) Al Masri Al Yom newspaper was filled with violations that were manifested in both the editorial policy of the paper as well as the articles and opinion columns that it published. There was clear bias and an incitement of hatred and violence in the newspaper, except for a very few topics that dealt with the Israeli aggression on Lebanon without mixing what is religious with what is political.
- 2) Al Osbou', Al Arabi and Al Karama newspapers were filled with biased policies based on religious orientation. The supposedly civic newspaper used

religious quotations and interpretations to criticize Jews and link what is happening then in Lebanon and Palestine with the teachings of the Torah.

- 3) Al Wafd newspaper contained many abuses that linked Zionist and Israeli practices on the one hand to the Jewish faith on the other, however, we must not overlook the importance of the dialogue conducted by the newspaper with the young Canadian Jewish resident in Egypt to familiarize the reader that not all Jews are Zionists, in spite of the fact that one positive message does not ease the impact of the many negative messages that were published in the newspaper.
- 4) Al Ahram newspaper contained many abuses that confused the religious with the political in this case, particularly articles Dr. Zaghoul El-Naggar, which amounted to the incitement of violence.
- 5) Writers of opinion columns promoted ideas saturated with hate and vengeance reminding the readers with the history of the Israeli massacres in Palestine and Lebanon, but instead referring them to Jews instead of attributing them to their real committers, i.e. Zionists and Israelis, regardless of their religion.

First: private newspapers

Al Osbou' newspaper

Al Osbou' newspaper addressed the issue of Israeli aggression against Lebanon from a religious perspective, with utter racism and prejudices, instigating people against Jews, without distinguishing between Judaism and Zionism, a conclusion that is supported by the following observations:

On July 17, 2006, Al Osbou' newspaper published a report under the title: "Ehud Olmert .. a pig in a bloody kingdom", describing Olmert as a pig, which has a specific religious denotation, which is an explicit incitement to hatred of Jews.

The newspaper also covered the Conference that was held in the Arab Physicians Union to support the Palestinian and Lebanese people, reporting the statements of a participant, who was a relative to the Palestinian girl Huda who lost

her family as a result of the Israeli bombardment when the family members were spending some time on the beach in Gaza City, who said that they were struck by Israeli pigs, a description published by the newspaper without any effort to distance itself from it, and is likely to be the newspaper's editorial policy.

On July 24, 2006 the newspaper published a report on the military situation in Lebanon insisting on confusing Judaism with Israeli/ Zionist practices, depicting Hassan Nasr Allah as a leading hero fighting "Jews" that try to humiliate "him" and "us", and that coverage that tackled the survival of an Egyptian lady from the aggression in Lebanon and was under the title of "An eye-witness to the brutality of Jews", which urged people to hate Jews in general not the Israeli policies of Olmert's government in particular.

In the same biased manner, the newspaper published a file on the resistance in Lebanon on July 31, 2006. Among the topics involving incitement to hatred in this file an article in page nine under the title: "Israel is fighting a battle of the Lord, blessed by rabbis and by texts of the Torah that are ready to slaughter everyone". This article has involved an analysis of Israel's motives for waging this war, focusing on the religious motive, using Torah verses.

In the same edition, the newspaper published an article under the title: "MBC Channel prohibits Jihad in Lebanon", where it criticized this fatwa, which is understandable and justifiable, however the problem was in phrases such as "What did Arabs we gain from peace with the killers of prophets?"

It also published an article on August 14, 2006 under the title: "All of this grudge!" by Abdel Qader Yassin when he explained the Israeli war on Lebanon as an expression of the grudge against Arabs by Jews and that the original texts support this grudge, stating that "The Criminal State is supported by the Torah which is filled with citation that urges them to kill others".

The newspaper also published a report under the title: "Days of difficult labor and re-examining wrong accounts", where there was an explicit denotation of a Sunni/

Christian/ Jewish conspiracy against Shiites, the thing that asserts the idea of an existing war among religions, which threatens the relations between the different religious communities existent in several Arab countries.

Another report under the title: "Bloody eyes. Carrying body-remains " was published narrating the Israeli aggression on Arab countries during the past few decades. However, the explanations provided made grudge the only reason behind this aggression, in place of a sound political analysis, which stabilized the norms, and the expressions and terminology that were used suggested racism and incitement to hatred, such as "The Jewish devil throws tons of explosives to destroy a child playing on his bike in the southern suburb".

In another report, "3-day old Shahd dies in her mother's arms... Viva Arab rulers" was the starting point of the report, which talked about how Jewish rabbis allow for the murder of young children. The problem in these expressions is that they involve generalizations that suggest unanimity among Jewish rabbis, or at least the majority of them, on such statements, which is not based on established facts.

Another news coverage of the conference which was held at the Bar Association was filled with statements such as "the current conflict in Lebanon is essentially a religious one", which reflects the editorial policy of the newspaper.

Another flagrant title was published on August 7, 2006, which read "The Lebanese residents in Egypt pray, wonder and cry", where the newspaper pointed to a statement by Hassan Nasr Allah, "We have discovered how to strike Jews in the heart... They love life and that is what we must take from them. We will win because they love life and we love martyrdom".

In another report in the same edition, a topic read: "Arab regimes broke their peoples" and continued, "It is high time for Jihad against ruthless murdering Jews".

In coverage of a demonstration that condemns the Israeli aggression on Lebanon, the newspaper wrote the topic "A protest with candle-lights by the Arab Women

Alliance". But we noticed that the newspaper selected certain chants that consistent with its editorial policy which clearly puts Jews and Zionists in the same basket, such as "Down to Jews, Nasr Allah Army is coming your way" in spite of the presence of other non-religious slogans in the demonstration, which refers to an explicit incitement to violence against Jews.

In an investigation under the title "When is Nasr Allah coming?", the newspaper used the views of some Al Azhar professors to interpret some Quran verses that addressed Jews, as if there are only religious reason behind this war and not a political war in the first place.

Al Masri Al Yom newspaper

Al Masri Al Yom newspaper was full of abuses, despite the existence of a single article that distinguished Jews from Zionists. Details are as follows:

On July 17, 2006, Al Masri Al Yom published coverage under the title: "A protest in the Bar Association" where the newspaper reviewed details of the protest that was organized by the Bar Association, which condemned the Zionist aggression on Arab peoples. The newspaper published statements by Mustafa Bakri, who said "Islam is the enemy of the corrupt and murderous grandsons of pigs", and the use of this description racist based on religious grounds, which incites hatred against Jewish believers.

Inciting hatred of Jews was not only done by Muslim holy men, but also Christian clerics, such as the article on July 19, 2006 that quoted the statements of Priest Marcus Aziz, who stated that the Israeli aggression on Lebanon is religious-based and referred to the fact that Jews disobeyed Jesus Christ and that the Talmud tell them to kill other non-Jews. The priest called Muslims and Christians to unite against Jews, citing from the Bible to support his cause.

On July 29, 2006 an article was published under the title: "Protect Lebanese blood" by the writer Ibrahim Abdel Meguid who took a biased approach against the

Jewish religion, saying that the ongoing war can be ascribed only to Jewish beliefs, asserting that there is no difference between Judaism and Zionism and that Jews yearn for non-Jewish blood.

On August 4, 2006, the newspaper published an article under the title: "Victory without a champion" by the writer Sahar Aldjaarh who criticized Arab leaders and their silence regarding the massacres committed against the Lebanese people and even criticizing the Lebanese resistance warning that if Arab regimes continued this position they will lose their powers that are sought by the American Administration.

The Readers' Mail Section under the title: "Silence is Forbidden" included an article that was published on July 20, 2006 under the title "O brother, injustice has exceeded its limits, they crushed Israel with utter silence" where the writer repeated that Jews tried to kill prophet Mohammed (peace be upon him) to emphasize that what is happening now is not distant or separate from what Jews did earlier in history, using the story of the Jewish woman that tried to poison Mohammed but was saved by a miracle from God. Not only this, another angry letter read: "Was it not enough that Hitler burned you in hot furnaces?", and in fact the newspaper and the page editor had a role in asserting the reader's words when they accompanied the letter with pictures of rabbis. Being a letter by a reader and not by one of the newspaper's writers does not deny the responsibility of the newspaper in editing it or at least not accompanying it with religious photos.

However, the only time the newspaper published an unbiased coverage of the issue was on July 17, 2006, when it published a fully balanced article under the title "A Jewish writer warns: Zionism is a danger against the future of Israel and the Jewish religion", which reflected clear distinction between the Jewish religion and the State of Israel.

Second: partisan newspapers

Al Wafd newspaper

Al Wafd adopted a biased policy against Jews represented in its coverage of the war, such as:

On July 18, 2006, the last page covered a demonstration organized by civil forces to Dar Al-Hikmah (Medical Syndicate) in Cairo and published in this context statements by Zakaria Gad, the head of the Pharmacists' Syndicate, in which he expressed profound regret of the Arab position against the abuse of "Jews" to every citizen in Palestine and Lebanon and called for a unified Arab stance to recover the lands that were usurped by Jews. The newspaper did not distinguish itself to establish its neutrality regarding these statements, which demonstrates its concurrence with this statement.

On July 21, 2006, the newspaper published an article under the title: "A glass of Arab blood" by the writer Majid Mohamed, where he spoke of President Bush as "wearing a Jewish rabbi's coat and leading a massacre of our children, women and Arab lands without due cause, which is an explicit incitement to hatred against the followers of this religion.

On July 31, 2006 an article was published under the title: "Bent Jabil retaliate for Deir Yassin," where the writer Skeena Fouad spoke of the massacres committed by in Deir Yassin as organized by Jews, and used Begin's statement, "It is a great victory for the Jewish armies"...

However, Al Wafd published a single article that made clear distinction between Jews and Zionists, in the form of an interview with a Jewish-Canadian young man living in Egypt, In the edition issued on July 21, 2006, as the entire dialogue asserted this man's rejection as a Jew of Israeli practices, describing Israel as a Zionist entity that has no legal or moral legitimacy and relies on existing expansionist ambitions. This article asserted that abandoning racist terms and implications does not signify the adoption of the political stance preferred by the writer or the newspaper.

Al Karama newspaper

Al Karama newspaper, as well, followed a biased policy against Jews and resorted to the use of certain interpretations of religion, describing Jews as pigs and linking the Jewish faith to the establishment of Zionism which can be inferred from many texts in the newspapers, such as:

On August 08, 2006 the main headline of the newspaper read: "Oh... Ambassador of the pigs! Get out of the land of the Nile" which indicates the position adopted by the newspaper that confirms the religiousness of the conflict.

