November 23 2025

Immigrating to Israel Is Legal. Scapegoating Jews Isn't.

The Lie:

➔ A synagogue event about Jews immigrating to Israel is "illegal" and helps "promote violations of international law."

The Truth:

➔ Helping Jews immigrate to Israel is legal. Targeting and intimidating Jews at a synagogue is not.

Background:

➔ On Nov 19, 2025, Park East Synagogue hosted an event by Nefesh B'Nefesh, an organization that facilitates immigration to Israel for North American Jews.

➔ Anti-Israel protesters gathered outside the synagogue, directing chants toward Jews participating in an informational event about immigrating to Israel.

➔ Mayor-elect Zohran Mamdani condemned the *Jews inside the synagogue*—not the mob outside.

Truth: Explained

➔ On Nov 19, protesters surrounded Park East Synagogue, shouting "make them scared," "globalize the intifada," and "take another settler out," directly targeting Jews attending a basic immigration-information event. **https://www.city-journal.org/article/new-york-park-east-synagogue-protest-zohran-mamdani**

➔ While Mamdani's office said he "discouraged the language used at last night's protest," his spokesperson's only concrete accusation targeted the Jews inside the synagogue — alleging their aliyah event "promot[ed] activities in violation of international law."**https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/antisemitism/article-874702?utm_source=chatgpt.com**

➔ **Mamdani's claim is legally baseless and dangerously inverted.**
City Journal notes this "bizarre theory" would turn Jews exploring aliyah into criminals while excusing those intimidating them outside a house of worship.
https://www.city-journal.org/article/new-york-park-east-synagogue-protest-zohran-mamdani

➔ Immigrating to another country is a fundamental civil right — and for many Jews, choosing Israel is also tied to religious freedom and communal identity. The Park East event was simply an informational session for Jews considering a legal move. That's why Mamdani's response — downplaying the mob outside while accusing the Jews inside of "promot[ing] activities in violation of international law" — was so troubling. **https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/antisemitism/article-874702**

➔ **Nefesh B'Nefesh is an immigration-support NGO—not a political or territorial actor.**
It helps new immigrants with visas, healthcare enrollment, school registration, and job placement. It does *not* buy, sell, or broker land; does *not* engage in real estate; and promotes *no* geographic or political agenda.
https://x.com/HenMazzig

➔ **Aliyah is not illegal under any UN resolution, ICJ opinion, or treaty.**
Even the UN, known to be hostile to Israeli policy, has *never once* claimed Jewish immigration violates international law. The Oct 2024 UN COI statement concerns *state obligations* (diplomatic recognition, military aid). It says nothing about private immigration or NGOs. https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/10/1151097

➔ **International law explicitly recognized the legality of Jewish immigration.**
The 1922 League of Nations Mandate required the Mandatory to *facilitate Jewish immigration*. Article 80 of the UN Charter preserved those rights. No later UN action nullified them.
https://jcfa.org/article/the-state-of-israels-legal-right-to-judea-and-samaria/

Quotes

➔ "Paperwork has now become a war crime. He (Mamdani) didn't condemn the mob outside—he blamed the Jews inside." - Hen Mazzig

➔ "The idea that the mayor of New York should try to enforce the edicts of the U.N. or other international bodies is a bizarre theory heretofore unfamiliar to New York City politics." - City Journal

➔ "We call on Mayor-elect Mamdani to think deeply and do better in meeting his responsibility to keep Jews and Jewish institutions safe in this time of elevated danger." **-** *Official joint statement (URJ / UJA-Federation / JCRC)*

Takeaway

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Immigration isn’t the crime here; the harassment outside the synagogue was. Keep the focus where it belongs.