

*In my personal experience with Africa Check and some of its reporters, I have concluded that the organisation is more interested in pushing a particular agenda than in verifying facts. I have also concluded that Africa Check is more interested in publishing stories and framing it in a manner that would attract visitors to the website than in investigating the truth. In one example, a reporter from Africa Check called me to clarify a certain statement of mine. We had a telephone conversation in Afrikaans. When the story was published on Africa Check, my words were translated into terrible English, complete with "sic"-indications. English concord errors were attributed to me, even though my discussion with Africa Check was conducted in Afrikaans. The misrepresentation of someone as not proficient in English raises questions about that person's intelligence and makes it easier to question facts presented. Also in that story, Africa Check was "checking" a statement that I had made regarding white poverty. I was reported to have said that more than a hundred thousand white people live in circumstances "like these". Those circumstances involved people living in wooden Wendy houses, back rooms, derelict brick buildings and other kinds of housing. Africa Check reported my statement to be false, based on a survey which found that 8 000 white families lived in shacks, caravans and tents. Also, I have repeatedly noted that certain Africa Check reporters on Twitter position themselves as ideological activists, rather than objective fact checkers. I have also noted repeated obvious fallacious reasoning by one leading Africa Check reporter in particular. In another example I have witnessed, Dr. Frans Cronje, CEO of the South African Institute of Race Relations once wrote a statement in which he was claiming with reference to Africa Check that "there is a strong propensity to declare as 'wrong' or 'incorrect' fact-based claims that could easily be argued to be right. This is dangerous as it will deter journalists, researchers, and politicians from citing data in their analyses." The editor of Africa Check then reported that Cronje had written that it was dangerous when Africa Check scrutinised evidence for claims made in public debate. As in my own experience mentioned above, the portrayal of Cronje's statement could only be one of two things: A malicious misrepresentation of his statement, or a negligent misrepresentation of his statement. Having experienced that Africa Check misrepresents the views of those whose facts they check, compares apples with oranges and that the organisation (or at least some of its reporters) are ideological activists who lack training in logical reasoning (or the application of their training), I have decided not to disclose my information to Africa Check.*