Another article under the title: "Qana, ink and blood" by the writer Hamed Jabr also narrated the massacres against the population of Qana and the history of this city, which pointed out that they witnessed miracles of Jesus Christ (peace be upon him), and then linked between Zionism and Judaism, when he wrote "Zionists always affirm that they will always be the killers of prophets". In fact this expression is said in the context of religious interpretations which entrenches the association in the mind of the reader that Judaism and Zionism are synonyms, which is completely different from the reality, and consolidates that hating Jews is in compliance to God's orders.

On August 8, 2006, there was another article under the title: "Hassan's Lebanon and the Arabs who became Jews" by the writer Amin Iskander, which reflects the vision of Al Wafd party, and of course it is not for us to object to the political position of any party or political group, but what concerns us is to draw attention to biased attitudes whether at home or abroad. This article portrayed Judaism as a disgrace in itself, ignoring the existence of a considerable number of adherents of Judaism among Arabs, especially in countries such as Morocco, Tunisia and Yemen.

On July 18, 2006, an article by the writer Mohamed Aboud dealt with the situation in Lebanon condemning Arab leaders, especially of Egypt, Jordan and Saudi Arabia for being responsible for the Israeli atrocities in Lebanon, which was expressed as "... leaving Jews to destroy their powers."

On August 15, 2006, Al Karama published an investigation on the consensus calling for the abolition of the Camp David Treaty under the title: "National powers demand annulling the Camp David Treaty", using the fatwa issued in the 1970 Islamic Consciousness on the opinion of Shari' a on peace with Israel, in which it stated that it is not allowed for true Muslims to make amends with Jews", which further implies that those who do not abide are not patriotic.

In another investigation on August 15, 2006, Al Karama newspaper wrote "attacking the American and Zionist embassies is tolerated by the Constitution", where it reviewed the views of some law professors and experts who varied in their stances, however the headline denotes the position of the newspaper which incites violence.

Al Arabi Al Nasseri newspaper

The editorial policy of the newspaper was completely biased against Jews and embraced ideas that support transforming the political conflict into a religious-based one. In many locations, the newspaper cited quotes from the Torah and the Talmud, with a certain interpretation that portrays Jews as hating to all non-Jewish peoples, using offensive language such as apes and pigs when referring to Jews. Details follow:

Most of the published subjects were a flagrant incitement to the hatred of Jews, such as the edition issued on July 23, 2006 that included an article for Magdy Bassioni, who quoted parts of the Old Testament in his column "Karabig" (or flogs) such as Verse No. 33 that was interpreted as an urge for Jews to "... clean up the face of the earth" from non Jews lest they (non-Jews) become a threat to the existence of Jews. The writer pointed out that Judaism basically misinterpreted a lot of the texts of the Torah and the Talmud to suit their ends, and that these misinterpreted teachings are taught to Jews since their birth, making them feel that they are more important to God than the rest of the peoples of the world. The writer asserted his ideas by stating that the Talmud states that the difference between Jews and non-Jews is like the

difference between humans and animals respectively, and that the Talmud clearly calls for the killing of any male child and every woman who knew a guy to sleep with him.

The edition issued on July 30, 2006 included an article in the column "Vision and Opinion" for the writer Farouk El-Ashry that quoted verses from the Genesis Bible "Old Testament", which read "On that day, God made a pact with Abram..." that gave Jews the territory "... from the River of Egypt to the great Euphrates River...". The writer goes on to emphasize through other verses and quotes that Jews believe through the Talmud and the Torah that God gave the lands of Egypt and up to Iraq as his legacy to them.

Moreover, this approach continued in another edition dated August 6, 2006, especially in the column "Another Say" by Wafaa Helmi that supported Mel Gibson's statement "Immoral Jews are responsible for all the wars of the world". In the same issue, Sheikh Saad Al-Fiqi wrote a column under the title "They are criminals and murderers" where he called for the need to "subject the supporters of the Zionist regime to a public trial, as it is the right of the people from the four corners of the earth to learn of the crimes that were perpetrated by the grandsons of apes and pigs".

In the Mail page on August 13, 2006, a letter by the reader Zaghloul Mahmud Abdullah was filled with reprimanding Arab leaders for their passive stance from what is happening, claiming that they should abide by the book of God "Quran" which urges Muslims to fight Jews in the most misleading manner possible, misinterpreting the verses of Quran to serve the intended meaning of the letter.

On the same page, the journalist Said Al Sewerky wrote an article under the title: "Nasr Allah is coming soon", which flattered Mr. Hassan Nasr Allah saying that he alone managed to unite the rows of Arabs and Muslims to destroy the castles of the killers of prophets and messengers (a.k.a. Jews).

Also on the front page of the August 13, 2006 edition, there was news coverage of a demonstration that was triggered from the campus of Al-Azhar mosque

after Friday prayers under the title "the Egyptian street renewed its solidarity pact with the Lebanese resistance". In its coverage, the newspaper selected some of the slogans and banners carried by the demonstrators that illustrate their hate to Jews such as that they were fearless of Jews and that the demonstrators did not distinguish between Jews and Zionists/ Israelis which incites hatred and violence against the adherents of a religious doctrine.

Third: national newspaper

Al Ahram

Al-Ahram contained a lot of biased implications against Jews, which can be identified as clear racism and incitement of hatred and violence and could be illustrated through the following:

In an article under the title: "Questions for the next dialogue between cultures" for the writer Sami Khashaba, who discussed what he called a genocidal campaign of racism and ethnic cleansing that has been launched by the Jewish state on both the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples, quoting some texts from the Torah in a misleading manner to imply that Judaism urges its followers to exterminate all other races.

An article by Dr. Zaghloul El-Naggar on July 31, 2006 31/7/2006 started with explaining the origins of the world "Israel" and was filled with descriptions of the Jews as an arrogant race that seeks to make the rest of the world races its servants as they consider these races animals in a human form. This article was beyond intolerant against Jews and explicitly insulted them with names such as arrogant, brutal, barbaric, cruel, and inhuman. The writer simply used the word Jews every time he referred to Israel, which is a wrongful denotation and only signified that he wanted to provoke the feelings of Muslims against Jews. The article went on to narrate the history of the State of Israel and its occupation of Palestine in a manner that made it sound as if it was a religious war from the beginning, which is a very dangerous statement.

The edition of August 14, 2006 published an article under the title: "When you See Them..." by Dr. Ali Gomaa, the Mufti of Egypt, in which he talked about Jews reminding them with the atrocities that were committed by Jews against Islam, while it was still an emerging religion, and considered that the Jews have been the enemies of Muslim nations and of God since then. This approach causes humanity to deal with its problems and crises as per experiences that it underwent centuries ago.

In the same edition, Dr. Zaghoul El-Naggar wrote an article in the section "Secrets of the Quran" where he explained some verses of the Quran that support his strong stance against Jews and Israelis all the same regarding what is happening in Palestine and Lebanon, citing verses from the Quran to assert that Jews are the most hostile people on earth and that most of them are unethical and immoral. Dr. Naggar was very explicit in his attempt to incite hatred and utter violence against Jews when he stated that there is an upcoming war between Muslims and Jews yet to come –as per the teachings of Quran- to get rid of this cancerous cell that was planted in the heart of the Arab/Muslim region.

Section III

Pope Benedict statements: reviving historical sensitivities

What began this crisis was a lecture by Pope Benedict XVI at the Regensburg University in Germany on September 12, 2006, under the title "Faith, reason, and the university... Memories and reflections", where he talked about the content of faith in divine religions, including Islam, and cited a book by the Byzantine Emperor Manuel the Second (1350-1425) under the title: "Dialogues with a Muslim.. Lecture 7", which was published in the 1960s by the German theologian of Lebanese origin "Theodore Khoury" from Munster University.

In the Pope's lecture, the relationship between reason and violence in Islam and Christianity, he stated that in the cited book the Emperor addressed the topic of Jihad (or holy war in Islam). The Emperor was aware that the verse 256 of the second Sura in the Quran (Al Baqara) stated that there must be no compulsion in Islam against non-Muslims, stating that this Sura was said in a context where Muhammad (peace bestow him) was still powerless. The Emperor then jumped into stating that Islam afterwards did not bring anything to humanity that is good or kind in nature and that it only preached the use of violence in presenting Islam; explaining in detail why the spread of religion through violence is contrary to reason. The Emperor did not stop at the evidence of tolerance presented in the Quran on treating people of different religions, versus unbelievers and those who fought Islam. The Emperor stated that the use of violence in religion is incompatible with the nature of God and the nature of the Spirit, as God does not like blood, hence convincing others to believe has to be done through reason and persuasion and not by using violence and threats.

The Emperor went on to say that convincing a rational being does not need arms or threats, giving the example of the Islamic faith to prove his case. Pope Benedict cited the book without commenting or altering the implications carried within regarding Islam, leaving angry reactions behind among the rows of Muslims, although he declared later that he did not mean to insult Islam or Muslims but what was included in the Pope's lecture offended Muslims and was accused of many accusations that included that he was waging a Neo-Crusade as he resembled the Popes of Rome during crusades eras; or that he became a duet with President George W. Bush; and was also accused of ignorance; lack of knowledge of Islam and that he is foolishly attempting to unify Christian sects and rows through placing Muslims as

the main enemy (in place of the old Soviet enemy) in the context of the clash of civilizations.

A lot of newspapers tackled this lecture and its content, however most of what was written took this event an opportunity to revive many of the hostile heritage between the West and Islam, which triggered Andalus Institute for Tolerance and Anti-Violence Studies to speak out in an attempt to prove that thought can only be contested with rational thought and that widening the gap is not in the interest of either party.

The reactions varied in the Egyptian press during the period from September 14, 2006 to October 31, 2006 in tackling this issue within the monitored newspapers (Al Ahram, Rose Al Yusuf, Al Masri Al Yom, Al Osbou', Al Arabi Al Nasseri, and Al Wafd). Some articles focused on debating the ideas objectively, while some were exposed to the Pope personally and to Christianity in general, including those who took the occasion to criticize the West in general and reminding the readers of crusader wars against Muslim countries. Some newspapers promoted extremist ideas that discouraged the mechanism of dialogue, claiming that it is not an effective tool and that it has to be abolished. Below is a list of some of what was published in this regard:

- A lot of verbal abuse was included in the press coverage of the issue. Among the most popular terms used were those describing the Pope as "Nazi Pope"; "Racist Pope"; "Bush's follower"; and "The Leader of a cultural war wearing the dress code of the fourteenth century" .
- There was a lot of talk of a racist/crusade war administered by the West against Muslims and led by both the Pope and President Bush.
- Newspapers started comparing the Former Pope and the Current one saying that the former one was noble, unlike the current one who was raised in a racist environment as he participated in Hitler's army. Others spoke about the fact that every Pope has his own battle; the former Pope successfully fought Communism, while the current Pope placed Islam as the enemy that must be faced. This point of view emphasizes that the statement of the Pope was not only a slip of the tongue, but was part of a plot.

