

THE HOLY AYAAN

Zembla, a television program broadcast by the VARA television network in Holland, aired a program about Ayaan Hirsi Ali on May 11 2006 entitled "De Heilige Ayaan", which means "The Holy Ayaan". This program claimed to have investigated facts about her past.

In this document we line up these facts and compare them to what had already been widely reported about Ayaan Hirsi Ali in the media.

Quotes from Zembla are in yellow. To view the program: www.uitzendinggemist.nl

ZEMBLA VOICE-OVER: "Ayaan bases her opinion on her own personal experience. Her opinion is clear. She claims she has a right to speak because she knows herself what it is about".

Interview with Dutch weekly *De Groene Amsterdammer* on March 1, 2003:

"People claim you're projecting your own experiences on the Muslim community as a whole."

Ayaan Hirsi Ali: "That's a fallacy. In my essays I never write about myself. I have observed that among non-Western immigrants there is an unmistakable inequality between men and women. In my observations, this has been related to religion. Journalists constantly ask about my past, and they mingle these things in with the content of my views in their articles [...] It is beyond any control."

www.groene.nl/2003/0309/mf_ayaan.html

In *Mare 16*, a publication of Leiden University, January 16 2003:

"I worked a lot as a Somali-Dutch translator [with the] Immigration and Naturalization Service, or at homes for battered women. On average two meetings a day, for five years. I saw a river of stories full of misery pass by me. In those shelters I began to see more and more women with a Muslim background. I began to realize that [...] it wasn't just a question of poverty, but also of culture and religion".

www.leidenuniv.nl/mare/2003/16/12.html

In "*De zoontjesfabriek*" (The factory of sons) by Hirsi Ali on page 16: "Later I have been in a refugee camp on the Somalian-Kenyan border. I saw, how women who were raped in the war were left to their fate. I wondered : if there is a God, why does he permit this?"

In *Das Magazin* 20-5-2005: "Hirsi Ali arbeitete als Dolmetscherin für Sozialbehörden Sie sprach mit Musliminnen, die missratene Cousins verheiratet wurden, weil sie ihre Ehre (jungfräulichkeit) verloren hatten und niemand ausserhalb der Familie diese Frauen haben wollte. Sie sprach mit Aids erkrankten Musliminnen, die überzeugt waren, dass Muslime vor Ansteckung gefeit seien. Sie staunte (und verzweifelte) darüber, wie fest der traditionelle Islam die Frauen im Griff hatte....".

Le Figaro 14-05-05: 'en 1990, on la renvoie avec sa soeur en Somalie pour qu'elle renoue avec ses racines .En novembre 1990 Ayaan est rappelee a Nairobi par sa famille, la guerre civile faisant rage en Somalie. A cette époque, j'ai cesse de me

poser des questions metaphysiques: j 'étais trop occupee a aider tous les refugies venus vivre sous notre toit. '

VARA TV MAGZINE Magazine, from the Dutch station that broadcasted The Holy Ayaan 7-12-2002: "..... Later on she acts as an interpreter for the IND (Immigration and Naturalization Service) and for several homes for battered women. She notices how also in Holland the freedom of Islamic women is curtailed."

Daily newspaper *de Volkskrant* December 20 2002:

"Working as an interpreter in abortion clinics and homes for battered women, Hirsi Ali has in any case heard what many Muslim women *don't* want: abuse, forced circumcision, arranged marriage, spousal rape and a second-rank position in the Muslim community as a "factory of sons".

Weekly women's magazine *Margriet* January 2003:

"At first she worked as an interpreter in homes for battered women and in the law-courts. "It came as a shock to me when I would come in somewhere as an interpreter and identify myself strongly with the woman I saw in front of me. I would feel sometimes as if she was me. Wearing more or less the same clothes as me, roughly the same age, with the same hairstyle. But the difference between us was that she was covered with bruises, because she was beaten up".

Dutch weekly women's magazine *Libelle* of February 2003: " You are blamed that your personal experiences predominate in your work in Parliament. "That is nonsense....".

Daily newspaper *de Volkskrant* April 11 2002:

"[Hirsi Ali] would have preferred to keep it a secret that her marriage was arranged. "Again, such a personal story. Like it is only about me, like I am a frustrated woman projecting my own trauma. While in fact millions of Islamic woman are oppressed".

