

MDL 1570 PLAINTIFFS' EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES

In re: Terrorist Attacks on September 11, 2001 (S.D.N.Y.)

Plaintiffs' Executive Committee for Personal Injury and Death Claims	Plaintiffs' Executive Committee for Commercial Claims
Ronald L. Motley (1944-2013) Jodi Westbrook Flowers, <i>Co-Chair</i> Donald A. Migliori, <i>Co-Chair</i> Robert T. Haeefe, <i>Liaison Counsel</i> MOTLEY RICE LLC	Stephen A. Cozen, <i>Co-Chair</i> Sean P. Carter, <i>Co-Chair</i> J. Scott Tarbutton, <i>Liaison Counsel</i> COZEN O'CONNOR

July 13, 2023

Sen. John Cornyn
Sen. Bob Menendez
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Re: *Ensuring Justice for Victims of Terrorism Act (S.2082)*

Dear Senators Cornyn and Menendez:

We are lead counsel for plaintiffs in the ongoing litigation against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and other Al Qaeda sponsors, and enforcement counsel for certain plaintiffs with judgments, related to the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. We collectively represent over 97% of the plaintiffs who lost loved ones or sustained injuries on September 11, 2001, and who are actively litigating the ongoing claims against Saudi Arabia and other al Qaeda sponsors.

We write to express our emphatic support for the Ensuring Justice for Victims of Terrorism Act (EJVTA), as introduced in the Senate, and urge Congress to enact it as promptly as possible in its current form and without revision. The technical fixes that would be effected by the EJVTA, including Section 4, are entirely consistent with the text and express purposes of the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act (JASTA) and essential to the ability of the 9/11 community to effectively secure justice through their ongoing litigation.

Our clients have consistently advocated for strengthening U.S. counter-terrorism laws to impose maximal liability on terrorists and their sponsors for harm resulting from their illegal conduct, to deter the funding and sponsorship of terrorism. Indeed, it has been longstanding U.S. policy that our national security is enhanced by imposing fulsome civil liability on terrorist sponsors. That policy objective was core to the Antiterrorism Act (ATA) when it was enacted and was a central goal our clients sought to achieve in asserting civil claims against al Qaeda's sponsors, and in advocating for JASTA and other measures. Efforts to weaken the remedies available under U.S. counter-terrorism law, by preventing injured parties from pursuing claims against responsible terrorists and their supporters, are fundamentally inimical to these goals and contrary to the longstanding U.S. policy of recognizing broad liability to enhance national security.

For these and other reasons, we urge Congress to swiftly enact the EJVTA in the form introduced in the Senate. It is essential to ensuring that the 9/11 community has access to effective remedies in the ongoing litigation against al Qaeda's sponsors, and given the current procedural status of the claims, it is vital that Congress act with urgency.

Respectfully submitted,

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