

Fracas over Leaked Emails at Al Jazeera; " I AM NOT CHARLIE"



National Review On-line has a scoop, a leaked email exchange at Qatar-owned Al Jazeera by Brendon Bordelon, ['I AM NOT CHARLIE': Leaked Newsroom Emails Reveal Al Jazeera Fury over Global Support for Charlie Hebdo.](#)

The email exchange reveals the internal clash over imposition of what amounts to censorship under Sharia Blasphemy codes and pushback from journalists at *Al Jazeera English*. If these leaked emails are any indication, it is no wonder that staff at *Al Jazeera English* and *America* have left in disgust .

Here is the post at NRO:

As journalists worldwide reacted with universal revulsion at the massacre of some of their own by Islamic jihadists in Paris, *Al Jazeera English* editor and executive producer Salah-Aldeen Khadr sent out a staff-wide email.

"Please accept this note in the spirit it is intended – to make our coverage the best it can be," the London-based Khadr wrote Thursday, in the first of a series of internal emails leaked to *National Review Online*. **"We are Al Jazeera!"**

Below was a list of "suggestions" for how anchors and correspondents at the Qatar-based news outlet should cover Wednesday's slaughter at the *Charlie Hebdo* office (the full emails can be found below).

Khadr urged his employees to ask if this was “really an attack on ‘free speech,’” discuss whether “I am Charlie” is an “alienating slogan,” caution viewers against “making this a free speech aka ‘European Values’ under attack binary [sic],” and portray the attack as “a clash of extremist fringes.”

“Defending freedom of expression in the face of oppression is one thing; insisting on the right to be obnoxious and offensive just because you can is infantile,” Khadr wrote. “Baiting extremists isn’t bravely defiant when your manner of doing so is more significant in offending millions of moderate people as well. And within a climate where violent response—however illegitimate [sic]—is a real risk, taking a goading stand on a principle virtually no one contests is worse than pointless: it’s pointlessly all about you.”

His denunciation of *Charlie Hebdo*’s publication of cartoons mocking the prophet Mohammed didn’t sit well with some *Al Jazeera English* employees.

Hours later, U.S.-based correspondent Tom Ackerman sent an email quoting a paragraph from a *New York Times*’ January 7 [assignment in Yemen](#). **“But I AM NOT CHARLIE.”**

“JOURNALISM IS NOT A CRIME [but] INSULTISM IS NOT JOURNALISM,” he raged. “AND NOT DOING JOURNALISM PROPERLY IS A CRIME.”

The heated back-and-forth illustrates *Al Jazeera English*’s precarious balance between its Arab center of gravity and the Western correspondents it employs. After being accused for years of fomenting anti-Western sentiment, most damningly by [hiring](#) a slew American and European reporters – especially those who