

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK  
COUNTY OF NEW YORK

-----X  
MOSDOT SHUVA ISRAEL and BEN ZION SUKY,

*Plaintiffs,*

Index No.:

**SUMMONS**

-against-

ILANA DAYAN-ORBACH p/k/a ILANA DAYAN,  
KESHET BROADCASTING LTD.,  
THE ISRAELI NETWORK, INC., and  
ISRAELI TV COMPANY,

*Defendants.*

-----X  
**TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANTS:**


You are hereby summoned and required to submit to Plaintiff's attorney, at the address stated below, an answer to the attached complaint.

If the summons is personally served upon you in New York State, an answer must be served within twenty days after service of the summons, excluding the date of service. If this summons was not personally served upon you in the State of New York, the answer must be served within thirty days after service is complete as provided by law. If you do not serve an answer to the attached complaint within the applicable time limitation stated above, a judgment may be entered against you, by default, for the relief demanded in the complaint, without further notice to you.

The basis of venue designated as New York County in that it is the Plaintiffs' place of business.

Dated: June 24, 2014  
New York, New York

The Law Offices of  
JSBARKATS, PLLC  
Attorneys for PLAINTIFF

By:   
Sunny Barkats, Esq.  
18 East 41<sup>st</sup> Street, 14<sup>th</sup> floor  
New York, New York 10017  
(646) 502-7007

**SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK  
COUNTY OF NEW YORK**

-----X

MOSDOT SHUVA ISRAEL and BEN ZION  
SUKY,

INDEX NO. \_\_\_\_\_

*Plaintiffs,*

- against -

**VERIFIED COMPLAINT**

ILANA DAYAN-ORBACH p/k/a ILANA  
DAYAN, KESHET BROADCASTING LTD.,  
THE ISRAELI NETWORK, INC., and ISRAELI  
TV COMPANY,

*Defendants.*

-----X

Plaintiffs, Mosdot Shuva Israel and Ben Zion Suky, by and through their attorneys, JSBarkats PLLC, with offices located at 18 East 41<sup>st</sup> Street, 14<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, New York, as and for their Verified Complaint complaining against defendants Ilana Dayan-Orbach p/k/a Ilana Dayan, Keshet Broadcasting Ltd., The Israeli Network, Inc., and Israeli TV Company, allege as follows:

**THE PARTIES**

1) Plaintiff, Mosdot Shuva Israel (“Shuva”), is a religious not-for-profit corporation existing and formed pursuant to the provision of the Religious Corporation Law of the State of New York, Article 10, Section 192, with primary address of 122 East 58th Street, New York, New York 10022.

2) Plaintiff Shuva is led by Rabbi Yoshiyahu Yosef Pinto, a scholar and religious leader in the Orthodox Jewish community (“Rabbi Pinto”).

3) Plaintiff, Ben Zion Suky (“Suky”) is a citizen of the United States of America, and resident of the County, City and State of New York, with a business address of 440 West 41<sup>st</sup> Street, New York, New York.

4) Defendant Ilana Dayan-Orbach p/k/a Ilana Dayan (“Defendant Dayan”) is an Israeli investigative journalist, anchorwoman, and attorney.

5) Defendant Dayan is the host of the investigative television program *Uvda* (“Fact”) on Israeli Channel 2.

6) Upon information and belief, Defendant Dayan is a citizen of the State of Israeli.

7) Upon information and belief, Defendant Dayan’s primary place of residency is in Israel.

8) Defendant Keshet Broadcasting Ltd. (“Defendant Keshet”) is an Israeli business entity that operates under the auspices of the Second Israeli Broadcasting Authority.

9) Defendant Keshet is one of two operators that run the main Israeli commercial television channel, Channel 2.

10) Defendant Keshet shows original drama series, news, entertainment and lifestyle shows, and foreign programs.

11) Defendant Keshet is the owner of the investigative television program *Uvda* (“Fact”) on Israeli Channel 2. Defendant Keshet upon information and belief has an office located at 12 Raul Valenberg Street, P.O.B. 58151, 61580 Tel Aviv, Israel.

12) Defendant The Israeli Network, Inc. (“Israeli Network”) is a domestic corporation duly formed and existing pursuant to the laws of the State of New York.

13) The Israeli Network has an office at 261 Madison Avenue, Suite 1700, New York, New York 10016.

14) Defendant Israeli TV Company (“Israeli TV”) is a corporation doing business in New York State and City, with actual place of business located at 1404 Avenue Z, Brooklyn, New York 11235.

### **JURISDICTION**

15) Upon information and belief, Defendant Dayan, individually and/or on behalf of Defendant Keshet, travelled and/or contacted various persons in the City and State of New York throughout 2013 and 2014, in an effort to conduct her business to wit: compiling information for the production of the season finale of *Uvda*.

16) Upon information and belief, Defendants Dayan and Keshet, directed one or more agents, servants and/or employees to travel to the City and State of New York throughout 2013 and 2014 in an effort to conduct business, to wit the compiling of information for the production of the season finale of *Uvda*.

17) The Israeli Network is a subscription cable network which features programming from all the top networks in Israel, including Channel 1, Channel 2, Channel 10, Channel 8 for transmission throughout the United States, including the County, City and State of New York

18) The Israeli Network distributes and transmits Israeli television programs, including *Uvda*, in the New York Tri-State Area.

19) The Israeli Network, including *Uvda*, is carried on Verizon FiOS as Channel 1782 throughout the United States, including New York City and State.

20) The Israeli Network, including *Uvda*, is carried on Time Warner Cable currently as Channel 1629 (formerly as Channel 529) in Manhattan, parts of Brooklyn and Queens, Hudson Valley, New York and parts of Northern New Jersey.

21) The Israeli Network, including *Uvda*, is carried on Cablevision as Channel 1118 in certain areas of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut.

22) The Israeli Network, including *Uvda*, is carried on Dish Network as Channel 9911 throughout the United States, including New York City and State.

23) Upon information and belief, Defendants Dayan and Keshet and/or its servants, agents and employees contracted with The Israeli Network to provide content for The Israeli Network in New York, including the television show *Uvda*.

24) The episode of *Uvda* at issue in the current action was aired on the Israeli Network in New York.

25) Upon information and belief, Defendants Dayan, Keshet and Israeli Network further caused the episode of *Uvda* at issue in the current action to be live streamed and available in New York via internet on [www.mako.co.il](http://www.mako.co.il).

26) Upon information and belief, Israeli TV is a subscription internet service located in New York which provides access to Israeli television stations, including Israeli Channel 2 for a fee.

27) Upon information and belief, Israeli TV owns and operates the websites [www.mytvil.com](http://www.mytvil.com) and [www.mytvil.net](http://www.mytvil.net).

28) Upon information and belief, Defendants Dayan and Keshet contract with Israeli TV to provide content for Israeli TV in New York, including the television show *Uvda*.

29) Upon information and belief, the episode of *Uvda* at issue in the current action was aired on Israeli TV in New York.

30) Upon information and belief, Defendants Dayan, Keshet and Israeli TV further caused the episode of *Uvda* at issue in the current action to be live streamed and available in New York via internet on www.mytvil.com and www.mytvil.net.

31) Upon information and belief, Defendants Dayan, Keshet and Israeli Network earn substantial revenue from the distribution of *Uvda* in the State of New York.

32) Defendants Dayan, Keshet and Israeli Network transact business within the State of New York via the distribution of *Uvda*.

33) Defendants Dayan, Keshet and Israeli Network purposefully and knowingly transact business in New York by distributing *Uvda* on The Israeli Network.

34) Defendants Dayan, Keshet and Israeli Network purposefully and knowingly provide services in New York by distributing *Uvda* on The Israeli Network.

35) The claims in the current action arose from the business activities of Defendants Dayan, Keshet and Israeli Network in New York.

36) There is a substantial relationship between the claim asserted in this action and the actions of Defendants Dayan, Keshet and Israeli Network that occurred in New York.

#### **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

37) Plaintiff Suky met Rabbi Pinto in New York in or about 2002.

38) After meeting Rabbi Pinto and starting a family, Plaintiff Suky helped to cause the creation of Plaintiff Shuva in New York.

39) Plaintiff Shuva was created on or about July 22, 2003 to conduct and maintain a House of Worship in accordance with the traditions of the Jewish faith and to conduct all

communal affairs necessary for a viable community among other things as set forth in its Certificate of Incorporation.

40) Plaintiff Suky donates time, money and resources to Shuva to further its objects and purposes.

41) Shuva sponsors religious schools throughout the United States, including New York City. Shuva provides weekly dinners for needy people. Shuva Israel provides kosher food service deliveries for the elderly and needy, as well as medical support and accommodations.

42) The community programs and outreach of Shuva have garnered positive public opinion and praise throughout the secular and Jewish Communities in the New York and Israel.

43) Based upon Rabbi Pinto's reputation throughout the world, Shuva's reputation has been enhanced and advanced throughout the world as well.

