

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

In the Matter of the Claim of

5 U.S.C. §552(b)(6)

Against the Great Socialist People's  
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

Claim No. LIB-I-014

Decision No. LIB-I-050

Counsel for Claimant:

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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 <sup>5 U.S.C. §552(b)(6)</sup> during the hijacking of Pan Am Flight 73 in Karachi, Pakistan, on September 5, 1986.

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, under a delegation of authority from the Secretary of State, the State Department 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 the Honorable 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), which, among other things, espoused the claims of U.S. nationals coming within the terms of the Claims Settlement Agreement, barred U.S. nationals from asserting or maintaining such claims, terminated

any pending suit within the terms of the Claims Settlement Agreement, and directed the Secretary of State to establish procedures governing claims by U.S. 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 ICSA 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 June 10, 2009, the Commission received from claimant a completed Statement of Claim and accompanying exhibits supporting the elements of his claim, including evidence of: claimant's U.S. nationality; his inclusion as a named party in the complaint filed in *Patel, et al. v. Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya*, 06-cv-626 (D.D.C.) (part of 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 *Patel*; and his physical injuries.

The claimant, <sup>5 U.S.C. §552(b)(6)</sup> states that he was a passenger on Pan Am Flight 73 which was hijacked by terrorists on September 5, 1986 in Karachi, Pakistan. According to the Statement of Claim and accompanying exhibits, claimant suffered injuries to his hands, wrists, face, and teeth as well as deficits in his ability to hear and his olfactory senses, as a result of the hijacking incident. In support of his claim, the claimant has provided contemporaneous internal Pan Am reports of his hospital and medical status, his own sworn statements, and contemporaneous newspaper articles that specifically reference the injuries he asserts here.

## DISCUSSION

### Jurisdiction

Under subsection 4(a) of the ICSA, the Commission's jurisdiction here is limited to the category of claims defined in the December Referral Letter; namely the claims of individuals who: (1) are U.S. nationals, (2) have been named as parties in a Pending Litigation which has been dismissed, and (3) set forth a claim in the Pending Litigation for injury other than emotional distress alone. December Referral Letter, *supra*, ¶¶ 2-3.

### *Nationality*

In the *Claim of* <sup>5 U.S.C. §552(b)(6)</sup> 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 to meet the nationality requirement, the claimant must have been a national of the United States, as that term is defined in the Commission's authorizing statute, continuously from the date the claim arose until the date of the Claims Settlement Agreement. To meet this requirement the claimant has provided a copy of his voter registration card issued by the State of Washington, King County of May 22, 2008, and his U.S. passport issued on March 29, 1985. Based on this and other evidence in the record, the Commission finds that this claim was held by a U.S. national at the time of the injury upon which the claim is based, and that it has been so held 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-626, filed in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, which names him as a party. Additionally, the claimant has provided a Stipulation of Dismissal dated December 16, 2008, as evidence of the dismissal of this Pending Litigation. 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.

*Claim for Injury Other than Emotional Distress*

Claimant has provided, with his Statement of Claim, a copy of the Second Amended Complaint in the Pending Litigation in which she states a cause of action for, *inter alia*, battery and assault under Counts VI and VII of the complaint. Based on this evidence, the Commission finds that the claimant set forth a claim for injury other than emotional distress alone in the Pending Litigation.

In summary, 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 the standard for physical injury adopted by the Commission for purposes of this Referral. In order to develop the appropriate standard for compensability, the Commission considered both its own jurisprudence and pertinent sources in international and domestic law. The Commission concluded in the

*Claim of*<sup>5 U.S.C. §552(b)(6)</sup> *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 referred to in 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.

*Id.* at 8-9.

#### *Physical Injury*

According to his Statement of Claim as supplemented, claimant was a passenger on Pan Am Flight 73 which was hijacked by terrorists on September 5, 1986 in Karachi, Pakistan. In his sworn statement, the claimant recounts that after the lights went out, he remembers going to the escape door and then “waking up on the tarmac, face up, next to the plane.” When he woke up he states that he realized that he had a large gash on his left wrist, both his hands and wrists were completely broken, he had a large gash on his chin, his nose was crushed, and he was choking on his own blood. Additionally, he states that two men picked him up, placed him on a stretcher, and loaded him in the bed of a truck which brought him to the hospital where doctors ran x-rays, cauterized his wounds, and placed him in temporary casts. He was later transferred via a medical evacuation airplane to an Air Force hospital in Wiesbaden, Germany where he remained for several days and underwent several surgeries. In support of this account, claimant has provided contemporaneous Pan Am reports from hospitals of the passengers’ medical status,

including claimant's medical status, and contemporaneous newspaper articles wherein his condition is reported and described. The Pan Am report is clearly conveying medical status from the respective hospitals in which victims were treated. The particular report provided by claimant is entitled "STATUS REPORT 11 SEPT - RE PSGRS STILL IN LOCAL HOSPITAL." The report for claimant falls under the heading of "Wiesbaden Military Hospital," and provides the following information: "1 5 U.S.C. §552(b)(6) 5 U.S.C. §552(b)(6) [sic] GOOD SPIRITS/BOTH ARMS IN CASTS. FACE AND NECK COMPLETELY BANDAGED/RELEASE DATE STILL PROJECTED FOR 13 SEP DESTINATION FRA/NYC/BDL." Given the nature and timing of this report as conveying information obtained directly from the hospital in which claimant was treated, and the detailed nature of the information conveyed, the Commission finds that it constitutes evidence sufficient to satisfy all of the elements of the Commission's standard for physical injury. The fact of claimant's injury is further corroborated by a Chicago Tribune newspaper article dated September 7, 1986 which reports that claimant was hospitalized "with broken arms and facial injuries suffered when he jumped from the plane." This evidence is consistent with and supportive of the declaration made by claimant in support of his claim.

Based on the totality of the evidence submitted, the Commission finds that the claimant's injuries meet the standard for physical injury set forth above. Accordingly, claimant, 5 U.S.C. §552(b)(6) is entitled to compensation in this claim.

#### COMPENSATION

In the *Claim of* 5 U.S.C. §552(b)(6) *supra*, the Commission held that \$3 million is an appropriate amount of compensation for physical injuries that meet the Commission's

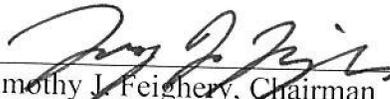
standard in this claims program. The Commission also held that compensable physical injury claims in this claims program were not entitled to interest as part of the award. *Id.* Accordingly, the Commission determines that the claimant, <sup>5 U.S.C. §552(b)(6)</sup> is entitled herein to an award of \$3,000,000.00 and that this amount constitutes the entirety of the compensation that the claimant is entitled to in the present claim.

Therefore, 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, <sup>5 U.S.C. §552(b)(6)</sup> is entitled to an award in the amount of Three Million Dollars (\$3,000,000.00).

Dated at Washington, DC, September 7, 2011  
and entered as the Proposed Decision  
of the Commission.

  
Timothy J. Feighery, Chairman

  
Rafael E. Martinez, Commissioner

**This decision was entered as the  
Commissioner's Final Decision on  
OCT 12 2011**

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).