

YOUNG ISRAEL PRESIDENT CALLS FOR EXTRADITION OF TERRORISTS

Urges Lawmakers to Sign onto Congressional Letter Calling On the U.S. Attorney General to Prosecute Terrorists Who Killed or Harmed Americans in the Event They Are Released By Israel

In the aftermath of the announcement by Israel that it would release over 100 Palestinian Arab terrorists imprisoned in Israel in advance of a new round of peace talks, Farley Weiss, the President of the National Council of Young Israel, wrote an op-ed that appeared in *The Jerusalem Post* entitled "Extradite terrorists with American blood on their hands."

In his article, Weiss cites the problems associated with the release of convicted killers who have perpetrated heinous terrorist acts, in light of the fact that they are unrepentant and held out by their people as heroes.

"To a great extent what is worse than the simple release of terrorists who have served some time is the unrepentant boasts of these murderers, who will be celebrated and honored as heroes when they are released," Weiss wrote. "This is the core of the problem. How can you make peace with people who educate their children to follow in the footsteps of those who massacre women and children?"

"By releasing the terrorists, the message to such murderers is clear," continued Weiss. "No matter how heinous your crime, one day you will be free, as heroes, as long as you are not killed while murdering your target - an option they are convinced is nonetheless rewarded in heaven."

In an effort to suggest a solution to the problem, Weiss refers to a tactic that has been successfully used by Mexico and Columbia against their drug cartel kingpins.

"Going forward, there is only one solution that can easily be adopted and can, at least partially, solve the problem," Weiss wrote. "It is a solution that has been successfully used by other countries: the terrorists who murdered Israelis who have American citizenship, or any Americans visiting Israel, must be extradited to the United States to face US justice, and more than likely spend the rest of their lives in US prisons."

Weiss wrote about the Koby Mandell Act, whose passage in Congress was spearheaded by Congressman Matt Salmon of Arizona, which requires that the US Justice Department set up an office to go after Palestinian Arab terrorists who have murdered Americans.

Congressman Salmon is currently circulating a letter to be sent to U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder amongst his colleagues in Congress. Salmon is urging other lawmakers to sign onto to the letter, which cites the Koby Mandell Act and the Anti-Terrorism Act of 1990, and calls on Holder to ensure that terrorists who harm Americans are prosecuted and duly punished for their illegal actions. In the event that Israel releases terrorists who have killed or harmed Americans, Salmon's letter asks Holder to use the resources of the U.S. Department of Justice to prosecute them for their crimes.

"The Department of Justice should immediately intercede in this most recent prisoner release proposal and contact the government of Israel and request that they not release any terrorists who have killed or harmed Americans," says the Congressional letter to Attorney General Holder. "Further, if the Israeli government nevertheless releases any terrorists who have harmed American citizens, we strongly urge the Justice Department to indict, obtain the extradition of, try in American federal courts, and attempt to punish these criminals for their terrorism against Americans, pursuant to 18 USC Sec. 2332(b)."

"The murder and assault of American citizens anywhere in the world must be promptly and effectively punished by the United States," the letter continues. "As Attorney General, we call on you to carry out this obligation."

Weiss urges American Jews to contact their congressional representatives and encourage them to sign on to Congressman Salmon's letter to Attorney General Holder.

"The goal is peace. A real, sustainable peace," Weiss wrote in his op-ed. "Without a system of justice for those who murder there can be no peace."