

## NOTICE OF FILING

### Details of Filing

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File Title: ALON CASSUTO v MARY KOSTAKIDIS  
Registry: VICTORIA REGISTRY - FEDERAL COURT OF AUSTRALIA



*Sia Lagos*

Registrar

### Important Information

This Notice has been inserted as the first page of the document which has been accepted for electronic filing. It is now taken to be part of that document for the purposes of the proceeding in the Court and contains important information for all parties to that proceeding. It must be included in the document served on each of those parties.

The date of the filing of the document is determined pursuant to the Court's Rules.



Form 59  
Rule 29.02(1)

**Affidavit**

No. VID404 of 2025

Federal Court of Australia  
District Registry: Victoria  
Division: General

**ALON CASSUTO**

Applicant

**MARY KOSTAKIDIS**

Respondent

Affidavit of: **Raphael Yehudah Leibler**  
Address: Level 21, 333 Collins Street, Melbourne VIC 3000  
Occupation: Solicitor  
Date: 14 April 2026

**Contents**

Document number	Details	Paragraph	Page
1	Affidavit of Raphael Yehudah Leibler in support of orders sought by Mr Cassuto for non-standard discovery, affirmed on 14 April 2026.	–	2–8
2	“ <b>Exhibit RYL-2</b> ”, being a paginated bundle of documents referred to in this affidavit.	[4]	9–32

Filed on behalf of (name & role of party) Alon Cassuto – The Applicant  
 Prepared by (name of person/lawyer) Raphael Leibler  
 Law firm (if applicable) Arnold Bloch Leibler  
 Tel (03) 9229 9693 Fax \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email rleibler@abl.com.au and lzwier@abl.com.au  
**Address for service** Level 21, 333 Collins Street, Melbourne VIC 3000  
 (include state and postcode) \_\_\_\_\_

[Version 3 form approved 02/05/2019]

Signed by:  
*Jeremy Brown*  
32F02342EC474BA...

DocuSigned by:  
*Raphael Leibler*  
8B4A9140AA814A5...

I, Raphael Yehudah Leibler, of Level 21, 333 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria, 3000, solicitor, affirm:

1. I am a partner at Arnold Bloch Leibler (**ABL**), the solicitors for Alon Cassuto. Together with Leon Zwier, I have the care and conduct of this proceeding on behalf of Mr Cassuto.
2. Except where I otherwise indicate, I make this affidavit from my own knowledge. Where I depose to matters from information and belief, I believe those matters to be true.
3. I am not authorised to waive legal professional privilege. Nothing in this affidavit should be construed as waiving legal professional privilege. To the extent that anything in this affidavit may be so construed, I withdraw and do not rely on that part of this affidavit.
4. I have previously affirmed an affidavit in this proceeding on 17 December 2025. Exhibited and shown to me at the time of affirming this affidavit is a bundle of documents to which I refer in this affidavit that are paginated and marked "**RYL-2**". Where I refer to a document within Exhibit RYL-2, I do so by referring to the page number within the bundle.
5. I make this affidavit in support of Mr Cassuto's application, filed on 19 March 2026, seeking an order pursuant to Rule 20.15 of the *Federal Court Rules 2011* (Cth) (**Rules**) for non-standard discovery, or in the alternative, an order pursuant to Rule 20.14 of the Rules for standard discovery (**Cassuto Discovery Application**).

### Background

6. On 31 March 2025, the Applicant commenced this proceeding by filing an originating application seeking relief under s 18C of the *Racial Discrimination Act 1975* in respect of two posts published by the Respondent on the platform 'X' (formerly Twitter) in January 2024 (**Proceeding**).
7. On 16 May 2025, the Respondent filed an application seeking to strike out the whole, or substantially all, of the Applicant's amended statement of claim (**ASOC**).
8. On 9 October 2025, McDonald J made orders striking out a number of paragraphs with a right to replead those paragraphs, and otherwise dismissing the application (*Cassuto v Kostakidis* [2025] FCA 1226). The Court did not strike out parts of the ASOC that referred to statements made by the Respondent after the date of the Posts. Pursuant to the leave granted by his Honour, the Applicant filed a Further Amended Statement of Claim on 31 October 2025.

Signed by:

*Jeremy Brown*

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*Raphael Leibler*

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9. On 18 December 2025, McDonald J made orders for the parties to file any application for standard or non-standard discovery and, failing agreement, to file evidence in support of their applications.
10. On 10 March 2026, the Respondent's solicitors filed and served an application for non-standard discovery (**Kostakidis Discovery Application**) and affidavit in support affirmed by Jack Douglas Vaughan on 10 March 2026.
11. On 19 March 2026, the Applicant's solicitors filed and served the Cassuto Discovery Application, a copy of which is at **pages 10 to 13 of RYL-2**.

