

Philip and Heidi Litle
86 Moriah Boulevard, Apt 3
3461313 Haifa

December 27, 2022

The Honorable Thomas Nides
Ambassador of the United States of America
U.S. Embassy Jerusalem
14 David Flusser
Jerusalem 9378322, Israel

Dear Ambassador:

We are writing as United States citizens and the parents of Abigail Litle (who was also a US citizen) regarding the upcoming release of Munir Rajbi from prison here in Israel. As a member of the Hamas terrorist organization, Rajbi was involved in the planning and execution of the bombing of Bus 37 on March 5, 2003 in which our daughter was murdered. She was one of 17 people who were killed and 53 others who were injured in this terror attack.

Munir Rajbi, an Israeli Arab resident of Haifa, was convicted of concealment and conspiring to aid the enemy in wartime by an Israeli court. For these crimes he was sentenced to life imprisonment on January 12, 2004. Despite the multiple murders committed in the bombing of Bus 37, Munir Rajbi is expected to be released this coming March after serving exactly twenty years of this “life sentence”.

Rajbi remains a proud member of the Hamas terrorist organization. At the time of his trial, he expressed the desire and intention to aid in attacks against innocent citizens and acted with enthusiasm to being a part of the attack which ultimately claimed the life of our daughter. Even though he has expressed no regret nor shown any repentance for his actions, the government of Israel is ignoring calls from his victim’s families to prevent his upcoming release from prison and his plan to return to Haifa and live among us, his victims.

At the funeral of our daughter, former U.S. Ambassador Daniel Kurtzer described Abigail as “a true bridge between our two countries, having been born in the United States and now in eternal rest in the land of Israel.” Although our family is not Jewish, the murder of our daughter in this despicable attack on innocent citizens, many of whom were children, has cemented our relationship to Israel. We have chosen to continue to reside here and serve the Messianic community of which we are a part.

Because of the close relationship existing between Israel and the United States, we are turning to you to ask that you look into what can be done on the part of the United States regarding this matter. The release of an unrepentant terrorist to live in the midst of those whom he claims to hate and seeks to destroy seems unconscionable. Pursing justice and securing the safety of its citizens has been the commitment of the United States which has been expressed in fighting terrorism everywhere around the world. We feel that this is a case in which the United States could express this commitment by seeking to insure that such a terrorist is not freed in order to continue perpetrating his murderous crimes.

Munir Rajbi’s impending release should be a matter of interest to the government of the United States because he aided and abetted the murder of our daughter, an American citizen – a crime for which he has not been duly tried or punished. What steps might be taken by the United States to address this matter?

The bereaved families have been seeking relief from the Israeli government. We have written to the former Minister of Defense, The Honorable Benny Gantz, requesting that he use his authority granted by the Defense (Emergency) Regulations to prohibit Munir Rajbi from returning to those areas where we live. Unfortunately, the government of Israel has refused up to this point to answer this call, raising the specter of unwanted contact and threatening public safety and order.

Would you kindly consider what steps might be taken by the United States government to use its influence as well as its legal authority in matters of foreign terrorism to address this injustice? Is it possible for the United States to seek to prosecute Munir Rajbi for the murder of our daughter under 18 USC Ch. 113B?

The United States has shown itself to be a strong leader in fighting against terrorism. We feel that the case of Monir Rajbi provides an opportunity for the US government to demonstrate its commitment to seeking justice for its citizens who are wantonly attacked outside its borders by terrorists. We turn to you in hope that you could be of assistance in helping see this happen.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Philip D. and Heidi G. Litle". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first names being the most prominent.

Philip D. and Heidi G. Litle