

ALAN M. DERSHOWITZ

1575 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02138

June 16, 2004

Via Fed Ex

Mr. Colin Robinson
Publisher
The New Press
38 Greene Street
New York, NY 10013

PERSONAL, CONFIDENTIAL AND
OFF-THE-RECORD COMMUNICATION -
NOT FOR PUBLICATION

Dear Mr. Robinson:

I am writing this letter to report a serious breach of publishing ethics committed by Rohit Goel. You told me that he was working as a fact-checker for your publishing company on a book by Norman Finkelstein. Last week Goel called Dr. Michael Baden and represented himself as working for me - - Alan Dershowitz. He said he was working on my book for my publisher and that he was calling to check some facts for me. It was on that basis that Dr. Baden spoke with him.

Only after eliciting information from Dr. Baden based on his misrepresentation, did Goel clearly identify himself as working for Finkelstein and against me. He then criticized Dr. Baden for the conclusions he had incorporated in his letter to me. He claimed that Dr. Baden's letter contradicted a report by the Physicians For Human Rights and statements made at a press conference. Since these events occurred years ago, Dr. Baden understandably asked Goel to send him the material he claimed contradicted his recent statement. Goel agreed to do so. But then, according to an email sent by Goel to Dr. Baden, "after speaking with my boss, Norman Finkelstein, the author of the forthcoming book on Alan Dershowitz and the "new anti-Semitism," I will not be able to provide you with the Physicians for Human Rights report or the Press Conference you gave in 1992 after you conducted the autopsy of Akawi."

There are several ethical problems implicit in the actions taken by Goel and Finkelstein. First and foremost, a fact-checker who misrepresents himself as working for me has violated not only journalistic ethics, but my legal rights. I intend to pursue all legal remedies against Goel and Finkelstein for this willful and illegal misrepresentation. This misrepresentation may also constitute a violation of criminal law, since it was fraudulently done over the telephone and by wire. Second, Goel now claims that Norman Finkelstein is his boss. This is completely contradictory to what he told me. He told me that his only interest was in checking facts for you and that he was hired by the publisher to protect the publisher from factual errors made by Finkelstein. He now says that Finkelstein is his "boss." This demonstrates a clear conflict of

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interest in Goel's role. Finally, it is not the role of a fact-checker for a publisher to threaten a source, as Goel clearly threatened Dr. Baden in his boss's name.

All in all, this is conduct totally unbecoming a reasonable publishing company. I do not know whether you are aware of this pattern of behavior, which is all too typical of Finkelstein. If not, this note, along with the others I have previously sent you, is intended to put you on notice so that you can take all appropriate action.

As I have previously written to you, I have no interest in trying to prevent the publication of a book critical of me, since I can adequately defend myself in the marketplace of ideas. I insist, however, that all the alleged facts in the book be checked in an objective manner, especially in light of Finkelstein's long track record of misstating facts and misrepresenting the truth, of which you are aware. The fact-checking process currently in place does not meet those standards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Alan Durnavitz".

Enclosure: Goel email

cc: New Press Board of Directors