### Agreed Categories

12. Following conferral between Counsel for the Applicant and the Respondent, I understand that the following categories of the Cassuto Discovery Application are agreed between the parties:
  1. All posts/tweets, replies, reposts/retweets, threaded posts, likes and interactions, profile information and media files made using or recorded on the X account @marykostakidis in the Relevant Period, together with associated metadata (including any deleted, edited, or archived content).
  2. Drafts of the Posts.
  3. Documents created in the Relevant Period recording communications relating to the Posts.
  4. Documents created in the Relevant Period recording or referring to the purposes for which the Respondent published the Posts.

For the avoidance of doubt, documents solely containing third party opinion-concerning the Posts or the Applicant's purposes in making the Posts are not required to be produced under category 3 or 4.
  5. Documents created in the Relevant Period recording statements made by the Respondent referring to Israel, Israelis, the Jewish people, Jewish organisations, Zionists or Zionism, the Holocaust, Hezbollah, Hassan Nasrallah, Hamas or Yahya Al-Sinwar (including derivations or abbreviations of any of the above terms).
  6. Documents evidencing any agreement, acknowledgment, membership, accreditation, or other acceptance by the Respondent of any Australian or international professional code of ethics, code of practice, editorial standard, or professional guideline applicable to journalists in the Relevant Period.
  7. Any document recording or referring to a contract, arrangement or understanding, in existence in the Relevant Period, between the Respondent and a third party in relation

Signed by:  
*Jeremy Brown*  
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*Raphael Leibler*  
8B4A9140AA814A5...

to her activism or activity on social media, excluding standard terms and conditions that the Respondent has agreed to with a social media platform (including X) by virtue of her membership of that platform.

Where:

...

**Posts** means 4 January Post and 13 January Post (as defined in the Applicant's Further Amended Statement of Claim).

13. The only dispute between the parties in respect of the Cassuto Discovery Application concerns the end date in the definition of "Relevant Period".

14. In the Cassuto Discovery Application, the Applicant defines the Relevant Period as follows:

***Relevant Period*** means 1 January 2023 to 16 March 2026.

15. I understand that following conferral, the Respondent seeks to define Relevant Period as follows:

***Relevant Period*** means 1 January 2023 to 19 March 2025.

#### **Post-commencement statements**

16. Since 19 March 2025, the Respondent has continued to publish and republish posts on X in relation to the Proceeding, the Posts, and the subject matter raised in the Proceeding. The paragraphs that follow set out a number of examples, intended to be illustrative rather than exhaustive.


#### ***Statements about the Proceeding and the Posts***

17. Since 19 March 2025, the Respondent has on multiple occasions publicly commented on the Proceeding, her reasons for publishing the Posts and the alleged attempt by the Applicant to silence or constrain her freedom of speech. Examples include:

(a) On 16 June 2025, the Respondent published a post on X referring to the Proceeding and her reasons for publishing the Posts. The post included the following statements:

... Over a year ago and several months into Israel's genocide of the Palestinian people, in posting a clip of a speech by Nasrallah, I warned about the escalating

Signed by:  
  
32F02342EC474BA...

DocuSigned by:  
  
8B4A9140AA814A5...

danger, saying Netanyahu has started something he can't finish. Now his irresponsible attack on Iran has placed Israeli citizens in grave danger.

In my post, referring to Nasrallah calling for Israeli dual passport holders to leave, I said the Israeli government is getting some of its own medicine because that is precisely what Israel wanted the Palestinians to do - leave (but they in fact, thanks to Israel, hold no passport at all). For those two statements in one post, Zionists here have weaponised Australian anti discrimination law to launch costly proceedings in the Federal Court and to deter me from reporting, discussing and analysing events of enormous public significance as they unfold....

A copy of the Respondent's 16 June 2025 post is at **page 14** of **RYL-2**.

- (b) On 9 August 2025, the Respondent published on her X account a post that included a video of Hassan Nasrallah, the former leader of Hezbollah, giving a speech in January 2024. The Respondent's post referred to "a significant statement from the assassinated leader of Hezbollah" and stated at the end of the post:

1. I am entitled to repost this, as you are entitled to know about it.
2. We are also both entitled to have an opinion about his comment. This is the sort of post that has triggered Zionist law-fare against me.

A copy of the Respondent's 9 August 2025 post is at **page 15** of **RYL-2**.

- (c) On 24 and 27 February 2026, the Respondent published on her X account updates on the mediation between the parties. In her 27 February update, the Respondent stated:

As an Australian and as a journalist I have a responsibility to stand up for our right to criticise... No one should presume they are entitled to hijack our deliberations and conclusions made in good faith, to the best of our ability, and after taking into account the views of all parties to a conflict and stakeholders.

A copy of the Respondent's 24 and 27 February 2026 posts are respectively at **pages 16** and **17** of **RYL-2**.

- (d) On 2 March 2026, the Respondent republished on her X account a post containing a video posted by the account Kerry Burgess. The Respondent's post concluded with the following statement:

Signed by:

*Jeremy Brown*

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DocuSigned by:

*Raphael Leibler*

8B4A9140AA814A5...

Israel and its unconditional supporters have succeeded in making Jewish people feel unsafe everywhere, including Israel. This man is echoing Nasrallah, telling dual passport holders to leave, not Palestine, but America. What a mess.

