

INFORMATION FOR U.S. VICTIMS OF OVERSEAS TERRORISM

Under any circumstances, being the victim of a crime can be challenging. When a death or injury occurs as the result of a terrorist attack in a foreign country, coping can be even more difficult, and complicated by many factors outside your control and experience. The U.S. Department of Justice's [Office of Justice for Victims of Overseas Terrorism \(DOJ/OVT\)](#) is here to help you navigate the foreign criminal justice system, learn about victims' rights in that system and receive available foreign case notifications.

Our staff are specially-trained attorneys and other professionals who have expertise in prosecution, crime victims' rights, victim advocacy and national security. We provide direct support to U.S. victims of overseas terrorism and their loved ones.

WHO WE SERVE

We assist U.S. citizens who have suffered direct physical, emotional or financial harm due to terrorist attacks overseas. We also assist spouses, parents, children, siblings, or legally designated representatives, including when the direct U.S. victim is a minor, or is incapacitated or killed.

WHAT WE CAN DO TO HELP



Provide available information about foreign criminal justice systems, victims' rights in those systems, and available foreign case notifications.



Advocate for victims' voices to be heard in the foreign criminal justice proceedings where possible and consistent with foreign law.



Refer victims to various providers to address physical, psychological and criminal justice system needs.



Advocate for overseas terrorism victims within the U.S. government and throughout the world.

EMERGENCY AND ADDITIONAL SERVICES

Seeking Overseas Emergency Assistance? Call the [U.S. State Department](#) at 888-407-4747 (from the U.S.) or 1-202-501-4444 (while abroad).

Seeking Information About a U.S. Investigation and Access to Immediate and Long Term Social Services Support? Contact the [Federal Bureau of Investigation \(FBI\) Victim Services Division \(VSD\)](#) at 202-324-3000 or at victim.assistance@ic.fbi.gov.

Seeking Reimbursement for Out-of-Pocket Expenses? Contact the [DOJ Office for Victims of Crime \(OVC\) International Terrorism Victim Expense Reimbursement Program Resource Center](#) at 1-800-363-0441 or at itverp@usdoj.gov.

Seeking Information About a U.S. Prosecution? Contact the [United States Attorney's Office](#) prosecuting the case for help navigating the U.S. criminal justice system.

UNDERSTANDING PRIVACY CONCERNS

We respect the privacy concerns of victims and their families and are committed to protecting privacy information. Although private information is generally protected from public disclosure, information may be shared with our U.S. government partners including other U.S. law enforcement entities as needed. For more information about privacy protections, visit the Privacy Act webpage at <https://www.justice.gov/opcl/privacy-act-1974>.

WHAT YOU CAN DO WHEN WORKING WITH U.S. GOVERNMENT PERSONNEL

Here are some general tips to help you when talking to us, or other government counterparts:

- Write down questions before phone calls or meetings;
- Take notes so you will be able to review them later;
- Ask for other resources you may need related to the terrorist attack;
- Share concerns and ask questions. Even if staff can't answer your questions immediately, they may be able to get back to you with more details later;
- Share your preferred method and time for further communication; and,
- If helpful, have a support person with you, or someone you can talk to before or after the conversation.

For more information and tips, visit our website's [Victim Toolbox](#).

WHAT RIGHTS YOU HAVE

Foreign Investigations & Prosecutions:

- When a foreign government investigates a terrorist attack, you may or may not have rights under foreign laws during the criminal justice process. We are here to help you find out what rights you may have in a foreign legal system and support your pursuit of any rights. Please contact us with your questions.
- U.S. crime victims' rights laws do not apply to U.S. citizens during investigations and prosecutions in foreign criminal justice systems.

U.S. Investigations & Prosecutions:

- If the FBI opens a U.S. criminal investigation into an attack, the FBI's Victim Services Division (VSD) is responsible for providing mandatory services to victims, including information about the status of the U.S. investigation (42 U.S.C. § 10607).
- If the Department of Justice files charges in the U.S. court system related to an attack, victims of that attack have U.S. crime victims' rights during the U.S. prosecution (18 U.S.C. § 3771).
- You can also learn more about crime victims' rights in the U.S. court system from the DOJ Victim Ombudsman at <https://www.justice.gov/usao/resources/crime-victims-rights-ombudsman>.

CONTACT US

[Office of Justice for Victims of Overseas Terrorism](#)

950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.

Washington, DC 20530

Email: nsd.ovt@usdoj.gov

Phone: (202) 233-0701

Fax: (202) 233-0770

Pursuing Justice, Protecting Rights,
Providing Services



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