44) As a direct result of the positive public opinion and praise from community programs and outreach, Shuva receive significant donations in time and money from various individuals and corporations.

**The Defamatory Program:**

45) In an effort to tarnish, diminish and destroy the reputation of Rabbi Pinto and his Shuva, the Defendants Keshet and Dayan engaged in a course of conduct which instead of seeking the truth, solely provided former followers of the Rabbi and Shuva to gain their revenge against Plaintiffs for said Defendants alleged failed business losses.

46) A review of the entire transcript of the season finale of *Uvda*, which aired in both Israel and New York on or about May 22, 2014, (the "Program"), a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part hereof as Exhibit 1, demonstrates that the Defendants, Keshet and Dayan

with total disregard for the truth, instead forged ahead and produced a show that instead provided the public with an expose solely geared to destroy Rabbi Pinto, Shuva, and Suky.

47) The Defendants, Keshet and Dayan further caused and/or permitted Defendant Israeli Network to air the Program in New York.

48) The Defendants, Keshet and Dayan, caused and/or permitted Defendant Israeli TV to also air the Program in New York.

49) Within the first five minutes of the Program, Defendant Dayan falsely asserted that Rabbi Pinto's "Empire", i.e. Shuva, is not really a charity or religious organization, but rather a "tangled web" and front for "money and profit":

"Ilana Dayan: The modest man, who rose from the pages of the book he himself wrote, has meanwhile turned into an international empire with ties with the government high-ups, politicians, senior police officers, and even tycoons. With a well-oiled mechanism that raises millions for charity, assets and capital estimated at NIS 75 million. Only when you lift the veil do you discover how the system works, and how the tangled web that this man has woven around him pumps information to him, which turns into money and power. And how this money has been used to pay for a life of extravagance and abundance for the rabbi and his close associates for years."

*See Exhibit 1, p. 1.*

50) Without regard for the truth, Defendants Dayan and Keshet, their agents, servants, and/or employees, caused induced, and/or permitted false statements to be included in the Program and aired in New York so that the Rabbi's and Shuva's followers would denounce Plaintiffs, thereby causing Plaintiffs to be harmed and damaged.

51) Approximately a week before the Program was aired in both Israel and New York, Plaintiff, Suky learned about it.



52) Approximately one week prior to the airing Plaintiff Suky contacted Defendant Dayan in an effort to provide her with the truth.

53) Approximately one week prior to the airing of the Program, Suky, individually and on behalf of Plaintiff Shuva, and Rabbi Pinto, forwarded written materials to Defendant Dayan for her review.

54) The documents forwarded by Plaintiff Suky to Defendant Dayan specifically refuted the false allegations which were ultimately included in the Program and aired in Israel and New York.

55) Defendant Dayan intentionally, maliciously, and with total disregard for the truth, disregarded the documents forwarded to her by Plaintiff Suky and instead went forward and aired the Program without referencing any documents from Plaintiff Suky.

56) Defendant Dayan disregarded the documents forwarded to her by Plaintiff Suky and aired the Program without disclosing that documentary evidence produced by Plaintiff Suky demonstrating the falsity of the statements made throughout the Program and that would have refuted the allegations made in the Program.

57) Defendant Dayan also ignored all efforts made by Plaintiff Suky to demonstrate that the claims she was going to publish were false.

**AS AND FOR A**  
**FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**  
**(Defamation of Plaintiff, Mosdot Shuva Israel,**  
**by the Defendants)**

58) Plaintiffs repeats, reiterates and re-alleges each and every allegation as set forth in paragraphs 1 through 69 of this Verified Complaint as if more fully set forth herein at length.

59) Throughout the Program, Defendant, Dayan, references the Rabbi's "Empire."

60) Throughout the Program, Defendant, Dayan, intonates through her own statements as well as those of the interviewees, to wit, Nissim Biton, Tomer Shohat, unidentified male "A," known to Plaintiffs as, and Menashe Arviv, that:

a) the Rabbi's "Empire" has fallen because, instead of his giving, the Rabbi is now taking;

b) that the Rabbi does more than give advice, he "also conjures up huge real estate deals on his own," and "recruits investors for a hotel that his followers want to buy on Madison Avenue in New York";

c) "pulling funds out of the kitty;"

d) "threats and mentioning the names of officers are part of the system;"

e) having a "guest house" instead of a hotel that "gives out free accommodations for people of Rabbi Pinto's choosing;"

f) that when followers get in trouble with the Rabbi's courtyard, the "police are after them as well;"

g) "Pinto" "turns from an admired rabbi into a dangerous man. This happens when the rabbi realizes he's in over his neck. What happens between Pinto and Arviv demonstrates the system rather well: making connections with senior officers, occasionally throwing temptations their way, always collecting information, ready for action. And above all – maintaining a handle on the people at the top."

h) "that millions of shekels went from charity organization, "Hazon Yeshaya" into the rabbi's wife's private account" and after attempting to bribe a government official the Rabbi goes to the Attorney General and says "give me a deal;"

i) and as described by Defendant Dayan – “the problem starts when a web of tainted connections is woven around this rabbi, when they stand in line – the minister and the tycoon, the criminal and the chief investigator, looking to get his blessing, not just for spiritual purposes, and effusing to see what he is looking to get from them.”

j) “But you knew,” questioning Menashe Arviv about Aziza, Yossi Harari, and Shalom Domrani, various individuals with criminal backgrounds, “they were hanging around the Rabbi.” “You didn’t understand that a rabbi that somehow attracted Nochi Dankner and Yossi Harari, as well as Eduardo Elstein and Moshe Aziza, that perhaps something there was different than the rabbis you knew as a child?”

k) “Rabbi Pinto’s name is already mentioned at this point in the investigation here in Israel on the Hazon Yeshaya affair. This investigation gets the rabbi nervous, and also leads him to action.”

See Exhibit 1, page 2, top, p2 – Ialana Dayan at 05:00; p. 3 – Ilana Dayn; p. 6 – Ilana Dayan; p. 6 – Ilana Dayan; p. 9 Ilana Dayan; p. 9 – Ilana Dayan; p. 15 – Ilana Dayan; p. 11; p. 12

61) All of the aforementioned statements were formulated by the Defendants in such a way that they not only were geared to defame Rabbi Pinto, but Plaintiff Shuva.

62) The aforementioned statements were made by Defendants in such a way to cause the Rabbi to be guilty by association, and as a result injure and damage Plaintiff, Shuva.

63) All of the aforementioned statements exposed Plaintiff Shuva to public contempt, ridicule, aversion and disgrace.

64) The aforementioned statements were made with ill will.

65) The aforementioned statements were made with actual malice.

66) The aforementioned statements and the Program in its entirety were made with the knowledge of their falsehood.

67) The aforementioned statements were made with recklessness as to falsehood of the statements.

68) The statements are defamatory on their face.

69) The statements and Program are defamatory in their entirety.

70) Plaintiff Shuva has as a result of this defamation suffered irreparable damage to its reputation in the worldwide community.

71) The Defendants' actions constitute defamation against Plaintiff Shuva.

72) As a result of the defamatory statements made by Defendants Dayan, Keshet, Israeli Network, Israeli TV, Shohat, Biton and Avidan, Plaintiff Shuva has suffered actual and consequential damages of Ten Million (\$10,000,000.00) Dollars.

73) As a result of the defamatory statements made by Defendants Dayan, Keshet, Israeli Network, Israeli TV, Plaintiff Mosdot Shuva Israel suffered special damages of \$3 Million.

74) As a result of the defamatory statements made by Defendants Dayan, Keshet, Israeli Network, Israeli TV, Plaintiff Shuva seeks an award of punitive damages to be determined by the court but no less than \$30 Million.

**AS AND FOR A SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**  
**(For Defamation Per Se against Plaintiff Suky, as against Defendants Dayan, Keshet, Israeli Network and Israeli TV)**

75) Plaintiffs repeats, reiterates and re-alleges each and every allegation as set forth in paragraphs 1 through \_\_\_ of this Complaint as if more fully set forth herein at length.

76) Defendant Dayan authored and published false statements about Plaintiff Suky to the public through television program Uvda on Channel 2 in Israel and the Defendants The Israeli Network and Israeli TV Company in the State of New York.