A copy of the Respondent's 2 March 2026 post is at **page 18** of **RYL-2**.

- (e) On 6 March 2026, the Respondent shared an article which stated that the Proceeding was "a coordinated effort to silence reporting and criticisms of the behaviour of a foreign power". A copy is at **pages 19 to 22** of **RYL-2**.

*Statements about relevant contextual matters*

18. Since 19 March 2025, the Respondent has continued to publish and republish statements concerning Israel, Zionists, Jewish people or organisations, Hezbollah, Hamas and related matters. Examples include:

- (a) On 9 November 2025, the Respondent republished on her X account a post containing a video (from 'Suppressed News') stating that "Israel is systematically harvesting the organs of Palestinians for black-market trade and medical 'tests'." The Respondent's post concluded that such reports had been made previously and "it *had* been difficult to believe" (emphasis added). A copy is at **page 23** of **RYL-2**.
- (b) On 18 February 2026, the Respondent reposted a post on X (from 'Ali Abunimah') which stated that "to this day not a single victim of a 7 Oct "rape" has been identified, living or dead" and describing this issue as a "rape hoax". A copy is at **page 24** of **RYL-2**.
- (c) On 22 February 2026, the Respondent published commentary on X referring to a discussion about the "Jewish Lobby" and the "Zionist Lobby", the influence these groups had on twentieth century politics (including the assassination of President John F. Kennedy) and concluded with the following statement:

In essence the discussion is about the Deep State and how the few leaders who wanted peace and an end to the Cold War were assassinated, and the desire for global hegemony continues to be a major problem, driven by a small group who are not popular and who do not represent humanity. In fact, humanity is sick of it.

A copy of the Respondent's 22 February 2026 post is at **page 25** of **RYL-2**.

Signed by:

*Jeremy Brown*

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DocuSigned by:

*Raphael Leibler*

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- (d) On 22 February 2026, the Respondent reposted material on X (from 'Furkan Gozukara') concerning how the "billionaire class of Zionist supremacists" uses money to control and corrupt US institutions. A copy is at **page 26** of **RYL-2**.
- (e) On 26 February 2026, the Respondent reposted material on X (from 'David Miller') describing "Chabad" (being the Jewish community organisation whose Hanukkah event was targeted in the Bondi terrorist attack on 14 December 2025) as "a Jewish supremacist network" with historical Nazi links. A copy is at **pages 27 to 29** of **RYL-2**.
- (f) On 23 March 2026, the Respondent reposted material on X (from 'Craig Murray') suggesting that the firebombing of Jewish volunteer organisation ambulances in London were false flag attacks perpetrated by the State of Israel. A copy is at **page 30** of **RYL-2**.
- (g) On 29 March 2026, the Respondent reposted a post from X 'Jenny Difficult-Frecklington-Jones' that expressed support for terrorist organisations, stating:

I'm barracking for Iran

I'm barracking for Hezbollah

I'm barracking for the Houthis

I'm barracking for Hamas

I'm barracking for ANY AND ALL RESISTANCE to the Israeli and American Epstein Regime and its allies.

A copy of the Respondent's 29 March 2026 post is at **page 31** of **RYL-2**.

- (h) On 12 April 2026, the Respondent reposted a post (from 'Abier') about a publication in Italian magazine L'Espresso which described "a piece exposing 'the chosen ones' crimes against Palestinians" (referring to Jewish people by the term "chosen ones"). A copy is at **page 32** of **RYL-2**.

*Continued presentation as a journalist*

19. Since 19 March 2025, the Respondent has continued publicly to present herself as a journalist in connection with the matters the subject of the Proceeding, including in posts dated 16 June 2025 and 27 February 2026 (copies are respectively at **pages 14** and **17** of **RYL-2**).

Signed by:

*Jeremy Brown*

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DocuSigned by:

*Raphael Leibler*

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Affirmed by the deponent )  
at Level 24, 2 Chifley Square, Sydney NSW )  
2000 )  
in New South Wales )  
on 14 April 2026 )

DocuSigned by:  
*Raphael Leibler*  
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Signature of deponent

Before me:

Signed by:  
*Jeremy Brown*  
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Signature of witness

Jeremy Samuel John Brown  
Arnold Bloch Leibler  
Level 21, 333 Collins Street, Melbourne VIC 3000  
An Australian Legal Practitioner within the meaning  
of the Legal Profession Uniform Law (Victoria)

This affidavit was signed and sworn or affirmed by the deponent by audio visual link and the authorised affidavit taker has used a scanned or electronic copy of the affidavit and not the original in completing the jurat requirements. All requirements of section 12 of the *Electronic Transactions (Victoria) Act 2000* (Vic) have been met.

**EXHIBIT "RYL-2"**

No. VID404 of 2025

Federal Court of Australia  
District Registry: Victoria  
Division: General

**ALON CASSUTO**

Applicant

**MARY KOSTAKIDIS**

Respondent

This is the exhibit marked "**RYL-2**" referred to in the affidavit of **RAPHAEL YEHUDAH LEIBLER** affirmed before me on 14 April 2026.

