

Victims of Terrorism Send Open Letter to Biden on Behalf of Nearly 1,000 Injured Military Veterans & Gold Star Families

Letter urges Biden to resist easing sanctions against Iran & unfreezing assets that would fund terrorists & diminish victims' chances of recovering compensation

PENSACOLA, FL, U.S.A., January 15, 2022

/EINPresswire.com/ -- Attorney [Chris Paulos](#), of [Levin Papantonio Rafferty](#) (LPR) law firm, announces that nearly 1,000 victims of terrorism that the firm represents have jointly sent an open letter to President Biden. All of these victims are U.S. nationals, service members, and contractors who were killed or injured by acts of Iranian-sponsored terrorism in Iraq.

The victims hope to dissuade Biden from caving to Iran's demands on sanctions and unfreezing its assets as part of the [Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action](#) ("JCPOA") re-negotiations.

"Sanctions have proven to be the most effective non-military method of diminishing Iran's ability to support terrorism," Paulos said. "Easing of sanctions means more money for terrorists and less for the victims of these despicable acts," the attorney added.

Significant sanctions relief is one item on the negotiating table as the Biden administration negotiates in Vienna to constrain Iran's development and acquisition of nuclear weapons. Of particular concern is the possibility of lifting terrorism sanctions imposed on Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), which along with Hezbollah and other proxies, committed terrorist attacks that killed and injured U.S. military members.

Open Letter to the Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States of America
January 13, 2022

Joseph R. Biden, President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500
United States of America

Dear President Biden:

We write to you as U.S. military veterans who were injured (and their family members), and Gold Star families whose loved ones were killed, in terrorist attacks committed by Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps ("IRGC") and its proxies, including Hezbollah. We are aware that your administration is currently negotiating in Vienna to rejoin the so-called Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action ("JCPOA") in an effort to constrain Iran's march toward developing nuclear weapons. We further understand that significant sanctions relief is being discussed as part of those negotiations, including potentially lifting terrorism sanctions imposed on the IRGC, Iran's Central Bank ("CBI") and the National Iranian Oil Company ("NIOC").

As you may know, there are estimated to be more than \$60 billion in unpaid terrorism lawsuit judgments and associated judgment liens awarded to individuals in U.S. courts against Iran. In addition, many billions of dollars in claims are pending in U.S. courts brought by Gold Star families and the families of service members wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan.

At the same time, billions of dollars of Iranian funds, including those nominally held by the CBI and NIOC, remain frozen in banks in Japan, South Korea and elsewhere, and the release of those funds is no doubt a key demand of the Iranian regime.

We certainly understand and respect the fact that you are charged by the Constitution to pursue America's foreign policy interests and that preventing Iran from developing nuclear weapons is in the vital interests of the United States. We also believe the United States needs to articulate a path forward to address the thousands of attacks orchestrated and committed by the IRGC against Americans over the past 40 years and the legal claims and (mostly unpaid) judgments that have resulted from that egregious conduct.

We share your view that Iran must never be allowed to develop or acquire nuclear weapons, but we do not believe that any sanctions on Iran should be lifted or suspended that result in the release of frozen funds until all outstanding judgments and pending claims against Iran and the IRGC have been fully satisfied. In our view, Iran's frozen funds should go *first* to the regime's American victims before a single dollar goes to the regime itself.

We hope that you will find the time over the next few months to meet with some of the Gold Star families directly affected by this issue. We look forward to your support for our efforts to hold Iran responsible for the deaths and maiming of thousands of Americans.

Respectfully submitted,

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Nearly 1,000 victims of terrorism have jointly sent an open letter to President Biden. All of these victims are U.S. nationals, service members, and contractors who were killed or injured by acts of Iranian-sponsored terrorism in Iraq.

The letter reminds the President of the approximately \$60 billion in unpaid terrorism lawsuit judgments and associated judgment liens against Iran that U.S. courts awarded to individuals for terrorists' "egregious conduct."

With billions of dollars of Iranian funds sitting frozen in banks in Japan, South Korea, and other areas, it is highly likely that the Iranian regime is demanding the release of those funds as a carrot for stopping the march toward nuclear weapons development or acquisition.

The letter urges President Biden to decline to lift or suspend sanctions that would release frozen funds until American victims have been compensated for their suffering.

Signees also invite the President to meet with some Gold Star families "directly affected by this issue."



Attorney Chris Paulos, of Levin Papantonio Rafferty, the law firm that is representing nearly 1,000 victims of terrorism.

A PDF of the letter sent to President Biden is attached for your consideration.

About Levin, Papantonio, Rafferty

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Easing sanctions means more money for terrorists and less for the victims of these despicable acts.”

Chris Paulos

The personal injury law firm Levin, Papantonio, Rafferty, Proctor, Buchanan, O'Brien, Barr & Mougey, P.A. has been representing the injured people of Pensacola since 1955. The firm has gained national recognition as one of the most successful personal injury firms in the country and has been featured on CNN, NBC, ABC, CBS, and Fox, as well as The Wall Street Journal, The New York Times, Time Magazine, Forbes, and National Law Journal.

In 66 years of practice, the firm has handled more than 100,000 personal injury claims and won more than \$8 billion in jury verdicts and settlements on behalf of its clients.

For questions about the firm's legal practice, call 1 (800) 277-1193.

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