German Reader's Digest Januari 2006:'(...) arbeitete sie als Übersetzerin für die Niederländische Behörden. Ihre arbeit führte sie in Krankenhäuser, Schulen, Abtreibungskliniken und zu Gerichtsverhandlungen. Was sie sah, öffnete ihr die Augen.'

[http://www.readers-](http://www.readers-digest.de/service_fuer_journalisten/fileadmin/documents/magazin/0601-EoY.pdf)

[digest.de/service_fuer_journalisten/fileadmin/documents/magazin/0601-EoY.pdf](http://www.readers-digest.de/service_fuer_journalisten/fileadmin/documents/magazin/0601-EoY.pdf)

VOICE-OVER ZEMBLA "We investigated in Holland, Kenya, Somalia and Canada. We discovered that her family name is not Ali but Magan [...] We talked for the first time to her brother and family, and to people with whom she grew up. Never before had they expressed themselves on the the subject of Hirsi Ali's life".

The book '*In Godsnaam*' from Jutta Chorus and Ahmet Olgun (2005 publisher Contact ISBN 90 254 2785 5) page 95:"You look like someone who 'wants to make the best out of her life", said Mudda Veerman, who received Ayaan the first days. "Good idea. " (This aunt of Ayaan can be heard on 04: 57 in the broadcast of Zembla, supposedly for the first time, according to Zembla.)

Weekly magazine *HP/De Tijd*, October 4 2002:
'She is the daughter of Dr. Hirsi Magan, currently living in London.'

Daily newspaper *NRC Handelsblad* 28-8-2004: 'She replaced the name Magan with Ali (...)'

Bio of Ayaan Hirsi Ali in her book "*De zoontjesfabriek*" (The Son Factory), 2002,
'Ayaan Hirsi Ali was born in 1969 in Somalia as daughter of Hirsi Magan.'

Daily newspaper *NRC Handelsblad* August 28 2004:
'She replaced the name Magan with Ali (...).'

New York Times April 3 2005:

"[...] her father, Hirsi Magan Isse. In the Netherlands, she changed her name from Ayaan Hirsi Magan, falsified her birth date [...]"

'*In Godsnaam*', a book by Jutta Chorus and Ahmet Olgun on Theo van Gogh and Ayaan Hirsi Ali:

'Ayaan Hirsi Magan was born in Mogadishu on November 13, 1969 as the first daughter of Hirsi Magan's second wife [...] She changed her name from Magan to Ali so she could not be tracked down in the Netherlands'.

Weekly *Libelle*, February 2003:

"Your real name is Ayaan Hirsi Magan [...]"

The Guardian May 17 2005

"I asked for asylum under another name -- my name is Ayaan Hirsi Magan, and I told them my name is Ayaan Hirsi Ali."

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/g2/story/0,,1485350,00.html>

Das Magazin 20-2005: 'In die Niederlanden änderte sie sich ihren Namen (ursprünglich Ayaan Hirsi Magan), ihr Geburtsdatum un beantragte und erhielt politisches Asyl.'

Propria Cures, Amsterdam student weekly, in March 2004

"Magan, is your real name, isn't it Ayaan?"

<http://www.propracures.nl/archief.php?artikelid=397>

03:01 : **VOICE-OVER ZEMBLA** 'She came to the Netherlands in 1992; she says she came there from Somalia [...] But was she really a refugee fleeing Somalia? The answer takes us back in time....'

05:29 **ZEMBLA** reporter asks S. Veerman (a relative of Ayaan) where Ayaan came from. "From Germany, by train..."

Question: "And before that?" "From Kenya."

Weekly *HP/De Tijd* 4-10-2002: '(...) escape Ayaan via Germany to the Netherlands'.
"Dont't tell you're coming from Kenya, but directly from Somalia", she was told'.