Signed by:

*Jeremy Brown*

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Signature of witness

DocuSigned by:

*Raphael Leibler*

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## NOTICE OF FILING AND HEARING

### Filing and Hearing Details

Document Lodged: Interlocutory Application (Human Rights Div 2.4 Exemption) - Form 35 - Rule 17.01(1)(a)  
Court of Filing: FEDERAL COURT OF AUSTRALIA (FCA)  
Date of Lodgment: 19/03/2026 9:24:11 AM AEDT  
Date Accepted for Filing: 19/03/2026 3:05:19 PM AEDT  
File Number: VID404/2025  
File Title: ALON CASSUTO v MARY KOSTAKIDIS  
Registry: VICTORIA REGISTRY - FEDERAL COURT OF AUSTRALIA  
Reason for Listing: Interlocutory Hearing  
Time and date for hearing: 11/05/2026, 9:00 AM  
Place: Court Room Not Assigned, Roma Mitchell Commonwealth Law Courts Building Level 5, 3 Angas Street, Adelaide; Remote, Owen Dixon Commonwealth Law Courts Building Level 7, 305 William Street, Melbourne



*Sia Lagos*

Registrar

### Important Information

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The date of the filing of the document is determined pursuant to the Court's Rules.



Form 35  
Rules 17.01(1); 20.12; 20.13; 20.14; 20.15

## Interlocutory application for discovery

No. VID404 of 2025

Federal Court of Australia  
District Registry: Victoria  
Division: General

### ALON CASSUTO

Applicant

### MARY KOSTAKIDIS

Respondent

To the Respondent

The Applicant applies for the interlocutory orders set out in this application.

The Court will hear this application, or make orders for the conduct of the proceeding, at the time and place stated below. If you or your lawyer do not attend, then the Court may make orders in your absence.

**Time and date for hearing:** [Registry will insert time and date]

**Place:** [address of Court]

The Court ordered that the time for serving this application be abridged to

Date:

Signed by an officer acting with the authority  
of the District Registrar

Filed on behalf of (name & role of party) Alon Cassuto, Applicant

Prepared by (name of person/lawyer) Raphael Leibler and Leon Zwier

Law firm (if applicable) Arnold Bloch Leibler

Tel 03 9229 9999 Fax N/A

Email lzwier@abl.com.au rleibler@abl.com.au

**Address for service** Level 21, 333 Collins St, Melbourne VIC 3000  
(include state and postcode)



### **Interlocutory orders sought**

1. An order pursuant to Rule 20.15 of the Federal Court Rules 2011 that the Respondent provide non-standard discovery of the documents set out in Appendix A to this Application within 21 days of the order.
2. In the alternative, an order pursuant to Rule 20.14 of the Federal Court Rules 2011 that the Respondent provide standard discovery within 21 days of the order.
3. Documents produced in accordance with the orders above may be produced in electronic format.
4. The parties are not required to agree to or produce discovery in accordance with a discovery plan.
5. The parties have liberty to apply.

### **Service on the Respondent**

It is intended to serve this application on the Respondent.

Date: 19 March 2026

Handwritten signatures of Leon Zwier and Raphael Leibler in blue ink.

---

Signed by Leon Zwier and Raphael Leibler  
Lawyers for the Applicant



## APPENDIX A




- 1 A platform-generated archive of all user data from the X account '@marykostakidis', including all posts/tweets, replies, reposts/retweets, threaded posts, likes and interactions, profile information, direct messages, media files, and associated metadata (including any deleted, edited, or archived content) extracted using the "Your X Data" feature.
- 2 Drafts of the Posts.
- 3 Documents recording communications relating to the Posts.
- 4 Documents recording or referring to the purposes for which the Applicant published the Posts.
- 5 Documents created in the Relevant Period recording statements made by the Respondent referring to Israel, Israelis, the Jewish people, Jewish organisations, Zionists or Zionism, the Holocaust, Hezbollah, Hassan Nasrallah, Hamas or Yahya Al-Sinwar (including derivations or abbreviations of any of the above terms).
- 6 Documents evidencing any agreement, acknowledgment, membership, accreditation, or other acceptance by the Respondent of any Australian or international professional code of ethics, code of practice, editorial standard, or professional guideline applicable to journalists in the Relevant Period.
- 7 Any document recording or referring to a contract, arrangement or understanding between the Respondent and a third party in relation to her activism or activity on social media.

