



September 8, 2024

The Honorable Kamala D. Harris
Vice President of the United States
Office of the Vice President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Re: Saudi Arabia's Role in the September 11 Attacks

Dear Madam Vice President:

9/11 Families United is an organization of family members of those murdered in the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, as well as many of those who survived, were injured in, or sickened from the attacks -- a community of more than 10,000 people.

We appreciate that you and President Biden will reportedly visit the three sites of the 9/11 attacks this week to mark the 23rd anniversary of that horrific day. We also appreciated President Biden's historic Executive Order 14040 in 2021 requiring U.S. intelligence agencies to conduct a comprehensive declassification review of thousands of investigative documents concerning Saudi support for al Qaeda and their complicity in the brutal 9/11 Attacks.

This initial support for the 9/11 community and his widely publicized vow to make the Kingdom a pariah is also why we were so disappointed to witness President Biden reverse his past position on the Kingdom and travel halfway around the world in 2022 to publicly fist-bump the de facto Saudi Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman. President Biden is also the first President since 9/11 to refuse to meet with members of our community at the White House, despite numerous requests. Lastly, despite the President's executive order, government agencies like the CIA, FBI, and others have continued to ignore his executive order and oppose full transparency in our fight to unearth the full facts of 9/11.

As the Democratic nominee for President of the United States, you have publicly pledged to chart a new path forward, and we certainly hope your position on supporting the 9/11 families and achieving accountability will be one of them.

In recent months, numerous documents have come into the public domain for the first time, confirming that Saudi officials and agents of the Kingdom's intelligence service were in contact with and providing material support for the 9/11 hijackers. These intelligence records confirm that core elements of the Saudi government, including the Ministry of Islamic Affairs, were deeply intertwined with al-Qaeda in the decade leading up to the September 11, 2001 attacks,

and provided al Qaeda with crucial support that enabled them to plan and carry out their deadly mission.

In June, CBS's 60 Minutes reported on a video unsealed in the 9/11 families' litigation against Saudi Arabia, in which an individual who the FBI identified in 2017 as a Saudi intelligence operative extensively filmed the Capitol building and surrounding landmarks. Saudi national Omar al Bayoumi recorded the video in June 1999, during the 90-day period al-Qaeda's leadership was selecting U.S. targets for the 9/11 attacks. Bayoumi's narration indicates he is filming it to provide a report to the "esteemed brothers" and refers to "a plan."

Former CIA Deputy Director Michael Morell described the video as "chilling," and said there is "no doubt...this is a casing video for some sort of terrorist attack," adding that there is "no doubt in my mind that al Qaeda tasked Bayoumi to do this casing video." He says it was never provided to the CIA and that, if someone had shown him this video at the time, he would have shown it to the President in the immediate aftermath of the attacks. Mr. Morell was the President's daily briefer at the time.

The [New York Times](#) reported last month that George Tenet, who led the CIA at the time of the attacks, said that the new evidence was significant enough to require further evaluation, and noted through a spokesman, "The 9/11 families deserve no less."

Most recently, former U.S. Senator Bob Kerrey, who served on the 9/11 Commission, expressed his public dismay that none of this evidence was shared with the Commission by the FBI and called on Congress to investigate.

That is why we are writing to you today, as a candidate for President of the United States, with the same questions that we are also posing to your Republican opponent, former President Trump:

- **What commitment are you willing to make to the American people that you will confront the Saudis about the new evidence of their involvement in 9/11 and to press for accountability for any involvement of their officials and institutions?**
- **Are you willing to finally prioritize transparency and accountability for the worst terrorist attacks in American history over the priorities of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia?**

Lastly, as we approach the 23rd anniversary, the 9/11 community is renewing its call for Congress to swiftly pass the bipartisan [Ensuring Justice for Victims of Terrorism Act](#) (EJVTA) this year and keep their promise that all American victims of terrorism on American soil can pursue their legal rights. The bipartisan EJVTA reaffirms the intent of Congress when it passed the *Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act* (JASTA) in 2016 that American victims of terrorism on U.S. soil can seek financial compensation from foreign sponsors of terrorism. It has been introduced in the U.S. House and Senate with the support of leading Members of Congress in both parties. To date, however, President Biden has declined to publicly support this legislation.

- **Will you join the 9/11 community in supporting the EJVTAs and calling for its passage in Congress this year?**

Madam Vice President, you have often spoken in years past about the importance of supporting the 9/11 community and remembering the thousands of innocent Americans who lost their lives. As we mark another solemn anniversary, we ask you to demonstrate that commitment through clear words and concrete action. The victims, families, and the American people deserve nothing less than the full truth about 9/11, regardless of where that truth may lead.

We stand ready to meet with you to discuss these crucial issues further and hope you will respond to our questions above.

Respectfully,

Terry Strada, National Chair
9/11 Families United