German *Reader's Digest* January 2006: '.....1976 floh er aus Somalia. Seine familie folgte ihm nach Saudi Arabien, Äthiopien, schießlich nach Kenia. Ayaan Hirsi Ali besuchte in Nairobi eine muslimische Mädchenschule, wo sie Englisch lernte.' (...) 1992 besuchte ein Mann aus Hirsi Ali's Clan, der in Kanada lebte, Ayaans Vater in Nairobi (...) Doch sie hatte keine Wahl, sie musste ihrem neuen Mann nach Kanada folgen. Auf die reise dorthin besuchten sie Verwandte in Deutschland. Hirsi Ali beschloss, aus ihren Zwangsehe auszubrechen, und floh nach die Niederlande.'
http://www.readers-digest.de/service_fuer_journalisten/fileadmin/documents/magazin/0601-EoY.pdf

Newspaper *Algemeen Dagblad* page 2, September 19 2002: Together with her mother she travelled after her father, who just fled, until she was married off to fundamentalist Muslim. At that moment she decided to pursue her own path. Via Germany she arrived in the Netherlands."

December 23 2003, radio broadcast *BBC World Service*, from the BBC website: "I left Somalia when I was six-years old. I lived in Saudi Arabia for one year, in Ethiopia for one and a half years, in Kenya for 11 years, and I live in the Netherlands now".
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/3322399.stm> (Real Audio)

Weekly *Vrij Nederland*, 15-05-2004:"first in Somalia, later, when the family had to flee...in Saoedi-Arabia, Ethiopia and Kenya."

In her own book '*De zoontjesfabriek*', Ayaan Hirsi Ali tells on page 7: 'Via Saudi-Arabia and Ethiopia I ended up in Kenya' and '(...)she flees via Germany to the Netherlands.'

Mare 16 , paper University of Leiden January 16 2003: "Because of the position of the father in Somalia's political opposition, the family flees via Saudi-Arabia and Ethiopia to Kenya" (...) 'comes via Germany to the Netherlands.'
<http://www.leidenuniv.nl/mare/2003/16/12.html>

Weekly Dutch magazine *Intermediair* February 26 2004: "... they came in Kenya. When she was twenty-two years old she was married off to a far cousin in Canada. Because of that, she fled via Germany to the Netherlands."
<http://www.intermediair.nl/artikel.jsp?id=55725> (at the bottom of the website).

Daily newspaper *Algemeen Dagblad* December 7 2002: "To receive a residence permit, [Hirsi Ali] had to lie about how she fled. She said that she came directly from Somalia, a country torn by civil war. She did not mention her sojourn in Kenya."

Daily Dutch newspaper *Veluws Dagblad* 14-9-2002: "I was 22, we lived in Nairobi."

Television broadcast '*Barend en van Dorp*', RTL 4 network, September 11 2002: Ayaan: "[When applying for refugee status] it was an advantage then to come from Somalia. I didn't say that I had come directly from Kenya. I said that I came from Somalia." Frits Barend (interviewer): "So you had to lie to receive your Dutch residence permit?"
Ayaan: "Absolutely"

'*Marathon Interview*' VPRO Radio, Dutch public radio, December 26 2003: "You arrived in the Netherlands with the story that you came directly from Somalia, which wasn't really true. You were only six years old when you and your family left Somalia, via Saudi Arabia and Ethiopia. You spent the greatest part of your childhood in Kenya." <http://www.vpro.nl/programma/marathoninterview/afleveringen/14609316/>

The Guardian 17-05-2005: "From the age of six or seven, Ayaan Hirsi's life became that of an exile, her family moving from Saudi Arabia to Ethiopia and then, for 10 years, to Kenya. (...) Hirsi Ali spent two nights in Germany and then, on a whim, bolted. She took a train to the Netherlands." <http://www.guardian.co.uk/g2/story/0,,1485350,00.html>

Klaas de Vries (MP for the Dutch social democrats) on his blog: "Did we know this? I check my diary. Easy for these kind of things. On the 7th of December of 2002 I wrote: '*The 'Telegraaf' and the 'Algemeen Dagblad' published long interviews with Ayaan Hirsi Ali. The 'Algemeen Dagblad' mentions that Ayaan, in order to receive a residence permit, lied about how she fled. Would [Liberal Party leader Gerrit] Zalm know that? And if so, why hasn't he said anything about it? He may find himself in trouble over this later...*'" <http://www.klaasdevries.pvda.nl/renderer.do/menuld/28964/sf/29014/returnPage/29014/itemId/252210/realItemId/252210/pageId/29014/instanceId/29043/>

TV program *Profiel* titled 'Ik ben Ayaan' (I am Ayaan) by Eveline van Dijck on Dutch public television, recorded in 2002 and broadcast in May 2005, states clearly that the Liberal Party leaders knew that Ayaan did not tell the truth on her asylum application in 1992. (See minute 23). <http://www.uitzendinggemist.nl/>

VOICE-OVER ZEMBLA "Hirsi Ali has never been clear on how she fled. According to Mrs. Veerman (her aunt), it *seems* she came from Kenya. We go to Kenya, searching for Ayaan's past."

