

# panamza.com

A website that has repeatedly published false information, including anti-Israel conspiracy theories and misinformation about the COVID-19 pandemic.



**Proceed with caution: This website severely violates basic standards of credibility and transparency.**

**Score: 20/100**

## Ownership and Financing

Panamza.com is owned by its publishing director and founder, Hicham Hamza, who describes himself on the site as an independent investigative journalist. In 2007, he enrolled at the Centre de formation des journalistes, a Paris-based journalism school, although he was not awarded a degree, according to a 2016 Envoyé Spécial documentary on France 2.

The site generates revenue from subscriptions and donations. Many articles are only available to subscribers.

## Content

On its subscription page, Panamza describes itself as a site that intends to "shake up the established order" of a media landscape under the control of the oligarchy and to reveal to you, citizen-reader, facts of public interest — political but also scientific — that you won't see exposed elsewhere" ("bousculer l'ordre établi" d'un paysage médiatique sous contrôle de l'oligarchie et de vous dévoiler, citoyen-lecteur, les faits d'intérêt public - de nature politique mais également scientifique— que l'on ne vous exposera pas ailleurs.”).

The site said in a 2018 Facebook post that it covers "state lies, Zionist manipulations, the making of Islamophobia, wrongly-flagged terrorism, media disinformation, deceptions by community leaders, political shenanigans, intellectual frauds, oligarchic propaganda and — soon — scientific myths". ("Mensonges d'Etat, manipulations sionistes, fabrique de l'islamophobie, terrorisme sous fausse bannière, désinformation médiatique, impostures de leaders associatifs, magouilles politiques, escroqueries intellectuelles, propagandes oligarchiques et -bientôt- légendes scientifiques”.)

- Does not repeatedly publish false content (22 points)
- Gathers and presents information responsibly (18)
- Regularly corrects or clarifies errors (12.5)
- Handles the difference between news and opinion responsibly (12.5)
- Avoids deceptive headlines (10)
- Website discloses ownership and financing (7.5)
- Clearly labels advertising (7.5)
- Reveals who's in charge, including any possible conflicts of interest (5)
- The site provides names of content creators, along with either contact or biographical information (5)

*Criteria are listed in order of importance.*

[More information.](#)

Hamza told French news site Rue89 that he modeled his website after conservative U.S. news site the Drudge Report, which republishes other websites' content. The site's homepage and layout resembles that of DrudgeReport.com.

Panamza primarily covers political controversies, stories about anti-Muslim attacks, and stories that allege various crimes committed by the state of Israel, including claims that Israelis were behind coordinated mass shootings in Paris in 2015, and the Sept. 11 terror attacks.

Typical headlines have included "Doctor Raoult, Chloroquine advocate, is a fan of Israel" ("Promoteur de la chloroquine, le médecin Raoult est un fan d'Israël") and "Morocco and Mossad collaborate in France" ("Le Maroc et le Mossad collaborent en France").

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#### Credibility

Panamza does not generally conduct original reporting. Articles and videos are often based on social media posts. Many of these reports make false or unsubstantiated claims, relying on unverified information or debunked conspiracy theories.

In 2020, for example, the site promoted false claims about the COVID-19 pandemic. A March 2020 article titled "Coronavirus: An Israeli scientist accuses a Franco-Chinese lab" ("Coronavirus : un scientifique israélien accuse un labo franco-chinois") advanced a former Israeli intelligence officer's false claims that the coronavirus was engineered as a biological weapon. "A microbiologist who comes from Israeli military intelligence claims that the coronavirus is a bacteriological weapon developed in a location under Franco-Chinese control," the article claimed. ("Un microbiologiste issu du renseignement militaire israélien affirme que le coronavirus est une arme bactériologique développée dans un lieu sous contrôle franco-chinois.")

A January 2020 story, titled "Origin of coronavirus: Franceinfo is hiding from you the existence of a Franco-Chinese lab" ("Origine du coronavirus: Franceinfo vous cache l'existence d'un labo franco-chinois") stated that "the French press in general, and specifically

Franceinfo, concealed the presence of an ultra-sensitive virology lab near the area where the coronavirus appeared,” referring to the Wuhan Institute of Virology, a research institute in Wuhan, China. (“La presse française en général, et Franceinfo en particulier, dissimule la présence d'un laboratoire ultra-sensible de virologie à proximité de la zone d'apparition du coronavirus.”)

There is no reliable evidence to back the claim that the new strain of coronavirus came from a lab, such as the Wuhan Institute of Virology, or that it was developed as a biological weapon. A March 2020 study published in the journal *Nature Medicine* concluded that the virus “is not a laboratory construct or a purposefully manipulated virus.” A February 2020 study published in the journal *Nature* found that the COVID-19 virus is “96% percent identical at the whole-genome level to a bat coronavirus.”

Panamza has also frequently promoted unproven claims linking Israel to terror attacks. For example, in December 2019, it published a story titled “Massacre at the Bataclan: The hall was controlled by Mossad” (“Carnage au Bataclan : la salle était contrôlée par le Mossad”), which claimed that the Israeli intelligence agency Mossad knew in advance about the November 2015 mass shooting at the Bataclan theater in Paris, adding that “French ‘Jewish officials’ were warned (by Mossad) about the imminence of the attacks” (“‘officiels juifs’ de France ... furent avertis (par le Mossad) de l'imminence des attentats”).

