

Submission to House Oversight Subcommittee on National Security from Sherri Mandel

After my 13 year old son Koby, an American citizen, was killed by terrorists in 2001, a law was introduced in Congress called the Koby Mandell Act. The office's mandate was to actively pursue terrorists who murdered Americans abroad.

At about the same time, the government initiated a Rewards for Justice Program to pay for information leading to the arrest of overseas terrorists. Yet, no terrorist killers of Americans in Israel have ever been apprehended under that program. In fact, today when I checked the Rewards for Justice website, there was not even a listing for my son's name. His murderers have not been found, yet the Justice Department has seemingly deleted him from their consciousness. They are not looking for his killers. In fact, according to their list of atrocities, no Koby Mandell was ever killed in Israel by terrorists. They have closed his case, if it was ever opened.

Yet the Koby Mandell Act promised that the US government would vigorously pursue the killers of American citizens, including those killed in Israel. So far, not one of them has been brought to justice with the help of the American government.

The OVT's primary responsibilities are to work to ensure that when Americans are injured or killed in terrorist attacks overseas, investigations and prosecution remain a high priority. Another responsibility is to honor and respect the rights of victims and their families. The office is also meant to monitor the investigation and prosecution of terrorist attacks against Americans abroad.

Yet this is the way terror in Israel is reported on the site--in this case the murder of the Henkin's, a beautiful young mother and a father killed in cold blood while driving with their little kids in the back of the car:

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The United States strongly condemns the terrorist attack that took place late Thursday evening in the West Bank. **The shooting resulted in the death of an Israeli couple** who were driving with their young children. We extend our condolences to the victims' family. We urge all sides to maintain calm, avoid escalating tensions in the wake of this tragedy, and work together to bring the perpetrators to justice.

The shooting resulted? What feeble morally dubious language. Obfuscation. Who were the shooters? How is the OVT going to protect the victims when they are too morally confused to name the murderers? Hamas murderers from Nablus.