VARA TV MAGAZINE December 7 2002: "As a descendant of a prominent Somali family, and a daughter of Dr. Hirsi Magan -- a rather broadminded and deeply respected man currently living in London -- her start in life should have been easier. But her family were traditional enough to think that girls should be married off to a good catch. In her case that was a distant cousin from Canada, who visited Kenya -- where the family lived in exile -- to ask 'whether he could marry someone'. 'Yes indeed, replied her father promptly, 'Ayaan is ready.' 'Her protest wasn't of any use. Ayaan fled via Germany to the Netherlands, where an aunt who lived in an asylum seeker centre took care of her. That aunt advised her to lie to the immigration service (IND) and to stay silent about her coming from Kenya: she must say that she fled directly from Somalia. Good advice: Ayaan was accepted as a recognized refugee."

"The book '*Brieven aan Ayaan Hirsi Ali*' ('Letters to Ayaan Hirsi Ali') of Publisher Prometheus in 2005 (ISBN 90 446 06484). Paul Cliteur: "Three years before, on the 24th of July 1992, you fled from Kenya via Germany to the Netherlands."

Weekly opinion magazine *Elsevier* September 20 2003:

"She was born in 1969 in Somalia as the daughter of Hirsi Magan, a well known opposition leader who stood up against dictator Mohamed Siad Barre. During her childhood her father was in prison. The family fled later to Saudi Arabia, to Ethiopia and to Kenya. After Ayaan was married off by her father, she arrived via Germany in the Netherlands."

<http://www.elsevier.nl/nieuws/politiek/dossier/asp/portal/0/sctr/0/dossier/290/hoofdstuk/2/sortering/False/artikel/12820/bt//index.html>

Elsevier January 1 2005, profile by Liesbeth Wytzes:

"Hirsi Ali grew up in mostly Islamic countries: Kenya, Ethiopia, Saudi Arabia (...). When Hirsi Ali was married off by her father against her will to a distant Somali cousin, she decided to take her life into her own hands. She fled from Kenya to Germany and there took a train to the unknown Netherlands."

TV program '*Buitenhof*' February 19 2006:

Ronald Plasterk: "Just imagine an immigrant of Somali origin, who isn't at all persecuted for reasons of political or belief or ethnicity, but who tries to escape the influence of a dominant Muslim father who wants to marry her off. Just imagine that she lies about her story, because she tells the immigration service that she comes directly from Africa, but the truth is that she comes from Germany, where she is staying with a member of family. Her aunt tells her that her chance of a residence permit are higher if she lies and says she has fled directly from Africa, and years later she herself reveals this in an interview with *HP/De Tijd*. I am referring of course to the VVD politician Ayaan Hirsi Ali..."

<http://www.tvopiepc.nl/programma/39/10/0>

The book '*In Godsnaam*' by Jutta Chorus, pagina 92, 95 en 96: 'from age thirteen until twenty in Kenya she was mad at everybody' (...) 'Ayaan Hirsi Ali was married off to a distant cousin living in Canada' (...) 'She married him against her will in 1991 in Nairobi.' (...) 'On the road to Canada she stops over in Germany to apply for the right to live in Canada' (...) 'ON On 24 juli 1992 Ayaan fled by train from Bonn to The Netherlands.' (...) 'On 27 July she was taken in the refugee centre Zeewolde. The first thing she did was applying for asylum. Under the old Dutch law fugitives from Somalia received, because of the civil war, quite easily the A status. Ayaan received hers on the September. De UN had sent troops to Somalia to restore the order. In Ayaan's perception one after the other Somalian went for a stamp and returned with a residence permit. 'It was like a general pardon for Somalians.' She replaced the name Magan in Ali in order to remain unrecognizable in the Netherlands.' 'The third thing she did: she wrote her father a letter, begging him to let her go. She received the same letter back, though in the margin line written that he considers her escape as betrayal. That he never wants to see her again and that she wasn't to call herself his child'

The New York Times April 3 2005:

“From age 6, Hirsi Ali and her siblings shared their father’s political exile, in Saudi Arabia and Ethiopia and then, for 10 years, in Kenya. In the course of her travels, Hirsi Ali learned five languages: Somali, Arabic, Amharic, Swahili and English, which she speaks in a lilting accent picked up from the Indian teachers who taught her at the Muslim’s Girls’ Secondary school on Park Road in Nairobi.

