



TAINED LEGACY

"GIANT" DRAMATIZES ROALD DAHL'S 1983 ANTISEMITIC CONTROVERSY, WITH JOHN LITHGOW AS THE AUTHOR FACING COLLEAGUES AND CRITICS OVER HIS LITERARY GENIUS — AND HIS EXTREMELY TROUBLING VIEWS. **11**

NORTH JERSEY

The anti-Trump movement simmering in the suburbs



Allison Posner was barely involved in politics a few years ago. Now the 42-year-old mother from Maplewood hands out food and diapers to immigrant families outside a nearby detention facility. She waves signs on a highway overpass between school pickups and orthodontist appointments. And this weekend, she'll lead a No Kings protest in her affluent town alongside her husband, her children and thousands of others who are convinced President Donald Trump represents a direct threat to American democracy. "The people in the suburbs are definitely radicalizing," said Posner. A growing faction of concerned citizens living in suburban communities across the United States are increasingly positioned on the front lines of the anti-Trump resistance (see Nation & World, C5). Also planning to participate in today's demonstrations: a group of senior living community residents from Clifton, below left, and the Singing Resistance of North Jersey, a musical group, seen below right in Denville (see A6). *Photos by Seth Wenig, AP (above), and John Jones (below left) and Ed Murray, for NJ.com*



HOBOKEN

Plot to firebomb home of Palestinian activist disrupted, authorities say

N.J. man arrested as he was assembling Molotov cocktails, according to investigators.

Jake Offenhartz and Michael R. Sisak
Associated Press

A man accused of planning to firebomb the home of a prominent Palestinian activist has been arrested following a week-long undercover operation led by the New York City Police Department, officials said Friday.

The target of the plot was Nerdeen Kiswani, who frequently leads protests in New York against Israel and the war in Gaza through the organization Within Our Lifetime.

Kiswani, 31, said law enforcement officials informed her late Thursday that they had disrupted "a threat on my life that was about to take place."

Federal authorities said they arrested Alexander Heifler on Thursday at his home in Hoboken as he was assembling Molotov cocktails that he planned to throw at Kiswani's home. For weeks, he had discussed the plot with an undercover NYPD detective who had infiltrated a group chat used by Heifler, according to a police department spokesperson.

An official who was briefed on the investigation said Heifler, 26, identified as a member of the JDL 613 Brotherhood, a New Jersey-based group founded in 2024 that describes its membership as "Jewish warriors" fighting back against rising antisemitism.

A website for the group says they are inspired by the original Jewish Defense League, a group linked to numerous bombings and attempted assassinations of Arab American political activists in the 1970s and 1980s.

Heifler planned to flee to Israel following the attack, according to the official, who requested anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the details of an ongoing investigation.

An email inquiry sent to the JDL 613 was not returned.

Kiswani, who lives in Brooklyn with her infant son and husband, said the plot **SEE HOBOKEN, A2**

BRIDGETON

ICE agent smashes attorney's car window, then detains client

Man's wife believes federal officers targeted her family because she is a former activist.

Matt Gray *NJ.com*

A New Jersey woman is demanding to know why a masked federal agent smashed the window of a car and grabbed her husband on Thursday in a harrowing incident outside a courthouse, which she lives-treamed on Facebook.

Deborah Gomez said she was recording live as a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agent struck her attorney's car with a baton to break a window before taking her husband into custody as they left the Cumberland County Courthouse in Bridgeton.

"No! Stop it! Stop!" Gomez screamed at the ICE agents on the video. "I want to see a warrant!"

Her husband, Edgar Gomez, was eventually handcuffed and taken into another vehicle. He was being held in the Delaney Hall immigration detention facility in New-

ark on Friday, said Deborah Gomez, of Vineland.

Agents never explained why they wanted her husband, she said.

"The ICE agent just proceeded to break the window. He dented my attorney's car. They ripped my husband out of the vehicle without showing a warrant," Deborah Gomez said.

While she is a U.S. citizen, her husband of nearly 10 years is undocumented. He's been in the country for 25 years and they have been trying for years to get him documented, she said.

"We've been in process for nine years," she said, adding that the COVID-19 pandemic delayed the process.

ICE officials did not immediately respond to a request for comment about the incident.

The arrest is part of a nationwide crackdown on undocumented immigrants launched last year by the Trump administration, which said it was targeting the worst offenders, including murderers, rapists, pedophiles and gang members.

Critics say immigration raids are targeting many without criminal records and **SEE BRIDGETON, A5**

PATERSON

Jury awards man \$12M after wrongful murder conviction

He spent over two decades behind bars before being released from prison in 2017.

Matthew Enuco *NJ.com*

A Passaic County man released from prison after spending more than 20 years behind bars for a crime he did not commit was awarded \$12 million from a federal jury on Wednesday.

The civil jury found that the city of Paterson and several investigators were liable for coercing a false confession from Eric Kelley in the killing of a video store clerk in 1993.

The city and detectives from the Paterson Police Department were accused of deliberately fabricating and suppressing evidence, and coercing his confession to the murder. Many of the detectives named in the case have long since retired and at least one has died.

The jury awarded \$12 million in compensatory damages but did not issue punitive damages, according to a tran-

script of the hearing.

"We are pleased the jury recognized the obvious and extraordinary police misconduct in this case and the lies used to cover up proof of Mr. Kelley's innocence," one of Kelley's attorneys, Katie McCarthy, said in a statement. "This verdict represents a measure of accountability, but no amount of money can give him back the 24 years he lost. The jury's verdict fully vindicates his innocence."

An attorney for Raymond Reid, one of the Paterson police officers found liable in the civil case, did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

An attorney for the city of Paterson declined to comment.

"Captain Reyes retired with a distinguished career serving the community," Joel Miklacki, an attorney for former Paterson Police Department Capt. Richard Reyes, said. "I believe the verdict was not indicative of him as a person and his work over the years. We respect the jury's time and decision, but we plan to appeal."

Kelley and Ralph Lee, both of Paterson, were released from prison in 2017 after serving more than two decades for the murder of **SEE PATERSON, A2**