

May 24, 2021

SENT VIA EMAIL

Ombudsperson
CBC P.O. Box 500 Station A
Toronto, Ontario M5W 1E6

Dear Ombudsperson:

Re: CAUT Censure of the University of Toronto (Hiring Scandal Involving Federal Judge)

Dear Ombudsperson:

I write to formally complain against what appears to be bias or fear on the part of the CBC again.

This time my complaint revolves around why the CBC has not covered the censure of the University of Toronto and its Law School arising out of the hiring scandal involving academic freedom and Palestinian free speech?

The Canadian Association of University Teachers censure has attracted global attention, including an article in [The New Yorker](#) – Did a University of Toronto Donor Block the Hiring of a Scholar for Her Writing on Palestine? Activists refer to a "Palestine exception to free speech" in North American universities.

I understand now that the *New York Times* may be interested in this story as well, but no coverage from the CBC?

I am flabbergasted because the CBC [did cover the censure](#) of the First Nations University in 2008, and you even covered the ["almost" case of censure](#) in 2016 of Niagara University involving a possible campus in Saudi Arabia.

Can you please explain to me why the actual censure of one of the most prestigious universities in Canada where a sitting Federal Court judge interfered in the hiring process is not newsworthy for the CBC?

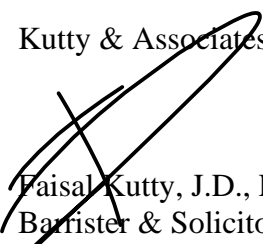
If you are looking for a fresh news peg, you can use Friday's ridiculous [decision](#) from the Canadian Judicial Council, which found that Justice Spiro made a "serious error" in interfering in the confidential hiring process, but since he regretted it and was remorseful, no further action was required. You did reprint a Canadian Press news article which summarized the decision and sounds more like a press release for the CJC decision. In fairness to the CP journalist, it was a quick get the decision out piece that should and must be expanded upon for a media outlet to do its job properly.

I expect more from students in my legal journalism class, so I certainly expect better from the CBC. It is incumbent on you as a leading media voice to further provide more context as a source of information and as a "watchdog" or scrutinizer. Here is the [kind of article](#) I would have expected from the CBC -- <https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2021/05/21/tax-court-judge-committed-a-serious-error-in-university-of-toronto-hiring-fiasco-a-judicial-review-finds-but-it-wont-remove-him.html>

I await your response on this issue.

Sincerely,

Kutty & Associates



Faisal Kutty, J.D., LL.M.
Barrister & Solicitor
Associate Professor of Law Emeritus

FK/YD