- Newspapers also talked about the friendly relations between the Pope and the Jews; and that he doesn't like Islam or Muslims and that he avoids talking about them even in the events that necessitate this.

The analysis showed the recurrence of many forms of biases, including: prejudice, degradation, intolerance, incitement to hatred, and incitement to violence, which were clear through the following analysis:

- The three newspapers Al-Ahram, Al Osbou' and Al Wafd included the worst and highest number of biases in all forms of prejudice referred to earlier.
- Al Arabi Al Nasserri comes next in the severity of prejudice expressed in this issue.
- The least newspapers, which included biased news were Rose Al Yusuf and Al Masri Al Yom, who still fell into some mistakes.

To define the criteria that we used to classify them to three types, you will find that newspapers that ranked third did not include any incitement to violence (only prejudiced implications), while the newspaper that ranked second clearly implicitly did to the extent that it called people to all kinds of jihad. Incitement to violence was direct in the newspapers that ranked first and perhaps most obvious of which was Al Osbou' which explicitly called people to take violent stances, a call which also appeared in Al-Ahram, but to a lesser extent.

These prejudiced writings were held against the Pope personally as well as against a number of institutions and concepts that could be linked to him such as the West, the Vatican, and the Catholic doctrine. The newspaper Al Osbou' was the only newspaper that attacked all of these entities and meanings, while the rest of the newspapers monitored did but to a lesser extent.

First: National Newspapers (Al-Ahram- Rose Al Yusuf)

Al Ahram Newspaper:

The newspaper was concerned with the reactions that were issued following the Pope's lecture, which aroused the crisis, and extensively discussed the lecture, sometimes in an intolerant manner, directly inciting violence. Some of the topics written were generally characterized by their prejudice and urging to hatred. At the same time, Al Ahram provided an opportunity to discuss what came in the Pope's Benedict lecture without targeting abuses to any of the other parties, as illustrated in the following articles and news coverage:

In the edition dated September 16, 2006, a report was published under the title: "The Fall of the Vatican Pope....Misinterpreting the Byzantine point of view in Islam". The report from the outset stated that the Pope does not encourage dialogue between Islam and Christianity and that he is predominantly concerned with the Christian-Christian dialogue and that the Pope avoided talking or even referring to Islam in events which required that. Moreover, the newspaper stated that his lecture confirmed fears expressed by some Muslim intellectuals during the election of Pope Benedict for this post, and the report linked between the Pope's words and the timing of the fifth memorial of the September 11th events.

Also, In the edition dated September 17, 2006, an article under the title: "Benedict and the dialogue of cultures" by the writer Sami Khashba stated that the Pope's statements can be understood in the light of the Pope's overall goal to achieve a unification among the churches and therefore the Pope attempts to draw the attention of Middle East churches and the West world in general to the new enemy that must be confronted and that unity shall be its condition. This view implies bias against the Pope, because it is arbitrary in its interpretation, as the emphasis on the difference between Islam and Christianity stated in Pope's lecture does not necessarily mean considering Islam to be the enemy whom all churches must unite to confront.

In the edition dated October 11, 2006, the newspaper published the statements of the Islamic thinker Mohamed Emara, who spoke about the Pope and his likes who save no effort in accusing Islam with lies and false accusations and that the current Vatican Pope since his appointment is fighting Islam, just like his predecessor was fighting Communism. These words involve clear prejudice, as talking about fighting Islam is difficult to conclude without arbitrary interpretation of the Pope's statements,

not to mention what these kinds of comments can cause from inciting hatred and increasing the chances of conflict.

In the edition dated September 18, 2006, an article was published under the title: "Islam and the West: dialogue, not confrontation," which was written by Dr. Said El Lawendy dealing with the idea of the clash of civilizations and attributing it as a result of the current global events, including the statements made by the Vatican Pope which he considered as part of the fierce war targeting Islam and that the West has placed Islam as its new enemy instead of Communism, concluding that there is a scheme that aims inevitably to keep the two civilizations clashing, so the Northern Peoples would win.

In the edition dated September 23, 2006, a letter was published in the Readers' Mail Section that reviewed most of the views and comments that were stated about this crisis, focusing on some of the Pope's lecture considering it as part of a scheme that targets Islam and Muslims as a new Crusade. The letter considered that the Pope's refusal to apologize reflects his disrespect to Muslims.

In the edition dated September 25, 2006, an article was published under the title: "Dialogue in Naples on the motives of the Vatican Pope," where Abdel - Azim Hammad explained from the outset the views that were stated during that dialogue concerning the Pope, that included that he was not well-intentioned or spontaneous as some claimed, but that he violated all academic rules as he simply quoted one pretext only without stating the other arguments, and without commenting on them. The story also asserted that the Pope has ill feelings for non-Catholic Christians, let alone Muslims and that his lecture was of a political nature, not a religious one in his pursuit to start another cultural conflict. Concerning the writer's point of view, he stated that he is not impressed with the role played by the former Pope in the eradication of Communism, and as that the new Pope since his appointment used the Islam-phobia that has spread out in Europe as a result of terrorist acts committed in the name of Islam.

In the edition dated September 26, 2006, the newspaper published an article under the title: "Pope and Blair: dissipating identity!!! The writer linked between the Vatican Pope and the British Prime Minister Tony Blair and considered that the

Vatican Pope's statements are a result of political pressures that prompted the former Vatican Pope to acquit Jews from the blood of Christ, peace be upon him, and to play a significant role in the fall of the Eastern bloc and then supported the so-called 'war on terrorism', in which the new Pope participated too to flirt with America through his reference to old offensive texts against Islam that he stated later in apologetic terms that they didn't represent his own point of view. America sympathized with him as it felt that his statements serve its interests and alliances, was the conclusion of the writer.

In the edition of September 27, 2006 an article was published for the writer Makram Mohamed Ahmed, under the title: "Myth and religion," where the writer mentioned a number of observations on the relationship between the West and Islam asserting that the West is running an unjust campaign against Islam that portrays Islam as rejecting others and aiming for their defeat as per the will of God, such as what Pope Benedict stated, which reveals misguiding and hateful preconceived ideas of Islam.

In the edition issued on September 29, 2006, Ibrahim Hijazi wrote in his weekly article that there is a declared war on Islam, which he conceives as flagrant and needs no explanation or conclusions, accusing the Pope of maintaining terrible hatred of Islam in his heart, and believes that the Pope's crisis must not be overlooked as it comes in a timing that makes it look like a religious legitimating of the campaign waged by President Bush on Islam.

In the edition issued on September 30, 2006, in the Readers Mail, a letter was published under the title: ".. when will this fierce campaign waged by the West against Islam and the Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) stop", where the author reviewed what Islam has been going through recently, considering that the Pope meant what he stated and demanded Muslim scholars to refute the Pope's allegations and respond to them.

On October 1, 2006, Rajab Al Banna wrote an article under the title: "And now what?", where he talked about what he called the Western campaign against Islam initiated by the Vatican Pope and was continued by the large number of newspapers and articles that attack Islam. He gave the example of a British writer

who claimed that there is a real problem in the teachings of the Quran, especially its call for violence against unbelievers and that these teachings were at the heart of the crisis of September 11. Mr. Banna was upset that the most prominent spiritual leader in the Catholic Church that a billion Christian listen to was the one to support such beliefs and ideas through his statements.

In the edition of October 9, 2006, an article was published under the title: "Absent Dialogue" for the journalist Hisham Al Asmar who wrote that the Pope's recent statements are considered as a link in the cultural conflict chain which is inherent in their hearts and minds, and that it is wrong to imagine that the Pope would apologize for what he said about Islam and its Prophet (peace be upon him) as they are all said deliberately as test balloons for the reactions of the Arab and Muslim worlds.

In the edition dated October 10, 2006, an article was published under the title: "Addressing those who harm the Messenger of God", where Ahmed Morsi wrote that the repetitive abuses of the West, including the Pope's statements, are far from spontaneous as they are deliberately said and done to continuously humiliate Islam, a thing that he called all Muslims all over the world to stand against.

In the edition issued on October 19, 2006, a letter was published in the Readers' Mail Section under the title: "Before we forget," where the reader Sherif Al Gayyar wrote that the lecture of the Vatican Pope Benedict XVI was intentional at this particular timing as part of an American- Zionist political scheme against Arabs and Muslims that aims at converting the eyes of the world towards an imaginary, alleged clash of civilizations and religions instead of turning to the continuation of the dialogue between these civilizations and religions.

In the Readers' Mail Section of October 21, 2006, a letter from the reader Mohamed Mahmud Yusuf was entitled: "An Insult every 35 minutes!!" which reviewed the statements of the Pope, which he described as "An erroneous and misleading interpretation," explaining that the links between Islam and terrorism are a response to the formation of the Neo-Conservative Zionist/Christians who have recalled the spirit of the Crusades against what they termed Islamic terrorism, was the exact words of Mr. Yusuf. It is easy through these writings to conclude that the

newspaper is trying to make it look like there is an ongoing plot against Islam and Muslims and that the statements of the Pope were intentional towards this goal, which is totally prejudicial against the pope, the Vatican, the West and Christianity.

In the edition issued on September 18, 2006, an article was published under the title: "understanding before apologizing" for the writer Mohammed Al Saadani who demanded that the Pope focuses on his spiritual followers and save them from vices before he judges others.

On September 25, 2006, an article was published under the title: "faith, reason, and the Vatican Pope" by Dr. Ahmed Al-Tayyeb, head of Al Azhar University, who addressed and analyzed the statements that triggered the crisis by reminding Professor Khoury that the Prophet of Islam did not teach violence or force people into Islam by the sword nor did he come to separate a mother from her daughter or a father from his son. He continued that Mohammed (peace be upon him) did not order Muslims to deal with their enemies by terminating them all; women, children, elderly people and their cattle, etc... pointing out that all this is prohibited by the Islamic Shari'a, except for warriors; and even warriors are ordered to respect and protect civilians in warzones. He also referred to the atrocities that take place in today's world asserting that they are the result of certain violent texts and teachings that created cruel civilizations that are unjust to weak and vulnerable groups.

