

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 14, 2019

The Honorable Mike Pompeo
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C St., NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Pompeo,

We ask that the extradition case of Ahlam Aref Ahmad Al-Tamimi be raised at all levels with the Government of Jordan.

Two years ago today, on March 14, 2017, the US Department of Justice (DOJ) unsealed a criminal complaint charging Al-Tamimi with conspiring to use a weapon of mass destruction against US nationals outside the US resulting in death. Al-Tamimi, a Jordanian citizen and member of Hamas, was a primary planner of the August 9, 2001 bombing of a Sbarro pizzeria in Jerusalem, Israel – the senseless attack that killed 15 people, including two US citizens (Malka Chana Roth, 15, and Shoshana Yehudit (Judy) Greenbaum, 31, who was five months pregnant). Four other US nationals were among approximately 122 others wounded in the attack.


Al-Tamimi pleaded guilty in an Israeli court in 2003 and was sentenced to 16 consecutive life terms in prison, plus 15 years. She served only eight years of her sentence before being released by Israel in 2011, as part of a prisoner exchange with Hamas. Upon her release, Al-Tamimi was sent to Jordan, where she boasts explicitly and often of her involvement in the Sbarro suicide bombing. During an interview in October 2011, Al-Tamimi was asked if she could go back in time, would she carry out such a large-scale attack; the following was her response:

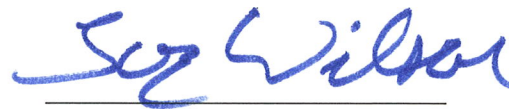
“Of course. I do not regret what happened. Absolutely not. This is the path. I dedicated myself to jihad for the sake of Allah, and Allah granted me success. You know how many casualties there were [in the 2001 attack on the Sbarro pizzeria]. This was made possible by Allah. Do you want me to denounce what I did? That’s out of the question. I would do it again today, and in the same manner.”


DOJ has sought Al-Tamimi’s extradition pursuant to the 1995 treaty between the US and Jordan, which was ratified by the US Senate on July 29, 1995. For over two years, the Jordanians have rejected the US extradition request on the grounds that the Jordanian Parliament never ratified the treaty and that the Jordanian courts ruled that its constitution forbids the extradition of Jordanian nationals, including Al-Tamimi. There is space for our two countries to find an agreement on the extradition of Al-Tamimi – as we found in the extradition of Eyad Ismail Najim in August 1995.

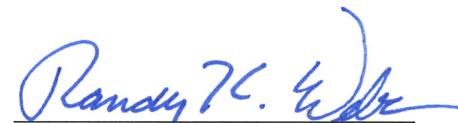
We respectfully request that the State Department maintain the extradition of Al-Tamimi as a high priority with the Government of Jordan. Thank you for your time and consideration.

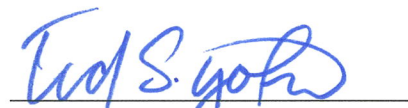
Very Respectfully,





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Member of Congress

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Member of Congress

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Randy Weber
Member of Congress


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Member of Congress


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Grace Meng
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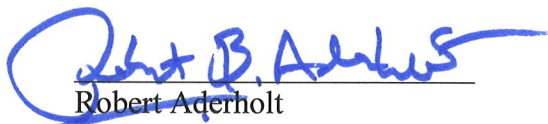
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Member of Congress

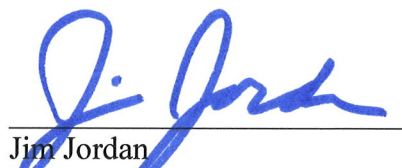
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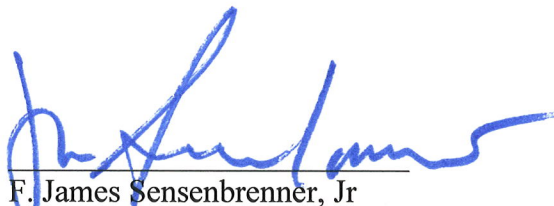
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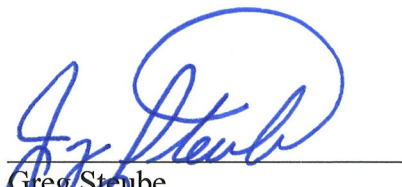

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