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February 10, 2005

Norman G. Finkelstein

Dear Ms. Withey:

I have not received a response to my letter of January 11, 2005. This is somewhat surprising since I offered to work together with you in a non-confrontational way, allowing us to balance whatever legitimate interests the Press may have with Professor Dershowitz's undoubted right not to be defamed. It should not have been hard for you to respond positively, given your assurances to Professor Dershowitz on December 14. Since I am keen to get assurances that the Press is taking steps to protect Professor Dershowitz from the attacks of this serial defamer, I write to your colleagues, too, and attach another copy of my prior letter as Tab 1.

Although I do not know what the Press is doing to prepare for the upcoming unpleasantness, I am willing to share two further items of our preparation. First, I attach (as Tab 2) a letter that Professor Dershowitz sent to the New Press on April 30, which provides more detail on the second half of item Sixth in my prior letter. Second, Professor Dershowitz has asked that a lawsuit be prepared against Finkelstein. Your knowledge of this fact requires that you to keep all drafts and documents relating to his screed. Thank you.

Although your preparation did not include responding to me, it has involved distribution of the galley to the willing footsoldiers of deceit. Professor Dershowitz has just received the attached two emails from someone who claims to have an advanced copy of the Finkelstein book. (See Tab 3.)

The Press' decision to publish this book is being used to give a fig leaf of legitimacy to the wholly illegitimate. And, even if you excise some of the more outrageous falsehoods from the book, you are stuck with these people and their penchant for defamation. Imagine the book tour. Finkelstein will repeat his falsehoods, thus implicating even the sanitized Press. If the Press uses the fact that Prof. Dershowitz is suing Finkelstein in the publicity for the book, or if the Press allows Finkelstein to use its

imprimatur to give credence to the defamatory charges he repeatedly makes in his speeches, the public will not be able to distinguish the defamations that Finkelstein spreads orally and over the internet from what he says in the book. You cannot control him. If you read his speeches--as we urge you to do, and will be happy to provide you copies of--they demonstrate that this is a man out of control, who will say anything regardless of its obvious falsity, so long as it defames Prof. Dershowitz. No assurances from him that he will control himself, or limit himself to what you have vetted for publication, will suffice, in light of his long and continuing track record of defamation. And Finkelstein constantly used the imprimatur of your publishing house to gain credibility for his libels and slanders. For example, in the clearly defamatory letter Finkelstein wrote to the Dean of Harvard Law School, Finkelstein says that:

“I am right now completing a book manuscript for University of California Press, a large part of which is devoted to Alan Dershowitz. (See Amazon.com under ‘Beyond Chutzpah’ for details.)...My book will devote a full chapter to conclusively documenting Dershowitz’s plagiarism. I will also demonstrate that he almost certainly didn’t write the book, and perhaps didn’t even read it prior to publication. (The remainder will demonstrate that every substantive sentence in his book on the Israeli-Palestine is fraudulent, a remarkable achievement.)”

Your publication of his book--whether or not you arrange a book tour and/or promote it through advertising--will give Finkelstein a platform for his defamation. By publishing his attack on Prof. Dershowitz, you will become part of a conspiracy to defame him. The only way to extricate yourself is immediately to terminate all professional contact with this full-time malicious defamer.

I look forward to a response, either from you or one of your colleagues.

Sincerely,



Rory O. Millson

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