

Corrections Policy

American Media Institute intends to correct promptly all published errors of fact brought to its attention, either online or in print. All AMI news staff members are required as a condition of employment to immediately notify senior news management of any error or contention of error of which they become aware. This is so that a correction, if deemed warranted, can be quickly prepared accordance with the guidelines set forth below.

This policy most readily applies to material published online on Aminewswire.com. But corrections prepared by AMI should be forwarded to whichever of AMI's publishing partners carried an AMI article in print with material later deemed to be erroneous and in need of correction. Such partners can publish such corrections at their discretion; in any case, a written record of bringing the error to a partner's attention should be retained.

All corrections are to be approved by the Executive Editor, who will involve senior management or legal counsel in cases where the Executive Editor deems that necessary.

The formats for correcting errors of fact are as follows.

Online corrections:

[Time stamp:]

Correction: Month date, year, 00:00 PM [time correction is posted]

"An earlier version of this article misstated Zlatko Kovach's status when he arrived in the United States. He was a student, not a refugee."

As the above example suggests, every correction online is to be time-stamped and appended after the story in question. The erroneous text is to be corrected simultaneously with the posting of a correction.

Also, uniformity of corrections is essential. There are two distinct parts, described below and illustrated in the example above:

1 First, an assertion of ONLY WHAT THE ORIGINAL ARTICLE GOT WRONG; and in general it should avoid blaming any other party for the error, like a source, since it is AMI's responsibility to discover the facts. Online, this part must start with "An earlier version of this article etc." or some variant of that ("An earlier version of a photo caption with this article ...).

2 A second statement CORRECTING THE ERROR would follow, stating the true state of affairs vs. what the article got wrong in a "this, not that" construction so the reader is clear on what's being corrected. (I.e., "He was a student, not a refugee," as per above.)

Exception For errors introduced by an editor, we would start the first sentence:

"Because of an editing error, an earlier version of this article etc."

This would protect the writer whose byline is on the article from unwarranted reputation damage in the eyes of colleagues, sources etc.

Print corrections:

Much the same as above, except omit online-only features like the time stamp.

Also, a print correction would need a fuller description of the article in question and give a publication date since the article won't be just above the correction, as it would be online. So in print -- if, say, the article were originally published Jan. 15 -- the earlier sample correction above would appear as follows:

"An American Media Institute article on Jan. 15 about laid-off American psychological-operations contractors going to work for

Russia misstated Zlatko Kovach's status when he arrived in the United States. He was a student, not a refugee.”

Of course there are always exceptions to any rule, and more complicated corrections (covering more than one error in an article, for example). These can be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

Note: Unusual (and perhaps legally sensitive) efforts to set the record straight, like editor’s notes and clarifications, should be avoided in general and not be undertaken without approval from the Chief Executive Officer and Legal Counsel.