

PRESS RELEASE

American Victims of Palestinian Terror call on President Trump to prohibit the entry of PLO Chairman Mahmoud Abbas to the United States in advance of the upcoming meeting of the General Assembly of the United Nations

Abbas is an “Inadmissible Alien” Under US Code Title 8, § 1182 (3)(B)(7)

Micah Lakin Avni “Why should President Trump agree to allow Abbas to visit the United States in order to use the United Nations General Assembly as a platform to continue his incitement to murder American citizens and as a grandstand to sling opprobrious insults at the President?”

(Jerusalem, September 23, 2018) A group of American Victims of Palestinian Terror today called upon President Donald J. Trump to immediately declare Palestinian President and PLO Chairman Mahmoud Abbas a *persona non grata* and an “Inadmissible Alien”, and prohibit his entry to the United States in advance of the upcoming meeting of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

In a letter signed by a group of American citizens whose loved ones were murdered by Palestinian terrorists, the victims expressed disappointment and outrage at the American government’s willingness to grant admission to United States to Palestinian Authority President and PLO Chairman Mahmoud Abbas.

The letter states:

Abbas is the one person who is personally responsible for the monthly reward payments by the Palestinian Authority to terrorists and the families of terrorists who murdered our loved ones. As recently as last week Abbas reiterated and reaffirmed his commitment to making such payments, assuring that payments would be made to the Palestinian terrorist who brutally murdered Ari Fuld, a dual citizen of the United States and Israel.

Not only is this decision a slap in the face to every American who has suffered from terror, but it is in clear violation of the spirit and the letter of American law. The law is very clear on protecting America’s borders from terrorists and prohibits entry to those involved in incentivizing terror, as follows:

“Aliens who are... ineligible to be admitted to the United States... (VII)[one who] endorses or espouses terrorist activity or persuades others to endorse or espouse terrorist activity, or support a terrorist organization...”
[Code Chapter 8, § 1182 (3)(B)(7)]

Mahmoud Abbas is the head of the Palestinian Authority and the Palestinian National Fund—which make the monthly payments to Palestinian terrorist prisoners and to families of terrorists. United States law defines both of these as “payments incentivizing terror,” in the Taylor Force Act. Thus, Abbas’ entry to the United States should be prohibited, because under the law he is personally “incentivizing terror.”

In the letter, the signatories further pointed out “...there are precedents to deny entry even to diplomats from member states (and the Palestinian Authority is not a state) who were involved in terror. Iranian diplomat to the United Nations Hamid Abutalebi was prohibited entry by the Obama administration because of his connection to the death of an Iranian dissident in Rome. Abbas is directly funding, not murderers of Iranians, but the murderers of Americans. How could the United States possibly grant him entry?”

Micah Lakin Avni, the son a Richard Lakin, a 76-year old retired elementary school principal from Connecticut who was shot in the head and stabbed multiple times by Palestinian terrorists on a public bus in Jerusalem in October 2015, stated “Abbas is the Grand Wizard of Incitement to violence and terror. He sets the tone in the Palestinian community calling regularly upon Palestinian youth to pick up arms and murder innocent Israelis and Americans. Abbas fuels the Palestinian culture of death with an evil system of reward payments to terrorists. President Trump has repeatedly called upon Abbas to stop inciting to terror and choose life. Tragically, Abbas has responded by insulting the American President, and the American people. It is unethical, immoral and illegal to allow Abbas to set foot on American soil. Why should President Trump agree to allow Abbas to visit the United States in order to use the United Nations General Assembly as a platform to continue his incitement to murder American citizens and as a grandstand to sling opprobrious insults at the President?”

The families recognize and are grateful for President Trump’s “...bold, courageous and moral stance of demanding that the Palestinians cease inciting to violence and terror, ceasing American funding to Palestinian and United Nations organizations that promote violence and closing the PLO offices in Washington.”

In the letter, the victims’ families are asking President Trump to “...**immediately declare Mahmoud Abbas a *persona non grata* and an “Inadmissible Alien”, and prohibit his entry to the United States in advance of the United Nations General Assembly meeting later this week**, and until such time that he unequivocally renounces terror and ceases all payments and incentives to terrorists as required under the Taylor Force Act.

Signatories of the letter include the families of the following victims:

Ari Fuld, the 45-year old father of four who was stabbed by a Palestinian terrorist while shopping at a shopping mall on September 16, 2018. Fuld died heroically while neutralizing the terrorist and saving countless others from the attacker. Fuld was assistant director of Standing Together, an organization that supports IDF soldiers. He was an outspoken defender of Israel in the media and online, regularly engaging with Israel’s critics through his Facebook and Twitter accounts.

Taylor Force who was murdered by a Palestinian terrorist in a stabbing attack in Tel Aviv on March 8, 2016, that injured eleven people. Taylor Force was a native of Lubbock, Texas who graduated from West Point in 2009 and served tours of duty in both Afghanistan and Iraq. At the time of the murder, Force was visiting Israel as part of a Vanderbilt University MBA study group examining global entrepreneurship. After Force was murdered, his parents Stuart and Robbi initiated the Taylor Force Act. The Bill, which passed on March 23, 2018 as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018,[11] ends American aid to the Palestinian Authority unless the Authority ceases to pay stipends to the terrorists and their families, including the families of successful suicide bombers.

Hallel Yaffa Ariel, a thirteen year old girl was stabbed to death by a Palestinian terrorist while she slept in her bed on June 30, 2016.

Richard Lakin, a 76-year old elementary principal from Connecticut, who was shot in the head and stabbed multiple times in the face, chest and stomach by Palestinian terrorists while riding a public bus in Jerusalem on October 13, 2015. Three people were murdered and 15 injured in the attack.

Koby Mandell, a 13-year old boy who, together with his friend Yosf Ishran, was kidnapped and stabbed and beaten to death by Palestinian terrorists on May 8, 2001. As a result of the murders, several American legislators introduced the Koby Mandell Act, which reprimanded the State Department for, as it said, not doing enough about Palestinian terrorists who had harmed American citizens, and which would create an Office of Justice for Victims of Overseas Terrorism in the Department of Justice. Koby's parents Seth and Sherri set up the Koby Mandell Foundation to work to bridge the isolation that bereaved children and adults are struck with after the loss of a loved one.

Sarri Singer is the daughter of New Jersey State Senator, Robert Singer. On June 11, 2003, Sarri was on Bus 14 in Jerusalem when an 18 year old Palestinian terrorist dressed as a religious Jew boarded and blew himself up. 16 people were killed, including all those seated and standing around her, and over 100 people were injured. Sarri was hospitalized for two weeks and then returned to New Jersey to be with family. Sarri is the Founder and Director of Strength to Strength, a non-profit organization which focuses on bringing together victims of terrorism from around the world and assisting with long term psychological care.

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