„Die Gastmaschine“ / Fotomontage: Gunby Ulunucuk/Lajf
Sportler gegen Rassismus

Und Du?

Denise Lewis und Sabine Braun
Silber- und Goldmedaillen-
Gewinnerinnen bei den Leichtathletik-
Weltmeisterschaften 1997 in Athen

1997 Europäische Liga
gegen Rassismus

Weitere Informationen: Bundesministerium des Innern
Postfach 140290 - 53108 Bonn
Kein Mädchen, keine Frau darf zur Ehe gezwungen werden!

Hol dir Rat und Informationen unter der vertraulichen Telefonnummer oder E-Mailadresse

Híc bir kíz, híc bir kadın evliliği zorlanmamalıdır

Dívê tu keç, tu jin bi zore nayên zewicandin!

Bu durumlarda nasıl davranacağın konusunda aşağıdaki telefon numarasını arıyarak ya da elektro posta adresine mesaj yazarak bilgi edinebilirsin

Agahdarî ü şiretan dikari ji hejmaren telefonuna yan ji e-postaye jêrin bigir

لا يسمح بإجبارية فتاة أو امرأة على الزواج

أحضري لك النصيحة والمعلومات تحت رقم الهاتف الرادي أو البريد الإلكتروني

Niedersachsen
Kein Mädchen, keine Frau darf zur Ehe gezwungen werden!

Hol dir Rat und Informationen unter der vertraulichen Telefonnummer oder E-Mailadresse.

Hiç bir kız, hiç bir kadın evliliğe zorlanmamalıdır.

Dîvê tu keç, tu jin bi zorê nayên zewicandin!

Bu durumlarda nasıl davranacağın konusunda aşağıdaki telefon numarasını arıyarak ya da elektro posta adresine mesaj yazarak bilgi edinbilibin.

Agahdarî û şiretan dikarî ji hêjmarên telefona yan ji e-postayê jêrîn bîgrê.
Kein Mädchen, keine Frau darf zur Ehe gezwungen werden!
Ho! dir Rat und Informationen unter der vertraulichen Telefonnummer oder E-Mailadresse

Hiç bir kız, hiç bir kadın evliliğe zorlanmamalıdır
Bu durumlarda nasıl davranacağı konusunda aşağıdaki telefon numarasını anırmak ya da elekro posta adresine mesaj yazarak biliğe edinebilirsin

Uyey tu keç, tu jin bi zore nayen zewicandin!
Ağahdari şu şiretan okarı jı hêjmaren telefona yan jı e-postayı jerin bigir

Niedersachsen
SHOUTS & MURMURS

ASK THE JIHADIST

BY ANDY BOROWITZ

QAIDA NO. 2 TO ANSWER WEB QUESTIONS SOON
Al-Qaida No. 2 Ayman al-Zawahiri will soon answer the hundreds of questions submitted by journalists, militants and others about the terrorist network’s future, its media wing announced Wednesday.
—Associated Press.

Dear Ayman al-Zawahiri:
Please find attached my homemade terror video, entitled “Death to America.” In it, you will see that I brandish an AK-47, make angry facial expressions, and threaten the infidels with imminent doom. Am seeking a full- or part-time position with Al Qaeda making spooky tapes. Have own cave.
—Fingers Crossed in Peshawar

Ayman al-Zawahiri writes:
Thank you for sharing this with us. While I’m afraid your terror video does not meet our needs at the present time, we would be interested in seeing anything scary you do in the future.

Dear Ayman al-Zawahiri:
I am a member in good standing of the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigade and am considering switching my terror membership to Al Qaeda. Is there a difference in dental?
—Confused in Cairo

Ayman al-Zawahiri writes:
Unfortunately, that is not my department. Please call the office between the hours of eight and five and ask for Al Qaeda No. 37.

Dear Ayman al-Zawahiri:
I was hatching a terror plot on my cell phone the other day, but now I’m afraid that the C.I.A. was listening in. What should I do?
—Worried in Sharm-al-Sheikh

Ayman al-Zawahiri writes:
American law allows the government to eavesdrop on any phone conversation for no reason whatsoever. But, as a practical matter, this means the Americans are too busy spying on one another to ever spy on us. Plus, they don’t know Arabic. Still, you can never be too cautious. When talking on your cell phone, never use the words “Al Qaeda.” Instead, refer to us by our secret code name, the Emperors Club V.I.P.

Dear Ayman al-Zawahiri:
I am a journalist for the U.S. publication Tiger Beat. When I heard you would be taking Web questions, I was like OMG, I totes have to write to him!!! Here are three questions we’re asking celebrities this month:
1. If you could be any character on “Gossip Girl,” who would you be?
2. Who would be a better friend, Lauren on “The Hills” or Ashley Tisdale in “High School Musical”?
3. Who is hotter, Zac Efron or Joe Jonas? (LOL)
—Stacy in Manhattan

Ayman al-Zawahiri writes:
May you and everyone at your magazine burn in Hell.