Where:

**Relevant Period** means 1 January 2023 to 16 March 2026.

**Posts** means 4 January Post and 13 January Post (as defined in the Applicant's Further Amended Statement of Claim).

← **Post**






 **Mary Kostakidis**   
@MaryKostakidis  ...

Inevitable escalation.  
Over a year ago and several months into Israel's genocide of the Palestinian people, in posting a clip of a speech by Nasrallah, I warned about the escalating danger, saying Netanyahu has started something he can't finish. Now his irresponsible attack on Iran has placed Israeli citizens in grave danger.  
In my post, referring to Nasrallah calling for Israeli dual passport holders to leave, I said the Israeli government is getting some of its own medicine because that is precisely what Israel wanted the Palestinians to do - leave (but they in fact, thanks to Israel, hold no passport at all). For those two statements in one post, Zionists here have weaponised Australian anti discrimination law to launch costly proceedings in the Federal Court and to deter me from reporting, discussing and analysing events of enormous public significance as they unfold.  
Please share my crowdfunding initiative - their attack is on the freedom of speech of all Australians. Please help me defend and protect that


[chuffed.org/project/126691...](https://chuffed.org/project/126691...)

This Post is from a suspended account. [Learn more](#)

10:24 AM · Jun 16, 2025 · **13.4K** Views

 19       209       471       22      

Relevant ▾ View quotes >

 Post your reply **Reply**

← Post

 **Mary Kostakidis**   
@MaryKostakidis  ...

\*A significant statement from the assassinated leader of Hezbollah\* regarding the reality of Palestinians, and an important perspective to understand if we are to comprehend the position of major players in the region. Netanyahu has proven 'might is right' and world leaders have done nothing despite public horror. Why? Because the US backs Israel. World leaders are trapped like rabbits in headlights while a genocide is underway.

1. I am entitled to repost this, as you are entitled to know about it.
2. We are also both entitled to have an opinion about his comment. This is the sort of post that has triggered Zionist law-fare against me.

 **Middle East Observer**  @ME\_Observer\_ · Aug 8, 2025

  In a memorial speech of Haj Qasem Suleimani in 2024, Sayyed Hasan Nasrallah said:

"What is happening in Gaza proves international law cannot protect you. Memorize this. Some say "give up your weapons, rely on the UN." If you are ...



1:08 PM · Aug 9, 2025 · 9,868 Views

 41  156  366  27 

Relevant  View quotes >

 Post your reply 



**Mary Kostakidis**   
@MaryKostakidis  ...

\*\*\* UPDATE on legal proceedings launched against me by the Zionist Federation of Australia:  
The matter is listed for trial (3 weeks) to commence 30 Nov. The ZFA have requested mediation (our second). It will take place this Friday 27 Feb at 10am in the Federal Court in Sydney.





Last edited 8:11 PM · Feb 24, 2026 · **51.8K** Views

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 190     383     1.6K     35    

Relevant  View quotes >

← **Post**

 **Mary Kostakidis**   
@MaryKostakidis  

\*\*\* Update  
Today's mediation - the second - has again failed to bring vexatious legal action against me to a close. This is not a fight I'll shy away from as there is far too much at stake.

As an Australian and as a journalist I have a responsibility to stand up for our right to criticise a govt engaged in what the UN, most major human rights organisations around the world including in Israel & most genocide scholars, have deemed is a genocide.

Strong criticism of a country being investigated by the ICJ for plausible genocide, whose leaders are wanted by the ICC, is not only warranted, it is necessary.

I have been cognisant of the complexity of geopolitical issues my entire life and cannot resile from the very thing that propels my enquiry - wanting to understand both what is happening and why, including the historical context.






No one should presume they are entitled to hijack our deliberations and conclusions made in good faith, to the best of our ability, and after taking into account the views of all parties to a conflict and stakeholders.


I will not be told what to think, and whether you agree or not with conclusions I have reached on specific issues, I'm sure you wouldn't stand for it either.

Our government should stand on the right side of history and impose sanctions on Israel, as we did against South Africa. Israel should not be held to a different standard.


9:43 PM · Feb 27, 2026 · **86.2K** Views

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 308    1.1K    3.1K    71   

Relevant  View quotes >

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  **Reply**

← Post



**Mary Kostakidis** ✓  
@MaryKostakidis



I hope Zionist Lobby groups are gratified with what they have spawned. They have ignited not just Muslim rage. Perhaps demanding adherence to international law might have been preferable to demanding we hold Israel to a different standard, bringing the world to the brink of war. Israel and its unconditional supporters have succeeded in making Jewish people feel unsafe everywhere, including Israel. This man is echoing Nasrallah, telling dual passport holders to leave, not Palestine, but America. What a mess.



**Kerry Burgess** ✓ @KerryBurgess · Mar 2

At this point, pretty much the entire world feels like this.



Last edited 10:28 PM · Mar 2, 2026 · 4,283 Views

25

97

269

11



Relevant ▾

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Post your reply

Reply

← Post



Mary Kostakidis ✓  
@MaryKostakidis



Zionist “Vexatious Legal Action” Against Kostakidis Will Go to Trial  
“Nobody believes that the allegations against Mary are anything but a coordinated effort to silence reporting & criticisms of the behaviour of a foreign power,” InformationRightsProject



1:48 PM · Mar 6, 2026 · 10.9K Views

106

556

1.4K

21



Relevant ▾

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Post your reply

Reply

# Zionist "Vexatious Legal Action" Against Kostakidis Will Go to Trial, After Failed Mediation



BY PAUL GREGOIRE



PUBLISHED ON 6 MAR 2026



FACT CHECKED

0:00 / 7:03

The second attempt at mediation in relation to the discrimination complaint that Zionist Federation of Australia chief executive Alon Cassuto filed against renowned Australian journalist Mary Kostakidis in July 2024 has ended in nonagreement. And as the case will now go to trial in late 2026, Kostakidis asserts she won't be shying away from this fight, as there is "far too much at stake".

