

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 11, 2022

Attorney General Merrick Garland
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Attorney General Garland:

The full pursuit of justice under the law is every American's underlying right. With this in mind, we write to you requesting an update into the investigation of the murder of Alexander "Alex" Michael Odeh. The targeted assassination of Mr. Odeh happened nearly 40 years ago, and the FBI has yet to name any suspects, despite having solid leads and evidence to move forward with charges against these individuals.

On the morning of October 11th, 1985, a pipe bomb exploded as Mr. Odeh entered the ADC West Coast Regional office in Santa Ana, California. The bomb killed Mr. Odeh and wounded several others, leaving his wife without a husband, and his three daughters without a father. Following the attack, the FBI classified the bombing as an act of domestic terrorism and designated the investigation into the case as the highest national priority. Nearly four decades after the terrorist attack, the FBI has yet to name a single suspect.

Mr. Odeh was a tireless advocate who committed his life to protecting civil and human rights in the U.S. and abroad. He was a poet, a lecturer of Arabic Language and Middle East History at Coastline College in Santa Ana, and the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee's (ADC) West Coast Regional Director at the time of his assassination. Mr. Odeh holds a place in the pantheon of America's civil rights icons, a position amplified when Ben Jealous, while President of the NAACP, compared Mr. Odeh's life, work, and death to that of civil rights icon Medgar Evers¹. The primary difference between the two men, as Mr. Jealous highlights, is that "[u]nlike Medgar Evers, however, the name Alex Odeh remains unrecognizable for too many Americans, and his murder remains unresolved."²

Nearly 40 years ago, during a hearing held by the Subcommittee on Criminal Justice of the House Judiciary Committee, information was given on the record that implicated known

¹ Jealous, B. (2013, October 13). The Unceasing Fight for Justice in the Murder of Alex Odeh. Huff Post. Retrieved September 21, 2022, from https://www.huffpost.com/entry/the-unceasing-fight-for-j_b_4077578.

² Ibid.

suspects. Additionally, the FBI had identified key suspects shortly after the bombing, and recent reporting has confirmed the existence of those initial findings by the FBI. Therefore, we request answers to the following questions:

- 1) What is the current status of the investigation into the murder of Alex Odeh?
- 2) Why has the FBI not publicly identified or named any of the key suspects responsible for the assassination of Alex Odeh?
- 3) Is the FBI aware of the whereabouts of any suspects currently abroad who are associated with responsibility for the death of Alex Odeh? If so, has any effort been made by the FBI to question these suspects, and has their country of residence cooperated with the investigation?
- 4) Has the FBI interviewed all of the suspects associated with responsibility for the assassination of Alex Odeh?
- 5) Is there or has there been any extradition process to bring all suspects who might be outside of the United States to the United States for prosecution or questioning with respect to responsibility for the assassination of Alex Odeh?
- 6) Is there any suspect associated with the assassination of Alex Odeh that the Justice Department has not successfully interviewed? If so, why have those suspects not been interviewed?

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. The Department of Justice and the FBI play a key role in achieving justice for victims of terrorism, and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



RASHIDA TLAIB
Member of Congress

/S/

DANNY K. DAVIS
Member of Congress



BETTY MCCOLLUM
Member of Congress



JAMES P. MCGOVERN Member of Congress

Cc:

The Honorable Christopher Wray, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation