

Rashad Khalifa — ALAI Editorial Policy (2026-04-28)

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Date: 2026-04-28

Decision: CEO Directive — Option C

Status: Executed

Tags: decision, editorial-policy, quran-research, alai.no/ucenje

1. Decision Summary

On **2026-04-28**, CEO Alem Basic issued a directive to remove all mentions of the name "Rashad Khalifa" from ALAI's public-facing and research materials related to the Quran numerology project (alai.no/ucenje).

Option selected: Option C — Remove the name entirely, retain critical/distancing framing.

Rationale:

Rashad Khalifa's association with the "Submitters" group (which denies hadith authenticity and claims alteration of Quranic verses) is considered heretical in mainstream Sunni Islamic scholarship. ALAI does not wish to carry any association with this lineage, even in a critical or distancing context.

Prior state:

The CEO was not aware of Khalifa's theological controversies when the initial research materials were drafted. Upon learning the full context, he authorized immediate removal.

2. Background — Rashad Khalifa

Rashad Khalifa (1935-1990) was an Egyptian-American biochemist who claimed to have discovered the "Miracle of 19" in the Quran in 1974. His central assertion was that the Quran's structure is governed by mathematical patterns based on the number 19.

Key claims:

- Total letter count of the Quran is divisible by 19 (later disproven; $327,793 \bmod 19 = 5$ under Hafs orthography with alif-wasla U+0671 properly counted)
- Two verses (9:128-129) should be removed from the Quran (rejected by Islamic scholars worldwide)

Association with Submitters:

Khalifa founded the "Submitters" movement, which rejects hadith literature and asserts that the Quran alone is sufficient. This position is considered outside the boundaries of orthodox Sunni Islam.

ALAI's position:

ALAI's research on the number 19 in the Quran was developed **independently** and does not endorse, cite, or build upon Khalifa's theological framework. The mathematical and sonification work stands on its own empirical basis.

3. What Was Changed

Total scope:

- **27 instances** removed across **13 markdown files**
- **5 LIVE HTML files** on alai.no/ucenje (bs.html, en.html, no.html, laylatul-qadr.html, audio/index.html)
- **5 worktree HTML files** in ucenge-v2 branch
- **13 markdown files** in Public/Research/ and ALAI/comms/drafts/

Per-file breakdown: See `/tmp/lexicon-cleanup-summary.txt` for full detail.

Verification:

```
grep -ric "Khalifa|Rashad" [all edited files] → 0 results
```

4. What Was NOT Changed

Unchanged materials:

The folder `Public/Research/quran-19-fin-uns-a-2026-04-27/emails/` (4 files) was **intentionally left**

unchanged.

Reason:

These emails were already sent to professors at the University of Sarajevo (Dr. Jovan Fatić, Dr. Jasmin Jašić, and the dean). Re-cleaning already-sent correspondence would re-open a conversation that has concluded. The cleanup applies to **future outreach only**, not retroactive communication.

MD5 verification:

All email files verified bit-identical before/after cleanup.

5. Canonical Replacement Texts

All instances of biographical introduction or citation of Rashad Khalifa were replaced with the following standardized texts.

Bosnian/Serbian (BS):

“ Numeričke obrasce vezane za broj 19 u Kur'anu sistematski je istraživao raniji autor 1970-ih godina. Njegova centralna tvrdnja o djeljivosti ukupnog broja slova Kur'ana sa 19 nije preživjela ispravnu računarsku verifikaciju ($327.793 \text{ mod } 19 = 5$ pri Hafs ortografiji sa pravilno uračunatim slovom alif-wasla, U+0671). Njegova kasnija tvrdnja o uklanjanju dva ajeta iz Kur'ana odbačena je od strane islamskih učenjaka. Naša metodologija razvijena je nezavisno i fokusira se na specifične, pojedinačno verifikovane numeričke odnose te na 19-TET sonifikaciju, bez teoloških zaključaka.

English (EN):

“ Numerical patterns related to the number 19 in the Quran were first systematically studied by an earlier author in the 1970s. His central claim that the total letter count of the Quran is divisible by 19 did not survive correct computational verification ($327,793 \text{ mod } 19 = 5$ under Hafs orthography with alif-wasla, U+0671, properly counted). His later claim about removing two verses from the Quran was rejected by Islamic scholars. Our methodology was developed independently and focuses on specific, individually verified numerical relationships and 19-TET sonification, without theological conclusions.

Citation pattern (all languages):

[earlier 1970s research, citation withheld]

Inline mentions:

- BS: "ranijih 1970-ih pristupa" / "ranije 1970-ih istraživanje"
- EN: "earlier 1970s claims" / "earlier 1970s research"

6. Process Linkages

Artifact	Location
MC Task	#9967
Mehanik clearance	<code>/tmp/mehanik-cleared-9967</code> (hash: 72ada25658b8)
Audit trail	<code>/tmp/lexicon-cleanup-summary.txt</code>
Lexicon agent	<code>a06503a22afd0fda8</code> (markdown edits)
Vizu agent	<code>ae061e8013a7428b9</code> (HTML edits)
Linguistic validation	Dževad Jahić (pre-flight + post-edit verification)

7. Future Outreach Guidance

When communicating ALAI's Quran research to external parties (academics, media, institutions), follow these principles:

1. **Do not mention the name "Rashad Khalifa"** in any capacity.
2. **Use the canonical replacement texts** provided in Section 5.
3. **Citation format:** [earlier 1970s research, citation withheld]
4. **Inline references:** Use distancing language ("earlier 1970s claims", "ranijih 1970-ih pristupa").
5. **Framing:** Emphasize that ALAI's methodology was developed **independently** and focuses on:
 - Specific, individually verified numerical relationships
 - 19-TET musical sonification of Quranic text
 - **No theological conclusions**

Purpose of distancing:

To demonstrate academic rigor and intellectual independence without providing a platform to controversial theological claims.

8. Acceptance Criteria (Verified Complete)

- All 27 instances removed
 - Distancing text present in all edited files
 - `emails/` folder bit-identical (unchanged)
 - Markdown formatting preserved
 - Tables, code blocks, citations intact
 - Grep verification: 0 matches for "Khalifa|Rashad"
-

9. Related Documents

- **Quran 19 Research Landing Page:** <https://alai.no/ucenje>
 - **MC Task:** #9967
 - **Mechanik Gate:** `/tmp/mehanik-cleared-9967`
 - **Audit Trail:** `/tmp/lexicon-cleanup-summary.txt`
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Reviewed by: Dževad Jahić (Lexicon)

Approved by: Alem Basic (CEO)

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