77) Throughout the Program, the Defendant Dayan made the following statements regarding Plaintiff Suky:

a) In response to a statement by Nissim Biton, Defendant Dayan stated: “When Biton and his partners invest millions in the hotel, they still do not suspect that someone is pulling funds out of the kitty.” Exh. 1, p. 3

b) “The document that has come into our possession shows, according to suspicion, that for several months thousands of dollars allegedly flow from the hotel’s kitty to Ben Zion Suky. He claims he took nothing. Either way, the hotel falls into deep debts.” Exh. 1, p. 3

c) “Tomer Shochat was never a follower of the rabbi. He met him for the first time only after he asked to stop an investment of millions in the New York Metro Hotel, which is run by the same Ben Zion Suky, the rabbi’s confidant. Shochat, who represents a group of investors from Israel, still hasn’t begun to understand what he’s going into.” Exh. 1, p. 5

d) “Shochat will soon understand that threats and mentioning the names of officers are part of the system. Now he goes to New York to find out exactly what’s going on in the hotel he bought with his partners. And there he manages to get his hands on documents that according to him raise the suspicion of irregularities in the hotel’s management.” Exh 1. p. 6.

e) “Once again Suky insists that everything is working properly. Shochat doesn’t let go. Now he also suspects that the hotel he has invested in has turned from a business that’s supposed to provide income to its owners into a guesthouse that gives out free accomodations for people of Rabbi Pinto’s choosing.” Exh 1. p. 6

f) “The Rabbi speaks gently during the meeting, but his people take it up a notch. This happens when Shochat arrives at a personal meeting with Zion Ben Suky.” Exh. 1, p. 6.

g) “This” (speaking to Shochat) “was your first confrontation, your first head-to-head confrontation with Suky.” Exh. 1, p. 6

h) “Tomer Shochat gets in trouble with the rabbi’s courtyard and discovers that now the police are after him as well.” Exh. 1, p. 7

78) The aforementioned statements made by Defendant Dayan are false.

79) The aforementioned statements taken as a whole were made by Defendant Dayan against Plaintiff Suky in an effort to defame him and destroy his reputation, credibility and business in the community, and his livelihood.

80) Defendants Dayan, Keshet, Israeli Network and Israeli TV published the false statements about Plaintiff Suky to the public through television program Uvda on Channel 2 in Israel and The Israeli Network and Israeli TV in the State of New York.

81) The statements regarding Plaintiff Suky were false when made.

82) The statements expose Plaintiff Suky to public contempt, ridicule, aversion or disgrace.

83) The statements regarding plaintiff Suky were made with ill will.

84) The statements regarding Plaintiff Suky were made with actual malice.

85) Defendants Dayan, Keshet, Israeli Network and Israeli TV made the false statements regarding Plaintiff Suky with knowledge of the falsehood of the statements.

86) Defendants Dayan, Keshet, Israeli Network and Israeli TV made the statements regarding Plaintiff Suky with recklessness as to falsehood of the statements.

87) The statements are defamatory on their face.

88) Plaintiff Suky suffered irreparable damage to his reputation in the community.

89) The Defendants' actions constitute defamation per se against Plaintiff Suky.

90) As a result of the defamatory statements made by Defendants Dayan, Keshet, Israeli Network and Israeli TV, Plaintiff Suky suffered actual and consequential damages of \$10 Million.

91) As a result of the defamatory statements made by Defendants Dayan, Keshet, Israeli Network and Israeli TV, Plaintiff Suky suffered special damages of \$5 Million.

92) As a result of the defamatory statements made by Defendants Dayan, Keshet, Israeli Network and Israeli TV, plaintiffs seek an award of punitive damages of not less than \$100 Million.

**AS AND FOR A THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION**  
**(For Defamation of Plaintiff Suky as against Defendants)**

93) Plaintiffs repeats, reiterates and re-alleges each and every allegation as set forth in paragraphs 1 through 92 of this Complaint as if more fully set forth herein at length.

94) The statements made by Nissim Biton, Tomer Shohat, Michel Avidan and Defendant Dayan regarding Plaintiff Suky where reasonably susceptible to a defamatory connotation when heard in the context of the Program.

95) The statements expose Plaintiff Suky to public contempt, ridicule, aversion or disgrace.

96) The statements, video, images and audio soundtrack used by the Defendants in the Program and taken as a whole were falsely geared by Defendants to make Plaintiff Suky appear to the public as a dishonest individual and thief, using his position with the Rabbi and the Plaintiff Shuva to exploit others for his benefit by the use of force, coercion and otherwise.

97) The statements regarding Plaintiff Suky were made with ill will.

98) The statements regarding Plaintiff Suky were made with actual malice.

99) Defendants made the false statements regarding Plaintiff Suky with knowledge of the falsehood of the statements.

100) Defendants made the statements regarding Plaintiff Suky with recklessness as to falsehood of the statements.

101) Plaintiff Suky suffered irreparable damage to his reputation in the community.

102) The Defendants' actions constitute defamation against Plaintiff Suky.

103) As a result of the defamatory statements made by Defendants Dayan, Keshet, Israeli Network, Israeli TV, Plaintiff Suky suffered actual and consequential damages of \$10 Million.

104) As a result of the defamatory statements made by Defendants Dayan, Keshet, Israeli Network, Israeli TV Plaintiff Suky suffered special damages of \$5 Million.

105) As a result of the defamatory statements made by Defendants Dayan, Keshet, Israeli Network, Israeli TV, Shohat, Biton and Avidan, Plaintiff Suky seeks an award of punitive damages to be determined by the court of no less than \$100 Million.



**AS AND FOR A FOURTH CAUSE OF**  
**ACTION**  
**(For Prima Facie Tort as against the**  
**Defendants)**

106) Plaintiffs repeats, reiterates and re-alleges each and every allegation as set forth in paragraphs 1 through 105 of this Complaint as if more fully set forth herein at length.

107) Defendants conduct was intentional to inflict harm upon the Plaintiffs.

108) Defendants conduct resulted in special damages.

109) Defendants conduct was without excuse or justification.

110) The sole motivation for the Defendants' actions was malevolence.

111) As a result of the actions by Defendants, Plaintiffs suffered actual and consequential damages of \$10 Million.

112) As a result of the actions by Defendants Dayan, Keshet, Israeli Network, Israeli TV, Shohat and Biton, Plaintiffs Mosdot Shuva Israel and Suky suffered special damages of \$5 Million.

113) As a result of the actions by Defendants Dayan, Keshet, Israeli Network, Israeli TV, Shohat and Biton, Plaintiffs Mosdot Shuva Israel and Suky seek an award of punitive damages of no less than \$100 Million.

**WHEREFORE**, the Plaintiffs demand judgment as follows:

A. Plaintiff Suky seeks against Defendants Biton, Dayan, Keshet, Israeli Network and Israeli TV, on the First Cause of Action actual and consequential damages of \$10 Million, special damages of \$3 Million and punitive damages of no less than \$30 Million.

- B. Plaintiff Suky seeks against Defendants Shohat, Dayan, Keshet, Israeli Network and Israeli TV, on the Second Cause of Action for actual and consequential damages of \$10 Million, special damages of \$5 Million and punitive damages of no less than \$100 Million.
- C. Plaintiff Suky seeks against Defendants Dayan, Keshet, Israeli Network and Israeli TV, on the Third Cause of Action for actual and consequential damages of \$10 Million, special damages of \$5 Million and punitive damages of no less than \$100 Million.
- D. Plaintiff Suky seeks against Defendants Dayan, Keshet, Israeli Network, Israeli TV, Shohat and Biton on the Fourth Cause of Action for actual and consequential damages of \$10 Million, special damages of \$5 Million and punitive damages of no less than \$100 Million.
- E. Interest, statutory interest from May 22, 2014, costs and such other relief as the Court deems just and proper.

Dated: June 24, 2014  
New York, New York

Yours etc.



JS BARKATS PLLC

By: Sunny J. Barkats  
*Attorney for Plaintiffs*  
18 East 41<sup>st</sup> Street, 14<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, New York 10017  
646-502-7001

**VERIFICATION**

STATE OF NEW YORK:


SS:

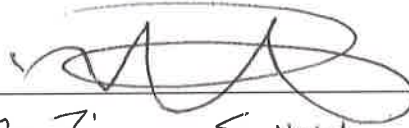
COUNTY OF NEW YORK:

Ben Zion Suky, duly sworn according to law deposes and says, as and for his Verification of Plaintiff's Complaint:

1. I have read the annexed Plaintiff's Verified Complaint and find the allegations contained therein are true to my knowledge, except as to those matters set forth upon information and belief, and as to those matters I also believe them to be true.
2. The basis of my knowledge is upon review of files and records of the Plaintiff.

Sworn to and Subscribed  
Before me this 24 day  
Of June, 2014

  
M. Teresa Daley  
Notary Public, State of New York  
No. 02DA476H098  
Qualified in New York County  
Commission Expires February 28, ~~2007~~  
2015

  
Ben Zion Suky

# Exhibit 1



**TRANSPERFECT**  
LEGAL SOLUTIONS

City of New York, State of New York, County of New York

I, Artem Furman hereby affirm that the following is to the best of my knowledge and belief, a true and accurate Translation from Hebrew to English of the document "Transcript & translation of Uvda Season Finale Program regarding Rabbi Pinto, Ben Zion Suky and Mosdot Shuva Israel".

Artem Furman  
TransPerfect Translations International, Inc.