A crisis came in 1992, when her father contracted her in a marriage to a Somali-Canadian cousin she did not know. After a wedding ceremony in Kenya, she followed him on a flight to Canada. During a layover in Germany, scheduled for the completion of her immigration paperwork, she decided to bolt—an idea that did not occur to her, she says, until she arrived in Europe. She fled across the border on a train to the Netherlands [...] she changed her name (from Ayaan Hirsi Magan), falsified her birth date and applied successfully for political asylum.”

<http://www.nytimes.com/2005/04/03/magazine/03ALI.html?ex=1270267200&en=7272f7f8332d2c15&ei=5090&partner=rssuserland>

Monthly Dutch *Elle* of January 2004:

‘Just 22 years of age, she was married off – a reason to flee. A distant Somali cousin, who lived in Canada, was looking for a wife’ (...) ‘The man came to Kenya, where the family Hirsi Ali then lived...’ “At that point my father decided that I would travel via Germany. I flew to Germany all alone’ ‘Hirsi Ali called a distant aunt in an asylum seekers’ centre in the Netherlands’. “And that’s how I ended up here. I had never seen a train before...”

Le Figaro May 14 2005:

‘Mais, dans l’attente de papiers l’autorisant a voyager pour le Canada, la famille envoie Ayaan vivre chez un vague oncle en Allemagne, qui la placera dans une autre famille somalie. C’est de la qu’elle va, au bout de deux jours, s’enfuir en train pour le pays le plus proche, qu’elle connaissait par les livres, la Hollande.’
‘Elle falsifie son identite, demande l’asile politique...’

Weekly *Intermediair* of 26-2-2004. ‘Via Saudi-Arabia and Ethiopia we arrived in Kenya. At the age of 22 she was married off to a distant cousin in Canada. Thereupon she fled via Germany to the Netherlands.’

Daily newspaper *NRC Handelsblad* August 28 2004

“After one and a half years in Nairobi she came to Kenya. There Ayaan would live for 10 years, until 1991 [...] She married him in 1991 in Nairobi, but during her trip to Canada she fled in Germany to the Netherlands. She replaced the name with that of Ali...’

De Stentor in an article on the TV-program *De Geloofsgevangenis (the religion prison)*: ‘(...) the family’s flight to Saudi-Arabia, Ethiopia and Kenya.’

Daily newspaper *Trouw* of 8-12-2004: “History repeats itself. In 1992 Ayaan Hirsi Ali fled from Kenya to the Netherlands...”

TV program 'Zomergasten' (*Summer guests*) August 29 2004, VPRO network. Interviewer Joost Zwagerman: "My *Summer guest* of tonight came to the Netherlands in 1992. Before then she lived in a couple of countries, born in Somalia, she later lived in Saudi-Arabia, a shorter period of time in Ethiopia and longer, almost ten years in Kenya, but since '92 in The Netherlands."

See interview www.vpro.nl/programma/zomergasten/afleveringen/17869746/

Das Magazin 20-2005: 'Hirsi Ali wurde in den Somalischen Darod-Clan hineingeboren. Mit ihrer Rebellion gegen ihre islamischen Wurzeln entfremdete sie sich von ihrem Vater, Hirsi Magan Isse.' 'Mit sechs Jahren gingen Hirsi Ali und ihre Geschwister mit dem Vater ins Exil, erst nach Saudi Arabien und Äthiopien, dann für zehn Jahre nach Kenya. In dieser Zeit lernte Hirsi Ali fünf Sprachen: Somalisch, Arabisch, Amharisch, Suaheli und Englisch, Letzteres spricht sie in dem leichten Singsang ihren indischen Lehrerinnen der Muslim Girls School an der Park Road in Nairobi.'

'Bei einem Zwischenstopp in Deutschland entschloss sie sich zur Flucht – heute sagt sie, auf diesen Gedanken sei sie erst bei ihrer Ankunft in Europa gekommen.' 'In die Niederlande änderte sie sich ihren Namen (ursprünglich Ayaan Hirsi Magan), ihr Geburtsdatum und beantragte und erhielt politisches Asyl.'