There is no evidence that Mossad was briefed about the Bataclan shooting before it happened. The Islamic State claimed responsibility for the attack one day after the shooting on social media.

The website has frequently promoted the debunked conspiracy theory that suggested Israel had a role in the Sept. 11 terror attacks that destroyed the World Trade Center and killed nearly 3,000 people in New York, Washington, and Pennsylvania. The website, citing U.S. conspiracy theorist Grant Smith as a source, claimed in a February 2019 article that documents show “an Israeli implication — at least — through

advance knowledge and a participation in the 2001 attacks,” (“indiquant fortement une implication israélienne – a minima — dans la préconnaissance et la participation aux attentats de 2001”). The article did not back its claims with evidence. In March 2019, the site published an article titled "September 11: FBI accused of hiding the Israeli lead" (“11-Septembre : le FBI accusé d’avoir caché la piste israélienne”), which claimed that three Israelis” were “spotted expressing incongruous joy at the sight of the first burning World Trade Center tower” (“aperçus en train de manifester une joie incongrue à la vue de la première tour enflammée du World Trade Center.”)

Osama bin Laden, the leader of the al-Qaida terror network, claimed responsibility for the 9/11 attacks in 2004, years after the 9/11 Commission and multiple federal investigations reached the same conclusion. Conspiracy theories about Israelis’ involvement in the terror attacks often refer to the arrest of five Israelis on Sept. 11, 2001, who were seen taking pictures of the burning trade center. The men were later arrested and deported for overstaying their U.S. visas, according to ABC News. They were never implicated in the attacks.

Panamza has also repeatedly claimed that Amedy Coulibaly, who killed four people at a Paris kosher supermarket during a hostage standoff in January 2015, was in handcuffs when he was shot dead by the police on his way out of the supermarket. A January 2020 post featured a video that claimed "the alleged terrorist's hands appeared to be 'tied' or 'handcuffed'" when he was killed by police. (“Les mains du terroriste présumé semblaient ‘attachées’ ou ‘menottées.’”)

Videos obtained by France 3 show that Coulibaly was not handcuffed and was holding a gun before he was repeatedly shot by police.

Because Panamza has regularly published false allegations and conspiracy theories to promote its views, NewsGuard has determined that the site repeatedly publishes false content, does not gather and present information responsibly, and does not avoid deceptive headlines.

Panamza articles are not labeled as opinion and the site does not feature an opinion section. The site does not disclose a specific political viewpoint. However, most articles advance strong positions against Israel and Jews.

For example, a December 2019 article titled "Trump wants' more love for Israel" ("Trump veut 'davantage d'amour pour Israël") stated that the White House is "under Zionist control," before adding that "the will of Zionism [is] to conquer the minds, again and again — especially those of French-speaking Muslims." ("La volonté sioniste (est) de conquérir, encore et toujours, les esprits -en particulier ceux des musulmans francophones.")

A June 2019 article about Latifa Ibn Ziaten, the mother of a French soldier killed in a terrorist attack in 2012, argued that Ziaten was not a victim of an anti-Semitic assault, after her home was spray painted with graffiti and messages such as "dirty Jew." The article asserted, "false anti-Semitic attacks committed in France" are intended "to reinforce the myth (valuable to the Jewish lobby) of growing anti-Semitism in French society" ("fausses agressions antisémites commises en France... destiné à renforcer le mythe (utile au lobby juif) d'un antisémitisme croissant dans la société française").

Because Panamza regularly publishes articles advancing anti-Israel opinions, without disclosing an overall point of view, NewsGuard has determined that the site does not handle the difference between news and opinion responsibly.

Panamza does not articulate a corrections policy, and has not corrected any false content cited above, which is why NewsGuard has determined that the website does not meet its standard for regularly issuing corrections. The most recent correction of any kind that NewsGuard found on the site dates to 2015.

Panamza did not respond to two emails seeking comment on the site's publication of false content, its approach to corrections, and its failure to disclose a political perspective.

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## Transparency

Panamza discloses on its homepage that it is owned by Hicham Hamza, who is also identified as the site's publishing director. The homepage provides his email address.

Except for the articles that are attributed to Hamza, the website does not generally identify its content creators. The site does not publish a separate staff list with contact or biographical information for editorial staff.

Panamza did not respond to two emails seeking comment on why the site does not always include author names or information about its content creators.

The site does not run advertising.

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## History

Hamza launched the site in 2013. Before creating Panamza, Hamza contributed news reports for French news sites such as Politis, Télé libre, and Oumma.com. In 2013, he self-published an e-book titled "Israel and 9/11: The great taboo" ("Israël et le 11-Septembre : le grand tabou"), which asserted that the state of Israel was responsible for the Sept. 11 attacks.

In early 2020, Hamza said he was placed under formal investigation for alleged public defamation against former French Prime Minister and former Minister for the Interior Bernard Cazeneuve, after the site published articles linking Cazeneuve to the November 2015 Paris attacks. However, the office of the Public Prosecutor in Paris said in an April 2020 email to NewsGuard that it could not confirm that Hamza was under investigation.

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**Send feedback to NewsGuard:** [Click Here](#)

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