Sworn to before me this  
June 23, 2014

Signature, Notary Public



Stamp, Notary Public

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<b>Time</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Transcription</b>
00:00	Ilana Dayan	Today we air the season finale of Uvda, and we'd like to take you on a journey into Rabbi Pinto's Empire. We've met a lot of people when working on this story, but the strongest impression was made by one man, who was one of the rabbi's first followers. And he sat in front of the camera, and talked about the crisis he went through after he realized how the system works. The research was conducted with Sarit Magen and Nitai Elboim. Here is the story prepared by Nir Shahak and director Gilad Tokatly.
	Nissim Biton	It's like a junkie. A junkie consumes drugs; he doesn't know what it costs. Later makes money in order to consume the drug. The rabbi, his new staff created an environment that later they needed millions in order to satisfy these urges.
	"A"	There are some things that you simply don't do. Offering a bribe of 200 thousand dollars... these are donations that were given in order to provide for widows, orphans. Not for bribery.
	Ilana Dayan	The rabbi offered you any benefits directly to get you to drop the whole thing?
	Tomer Shochat	Yes, money.
	Adv. Gideon Fischer	The way it works is everyday they collect information on an international level against anyone that can ever be "handy" when necessary.
	Menashe Arviv	I get a phone call. Who's on the line? Rabbi Pinto. And he says: "Well, how was the meeting at the FBI?" I was shocked. "How does your honor know I was at the FBI?" "We know everything, we're connected"
	Ilana Dayan	Do any of them tell you, "we will cause you physical harm?"
	Tomer Shochat	"You are fair game, get out of New York. If you don't get out of New York you will go to prison for years. I asked: "what did I do? I didn't do anything." "You are fair game, get out of New York."
	Rabbi Pinto	This is not being filmed, right?
	Interviewer	It is being filmed.
	Rabbi Pinto	Stop everything please. Stop it. Sorry.
	Ilana Dayan	The masses that came to him... which grew and multiplied every day, embarrassed Yoshiyahu Pinto. His desire was to study and teach, not to bear the burden of leadership.
	Ilana Dayan	The modest man, who rose from the pages of the book he himself wrote, has meanwhile turned into an international empire with ties with the government high-ups, politicians, senior police officers, and even tycoons. With a well oiled mechanism that raises millions for charity, assets and capital estimated at NIS 75 million. Only when you lift the veil do you discover how the system works, and how the tangled web that this man has woven around him pumps information to him, which turns into money and power. And how this money has been used to pay for a life of extravagance and abundance for the rabbi and his close associates for years.

	Nissim Biton	I define the rabbi, Rabbi Yoshiyahu Pinto, as two periods of his life. Up until ten years ago, Rabbi Pinto only gave, in the past ten years, Rabbi Pinto only took.
	Ilana Dayan	Nissim Biton has been by Rabbi Pinto's side for nearly 20 years, loving him with all of his heart. The love between a follower and his rabbi.
	Unidentified	What is this here, Nissim?
	Nissim Biton	Marrakech.
	Ilana Dayan	The rabbi meant from greatness from the day he was born, a decedent of the Pinto rabbi legacy on his father's side and the Abuchatzeira dynasty on his mother's side, who is the Baba Sali's granddaughter, and Biton was already with him during the first trips to Morocco. Seen in this footage, when the rabbi was only 25 years old.
	Nissim Biton	There we came to really know a man who's very modest, nothing interested him, only the Torah, and every time we stopped for a minute he'd give some kind of Torah lesson.
	Ilana Dayan	Over the years Nissim Biton has been prosperous in his businesses, and he discovers how the rabbi too is showing and increasing interest in the world of business and money.
	Nissim Biton	It was like something that you have to have a "set", when you go to make a deal, you need a good accountant, you also need a good attorney, and you also need the rabbi's offer. I had the feeling that if the rabbi says it's alright, there's a big blessing in it and there will also be a lot of success in it.
05:00	Ilana Dayan	And the rabbi does more than give advice. He also conjures up huge real estate deals on his own. In Spring 2008 he recruits investors for a hotel that his followers want to buy on Madison Avenue in New York.
	Nissim Biton	The Rabbi came to set a mezuzah for the business I started for the son, and he whispered in my ear, "you're flying with me to Morocco today."
	Ilana Dayan	The same day?
	Nissim Biton	The same day.
	Unidentified	Right now we're going to the cemetery. This is where our rabbi's grandmother is buried...
	Nissim Biton	There the rabbi took us into some room and told me: "I want you to invest money in New York." I told him, "rabbi, you know that the money you're asking me to invest abroad, that's for the children." And then he tells me: "I vow to you in the name of our sacred fathers as we stand on their graves here, that you'll be bringing a sum that's 3 times bigger back to your bank account already this year."
	"A"	He called me from Morocco when visiting the grave of his great grandfather, telling me: "swear to me, you will invest some one million dollars in this hotel." I really didn't want to make this deal, and in this case I had complete confidence in the rabbi, and that's why I invested such a huge amount.

	Ilana Dayan	Which, I have to tell you, is something that I can question. Because I'm sitting here with a grown, experienced Jewish man with security background, you've done things, you've been places, so what? The rabbi says so you cough up the money?
	"A"	Yes, faith is faith, because I come from the background of Morocco, and Rabi Haim Pinto and the Abuchatzzeira family for me it's something really big. And I believed.
	Adv. Eitan Erez	I asked them, I mean this is amazing. "The rabbi said. The rabbi said to invest, so we invested. We put our money there." An amount that people save for generations. 4.5 million dollars is the product of generations. The rabbi said, we give the money.
	Rabbi Pinto	We ask from all of the people who believe in the sacred grandparents, to give their support today, this evening, with everything they have. This is not the time to talk about the Torah, we would like to hit the goal in fifteen minutes, so that no time is wasted.
	Ilana Dayan	It'll take some time before these faithful followers realize what the huge sums that roll in the rabbi's courtyard are used for, among others.
	Unidentified	50 thousand shekels for one picture, as you can see.
	Ilana Dayan	One rare testimony we've obtained reveals new details about life inside the house. This testimony, which the investigators possess, demonstrates the magnitude of the funds that flowed to the people close to the Rabbi. But when Nissim Biton and his partner invest their money with the rabbi's advice, they truly believe that he has their best interest at heart. He connects them to Ben Zion Suky, his closest confidant in the US. Suky used to distribute pornographic films but eventually found religion and today holds a series of real estate assets across New York.
	Nissim Biton	Ben Zion Suky collected the money and distributed it like bread on a Friday night dinner. That was his only job, distributing. Gave a little here, gave a little there.
	Ilana Dayan	When Biton and his partners invest millions in the hotel, they still do not suspect that someone is pulling funds out of the kitty. They assume that the business is thriving.
	Nissim Biton	My partner and I have a lot of businesses and assets in Israel, as a hotel it's one of the best deals we've ever made, this hotel made some 600 thousand dollars a month, with a staff of five.
	A	On paper the business was supposed to make a profit. There's no way around it. 1 plus 1 equals 2. In reality, 1 plus 1 always turned out to be minus 1. We started with equity capital of 25 million dollars, and now we're down 28 million dollars. We're short, beyond what we've invested.
10:00	Ilana Dayan	The document that has come into our possession shows, according to suspicion, that for several months thousands of dollars allegedly flow from the hotel's kitty to Ben Zion Suky. He claims he took nothing. Either way, the hotel falls into deep debts. And is undertaken by a receiver. The partners decide to fight for their money and go back to the rabbi who got them into the deal.



Nissim Biton	He tells me, "that's the way it goes in America. I tell him, "Rabbi, I know this is how it goes in America, but the money needs to stay in the kitty." He says: "you don't understand. Please Rabbi Nissim, stretch the rope, don't tear it." In other words, don't get out of the deal. We told him, rabbi, we want to finish everything in the best and most honorable way possible, so he says: "fine, we're deciding that Ben Zion Suky is buying you-"
Ilana Dayan	Your share in the hotel.
Nissim Biton	"Your share in the hotel. You've invested 4 million dollars, you'll get 4.5 million dollars..."
Ilana Dayan	Back.
Nissim Biton	"Back. 100 thousand dollars in a year, 100 thousand dollars in two years, and 4 million and 300 thousand dollars in three years." I told him: "rabbi, I can't accept this." He told me: "why?" I told him, "You want me to meet my money after ten years? Rabbi, I want my money."
Ilana Dayan	Biton caves and reluctantly follows the rabbi's advice, according to which he will get his money with these weird payments, but he hasn't seen one dollar till this day, not even the first payment, and now he is looking to get revenge on the rabbi.
Nissim Biton	Respect that. Rabbi, This is 100 thousand dollars. This is 100 thousand dollars! For the first year. I've been your follower for 20 years, I've put 3 times the money in this courtyard. I made all of the Passover provisions in the first years. We held hillulas, we made donations, I've brought in 3 times the money than this. Respect your word, where are your sacred fathers?
Ilana Dayan	Nissim Biton is now starting to understand everything he's seen with his very own eyes for years. As someone who was close to the rabbi he knew that the big money that flowed there may have financed great charity enterprises but also a life of luxury, when behind the ascetic persona hide first class flights, visits to a luxury site in the Hamptons near New York at 117 thousand dollars for four weeks, a month in luxury hotels in Buenos Aires at a total cost of 75 thousand dollars, and these are of course just a few examples.
Rabbi Pinto	Dear Rabbi Nissim, a friend to god and a friend to all of Israel, loved by all, liked by all,
Ilana Dayan	And perhaps only when you see these images of Nissim Biton with his admired rabbi some 15 years do you understand the magnitude of the falling out.
Ilana Dayan	This is the same rabbi whose hand you kissed.
Nissim Biton	That's right.
Ilana Dayan	This is the same rabbi you followed to Morocco time and time again. Dozens of times.
Nissim Biton	That's right. Dozens of times.

