Sikh Disinformation Lab

MISLEADING

Misleading: Before It's News piece recasts Second Circuit funding ruling as a win for "illegal alien truckers"

A Moonbattery opinion piece republished by Before It's News asserts that a federal appeals court ruled in favour of undocumented truck drivers, citing two fatal crashes involving Punjabi-named drivers. The Lab assesses the item as Misleading: the ruling concerned a highway funding penalty against New York, not a right to commercial licences.

PUBLISHED
17 November 2026

SOURCE POSTED
16 November 2026

NARRATIVES
Portraying Sikh and Punjabi Drivers as Dangerous

OUR ASSESSMENT

What was published

On 16 November 2026, Before It's News republished a Moonbattery opinion article titled "Judges Rule in Favor of Illegal Alien Truckers."

The article criticizes a federal appeals court decision concerning commercial driver's licenses issued to noncitizens in New York. It opens by citing two truck drivers with Punjabi-associated names, Harjinder Singh and Jashanpreet Singh, who were involved in fatal crashes, before portraying the ruling as a judicial obstacle to preventing undocumented immigrants from driving commercial vehicles.

Drawing on Breitbart's reporting, the commentary argues that judges have interfered with immigration enforcement and road-safety measures.

Finding: Misleading legal framing and selective criminalization.

The article uses two fatal crashes involving Punjabi-named drivers to suggest that an American appeals court has acted to protect undocumented truck drivers. This framing obscures what the court actually decided and introduces an ethnicized dimension into a separate regulatory dispute.

On 13 November 2026, the US Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit ruled that the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration could not withhold approximately $73.5 million in highway funding from New York based on a licensing requirement that did not exist in the regulations applicable to the period under review.

The judges did not establish a general right for undocumented immigrants to receive commercial driving licenses. Their decision concerned whether federal authorities could impose financial penalties on New York for failing to follow an expiration-date requirement that was not then in force. The court expressly declined to determine the legality of the newer licensing regulations.

The article nevertheless portrays the ruling as a victory for drivers described as illegal immigrants, using the deaths caused by two separate trucking incidents to establish the emotional foundation for that interpretation.

The cases of Harjinder Singh and Jashanpreet Singh occurred in Florida and California, respectively, and are not shown to have resulted from the New York licensing practices examined by the appeals court.

The account also omits an important development involving Jashanpreet Singh. In July 2026, he pleaded guilty to three counts of vehicular manslaughter with gross negligence and was sentenced to four years and eight months in prison. The original allegation of impaired driving had been withdrawn after toxicology tests found no detectable substances.

These details matter because the article uses the individual cases to support a broader argument about immigrant criminality and judicial protection, without providing the legal outcomes or explaining their relevance to the actual ruling.

The Punjabi-associated surnames are prominently selected as examples of immigrant wrongdoing. Such framing warrants scrutiny where it contributes to broader narratives that associate Punjabi or Sikh-identifiable individuals with criminality.

Context

The deaths caused by the crashes were serious tragedies that warranted criminal investigation and accountability. However, those incidents do not establish that a separate federal appeals court decision authorized unsafe drivers or protected individuals from prosecution.

The article conflates immigration status, commercial licensing, individual criminal conduct and judicial oversight into a single narrative. It offers no demonstrated connection between the two named drivers and the New York regulatory dispute.

The central information-integrity concern is the use of selectively named Punjabi-associated individuals to support a misleading account of a court ruling, turning separate criminal incidents into a broader narrative about immigrant danger and judicial permissiveness.

THE CLAIM

Judges Rule in Favor of Illegal Alien Truckers

THE ANALYSIS

What was published

On 16 November 2026, Before It's News republished a Moonbattery opinion article headlined "Judges Rule in Favor of Illegal Alien Truckers."

The piece criticises a federal appeals court decision concerning commercial driver's licences issued to noncitizens in New York. It opens by pointing to "the numerous Americans who have been killed by illegal aliens driving big rigs on our roads," naming two truck drivers with Punjabi-associated names, Harjinder Singh and Jashanpreet Singh, who were involved in fatal crashes. Drawing on Breitbart's reporting, the commentary argues that judges have obstructed immigration enforcement and road-safety measures.

The Lab's assessment

The Lab assesses the item as Misleading, on the basis of misleading legal framing and selective criminalization.

The article uses two fatal crashes involving Punjabi-named drivers to suggest that an American appeals court has acted to protect undocumented truck drivers. That framing obscures what the court actually decided, and introduces an ethnicized dimension into a separate regulatory dispute.

On 13 November 2026, the US Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit ruled that the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration could not withhold approximately $73.5 million in highway funding from New York, on the basis of a licensing requirement that did not exist in the regulations applicable to the period under review.

The judges did not establish a general right for undocumented immigrants to receive commercial driving licences. The decision concerned whether federal authorities could impose financial penalties on New York for failing to follow an expiration-date requirement that was not then in force. The court expressly declined to determine the legality of the newer licensing regulations.

The article nevertheless presents the ruling as a victory for drivers it describes as illegal immigrants, using deaths caused by two separate trucking incidents as the emotional foundation for that interpretation.

The two named cases

The cases of Harjinder Singh and Jashanpreet Singh occurred in Florida and California respectively. Neither is shown to have resulted from the New York licensing practices examined by the appeals court.

The article also omits a significant development involving Jashanpreet Singh. In July 2026, he pleaded guilty to three counts of vehicular manslaughter with gross negligence and was sentenced to four years and eight months in prison. The original allegation of impaired driving had been withdrawn after toxicology tests found no detectable substances.

These details matter because the article uses the individual cases to support a broader argument about immigrant criminality and judicial protection, without providing the legal outcomes or explaining their relevance to the actual ruling.

The Punjabi-associated surnames are prominently selected as examples of immigrant wrongdoing. Such framing warrants scrutiny where it contributes to broader narratives that associate Punjabi or Sikh-identifiable individuals with criminality.

Context

The deaths caused by the crashes were serious tragedies that warranted criminal investigation and accountability. Those incidents do not establish that a separate federal appeals court decision authorised unsafe drivers or shielded anyone from prosecution.

The article conflates immigration status, commercial licensing, individual criminal conduct and judicial oversight into a single narrative. It offers no demonstrated connection between the two named drivers and the New York regulatory dispute.

The central information-integrity concern is the use of selectively named Punjabi-associated individuals to support a misleading account of a court ruling, turning separate criminal incidents into a broader narrative about immigrant danger and judicial permissiveness.

The Lab records the item at severity 2 of 5, with factual accuracy rated as insufficient evidence for the claim as framed.

SOURCES

01 https://beforeitsnews.com/opinion-conservative/2026/11/judges-rule-in-favor-of-illegal-alien-truckers-3747655.html

02 US Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit ruling of 13 November 2026 regarding Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration highway funding withheld from New York (approximately $73.5 million)

03 Sentencing of Jashanpreet Singh, July 2026: guilty plea to three counts of vehicular manslaughter with gross negligence; four years and eight months' imprisonment; impaired driving allegation withdrawn after toxicology testing

04 Sikh Disinformation Lab analyst review record

Sikh Disinformation Lab

About Sikh Disinformation Lab

Sikh Disinformation Lab is an independent, evidence-based programme founded and hosted by the World Sikh Organization of Canada. It monitors, analyses and publicly documents disinformation affecting Sikhs.

The Lab examines claims against evidence, publishes assessments with that evidence attached, and tracks coordinated campaigns over time. Every published assessment names what was claimed, where it appeared, what the review found, and what that assessment rests on. Where an item makes several distinct claims, each is assessed separately.

Assessments are made against the methodology framework in force at the time of publication. That framework is public, versioned, and reviewed at each phase gate; a material change produces a new version rather than a silent edit. The full method is published at sikhdisinfolab.ca/method.

Corrections are dated entries, never silent edits. Where a published assessment is found to be wrong or incomplete, the correction is recorded against it and listed at sikhdisinfolab.ca/corrections. If you believe something published here is inaccurate, write to the programme and it will be reviewed.

Assessments are the responsibility of Sikh Disinformation Lab.

This project has been made possible with support from the Government of Canada.

> This document was generated from the published assessment at sikhdisinfolab.ca. The version of record is the one on the site, which carries any corrections issued after this file was made.