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INVESTIGATIVE GROUP

Hidden Clue On Website Belonging To Ilhan Omar's Sister Adds To Evidence About Marriage History



(SAUL LOEB/AFP/Getty Images)

DAILY CALLER NEWS FOUNDATION

3281



Comments

LUKE ROSIAK
INVESTIGATIVE REPORTER

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8:34 PM ET

- **Rep. Ilhan Omar has been accused of, but has denied, marrying her own brother.**

- **In a 2017 divorce petition, she swore she hadn't seen Ahmed N. Elmi since 2011 and didn't know anyone who might be able to contact him.**
- **Evidence shows that Elmi may have designed a website for Omar's sister in 2019 and is living in the same city as her.**
- **Omar swore she unsuccessfully tried to locate her husband through social media, yet he is on Twitter and Facebook under his own name.**
- **She also swore she did not know the name of a single relative of the man she was married to.**

Rep. Ilhan Omar swore under oath in a 2017 divorce filing that she hadn't seen her husband Ahmed N. Elmi in six years and didn't know anyone who might be able to locate him — yet he appears to have designed a website for Omar's sister this year, according to data hidden in the source code of that website.

The Democratic Minnesota congresswoman swore that she had not been able to locate the man she married — who the Minneapolis Star Tribune says may or may not be her brother — since 2011. She swore she didn't know the names of anyone in her husband's family and that the two had no mutual acquaintances who might know how to contact him.

According to Elmi's Facebook profile, after attending college in North Dakota he moved to England and then to Nairobi, Kenya — the same city where Omar's sister, Sahra Noor, lives and works as CEO of Grit Partners. Grit Partners' website code contains data that indicates Elmi was involved in the creation of either the company's website or its Instagram account.

The ties between Omar’s supposedly long-lost ex-husband and Omar’s sister appear to contradict Omar’s sworn testimony and add to the body of evidence that the ex-husband may be her brother, making all three siblings.

Other elements of her sworn filing also contain discrepancies. In arguing that she should be granted a divorce without her husband’s consent because he could not be located, she claimed that she did not know the name of a single member of her husband’s immediate family. She also claimed that her attempts to find him included unsuccessfully searching on social media — but he has been on Twitter since 2012 and Facebook since 2007 and is also on LinkedIn and other platforms.

Lying on a sworn form is perjury and each charge carries five years in prison, according to Minnesota law. Questions have been raised about the accuracy of approximately six statements on the sworn form.

Hidden code

Grit Partners’ website contains code generated by its web design software Squarespace that includes certain data that is not visible on the page itself. In a section of code powering the site’s links to its Twitter and Instagram pages, Elmi’s name is included, tying him to the Instagram account. It says “screenname: Ahmed Elmi” and “UserName: ahmednelmi.”



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Elmi's LinkedIn says he works as a freelance creator of "content, communications strategies and editorial for nonprofits, start-ups and global brands."

The hidden code was discovered by David Steinberg, a veteran journalist most recently with PJ Media, who has published significant information about Elmi over the last years. He has previously published screenshots that appear to show the person with the "ahmednelmi" Instagram was photographed with Omar during the period that Omar swore she had no contact with him, had the same birthdate as Omar's husband and held Omar's baby soon after it was born, calling her his "niece."

Democratic activist Barb Lickness confirmed to the Star Tribune that the man in one of those screenshots — billed as being from Omar's Instagram and depicting the now-congresswoman with Elmi in London in 2015 — was the same Ahmed Elmi who was a neighbor of hers in Minneapolis but who never mentioned being married.

The media has been hesitant to accept the screenshots as proof that Elmi is Omar's brother because the Instagram accounts were deleted, so the papers could not independently corroborate the screenshots' authenticity.

However, the Grit Partners code is still online and has been corroborated by the Daily Caller News Foundation. The DCNF also archived it on the Internet Archive and another archiving service so that date-stamped copies are preserved even if the website is changed. It can be verified by right-clicking, selecting "view source" and searching for Elmi's name.

Domain registration records show the Grit Partners website was registered on Jan. 10, 2019, and the code that mentions Elmi's name says the Instagram account was linked to the site on Jan. 17.

A missing husband

Omar requested a “default” divorce from Elmi in 2017, an unusual proceeding used where one spouse has disappeared and cannot be located. Since the process deprives one party of contesting the divorce, it required Omar to swear under oath that she had no clues whatsoever about how to contact him through other people.