Dear Ayman al-Zawahiri:
Does Al Qaeda ever endorse political candidates? If so, I recommend that you give a big thumbs-up to Barack Obama. I guarantee you he hates America as much as you do (if not more)! It would be great if you appeared in a bunch of TV ads and called him “the evil-doing President that evildoers have been waiting for.”
—Bill in Chappaqua

Ayman al-Zawahiri writes:
Al Qaeda is only interested in American elections to the extent that we can plunge them into abject chaos. So this year, as in every other year, we are supporting Ralph Nader.

Greetings and compliments to you, my good sir:
I am the widow of the late Nigerian head of state, General Sani Abacha. Please wire $15,000 in U.S. funds to the bank information provided below and in two weeks’ time you will receive $150,000 for your kindly services, my goodly gentleman.
—Mrs. Maryam Abacha

Ayman al-Zawahiri writes:
What kind of simpleton do you take me for? I sent you $15,000 last month and I never heard back.

Dear Ayman al-Zawahiri:
I have been trying to get through to WFAN Sports Radio 66 for the past three weeks, but they keep putting me on hold. So let me ask you instead: Do you think the Mets will go all the way?
—Mike in Flushing

Ayman al-Zawahiri writes:
Raining down misery and destruction on the Great Satan leaves me little time for such idle contemplations. That said, if Johan Santana puts up the kind of numbers he did for the Twins, look out.

Dear Ayman al-Zawahiri:
I am a big fan of Osama bin Laden and would like to get his autograph. I have an eight-by-ten glossy of him but don’t know where to send it. Could you please give me his exact mailing address?
—Borge W. Gush

Ayman al-Zawahiri writes:
Please contact him directly. He’s on Facebook. ♦
JUDGING A COVER

Barry Blitt’s cover, which aims to lampoon or satirize false conceptions of the Obamas, is, to put it mildly, inartful—a word being used these days to describe poorly expressed attempts at positive commentary (“The Politics of Fear,” July 21st). But it also provides ammunition to further the very thing that it satirizes, and that is potentially very damaging to a worthy candidate. If you want to illustrate the politics of fear, then use something that really describes it: those who are the real fearmongers—not the victims of their atrocious lies.

Russel DeMaria
Grants Pass, Ore.

Blitt’s cover weaves together the smears hurled at Barack Obama by the far right, correctly pointing out the shameless absurdity of it all. And that’s humor. When I laugh at this cartoon, I’m not laughing at Obama and I’m not buying into any of the smears. Rather, I’m laughing at the people who are perpetuating such lies. Will many voters not get the joke? Sure. But the cover should be used as a weapon against the lies that Blitt so skilfully portrays.

Lewis R. Colon, Jr.
Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Our country is simply not ready for this progressive idea of satire. It assumes that the often hidden feelings regarding race relations in this country have improved to the point where this type of (I must say creative) cartoon can be seen for what it is, rather than as another deployment of the (all-encompassing) fear that many white Americans have in relation to people of color. African-Americans see this as a terrible portrayal of two American icons in the making. I appreciate The New Yorker’s sense of humor, but the timing could not have been worse.

Adam L. Dyson
Hollywood, Md.

Regardless of the artist’s intent to produce satirical commentary, it is possible that the imagery may reinforce the fears and prejudices that it was meant to critique. But we should look past the noise about whether or not the cover is offensive, a red-herring issue with fairly predictable responses on all sides, to the deeper questions: Why is the label “Muslim” such a powerful and popular weapon against Obama? And what should the Obama camp be doing, instead of denouncing a magazine cover? What needs to be challenged at full volume is the association between a man in Muslim clothing and terrorism, and the underlying assumptions that being Muslim is the same as being un-American, that being Muslim is the same as being violent, that being Muslim is the same as being Osama bin Laden. Let us also remember that, while the issue of the cartoon’s possible offensiveness is worth considering, it pales in comparison with the issues of foreign policy, hate crimes, racial profiling, civil liberties, warrantless surveillance, the economy, gas prices, health care, the environment, and religious intolerance that we all must weigh carefully in the coming months.

Kareem Shora
National Executive Director
American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee
Washington, D.C.

I have to admit that at first I was shocked. Ultimately, I find Blitt’s cover in poor taste and seemingly counterproductive. But the cartoon made me think. And it’s made others think. In the end, it is a biting satire of conservatives’ view of Michelle and Barack Obama. So I nervously hail The New Yorker’s right to freedom of speech.

Andrew Russell
Brooklyn, N.Y.

Letters should be sent with the writer’s name, address, and daytime phone number via e-mail to themail@newyorker.com. Letters may be edited for length and clarity, and may be published in any medium. All letters become the property of The New Yorker and will not be returned; we regret that owing to the volume of correspondence we cannot reply to every letter.
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