In the edition issued on October 5, 2006, an article was published under the title: "The Vatican Pope and the fallacies of Orientalists ", where Dr. Wagdi Al Fishawy criticized the Pope's statements referring them to his fear of the spread of Islam in Europe and America, describing these statements as the beginning of a new Crusade. He then turned to launch an attack on Christians, saying that they have forgotten the teachings of Christ, and so did the Pope himself; as well as recalled the dark history of Western churches in Medieval Ages, which is prejudiced against the Pope and the Catholic Church.

In the edition issued on September 14, 2006, an article was published under the title: "The impact of the crisis of culture in the West on Islam", by Jamal Rajab who considered that the crisis lies in the lack of understanding the true Islam and

having negative images of it in the West, the thing that requires a scientific response that corrects erroneous concepts.

In the edition issued on September 24, 2006, an article was published under the title: "Offensive Campaigns against Islam have increased the importance of the dialogue of religions" by the writer Hani Assal, who asserted that offending Islam is not new, and that Muslims of the world have started to feel that their religion has become targeted militarily and politically. Then the writer narrated the facts where Islam and Muslims were offended, especially following the events of September 11.

Another article was published in the same edition under the title: "Civilizations of Dialogue" by Nabil Al Sagginy, who recalled the statements of President Bush before the war on Iraq when he called the US invasion on Iraq "A new Crusade". The writer then narrated all of the offenses made against Islam, concluding that the United States of America has been promoting a certain negative image of Islam making it look like it is synonymous to terrorism and must be fought by all.

In the edition issued on September 25, 2006, Samir Shahat wrote an article under the title: "Where is the Mistake?" where he stated that the war on Islam has already started, giving the example of what is happening in Palestine, Iraq, Sudan and Somalia as evidence of his idea.

In the edition issued on October 2, 2006, Samir Shahat wrote an article under the title: "Cunning and Brilliant" where he narrated the attacks launched against Islam considering that there is a clever and calculated plot behind this war that aims to inflame the already volatile conflict between the Western and Islamic Cultures, especially following the events of September 11 in New York.

In the edition issued on October 9, 2006, a report was published under the title: "Let our discourse level to our history" by Leila Hafez who believes that the current raging campaign that includes the Pope's lecture, the defaming article in the French newspaper and other forms of abusing Islam as flagrant efforts to unite the Christian world to confront the Islamic world in the framework of a so-called global war against terrorism. Such links completely emphasize the idea of a historic hostility between the West and Islam that is being resumed in our days, which is prejudice against the West, the Catholic Church and the Pope.

In the edition issued on September 20, 2006, an article was published under the title: "Islam-fascism and religious wars terrorism!" for the writer Salah Eddin Hafez who said that the war on Islam is nothing new, but that the new aspect is that the Pope has become a part of it, who offended and openly challenged the belief of over one and a half billion Muslim across the globe in the statements he made in his lecture, warning of engaging in any religious war that we may be pushed into. He reminded the readers that the Church in the past headed Crusades, which were wars fought in the name of God. However, through them, many infamous bloody massacres took place in Andalusia, for instance, five hundred years ago against hundreds of thousands of Muslims and Jews and that the Church was the one to establish Inquisition Courts accordingly. This is utter prejudice against the Catholic Church.

In the same edition, Abdel Mohsen Salama wrote an article comparing the Vatican Pope "Benedict", Pope Shenouda of Egypt as well as Pope John Paul II, where he concluded that Benedict was superficial, foolish, arrogant, intransigent and that his whole history fits the role of fueling conflict between Christian and Islamic civilizations as he stemmed from a Nazi background, the thing that degrades the dignity of the Pope personally.

In the edition issued on September 18, 2006, an article was published under the title: "Pope Benedict" by Makram Mohamed Ahmed who again compared between the current Vatican Pope and his offending statements on the one hand to the former Pope, concluding that the current Pope does not enjoy a spirit of transparency and tolerance, that his ideas derive from the bottom of the medieval thoughts bringing to mind the image of Medieval Popes. He asserted that these statements complement the series of insults against Muslims since the statement of President George Bush that a new Crusader, the Danish cartoons and the Pope's statements, which reflect the success of the evil plot of Western criminal masterminds in making Islam the sole enemy of the West.

In the edition issued on September 23, 2006 an article under the title: "The Emperor, the Pope and the drums of war" by Mohammed Issa Al-Sharqawi who narrated the story of the German girl, Anna Mary Schemmel, who studied the Islamic civilization and was impressed by the personality of its Prophet (peace be upon him)

that she issued a book in 1981 called " .. Muhammad, the Messenger of Allah". Mr. Sharqawi stated that if that old Anna Marie was still alive, she would have been blinded with anger from this groundless offenses and accusations that were made by the Vatican Pope Benedict XVI during his lecture, hiding behind an old, insignificant text from some book on the times of the Crusades. He further accused the Pope and the American President Bush of sparking a new war, since the American president started it when he called Islam "fascist".

In the edition issued on September 28, 2006, the writer Mahmud Awad wrote an article under the title: "Islamophobia" that talked about the abusive statements made by the Vatican Pope calling them "Unforgivable crimes". The author said that he had just completed reading the book "Islamophobia", commenting that he did not experience an indescribable shock by the statements of the Pope Benedict like others might have done as he sees that it falls within the major scheme plotted against Islam and Muslims as a result of Europe's fall into the trap of racism and hatred of Islam and Muslims. The writer stated that the campaign against Islam only needed a formal declaration of a holy war on Islam, which was ensured by the Pope's statements. Such implications are intolerant against the Vatican Pope and the West in general.

In the edition issued on September 23, 2006, Osama Gheith published an analysis of the Pope's statements under the title: "Pope Benedict fires the volcanoes of wrath and terrorism through blind bigotry: reviving the shameful Inquisition Courts and the return of the sacred spirit of Satan!" where he commented that the Pope Benedict XVI of the twenty first century still wears the cloak of Medieval Ages, which timed with the dark era of the Church and its tragic history filled with hatred, sin, racism and hostility. He continued that the Pope has publicly declared in the era of the Internet and the information and communications revolution a new Crusade against Islam, its Prophet (peace be upon him) and Muslims around the globe. He mentioned that such statements recall to his mind the history of terrorism, repression and the first declaration of Crusaders of the Middle Ages and that the Pope has returned to the heart of the battlefield, fuelled the war with fuel tanks and poisonous arrows and daggers once again, which is incitement to hatred against the Pope th

In the edition issued on September 23, 2006, Al Ahram published an investigation under the title: "Anger alone is not enough" for the writer Izzat Al

Saadani. The article was accompanied with a drawing of a hand holding a pistol with the name of the Pope Benedict XVI encrypted on it. The writer said that the Pope, who supposedly wears the crown of the Catholic Church, who is respected and followed by the Western Christian community, which comprises of includes more than a billion Christians, misguided his followers through delivering intolerant, and irrational thoughts. The writer considered that the Pope has inherent hatred for Islam and Muslims and that this hatred was the main reason why he was appointed in the first place. Then he compared Pope Benedict XVI with his ugly statements – according to the writer- against Muslims and their Prophet (peace be upon him) to his predecessor Pope John Paul II, concluding with a statement that urges Muslims to take a firm stance in reaction to what was stated about their religion as the law of nature teaches us that "measure for measure and an eye for an eye", which is incitement to hatred.

In addition to this, the rest of the coverage done by the newspaper was highly objective and balanced, and was careful to avoid conflicting with the West or with other religions, such as what was issued in the edition dated September 17, 2006 on the first page under the title: "In a formal bulletin by the Vatican: the Pope expresses his deepest regrets for offending the feelings of Muslims", which talked about this topic asserting that the Pope expressed his deep appreciation and respect for Islam and its adherents.

In the edition issued on September 18, 2006, a report was published on the first page under the title: "The Vatican Pope regrets the angry reactions caused by his statements regarding Islam", where the writer spoke about the Pope's sermon that was held the previous Sunday where the Pope had expressed his deep regret for the angry reactions caused by his statements against Muslims, and hoped that the statement issued by the Vatican later would calm the hearts and clarify the true meaning of his speech.

In an edition dated September 19, 2006, a news story was published on the first page under the two subheadings: "Chirac: Islam is a great religion worth of your respect", and "90 Islamist organizations reject the Pope's regrets", where he discussed the statements made by the French President Chirac who described Islam as a great religion, calling for detaching Islam as a religion from terrorism done under the cover

of Islam as they are two different things, describing the latter as a political activity. He also called for avoiding anything that is likely to raise tensions between peoples and religions. The story also stated that 90 organizations rejected the apologies of the Pope, and expressed their anger and dissatisfaction.

In the edition issued on September 20, 2006, the first page story read: "Al Azhar rejects the Pope's request to visit Egypt and stops the dialogue with the Vatican until a formal apology is made". The news pointed out that the Vatican Pope had appointed a Foreign Minister to the Vatican, known for his strong bonds with Islamic states. More details were presented inside that edition.

In the edition issued on September 22, 2006, a news story was published that spoke of the Vatican's attempts to contain the anger of Muslims. The story spoke of the details of these attempts to calm Muslim feelings, tackling the statements of the Pope in a neutral manner, highlighting the Pope's attempts to clarify and apologize.

In the edition issued on September 26, 2006, a news story was published that spoke of the Vatican Pope's meeting with the ambassadors of the Islamic states, considering it an unprecedented meeting. The Pope had also expressed during that meeting his aspirations for strong bonds and bridges of friendship between Christians and Muslims, and confirmed his deep respect and appreciation for the Islamic religion.

In the edition issued on October 21, 2006, a news story was published under the subheading: "The Vatican: Christians and Muslims face a difficult test regarding Islam" regarding the Vatican Pope's offensive statements against Islam and its prophet in an attempt to absorb the anger of Muslims, as Cardinal Paul Pöschl, Chairman of the Committee for Dialogue among Religions at the Vatican, announced that the credibility of Islam and Christianity are currently facing danger if their adherents and believers do not take a firm stance against terrorism, pointing out that "the Vatican sends its seasonal greetings to Muslims every year at the end of the month of Ramadan, but this year's letter comes at a sensitive time after Pope Benedict's lecture last month that offended Muslims around the world. "

In the edition issued on October 24, 2006, an article under the title: "Christians and Muslims: in a strong to raise the challenges of our world together", written by

Cardinal Paul Pöbmann which stressed the need for dialogue in an attempt to clarify the importance of dialogue and to emphasize that there still is room for dialogue between Muslims and Christians that must be maintained. He also reported that Pope Benedict was keen to express his greetings to the Muslim world for the month of Ramadan, so as to clear the air.

The daily Rose Al Yusuf newspaper

The newspaper was keen to present opinions by Christian writers from different sects, focusing on the publication of documents from the Vatican Institution that highlight that the relations between Islam and the Vatican (representative of the Catholicism) are well. It also looked at the issue of nationalism, and religions in the world and how there must be a spirit of love, tolerance and co-existence among them.