	Ilana Dayan	So what happened?
	Nissim Biton	A very big changed occurred with the rabbi. The rabbi for me was, pardon my expression, only one step below god himself. He was everything for us. "The rabbi said, the rabbi said."
	Ilana Dayan	Have you spoken with the rabbi since?
	Nissim Biton	No.
	Ilana Dayan	Because you realized that what?
	Nissim Biton	It's over.
	Ilana Dayan	And what do you think was your biggest mistake?
	Nissim Biton	Connecting to the rabbi. I think that this worship and the kissing of hands and these consultations is complete idolatry. There's nothing in it.
	Tomer Shochat	Very impressive entrance. You see the greatest people that once you could only see on television, standing in line and waiting to kiss his hand. You see strength and power, you see money and government side by side, things that used to be just a slogan you'd say, okay, what do they want from us when they say that on television? You see everyone in the same room, you see everybody talking, you see everybody waiting for him. When you see a minister in the government or a major businessman sitting and waiting for hours just to get two or three minutes, it's not like they had long meetings there.
15:00	Rabbi Pinto	We deeply bless all of the beloved [15:00] and popular and dear people who are a part of us, part of the sacred yeshiva, "Shuva Israel", who have come a long way.
	Tomer Shochat	Suky keeps telling me that he's going to arrange a meeting with the rabbi for me any minute now, that I should just wait patiently.
	Ilana Dayan	Tomer Shochat was never a follower of the rabbi. He met him for the first time only after he asked to stop an investment of millions in the New York Metro Hotel, which is run by the same Ben Zion Suky, the rabbi's confidant. Shochat, who represents a group of investors from Israel, still hasn't begun to understand what he's going into.
	Tomer Shochat	I got there at nine o'clock, and around 4-5 they've managed to clear two minutes for me to talk with the rabbi, during which the rabbi held both of my hands tightly, told me that I was righteous, righteous, and that everything is going to be alright, that I should worry.
	Ilana Dayan	The rabbi is determined to convince Shochat not to sell for some reason.
	Tomer Shochat	He tells us that he knows the New York real estate market well, and that this asset is worth a lot of money, and urges us not to sell.
	Ilana Dayan	At this point he's still talking like something who has your best interest at heart?
	Tomer Shochat	Yes.
	Ilana Dayan	Now he's invited to a meeting at the rabbi's home in Ashdod. The conversation quickly takes a weird turn. Shochat hears the name of a senior police officer for the first time.
	Tomer Shochat	The Rabbi says that there's something deeply troubling him. He is very concerned for my life, he is aware that there are physical threats against me from very powerful people in Israel and there's an investigation that Efraim is conducting. "Go to Efraim, Efraim is waiting for you, Efraim needs you to complain." I told him, I have nothing to complain about, nobody approached him, no one threatened me, I don't feel threatened, and I didn't go. At the end of that meeting,

		after the name Efraim came up a few times, I asked Benzi, who's Efraim? He told me that Efraim Bracha is a close follower of the rabbi, anything the rabbi asks he does, it's someone you can trust and someone in a position of power.
	Ilana Dayan	Brigadier General Bracha probably had no idea that his name was used in this manner. Shochat will soon understand that threats and mentioning the names of officers are part of the system. Now he goes to New York to find out exactly what's going on in the hotel he bought with his partners. And there he manages to get his hands on documents that according to him raise the suspicion of irregularities in the hotel's management.
	Tomer Shochat	I start realizing that something is wrong with the asset, that the asset is being milked.
	Ilana Dayan	Once again Suky insists that everything is working properly. Shochat doesn't let go. Now he also suspects that the hotel he has invested in has turned from a business that's supposed to provide income to its owners into a guesthouse that gives out free accommodations for people of Rabbi Pinto's choosing.
	Ilana Dayan	This is the hotel where, at least according to the rabbi's people themselves, Major General Arviv and his family stayed for free. According to different sources, other connected people also received free accommodations on the house here. As far as the rabbi's courtyard is concerned, this is an investment in close associates. For Shochat and his partners, these are thousands of dollars that are being pulled from the kitty.
	Ben Zion Suky	The rabbi is like a doctor, he helps everyone. The rabbi helps the shoemaker, the policeman, the judge, whoever they may be, the rabbi helps. So what is the problem?
	Ilana Dayan	So there were other people from the Israeli elite that received free accommodations at the hotel?
	Ben Zion Suky	People what? From Israel? I'll think about this answer until Monday.
	Ilana Dayan	It becomes clear to Shochat that he needs to get out of the deal. In late 2012 he goes to the rabbi's home in New York with all of the documents he had collected.
	Tomer Shochat	I was prepared for this meeting. I went and bought a special briefcase with locks, and I came there and said, here, it's all here. Everything that Suky did, it's all here.
	Ilana Dayan	And what did he say?
	Tomer Shochat	The rabbi started crying. He held my hand, started crying, and said that it was very difficult for him to hear.
	Ilana Dayan	What did he tell you after he calmed down from crying?
	Tomer Shochat	That it'll be alright.
	Ilana Dayan	The Rabbi speaks gently during the meeting, but his people take it up a notch. This happens when Shochat arrives at a personal meeting with Zion Ben Suky.
	Tomer Shochat	"We want to sell our rights, we don't want to be your partners anymore, and until then we're not longer will to have you run the asset.
	Ilana Dayan	This was your first confrontation, your first head-to-head confrontation with Suky.
	Tomer Shochat	Yes. With Suky, and his brother was in the room.
	Ilana Dayan	Eran.
	Tomer Shochat	Yes. This confrontation almost became physical between Eran and me.
	Ilana Dayan	It's like, the message...

	Tomer Shochat	The message was: "you're heading in a direction that's not good for you, you'll be hurt, don't go there.
20:00	Ilana Dayan	But he does. In February 2013 Shochat issues a letter that instructs the bank not to allow Suky to perform any action in the account without the partners' consent.
	Ilana Dayan	And then you receive a phone call.
	Tomer Shochat	Yes, from the rabbi's brother.
	Ilana Dayan	From Menachem Pinto.
	Tomer Shochat	Yes.
	Ilana Dayan	Do you remember the words he uses?
	Tomer Shochat	"You are fair game, get out of New York. If you don't get out of New York you will go to prison for years." Then I received a phone call from one of the employee at the reception, I was in one of the upper floors, telling me that the police has the entire building surrounded, asking me to give myself up and go downstairs.
	Ilana Dayan	After the commercials – Tomer Shochat's nightmare is only beginning, and it will end in jail with one angry policeman.
	Tomer Shochat	He starts going crazy, turns the table over, leaves the room, comes back, slaps the handcuffs on me, telling me that I've just made the biggest mistake of my life.
	Ilana Dayan	Also - Major General Arviv sits in front of the camera for the first time and reveals all.
	Menashe Arviv	I was going through a crisis in my marriage, and a friend told me: "listen, there's an excellent rabbi, he's amazing. Come, sit, talk with him, what do you have to lose?"
	Ilana Dayan	How is it that you didn't realize the kind of people you were getting involved with?
	Menashe Arviv	Ilana, I had no reason. I had no reason to suspect. I really didn't.
	Ilana Dayan	Now we're back with Rabbi Pinto's empire. Tomer Shochat gets in trouble with the rabbi's courtyard and discovers that now the police are after him as well.
	Tomer Shochat	Then I received a phone call from one of the employee at the reception, I was in one of the upper floors, telling me that the police have the entire building surrounded, asking me to give myself up and go downstairs.
	Ilana Dayan	So you go downstairs and who do you meet?
	Tomer Shochat	Detective Eric Patino.
	Ilana Dayan	The detective that came to arrest him wasn't just any cop, as he put it. In the lawsuit he will file to the court in New York Shochat will claim: Eric Patino was the detective that the rabbi's people said was their friend in the police even earlier.
	Tomer Shochat	I saw him at the yeshiva.
	Ilana Dayan	At the yeshiva. And what did they tell you about him?
	Tomer Shochat	That he's with him. This detective comes, accompanied by another seven-eight detectives, arriving to the hotel armed, like they're coming for some kind of crime lord.
	Ilana Dayan	They tell you what you're suspected of, what you're being arrested for?
	Tomer Shochat	He asks me to come and talk to him.
	Ilana Dayan	Like "this is not an official arrest, I just want to..."
	Tomer Shochat	He didn't arrest me, he said he was just asking me to come, in five

