

The Beast and Dr. Phares

Without doubt, [this article](#) by Shane Harris in the *Daily Beast* is the most incoherent to date of [all the slanderous pieces](#) on Dr. Walid Phares, counterterrorism and foreign policy advisor to Donald Trump. The *Beast* is owned by Barry Diller's IAC Corporation and Diller has [publicly stated](#) that if Trump wins the Presidency, he will "either move out of the country or join the resistance" and that he would "[cross the street](#)" to avoid the Republican frontrunner to whom he hasn't spoken for over 30 years. Not unexpectedly, the *Beast* has been running anti-Trump articles regularly with an eye to [dig up dirt from any quarter](#).

The hit piece on Phares, though, takes the cake.

Dr. Phares serves as provost for [BAU International University](#) in Washington D.C. which is in the process of applying for accreditation. For the *Beast*, Harris runs with a series of hysterical accusations against the school by former students who claim they were dismissed for writing critically of Turkey's President Erdogan who apparently worries so much about what journalism students in the US write about him, he pressured BAU to dismiss them. (Nota bene: *New English Review* has published innumerable article critical of Erdogan with nary a peep from Turkey.)

The school says they were dismissed for not passing their English language proficiency exams – period, end of story.

Still, no allegation appears too far-fetched for Harris, who claims Phares must have been in on the dismissals in order to do the bidding of Erdogan even as he also admits that Phares is a "critic of the Islamist Government in Turkey" which he certainly is, recently calling Erdogan's Turkey "[no model of democracy](#)." *Who says it has to make sense? They worked "Trump Crony" into the title and that's good enough for the Beast.*

Adem Arslan, the student at the center of the story seems to be a devoted follower of the well-known Turkish Islamist Fetullah Gulen – referring to Gulen as “venerable” in [this article](#) and yes, it appears his English could use quite a bit of work. Gulen, incidentally, helped Erdogan come to power, but the two men have since fallen out and are