

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 5, 2026

Marco Rubio
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20520

Pamela Bondi
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20530

Michael Huckabee
U.S. Ambassador to Israel
U.S. Embassy Jerusalem
14 David Flusser
Jerusalem 9378322, Israel

Dear Secretary Rubio, Attorney General Bondi, and Ambassador Huckabee:

In the wake of the killing of another U.S. citizen in the West Bank, the ninth since January 2022, we write with grave concern regarding the ongoing lack of accountability for the deaths of Americans in the West Bank. On February 18th, Nasrallah Abu Siyam was shot and killed in the West Bank village of Mukhmas, near Ramallah, by violent Israeli settlers during an attack on Palestinian farmers.¹ This is yet another example of the impunity afforded to extremist Israeli settlers in the West Bank under the protection of the Israel Defense Forces. The U.S. government must conduct a credible and independent investigation into Nasrallah's killing and hold all perpetrators accountable.

Unfortunately, this is the second letter we've written to this administration in the last seven months about the killing of an American citizen in the West Bank.² Our July 2025 letter was regarding the killing of Saifullah Kamal Musallet, a 20-year-old American citizen from Florida who was beaten to death by extremist Israeli settlers.³ Since that letter, two other Americans have been killed as a result of Israeli settler violence. In response to our letter, the State Department wrote "The United States calls for accountability in all cases where U.S. citizens are harmed abroad to help prevent future tragedies." It's clear that these "calls" and whatever efforts were made, if any, to secure accountability, failed. This has now become a consistent pattern in which

¹ Rasgon, Adam, and Fatima AbdulKarim. "Palestinian-American Teenager Killed in West Bank Is Laid to Rest ." *The New York Times*, 20 Feb. 2026, www.nytimes.com/2026/02/20/world/middleeast/palestinian-american-teenager-killed-west-bank.html.

² "Van Hollen, 28 Senators Call on Administration to Conduct Independent, U.S.-Led Investigation into Death of American Citizen in West Bank." 24 July, 2025, <https://www.vanhollen.senate.gov/news/press-releases/van-hollen-28-senators-call-on-administration-to-conduct-independent-us-led-investigation-into-death-of-american-citizen-in-west-bank>

³ Clayton, Freddie. "American Beaten to Death by Israeli Settlers in the West Bank." *NBC News*, 13 July 2025, www.nbcnews.com/world/middle-east/american-killed-west-bank-israel-settlers-violence-rcna218408.

Americans are being killed in the West Bank by settlers or the IDF without justice or accountability, despite promises from U.S. officials.

Nasrallah Abu Siyam, a 19-year-old American born in Philadelphia, has become the ninth American killed in the West Bank since January 2022. Along with Saifullah Musallet and Khamis Ayyada, a forty-year-old American citizen and father of five who died of smoke inhalation in August after a fire was set by Israeli settlers in his West Bank village of Silwad, Abu Siyam is now the third American killed in the West Bank during the second Trump administration.

Six other Americans were killed in the West Bank since January 2022. This includes a 14-year-old boy from New Jersey, Amer Mohammad Saada Rabee, who was shot 11 times⁴, and two 17-year-old boys, Tawfic Abdel Jabbar⁵ and Mohammad Ahmed Mohammad Khmour⁶, both shot and killed in separate instances. Aysenur Ezgi Eygi, a 26-year-old American citizen raised in Seattle, was shot in the head by an Israeli soldier⁷, and respected Palestinian American journalist Shireen Abu Akleh, was also shot in the head and killed by the IDF while clearly marked as a journalist.⁸ Omar Assad, an elderly Palestinian-American, died of a stress-induced heart attack after being gagged, blindfolded, bound with his hands behind his back, and left on the ground in the cold.⁹

For all nine of these killings, no one has yet been held accountable by the Netanyahu government, nor has the U.S. government upheld its duty to protect Americans and secure justice and accountability for their deaths. It is unclear to us how many more Americans must die in the West Bank in order for this administration, and other administrations, to take serious, credible steps to secure accountability and ensure an end to the ongoing killings of Americans without consequence.

We urge you to launch an independent investigation into the killing of Nasrallah Abu Siyam and provide an update on the status of investigations into the killings of all the other Americans killed in the West Bank since January 2022. We expect a briefing on this information by April 5, 2026.

⁴ Atta, Nasser, et al. "14-Year-Old Dual Palestinian-US Citizen Killed in the West Bank." *ABC News*, 8 Apr. 2025, abcnews.com/International/14-year-dual-palestinian-us-citizen-killed-west/story?id=120590549.

⁵ Loveluck, Louisa, and Sufian Taha. "An American Teen Was Killed in the West Bank. His Family Wants Answers." *The Washington Post*, 26 Jan. 2024, www.washingtonpost.com/world/2024/01/26/tawfic-jabbar-american-palestinian-teenager/

⁶ Rosenzweig-Ziff, Dan, and Niha Masih. "Family Grieves after American Teenager Shot Dead in West Bank." *The Washington Post*, 13 Feb. 2024, www.washingtonpost.com/world/2024/02/13/american-killed-west-bank-israel-war/

⁷ Tufana, Aref and Julia Frankel. "Israeli Settlers Kill 19-Year-Old Palestinian American, Officials and Witnesses Say." *AP News*, 20 Feb. 2026, apnews.com/article/american-shot-killed-west-bank-israel-palestinians-b2f1c741cea3d56eb1a339240dbf036e.

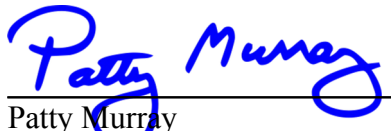
⁸ Abdulrahim, Raja, et al. "The Killing of Shireen Abu Akleh: Tracing a Bullet to an Israeli Convoy." *The New York Times*, 20 June 2022, www.nytimes.com/2022/06/20/world/middleeast/palestian-journalist-killing-shireen.html

⁹ Hendrix, Steve. "Autopsy Finds Palestinian American Man Died of Heart Attack after Being Bound and Gagged by Israeli Soldiers." *The Washington Post*, 26 Jan. 2022, www.washingtonpost.com/world/2022/01/26/us-citizen-died-heart-attack-israeli-custody/

Sincerely,



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



Patty Murray
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Jack Reed
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen
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United States Senator



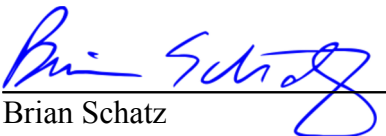
Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



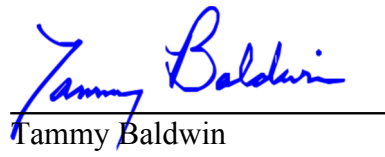
Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



Brian Schatz
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



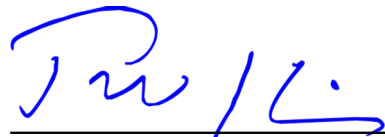
Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator



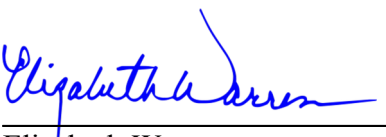
Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



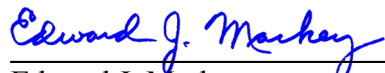
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Elizabeth Warren
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Tammy Duckworth
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Tina Smith
United States Senator



Ben Ray Lujan
United States Senator



Raphael Warnock
United States Senator



Peter Welch
United States Senator



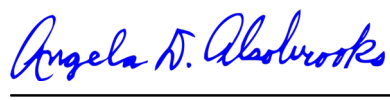
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Ruben Gallego
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Lisa Blunt Rochester
United States Senator



Angela D. Alsobrooks
United States Senator