Cassuto filed his initial racial vilification complaint against Kostakidis with the Australian Human Rights Commission, in respect of two social media posts critical of Israel that the journalist had posted to X. The CEO claimed the posts were antisemitic, and there was particular focus on one repost featuring a clip of the late Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah speaking.

But when the AHRC mediation process broke down in late 2024, the Zionist Federation head then filed what's been dubbed a "vexatious legal action" against Kostakidis, at the same time that further mounting complaints were being lodged against Australian cultural figures who were speaking out against the genocide that Israel is continuing to perpetrate in the Gaza Strip.

These multiple acts of warfare lodged by Zionists against critics of the Israeli settler colonial project have provided the nation with a keen understanding of how a US-style McCarthyite witch hunt plays out.

Requested by the Zionist Federation, the second mediation process having ended in nonagreement had followed an earlier attempt by Kostakidis to have the entire case struck out in mid-2025. This was after Cassuto had taken the complaint to the Federal Court on 31 March last year, which was the final day he had to file the suit following the failure of the AHRC process to bring about a settlement.

The request to strike the case out was denied by Federal Court Justice Stephen McDonald last October, as he found the defence assertion that a journalist simply reporting news cannot be said to be acting in a racially or religiously prejudicial manner, didn't hold up. And Cassuto versus Kostakidis is set to go before the same Federal Court justice commencing on 30 November this year.

## Attempting to silence critics

"As an Australian and as a journalist, I have a responsibility to stand up for our right to criticise a government engaged in what the UN, most major human rights organisations around the world, including in Israel and most genocide scholars, have deemed is a genocide," Kostakidis said in a 27 February 2026 post on social media platform X, following the attempt at mediation last Friday.

“Strong criticism of a country being investigated by the ICJ for plausible genocide, whose leaders are wanted by the ICC, is not only warranted, it is necessary,” she added. “I have been cognisant of the complexity of geopolitical issues my entire life and cannot resile from the very thing that propels my enquiry – wanting to understand both what is happening and why, including the historical context.”

The mid-2024 Zionist complaint against Kostakidis, charging her with antisemitism, was made when the Australian constituency was relatively unaware of the long-term practice of proponents of Israel to label criticism of that country’s human rights abuses, as portraying hatred towards Jewish people in order to block such criticism. But these days, it is well versed in this practice.

Another difference about the time in which the complaint was lodged and the present is that back in mid-2024, Israel was still denying that Gaza was a genocide, whereas the United Nations officially ruled that it was such an atrocity in September 2025, which followed the International Criminal Court having issued a war crime arrest warrant against Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu in April last year.

“No one should presume they are entitled to hijack our deliberations and conclusions made in good faith, to the best of our ability, and after taking into account the views of all parties to a conflict and stakeholders,” the former SBS World News presenter further remarked, in relation to the presumptuous manner in which Cassuto sought to get vexatiously litigious in her direction.

## Concealing truths by curbing speech

The post that so outraged Cassuto involved Kostakidis having reposted another user’s post that featured a clip of the late Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah decrying Israel, as his group was engaged in low-level fighting with Tel Aviv at the time over Gaza. Kostakidis further commented that Israel was getting some of its “own medicine”, as Gazan civilians had been pounded for months.

The local McCarthyite witch hunt initially involved the ABC sacking journalist Antoinette Lattouf over her having reshared a post about starvation in Gaza. Palestinian Australian writer and academic Randa Abdel-Fattah has come under Zionist lobby attack on multiple occasions over this period. And there have further been academics, doctors and musicians pulled up over criticising Israel.

Zionism is the late 1880s political doctrine advocating for the creation of a Jewish state in historic Palestine. Today, this is Israel. Proponents of Israel have long labelled detractors of Zionism or Israel’s apartheid state as being antisemitic, as this helps to curb political criticism, as being labelled as antisemitic is harsh, as it triggers the memory of the World War II Nazi Holocaust against the Jews.

To serve this mission, the IHRA working definition on antisemitism is applied, as it is accompanied by eleven examples of prejudice against Jewish people, seven of which involve Israel. So, the Zionist lobby has been advocating that western governments adopt it, and local antisemitism envoy Jillian Segal has embarked upon a whole-of-government, including tertiary sector, IHRA definition overhaul.

## Stand with Mary Kostakidis

“Nobody believes that the allegations against Mary are anything but a coordinated effort to silence reporting and criticisms of the behaviour of a foreign power,” Information Rights Project founder Gabriel Shipton told Sydney Criminal Lawyers on Tuesday. “Australians have a right to be informed and the case against Mary Kostakidis is trying to deny us those very rights.”