In the edition issued on September 17, 2006, the newspaper was filled with headlines such as "The Ignorant Pope and the Slow Imam", "The insults were premeditated and deliberate rendering an apology meaningless".

On September 27, 2006, an article was published under the title: "New Orientalists" for the writer Said Al Lawendy who dealt with the crisis of new Orientalists who do not pursue accuracy and objectivity in their research and opinions, pointing out to the Vatican Pope in a very biased sentence that read: "The Vatican Pope who started whirlwinds against Islam recently stems from the same corrupt roots of new Orientalists". Another article in the same edition read: "The Vatican Pope maneuvered and did not apologize" for the writer Mohammed Abdel Nour who spoke about the "evil" statements of the Catholic Pope, highlighting that the Vatican Pope did not provide an explicit apology, rather he maneuvered by saying that he feels bitter about those statements. This is biased against the Pope.

In the edition issued on September 17, 2006, the chief editor, Mr. Abdullah Kamal, published an article in the first page describing the Pope as "The Nazi, Ignorant Pope" considering that the Pope intended what he said especially taking into account the timing in which these statements were made, which was the fifth anniversary for the September 11 famous attacks. He also stated that the Pope always

insists on drawing conclusions based on inaccurate information and readings, linking between the Pope's lecture and the escalating campaign against Islam as well as the West's pursuit of finding a new enemy after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

In the edition issued on September 19, 2006, Mamdouh Ismail published an article under the title: "Benedict and an inexcusable mistake" saying that the Pope deliberately offended Islam reviewing the personal biography of the Pope, including his military service in the army of Nazi Hitler and published pictures of him with Hitler saying that the Pope never confronted Hitler with his crimes against Jews then, but now the Pope flirts with Jews. The writer wondered if this is the beginning of a new Crusade against Islam, concluding that the answer is only known to the Americans and the Pope.

On September 20, 2006, an article was published under the title: "It is inappropriate for the God Pope to apologize" for the writer Adel Girguis who expressed his belief that the statements made by the Pope reflect global trends that must be addressed with more than just angry slogans and speeches. He asserted that the Pope tried to arm-twist the well-known truth that Islam did not spread by the sword, and that he deliberately offended Muslims. He further accused the Pope's statements of being a religious and cultural cover for a colonial project.

In the edition dated September 21, 2006, a reportage was published under the title: "Al-Azhar scholars uncover the reasons for the escalation of hostility of the West against Islam" that reflected the perceptions by some people that the statements made by the Vatican Pope supports an anti-Islam trend, especially at this time when the Arab-Muslim world is attacked by colonial wars under the slogan of combating terrorism. He also mentioned that there was an earlier hostile statement in a speech by the American President in which he threatened what he called "Islamic Fascism" without exceptions, which is prejudiced against the Pope and the West.

In the edition issued on October 1, 2006, an article was published under the title: "A problem: The Vatican does not have any products!!" for the Saudi writer Mossfer Bin Saleh Al Wade'i (quoted from the Saudi newspaper "Al Yawm") that asserted that the Pope's insults against Islam were not coincidental nor spontaneous, but rather they were calculated as part of a specific strategy of the Pope, as it would

have been foolish of him to miss the opportunity to poison the air against Muslims and contribute to the campaign of intolerance that is in the best interests of the papal institution. These statements were seen as extremely prejudiced against the Vatican.

In the edition issued on September 19, 2006, an article was published under the title: "The Vatican Pope: A slip of the tongue" where Rashad Kamel insisted not to excuse the Pope as he justified that "there is no excuse for the Vatican Pope for his blatant and flagrant ignorance of history .. if the Pope had read what Father Qanawati wrote on Islamic philosophy, he wouldn't have involved himself in such ignorant talk that can only be uttered by an ignorant person from the public, and not a man in the position of the Pope .. ".

In the edition issued on October 11, 2006, a report was published under the title: "Emara: Benedict is flirting with Jews at the expense of Islam" and continued "a stupid man with many mistakes against Islam and that he flirts with Jewish Zionists at the expense of Islam, which degrades the dignity of the Pope.

In the edition issued on September 21, 2006, an article was published under the title: "An enemy at the Vatican" for the writer Mohammed Abdel Nour who wrote that the Pope who holds a prestigious position and is looked up to by more than half a billion Christian became the enemy of Islam and Muslims, playing an American-Christian-Zionist-heretic game.

In the edition issued on September 27, 2006, Amr Abdel Samie wrote an article under the title: "The right to confiscate", who talked about the decision of the Minister of Information to confiscate certain editions of three foreign newspapers "Le Figaro", "Frankfurter" and "The Guardian Weekly" linking this decision to the international campaign against Islam, which is a campaign of hatred, racism and degradation. He referred this campaign to the overall sense of cultural and religious omnipotence that accompanied the campaign of the American President George W. Bush on the so-called "terrorism", as well as to the positions of fanatics who hate Islam. He asserted that the articles written against Islam in the afore-mentioned newspapers merely operate systematically towards asserting the significance of cultural and religious humiliation against Muslims. The writer described the

statements made by the Vatican Pope Benedict as bitter and full of hate, which is an incitement to hatred against the Pope and the West.

However, this was not the only trend that has emerged in the coverage of Rose Al Yusuf newspaper. The newspaper also stated views and coverage that urge people to avoid escalating the conflict, such as what came in the edition issued on September 26, 2006, on the first page of the newspaper about the Vatican Pope's encounter with Ambassadors of Islamic countries, highlighting that the Pope has declared his utter solidarity and respect for Muslims and Islam.

In the edition issued on September 29, 2006, a report under the title: " Rose Al Yusuf newspaper faces Benedict with himself: The Vatican has previously asserted that Islam is a religion of peace and love", was published reviewing the minutes of the regular meeting that was held at Al-Azhar, February 24, 2005 between Al-Azhar Permanent Committee for Interreligious Dialogue and the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue. The newspaper states that session record reveals that the Vatican recognizes that Islam is a religion of love and tolerance, and that the Pope's recent anti-Islam statements violate the Vatican's recognition.

In the edition of October 5, 2006, a news story covered the meeting between Al-Azhar Sheikh and the Ambassador of the State of the Vatican, revealing that Al-Azhar Sheikh has criticized what the Vatican Pope stated in his lecture, asserting that these statements have harmed the Pope himself because he didn't comment on it. The news story highlighted the statement of the Vatican Ambassador, who stressed that the Pope Benedict XVI will finalize the lecture which he delivered at the German University and include footnotes that clarify what was stated regarding the story of the Byzantine Emperor.

In the edition issued on October 8, 2006, a news story was published that reported that the American Catholic Peace Group had fasted with Muslims during the month of Ramadan as a gesture of solidarity. Newsweek had commented that this group recurrently does such things.

Private newspapers (Al Masry Al Yom and Al Osbou')

Al Masry Al Yom

The newspaper adopted many forms of prejudice and bias in dealing with this issue, however, didn't overlook the attempts of the Vatican and its Pope to regret and apologize.

In the edition issued on September 17, 2006, an article was published under the title: "Vatican statements contradict with the teachings of Christianity and his offense against Islam ignited the fire of sectarianism" for the writer Jamal Asa'ad who referred the Pope's statements to the psychological composition of his European mentality, and his upbringing in Nazi Germany, which made him feel that he is superior to the Other, especially those who adhere to different religions. He asserted that the sub-consciousness of the Pope is totally affected by the periods of Western colonialism against Muslim countries. He believes that the Pope agrees with President Bush that Islam is terrorism, accusing the Pope's of working to promote the American theory that allied Christianity and Judaism together in the face of Islam, concluding that this way, the Pope serves American interests at the expense of religion and the Catholic Church.

On September 18, 2006 an article was published under the title: "The Pope and the Mom!", where the writer Jilan Gabr reviewed the statements of the Pope describing them as ignorant and offending to the Islamic religion and that they are an affirmation of the Pope stringent background, talking about his bias to the side of the United States of America, which can be considered as his "Mom".

In the edition issued on September 20, 2006, the front page included coverage of the visit by the delegation of the Egyptian Catholic Church to Al-Azhar after the Vatican Pope's lecture, highlighting the response of Al-Azhar that stated that the Pope was silent for a long time, and when he spoke, he offended Islam.

On the same page of the same edition, another headline read: "38 Arab Organizations state to the Pope: your statements fuel the flames of hatred and racism ignited by September 11". The news included a warning made by a number of human rights organizations because of the seriousness of the Pope's statements that aroused a crisis in the Muslim world. The warning was issued in a memorandum filed by the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies to the Vatican State ambassador in Cairo.

In the Readers' Mail section on September 29, 2006, a letter was published under the title: "Loving Jews does not give the Pope the right to export his hatred for Muslims" where the author reviewed what the Pope stated in his swearing-in ceremony in April 2006, when he affirmed that all the sects of Christians and Jews are bonded with a sacred bond of love. The writer did not object to this statement of the Pope, but rather blamed him for his recent statement that offended Islam and Muslims as the Pope said words that could easily be misinterpreted.

On October 4, 2006, the first page included a news story that highlighted the statements of Dr Muhammad Salim Al Awwa, the Secretary General of the Union of Muslim Scholars in a lecture at the Egyptian Book House under the title: "Al Awwa: Benedict was a Nazi", where he asserted that the gravity of the statements of the Vatican Pope Benedict XVI is that it questioned the fact that Islam is compatible with reason, which is the main strong point of Islam and that he challenged Muslims in their anchor and their survival mechanism for the last 14 decades, describing the statements as an attempt to provide an instrument to confront Muslims in Europe so it becomes a purely Christian brotherhood. He concluded that this approach is compatible with the Pope's background in Nazi Germany, which is prejudiced against the Pope.

In the edition issued on October 15, 2006, an article was published under the title: "Al-Azhar Sheikh corrects the West's lies on Jihad" for the writer Mahmud Khalil who explained that "The Vatican Pope like other politicians has embraced the idea that jihad is the Orientalists invasion and the imposition of another religion and accordingly marketed this idea .. which would further inflame the situation", and also pointed out that Western politicians and clergymen provide a version of the various concepts of Islam that match their policies and attitudes towards Muslims and Islam, which is prejudiced against the Pope and the West.

In the edition issued on September 16, 2006, a report was published under the title: "Anger overcomes Egypt because of the Vatican Pope's statements" which highlighted the reactions that followed the Vatican Pope's statements, which have been described as offensive to Islam and regarded by some as Western erroneous and recycled ideas of Islam, while others take it as part of the framework of preparing for

a coming Crusade against Islam. Another group view that they reflect utter ignorance of Islam, because Islam has an unprecedented supremacy of thought.

