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DRAZKOWSKI CALLS ON HENNEPIN COUNTY JUDGES TO PUNISH ILHAN OMAR FOR PERJURY IN COURT FILING

MINNEAPOLIS - Representative Steve Drazkowski (R-Mazeppa) today called on the district judges of Hennepin County to punish U.S. Representative Ilhan Omar for committing perjury in a 2017 application for a divorce.

“The mainstream media has allowed Congresswoman Ilhan Omar to get away with lies about immigration, taxes, student aid, and a past marriage,” said Rep. Drazkowski. “However, Ilhan Omar should not be able to get away with telling a series of lies to the Hennepin County District Court. Our judicial system should not tolerate such conduct.”

Rep. Drazkowski is asking Hennepin County District Judge Kathleen D. Sheehy and Chief Judge Ivy S. Bernhardson of the Fourth Judicial District in Hennepin County to issue a “contempt of court” citation and punish Rep. Omar for committing perjury.

In 2017, Rep. Omar lied under penalty of perjury in a sworn affidavit when she applied for a quick, no-fault divorce from Mr. Ahmed Elmi. This expedited divorce process allowed Rep. Omar to be granted a divorce in a short amount of time without serving notice to Mr. Elmi or gaining his consent.

Rep. Omar sought this expedited divorce amid growing allegations that Mr. Elmi was her brother. This hasty process was preferred by Rep. Omar because it allowed her to cut ties with Mr. Elmi without subjecting him to the scrutiny of the Hennepin County District Court. As such, Rep. Omar was able to maintain the secrecy surrounding their relationship.

Under Minnesota Statutes Chapter 588.01(3) (1-2), a judge may issue a contempt finding for “misconduct in public office” or “deceit or abuse of the process or proceedings of the court by a party to an action.”

The penalty for a finding of contempt of court may be either a fine of up to \$250 or imprisonment in the county jail for not more than six months, or both (Chapter 588.10).

The judges may also ask prosecutors to bring perjury charges against Rep. Omar; she could face trial or plead guilty. Each perjury count carries a maximum of a five-year prison sentence under Minnesota law.

Rep. Omar told seven demonstrable lies in her August 2, 2017 affidavit:

1. She swore in 2017 that her most recent contact with Mr. Elmi was in, “June, 2011.”
2. She swore in 2017 that, “the names and locations of other persons who are likely to know there respondent’s whereabouts are unknown to me.”
3. She swore in 2017 that she had, “made the following efforts to locate the respondent: Looked for on Social media.”
4. She swore in 2017 that, “the last known location of respondent as of ‘summer, 2011’ was at London.”
5. She swore in 2017 that, “the last known location of respondent’s employment was unknown.”
6. She swore in 2017 that, “I believe that it is unlikely that respondent’s location will become known to me, but there is reasonable possibility that mail will be forwarded or other reach respondent if addressed as follows: ‘No known address.’”
7. She swore in 2017 that, “I declare under penalty of perjury that everything I have stated in this document is true and correct.”

On the basis of Rep. Omar’s lies in the affidavit, District Judge Kathleen Sheehy granted the divorce application within days. Service on Mr. Elmi was attempted on August 31, 2017 with no success. After the 50-day waiting period, Judge Sheehy granted the divorce on December 4, 2017.

There is ample evidence which shows that Rep. Omar lied repeatedly in her sworn affidavit from August 2, 2017. Rep. Omar’s claim that she had no contact with Mr. Elmi, or knowledge of his whereabouts, since 2011 is patently false. She was in contact with Mr. Elmi for many years after 2011. Their interactions are outlined below:

1. **2012:** Although Rep. Omar swore she had no knowledge of Mr. Elmi’s location since June of 2011, Mr. Elmi was in the maternity ward when her third child was born. On June 12, 2012, Mr. Elmi posted a photo on social media which shows him holding the infant. Accompanying the photo, Mr. Elmi wrote a caption which says, “Nieces, fresh out the vagina!”
2. **2012:** An eviction notice from July 18, 2012 shows that Mr. Elmi was living just four minutes from Rep, Omar in the Minneapolis neighborhood of Cedar-Riverside.
3. **2013:** Rep. Omar and Mr. Elmi communicated with each other through Mr. Elmi’s Instagram page on April 24, 2013 when he posted a photo of a nephew.

4. **2013:** Rep. Omar “liked” a post from Mr. Elmi’s Instagram page on August 5, 2013 with a photo from a party.
5. **2013:** Rep. Omar “liked” a post from Mr. Elmi’s Instagram page on August 5, 2013 with a photo of a drink.
6. **2013:** Rep. Omar “liked” a post from Mr. Elmi’s Instagram page on August 23, 2013 with a photo of a bottle of gin and a desk.
7. **2013:** Rep. Omar “liked” a post from Mr. Elmi’s Instagram page on August 31, 2013 with a photo of a person sitting on the sidewalk.
8. **2015:** Rep. Omar visited Mr. Elmi in London at some point in 2015. The Star Tribune has reported that a DFL activist has confirmed that Mr. Elmi was featured in a 2015 photo with Rep. Omar when she travelled to London.
9. **2019:** According to The Daily Caller, Mr. Elmi has been living in Nairobi, Kenya. The Daily Caller also reported that Mr. Elmi works for Rep. Omar’s sister, Sahra Noor, who lives in that city and runs the Grit Partners organization. Mr. Elmi’s Facebook account lists his address as Nairobi.

“I have sent a formal letter to Chief Judge Ivy Bernhardson, who leads the Fourth Judicial District in Hennepin County, and Judge Kathleen Sheehy asking them to seek a penalty against Rep. Omar for her numerous acts of perjury from 2017,” Rep. Drazkowski said. “I hope that the judges will defend the truth and the law.”

Rep. Drazkowski’s letter was also copied to every judge in Hennepin County.

“We demand ethical leadership from those in positions of power. No one is above the law, and Congresswoman Omar must live by the law,” Rep. Drazkowski said. “I hope our judicial system will take contempt of court and multiple counts of perjury very seriously.”

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