

FOREIGN CLAIMS SETTLEMENT COMMISSION
OF THE UNITED STATES
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
WASHINGTON, DC 20579

In the Matter of the Claim of

Personally Identifiable Information
Redacted under 5 U.S.C. §552(b)(6)

Against the Great Socialist People's
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

Claim No. LIB-I-035

Decision No. LIB-I-026

Counsel for Claimant:

Joshua M. Ambush, Esq.
Joshua M. Ambush, LLC

PROPOSED DECISION

This claim against the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya ("Libya") is based upon physical injuries said to have been sustained by the claimant at Lod Airport in Tel Aviv, Israel on May 30, 1972.

Under subsection 4(a) of Title I of the International Claims Settlement Act of 1949 ("ICSA"), as amended, the Commission has jurisdiction to

receive, examine, adjudicate, and render a final decision with respect to any claim of . . . any national of the United States . . . included in a category of claims against a foreign government which is referred to the Commission by the Secretary of State.

22 U.S.C. § 1623(a)(1)(C) (2006).

On December 11, 2008, pursuant to a delegation of authority from the Secretary of State, the State Department's Legal Adviser referred to the Commission for adjudication a category of claims of United States nationals against Libya. *Letter from the Honorable John B. Bellinger, III, Legal Adviser, Department of State, to Mauricio J.*

Tamargo, Chairman, Foreign Claims Settlement Commission (“December Referral Letter”). The category of claims referred consists of

claims of U.S. nationals for physical injury, provided that (1) the claim meets the standard for physical injury adopted by the Commission; (2) the claim is set forth as a claim for injury other than emotional distress alone by a named party in the Pending Litigation; and (3) the Pending Litigation against Libya and its agencies or instrumentalities; officials, employees, and agents of Libya or Libya’s agencies or instrumentalities; and any Libyan national (including natural and juridical persons) has been dismissed before the claim is submitted to the Commission.

Id. at ¶ 3. Attachment 1 to the December Referral Letter lists the suits comprising the Pending Litigation.

Related to the December Referral Letter, a number of official actions were taken with respect to the settlement of claims between the United States and Libya. Specifically, on August 14, 2008, the United States and Libya concluded the *Claims Settlement Agreement Between the United States of America and the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya* (“Claims Settlement Agreement”) 2008 U.S.T. Lexis 72, entered into force Aug. 14, 2008. On October 31, 2008, the Secretary of State certified, pursuant to the Libyan Claims Resolution Act (“LCRA”), Pub. L. No. 110-301, 122 Stat. 2999 (2008), that the United States Government had received funds sufficient to ensure “fair compensation of claims of nationals of the United States for . . . physical injury in cases pending on the date of enactment of this Act against Libya” December Referral Letter, *supra*, ¶ 1. On the same day, the President issued Executive Order No. 13,477, 73 Fed. Reg. 65,965 (Oct. 31, 2008), espousing the claims of United States nationals coming within the terms of the Claims Settlement Agreement, barring United States nationals from asserting or maintaining such claims, terminating any pending suit within the terms of the Claims Settlement Agreement, and directing the

Secretary of State to establish procedures governing claims by United States nationals falling within the terms of the Claims Settlement Agreement.

On March 23, 2009, the Commission published notice in the *Federal Register* announcing the commencement of this Libya Claims Program pursuant to the ICOSA and the December Referral Letter. *Notice of Commencement of Claims Adjudication Program, and of Program Completion Date*, 74 Fed. Reg. 12,148 (2009).

BASIS OF THE PRESENT CLAIM

On July 6, 2009, the Commission received from claimant's counsel a completed Statement of Claim and accompanying exhibits in support of claimant's claim, including evidence of: his United States nationality; his inclusion as a named party in the Pending Litigation referred to in Attachment 1 of the December Referral Letter, setting forth a claim for injury other than emotional distress alone; the dismissal of the Pending Litigation against Libya; and his physical injuries.

The claimant, Personally Identifiable Information
Redacted under 5 U.S.C. §552(b)(6) states that he was present in the terminal at the Lod Airport in Tel Aviv, Israel, when terrorists began shooting and throwing hand grenades in the terminal on May 30, 1972. He further states that he sustained physical injuries during the attack consisting of a bullet wound to the left side of his chest with a corresponding exit wound on his back, for which he was hospitalized for four days. The claimant has provided evidence of his United States nationality, both on the date of the incident and at the time of the Settlement Agreement. Additionally, claimant has provided medical records, photographs, newspaper clippings, and other documents in support of his claim.

DISCUSSION

Jurisdiction

As an initial matter, the Commission must consider whether this claim falls within the category of claims referred to it by the Department of State. The Commission's jurisdiction under the December Referral Letter is limited to claims of individuals who are: (1) United States nationals and (2) named parties in a Pending Litigation which has been dismissed. December Referral Letter, *supra*, ¶¶ 2-3.

Nationality

In the *Claim of* Personally Identifiable Information
Redacted under 5 U.S.C. §552(b)(6)? Claim No. LIB-I-001, Decision No. LIB-I-001 (2009), the Commission held, consistent with its past jurisprudence and generally accepted principles of international law, that in order for a claim to be compensable, the claimant must have been a national of the United States, as that term is defined in the Commission's authorizing statute, from the date the claim arose until the date of the Claims Settlement Agreement. Based on the evidence submitted with this claim, the Commission determines that the claimant was a United States national at the time of the injury on which his claim is based and that he has been a United States national continuously thereafter until the effective date of the Claims Settlement Agreement.

