

Political Persecution of Norman Finkelstein

By [Stephen Lendman](#)

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Theme: [Law and Justice](#), [Police State & Civil Rights](#), [Poverty & Social Inequality](#)

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Featured image: Norman Finkelstein (Source: [Wikimedia Commons](#))

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Finkelstein is a high-profile target of state-sponsored persecution for staunchly supporting Palestinian rights, along with stinging criticism of Zionism and Israel – touching the right nerves with scholarly accuracy.

A personal note. I owe him a debt of gratitude. Posting my review of his book, titled “Beyond Chutzpah” on his web site launched my writing and media work, a pro bono career after retiring from small family business.

In 2007, I wrote about his dismissal by Chicago’s Depaul University for daring to criticize Israel – the most sensitive third rail in politics, media and academia.

Finkelstein was called “truly outstanding and among the most impressive” of all university political science professors by his students.

His Department of Political Science endorsed his tenure, stating his academic record “exceeds our department’s stated standards for scholarly production” – then denied him tenure even though “outside experts we consulted recognize the intellectual merits of his work.”

His long struggle with the university ended on September 5, 2007, the first day of classes. Finkelstein was dismissed, put on administrative leave with full pay and benefits for the 2007-08 academic year.

His teaching career in America ended, he’s one of numerous examples of the best, brightest and most honorable scholars banished from academia for truth-telling on vital issues – a disturbing indictment of rogue state control over major media and academic practices.

He once said it’s “possible to unite exacting scholarly rigor with scathing moral outrage.” He knew the risks of confronting power with disturbing truths, yet took them courageously and still does, his soul not for sale.

His book "The Holocaust Industry: Reflections on the Exploitation of Jewish Suffering" denounced what he called exploiting its memory as a "ideological weapon," enabling Israel, "one of the world's most formidable military powers, with a horrendous human rights record, (to) cast itself as a victim state immun(e) to criticism."

His current troubles followed his staunch support for Dr. Rudolph Baldeo, saying the following on September 12:

"Attorneys Michael Chetkof and Allyson Burger (the puppeteers) and Azimoon Baldeo (the puppet) colluded to frame Dr Rudolph Baldeo."

"They churned out hundreds of pages of official Court papers depicting Dr Baldeo as a sado-psychopath."

"They calculated that they could steamroll and slander him by exploiting pernicious stereotypes of violent dark-hued immigrant Muslim males."

"They also figured he was a pushover because he's slight of stature and a geek. In the eyes of these greedy vultures, Dr Baldeo was an easy prey: A Little Indian Boy."

"But they got so carried away in their lies, and they're so innately stupid and inept, that nearly every statement in their Court papers was contradicted by another statement in these same papers."

"Unfortunately, there was never a cross-examination: unbearable pressure was exerted on Dr Baldeo to settle the case before he had his day in court."

"In this excerpt from my forthcoming article, I enact the cross-examination that never was."

"The excerpt is meticulously and scrupulously based on the Court record, which I perused in full.."

"This excerpt was presented to Chetkof, Burger and Azimoon Baldeo for comment. They did not contest any of the facts or interpretations presented herein."

"If you are as outraged as I am by this frame-up, you should make your voice heard."

Separately, Finkelstein explained his cruel and unreasonable ordeal, viciousness by any standard, saying the following:

"1. I was arrested on 6 September 2017.

2. Two police detectives barged into my apartment at 11:30 p.m.

3. (omitted)

4. (omitted)

5. The detectives demanded that I sit on a rickety coffee table in my foyer that comes up to my kneecap. They wouldn't let me sit on a chair.

6. I was handcuffed as I left my apartment building in order to humiliate me in

front of my neighbors.

7. I was transported to a police precinct located fully one hour from where I live. I was handcuffed the entire trip and was in agonizing pain. (I am 64 years old.)

8. I was handcuffed to a pole for five hours in the police precinct while the detective filled out a single-paged form.

9. I was then thrown into an overcrowded jail cell and had to sleep on a stone floor. I asked for a blanket as I was freezing but the request was denied.

10. I was brought before a judge at 11:00 a.m.

11. I was served with an Order of Protection forbidding me to have any contact for one year with the two opposing lawyers, Michael Chetkof and Allyson Burger.

12. The police alleged that I was harassing Chetkof and Burger by constantly emailing them.

13. The allegation is a flat-out lie. Every email I sent to Chetkof and Burger and their colleagues had appended at the head:

14. If Chetkof and Burger didn't want to receive my emails, they merely had to inform me, and I most certainly would have ceased writing them.

15. They had me arrested in order to intimidate me into silence.

16. This is not the first time Chetkof and Burger tried to intimidate me. When I informed them that I was writing an article to expose their racist shakedown of Dr Rudolph Baldeo, Chetkof threatened to 'open Pandora's Box and destroy Dr Baldeo 'Personally and Professionally' unless I desisted.

17. Because of the Order of Protection, I can no longer accompany Dr Baldeo to Court. They want to isolate him in Court so they can terrorize him into submission.

18. (omitted)

19. I must appear in Court again on 10 October 2017.. It is possible that I will again be thrown into jail.

20. I am not afraid. My late parents survived five years in Hitler's death camps. I will survive a Long Island jail cell.

21. I will not be browbeaten into abandoning Dr Baldeo in his Moment of Truth.

Finkelstein was released on bail, his next court appearance on November 3.

He remains in grave danger, already victimized by police brutality, facing up to two years imprisonment for supporting truth and justice, for showing extraordinary courage, integrity and honor, for exposing "tactics used to terrorize, demean, slander, bankrupt, and rob his friend," according to a petition on his behalf - an attempt to judicially lynch them both.

"He (Finklestein) had the audacity to expose to the whole wide world how two corrupt lawyers operate," [the petition](#) stressed.

Add your name to others, supporting Finkelstein's struggle for justice, along with Dr. Baldeo.

The ordeal they endured provides clear and compelling evidence of how a fascist police state operates – with cruel and merciless indifference to justice!

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My newest book as editor and contributor is titled "Flashpoint in Ukraine: How the US Drive for Hegemony Risks WW III."

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