

InAccuracy in Media

Cliff Kincaid's and AIM's problems with the truth

Accuracy in Media editor Cliff Kincaid has declared war on the Washington Post's Dana Priest, who reported on the existence of CIA-operated secret prisons in Europe -- making illogical and factually dubious claims in doing so.

CLAIM: Priest's story is "false." (Kincaid, 4/23/06)

FACT: Even the conservative website NewsMax acknowledges that the CIA operated "a very high number" of secret flights that stopped in Europe en route to Guantanamo Bay, further quoting EU official Claudio Fava as noting that a CIA-chartered aircraft made "several flights from Kabul, stopping in Poland, Romania, and Morocco along the way to Guantanamo." Fava added: "We don't think they were making refueling stops." ("Exclusive: U.S. Acknowledges Secret CIA Flights, EU Says," NewsMax, 5/12/06)

Cliff Kincaid knows this -- he has even admitted that the Council of Europe has found "elements" suggesting that "secret detention centers" had existed. But then, he insists that "*secret detention centers*" are not the same thing as "*secret prisons*" (Kincaid, 6/9/06). Further, the Council of Europe has reported that former director of central intelligence Porter Goss "did not deny the existence of CIA secret prisons in various parts of the world where people suspected of terrorism were held."

CLAIM: Mary McCarthy, a CIA officer fired over alleged contacts with members of the media, was "a partisan anti-Bush political operative" who was "a key source" for Priest's story. (Kincaid, 4/25/06)

FACT: The CIA "is not asserting that McCarthy was a key source of Priest's award-winning articles last year disclosing the agency's secret prisons." (Washington Post, 4/25/06)

CLAIM: An AIM column by Jennifer Verner played guilt by association by attacking Priest's husband, William Goodfellow, as a "far-left political activist," claiming: "In 1974, he [Goodfellow] wrote a widely circulated op-ed for the New York Times that served to excuse the genocidal Pol Pot's forced evacuation of the Cambodian people from the cities. The piece was so influential that it is still quoted by Noam Chomsky and his followers to this day." (Verner, 5/9/06)

FACT: Goodfellow's op-ed actually appeared July 14, 1975, and -- contradicting Verner's claim that the op-ed is still "quoted by Noam Chomsky and his followers to this day" -- a search of the online archives of Chomsky's Z Magazine turned up only one reference to Goodfellow's op-ed, from 1977.

CLAIM: Verner also attacked Joseph Wilson, claiming that his "statements about what he found in Africa and his wife's role in his mission have been completely undermined by a Senate Intelligence Committee report."

FACT: Much of the Senate Intelligence Committee report's supposed "undermining" of Wilson appears not in the body of the report but, rather, in a partisan addendum written by committee Republicans.

**Can Cliff Kincaid and Accuracy in Media
be trusted to be accurate, or just to
regurgitate Republican talking points?**

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