

ROBERT MENENDEZ  
NEW JERSEY

COMMITTEES:  
BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN  
AFFAIRS  
FINANCE  
FOREIGN RELATIONS

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3005

528 SENATE HART OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510  
(202) 224-4744

ONE GATEWAY CENTER  
11TH FLOOR  
NEWARK, NJ 07102  
(973) 645-3030

208 WHITE HORSE PIKE  
SUITE 18-19  
BARRINGTON, NJ 08007  
(856) 757-5353

June 4, 2012

The Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

I write to ask that you make a statement condemning the Palestinian Authority's celebration and glorification of suicide bombers. Last week, the Israeli government voluntarily returned the remains of 91 Palestinian suicide bombers and other terrorists, including the remains of the terrorist that murdered 20-year old Alisa Flatow of New Jersey on an Israeli bus.

Israel's humanitarian gesture, which required no preconditions and was meant to be a gesture of goodwill, was met by the PA holding a national rally to glorify the "martyrs" and bury them with full military honors.

The PA also held a military funeral for the 91 "martyrs" at President Mahmoud Abbas' presidential compound in Ramallah, with the families of the dead treated as honored guests. Furthermore, Palestinian Authority Minister of Defense Issa Qaraqe called on Palestinians to consider the day, "a national day of celebration."

At a time of so much uncertainty and instability across the globe, particularly in the Middle East, it is as important as ever that the United States support a Palestinian-Israeli peace process that encourages both sides to work together in a constructive manner. The celebration of suicide bombers and terrorists who took the lives of innocent civilians, particularly when combined with the teaching of distorted rhetoric in Palestinian schools, can only serve to perpetuate hatred and postpone peace.

I strongly urge you to make a statement condemning the actions of the Palestinian Authority and clearly expressing the view of the United States that such celebrations of terror are offensive, immoral and an obstacle to peace.

Sincerely,



ROBERT MENENDEZ  
United States Senator