		minutes he'll bring me back to the hotel, he's just asking that I'd come outside.
	Ilana Dayan	The detective now gets Tomer Shochat into a police car and leads him to the police station.
	Tomer Shochat	There they put me in a room, just like on television, with a mirror that I guess there's somebody on the other side, he goes out, brings a notebook, says: "I just want to ask you some questions about the hotel.
	Ilana Dayan	And then?
	Tomer Shochat	The policeman tells me he wants my briefcase. I respond that I am exercising my right to remain silent, and I'm represented by an attorney, I ask him to make the phone call I am entitled to by law.
	Ilana Dayan	And they do let you?
	Tomer Shochat	He starts going crazy, turns the table over, leaves the room, comes back, slaps the handcuffs on me, telling me that I've just made the biggest mistake of my life. Now he can't talk to me, I'm going to be under arrest for three years, the entire weekend, and for a guy like me that's dangerous and I might not make it out of there alive.
	Ilana Dayan	But in the end he doesn't tell you what you've done wrong?
	Tomer Shochat	No, no.
	Ilana Dayan	There has to be a cause, there has to be suspicion, there has to be a reason he's doing what he's doing.
	Tomer Shochat	He wants my computer, he wants the documents.
	Ilana Dayan	Tomer Shochat winds up with shackles on his hands and feet at the end of this stormy conversation. The young man from Hod HaSharon who almost single-handedly took on Rabbi Pinto's empire finds himself in a jail cell at the New York Police station that night.
	Tomer Shochat	An unpleasant scene. I get racist remarks, "Jew where's the money?" etc. A very unpleasant scene, very unpleasant.
	Ilana Dayan	3 months after that night in jail all charges against Tomer Shochat were dropped. Tomer Shochat and Nissim Biton are currently taking legal actions on their affairs; the plaintiffs deny all charges against them. But there is one man who made the rabbi and the people reveal the system on their own accord. His name is Menashe Arviv, who up until 3 months ago was a Major General in Israel Police, head of investigation squad Lahav 433, and he has decided that it's time to talk.
25:00	Ilana Dayan	I want to go back to your first encounter with Rabbi Pinto.
	Menashe Arviv	Saturday night. I was going through a crisis in my first marriage, I was having trouble deciding, should I get a divorce or not, should I leave or not. Should I move in with Sigal or not. A friend told me: "listen, there's an excellent rabbi, he's amazing. Come, sit, talk with him, what do you have to lose?" We drove to the Hilton Tel Aviv, the RR floor, I'll never forget it, I get out of the elevator, the corridor was packed, packed with people. Knesset members, ministers. I met the deputy head of the Shin Bet there, I met a Shin Bet department head there, I met police officers there. I stood up, I told him, "I'm not going in I'm not going in." I turned around, I went downstairs. He told me: "wait downstairs, I'll close it, I'll call you." And so he did, he sorted things out there, and when I came, everyone was on the right side of the room, a closed door. I went in – an impressive man. I remember he had a grip... the power of his right hand. Most of his looks... he usually looks down like this, he doesn't... he doesn't look you straight in the eyes. "Yes, who are you?" I introduced myself. Menashe Arviv.
	Ilana Dayan	Did you say you were a police officer?
	Menashe Arviv	No. No, but he knew.
	Ilana Dayan	He knew?

	Menashe Arviv	Yes. He tells me: "you serve in Tel Aviv?" I said, yes. "What role?" I told him. I'm deputy district commander. "How long?" I told him. He asked: "Yes, what?" I told him why I was there, he listened, and after listening he said: "listen, you have no other solution. Give your wife everything she deserves." He gives you a feeling like... this is it. You're his, he's yours, he's your father, he's... he's everything.
	Ilana Dayan	4 years their relationship will last until Pinto will turn from an admired rabbi into a dangerous man. This happens when the rabbi realizes he's in over his neck. What happens between Pinto and Arviv demonstrates the system rather well: making connections with senior officers, occasionally throwing temptations their way, always collecting information, ready for action. And above all – maintaining a handle on the people at the top. Major General Yoav Segalovich, who has banked many Pinto hours in the past few years, once said during a closed meeting: if penetrating the halls of power was an offense – that's the indictment that should have been filed against Pinto. In 2012 the fraud squad investigators start to suspect that millions of shekels went from charity organization "Hazon Yeshaya" into the rabbi's wife's private account. In August 2012 Rabbi Pinto meets with Brigadier General Efraim Bracha, at the Hilton Tel Aviv. Bracha is a long-time follower of the rabbi. He is also familiar with the details of the investigation. The rabbi, the prosecution will claim, will try to get information about the case against him out of the senior officer. He offers Bracha 200 thousand dollars. Without talking, the rabbi will say later, it's just me, and you, and god almighty. But Bracha does talk. He reports the rabbi's generous offer to Major General Segalovich. Some two weeks later Brach's wife arrives for a meeting with the rabbi's wife at the Hilton Tel Aviv and receives an envelope with 420 thousand shekels, in Swiss francs – and she records everything. This is the foundation of the indictment that was built against Rabbi Pinto in late 2013, and this is what causes him to send his lawyers to the Attorney General, lay down the dirt about Major General Arviv on his desk. "Take Arviv," Pinto says, "give me a deal."
	Ilana Dayan	In retrospective, if I take, what's called, your version for it, somebody was working on this case for a long time.
	Menashe Arviv	That's right.
	Ilana Dayan	For a rainy day.
	Menashe Arviv	That's right.
	Ilana Dayan	Why do you think they chose you of all people?
	Menashe Arviv	Listen, Menashe... in the highest position possible. I understand the lawyers and Rabbi Pinto. This is the best price. Where could he make the best profit and get the best benefits, if not by selling Menashe out? But he was wrong. He picked the wrong lamb. He chose someone who's the farthest thing from a patsy. He chose someone who won't give up. And he chose... and he made a deadly mistake, him and his lawyers, when they tried to set me up as the victim.
	Menashe Arviv	Look at this. Everything you see here, these are certificates of appreciation, plaques and certificates I've received since the beginning of my service in Israel Police.
	Ilana Dayan	This is what his career looks nowadays. Packed in carton boxes in the sun.
30:00	Menashe Arviv	Unfortunately the glass shattered here, but this is a certificate of appreciation from the commissioner for outstanding unit. Wow, man, a lot was shattered here. [30:00] Wow, wow, wow, wow, wow... this is a squad in the special forces. This is my squad that I commanded.

	Ilana Dayan	Someone could think that all of these shards are a metaphor for something.
	Menashe Arviv	No, this is probably just the packages they made for me. But it's okay, I'll restore it all, because these are great guys.
	Ilana Dayan	He never imagined he who would ever talk about himself this way, as the officer that possibly has destroyed his career the same he built it – all on his own. He was raised in Neve Sharet with a mother who worked as a cleaner and a father who was both a rabbi and a civilian working for IDF. 12 brothers and sisters, in a small public housing apartment, which he leaves at the age of 18.
	Menashe Arviv	When I went to the induction center, I knew I was going to be a desk jockey.
	Ilana Dayan	Really.
	Menashe Arviv	Really.
	Ilana Dayan	But he volunteers to the paratroops without telling anyone at home, and what comes next is practically natural. Arviv enlists to the special police forces and is on the first team that storms the Mothers' Bus in 88 and takes out the terrorists.
	Menashe Arviv	There was shooting inside the bus, the pulse is rising, a terrorist with an AK-47 in front of me, shooting, there was also sniper fire, the entire squad takes over in 20-30 seconds.
	Menashe Arviv	No.
	Ilana Dayan	When was the last time you saw him?
	Menashe Arviv	Thirty years maybe.
	Ilana Dayan	You haven't seen your brother for thirty years.
	Menashe Arviv	We're not in touch. Years.
	Ilana Dayan	What happened the day you decided to stop talking with your brother?
	Menashe Arviv	It was the day I was invited to testify as his character witness at the district court in Jerusalem.
	Ilana Dayan	David Arviv will become a serious intelligence target in the years to come. His name has been tied to drug smuggling, extortion and property violations, but already at that sitting at the court, when his brother is prosecuted for the Diamond Sander Robbery, Menashe Arviv realizes that in order to move forward he needs to cut loose.
	Menashe Arviv	I told him, David, I am a policeman. I am a man of the law. This doesn't mix well together. This was our last conversation. Since then, we haven't spoken or met.
	Ilana Dayan	Anyone who's ever worked with Arviv knows that he has distanced himself from any decision made in regards to his brother, even when the brother was arrested.
	Menashe Arviv	When the affair broke out, he was the first. He was the first of all of the brothers who came and said "I'll put any sum of money." He told this to my sister Malka. "Any sum that Menashe needs – I'll give".
	Ilana Dayan	And he gave her money for him.
	Menashe Arviv	He gave her money for me.
	Ilana Dayan	And still you didn't talk to him.
	Menashe Arviv	I didn't. I didn't.
	Menashe Arviv	This a picture that was used, that famous picture.
	Ilana Dayan	That this is a picture of you with the rabbi.
	Menashe Arviv	That's right. Here I sign, I write two letters in the Sefer Torah.
	Ilana Dayan	Menashe Arviv already wears the stripes of a brigadier general when he starts becoming involved with the rabbi who like him, was on his