In the same edition, an investigation published the views of a number of Coptic thinkers, who emphasized the seriousness of the Pope's statements where some people said, ".. that the Pope was the former Chairman of the Creed Committee and was known for his extreme rigidity to the Catholic faith, that the Pope had reincarnated the views of the fourteenth century, and that the Vatican had adopted the view of America that link between Islam and terrorism, especially after September 11". The views mostly asserted that these statements reflect a school of thought existing in the West that regard Islam with a wrong perception , explaining that followers of this school feel that for Christ to be reincarnated, Jews must return to Jerusalem and Arabs must be evicted from there, which necessitates war.

In the edition issued on September 18, 2006, the first page news story that covered the demonstrations done by Egyptian students as a response to the statements made by the Vatican Pope which they regarded is mean and inhumane. The students said that Benedict wanted to take this opportunity to go with the flow of anti-political Islam, driven by the League of Neo-Evangelists, and that he wanted to create a relationship with the Zionist-Christian Church..", which is prejudiced against the Pope, the Vatican and the West.

In the edition issued on October 2, 2006, the statements of Counselor Adly Hussein, the governor Qalioubeya were reported, where he said that what was stated by Pope Benedict was part of what he called a "hostile campaign and the continuous attacks waged by the West against Islam" and that the fallacies of the Pope blasted any hope for any dialogue between religions or civilizations and promoted the idea of the clash, reflecting the West's desire to deform Islam.

A report was published on October 8, 2006 under the title: "The Danish film which offends Prophet Mohammed offends scholars as they consider it an extension of Benedict's extremism", which was written as a result of the statements of the Pope against Islam and the Prophet, where some people took these statements as the result of a Zionist way of thinking which dominates the West, and that the Christian world

has lost its personality completely and no longer supports justice, such as these unjust and irrational statements.

On October 25, 2006, an article entitled: "Award of satisfaction for Muslims" for the writer Amr Khafagi who reviewed the philosophy of presenting international awards to Islam and Muslims and the role of global institutions as a reaction to the fierce campaign that brutally attack Islam and Muslims. The writer also accused the West of having fascist, unjust ideas and that we should not believe in the pretence of the West that they support human rights, or even animal rights! He gave the examples of Iraq and Palestine as an elaboration to the barbarism of this "civilized West", which is prejudiced against the West.

In the edition issued on September 21, 2006, a report was published under the title: "Secrets of the Vatican's relations with the Nazi regime and the CIA", while the subtitle read: "The Catholic Church was a repository for the gold of Hitler's agents and possesses confidential documents about the nuclear programs of the United States". The report narrated the history of these confidential documents, which were published on the Internet, affirming the relations between the Vatican and a number of political actors.

In the same edition, a news story was published under the title: "Ambassadors: The apology of the Vatican Pope must be written or the offensive words in his statement must be deleted", where it was mentioned that the Catholic legacy is filled with abuses against Islam and that what was said by the Pope promotes the colonial wave against Islam which is led by the United States and Europe, which is prejudiced against the Vatican.

In the Readers' Mail Section of September 23, 2006, the page editor stated that he considered that the Pope's statements are an attempt to provoke discord between Muslims and Christians. The writer used many inappropriate terms such as "black-hearted criminals" and other referring to the abusers of Islam, and "yet another abuser" in reference to the Pope of the Vatican. In a letter by one of readers entitled: "The masks of haters fell" where he criticized the Pope describing him as "Zionist" and his statements as "despicable nonsense".

In the Readers' Mail Section of October 12, 2006, many letters tackled the Pope's statements describing them as hateful, racist and hostile to Islam as well as referred to the Pope himself as "a well-known Nazi" and that he used a text from the fourteenth century neglecting the fact that they timed with the black history of the Church in Europe.

In the edition issued on September 19, 2006, the newspaper reported the text of a statement made by the faculty Staff Club of Al-Azhar University, which read: "What the Pope said emerges from his sick attitude, coming from an institution that lost all its qualifications as a symbol of the Catholic faith throughout the world .. the issue is not an ideology or a religion, but a policy followed by man who lacks the qualifications of being a pope", which degrades the dignity of the Pope and the Vatican Foundation.

In the Readers' Mail Section of October 12, 2006, a letter was published under the title: "Even the paper series out for you: Purge me from the filth of those who abused the Prophet", where the writer personified paper and made it shout to Muslims to protect Islam from the abuses against Mohammed (peace be upon him) such as the Danish caricatures and other abuses (but did not mention the Pope directly).

In the edition issued on September 16, 2006, a news story issued the statement of the Freedoms Committee at the Bar Association that called Al-Azhar and the Islamic Conference Organization to cooperate together for conducting an intellectual debate with the Vatican Pope to prove how wrong the Vatican and the Pope were and to elaborate the racism, hatred and hostility that are inherent in them towards Islam and Muslims, which is a clear incitement to hatred against the Pope.

In the edition issued on September 18, 2006, Manar Khater reported what the historian Kassim Abdo Kassim said, which can be briefed in his belief that the Vatican Pope's negative statements come in the framework of justifying persecution practiced by the various European governments against Muslims, stating that the Vatican are used to defaming and degrading Islam and Muslims, using lies that were necessary to mobilize people for the new Crusades, which is intolerant against Pope and the Vatican Foundation.

Despite these topics that involve prejudices, at the same time we monitored a number of topics at Al Masry Al Yom that were impartial and objective, most notably:

In the edition issued on September 17, 2006, a news story was published on the first page under the title: "Vatican: The Pope regrets that his statements were misinterpreted in a manner that is incompatible with his intentions" where the Secretary of the Vatican State asserted that the Pope reaffirms his respect for the Muslim faith and that he regretted being interpreted as offending Islam, hoping that the real meaning of his words would be delivered. The Pope justified saying that he reported this quote from Emperor Manuel II and that he used it only to discuss the relationship between religion and violence, and to clarify his full rejection of any religious motives behind violence of any kind.

In the edition issued on September 17, 2006, the bulletin stated by the catholic Patriarch was published where he insisted on the idea that "The Pope used the words of the Emperor, but that he doesn't endorse or support them; the Pope merely used them as an entry point to the core issue earmarked for it."

Another story published the assertion of the Vatican embassy that the Vatican Pope did not intend to wound the feelings of Muslims in a statement issued by the Information Office of the Vatican, reported by Father Federico Lombardi.

On the first page of the edition issued on September 18, 2006, a report was published under the title: "The Vatican Pope retreated from his abusive statements against Islam and declares his personal regret", where the newspaper reported the Pope's personal regret for being misunderstood and for the reactions to his statements by Muslims, quoting "I feel deeply sorry for the reactions in some countries regarding certain paragraphs contained in my speech at Regensburg University, and which were considered insulting to the feelings of Muslims".

In the edition issued on September 19, 2006, a news story was published under the title: "An Egyptian Catholic delegation visits Al-Azhar to express their regret for the Vatican Pope's statements" as a delegation from the Catholic Church in Egypt, headed by Priest John Kalta visited Al-Azhar to meet the Sheikh of Al-Azhar and members of the Islamic Research Academy members to present their deep regrets

about the reactions caused by the Vatican Pope's offending statements to Islam and its Prophet.

On the first page of the edition issued on September 21, 2006, a story was entitled: "Benedict reaffirms his regrets .. and the Vatican Broadcasting radio consider his statements on Islam as unfortunate" confirming that there are Vatican sources that state the Vatican Pope's intention to correct his speech which was said in Germany. The story concluded by affirming that the Pope "expresses his regret that his speech was poorly understood and expresses his hope that his later statements would initiate a dialogue between cultures based on self-criticism."

Al Osbou' newspaper

The news coverage adopted by this newspaper mainly aimed to mobilize and inflame religious sentiments of the readers through the usage of strong and abusive language that they used against the Pope personally. In an extreme violation, journalist Mahmud Bakri wrote an article that was under the title: "May you lose your ability to speak at all" in which he attacked not only the Pope, but also Catholicism and Christianity. The chief editor himself deliberately intended to instigate violence through his strong and provocative headlines, such as "It's the war", "The war continues", and "Degrading Islam"...

The following are highlights of the most obvious violations of this newspaper:

In the edition dated October 16, 2006 an article was under the title: "Ask History About what Pope Benedict said" where the writer Dr. Nadia Hosni dealt with the history of Catholicism in the world as well as the personal record of Pope Benedict himself stating that he is totally against Islam as he refused that Turkey joins the Christian European Union because it is a Muslim nation; cancelled the dialogue of religions in the Vatican as he felt that it has to be a Christian-Christian dialogue to unify the Christian churches, which is prejudicial against the Pope.

On October 23, 2006, an article was published under the title: "the Triangle of Conspiracy: Silence! Here comes Fraud...", where the writer Ali Abd El Fattah started by describing the statement of Pope Benedict as provoking and filled with lies, elaborating on the many challenges and dangers that Islam faces nowadays, which he

described as a new crusade. He asserted that the Pope's lecture was intentional and represents the views of the Vatican in general, which is utter prejudice against the Vatican. He reprimanded the Pope for not apologizing.

On September 25, 2006, an article under the title: "Benedict's ambitions" for Sanaa Al Said considered that the statements were said in the context of a new Crusade against Islam and Muslim that is led by Pope Benedict and President George W. Bush. Another article under the title: "Legacy of Medieval ages" for the writer Khaled Mahmud asserted that there is a global phenomenon of racism against Islam and Muslims led by the United States Administration; supported by the European Union and enriched by the negative legacy that was inherited by European nations since Medieval ages, all of which require more than a simple apology by the Pope-according to the writer.

On October 2, 2006, Mahmud Bakry wrote an article under the title: "The Radio and the Pope" where he condemned a Crusade triggered against Islam and its Messenger that is led by the Catholic Pope, the United States Administration and other enemies, which is a biased and prejudiced stance as it links the Pope to the United States Administration, which he might not concur with.

Another report in the same edition was under the title: "An alliance between hawks in the Vatican and those of the White House: A fierce and organized campaign against Islam. In the report, the writer explained that the total discrepancy between the trends and directions of Pope Benedict and John Paul II can be referred to the presence of hawks in the Vatican that follow the trends of Neo-Conservative hawks in the United States. Here the writer justified that what proves Pope Benedict's sense of belonging to the United States of America is that he never condemned American foreign policy of any of the slips they fall in.

In an edition dated October 9, 2006 in the page under the title: "The Voice of the People", a reader called Ahmed Al Ashmawy, who is a retired general, wrote that a second crusade has started and hoped that the Pope Benedict would return to the teachings of the Torah and review its provisions, which is a bias against the Pope and the West.

