

RICHARD J. DURBIN, ILLINOIS, CHAIR

PATRICK J. LEAHY, VERMONT
DIANNE FEINSTEIN, CALIFORNIA
SHELDON WHITEHOUSE, RHODE ISLAND
AMY KLOBUCHAR, MINNESOTA
CHRISTOPHER A. COONS, DELAWARE
RICHARD BLUMENTHAL, CONNECTICUT
MAZIE K. HIRONO, HAWAII
CORY A. BOOKER, NEW JERSEY
ALEX PADILLA, CALIFORNIA
JON OSSOFF, GEORGIA

CHARLES E. GRASSLEY, IOWA
LINDSEY O. GRAHAM, SOUTH CAROLINA
JOHN CORNYN, TEXAS
MICHAEL S. LEE, UTAH
TED CRUZ, TEXAS
BEN SASSE, NEBRASKA
JOSHUA D. HAWLEY, MISSOURI
TOM COTTON, ARKANSAS
JOHN KENNEDY, LOUISIANA
THOM TILLIS, NORTH CAROLINA
MARSHA BLACKBURN, TENNESSEE

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6275

December 17, 2021

The Honorable Christopher A. Wray
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
935 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20535

Dear Director Wray:

I am writing to request that the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) update the Senate Judiciary Committee on its efforts to bring to justice the terrorists who murdered Alexander Michel Odeh, an Arab-American civil and human rights leader who was killed by a pipe bomb in 1985 in Santa Ana, California.

For more than 35 years, the perpetrators of this gruesome crime have successfully evaded justice. Last month, these suspects were once again publicly identified, in this instance by Hugh Mooney, a Santa Ana police officer involved in the Odeh case.¹ Given these recent revelations, the FBI must intensify its efforts to investigate the murder of Mr. Odeh and bring his killers to justice.

Mr. Odeh was a husband and father of three daughters who sought to combat anti-Arab and anti-Palestinian bigotry. He served as the West Coast regional director of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, an organization dedicated to the fair and equal treatment of Arab Americans.

Decades later, the assassination of Mr. Odeh at the hands of domestic terrorists remains unresolved.² The reported suspects, who were tied to an extremist organization suspected of perpetrating numerous domestic terrorism attacks against Arab-American leaders that same year, fled to Israel shortly after the bombing.³

¹ Gabriel San Roman, *Amid new revelations, Alex Odeh's assassination remains unsolved*, LOS ANGELES TIMES (Oct. 6, 2021), <https://www.latimes.com/socal/daily-pilot/entertainment/story/2021-10-06/amid-new-revelations-alex-odehs-assassination-remains-unsolved>.

² FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, Most Wanted, Seeking Information, Alexander Michel Odeh, Domestic Bombing, <https://www.fbi.gov/wanted/seeking-info/alexander-michel-odeh>.

³ Roman, *supra* note 1.

These individuals are not in hiding. Quite the opposite: two continue to live openly in Israeli settlements and another is incarcerated in a federal prison in Arizona, after being extradited to the United States in 1993 and convicted of an unrelated murder committed by mail bomb.

Despite numerous public reports about the identity of Mr. Odeh's killers, the FBI has not yet publicly named any suspects. In his interview with the *Los Angeles Times*, Mr. Mooney stated: "It was a very solid case and easy to prosecute."⁴ Another retired police officer who worked on the Odeh case for over a decade stated plainly in another interview from last year: "We know who did it. We know where they lived. We know why they did it, and how they did it."⁵

It is critical that the United States government do everything in its power to bring these individuals to justice. As President Biden recently said of terrorists who target Americans: "The United States will never rest. We will not forgive. We will not forget. We will hunt you down to the ends of the Earth."

This heinous case of domestic terrorism must be professionally investigated and, finally, resolved. I look forward to receiving an update on the status of the FBI's investigation, including any efforts to bring the individuals identified by the Santa Ana police to justice. In order to preserve the rule of law and deter future would-be attackers, the terrorists who murdered Alex Odeh must not escape accountability. Justice for Mr. Odeh's family can no longer be delayed.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
Chair

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ David Sheen, *Decades After a Palestinian American Activist Was Assassinated in California, Two Suspects in his Killing are Living Openly in Israel*, THE INTERCEPT (Feb. 6, 2020), <https://theintercept.com/2020/02/06/alex-odeh-bombing-israel/>.