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Sent: Friday, May 15, 2026 11:54 AM
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'shabboskestenbaum@gmail.com'
Cc: 'melanie@melaniephillips.com'
Subject: **Please alert Prime Minister Netanyahu & Foreign Minister Sa'ar to sue The NYT & Nicholas Kristof for "journalistic fraud" and "institutional reckless disregard for truth"**

Attachments: [ers-with-netanyahu-1986.jpg](#);
[cja-oct29-2025-amended-complaint.pdf](#)

TO: Shurat HaDin –
Nitsana Darshan Leitner, Esq.
Rachel May Weisner, Esq.
Professor Alan Dershowitz
Benjamin Brafman, Esq.
Kenneth Marcus, Esq.
Shabbos Kestenbaum, Esq.

cc: Melanie Phillips

Following up the Israel Foreign Ministry's yesterday's [announcement on X](#) that "Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar have instructed the initiation of a defamation lawsuit against The New York Times" for its publication and endorsement of Nicholas Kristof's "hideous and distorted lies" by his [May 11th "opinion" journalism](#) and Prime Minister Netanyahu's own [announcement on X](#) that he had "instructed [his] legal advisers to consider the harshest legal action" against them "to fight these lies in the court of public opinion and in the court of law", **please alert the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister to the causes of action for "journalistic fraud" and "institutional reckless disregard for truth"**, whose viability I alerted you to last year, including by my below November 21st e-mail, with its above two attachments, and whose viability you did not deny, including by the only response I received from you, Ms. Weisner's [November 23rd e-mail](#), to which she cc'd all of you.

My [extensive outreach to legal scholars, First Amendment lawyers, and such organizational entities as the American Law Institute](#) also reinforces the viability of the "journalistic fraud" and "institutional reckless disregard for truth" causes of action – as none denied their viability. This includes First Amendment/media law scholars David Logan and Rodney Smolla, quoted in news articles yesterday ([here](#) and [here](#)) as downplaying that a successful defamation lawsuit based on Mr. Kristof's reporting could be brought by Israel.

As for CJA's federal lawsuit against [The New York Times](#) and 33 other press defendants for "journalistic fraud" and "institutional reckless disregard for truth", pivotally focused on their *knowingly* false journalism rigging Zohran Mamdani's 2025 electoral win as New York City mayor, here's my [May 8th letter to the federal judge](#), summing up where matters stand – and here's [CJA's webpage for the lawsuit](#) from which you can access the electronic docket.

I would appreciate the courtesy of confirmation that you will take immediate steps to alert Prime Minister Netanyahu & Foreign Minister Sa'ar to the "journalistic fraud" and "institutional reckless disregard for truth" causes of action – and to CJA's fully-documented lawsuit based thereon, from which it is obvious that The New York Times will NOT survive, reputationally or financially. Obviously, Ms. Phillips can do so by her journalism.

Thank you.

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Subject: Maximizing Benefit to Shurat HaDin & Israel -- CJA's Federal Lawsuit vs the NYT & Other Press for Rigging Mamdani's Electoral Win as NYC Mayor: "journalistic fraud", "institutional reckless disregard for truth", etc.

TO: Shurat HaDin –
Nitsana Darshan Leitner, Esq.
Rachel May Weisner, Esq.

This follows my phone call an hour ago (845-709-8130) and the message I left with Lihi, who answered the call. I have received no response from you or anyone else to my below November 6th e-mail. Surely, by now, you have a legal opinion about the viability of the “journalistic fraud” and “institutional reckless disregard for truth” causes of action – and of CJA’s federal lawsuit against the NYT and other press for their rigging of Zohran Mamdani’s electoral win as NYC mayor.

This past Monday, November 17th, I received a *sua sponte* order from the federal district court judge assigned to the case for me to show cause with respect to subject matter jurisdiction, noting, as “a threshold matter”, the absence of counsel representing CJA – to which I responded by a [November 19th letter](#).

There’s a HUGE amount at stake in this case – and a HUGE payout for lawyers assisting in its success, whether up-front or behind-the-scenes. Most immediately, I need a lawyer to sign the [October 29th verified amended complaint](#) as CJA’s counsel. Will you help me by forwarding the amended verified complaint to the hundreds of lawyers affiliated with Shurat HaDin? Do you not think there is at least one

who would be honored to do that, in a case of such transcending importance? By this e-mail, cc'ing Professor Dershowitz and Lawyers Brafman, Marcus, and Kestenbaum, I ask that they, likewise, forward the amended verified complaint to fellow attorneys who might be more responsive than they have been, thus far.

Please advise by Monday, November 24th, as I must otherwise shop the case to lawyers who obviously would have no reason to share their windfall with Shurat HaDin or Israel.

Thank you.

Elena Sassower
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From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
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Cc: 'melanie@melaniephillips.com' <melanie@melaniephillips.com>

Subject: Counsellors, what are your legal opinions? -- CJA's Federal Lawsuit vs the NYT & Other Press for Rigging Mamdani's Electoral Win as NYC Mayor: "journalistic fraud", "institutional reckless disregard for truth", etc.

TO: Shurat HaDin –
Nitsana Darshan Leitner, Esq.
Rachel May Weisner, Esq.
Professor Alan Dershowitz
Benjamin Brafman, Esq.
Kenneth Marcus, Esq.
Shabbos Kestenbaum, Esq.

cc: Melanie Phillips

I am eagerly awaiting your legal opinions of CJA's federal lawsuit against the NYT & other press for "journalistic fraud" and "institutional reckless disregard for truth" – the subject of my below October 31st e-mail to you.

My non-lawyer opinion is, as stated, that "the lawsuit is a summary judgment case – as there is NO defense to it factually, nor I believe legally. The SOLE issue will be the magnitude of compensatory, presumed, and punitive damages, a jury determination that will reasonably be many tens of billions of dollars." **Am I wrong – and, if so, why?**

Kindly e-mail or call me. Perhaps we can schedule a zoom conference for next week to discuss it – and to coordinate the timing of my service of the verified amended complaint to benefit Shurat HaDin’s own planned lawsuit against the NYT. As I intend to personally serve the NYT, AP, Reuters, CNN, etc., they will have 21 days in which to answer or move – and their responses will obviously be useful in guiding Shurat HaDin’s lawsuit.

BTW, on Tuesday, I paid the \$405 filing fee and got an initial batch of summons signed. Next week, I’ll get the rest of the summons signed and order the printing of the verified amended complaint so that they will be ready for service.

Thank you.

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From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
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Cc: 'dersh@law.harvard.edu' <dersh@law.harvard.edu>; 'Elent@braflaw.com' <Elent@braflaw.com>; 'melanie@melaniephillips.com' <melanie@melaniephillips.com>; 'klmarcus@brandeiscenter.com' <klmarcus@brandeiscenter.com>; 'shabboskestenbaum@gmail.com' <shabboskestenbaum@gmail.com>

Subject: UPDATE: Federal Lawsuit vs the NYT & Other Press for Rigging Mamdani's Electoral Win as NYC Mayor: "journalistic fraud", "institutional reckless disregard for truth", etc.

TO: SHURAT HaDIN

**Founder/Director Nitsana Darshan Leitner, Esq.
CDO/Senior Attorney Rachel May Weiser, Esq.**

Thank you for the spectacular October 27th conference in NYC. It was terrific.

By way of update to my below three e-mails to you, prior to the conference, alerting you that Mamdani’s win as NYC mayor is being rigged by The New York Times and other press and is the subject of a federal lawsuit against them, commenced on October 8th, I have now filed the October 29th verified amended complaint that those e-mails furnished you, in draft. It is above-attached and [here-linked](#).

At the conference, I gave hard copies of the below e-mail chain and of my August 24th announcement “Mobilizing NY’s Jewish, Pro-Israel, & Other Communities” to Professor Dershowitz, to Benjamin Brafman (via his colleague Ezra Lent, Esq.), and to Melanie Phillips, herein cc’d.

Professor Dershowitz agreed to give his assessment of the lawsuit – and, specifically, its constitutional grounds (at paras. 1, 93-95) and causes of action for “journalistic fraud” and “institutional reckless

disregard for truth". These two causes of action should be embodied in such lawsuit as Shurat HaDin will bring against The Times for its "blood libel and defamation" of Israel, which I was thrilled to hear you announce at the conference and thrilled to find included in what appears, thus far, to be the sole [news article about the conference](#).

I would appreciate if criminal law expert Brafman would also give his assessment of the lawsuit – and, specifically, with respect to the EVIDENCE it presents that Mamdani cannot be NYC mayor because he must be indicted and will be convicted of corruption as a NYS assemblyman – EVIDENCE embodied in grand jury/public corruption complaints that the press knowingly and deliberately refused to report, because it is DISPOSITIVE.

As I stated to Professor Dershowitz, the lawsuit is a summary judgment case – as there is NO defense to it factually, nor I believe legally. The SOLE issue will be the magnitude of compensatory, presumed, and punitive damages, a jury determination that will reasonably be many tens of billions of dollars.

I am cc'ing attorneys Kenneth Marcus and Shabbos Kestenbaum, with whom I also spoke about the lawsuit at the conference and whose assessments I invite as well. My goal is to build a crackerjack legal team for the lawsuit, on whose success rests constitutional, lawful governance in New York and the United States, hugely impacting on Israel and the Jewish People. Most immediately, I need guidance in properly serving the 34 defendants, as, for instance, whether I must additionally serve their corporate parents. I also need an attorney to sign the verified amended complaint on behalf of the Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc., which, since I am not an attorney, I cannot do.

To all, I am available to answer questions. Feel free to call, no matter how early or late.

Thank you.

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Subject: TOMORROW's NYC Conference -- ANSWERING THE CALL TO ACTION WITH ACTION: Lawsuit vs the Press for Rigging Mamdani's Electoral Win as NYC Mayor: "journalistic fraud", "institutional reckless disregard for truth", etc.

TO: [SHURAT HaDIN](#)

**Founder/Director Nitsana Darshan Leitner, Esq.
CDO/Senior Attorney Rachel May Weiser, Esq.**

RE: Mamdani's anti-Israel, pro-Hamas falsehoods and the press – and my below e-mails regarding [tomorrow's "urgent call to action" conference in NYC](#) – above-attached and [here-linked](#) is now a further draft of the October 29th Amended Complaint – to which I have made an IMPORTANT expansion to paragraph 38 by the addition of subparagraphs (a) and (b), and corresponding modification to now subparagraph (c). Paragraph 38 (at pp. 59-60) now reads:

38. Many of Plaintiff SASSOWER's e-mails to other defendants included the original chain of her first two and then first three e-mails to Defendant NYT. Or these e-mails were furnished by links, as, for example, in the [August 24th Announcement](#) and [September 4th News Tip/Alert](#), sent to a wide swath of New York and national press, defendants among them, by e-mails stating: "Take your pick".

(a) The chief difference between the "pick" is that the [August 24th Announcement](#) included the following:

"Zohran Mamdani's win as NYC mayor is being rigged by The New York Times and other NY press. In tandem with their pervasive anti-Israel slanting and defamations, giving credibility and resonance to Mamdani's anti-Israel, pro-Hamas falsehoods, they are concealing his corruption as a NYS assemblyman.

...

The catastrophic result of this concealment by The Times and other NY press of what NYC voters most need to know and their incessant reporting of polls, endorsements, and fundraising that their own fraudulent, 'fake news', fawning journalism generates, is that NY's Jewish, pro-Israel, and other communities are dispirited and have been inhibited from mobilizing against Mamdani because of the

purported inevitability of his electoral victory in November.” (underlining in the original).

(b) Upon information and belief, Defendant NYT and other press were fully aware that Mamdani’s repetitive claims that Israel was committing genocide in Gaza and is an apartheid, colonialist state, which they were reporting, are false, but – as with plaintiffs’ [March 14th](#), [March 17th](#), [March 18th](#), and [March 20th](#) e-mails – *did not confront him with evidence rebutting his anti-Israel, pro-Hamas lies*, as, for instance, the scholarly book [Beyond Proportionality: Israel’s Just War in Gaza](#), by New York City resident and law professor Thane Rosenbaum, published May 19th, five weeks before Mamdani’s June 24th Democratic primary win, and produced no reviews or discussions of the book, then or thereafter.

(c) In every material respect, including by their evidentiary hyperlinks, Plaintiff SASSOWER’s e-mails to the other defendants and press are – like her e-mails to Defendant NYT – true, accurate, and correct.

With respect to subparagraph b, I am cc’ing Professor Rosenbaum for his response – and, additionally, such others as CAMERA, HonestReporting, The Lawfare Project, and ZOA, with its Center for Law and Justice, to whom I also sent prior drafts. Can they confirm that subparagraph b is factually correct – and do they have suggested improvements? Also, what are their suggestions for the billions of dollars in damages, compensatory, presumed, and punitive in the “Prayer for Relief” (at pp. 85)? I think my illustrative 8 billion dollars is too low.