Weekly *De Margriet* Januari 2003:

She was born in Somalia where she lived until the age of six. After that the family fled to Saudi-Arabia, because Ayaan's father was persecuted. She ended up as a ten-year-old in Ethiopia and later Kenya, together with her Grandmother, mother, brother and sister.

Weekly *Vrij Nederland* 22-11-2003: 'When, at 22, it was clear that she would be married off to a distant cousin from Canada, she fled via Germany to The Netherlands.'

The Zembra reporter is sitting in an airplane. Ayaan's book 'De Zoontjesfabriek' (The Son Factory) is on the table in front of him. **VOICE-OVER:** "We are going to Kenya, in search of Ayaan's past... [In this book] we don't read anything about Ayaan's past as asylum seeker."

Bio, page 7 of Ayaan Hirsi Ali's book *De zoontjesfabriek* :

"Via Saudi-Arabia and Ethiopia, she ended up in Kenya [and] fled, via Germany, to The Netherlands."

Also in the *Marathoninterview* of 26-12-2003 this issue is raised, in the 28th minute: "(...) you came in The Netherlands with the story that you came directly from Somalia, which wasn't the truth...eh...you were only six when you left Somalia with your family, via Saudi-Arabia, Ethiopia (...) the biggest part of your youth you lived in Kenya." <http://www.vpro.nl/programma/marathoninterview/afleveringen/14609316/> (can also be heard, upper right on the website: Audio, the Marathoninterview, December 26, 2003 part 1)

VOICE-OVER ZEMBLA: "It's a luxury neighbourhood!" Reporter is driving in one of the neighbourhoods of Nairobi where Ayaan lived, the implication clearly being that Ayaan claims to have been brought up in poverty.

(Note: Ayaan Hirsi Ali has never claimed to have been brought up on the streets).

VARA TV MAGAZINE December 7 2002:

"As a descendant of a prominent Somali family, and a daughter of Dr. Hirsi Magan -- a rather broadminded and deeply respected man currently living in London..."

Ayaan's book '*De zoontjesfabriek*', describing her father:

"His feet were, as always, enveloped in expensive Italian shoes."

Weekly *HP/de Tijd* October 4 2002:

"... Dr. Hirsi Magan, a respected man in the Somalian diaspora. After his studies in the United States -- only within reach for the elite -- he returned to Somalia."

Chorus' book '*In Godsnaam*', page 88:

"Hirsi Magan, descendent of the prominent Osman Mahamoud subclan."

VOICE-OVER ZEMBLA: "Hirsi Ali has clearly never experienced a war. From 1980, her tenth year, Ayaan lived in Nairobi, and in fact attended a primary school that was at walking distance from her house."

Ayaan in newspaper *Algemeen Dagblad* of 12-3-2005: "Twenty-one days after my birth a coup d'etat turned around radically my parent's life."

Le Figaro May 14 2005: "In 1990 she and her sister were sent back to Somalia, to reconnect with their roots [...] in November 1990 Ayaan was called back to her family in Nairobi, because civil war was raging in Somalia."

Several articles (New York Times, Das Magazin) note the names of Ayaan's secondary school, Muslim Girls Secondary school on Park Road, both in Nairobi, Kenya.

VOICE-OVER ZEMBLA: "It appears that in reality the family aren't strict Muslims. Ayaan's brother Mahad went to a Christian school and Ayaan to a Muslim one."

(Note: There were no Muslim secondary schools for boys in those days. The Islamic renewal movement in Kenya was only beginning.)

Ayaan's '*De zoontjesfabriek*', page 15:

"Halfway through the 80s, the Islamification movement in Kenya had just got under way. I was looking for something, as many adolescents do, and I was extremely impressed by our Islamic Studies teacher [...] I felt, for the first time, the urge to become a martyr."

'In *Godsnaam*' ('In God's name') book of Jutta Chorus p. 92: "The Islam has always been on the background in Ayaan Hirsi Ali's life, but in 1985 she ... got charmed with it. She was taught by an Islamic teacher who was shi'a (...). She then became a member of the Muslim Brotherhood"

Dutch weekly women's magazine *Margriet* January 2003 : "Were you a believer?"
Ayaan: "Yes and no. I believed, but I found it difficult to pray five times a day. I fiddled with it. During Ramadan I couldn't keep up with fasting and started to eat at about five o'clock."

