



EMET is Still Seeking Justice for All Americans Murdered or Injured by Palestinian Terrorists

- The Endowment for Middle East Truth (EMET), led by Founder and President Sarah Stern, has been working to make sure that any Palestinian terrorist who harms an American is brought to justice.
- President Sarah Stern has been working on this issue for almost two decades now, and keeps in constant contact with some of the American victims and the families of the victims of Palestinian terror.
- The Anti-Terrorism Act of 1991, 18 USC Sec. 2332(b), says that whenever an American is killed or harmed overseas in an act of international terrorism, the U.S. has the right and the responsibility to prosecute and punish, in United States courts, the individual(s) who murdered or maimed the American citizen. A conspirator in such a crime can get up to 20 years imprisonment, and no statute of limitations precludes prosecution of old offenses.
- While working for the ZOA and the AJC, Sarah Stern spearheaded and helped pass the Koby Mandell Act, P.L. 108-447, which was signed into law in December 2004. This Act required the Attorney General to establish an office in the Department of Justice (DOJ) – the Office of Justice for Victims of Overseas Terrorism (OJVOT) – to monitor acts of terrorism against Americans outside the U.S. and to attempt to bring to justice those terrorists who have harmed Americans.
 - The Act was named after a 13-year-old American-Israeli boy – from Silver Spring, Maryland, named Koby Mandell – who was murdered on May 8, 2001, when he was stoned to death at Tekoa. Sarah Stern is a personal friend of the Mandells.
 - The OJVOT was opened and has been in existence since May of 2005.
- Even though there have been more than 75 cases of Palestinian terror attacks post-Oslo resulting in American casualties in and around Israel, the DOJ has never indicted, extradited, and/or prosecuted a single Palestinian terrorist.
 - Using only post-Oslo numbers, the number of American victims of attacks in Israel stands at 66 killed, not including two unborn children, and more than 91 wounded.
- Israeli releases of Palestinian terrorists:
 - In 2011, over 1000 Palestinians were released for the captured Israeli soldier, Gilad Shalit. At least 20 of them have American blood on their hands. One of the most notorious of these 20 terrorists is Ahlam Tamimi. On August 9, 2001, Tamimi's actions caused a bomb blast that pulverized a Sbarro Pizzeria located in Jerusalem. Among those killed were two Americans: a 15 old girl and a pregnant woman.

- After her release in 2011, Tamimi was given money from both Hamas and the PA, moved to Jordan, began to host a bi-monthly show on the Hamas TV station, and became a regular commentator on Arab media, frequently celebrating her crimes.
 - On April 5, 2012, the DOJ sent its response letter to a Congressional letter calling on the agency to prosecute Palestinian terrorists, including Tamimi. This response claimed that “there are significant impediments to bringing prosecutions in the United States for attacks that occur overseas.” The main impediment mentioned was “(t)he crime scenes are located in places that are not under the United States’ control and, therefore, the United States is entirely dependent on the sovereign country where the attack occurred for assistance and cooperation in these investigations.” Therefore, the DOJ asserted that it could not guarantee that everything would be done by the letter of U.S. criminal law, and that there would be no resulting problems with the chain of custody of the evidence and the admissibility of confessions.
 - This Justice Department argument, in reference to the Tamimi case, is patently ridiculous. Tamimi has confessed to her crimes multiple times on video, including [this video](#). And under U.S. law, this taped admission may be used in court to convict her.
 - A letter by Sen. Jim Inhofe R-OK specifically followed up on the Tamimi case. Under U.S. law, her taped admissions are not banned “hearsay” and may be used in court to convict her. The second DOJ response letter claimed that they could not discuss the Tamimi case because it was an “ongoing investigation.”
- In 2013, Israel pledged to release 104 Palestinian terrorists as a precondition for “peace talks” with the Palestinian Authority. Three groups of terrorists, totaling 78, were released. The groups included Damara Ibrahim Mustafa Bilal and Mustafa Othman al-Haj, convicted of murdering Steven Rosenfeld, a U.S.-born former Marine who immigrated to Israel.
- The U.S. objected to these releases of Palestinians who have harmed Americans, but did so far too late to actually block their release.
- EMET has worked with Congress multiple times to pressure the Justice Department to prosecute Palestinian terrorists with American blood on their hands:
 - In 2012, Reps. Joe Walsh (R-IL) and Howard Berman (D-CA) wrote a letter to Attorney General Holder asking the DOJ to bring Palestinian terrorists to justice. Fifty two other Congressmen, from both parties, co-signed this letter.
 - In 2012, Sen. Jim Inhofe (R-OK) wrote two letters to Attorney General Holder asking the DOJ to bring Palestinian terrorists to justice.
 - In 2013, Rep. Matt Salmon (R-AZ) wrote a letter to Attorney General Holder asking the DOJ to bring Palestinian terrorists to justice. Fifteen Congressmen co-signed this letter.
 - None of the DOJ responses have been particularly responsive, as demonstrated above.
- EMET’s work on this issue has inspired Sen. Cruz R-TX to hold a U.S. Senate Judiciary Subcommittee Oversight Hearing on the issue on November 4, 2015. The hearing primarily focused on Iranian-funded Palestinian terrorism and civil lawsuits. Sen. Cruz’ staff directly praised EMET President and Founder Sarah Stern for bringing this issue to their attention.
- At EMET’s urging, Rep. Ron DeSantis (R-FL), the Chairman of the National Security Subcommittee of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, held an oversight hearing called “Seeking Justice for Victims of Palestinian Terrorism in Israel” on

February 2nd, 2016. EMET flew in from Israel witness Arnold Roth, whose daughter, Malka Roth, was murdered by a suicide bomber at a Sbarro restaurant in Jerusalem in August of 2001, for the hearing. The hearing focused on the failure of the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Office of Justice for Victims of Overseas Terrorism (OJVOT) to fulfill its mission to pursue justice for US victims of Palestinian Terrorism in Israel and Judea and Samaria.

- **EMET will not rest on this issue until it has answers to the following questions - what has the OJVOT accomplished since 2005, and when will the Justice Department act to bring all Palestinian terrorists who have killed or wounded Americans to justice?**