

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515

March 23, 2022

The Honorable Antony J. Blinken  
Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C St., NW  
Washington, DC 20520

Secretary Blinken,

On August 9, 2001, a Jordanian citizen Ahlam Ahmad Al-Tamimi, the first female operative in the ranks of the federally designated terrorist organization Hamas, orchestrated a horrific massacre at a pizzeria in Israel's capital. Among the 15 murdered in the bombing were two U.S. citizens, Malka Chana Roth, 15, and Judith Shoshana Hayman Greenbaum, 31 and pregnant with her first child. A third US citizen, Joanne Chana Nachenberg, remains to this day in a persistent vegetative state. Among the approximately 122 maimed were four U.S. citizens.

Al-Tamimi was apprehended by the Israeli authorities and tried on terror charges. She pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 16 consecutive life terms but was released along with 1,026 other convicted terrorists in an extortionate deal Israel was compelled to make in 2011 with Hamas to secure the release of a hostage, Corporal Gilad Shalit. She returned to Jordan where she was born and educated.

At no time has Al-Tamimi, who has referred to the attack as "*my operation*," evinced remorse or regret for the barbarism she perpetrated. When asked by a Jordanian reporter in an October 2011 interview whether, if given the chance, she would do the same thing again, she replied: "*Of course, I do not regret what happened. Absolutely not! This is the path... Do you want me to denounce what I did? That's out of the question. I would do it again today, and in the same manner.*" Asked in another interview if she was aware of how many children had been killed in the bombing, Al-Tamimi replied, "three?" The interviewer said it was eight; the horrifying look of delight and satisfaction on her face are captured in a widely shared video clip.

Al-Tamimi's return to Jordan was that of a triumphant, home-grown heroine. Feted as a celebrity-icon, she soon became the presenter of a weekly, made-in-Amman television program called "Breezes of the Free." Starting in March 2012 and for the following five years, this attracted a global Arabic-speaking audience whom she treated to a mix of advocacy for Palestinian Arab terror and adulation for its perpetrators.

Al-Tamimi remains free in Jordan up until the present day. Frequently appearing in both conventional and social media in the kingdom and throughout the Arab world, she is a figure of malign influence that by American standards of decency, justice, or morality, would be

inconceivable. This extraordinary freedom haunts the bereaved families of the victims of Al-Tamimi's savagery, including the Americans among them.

On March 14, 2017, the U.S. Department of Justice unsealed a criminal complaint<sup>1</sup> and arrest warrant for Al-Tamimi. She faces trial under a U.S. federal law enacted to fight international terrorism and to hold terrorists and co-conspirators accountable for their heinous actions: 18 U.S.C. § 2332(a). The Federal Bureau of Investigation then added her to its Most Wanted Terrorists List<sup>2</sup> and the U.S. Department of State (State Dept.) Rewards for Justice program announced<sup>3</sup> a \$5M reward for information about the fugitive.

Two years later, a letter<sup>4</sup> from our colleagues to your predecessor, Secretary Pompeo, raised concerns about thwarted U.S. efforts to see Al-Tamimi extradited from Jordan under the 1995 treaty binding the two countries. In April 2020, an additional letter by our colleagues<sup>5</sup> asked the Ambassador of Jordan Dina Kawar regarding the ongoing miscarriage of justice and the need for redress by extraditing Al-Tamimi to stand trial in the U.S. To the best of our knowledge, there was no reply from the Embassy of Jordan, only acknowledgment that they saw the letter.

Despite U.S. efforts in the Al-Tamimi case, Jordan has refused to implement the 1995 U.S.-Jordan Extradition Treaty ratified by the U.S. Senate on July 29, 1995. That refusal comes despite the clear and solemn commitment of King Hussein, the father of the present king, in a formal communication made in the name of his kingdom on July 13, 1995 and delivered to the State Dept. stating that:

*...having reviewed the Extradition Treaty signed in Washington on March 28, 1995... [we] do hereby declare our agreement to and ratification of that Treaty in whole and in part. We further pledge to carry out its provisions and abide by its Articles and we, God willing, shall not allow its violation.*

A month later, Jordan-U.S. relations went through a significant escalation with the extradition to the U.S. of a Jordanian fugitive, Eyad Ismael Najim, wanted in connection with the 1993 World Trade Center bombing. The Naim case was subsequently followed by the extradition of additional Jordanian nationals sought by the U.S. on terror charges.

The State Dept. continues to list the 1995 treaty in its authoritative *Treaties in Force* compendium.<sup>6</sup> Notwithstanding the salutary warning given by the late King Hussein 22 years earlier and despite years of honoring U.S. requests under the treaty, Jordan's Court of Cassation ruled just a week after the 2017 unsealing of terror charges against Tamimi that the strategic treaty with the U.S. was invalid owing to a failure to ratify. The State Dept. has explicitly

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/individual-charged-connection-2001-terrorist-attack-jerusalem-resulted-death-americans>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.fbi.gov/wanted/wanted\\_terrorists/ahlam-ahmad-al-tamimi](https://www.fbi.gov/wanted/wanted_terrorists/ahlam-ahmad-al-tamimi)

<sup>3</sup> <https://rewardsforjustice.net/rewards/ahlam-ahmad-al-tamimi/>

<sup>4</sup> [https://perry.house.gov/uploadedfiles/dos\\_-\\_al-tamimi\\_extradition\\_3.14.19.pdf](https://perry.house.gov/uploadedfiles/dos_-_al-tamimi_extradition_3.14.19.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> [https://www.counterextremism.com/sites/default/files/House%20Letter\\_Tamimi\\_043020.pdf](https://www.counterextremism.com/sites/default/files/House%20Letter_Tamimi_043020.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.state.gov/treaties-in-force/>

disagreed with the judicial ruling which, we note, was silent about the clear statement of ratification issued over the signature of King Hussein.

With these background factors in mind, we respectfully request your response to the following questions:

1. Is it the State Dept.'s view that the request for Tamimi's extradition satisfies U.S. law and the requirements of the 1995 treaty?
2. What measures does the State Dept. consider to be available should Jordan persist in failing to comply with the extradition request?
3. Has the State Dept. considered, or will it consider imposing sanctions on Jordan if the lawful U.S. request to extradite Tamimi continues to be disregarded?
4. Has Jordan given the U.S. reasons different from or additional to the reasons stated by its Court of Cassation for the disputed assertion that the 1995 treaty is invalid?

We request your attention to these important matters and look forward to receiving your timely and considered reply within 30 days.

Sincerely,



W. Gregory Steube  
Member of Congress



Doug Lamborn  
Member of Congress



Scott Perry  
Member of Congress



Louie Gohmert  
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Bill Johnson  
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