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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3603

December 22, 2011

The Honorable Eric H. Holder
U.S. Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Attorney General:

I was concerned to hear recently about complaints made against the Department of Justice for not aggressively prosecuting or helping to prosecute foreign terrorists who have committed acts of violence against Americans abroad.

As you know, the Office of Justice of Victims of Overseas Terrorism (OJVOT) was created within DOJ in 2005 by the passage of the Koby Mandell Act. The purpose of the Koby Mandell Act, named after a 13-year-old Maryland boy who was brutally stoned to death by terrorists in Israel in 2001, was to create within the Department of Justice a permanent unit that will aggressively seek out those who have committed acts of terror against American citizens, so that American citizens can enjoy the protection of our law enforcement system wherever they may travel. The Koby Mandell Act was overwhelmingly supported by a bipartisan majority of the 108th Congress, and was signed into law by President George W. Bush.

I understand that in spite of the aforementioned good intentions associated with OJVOT, of the seventy-one cases of Palestinian terror attacks with American casualties in and around Israel, the Department of Justice to date has never prosecuted or extradited a single Palestinian terrorist. As one who represents the families of Americans who were murdered or injured by terrorists, I strongly believe that the Department of Justice must act aggressively to fully prosecute the murderers of American citizens. I ask that you please inform me as to what actions OJVOT has taken to fulfill the letter and spirit of the Koby Mandell Act.

The murder of American citizens, wherever it occurs, requires the United States government, and all its constituent parts, to aggressively seek justice, per the law.

Thank you for your attention to this very important matter, and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James M. Inhofe", written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above a thin horizontal line.

James M. Inhofe
United States Senator