



September 8, 2024

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
The Mar-a-Lago Club
1100 South Ocean Boulevard
Palm Beach, Florida 33480

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

Dear President Trump:

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. You may recall that my daughter and I personally met with you in the White House on September 11, 2019. We specifically discussed the U.S. intelligence investigative reports regarding the Kingdom and the 9/11 attacks.

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.

While we were deeply disappointed with your Administration's refusal to declassify these documents in a letter sent to us by then-Attorney General Bill Barr and your subsequent support for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's sportswashing through LIV Golf, we appreciate your recent [renewed commitment](#) to full government transparency around the 9/11 attacks, which you shared in a recent interview with Fox News.

We also appreciated your observation as a candidate for President in 2016 when, [also on Fox News](#), you pointed the finger at the Saudis for 9/11 saying, "*Who blew up the World Trade Center? It wasn't the Iraqis, it was Saudi — take a look at Saudi Arabia, open the documents.*"

While it's taken almost 23 years, some of those documents have finally been opened, and Americans can see the facts themselves. 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 Democratic opponent, Vice-President Kamala Harris:

- **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.

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

Mr. President, you have often spoken in years past about the importance of supporting the 9/11 community and seeking justice for the attacks. 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