Pending Litigation and its Dismissal

To fall within the category of claims referred to the Commission, the claimant must be a named party in the Pending Litigation listed in Attachment 1 to the December Referral Letter and must provide evidence that the Pending Litigation against Libya has been dismissed. December Referral Letter, *supra*, ¶ 3. The claimant has provided a copy of the Complaint in Case No. 06-cv-374, filed in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, which names him as a party. The Commission is aware that the Pending Litigation in this case was dismissed by a Plaintiff's Notice of Dismissal with

Prejudice, which was finalized on January 6, 2009. Based on this evidence, the Commission finds that the claimant was a named party in the Pending Litigation and that the Pending Litigation has been properly dismissed.

In summary, therefore, the Commission concludes that this claim is within the Commission's jurisdiction pursuant to the December Referral Letter and is entitled to adjudication on the merits.

Merits

Standard for Physical Injury

As stated in the December Referral Letter, to qualify for compensation, a claimant asserting a claim for physical injury must meet a threshold standard for physical injury adopted by the Commission. In order to develop such a threshold standard for compensability, the Commission considered both its own jurisprudence and pertinent sources in international and domestic law. After careful and thorough consideration, the Commission held in the *Claim of* Personally Identifiable Information
Redacted under 5 U.S.C. §552(b)(6) *supra*, that in order for a claim for physical injury to be considered compensable, a claimant:

- (1) must have suffered a discernible physical injury, more significant than a superficial injury, as a result of an incident related to the Pending Litigation; and
- (2) must have received medical treatment for the physical injury within a reasonable time; and
- (3) must verify the injury by medical records.

Physical Injury

According to his Statement of Claim, the claimant suffered a physical injury on May 30, 1972 while he was present in the terminal at the Lod Airport in Tel Aviv, Israel, during the terrorist attack. In his Statement of Claim, the claimant states that he suffered a bullet wound to the left side of his chest and a corresponding exit wound on his back,

for which he was hospitalized for four days. In support of his claim, the claimant has provided evidence of his United States nationality, both on the date of the incident and at the time of the Settlement Agreement, reflecting that he is a United States citizen by birth in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. Additionally, claimant has provided medical records, newspaper clippings, and other documents in support of his claim.

Based on the evidence submitted, the Commission finds that the claimant's injury meets the standard for physical injury set forth above. Accordingly, claimant

Personally Identifiable Information
Redacted under 5 U.S.C. §552(b)(6) is entitled to compensation in his claim.

COMPENSATION

In the *Claim of* Personally Identifiable Information
Redacted under 5 U.S.C. §552(b)(6) *supra*, the Commission held that \$3,000,000.00 is an appropriate amount of compensation for physical injuries that meet the Commission's standard in this claims program. The Commission also held that compensable claims in this claims program were not entitled to interest as part of the award. *Id.* Accordingly, the Commission determines that the claimant, Personally Identifiable Information
Redacted under 5 U.S.C. §552(b)(6) is entitled herein to an award of \$3,000,000.00 and that this amount constitutes the entirety of the compensation that the claimant is entitled to in the present claim.

Accordingly, the Commission enters the following award, which will be certified to the Secretary of Treasury for payment under sections 7 and 8 of the ICSEA. 22 U.S.C. §§ 1626-27.

AWARD

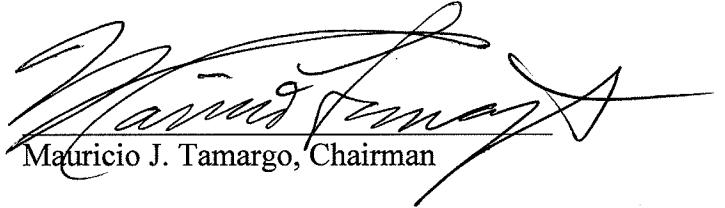
Claimant Personally Identifiable Information
Redacted under 5 U.S.C. §552(b)(6)

is entitled to an award in the amount of Three

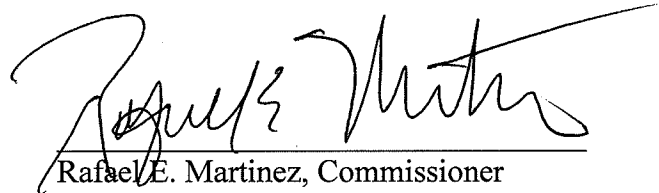
Million Dollars (\$3,000,000.00).

Dated at Washington, DC, and
entered as the Proposed Decision
of the Commission.

OCT 16 2009



Mauricio J. Tamargo, Chairman



Rafael E. Martinez, Commissioner

**This decision was entered as the
Commission's Final Decision on**

~~NOV 23 2009~~

NOTICE: Pursuant to the Regulations of the Commission, any objections must be filed within 15 days after service or receipt of notice of this Proposed Decision. Absent objection, this decision will be entered as the Final Decision of the Commission upon the expiration of 30 days after such service or receipt of notice, unless the Commission otherwise orders. FCSC Regulations, 45 C.F.R. § 509.5 (e), (g) (2008).