



*State information service
chairman office*

**Dear Ms. Katharine Viner
Editor-in-chief, The Guardian newspaper**

Greetings,

Out of our appreciation for your esteemed newspaper, we would like to inform you of some of the professional misconducts, carried out by the correspondent of your newspaper "The Guardian" in Egypt, Ms. Ruth Michaelson, that are in contradiction with the standards of journalism adopted worldwide and respected by your esteemed newspaper.

There have been repeated reports and articles prepared by your correspondent in Cairo that contradict the truth and do not adhere to the rules of journalism, including relying on a single source or/and unknown sources, without introducing the views of other relevant parties on each topic, as well as the deliberate exaggeration and search for topics that offends the situations in Egypt.

Perhaps the most recent example of these misconducts is the report published by your esteemed newspaper by the aforementioned correspondent on Sunday 3/15/2020, which promotes misleading information about numbers of coronavirus infections in Egypt, alleging that the report was based on a Canadian study, which is - according to the link established by your newspaper - an unpublished article by an unknown Canadian doctor who relies on speculations, and whose approach and results were rejected by the World Health Organization in an official statement issued on 3/16/2020.

However, your correspondent did not take it upon herself to contact the World Health Organization before the publication, or even to refer to any British or international academic entity to seek their evaluation of the scientific value of this alleged "study", or to relevant authorities in Egypt to take their opinion into consideration before publication. Rather, she hastened to promote this critical data based on unreliable sources.

Furthermore, the correspondent, who is residing in Egypt, did not try to ensure the correctness of this data in the field before publication and to check the validity of the claims the study referred to by searching for even mentioning ten names of the allegedly cases, which the study claims they may reach approximately 20 thousand cases.

There is no doubt that you agree with us that publishing such figures, in contradiction with the rules of the journalistic work, of which your newspaper is known, will lead to enormous economic, social and psychological consequences, not only for the people of Egypt but also for all of humanity that faces a danger that threatens us all and does not tolerate such excesses and transgression.

Therefore, We

First: Ask you to publish an apology in your newspaper for this report that is full of professional misconducts, in the same way as the aforementioned report was published in accordance with the requirements of press norms.

In all cases, the State Information Service reserves the right to resort to appropriate legal procedures regarding the damages caused by these misconducts.

Second: We inform you that it has been decided to withdraw the accreditation of your correspondent Mrs. Ruth Michaelson in Egypt; a measure that is in line with the Egyptian law and the rules in force in many countries when the reporter deviates from the limits of professional work and directs his effort to publish false statements that lead to widespread negative effects all over the world, not only in Egypt.

We are confident that your esteemed newspaper does not endorse such practices that are inconsistent with your newspaper's approach and long-standing history.

With my best regards,

Diaa Rashwan



Chairman, The State Information Service

17/3/2020



*State information service
chairman office*

Dear Mr.

Editor-in-chief, The New York Times newspaper

Greetings,

Based on our appreciation for your prestigious newspaper and its recognized commitment to the highest-level professional rules of journalism, we are writing to inform you that your correspondent in Cairo, Mr. Declan Walsh, has repeatedly exceeded the limits of the rules of the journalistic profession that are accepted all over the world, and endorsed by your prestigious institution.

The most recent example of these misconducts is your correspondent's posting of a thread of tweets that promote incorrect and highly exaggerated figures of new coronavirus infections in Egypt, claiming that it is based on a Canadian study, while the alleged study is only an article that is not even recognized academically and it is prepared by an unknown Canadian doctor who applied a methodology based on speculations; an approach that has been rejected by the World Health Organization who also refuted its results in an official statement.

Mr. Walsh has violated the rules of the profession by rushing into publishing such figures without trying to ascertain the scientific value of the study, and without referring to the World Health Organization, or to the relevant authorities in Egypt to seek their opinions before posting these misleading tweets that have caused confusion and disturbance among the people of Egypt and all over the world threatened by the coronavirus outbreak. such hasty in spreading inaccurate figures is intolerable.

Mr. Walsh's tweets have caused extensive psychological, economic and social damages to Egypt as a result of propagating such alarming figures.

Your correspondent can roam in different parts of Egypt to figure out how wrong these rough estimates are before rushing into promoting them and causing anxiety among the people.

Therefore, we hope your correspondent would publish apology tweets, in due prominence, in accordance with the requirements of press norms.

We have also given him a warning, stressing that it is necessary to adhere to sound professional standards in his journalistic work in Egypt; such a procedure is permitted by the law of Egypt and the work regulations for foreign correspondents, adopted in many countries.

In conclusion, we would like to express our sincere appreciation to the esteemed New York Times, whose management does not accept such professional misconducts that do not fall in line with your newspaper's prominence and credibility.

With my best regards,

Diaa Rashwan



Chairman, The State Information Service

17/3/2020



**State information service
chairman office**

Mr. Declan Walsh

The New York Times office in Egypt

Greetings,

Attached is a copy of the letter from the Chairman of the State Information Service in Egypt addressed to the Editor-in-Chief of The New York Times newspaper, requesting a published apology, in due prominence, for the misleading figures of coronavirus infections in Egypt, and a warning to you, as well, of the need to adhere to professional rules for journalistic work.

With my best regards,

Diaa Rashwan

Chairman, The State Information Service

17/3/2020



**State information service
chairman office**

Ms. Ruth Michaelson

The Guardian newspaper office in Egypt

Greetings,

Attached is a copy of the letter addressed to the Editor-in-Chief of The Guardian newspaper by the Chairman of the State Information Service in Egypt, which includes a request to publish an apology for the report published in your newspaper by its correspondent in Cairo, as well as informing him of withdrawing your accreditation as a reporter for The Guardian newspaper in Egypt.

With my best regards,

Diaa Rashwan

Chairman, The State Information Service

17/3/2020