

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 24, 2025

The Honorable Marco Rubio
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

The Honorable Pam Bondi
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Secretary Rubio and Attorney General Bondi,

We write with grave concern regarding the brutal killing of a Palestinian-American, Saifullah Kamel Musallet, near the West Bank town of Sinjil, on July 11, 2025. The U.S. government must conduct a credible and independent investigation into his death and hold all perpetrators accountable. Protecting and supporting U.S. citizens abroad is one of the foremost responsibilities of the U.S. government. The United States Government has failed to secure accountability for the killing of respected Palestinian American journalist Shireen Abu Akleh, or any of the other five American citizens – Omar Assad, Tawfic Abdel Jabbar, Mohammad Ahmed Mohammad Khmour, Aysenur Ezgi Eygi, and Amer Mohammad Saada Rabee – killed in the West Bank since January 2022.¹ Following the Trump Administration's sudden revocation of all U.S. sanctions against extremist settlers in the West Bank, the first five months of 2025 have seen the highest rate of settler attacks in years and the killing of another American. We urge you to pursue a different approach.

Saifullah Kamal Musallet is the seventh American citizen killed in the West Bank since January 2022 — and the fifth in just the last nineteen months. The killings of these Americans in the West Bank have been met by a lack of accountability from the Netanyahu government and an inability to secure justice by the U.S. government. These failures have contributed to an unacceptable culture of impunity when it comes to incidents where civilians have been killed in the West Bank, including Americans.

Saifullah Kamel Musallet, a 20-year-old U.S. citizen from Florida, was visiting family in the West Bank when he was beaten to death by extremist Israeli settlers during a settler attack on the town of Sinjil. Reports indicate that ambulances could not reach the injured for more than two hours, with eyewitness accounts stating that settlers and Israeli forces impeded ambulance access.² In April of this year, a 14-year-old boy from New Jersey, Amer Mohammad Saada Rabee, was also killed in the West Bank. Amer was reportedly shot at the entrance to Turmus Ayya by Israeli security forces. Reports suggest that Amer was shot a total of 11 times and two other Americans were also shot in the incident.³

¹ Lucas, Ryan. "DOJ Silent as Families of Americans Killed in West Bank, Gaza Demand It Investigate." *NPR*, 10 Oct. 2024, www.npr.org/2024/10/10/nx-s1-5106059/west-bank-gaza-israel-justice-department/.

² Levine, Heidi, et al. "Palestinian American from Florida Killed in the West Bank, Family Says." *The Washington Post*, 12 July 2025, www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2025/07/11/palestinian-american-west-bank-death-tampa/.

³ Ott, Haley. "American Teen Fatally Shot in Israeli-Occupied West Bank as Netanyahu Visits Trump." *Cbsnews.com*, CBS News, 7 Apr. 2025, www.cbsnews.com/news/israel-west-bank-palestinian-american-amir-mohammed-rabee-killed/.

Last year, three other U.S. citizens were killed in the West Bank, including two teenagers. Tawfic Abdel Jabbar and Mohammad Ahmed Mohammad Khmour were both 17-year-old U.S. citizens visiting their families in the West Bank when they were shot and killed in separate incidents. In both cases they were shot in the head while they were traveling in vehicles.⁴ The third U.S. citizen killed in the West Bank last year was Aysenur Ezgi Eygi, a 26-year-old American citizen raised in Seattle who, according to reports, was shot in the head by an Israeli soldier from a distance of 200 meters.⁵

The Netanyahu government has failed to hold anyone accountable for any of these seven killings of Americans and the United States government has failed in its responsibility to protect American citizens overseas and demand justice for their deaths.

It is long past time for the U.S. government to demand accountability in these killings of Americans. To that end, we urge you to immediately launch an independent investigation into the brutal killing of Saifullah Kamel Musallet, including the circumstances that blocked ambulances from reaching him. We also ask that you provide us with an update on the status of any investigations into the killings of the six other Americans who have been killed since January 2022, and provide us with a briefing on actions you are taking to ensure accountability for their deaths and to prevent future killings of Americans in the West Bank.

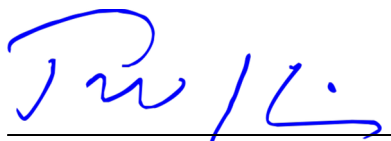
We respectfully ask for a response within two weeks.

Sincerely,

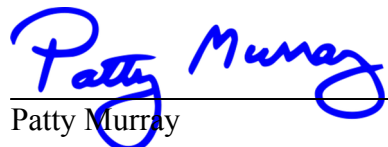
Sincerely,



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



Tim Kaine
United States Senator



Patty Murray
United States Senator

⁴ Yahya Abou-Ghazala, and Alex Marquardt. "Families of Killed Palestinian-Americans Demand Answers of US, Israel." *CNN*, 23 Feb. 2024, www.cnn.com/2024/02/23/world/palestinian-americans-demand-answers-invs.

⁵ Hubbard, Ben, and Gulsin Harman. "At Funeral in Turkey, Family Mourns American Activist Aysenur Eygi." *The New York Times*, 14 Sept. 2024, www.nytimes.com/2024/09/14/world/middleeast/turkey-us-activist-killed-israel-west-bank.html.



Tina Smith
United States Senator



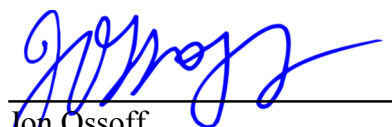
Andy Kim
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



Jack Reed
United States Senator



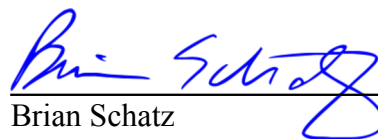
Jon Ossoff
United States Senator



Peter Welch
United States Senator



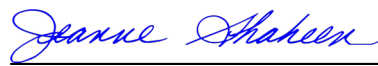
Lisa Blunt Rochester
United States Senator



Brian Schatz
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



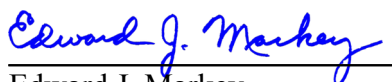
Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



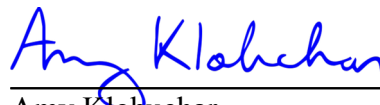
Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



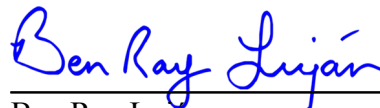
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United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar
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Raphael Warnock
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Ben Ray Lujan
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



Angela Alsobrooks
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Maria Cantwell
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Mazie K. Hirono
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Mark R. Warner
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Christopher S. Murphy
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