



U.S. Department of Justice
Civil Rights Division

Assistant Attorney General
950 Pennsylvania Ave. NW - RFX
Washington, DC 20530

April 15, 2025

Mr. Robert McCaw, Director
Council on American-Islamic Relations
453 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20003

Dear Mr. McCaw:

This responds to your letter dated September 6, 2024, regarding your request that the Department of Justice investigate and prosecute Israeli officials, soldiers and settlers who you allege are responsible for committing violent crimes against civilians, including a U.S. citizen and a former resident of the U.S.

Your letter was referred to the Criminal Section of the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice. The Criminal Section is responsible for enforcing the nation's federal criminal civil rights statutes. Much of the Section's enforcement activity relates to the investigation and prosecution of deprivations of civil rights by individuals acting under color of law, such as law enforcement officers. The matters that the Section handles generally involve allegations of excessive physical force or sexual abuse by law enforcement officers, as well as violent, bias-motivated crimes.

Thank you for sharing your concerns about these troubling allegations. Combatting law enforcement misconduct and prosecuting hate crimes are and will remain high priorities of the Department of Justice and its Civil Rights Division. However, the Department simply does not have jurisdiction to investigate and prosecute crimes that occur entirely in another country, even where a victim is a U.S. citizen. Accordingly, we cannot authorize an investigation into these allegations.

We hope this information is helpful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Harmeet K. Dhillon", written over a horizontal line.

Harmeet K. Dhillon
Assistant Attorney General