



October 5, 2021

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

RE: Request for information about the investigation into the terrorist attack that killed Alex Odeh

Dear Attorney General Garland:

I write to you on behalf of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) to request 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. We at ADC appreciate your dedication to holding terrorists responsible for their actions, particularly your work prosecuting Timothy McVeigh. We also appreciated your remarks at the *United We Stand* Summit, and your commitment to ensuring that the Department of Justice strengthens community trust and coordination to combat unlawful acts of hate.

It is that spirit of holding terrorists accountable and building stronger relationships with communities that I respectfully request a meeting between ADC, the Odeh family, and yourself. ADC, the Odeh family, and the broader Arab American community have worked tirelessly for nearly 40 years to bring those responsible for the terrorist bombing to justice, and would value the opportunity to both tell you about Alex’s life, work, death, and legacy, and hear from you any and all updates regarding the case.

Mr. Odeh was a tireless Arab-American anti-discrimination activist 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 ADC’s West Coast Regional Director at the time of his assassination.

Nearly four decades have passed since his death, and no one responsible has been brought to justice.

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. There were several other people who were injured in the explosion. The bomb killed Mr. Odeh, 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. Despite that classification, the passage of nearly 40 years, and recognition that ADC and the Odeh family are the victims of at least one man, Robert Manning, the FBI has not named a single suspect.

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 suspects. Also at that hearing, the FBI confirmed that they had identified key suspects shortly after the bombing. Therefore, we request that you meet with ADC and the Odeh family, and that you come prepared to answer the following questions:

- 1) Can or will you advise the names of suspects associated with responsibility for the death of Alex Odeh?
- 2) Do you know the whereabouts of any suspects associated with responsibility for the death of Alex Odeh? If so, where are they?
- 3) Has the FBI interviewed all of the suspects associated with responsibility for the death of Alex Odeh? If not, why not?
- 4) 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 death of Alex Odeh?
- 5) Is there any suspect associated with the death of Alex Odeh that the Justice Department has not successfully interviewed? If so, why have those suspects not been interviewed?

The American ideal of justice is dependent upon individuals being held to account for their actions. The friends, the family, and the legacy of Mr. Odeh deserve that justice. If the U.S. is truly committed to seeing that justice is done when terrorists harm Americans “anywhere,” then there should be particular vigilance in prosecuting the terrorists who killed Mr. Odeh. We look forward to meeting with you to share the incredible man that Alex Odeh is and was, and remain hopeful that one day we can rest knowing that justice was finally served.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Abed' with a stylized flourish at the end.

Abed Ayoub, Esq.
National Executive Director
American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC)