

From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Monday, September 15, 2025 2:37 PM
To: 'michaelswartz@rcn.com'; 'whitecloudrabbi@gmail.com'
Cc: 'potomacrebbe@bnaitzedek.org'; 'ssilberberg@zionistrabbis.org';
'rabbihirsch@swfs.org'; 'rabbiassistant@swfs.org';
'rabbi@westsidejewishcenter.org'; 'rsc@ckj.org'; 'info@nybr.org';
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'eyanoff@adathisrael.org'
Subject: E-Mail to Zionist Rabbinic Coalition Advisory Board Members Rabbis Michal Swartz & Aaron Melman -- RE: Action Plan -- Mamdani & The NYT & Other Press

Attachments: [mobilizing-8-24-25.pdf](#)

TO: Zionist Rabbinic Coalition Advisory Board Members Rabbi Michael Swartz and Rabbi Aaron Melman

Below is my [yesterday's e-mail](#), which bounced back as to you because, in the case of Rabbi Swartz, I had erroneously typed your e-mail address, and, in the case of Rabbi Melman, because your e-mail address and congregational affiliation, appearing on the [Advisory Board webpage](#), have not been updated.

You also had both not received my [September 1st e-mail](#) that is beneath it, for the same reasons.

Apologies.

Elena Sassower, Director
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)
914-421-1200

From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Sunday, September 14, 2025 4:03 PM
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Subject: Where is your ACTION PLAN for preventing Mamdani from becoming NYC mayor and for ending the knowingly false journalism by the NYT & other press that has destroyed NY's constitutional, lawful governance and is destroying Israel?

TO: [ZIONIST RABBINIC COALITION FOUNDER & CHAIR RABBI STUART WEINBLATT](#)

Where is your ACTION PLAN for preventing Mamdani from becoming NYC mayor and for shutting off the deluge of *knowingly false* journalism by The New York Times and other press that has destroyed constitutional, lawful governance in NYS and is destroying Israel?

By my below September 1st e-mail, I presented you with my ACTION PLAN, to which I received no response from you, nor from the 23 other members of the [Zionist Rabbinic Coalition's Advisory Board](#) – all cc'd, including its three NYC rabbis, each in positions of “Leadership” at [The New York Board of Rabbis](#): [Rabbi Ammiel Hirsch, ESQ.](#), its president, [Rabbi Jason Herman](#), a vice president, and [Rabbi Chaim Steinmetz](#), a corresponding secretary.

What, if anything, do you – and they – deny or dispute about my **September 1st e-mail** and its above-attached **August 24th “MOBILIZING NEW YORK's JEWISH, PRO-ISRAEL & OTHER COMMUNITIES” announcement** -- and, if nothing, why was immediate action not taken to secure reporting, including by the rabbis themselves, of the primary source, documentary EVIDENCE it furnished, not only bringing down Mamdani, but the LYING NYT and other press. And why, as it plainly appears, have you not forwarded the e-mail to the Coalition's membership so that your upwards of a thousand rabbis could determine for themselves their Jewish and civic obligations to secure reporting, or themselves report, what has been going on and disseminate same to their congregants.

For the benefit of the 23 other Advisory Board members, herein cc'd, here's what you said to [JNS Editor-in-Chief Jonathan Tobin](#) for his September 11th "Think Twice" interview of you, "[Are rabbis failing the Israel test?](#)", wherein, after you and he bemoaned the deluge of false narratives about Israel by the [NYT](#) and other press – and the catastrophic effect it has had, not only on the general community, but on the Jewish community and rabbis, in skyrocketing hostility to Israel – the conversation turned to Mamdani (at 42 mins):

Tobin: "Let me just drill down into this question of how the Jewish community reacts to candidates, you know, and one prominent example that is coming up this year...in New York, where Zohran Mamdani, the Democratic candidate for mayor of New York City, is an open anti-Zionist, you know won't even condemn chants of 'from the river to the sea' or 'globalize the intifada', which are calls for Jewish genocide, for terrorism against Jews. How do rabbis, how do you think rabbis should react to an election where we clearly have a candidate, you know not merely just a Republican or Democrat who takes different stands on Israel, but is clearly anti-Zionist, clearly, at best, you could say soft on antisemitism, if not an open antisemite himself?"

Weinblatt: "This is clearly a major problem. And this is of a whole different category than anything we've experienced before. This is someone who has not only refused to denounce antisemitic tropes, but has actually embraced them. And as a result, I think we do, in this instance, have an obligation to clearly articulate and to make sure that people are informed of the nature of the threat this individual poses to, not just to the Jewish community, the Jewish People, but to all of New York and even beyond. Because this election is going to be the one that is going to be watched very closely and it will be sending a ripple effect and messages way beyond the Jewish community and for many years to come. So the stakes in that particular election, you know every presidential election they always say, this is the most important presidential election of our lifetime...but this mayoral election in NYC really and truly is an extremely an important one and it might be an exception to what I said earlier, where I said that rabbis should stay away, and probably will stay away, from speaking politics on the pulpit, I hope that rabbis in the New York area do make sure that their people know about what is at stake and why it is so important. Because I think that people recognize and know what is and know what he is saying, but perhaps what I think people need to know much better is the impact and the danger of Mamdani potentially becoming the mayor of the city with, outside Israel, the largest Jewish population. It would be unconscionable to allow this to happen. This is someone who has said he would arrest the prime minister of Israel if he were to set foot in New York... A city which breathes with Jewish culture, and yet to try to promote anti-Israel, antisemitic concepts is, I think, is very, very disconcerting and worrisome to all of us who care about the future, not just of Judaism but of our country."

Tobin: “Yeah, and I think that election in terms of the reaction within the Jewish community is itself, you know, perhaps a tipping point...”

Weinblatt: “It is inconceivable to me to how any committed Jew, or rabbi who cares about the Jewish People, not only the Jewish People, but within the context of what all of this represents, his embrace of these tropes, when they say the river and the sea, they are not talking about the Hudson River....”

Tobin: “Yeah, so the stakes there are very high.”

Please advise – and also to Mr. Tobin, herein cc’d, who I have repeatedly alerted to the situation, beginning with my [July 11th e-mail](#) entitled “HEADS UP! / LEAD: Mamdani is corrupt & has been protected, in toto, by NY’s press. Here’s the PROOF –”, but who has reported NOTHING.

Suffice to add that in the two weeks since my September 1st e-mail to you, I have not been simply waiting. Rather, armed with the SAME readily-verifiable TRUTH that my September 1st e-mail furnished, I have been working hard, full-time, consistent with what I know to be my obligations as a Jew and patriotic American, to save Israel, to save New York, and to save these United States. In this, I have been completely alone and have many times steeled myself by reciting “[במקום שאין אנשים, השתדל להיות איש](#)” — the same as you recited to Mr. Tobin in response to his final question as to “what role, really, can rabbis play... how can they inspire Jews...right now in this moment to put their fingers in the dike and stem the tide” (at 49 mins). Illustrative is my [September 9th e-mail to NYC’s business leaders and financial titans](#) entitled “GOOD NEWS! You can take out Mamdani, easily & without money, for corruption as a NYS assemblyman -- & you can do it as leaders of a patriotic non-partisan battle for honest, accountable, constitutional governance.” Perhaps Rabbi Hirsch will fill you in on more.

I close by pointing out that since my first July 11th e-mail to Mr. Tobin and my first outreach to you, exactly one month ago, on [August 14th](#), the situation has deteriorated, dramatically. Reflecting this, courtesy of the NYT, is its September 12th article “[Mamdani, if Elected Mayor, Pledges to Order N.Y.P.D. to Arrest Netanyahu](#)”, with its regurgitated LIES and slanting against Israel and its linked-to September 10th article “[Gaza War Turns New Yorkers Against Israel, With Mayor’s Race as Backdrop](#)” reporting on its NYT-Siena poll rigged by its own fraudulent journalism and that of other press – and concealing the outrage and hypocrisy of a Mamdani “stand[ing] up for international law” and purporting “leadership” and “values”, when, as proven by open-and-shut, *prima facie* EVIDENCE, Mamdani, as a NYS assemblyman since January 2021, has been flagrantly violating NY’s state constitution and state laws, causing vast, irreparable injury to governance and the People of New York, all the while rewarding himself for his crimes by pocketing a legislative salary he knows to be fraudulent – EVIDENCE the NYT and other NY press had three months *before* Mamdani’s June 24th Democratic primary victory – and, repeatedly since.

[CAMERA](#), which you pitched at the end of your “Think Twice” interview (at 52 mins), is aware of the situation, as is [Honest Reporting](#) – and so-reflected by my [August 19th e-mail to Jerusalem Post Editor-in-Chief Zvika Klein](#), which my September 1st e-mail furnished you by its link to my [August 22nd proposal to The Lawfare Project](#), also furnished to [Zionist Organization of America’s Center for Law and Justice](#), for assistance in bringing a federal lawsuit against the NYT and such other press as AP for their election-rigging “journalistic fraud” for Mamdani and suggesting that Prime Minister Netanyahu bring a separate federal lawsuit for defamation of himself and Israel, with causes of action for “journalistic fraud” and “institutional reckless disregard for truth”. I am cc’ing CAMERA and Honest Reporting on this e-mail so

that their critiques of the NYT's shocking and catastrophic September 10th and September 12th articles will expose its criminal concealment, with other press, of Mamdani's corruption as a NYS assemblyman, without which he cannot be elected NYC mayor.

I am also cc'ing, in addition to The Lawfare Project and ZOA's Center for Law and Justice, Holocaust scholars [Dr. Rafael Medoff](#), author of [The Deafening Silence: American Jewish Leaders and the Holocaust](#), who is president and founding director of the [David Wyman Institute for Holocaust Studies](#), and [Professor Laurel Leff](#), author of [Buried by The Times: The Holocaust and America's Most Important Newspaper](#), who is a member of the Wyman Institute's Advisory Board, so that they can contribute their historical insight and chronicle, *in real time*, this pivotal moment in history.

May I hear from you soon, in this [final week of Elul before Rosh HaShanah](#) and consistent therewith. Or were you planning to respond during the [Aseret Yamei Teshuvah](#)? TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE, obviously.

Thank you.

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From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
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Subject: Mamdani is a danger to Israel & the Jewish People -- & cannot survive reporting of his corruption as a NYS assemblyman, as the NYT & other NY press know, in reporting nothing about it. HERE's THE ACTION PLAN, consistent with yours --

TO: ZIONIST RABBINIC COALITION FOUNDER & CHAIR RABBI STUART WEINBLATT

I am a Jew, Zionist, lived in Israel for four years, and worked for 10 months at the Israel Mission to the UN under Benjamin Netanyahu, who I greatly respect. I am, additionally, director and co-founder of the NY-based nonpartisan, nonprofit citizens' organization [Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. \(CJA\)](#) – and, [for decades](#), have documented the *knowingly false* journalism of [The New York Times](#) and other press pertaining to U.S. governance, specifically relating to judicial selection and discipline on federal and NY state and local levels – essentially paralleling what CAMERA ([Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting and Analysis](#)) and [HonestReporting](#) document about how [The Times](#) and other press report and editorialize about Israel.

These two strands of knowingly false journalism, as to Israel and as to NY state and local governance, have led to the rise of Zohran Mamdani to be NYC's next mayor. The pervasive anti-Israel slanting and defamations of the [NYT](#) and other NY press have given credibility and resonance to Mamdani's anti-Israel, pro-Hamas falsehoods, while, simultaneously, these outlets have concealed, *in toto*, his corruption as a NYS assemblyman, for which he must be indicted and will be convicted – the EVIDENCE of which they have, but do not report. The result of their flagrant election-rigging for Mamdani – including their propagating of polls rigged by their journalism – is that Jewish and pro-Israel communities, among so many others, are dispirited and inhibited from mobilizing against him because of the purported inevitability of his electoral victory in November. **This is catastrophic, as Mamdani can be defeated, easily and without money, simply by the press doing its job of reporting on the EVIDENCE of his corruption as a NYS assemblyman, destroying constitutional, lawful state governance and causing vast, irreparable injury to the People of NY.**

The Jewish and pro-Israel communities, among others, **MUST be alerted to this** – and, by the above-attached announcement entitled **"SPREAD THE WORD – Mamdani's Win as NYC Mayor is being Rigged by the NYT & Other NY Press, Concealing his Corruption as a NYS Assemblyman – A Scandal He Cannot Survive"**, I have sought to do just that. On Friday, August 29th, by my below e-mail, I furnished it to [The New York Board of Rabbis](#), whose president, Rabbi Ammiel Hirsch, and corresponding secretary, Rabbi Chaim Steinmetz, are members of [the Zionist Rabbinic Coalition's Advisory Board](#). As TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE, I am directly forwarding it to you and cc'ing ALL members of the Advisory Board, for distribution to ALL the Coalition's "over 1,000 rabbis from diverse American congregations...committed to supporting Israel", for ALL appropriate action. This includes help in securing a favorable response from the [Zionist Organization of America's Center for Law and Justice](#) and [The Lawfare Project](#), herein cc'd, to my requests to them for assistance in bringing a federal lawsuit against the [NYT](#) and such other press as [AP](#) for their election-rigging "journalistic fraud" for Mamdani. Here's my [August 22nd proposal to The Lawfare Project](#), which I also furnished to ZOA, outlining the lawsuit and additionally suggesting a separate federal lawsuit by Prime Minister Netanyahu for defamation of himself and Israel, with causes of action for "journalistic fraud" and "institutional reckless disregard for truth".

Suffice to note that you have repeatedly recognized that it is the press that is largely responsible for the plummeting public support for Israel, including among Jews and rabbis. Three years ago, in the week before Rosh Hashana, in a podcast interview of you by [Jewish News Syndicate](#) Editor-in-Chief Jonathan

Toban entitled "[Is it okay for a rabbi to be anti-Israel?](#)", posted on the Zionist Rabbinic Coalition's website, you stated:

"...one of the problems has to do with what are our sources of information. And so much of what American rabbis digest and process comes from The New York Times, which is unabashedly not sympathetic toward Israel, Zionism..." (at 18 mins).

Most recently, in your July 28, 2025 article "[Needed: Rabbis Who Stand Up For Jews](#)", you stated:

"The attacks against the Jewish state are fueled by the almost daily barrage of articles and columns in the New York Times and other once respectable outlets harshly critical with negative portrayals of Israel, which are often inaccurate, and often written by Jewish commentators."

Two days later you placed the media first in the "plan of action" of your July 30th article "[Fighting Antisemitism Before It's Too Late](#)", stating:

"Mainstream media outlets play a significant role in stoking hostility toward Jews and Israel.

...

News outlets must take responsibility for their role in promoting and encouraging antisemitism and hostility towards Israel. We need to demand that they objectively report the truth."

The Zionist Rabbinic Coalition's [homepage](#) features both articles, along with the [August 2nd "Moment of Complexity" sermon for Shabbat Devarim](#) by Advisory Board Member Rabbi Nolan Lebovitz, which, focusing on the false, defamatory journalism of the NYT and other media that have incited the world against Israel in its just war against Hamas, gives a clarion call for what must be done:

"The mainstream media should do an accounting of its soul. And that's why moments like this, rooms like this, that were perhaps not intended to be places where news is disseminated, needs to now become transformed into places where truth is spoken in a world where truth does not matter. (at 12 mins.) ...

In a world where truth no longer matters, let us be the group that demands the ascension of the value of truth again. Let us re-establish the preeminence of facts and sources and do the work that reporters in the media are no longer willing to do. May G-d give us the strength...the ability as Jews to...safeguard the truth, especially at this moment. And my G-d always bless and protect the State of Israel and the United States of America." (at 34 mins).

Neither Israel nor the United States can survive the deluge of flagrant falsehoods that are the stock-in-trade of the NYT and other press – and the story of what they have been doing in election-rigging for Mamdani by their *knowingly* false and "fake news" journalism -- the EVIDENCE of which is accessible from my "[SPREAD THE WORD](#)" announcement – is its own HUGE scandal that they will not survive. It, too, must be reported – with their *modus operandi* of *knowing* falsehoods and deceits shut down by the federal lawsuit I have here placed before you, with its summary judgement entitlement to massive compensatory and punitive damages.

I am eager to discuss this with you and the rabbis of the Zionist Rabbinic Coalition, individually and collectively, so that a successful action plan can be developed and implemented. I am available, *no matter how early or late*. Please let me hear from you by this Friday, September 5th, before Shabbat.

Thank you.

Elena Ruth Sassower, Director
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From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>

Sent: Friday, August 29, 2025 10:11 AM

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Subject: The Jewish & Civic Responsibilities of the NY Board of Rabbis to EVIDENCE of Zohran Mamdani's Corruption as a NYS Assemblyman, Destroying Constitutional, Lawful, State Governance, Unreported by the Press

TO: THE NEW YORK BOARD OF RABBIS

[Rabbi Ammiel Hirsch, ESQ.](#), President – Stephen Wise Free Synagogue (R) – Manhattan
[Rabbi Joseph Potasnik, ESQ.](#), Executive Vice President
[Rabbi Diana Gerson](#), Associate Executive Vice President
[Rabbi Elliot Cosgrove](#), Vice President – Park Avenue Synagogue (C) – Manhattan
[Rabbi Jason Herman](#), Vice President – Hudson Yards Synagogue (O) – Manhattan
[Rabbi Deborah Bravo](#), Vice President – Makom NY (R) – Nassau
[Rabbi Howard Stecker](#), Treasurer -- Temple Israel of Great Neck – (C) – Nassau
[Rabbi Steven Exler](#), Treasurer – Hebrew Institute of Riverdale (O) – Bronx
[Rabbi Rachel Ain](#), Financial Secretary – Sutton Place Synagogue (C) – Manhattan
[Rabbi Angela Buchdahl](#), Financial Secretary – Central Synagogue (R) – Manhattan
[Rabbi Susie Heneson Moskowitz](#), Recording Secretary – Temple Beth Torah (R) - Suffolk
[Rabbi Sara Hurwitz](#), Recording Secretary – Yeshivat Maharat (O) – Bronx
[Rabbi Manes Kogan](#), Corresponding Secretary – Hillcrest Jewish Center (C) – Queens
[Rabbi Chaim Steinmetz](#), Corresponding Secretary – Kehilath Jeshurun (O) – Manhattan

I am a Jew, Zionist, lived in Israel for four years, and worked for 10 months at the Israel Mission to the UN under Benjamin Netanyahu, who I greatly respect.

I am also co-founder and director of the NY-based nonpartisan, nonprofit citizens' organization [Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. \(CJA\)](#) – and, in that capacity, interacted with Zohran Mamdani, by four e-mails, in 2020, when he was running to be elected as a NYS assemblyman from Queens, and again, this year, by four e-mails in March, when he was running to win the Democratic NYC mayoral primary. Based thereon – and my interaction, by many, many e-mails, with a wide swath of NY press, both before the primary and since – I have been disseminating the above-attached announcement to mobilize NY's Jewish, pro-Israel, and other communities entitled [“SPREAD THE WORD – Mamdani's Win as NYC Mayor is being Rigged by the NYT & Other NY Press, Concealing his Corruption as a NYS Assemblyman – A Scandal He Cannot Survive”](#).

I take the occasion of this [Shabbat Shoftim](#) to respectfully request that you read the one-page announcement and examine its EVIDENTIARY links, from which will be obvious your duty as Jews, citizens, and rabbis to take appropriate action to ensure reporting by the press or by other means of the EVIDENCE of Mamdani's corruption as a NYS assemblyman, involving his knowledge of, and complicity in, the corruption of NY's judiciary, at its highest levels, in colluding with the legislative and executive branches in destroying constitutional, lawful, state governance, of which he has been a direct beneficiary, including by his salary.

As you will be guided by the Torah and our other sacred texts, by modern codes of ethics and civic responsibility largely based thereon, by the foundational documents and laws of our United States and New York State, and by history, I have no doubt that in discussions amongst yourselves, with your Board of Governors, and with the “over 750 rabbis” who are your members, there will be unanimity that doing nothing is NOT an option, individually or collectively.

I am available to answer questions, *no matter how early or late*, and I swear to the truth of the content of my announcement, under penalties of our Torah and perjury.

As TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE, please let me hear from you by next Shabbat.

Thank you.

Elena Ruth Sassower, Director
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