

Fake News Alert: CNN Finally Admits “White Helmets” Staged Fake Video

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In view of “White Helmets” winning an Oscar for best short documentary, we bring to the attention of our readers this piece originally published in November 2016:

CNN, among many other establishment media platforms, has long promoted the US-European funded “Syrian Civil Defence” also known as the “White Helmets,” which was recently granted the “Alternative Nobel Prize”.

Yet on November 25, they published an article titled, “Syria’s White Helmets apologize for Mannequin Challenge video,” in which they admit:

It’s a familiar scene: Syria Civil Defence, also known as the “White Helmets,” rushing to rescue a man covered in rubble, but unlike thousands of other videos from Aleppo, this one is staged.



CNN would continue by claiming:

The nearly one-minute long video has been the subject of criticism on social media. On Wednesday Syria Civil Defence released a statement calling it an

“error of judgment”.

“This video and the related posts were recorded by RFS media with Syria Civil Defence volunteers, who hoped to create a connection between the horror of Syria and the outside world using the viral ‘Mannequin challenge.’ This was an error of judgment, and we apologize on behalf of the volunteers involved,” the statement read.

Ignored by both the “White Helmets” and RFS’ as well as CNN’s explanation of the video is the fact that the now admittedly staged video – besides the “mannequin challenge” style – is virtually indistinguishable from the *“thousands of other videos from Aleppo”* cited by CNN.

Just like *“thousands of other videos from Aleppo”* cited by CNN, the “victim” being “rescued” by the “White Helmets” is covered in dust and what appears to be blood, but otherwise uninjured. Unlike in a real bombing, those “rescued” by the “White Helmet” have their limbs intact, no deep, visible wounds, and lack any of the burns or trauma associated with weaponry used in modern combat.

It is unlikely that out of the *“thousands of other videos from Aleppo”* cited by CNN, none of them would feature actual trauma, and instead feature only the dust and fake “blood” covered “victims” as seen in [the recent, admittedly staged video](#), as well as during [recently staged protests in Europe](#).

Would CNN Have Covered “White Helmet” Deceit Without Alternative Media’s Coverage?

Of course, the alternative media has been exposing the “White Helmets” for years as perhaps one of the largest, most complex war propaganda operations conceived thus far by Western powers in their bid to sway public opinion amid regime change efforts in Syria.

- Statement of Clarification -**"On the Edge of Death" video... an attempt to participate in the international mannequin challenge
Assad's media turn a simulation into reality!**

The video is originally a short staged scene by RFS Media Office in contribution to the international #MannequinChallenge campaign.

The video intends to raise international awareness about the Syrian revolution in general, and the members of the Civil Defense, highlighting their role and sacrifices in protecting and saving the lives of civilians in Syria.

The video depicts the work of the White Helmets teams in the form of static mannequins to simulate reality. However, the regime used the video to distort facts and twist perceptions.

As usual, the Syrian regime's media workers took the video, abstracted of its background, and started spinning false stories about it to serve their own purposes and the purposes of Assad regime, that has been killing Syrians for nearly six years, accusing RFS media office of creating fabricated videos of rescue operations by civil defense teams.

Thus, regime and its media did prove their isolation from the human and international context. Being ignorant about a huge media campaign such as the "#MannequinChallenge" in which international figures participated such as Hillary Clinton, the former American presidential candidate, and the German Bayern Munich team, only proves regime's grave isolation from the world.

RFS Media office stresses again that the video is a simulation of reality, and is part of the international #MannequinChallenge.

The regime's allegations about "On the Edge of Death" are telling half-truths and providing partial data, following the propaganda that Assad and his allies have been waging against the Syrian people since the Syrian revolution began

Image: RSF's "apology" lacks conviction, but is full of excuses and blame.

When the recent "mannequin challenge" video was uploaded, it was the alternative media that caught it, reported on it, and brought viral attention to it. It was the alternative media that exposed the fact that a supposed "rescue organization" was staging fake videos for war propaganda value – in possible violation of the Geneva Convention, and certainly in violation of basic ethical concerns.

It was only after the alternative media raised these concerns and cornered RFS and the "White Helmets" that establishment media platforms like CNN finally reacted to a story it likely would have otherwise ignored.

It is no wonder then, why establishment media platforms like CNN, the Washington Post, and others are so passionately opposed to the alternative media – they are no longer setting the agenda, and are instead forced to react. Real journalism equates to reporting and honestly analyzing world events rather than contriving and spinning them – for CNN and others, they no longer possess the freedom to do the latter without consequence.

For the alternative media, successes like this, and the fact that establishment Western

media has all but declared war on the alternative media should highlight the value of honest journalism and analysis. It should also be a constant reminder that fact-driven media will always win out over agenda-driven media. For the alternative media to continue to grow and be successful, it must reaffirm its dedication to fact-driven media no matter how tempting it is to do otherwise.

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