Dutch weekly opinion magazine *HP/De Tijd* October 4 2002:

"Ayaan was six years old when she and her mother followed [her father], travelling from the capital of Somalia, Mogadishu, to Saudi Arabia. She lived strictly, according to the rules of the Quran: hidden from the outside world, kept apart from boys, covered from head to toe, hardly ever outside the house.

Life got better when the family moved to Kenya, where Muslim fundamentalism was less dominating. As a liberal Muslim, her father wanted a good education for his children (...) Although Hirsi Magan was an open-minded man, he kept old Somalian traditions such as marrying your daughters off in honour. To her father an arranged marriage simply meant that he offered his daughter a good future."

VOICE-OVER ZEMBLA: "Ayaan was in contact with her father and her aunt in the Netherlands."

(Note: Zembla confuses Ayaan's direct, close relatives with other members of her subclan, which consists of thousands of people.)

In '*In Godsnaam*' ('In God's name') Jutta Chorus, p. 95: "The first thing she did was: ask for asylum (..) The third she did was: write a letter to her father, begging him to let her go. He returned the letter unopened."

Ayaan in her book '*De zoontjesfabriek*' page 18': "I didn't trust the situation and fled via Germany to the Netherlands. I wrote my father a letter which, in my opinion, was tender but clear, begging him to set me free. He returned that letter."

Ayaan's relative, Mrs. Veerman: "In Somalia we are not familiar with honour related violence, not at all." [...]

VOICE-OVER ZEMBLA: "Somali culture has no honour related violence"

(Note: Zembla mixes up direct family and distant clanmembers)

A search for 'honour related violence Somalia' at www.google.nl retrieves:

- 1) http://www.amsterdam.nl/gemeente/informatie/indexen/nieuwsberichten_0/nieuws_2005/januari_2005/panel_relacioneel.
- 2) April 2005 research by Beke, commissioned by the WODC, referring also to a United Nations report of 2002, referring to honour related violence in Somalia and many other countries)
http://www.justitie.nl/Images/Eerwraak%20of%20eengerelateerd%20geweld_tcm74-62736.pdf

- 3) <http://www.htib.nl/www/frames/nieuws/eerwraak.html>, describing a January 2005 meeting on family violence and honour-related violence.

VOICE-OVER ZEMBLA: "Your ex-husband told us: 'She was there'."

(Note: Zembla alleges that Ayaan is lying when she states that she was not present at her wedding ceremony, claiming three witnesses: Ayaan's ex-husband, a distant aunt and Ayaan's brother.)

Zembla provides no audio or video of Ayaan's ex-husband, and never claims to have travelled to Canada, where he lives. Such claims by a spurned ex-husband are clearly less than reliable, in any case.

Ayaan's "distant aunt" is unrecognizable and veiled on screen. It can be anybody.. Besides that, many people have an angry aunt or uncle. Certainly Hirsi Ali who 'disgraced' her clan.

Ayaan's brother withdrew his statement immediately after Zembla's broadcast, speaking to NOVA television, the ANP and 'De Leugen Regeert'. He said that he himself wasn't present at the wedding either, because he opposed arranged marriages.

The real evidence, pictures of the wedding, are missing in the The Holy Ayaan.

VOICE-OVER ZEMBLA: "Or did she prefer to come to Europe while her husband would pay for that?"

Here Zembla's story is confusing. First they suggest that Ayaan stems from a rich family, now it appears that she wanted to marry for an airplane ticket to Europe. This reasoning is not compatible. If you are from a rich family you can pay for your own ticket.

VOICE-OVER ZEMBLA: "On the one hand Ayaan Hirsi Ali is saying that she was on the run for her husband, on the other hand she meets her husband, calls her father and appears on television" (Clip from a broadcast of the Dutch Muslim Broadcast Network, Nederlandse Moslim Omroep (NMO).)

Subsequent to her arrival in the Netherlands and her acceptance as a refugee, Ayaan was tracked down by her ex-husband, who informed her father. Ayaan did have contact with her family and has never claimed the contrary. The NMO television broadcast was filmed years later, by which time her family was fully cognizant of her situation in the Netherlands.