Professor Dershowitz is plainly in the best position to judge the constitutional grounds of the federal lawsuit, set forth by paragraphs 1, 84-86. However, as to defendants’ “frauds and conspiracy crimes” – for which the Complaint’s “Other & Further Relief” (at p. 85) seeks referral to criminal authorities – reinforced by paragraph 42 pertaining to my [October 16th letter to the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia](#) – I believe criminal lawyer Benjamin Brafman would be in the best position to judge this and, of course, the truth of my assertions, made throughout, that Mamdani cannot be elected mayor because, based on the open-and-shut, prima facie evidence furnished by my e-mails to him, he must be indicted, and will be convicted, of corruption as a NYS assemblyman. Please forward this e-mail to Mr. Brafman, with whom Professor Dershowitz will be in conversation on the topic “Cross-Examining the World: The Legal Truth About the Genocide Libels Against Israel”.

Also, please forward this e-mail to Melanie Phillips so that she will know, as the keynote speaker on the topic “The War Against the Jews”, that Israel and the Jews have powerful legal remedies to fight back and vindicate the truth against a malevolent, fraud-propagating press – and that an historic federal lawsuit doing just that is NOW HAPPENING!

Finally, I thought you might enjoy the above-attached photo, from 1986, of then Israel Ambassador to the U.N. Benjamin Netanyahu and staff, of which I was one. I'm standing next to him, with the necklace.

Thank you.

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Cc: 'dersh@law.harvard.edu' <dersh@law.harvard.edu>

Subject: UPDATE -- Oct 27th NYC Conference -- Lawsuit vs the Press for Rigging Mamdani's Electoral Win as NYC Mayor: "journalistic fraud", "institutional reckless disregard for truth", etc.

Shavua Tov.

Updating my below e-mail, as to my litigation strategy for taking on the media's flagrant lies about Israel, which have given legitimacy to Mamdani's own, above-attached is a revised draft of the October 29th amended complaint in the federal lawsuit against the press, filed on October 8th. Most significantly, the "Factual Allegations" section now reinforces that this is a summary judgment case by stating, as to each e-mail quoted or described that:

"In every material respect, including by its evidentiary hyperlinks, this e-mail is true, accurate, and correct".

As stated below: "This is an hugely important case for Israel and the Jewish community – and I look forward to discussing it with you at the conference. If you can review it briefly before the conference, that would be most helpful. In any event, kindly forward this e-mail to Professor Dershowitz so that he can familiarize himself with it, as well as to other conference participants for whom it would be relevant, such as Melanie Phillips."

In the event that Professor Dershowitz is reachable *via* his Harvard Law School e-mail address, I am taking the liberty of sending this e-mail to him, directly.

Thank you.

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Subject: Oct 27th NYC Conference -- Lawsuit vs the Press for Rigging Mamdani's Electoral Win as NYC Mayor: "journalistic fraud", "institutional reckless disregard for truth", etc.

TO: Shurat HaDin

**Founder/Director Nitsana Darshan Leitner, Esq.
CDO/Senior Attorney Rachel May Weiser, Esq.**

I am a contributor to Shurat HaDin – and thank you for the important work that you do and for the conference you are holding in NYC on Monday, which I will be attending.

The [conference announcement](#) states:

“The aim is to better unify our activists and our movements, to share individual and organizational information, and to coordinate our strategies for the difficult fights ahead.

This is not just another event – it’s an urgent call to action. Your voice and your presence are crucial. Together we will prevail.”

As we cannot prevail without taking on the flagrant lies of the media, I have commenced a lawsuit against 25 press defendants for their knowingly-false, corruption-abetting, election-rigging journalism, focused on their rigging of Zohran Mamdani’s electoral win to be NYC mayor – with four causes of action: “journalistic fraud”, “institutional reckless disregard for truth”, “defrauding purchasers, contributors, & taxpayers”, and “conspiracy”.

On October 8th, I filed the verified complaint in the US District Court for the Southern District of New York – and thereupon e-mailed it to the 25 defendants. I also e-mailed it to other press entities – and these I have now included as defendants by a verified amended complaint that I plan to file on October 29th. Above-attached and here-linked is the [October 29th draft](#). Upon its being filed, with my payment of the filing fee, I will be issued summons so that I can effect service upon the now 34 defendants, for which I have 90 days.

This is an hugely important case for Israel and the Jewish community – and I look forward to discussing it with you at the conference. If you can review it briefly before the conference, that would be most helpful. In any event, kindly forward this e-mail to Professor Dershowitz so that he can familiarize himself with it, as well as to other conference participants for whom it would be relevant, such as Melanie Phillips.

Thank you.

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