		way up.
	Ilana Dayan	And during your next encounters with Rabbi Pinto?
	Menashe Arviv	Ilana, it was just five meetings.
	Ilana Dayan	But why do you keep coming back there?
	Menashe Arviv	I think that most of the meetings are friends.
	Ilana Dayan	Do you recognize this man?
	Menashe Arviv	Aziza.
	Ilana Dayan	Yes.
	Menashe Arviv	But he became religious.
	Ilana Dayan	But you know what he did in the past.
	Menashe Arviv	That's right.
	Ilana Dayan	He strangled a senior citizen to death during a robbery.
	Menashe Arviv	I have no idea.
	Ilana Dayan	He did time in prison.
	Menashe Arviv	I don't know.
	Unidentified	Gentlemen, Yitzhak Abergil.
	Ilana Dayan	Do you know Yossi Harari?
	Menashe Arviv	Yossi Harari.
	Ilana Dayan	Do you know Shalom Domrani?
	Menashe Arviv	I didn't meet them there.
	Ilana Dayan	But you knew they were hanging around the Rabbi.
	Menashe Arviv	No! Ilana, no! Now I know that they're hanging around the rabbi's courtyard, back then I didn't.
	Ilana Dayan	How come you didn't know if I knew?
	Menashe Arviv	Ilana, Ilana, if I had known, would I have met with these people? I didn't know.
	Ilana Dayan	You didn't know these people are hanging out in Rabbi Pinto's shadow?
	Menashe Arviv	I really, really didn't.
	Ilana Dayan	You didn't understand that a rabbi that somehow attracted Nochi Dankner and Yossi Harari, as well as Eduardo Elstein and Moshe Aziza, that perhaps something there was different than the rabbis you knew as a child?
	Menashe Arviv	No.
	Ilana Dayan	That this wasn't Rabbi Eliashiv's courtyard?
	Menashe Arviv	Ilana, no.
	Ilana Dayan	That this wasn't Rabbi Ovadia Yosef's courtyard.
	Menashe Arviv	No, Ilana, no. I really didn't.
35:00	Ilana Dayan	You know, this is perhaps the biggest question. How couldn't you have seen this? How does an officer with senses as keen as yours [35:00] with experience, doesn't realize the people he's getting involved with?
	Menashe Arviv	Ilana, I had no reason. I had no reason to suspect that there was some kind of hidden agenda here, that after a few years he would take out the drawer and make Menashe look like he's dirty, a robber, a thief.
	Ilana Dayan	In Spring 2011 when Arviv is appointed the prestigious position of Israel Police's representative in the US, he will be exposed to the depths of the rabbi's connections within the investigative authorities in America as well.
	Menashe Arviv	I was in a work meeting with the FBI in New York. I got out of the meeting, even before I finish going down the stairs, I get a phone call,



		who's on the line? Rabbi Pinto. And then he says, well, how was the meeting at the FBI?" I'm shocked. "How does your honor know I was at the FBI?" "We know everything, we're connected. We said good things about you, talked about you." That shocked me, it shows you how well connected he is. It really tells you about his connections. He didn't know I was at the FBI from me.
	Ilana Dayan	Arviv hangs up the phone and doesn't report this conversation to his commanders. Rabbi Pinto's name is already mentioned at this point in the investigation here in Israel on the Hazon Yeshaya affair. This investigation gets the rabbi nervous, and also leads him to action. A sign for that is found in an affair that has yet to be reported: this serious indictment was recently made against the rabbi's brother, and it describes how Moshe Pinto used to allegedly beat his wife to make sure she won't tell the investigators what she knows about the rabbi's financial affairs. "When he didn't like her answers, he would beat her again" – the indictment states. Rabbi Pinto apparently didn't know what was allegedly going on inside his brother's house. However, the fraud squad investigators see the signs of the rabbi's activities in the field. Rabbi Pinto was already under surveillance, a senior source tells us, it was clear that was using every possible connection in order to get information about the case. Menashe Arviv is one of the few people who are in on it. One of the investigators tells him the details but he has no clue as to Arviv's relationship with the rabbi. Arviv doesn't tell him anything about it.
	Ilana Dayan	When you're there in America, you tell me you only met him once during this period.
	Menashe Arviv	Only once.
	Ilana Dayan	And still he asks to know something about the investigation that was being conducted against him at the time about Hazon Yeshaya, how do you respond to this request?
	Menashe Arviv	He was always complaining that people were having it in for him, he complained he was being attacked, he complained about Haim Ifergan, about Ziva Agami, those people.
	Ilana Dayan	He wanted them to be removed from their posts?
	Menashe Arviv	Yes, he also asked that they be removed from their posts once. But ask Yoav if I had ever talked with him about it.
	Ilana Dayan	Why didn't you talk with him about it?
	Menashe Arviv	Why should I have?
	Ilana Dayan	Shouldn't you tell him if Rabbi Pinto is approaching you with complaints?
	Menashe Arviv	About what? What's in this, Ilana? I ran the judicial inquiry for the investigation that was being held. So if I wanted to, I could have disrupted, right?
	Ilana Dayan	This is Suky.
	Menashe Arviv	Yes.
	Ilana Dayan	This is the honor of the famous hotel. The man who claims he gave you a free suite 23 times.
	Menashe Arviv	This is the man who declared in a false disposition that he gave me a luxury suite 23 or 22 times.
	Ilana Dayan	And you were there.
	Menashe Arviv	I was there just once.
	Ilana Dayan	The rabbi and his people apparently discover the potential of the relationship with the senior officer and act according to the drill. From

		here on Arviv will be surrounded by tempting offers. He denies ever receiving anything; they claim he received thousands of dollars in personal favors.
	Ilana Dayan	Do you choose to come to this hotel that one time that you did?
	Menashe Arviv	No, I didn't know the hotel. I called Benzi, and he actually connected me to his brother.
	Ilana Dayan	Eran.
	Menashe Arviv	Eran.
	Ilana Dayan	And he proposed that you wouldn't pay?
	Menashe Arviv	I told him, listen. No way. I'm leaving 200 dollars.
	Ilana Dayan	You set the sum on your own accord.
	Menashe Arviv	Without a doubt.
	Ilana Dayan	And when your wife Sigal asks to stay in this hotel another time, they also offer her to stay there for free?
	Menashe Arviv	I'm in Washington: and then she sends me a message: he doesn't want to take the money. And then Eran sends me: tell your wife to take the money, it's not nice and it's rude. So I tell him, no way, you have to take the money. And that was the end of it, my wife gave him 200 dollars, period.
	Ilana Dayan	And she didn't get a receipt.
	Menashe Arviv	Look, in the United States, first of all, this... no... what, do I save receipts? And if I did get one, would I save the receipt? Do you think I would save the receipt?
40:00	Ilana Dayan	Now he is revealing everything he has, even updates on his cell phone on the days [40:00] Suky claims he hosted him in New York.
	Menashe Arviv	This is what's called real evidence. When my mobile phone was with me in an entirely different place? My plane tickets, my schedule that my secretary in Washington DC keeps. Look at this, look at this. I'm not even there. I'm not even there, I'm on the other side of the United States.
	Ilana Dayan	Why didn't you break things off?
	Menashe Arviv	I had no reason. I had no reason-
	Ilana Dayan	To suspect anything?
	Menashe Arviv	To suspect anything. I had no reason!
	Ilana Dayan	It is possible he didn't want to suspect, even when the rabbi's people try to grab him from every direction. Arviv, we learned, reported only recently to the Attorney General that the rabbi offered him cash twice. And the rabbi's people try to get to him even earlier through his son, Tzahi Arviv, who was living in New York at the time. "The rabbi ordered me to take 2,000 dollars a month out of the yeshiva's funds and give them to Major General Arviv's son," the rabbi's treasurer claims, and states he did so for two years. "Tzahi Arviv used to call me on my mobile and tell me when he intends to come to the yeshiva, and asked me to have the money ready for him in an envelope."
	Ilana Dayan	Is it possible that your son received 2,000 dollars a month, or any sum, from Rabbi Pinto or his close associates, without you knowing?
	Menashe Arviv	Ilana, first of, I wish that he had. Alright? Because Tzahi, today I know, lives there in a leaky apartment. Tzahi was working two jobs. Tzahi was educated in a different place. If Tzahi had taken – I would have known.
	Ilana Dayan	But don't you think twice before you ask the rabbi's people, or the people around him, if maybe they can help your son Tzahi find work in New York?
	Menashe Arviv	What's so wrong about it if you know that your son is going to New