In an earlier edition dated September 25, 2006, Zeinab Montasser linked Bush and the United States Administration on the one hand to the Pope and the Catholic Church on the other in an article under the title: "Unholy war", asserting through the opinions of many researchers that this is part of the American desire to control the world.

In an edition dated October 16, 2006 an article under the title: "Racist Catholic Church" written by Salah Abdel-Karim read: " The frustrated and concerned Pope of Rome still whines about the memory of the fall of Constantinople," and that ".. the Catholic Church is in a moment of great weakness and disintegration that turned it into a follower to powers of neo-colonialism". The writer described the current situation by saying that the American battleships and armies besiege all Arab and Muslim territories and that their satellites monitor even the homes of Muslims and count their breaths. He also talked about the declining moral ethics within the European community and the West in general, which in turn affect the cultural position of the church. In an attempt to rationalize what the Pope stated and make it look like it was part of a plot, the writer adopted figures that demonstrate the multiplication of Muslims in Europe in the past fifty year with a rate of 300%, while the number of Christians has not exceeded 47% in the same period and that in Europe there is a growing manifestation of Islam in the form of bearded men, veiled women, and an increasing number of mosques even in old abandoned churches; the thing that threatened the position of the Church and alarmed it.

The writer also linked between the European Union's decision not to include Turkey as a Muslim nation, which he refers to the Pope's concern with the old history of the fall of the Byzantine Empire and takes a personal stance from modern Turkey accordingly, which is clear bias against the Pope, the Vatican and the West.

In the edition dated September 25, 2006, Ali Abdul Wahid Abul Magd wrote a piece under the title: "Voltaire and Benedict" condemning the Pope for wrongfully and ignorantly defaming Prophet Mohammed (peace be upon him), calling benedict a sinner and a criminal, which is intolerant against Pope.

In an edition dated October 9, 2006, Ali Fadel Hassan wrote an article under the title: "Oh Papa" where he described the Pope's lecture as disastrous, disgraceful, racist, evil and nonsense.

In another edition dated October 23, 2006 in the Voice of the People page, Hassan Ragab wrote "That Ignoramus," describing him as ".. whose eyes are cunning and his face is dark with meanness, wiliness and stupidity; in his black heart lies bitter hatred and deception; and his mind is retarded" insulting him further as a mean person who defamed Islam", which is utter degradation of the dignity of the Pope.

In the edition dated September 25, 2006, Mahmud Bakri wrote an article that was under the title: "May you lose your ability to speak at all" in which he attacked not only the Pope, but also Catholicism and Christianity, using phrases such as " May you lose your ability to speak at all, you whose heart is blind and has no insight, to dare with your foolish tongue to speak ill of our religion and holy Prophet". The writer even exceeded his implied threats to the Christian religion as a whole when he stated that Islam is the right path and that the Pope and his followers (a.k.a. Christians) are on the wrong track and that the Pope by his mean words- according to the writer- has demonstrated the enormous differences between Islam as a religion that preaches love and tolerance and those who still have grudges in their hearts as remains from their dark and evil past, which is a flagrant offense to the dignity of the Pope and the Vatican.

On September 18, 2006, Nafisa Abdel Fattah wrote an article under the title: "We advise you to reread the history of his ancient forefathers in violence and blood: The blood of Catholics and Protestants on the altars of the Holy Pope", where the writer spoke of an inherent grudge and ignorance that she related to the bloody history of Judaism and Christianity, using texts from the Torah and the Bible to assert this violence and the murders and massacres that were committed by people of both religions throughout history. She then turned to Islam stating that its history is never referred to as violent, explaining that the Prophet Mohammed (peace be upon him) invaded Persia in defense of Muslims there, who were being persecuted and tortured. This approach is totally intolerant against the Pope, Christianity, Judaism and the West.

In the edition dated September 18, 2006, Mahmud Seleem Al Awwa wrote an article under the title: "Benedict begins a new era of bad relationships between Catholics and Muslims," where the writer spoke of the Pope's "frank attack on Islam and its Shari'a together .. and an utter lack of manners when referring to the Prophet (peace be upon him) . . what the Pope stated was nothing but a bunch of lies that are inappropriate for any sane human being, let alone a man of religion...". The article also stated that the Pope's abusive statements are no less foolish than the cartoons that portrayed Islam and its Prophet in Denmark and that both start a new era of bad relationships between Catholics and Muslims, which devastates the work of the Muslim-Catholic dialogue that has been going on for the last half a century, which is incitement to hatred of the Pope and Christianity.

In the same edition, an investigation was published with a number of provocative sub-headings such as "neo-Nazi", "The Pope of the Vatican sparks a new crusade", "silence when facing Benedict's attack may open the door to a new series of bloody follies", ".. Bush seeks to eliminate Islam" and "On the new crusades led by Bush and the Pope together .. ". In the same edition too, news coverage of the Pope's speech was under the title: " Vatican inaugurates a new Crusade" which was accompanied with a photo of the Pope. In the front page, the Editor in Chief, Mustafa Bakri, wrote: "It's the war..." which was resumed in the internal pages along with a number of sub-headings such as "The Pope of the Vatican reveals hostility to Islam and deliberately offends the prophet (peace be upon him)" .. "How long more should we endure silence and humiliation?!", "It was not a slip of the tongue .. it was a message that he started since he took his post in the Vatican and talked about a new Christian-Jewish alliance", ".. Those Western maniacs who deliberately offend our religion", "What is the Islamic nation waiting for after all these humiliations .. If people do not move in defense of their religion, then when will they move?", as well as described the Pope's speech as "poisonous, and malevolent.." and the Pope himself as " lacking manners..". Mr. Bakri also referred to an animosity between the Pope and Islam, and that the Pope's statements sound like an earlier statement of Bush post September 11th that "spoke of a new Crusade and of Islamic fanatics". All of this simply encourages violence against the Pope and Christians as well as provokes readers and mobilizes the masses against him.

On September 25, 2006, a colored headline read: "Defaming Islam" with a subheading "After the Pope, a French philosopher insults the Prophet and attacks the Quran". The editor in chief under the title: his main article on that day "The war continues", using phrases such as .. " the cowards and demons of the new world" to describe the perpetrators of these abuses and warning that a religious war will erupt, calling people to sacrifice their lives for their religion and their dignity, stating "If you do not stop your cowardly moves, we will turn it into flames sacrificing many innocent victims, and that the whole nation will turn into ticking bombs that will explode in your faces and destroy your lives" and that "The war on Islam by bitter entities is a continuation of the Crusades and we warn of our serious reactions". The Editor in Chief also spoke of the article that was published in Le Figaro French newspaper that attacked Islam and Muslims and insulted Prophet Mohammed (peace be upon him) that was under the title: "In the face of Islamic Extremism..What is the Free World doing?". Mr. Bakri stated that he agrees with the opinion of the Iranian writer "Ahmad Khatami," who described the statements of the Pope as the cultural aspect of a larger Zionist-American scheme in the course of a Crusade, where Bush is the mastermind of the military aspect of this war," describing the statements of the Iranian writer as "Total righteousness and truth". Bakri also said that "This war was previously run from behind curtains, but today, Pope Benedict decided to openly lead it himself thus acceding to the military Machine, which George Bush leads its military side", continuing "We do not want to inaugurate a religious war that feeds extremism nor do we seek to escalate the situation, if you, the demons of the new world, must stop playing with fire".

In the edition dated October 16, 2006 an article was under the title: "A new Crusade declared by the second Urbain!" where the writer Abdel Basset Abdel Samad affirmed that the Pope meant exactly what he stated in his scurrilous lecture, and that it is indeed a new Crusade that only needs King Richard and Philip II, and that Bush already plays their role. The writer also represents a new Urbain, who was an evil man driven by vengeance and that he is an illegitimate Pope that appointed himself as servant to the good of the United States not a servant of God and that America is the Pope's God!! He further called for the Muslim troops to unite in the face of this new Crusade, which is incitement to violence against the West and the Pope.

Partisan newspapers (Al Wafd and Al Arabi Al Nasser)

Al Arabi Al Nasser newspaper:

In its coverage of the event, the newspaper was highly balanced, though this did not prevent it from publishing a headline on its first page on a "Nazi Pope" or the caricature that portrayed the Pope as a Nazi and deceitful murderer.

In the edition dated September 17, 2006, Ahmad Abul Maaty wrote an article under the title: "Sedition triggered by the Nazi Pope" where he narrated the personal biography of the Pope, particularly his work in the Nazi army for years and his evasion from the military service. The writer said that this was not the first time that Pope Benedict XVI holds this negative attitude from Islam and Muslims following his appointment, reminding the readers that in late April of last year during the first Mass that he oversaw he totally ignored Muslims as if they never existed, while he praised Jews calling them "dear brothers".

In the edition dated September 24, 2006, the top headline read: "Sheikh of Azhar states: Vatican Pope is ignorant ..." which is prejudiced against the Pope.

On October 1, 2006, in the people's mail section, the newspaper published a letter by a reader who expressed his delight that the newspaper called the Pope "Nazi" in one of its editions and demanded cutting all relations with the Vatican as it is not a state of its own, and Egypt already has no relations with it of any kind, which is a bias against the Pope and the Vatican.

In the edition dated September 24, 2006, Hussein Ahmad Ameen wrote an article under the title "A few observations about the abuses against Islam and Prophet recently by the West", where he linked between the repeated abuses by the West against Islam and between the pursued policies by Western States of new forms of colonization in the Arab world and the torture that takes place in Abu Ghraib prison and elsewhere.

In his article, Osama Daoud stated from the outset that Islam is not known for its extremism, violence or even barbaric practices even in wartimes, comparing it to the

black history of the Crusades (which were blessed by Popes) saying that it is more likely that the West be known for this barbarism. He linked between the past and present as he portrayed the current Pope and United States President George W. Bush as the new reincarnations of Crusade-time figures asserting that there is an ongoing war against Islam.

Mohamed Yusuf wrote an article in the same edition under the title: "An Open Letter to the Vatican Pope" where he linked between the Pope and President George W. Bush on the one hand and between former colonial empires that the writer called evil and asserted that the Pope is currently trying to bring these evil empires to life again under the leadership of the United States of America, which is a bias against the Pope and the West.

In the edition dated October 1, 2006, Noor Al Huda Zaki wrote an article under the title: "Stop" where she listed all the successive abuses that were triggered against Islam, starting with the Danish Caricatures, the "Big Fall" of the Vatican Pope, and the "French abuse of the holy Prophet" in the Le Figaro article, which is a generalization that provokes readers against the West.

