

P. 7  
L. 19



University of Connecticut Health Center  
*Department of Pediatrics*

February 5, 2011

Division of Neonatology

My name is Leonard Eisenfeld. I submit this testimony today to the Committee for Government Administration and Elections in support SB 881 concerning Divestment of State Funds Invested in Companies Doing Business in Iran and Sudan.

I am a pediatrician here at Connecticut Childrens', Three weeks from now, February 25 marks 15 years since my son Matthew was murdered by a Palestinian suicide bomber on a city bus in Jerusalem, Israel. The bombing claimed 26 lives including Matthew and his girlfriend, Sara Duker, a brilliant, young woman from New Jersey. The bombing was carried out by Hamas. The orders for this act of terrorism, training, and funding, came from Iran. This information was given to us originally by the State Department of the United States. It was confirmed proudly and unapologetically in a confession by Hassan Salameh, the mastermind behind this particular mission. Salameh is serving multiple life sentences in an Israeli prison since his arrest and conviction of crimes committed.

Matthew had recently graduated from Yale University, and Sara from Barnard. Both were graduate students studying in Israel. In the 14 years since Matthew's and Sara's deaths, our families have experienced a gamut of emotions. But the answer to our loss, the way in which we have chosen to commit ourselves to keeping Matthew and Sara's memory alive, and to ensure that their lives continue to make a difference, has been through action. Matthew did not believe in moments of silence.

We have committed untold hours and resources towards working with Congress to ensure punishing legislation that stops Iran from acting as a state sponsor of terrorism. We have taken our case to U.S. Federal court and successfully sued Iran for damages as we were able to prove their culpability. Currently, Iran continues to bankroll the terrorists who have killed our children and gives support and sanction to those who continue to threaten the future of all of our children. Cutting off funds to regimes that sponsor terrorism is an important tool in the fight against them.

When I ponder the devastation of Matt's and Sara's murder to our family, and the bereavement of the families of others' sons and daughters studying abroad or serving in our armed forces, I understand the devastation terrorism or a nuclear holocaust would mean.

Bill No. 881 is a critical step in the right direction. It allows the State of Connecticut to make the important statement that it will not support, finance, or in any way aid a country that endangers or threatens our citizens. It says that Connecticut will not support or help finance a country that sponsors or incites terrorism against citizens anywhere in the world. We urge you to join us in this critical work by supporting Bill No. 881

Leonard Eisenfeld M.D.  
Attending Neonatologist  
Connecticut Childrens' Medical Center  
Associate Prof/Pediatrics, University of Connecticut

*An Equal Opportunity Employer*

263 Farmington Avenue  
Farmington, Connecticut 06030-2948

Telephone: (860) 679-3100  
Facsimile: (860) 679-1103



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

December 22, 1997

Mr. Lenny Eisenfeld  
18 Faxon Drive  
West Hartford, CT 06117

Dear Mr. Eisenfeld:

Please accept again my sincere condolences on the loss of your son in the horrific terrorist bombing attack in Jerusalem. Thank you for your recent phone call and the kind words you expressed about our meeting on December 3. I, too, was very pleased with our meeting and hope that our conversation and the information we provided will assist you in making decisions on your next steps.

Per your request, I am including in this letter some thoughts on responsibility for the bombing which killed your son and Sara Duker in Jerusalem on February 25, 1996. As the State Department wrote in our publication "Patterns of Global Terrorism 1996:

On 25 February a suicide bomber blew up a commuter bus in Jerusalem, killing 26 including three US citizens, and injuring 80 others, including another three US citizens. The Islamic Resistance Movement (HAMAS) claimed responsibility for the bombing.

The Department of State believes that the Izz al-Din al-Qassem Brigades, the military arm of HAMAS, carried out this bombing.

We also believe that Iran provides training and financial assistance to HAMAS. As we wrote in a March 1997 white paper on Iranian terrorism:

Tehran currently provides HAMAS with weapons and explosives training and occasional financial assistance. Tehran also provides the group with monetary assistance, which we estimate averages \$2-3 million per year.

I hope you find this information useful. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or a member of my staff. Please pass my regards to the Duker family. I look forward to hearing from you again.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kenneth R. McKune". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Kenneth R. McKune  
Acting Coordinator for  
Counterterrorism