

Open Society Foundations

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John F. Lansing
CEO, U.S. Agency for Global Media
330 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, D.C. 20237

Tomas Regalado
Director, Office of Cuban Broadcasting (Radio and TV Marti)
U.S. Agency for Global Media
4201 Northwest 77th Avenue
Miami, FL 33166

October 29, 2018

Dear Mr. Lansing and Mr. Regalado:

Radio and TV Marti has been running a flagrant and crude propaganda [television program](#) about George Soros, an American citizen, since June 7, 2018. Given that he was recently the target of an act of domestic terrorism coupled with the massacre of Jewish congregants in Pittsburgh, the program is even more vile and mean-spirited.

We appreciate that the program has been removed from the website, but we would like an explanation as to how U.S. taxpayer subsidized content like this could get produced.

The overall tone and angle of the program is misleading and I am particularly disturbed to see that George Soros, a Holocaust survivor, is attacked as a “multi-millionaire Jew of Hungarian origin” and “the architect” of the 2008 economic recession.

I also want to focus on the false and misleading allegations made about George Soros and the Open Society Foundations. First, it’s outrageous that Radio and TV Marti would cite as fact allegations made by Judicial Watch, a right-wing partisan organization that is trying to discredit our work to raise money.

It’s troubling that you would tell *Mother Jones* that Judicial Watch is a “good source.” What’s more, the program’s reporter interviews Lia Fowler, who claims to be a

former CIA officer. She has written for the right-wing “Daily Signal,” which is a project of the conservative Heritage Foundation. You do not disclose that fact. On top of that, nobody from Open Society or our grantees was interviewed.

Second, the program alleges that George Soros interfered in the 2004 Venezuelan elections because Mark Malloch Brown, a board member of the Open Society Foundations, is chairman of SGO and its elections division Smartmatic, an elections technology company. The reality is that OSF has 22 boards with dozens of members and George Soros has never owned a stake or worked for Smartmatic.

Third, the mission of George Soros’s philanthropy is grossly mischaracterized. It “reports” he works with autocratic regimes to make it easier to conduct business. Actually, it is authoritarian and illiberal leaders who despise George Soros the most. If you read the news, you will learn that Victor Orban, Hungary’s prime minister, led a multi-year, \$200 million anti-Semitic smear campaign against George Soros and chased the foundations, as well as Central European University, out of Budapest.

Fourth, the accusations made in the program are Orwellian. It’s not responsible journalism to say that, “people speculate” or “it is highly likely” that one thing or another is true. Journalism, done properly, should establish facts before reporting them.

Just so you know, in Central and South America, the Open Society Foundations support evidence-driven public health and drug policy reforms rather than failed policies that criminalize illness and addiction. We support youth organizations and work with businesses to improve public safety and defeat the dehumanizing scourge of homicides in the region. We fund groups that support women’s reproductive rights and seek to strengthen the role of women in political life and the media. We support efforts to protect journalists from threats and violence, and sustain independent investigative news organizations.

Given the false nature and anti-Semitism of the piece, we will be sharing this letter with the relevant lawmakers and the congressional committees that have oversight of the Agency for Global Media.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patrick Gaspard". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Patrick Gaspard

cc: Rep. Harold Rogers (KY)

Rep. Nita Lowey (NY)
Rep. Ed Royce (CA)
Rep. Eliot Engel (NY)
Sen. Bob Corker (TN)
Sen. Bob Menendez (NJ)
Sen. Lindsay Graham (SC)
Sen. Patrick Leahy (VT)