In the edition dated September 17, 2006, a headline on the first page accompanied with a picture of the Pope Benedict read: "Nazi Pope: a former soldier in Hitler's Troops described Jews as dear brothers and asked Muslims to remove grudges from their hearts". On September 24, 2006, a caricature on the last page portrayed the Vatican Pope with very ugly features in a Nazi cloak and a turban on his head that has the Nazi cross, while holding a cross that has a skull encrypted on it with a note underneath this skull that read "Victims of Inquisition Courts" which is intolerant against Pope.

In the edition dated October 1, 2006, a dialogue with Sheikh Omar Al Deeb Deputy of Al-Azhar and Chairman of the Committee for the dialogue between religions was published. Sheikh Omar stated that may Pope Benedict abolished the Committee for the dialogue between religions at the Vatican to impede the Islamic-Christian Dialogue. He also said that the Pope hates Islam as well as all the rest of Christian sects (i.e. other than Catholicism) and considers them all infidels. Furthermore, he stated that the deliberate offenses of the fanatic Pope against Islam were preplanned, which is incitement to hatred of the Pope.

In the edition of October 8, 2006 the newspaper conducted an interview with Dr. Nasr Farid Wassel, the former Mufti of Egypt. The interview partly revolved around the Vatican Pope's crisis asserting that it is part of a new Crusade against Islam, calling people for jihad in its various forms to stand against this plot, which is an incitement to violence against the West.

Al Wafd newspaper

From the outset, the newspaper was concerned with the content of the Pope's lecture, which was highlighted through the various press forms it published and the many dialogues and interviews it conducted in coverage of the issue, most notably its interview with the Islamic thinker Muhammad Salim Al Awwa, Qassem Abdu Qassem, as well as with the Christian thinker Samir Morcos. These interviews as well as other articles, reports and news coverage drew public attention throughout the monitoring period.

In the edition dated September 16, 2006, an article under the title: "A slip of the tongue by the Vatican Pope" was published for the writer Gamal Badawi who criticized the Vatican and the Pope's position compared with the previous Pope "... Is it consistent with the freedom of belief that a major figure discredits the Islamic faith, .. this is a form of provocation, inciting hatred and sowing intolerance between Catholics and Muslims", which is prejudiced against the Pope.

In another edition dated September 18, 2006, an article under the title: "Vatican Warrior" by the writer Gamal Badawi link between the current Pope and the Pope Urbain the second who stood before the masses and gave a sermon for waging a war in the name of the Cross against the East and Islam, while affirming that the current Pope is an ally with the Pentagon which has already waged a war against Islam based on teachings from the Torah.

On the first page of the same edition, a story was published under the title: "The Vatican Pope rejects to apologize to the Muslims", accompanied by the image of the Pope. The story focused on the reaction of the Pope who expressed his regret rather than an official apology to the Islamic nation. The story described the statements of the Pope as offensive and ugly.

In the edition dated September 22, 2006, an article under the title: "difficult challenges for Muslims" by the writer Mahmud Kassem Abu Jaafar spoke about the statements made by the Pope describing them as dangerous and that they widen the gap between Muslims and Christians at a time when concerted efforts by decent people in both the Islamic and the Western world to close the gap between the two worlds, and that these statements indicate the Pope's ignorance of true Islam, so he (the Pope) has to re-read Islam to understand it before uttering such foolish, useless statements.

An article was published on September 23, 2006 under the title: "The Vatican and the logic of confrontation" where the writer Sanaa Al Said compared between the Pope Shenouda of Egypt and the Vatican Pope, describing the former as wise, moderate, and objective, which implicitly indicate that the Vatican Pope is the opposite of these descriptions, considering his statements as deliberate and not as a slip of a tongue. She also considered that the Pope's cited paragraph was full of abuses of Islam and the Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him).

In the edition of September 24, 2006, an article was under the title: "The Three Coups of September" for the writer Al-Shaf'ie Bashir who spoke about three coups that took place in September, describing the statements of the Pope as serious, distorting, offending to the sentiments of more than one thousand and six hundred million Muslims in the world. He also denied the accusation of the Pope to Islam as having invaded the world by force, referring to the Pope as "racial".

In the edition dated September 25, 2006, a news story was under the title: "Maximus: Pope Benedict was raised in racist Germany" where maximum described the statements of the Pope as "clearly racist", which was a clear prejudice against the Pope. In the edition dated October 6, 2006, a report under the title: "Dr. Emara in a stormy encounter: Will Europe become the heart of the Islamic world? Western Churches have betrayed their religion and turned to marrying homosexuals". The report stated through Dr. Mohamed Emara, the prominent Islamic thinker, that Western churches have forgotten their main issues and became concerned with marginal unethical issues such as the marriage of homosexuals and that the West is mobilizing its peoples against Islam. Dr. Emara mentioned that a man is known through his biography, hence the Pope's statements can be understood in light of his

infamous background, calling the Pope "ignorant" and evil hearted that seeks to fuel a war against Islam and Muslims, which is prejudiced against the Pope and the West.

In the edition dated September 19, 2006, an article under the title: "Benedict of Byzantine and Benedict of German" for the writer Gamal Younis who began by explaining the Vatican's position of the Islamic religion stating that they don't believe that Islam is a monotheistic religion. He went on to review the history of Popes during the times of the Crusades and Inquisition Courts, when they not only tortured and murdered Muslims, but also other non-Christian categories. The writer did not describe the Pope as ignorant or intolerant, however he ended his article with the question, "Can these statements represent the beginning of a Crusade."

In the edition dated September 20, 2006, a news story was published reporting the bulletin issued by the Bar Association demanding a debate to respond to the Vatican Pope's statements. The bulletin asserted that the statements made by the Pope offend the Islamic religion and its holy messenger, as well as reveals utter ignorance and blind tailing.

In the edition dated September 21, 2006, an interview with the thinker Samir Morcos was published under the title "Samir Morcos, the specialist in Coptic and Western Affairs states: the Vatican Pope ravaged his opposition in Latin America for the good of Washington" where Mr. Morcos stated that there is essentially a conflict of interests that needed a religious mask, and that it is not a coincidence that the Pope that gets appointed in the Papal Seat in Cardinal Rome is a racist person who participated in the Nazi forces and in the same timing when Bush holds a lot of the world power in his hands who, in turn, declared earlier that he is a man of God appointed to implement his will.

In the edition dated September 24, 2006, an article under the title: "The lecture of the Vatican Pope .. the objectives" where the writer Salah Eddin Ibrahim talked about the Pope's statements describing them as intentional and deliberate, and not as some say that they were a slip of the tongue or lack of in-depth knowledge of the history of Islam by the Pope, but that what he has done is part of a scheme. He also spoke about the personality of the Pope himself stating that he is different from his predecessor and that he is inclined to extremism and intolerance as the timing of

the lecture itself cast doubts. The writer assumed that the Pope is involved in a campaign against Islam stating that there is a huge plot being implemented after the fall of Communism in the previous era, which is the declaration of Islam as the enemy at this stage.

In the edition dated September 25, 2006, a news story was under the title: "The Pope's fallacies killed the Islamic-Christian Dialogue" that spoke about Al Azhar's decision freeze the work of the dialogue committee with the Vatican as dialogue became impossible under the present circumstances –according to Al Azhar. The story confirmed that what happened from the Pope was a battle in a long war against Islam and Muslims and that the Pope's statements are politically oriented as some view that the Vatican Pope is an ally with non-Catholic Western governments such as the United States and the United Kingdom in their war against Islam under the banner of the war on terrorism, which are prejudiced statements against the Pope, the Vatican and the West.

In the edition dated September 23, 2006, an article was under the title: "Do you accept this? Sir Christ?" where the writer, Abdel Atti Shaf'ie, spoke about the relations between Muslims and Christians and how they were peacefully on good terms, without reference to the Vatican Pope. However, he mentioned that there are some people that try to harm these relations voluntarily and willingly, calling these people irrational, ignorant and mean.

On September 24 in the page under the title: "Ramadan Karim", an interview was conducted with Dr. Abdel Moneim Al Barri on the Pope's statements, which he said were complementary to the scheme triggered by the statements of President George W. Bush after the events of September 11, when he said it was "A Crusade". Dr. Barri accused the Pope of being inexperienced, misunderstanding, ignorant and foolish.

The newspaper published a poem on September 27, 2006, for the poet Abdullah Mohammed under the title: "to the Supreme Pontiff" addressed to Pope Benedict who he calls blind, lacking insight, and perpetrator of an unforgivable crime. The poem was accompanied by a picture of the Pope Benedict XVI with concealed

eyes indicating that he was a criminal and a concealed mouth, indicating the wish that he remains silent.

In the edition dated September 28, 2006, on the second page, an interview with the Islamic thinker Muhammad Seleem Al Awwa was published that involved a number of abusive phrases such as "... this criminal that accused the Prophet (peace be upon him) with such scorn has to be hushed and demanded to apologize to Muslims". On September 29, 2006, an article was under the title: "Religious leadership on the path of the media" where the writer, Ahmed Mohamed Galal, treated with the reactions to the Vatican Pope's lecture using the word "the arrogant Pope", which is degradation of the Pope.

In the edition dated September 18, 2006, an article under the title: "Did the Pope replace religion with politics?" for the writer Sekina Fouad who wondered if the Pope is ignorant and unaware of Islamic history, tending to go with opinion that says that he has a passion for Judaism. On September 19, 2006, Majid Muhammad wrote an article under the title: "The Fall of Benedict", where he considered that the Pope's lecture signifies deep racism and utter ignorance, and that such statements incite people of different monotheistic religions to hold grudges against each other. He also interpreted the statements of the Pope as stemming from the language of Crusades, which is intolerant against the Pope.

In the edition dated September 20, 2006, an article under the title: "Take off your shows before you speak" for the writer Neam Al Baz who stressed that the pope is currently playing a significant political role to serve the good of the West, despite his refined religious position. She also tackled the ignorance of the Pope of Quranic verses asserting that Muslims are being eliminated and that the Pope is contributing to this by giving the West a license to kill.

In an article on September 29, 2006, under the title "The distribution of roles in the scheme of aggression" writer Ahmed Ezz El Arab attacked the person of the Vatican Pope reviewing his personal biography and comparing him to his predecessor stating that the former Pope was noble, while the current one was brought up in a hostile environment in Nazi Germany, saying that that black era was the era that

shape his intellectual and political consciousness. The writer emphasized that the Pope, who grew up in this poisonous atmosphere of intolerance and hatred for others, thinks that Muslims are the ones who should purify their hearts of hatred, while he (the Pope) is the one who should do this, which is incitement to hatred of the Pope.