

MEDIA ADVISORY:

Former Canadian Human Rights Commission Chief Commissioner Launches Defamation Lawsuits against Conservative MP, Right Wing Media Personality, and Jewish Advocacy Group

Wed Feb 5, 2025 - OTTAWA – Former Canadian Human Rights Chief Commissioner Birju Dattani has filed [lawsuits](#) against Conservative Deputy Leader Melissa Lantsman, right wing media personality Ezra Levant, and Jewish advocacy group the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs, for [defamatory statements](#) made about him on social media in 2024.

Birju Dattani was appointed Chief Commissioner of the Canadian Human Rights Commission last June, becoming the first Muslim, and person of colour to hold the prestigious position. On August 12th, four days after he was set to begin his new role, Mr. Dattani announced his resignation.

In the summer of 2024, shortly after his appointment as Chief Commissioner was announced, Mr. Dattani became the subject of an online and media smear campaign, which grossly mischaracterized him as an antisemitic, terrorist supporter. The public attacks sparked an [independent investigation](#) that found allegations of antisemitism and terrorism to be unfounded. Despite these conclusions, the vicious online attacks continued by those named in the lawsuits.

Birju Dattani, and his lawyer, Alexi Wood of [St. Lawrence Barristers PC](#), will speak to the media about these defamation lawsuits.

PRESS CONFERENCE

DATE: Thursday February 6, 2025

TIME: 10:30am ET

LOCATION: Press Conference Room 135-B, West Block, Parliament Hill, Ottawa
(*Press conference will be live streamed on [CPAC](#)*)