

## STATEMENT BY JULIAN PORTER, Q.C.

There is an element of balancing Charter values required.

You are obliged to weigh the Charter values of freedom of expression when evaluating serious journalism. Journalism of this kind, the most essential of all daily spiritual foods. Here it is clear that this work does not deserve such a smear as “hate speech.” It is to weep to make that allegation.

What madness would prevail if we could not argue that what Ghadafi said was germane or significant?

Mr. Awan, blithely said, what relevance is it because it is from across the pond.  
Oh, the presumption of youth.

The argument seems to be that the method of the mention of Islam means it is a universal. Then Mr. Awan, and the expert Hirji says that Steyn’s use of the word “obligatory was sarcastic.” Call this hate speech? What have we come to?

Beware.

When we are reduced to having an expert on Bollywood mulling and sifting through the work, prospecting for prejudice, then it cries “ridiculous.”

Remember these five days have been about Maclean’s vital detailed opinion. It is what journalism does for liberty. Part of the essential trade of ideas and argument. Argument, fierce argument, dissent, contrariness – the very tocsin of liberty.

And this said on June 6, the day of the Normandy landings.

Dr. Ayoub, calling on the American injunction, that you cannot cry fire in a crowded theatre.  
Oh yes you can, you must if in your considered view there is a fire. It is a duty to cry fire.