



**Rt. Hon Joan Ryan MP**  
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Jennie Formby  
General Secretary, Labour Party  
Labour Party Head Office  
105 Victoria Street  
Westminster  
London  
SW1E 6QT

Our Ref: JR12954

Dear Jennie,

Following reports in this weekend's Observer and Thursday's Times, I am writing to request the party launches an investigation into comments made by Jeremy Corbyn MP on Press TV in 2012.

Three elements of Mr Corbyn's appearance were deeply disturbing.

First, Mr Corbyn claimed "the hand of Israel" was behind the August 2012 attack in the Sinai peninsula in Egypt, where jihadi terrorists ambushed an Egyptian military base, killing 16 policemen, before breaking through a border crossing into Israel and targeting a small town nearby. Mr Corbyn's claim is ludicrous, grotesque, and entirely unfounded in fact. It evokes a sinister antisemitic conspiracy theory alleging Israeli origins of jihadi terrorism. Such claims have rightly led to the suspension and investigation of multiple Labour members and councillors in the past.

Second, on the same Press TV show, Mr Corbyn spoke of his affinity with a convicted Hamas terrorist, Abdul Aziz Umar, who he met in Doha and referred to as "brother". Umar aided the preparation of a suicide vest which was detonated at Café Hillel in Jerusalem on September 9, 2003, killing seven and wounding 64. He was convicted for his role in the attack and given seven life sentences.


Furthermore, Mr Corbyn falsely implied Mr Umar's innocence, and says he is pleased he is out of prison, saying "You have to ask the question why they are in prison in the first place. I'm glad that those who were released were released". However, Mr Umar's guilt is not disputed: he was released as part of the Gilad Shalit prisoner swap deal.

Among the attack's seven victims were Dr David Appelbaum, a pioneer in Israeli emergency medical care, who treated Jewish and Palestinian patients alike at Jerusalem's Shaare Zedek hospital. David's daughter, Nava, was also murdered in the attack. She was due to get married the following day.

Third, Mr Corbyn welcomed the release of other terrorists freed as part of the swap deal, saying "I'm glad that those that were released, were released, and I hope they're now in safe places." Over 1000 terrorists, collectively convicted for the murder of 569 Israelis, were traded. I've attached an edited list of some of those released who were responsible for the murders of, amongst others, Holocaust victims, a 15-year-old schoolgirl and a pregnant woman.

I believe that the revelation of Mr Corbyn's comments - his evocation of antisemitic conspiracy theories and his meeting with, and support for, convicted terrorists - brings the Labour party into disrepute, and I would ask that they be investigated on this basis.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joan Ryan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right from the end of the name.

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**Member of Parliament for Enfield North**

## **Appendix: Edited list of terrorists released in the Shalit exchange**

### **1. Abdul Aziz Umar**

- Umar [aided](#) the preparation of a suicide vest which was detonated at Café Hillel in Jerusalem on September 9, 2003, killing seven and wounding 64. He was given seven life sentences.

### **2. Yayha Sinwar**

- Sinwar was the [most senior](#) prisoner released. He established Hamas' military wing in Gaza and is now the leader of the group in the strip. He was serving four life sentences for his role in in the 1994 kidnapping and murder of an Israeli soldier. As Hamas leader he has threatened Israelis by [saying](#) "we will tear their heart from their bodies".

### **3. Walid Anajas**

- Was sentenced to [36 life sentences](#) for his role in three attacks – the Café Moment bombing in West Jerusalem (11 killed, 54 wounded), the bombing of a pool hall in Rishon Lezion (16 killed, 60 wounded), and the bombing of a Hebrew University Café (9 killed, 100 wounded).

### **4. Ahlam Tamimi**

- Tamimi facilitated the [Sbarro restaurant suicide bombing](#), also called the Sbarro massacre, on 9 August 2001, where 15 Israelis were killed, including 7 children and a pregnant woman, and a further 130 wounded.
- Tamimi, disguised as a Jewish tourist, led the suicide bomber to the pizza restaurant. She later commented that she was not sorry for what she had done, and [expressed her glee](#) at the death toll rising in the immediate aftermath of the attack, saying "I wanted to hide my smile, but I just couldn't."

### **5. Husam Ataf Ali Badran**

- The former [head](#) of Hamas' military wing in the West Bank, who orchestrated the [2001 Dolphinarium disco suicide bombing](#) (21 killed, 120 wounded), 2001 Sbarro restaurant suicide bombing and in the [2002 Passover massacre](#), the deadliest attack against Israelis during the Second Intifada where thirty civilians were killed in the attack and 140 were wounded. The victims included survivors of the Holocaust.

### **6. Abdul al-Aziz Salaha**

- Salaha took part in the 2000 [Ramallah lynching](#), where two Israeli reservists were beaten to death in a Ramallah police station. Salaha removed a knife from

the back of one of the soldiers and stabbed him three more times. The image of Salaha then waving his blood-stained hands to the crowd below is one of the most horrifying images of the second intifada.

#### **7. Majdi Muhammad Ahmed Amr**

- In July 2001 Amr shot to death 28-year-old [David Cohen](#) in front of his wife and children, and in 2002 he organised the attack on bus No. 37 in Haifa, which killed 17 and wounded a further 50.

#### **8. Ahmed Mustafa Saleh Hamed al-Najar**

- Hamas member who served as a lookout during shooting attacks that killed six Israelis. After his release, he ran the terror cell responsible for the 2015 [Shuvat Rachel shooting](#) where four Israelis were attacked, and one killed, on their way home from a basketball game.

#### **9. Ahmed Jibril Othman al-Takruri**

- Carried out [firebomb attack](#) on a bus in Jericho, in which a mother and her three children, and a soldier who tried to rescue them, were killed.

#### **10. Fuad Muhammad Abdulhadi Amrin**

- Convicted of [murdering](#) 15-year-old Israeli schoolgirl Helena Rapp on her way to school in the centre of the Israeli coastal city of Bat Yam on 24 May 1992.