77-PA-17-3331 Filed in Fourth Judicial District Court
M1550517 4:47 PM
Hennepin County, MN

State of Minnesota County of Hennepin	District Court Judicial District: Fourth Court File Number: 17-PA-17-3331 Case Type: Dissolution
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In Re the Marriage of:
ILHAN ABDULLAH OMAR,
Petitioner
and
AHMED NUR SAID ELMI,
Respondent

**Application for an Order for
Service by Alternate Means**
Minn. Stat. §518.11(c)

STATE OF MINNESOTA)
) SS
COUNTY OF RAMSEY)

I, Ilhan Abdullah Omar, state the following:

1. I am the Petitioner in this action for dissolution of marriage.
2. The last known location of respondent as of summer 2011 (date) was at London
3. My most recent contact with respondent was (when and where) June 2011
4. The last known location of respondent's employment was Unknown
5. The names and locations of respondent's parents, siblings, children and other close relatives are as follows: Unknown
6. The names and locations of other person who are likely to know the respondent's whereabouts are: Unknown to me

Omar divorce petition / MN Family Court Records Center via David Steinberg

27.15-77.0011 Filed in Fourth Judicial District C
8/10/2017 4:47 Hervey County

7. I have made the following efforts to locate the respondent: Looked for on Social media

8. I believe that it is not likely that respondent's location will become known to me, but there is reasonable possibility that mail will be forwarded or otherwise reach respondent if addressed as follows: No known address

9. This matter does not involve minor children or real estate

I declare under penalty of perjury that everything I have stated in this document is true and correct. Minn. Stat. § 558.116.

Dated: 8/2/2017

Signature: Elmi Omar

Omar divorce petition page 2 / MN Family Court Records Center via David Steinberg

On the form above, she swears her “most recent contact” with Elmi was in June 2011 in London and the “last known location of respondent’s employment” was unknown.

She swears the “names and locations of respondent’s parents, siblings, children and other close relatives are as follows: Unknown.”

She swears the “names and locations of other persons who are likely to know the respondent’s whereabouts are: Unknown to me.”

It continues: “I believe that it is not likely that respondent’s location will become known to me, but there is a reasonable possibility that mail will be forwarded or otherwise reach respondent if addressed as follows: No known address.”

The document says, “I have made the following efforts to locate the respondent: Looked for on Social media.”

It concludes: “I declare under penalty of perjury that everything I have stated in this document is true and correct.” It is signed and dated Aug. 2, 2017.

The most recent in a line of unanswered questions about her marriage

Omar visited Nairobi in December 2016, days after winning election to the Minnesota state legislature and not long before the divorce papers were sworn, PJ Media reported. From Nairobi, she flew to Somalia. Omar praised the newly formed Somalian government in a speech in March 2017. Two days later, Noor’s husband, Mohamed Keynan, got a top political job working for Somalia’s prime minister, PJ Media reported.

This month, the Minnesota Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board fined Omar in an investigation that revealed she filed joint tax returns with another man during her marriage to Elmi. That man also fathered children with Omar both before and after the marriage to Elmi.

Omar “was living with her current husband, Ahmed Abdisalan Hirsi, throughout her entire legal marriage to Ahmed Nur Said Elmi, contradicting the story she tells to explain her multiple marriages,” the Washington Examiner reported Sunday based on an extensive review of local records such as speeding tickets that display addresses.

The Star Tribune wrote Saturday that “New investigative documents released by a state agency” — detailing Omar’s frantic formation of a “crisis committee” to try to keep the press from examining the nature of her relationship to Elmi — “have given fresh life to lingering questions about

the marital history of Rep. Ilhan Omar and whether she once married a man — possibly her own brother — to skirt immigration laws.”

“Omar’s sister Sahra Noor was a high-profile executive of the Twin Cities health care nonprofit People’s Center Clinics & Services until 2018. She declined interview requests in 2016. She currently runs her own health care consultancy in Kenya. An e-mail to her was not returned and efforts to call her there were unsuccessful,” the Star Tribune reported.

Noor did not return a request for comment from the DCNF.

Omar’s spokesman, Jeremy Slevin, also did not respond to a request for comment from the DCNF. To the Star Tribune, he responded with an ad hominem saying the questions from the district’s largest media outlet were illegitimate because conservative-leaning media had also asked them and that attempts to get to the bottom of the story by asking members of Omar’s family amounted to harassment. **(RELATED: Blunders By Democrats And Capitol Police Enabled What Prosecutors Call The ‘Largest Data Theft In Senate History’)**

“Whether by colluding with right-wing outlets to go after Muslim elected officials or hounding family members, legitimate media outlets have a responsibility not to fan the flames of hate,” he said.

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