The Information Rights Project is running a campaign around the Kostakidis case, maintaining that the rights to political expression and to freely share information are under attack.

The project run by Shipton, Julian Assange’s brother, further highlights the act of lawfare. This involves cases like the one lodged against Kostakidis, where it appears that the real purpose of going to court is more about the prior smearing of the defendant’s name in the media, along with dragging them through the expensive and drawn out legal process, than any final judicial ruling.

Kostakidis’ case also mimics a fight that is going on across our entire society at present, as the application of the IHRA definition, or rather the silencing of criticism of Israel in the public sphere, is underway. This includes adopting the definition at all levels of government, along with key institutions and the education sector. And these shifts aren’t being widely reported to the public.

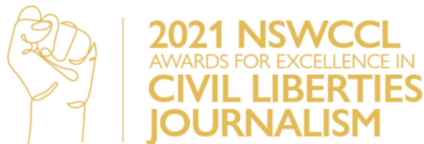
“I will not be told what to think, and whether you agree or not with conclusions I have reached on specific issues,” Kostakidis made clear on X, following the latest unsuccessful mediation meeting. “I’m sure you wouldn’t stand for it either.”

“Our government should stand on the right side of history and impose sanctions on Israel, as we did against South Africa,” the acclaimed journalist said in ending. “Israel should not be held to a different standard.”

SHARE ARTICLE

**PAUL GREGOIRE**

Paul Gregoire is a Sydney-based journalist and writer. He's the winner of the 2021 NSW Council for Civil Liberties Award For Excellence In Civil Liberties Journalism. Prior to Sydney Criminal Lawyers®, Paul wrote for VICE and was the news editor at Sydney’s City Hub.



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**Mary Kostakidis** @MaryKostakidis · 17h ...

There have been reports of Palestinians' organs being stolen for years. It had been difficult to believe. Deplorable.



**Suppressed News.** @Suppressed... · 1d

⚡ JUST IN: Israel is systematically harvesting the organs of Palestinians for black-market trade and medical “tests.”

Following the October 10 ceasefire, over 280 bodies of Palestinian hostages were returned by the Israeli army. Forensic teams reported that many were missing [Show more](#)



44 360 618 9.7K

Mary Kostakidis reposted



**Ali Abunimah** ✓  
@AliAbunimah



.@IsraelMFA revives rape hoax in its attempts to remove @FranceskAlbs . To this day not a single victim of a 7 Oct “rape” has been identified, living or dead. By contrast, many first person accounts of rape of Palestinians by Zionist “soldiers” & their dogs [electronicintifada.net/blogs/ali-abun...](http://electronicintifada.net/blogs/ali-abun...)



**Israel Foreign Ministry** ✓ @IsraelMFA · Feb 17

Francesca Albanese is a rape denier, an antisemitic propagandist and a Hamas mouthpiece. She must be dismissed.

She repeatedly denied documented rape and sexual violence committed against Jewish women and men by Hamas....

[Show more](#)



Last edited 5:26 PM · Feb 18, 2026 · 20.4K Views

25

563

1K

46



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**Mary Kostakidis** @MaryKostakidis · Feb 22



Fascinating discussion about JFK and the role of Zionists as Cold War warriors. Sachs also explains that as an American Jew, he wants to ensure people understand what was referred to as the 'Jewish Lobby' was in fact a Zionist Lobby. Also that when he wrote his book, he did not appreciate the extent to which JFK was determined to stop Israel's secret project to produce a nuclear bomb, that Damona had been constructed to deceive and he wanted full inspection rights. He also says if anyone believes LHOswald was responsible has a lot of learning to do, and it was likely a coup - a CIA op.



1



7



36



994



**Mary Kostakidis** @MaryKostakidis



In essence the discussion is about the Deep State and how the few leaders who wanted peace and an end to the Cold War were assassinated, and the desire for global hegemony continues to be a major problem, driven by a small group who are not popular and who do not represent humanity. In fact, humanity is sick of it.

10:21 AM · Feb 22, 2026 · **938** Views



2



5



31



🔄 Mary Kostakidis reposted



**Furkan Gözükara** ✓  
@FurkanGozukara

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Norman Finkelstein exposes how a billionaire class of Zionist supremacists uses extreme financial blackmail to topple Ivy League presidents and crush student protests, proving that money controls and corrupts American institutions.



1:30 PM · Feb 22, 2026 · 47K Views

🗨️ 28

🔄 1.3K

❤️ 3.4K

🔖 412





**Mary Kostakidis**   ...  
@MaryKostakidis

Is Chabad an extremist religious network? Is this a question we should not be allowed to ask in Australia? Why is it that question can be asked of Mosques in Australia, many times, over decades, with no one batting an eyelid? (Remember Sheik Taj Al Din Al Hilaly? They could not find anything that was an incitement to terrorism in his sermon, so made him front page news over his comments sanctioning a lack of modesty in the way we dress). I ask because it seems we have separate unspoken rules for religious groups in Australia, and that may be about to become further entrenched.



**David Miller**  @Tracking\_Power · 11h

Chabad is a Jewish supremacist network with more than 5,000 branches worldwide, including 1,300 in the U.S. and perhaps 150 in the UK.

It's leader escaped from Europe to NY during the Nazi period with the help of a Nazi Intel Officer....  
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1:19 PM · Feb 26, 2026 · **5,710** Views

 40    125    258    9   

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 Post your reply **Reply**

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**Mary Kostakidis**  @MaryKostakidis · 5h  ...

This should go without saying, but I do not support violence by anyone, and totally condemn in the the targeting of people celebrating Hanukkah. I ask questions about a matter that has been controversial for decades, but about which we know very little.

    6    52    751    

79 218 476 13K

 **Mary Kostakidis**  @MaryKostakidis · Feb 26  ...

This should go without saying, but I do not support violence by anyone, and totally condemn in the the targeting of people celebrating Hanukkah. I ask questions about a matter that has been controversial for decades, but about which we know very little.

6 6 85 1.6K

 **Mary Kostakidis**  @MaryKostakidis · Feb 27  ...

NB please do not make antisemitic comments in response to a serious question I posed about defining the limits to legitimate enquiry in speech

3 1 36 959

 **Mary Kostakidis**  @MaryKostakidis  ...

Im going to post a reply here to a comment by Nev, to round off what has prompted me to make the original post, and to emphasise my genuine interest in Chabad which I and probably most other Australians had never heard of till the Bondi massacre.

 **Mary Kostakidis**  @MaryKostakidis · Feb 27

Replying to @Nev92612361

I'm not 'Jewphobic' Nev. I am pointing out a difference in what is permissible enquiry in some situations where religious groups are involved but not others, it is not to question religious belief, nor the the motives of all people engaged in organised religion, nor of people

6:50 AM · Feb 27, 2026 · 955 Views

3 6 13

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The screenshot shows a Twitter thread. The first tweet is from user 'Nev' (@Nev92612361) dated Feb 26. The text of the tweet is: 'Just like in Christianity and Islam, there are many branches of Judaism. The only issue in your post is Jew. Your Jewphobia is clouding your logic and commonsense. Shame on you.' Below the tweet are icons for replies (1), retweets, likes (8), and views (204). The second tweet is from user 'Mary Kostakidis' (@MaryKostakidis), a verified account, dated Feb 27, 2026 at 6:34 AM. The text of the tweet is: 'I'm not 'Jewphobic' Nev. I am pointing out a difference in what is permissible enquiry in some situations where religious groups are involved but not others, it is not to question religious belief, nor the the motives of all people engaged in organised religion, nor of people attending a celebration organised by a branch of a group. But you can ask a question regarding whether an Imam is engaged in political activity and his speech (about the way women dress) can elicit condemnation by every major media outlet in the country. I do not know enough about Chabad but was genuinely shocked to see a Rabbi was killed, and also dismayed to see his purported references to Amalek in social media responses, and images of him posing with a gun, and supporting the guarding by IDF of what are illegal settlements by international law and referring to the raising of funds here to support activity contrary to international law.' Below the tweet are icons for replies (5), retweets (3), likes (6), and views (940). At the bottom of the tweet area are the labels 'Relevant' and 'View quotes >'.

**Nev** @Nev92612361 · Feb 26

Just like in Christianity and Islam, there are many branches of Judaism. The only issue in your post is Jew. Your Jewphobia is clouding your logic and commonsense. Shame on you.

1   8   204

**Mary Kostakidis** ✓ @MaryKostakidis

6:34 AM · Feb 27, 2026 · 940 Views


5   3   6   940

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5:31 5G 23


15 78 161 1.2K

Mary Kostakidis reposted

 **Craig Murray** ✓ @CraigMurr... · 42m X


**Could they make the false flag any more obvious?**

**There is only one entity I have ever heard of which routinely and deliberately destroys ambulances - the state of Israel.**






 **Al Jazeera Breaking News** ✓ · 1h

**Several ambulances belonging to Jewish volunteer organisation, Hatzola Northwest, have been set on fire in Golders Green, north London.**

**CCTV video shows three men igniting a blaze before fleeing the scene.**



X | @ChaskeBennett

↻  **Mary Kostakidis reposted**

 **Jenny Difficult-Frecklington-Jone...** · 8h 

I'm barracking for Iran  
I'm barracking for Hezbollah  
I'm barracking for the Houthis  
I'm barracking for Hamas

I'm barracking for ANY AND ALL RESISTANCE to the Israeli and American Epstein Regime and its allies. [#SolidarityWithIran](#)  
[#SolidarityWithLebanon](#)  
[#SolidarityWithPalestine](#)



111 220 665 6.7K

← Post

🔄 Mary Kostakidis reposted



**Abier** ✓  
@abierkhatib



An Italian magazine just dropped a piece exposing the “chosen ones” crimes against Palestinians.



10:49 PM · Apr 12, 2026 · 599.7K Views

💬 259

🔄 5K

❤️ 13K

🔖 543



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