



CASE OF 11 AMERICAN FAMILIES CAN PROCEED AGAINST THE PA AND PLO

Chalk up another courtroom victory for the victims of Palestinian terrorism against the Palestinian Authority (PA) and PLO. This past week a federal judge in New York ruled that a lawsuit seeking billions of dollars in compensation and punitive damages from the Palestinians can go forward.

The 11 families had loved ones killed and injured in the Hebrew University cafeteria bombing, suicide bombings on King George Street and a shooting on Jaffe Road as well as other Jerusalem area attacks. The plaintiffs contend that the PA and PLO under Arafat's direction had a formal policy of carrying out terrorist attacks against Israeli civilians and sought, as is their custom, to hide behind front-groups such as Fatah Tanzim and the Martyrs of al-Aqsa in order to provide a measure of deniability internationally. The Fatah Tanzim and Martyrs of al-Aqsa groups were secretly made up of Arafat's security personnel and were financed by the PA.

When the case proceeds to trial it will provide the best platform yet to publicly present proof that despite its obligations under the Oslo Accords and all its international posturing and denials, that the PA itself was actively engaged in terrorist attacks and attempted to utilize the suicide bombings and shootings as a tactic to strengthen its hand in its negotiations with Israel. Far from a "spontaneous uprising" the case will evidence that the Intifada was actually planned and carried out under Arafat's supervision by terrorists on his payroll.

The Palestinian defendants sought to have the case dismissed on technicalities and argued that they do not have adequate contacts with the U.S. to be forced to litigate this proceeding there. They claimed the U.S. court did not have personal jurisdiction over them. The federal court rejected this argument and held that the PA and PLO do in fact have a presence and conduct business in the U.S., and as such, American citizens can sue them in court there. With the court's jurisdiction over the Palestinians established it is hopeful that the case will now move forward swiftly.