

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 22, 2010

The Honorable Barack Obama  
President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

We write to respectfully request the prompt nomination of two qualified and capable individuals to be commissioners on the Department of Justice Foreign Claims Settlement Commission.

As you know, the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission plays a critical role in ensuring U.S. victims of terrorism receive the compensation they so rightly deserve. According to U.S. law, the Commission should be composed of a chairman and two additional commissioners. At least two members of the Commission are needed to constitute a quorum and process any claims.

We are concerned that currently the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission has only one commissioner and thus lacks a quorum and is unable to adjudicate submitted claims. This has completely halted the processing of any claims submitted by U.S. nationals against foreign governments. For example, there are currently over 200 claims from victims of Libyan terrorism awaiting adjudication. Many of the victims have waited years, even decades, to receive compensation for their injury or loss. We must do everything we can to facilitate the adjudication process.

As such, we urge you to promptly nominate two qualified and capable individuals to serve as commissioners on the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission and we look forward to considering these nominations in the Senate. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

  
FRANK R. LAUTENBERG

  
ROBERT MENENDEZ

  
KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND

  
CHARLES E. SCHUMER