		York...
	Ilana Dayan	But it was a New York attorney that got him the visa with funding from Rabbi Pinto's institutions.
	Menashe Arviv	Ilana – that's wrong. Again, a lie, again.
	Ilana Dayan	I have to understand this. This is a series of documents and evidence and e-mails, that I'm asking myself if all of this couldn't have been forged? When the assistant writes an e-mail to Suky, listen to this: dear Benzi, I'm sending you Tzahi Arviv's email, it is very important that you speak to him because the rabbi asked that you take care of him quickly. And then Tzahi writes to the rabbi's assistance: see the attached mail I received from the attorney, she writes that she's waiting for payment in order to continue. And at the end he writes to them, "thanks for the helping." Is this all forged?
	Menashe Arviv	When it comes to Menashe Arviv, I testify under oath, that it's all lies.
	Ilana Dayan	About your son, you're saying that maybe there are things you don't know.
	Menashe Arviv	Let me see. Let me see. Bring me the material, put the material in front of my eyes. Take Tzahi, ask Tzahi, after all I'm not... I'm currently unable to speak with Tzahi so I won't be accused of obstruction of justices or anything.
	Ilana Dayan	So up until this day, you've never asked Tzahi: did you receive anything from Rabbi Pinto?
	Menashe Arviv	Without a doubt.
	Ilana Dayan	Did you ask?
	Menashe Arviv	No.
	Ilana Dayan	Did he ever visit Rabbi Pinto?
	Menashe Arviv	I don't know. I don't know. I don't know.
	Ilana Dayan	What exactly did Tzahi Arviv get from the rabbi's people, if at all? The prosecution says that the State has offered to pay for his trip from abroad to give a statement several times, but so far he hasn't showed up. Meanwhile, what used to happen in secret is now starting to be revealed. When the Efi Bracha affair is revealed, so are the Rabbi's connection with the police's top.
	Anchorman	The police suspects that the respectable rabbi Yoshiyahu Pinto tried to bribe Brigadier General Efraim Bracha, one of the highest ranking officers in the police's investigations department.
	Menashe Arviv	When the affair about Efi Bracha and the Rabbi broke out in the media, he called me dozens of times.
	Ilana Dayan	Suky or the rabbi?
	Menashe Arviv	Suky! "Look what they're doing to the Rabbi, they have it in for the rabbi..." I told him, "Suky, I'm asking you, don't call me anymore. Don't answer anymore." He tells me, "listen, we-" and I quote – "we will kill ourselves for the rabbi, just so you're clear!" I hung up the phone, and this was the last call.
	Ilana Dayan	Menashe Arviv will become Pinto's ace at this point. The rabbi's lawyers now reveal the depth of Pinto's relationship with Arviv, all in order to get the rabbi out of the entanglement in the Bracha affair. When the headlines about the Rabbi and major general affair break out, Arviv is summoned to meeting at Police Commissioner Danino's chambers in Tel Aviv.
45:00	Menashe Arviv	I remember the look on Commissionaire Yohanan's face. He looked like he's seen a ghost, he crawled up himself, as if some natural disaster had hit him. [45:00] The truth is I really felt sorry for him.

		You've seen the white in his eyes, you've seen it on his face, what he was going through. I told him: "Yohanan, I'm taking a leave of absence for a week at my own expense, notify the Attorney General, notify the State Attorney, notify whoever you need." I believed that Yohanan will bring me back at the end of the week.
	Ilana Dayan	How could you have expected that? How could you expect, when a major general in Israel Police in the most sensitive position, who's leading Lahav, the biggest, most important, most sensitive, investigation unit in the police, 433, has such suspicions hanging against him, you expected him to bring you back within a week?
	Menashe Arviv	I expected Danino to stand up to the Attorney General, and the State General, and push the system to perform a quick check. My blood has been spilled, mine and my family's. Giant headlines, at the beginning of all news casts, who stood up to protect Menashe? Who stood up and said, folks, let the system check it. Let's check! If Menashe is proven guilty, do whatever you want.
	Ilana Dayan	Did you tell this to Danino?
	Menashe Arviv	Danino heard from me a lot more than you're hearing.
	Menashe Arviv	Everything is alright.
	Reporter	Everything is alright?
	Menashe Arviv	Thank god, everything is alright. It'll all be alright.
	Menashe Arviv	When your daughter calls your and says "I'm on my way for an interrogation at the Police Investigation Unit."
	Ilana Dayan	Tell me you didn't screw up, a little bit, maybe more, that you were wrong, that you messed up. That you missed some turn on the way.
	Menashe Arviv	I've been sitting and thinking every night for the past three months, if I made a mistake. Where did I go wrong – if I did go wrong. Ilana, I did nothing wrong. I did nothing wrong. In retrospective I tell myself one thing: I regret going to that meeting at the Hilton with my friend that Saturday night. This, this I regret. What a stupid Saturday night.
	Ilana Dayan	He also knows that this was not his greatest mistake; that a police officer is allowed to want a relationship with a rabbi. The problem starts when a web of tainted connections is woven around this rabbi, when they stand in line – the minister and the tycoon, the criminal and the chief investigator, looking to get his blessing, not just for spiritual purposes, and refusing to see what he is looking to get from them.
50:00	Ilana Dayan	I would like to thank Sarit Magen, Nitai Elboim and Tomer Avital for working on the research for this story, as well as director Gilad Tokatly and Nir Shahak who worked with me on the story. Now for the comments, this is what we received on behalf of Rabbi Pinto: The rabbi stands at the head of education, welfare and charity enterprises around the world, with the involvement of 20 thousand people. For many people, the 'Shuva Israel' community is the only support they have for love and giving. Menashe Arviv and his friends, they say there, are trying to spread lies against the rabbi and his followers in order to thwart the Arviv investigation. We regret that at this time we cannot comment further without it being considered an obstruction of justice. When the investigation is concluded everyone will know who the accuser is and who's accused. In the past few years, the comment states, Rabbi Pinto and the 'Shuva Israel' community have dealt with extortion attempts. The FBI has expressed full confidence in the rabbi's integrity and has acted harshly against those who try to sully his name. We are convinced that the truth will come

out at the end of this affair, which is that the rabbi and his followers were used for their kindness. Also: we reject the cynical attempt to involve the Rabbi and the community in business disputes. The legal arena is the only place for settling such disagreements. Rabbi Pinto has acted and will continue to act to achieve peace between the parties. In any case, the rabbi's people say that they know nothing about giving out money in cash. As for jewels, the rabbi's courtyard explains, there are followers that occasionally get him watches, and he sometimes gives them to others, as a blessing. The rabbi's close associate Ben Zion Suky repeats that he and the rabbi did not know Eric Patino's name before Tomer Shochat's arrest and never mentioned his name anyway. According to him, all of Shochat's claims are false, as are Nissim Biton's. Suky claims that Madison Hotel ran into debts solely because of the financial crisis in America.

Detective Eric Patino claims that he handle Tomer Shochat's affair professionally and objectively, and Tzahi Arviv's attorneys deny on his behalf that he received any funds from Rabbi Pinto's people.

According to them Arviv will get to Israel when it is possible, when his family and work life allows it, and give his statement.

At the end of this episode I will be with you on Uvda's Facebook page. Tonight we are concluding our 20<sup>th</sup> season. I would like to dedicate the last minute [50:00] to the people that make this program, and first of all to our editor Eyal Gonen who has both hands on the wheel with a rare combination of talent and courage. To our assistant editor Shahar Alterman who also brings us another perspective. Great thanks to Ruthie Steinberg, the engine of our production, Yael Schiffman the heart of our show, Moran Fararo and Sergey Katz, the team of journalists I am so proud to be a part of, Sarit Magen, Efrat Lechter, Irit Lechter, Tomer Avital, Nitai Elboim, Matan Gez and Aya Beck. And of course, Ben Shani, Omri Assenheim, Roni Kuban, Nir Shahak and Naama Perry.

We would like to thank our friends at the Earliness firm and the video crews and film editors, a full hearted thanks to the dear Malka Israel and Limor Tuv, our friends in Keshet and primarily Avi Nir, who for nearly ten years has only intervened in order to help, and has a golden share in our program. And a special thanks to Gilad Tokatly, our director whose signature you can see in every frame, every week. He's been taking this road with me for over twenty years and with a lot of love. We will be here once again, turning on a flashlight in the dark, giving a voice to those who go unheard and telling you the stories that we all need to know. Thank you for being with.