



GOVERNOR JOSH SHAPIRO

March 3, 2026

The Honorable Pam Bondi
Attorney General of the United States
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear General Bondi:

I am writing to respectfully request that your office initiate an investigation into the circumstances surrounding the death of Nasrallah Abu Siyam. Mr. Abu Siyam, a U.S. citizen and resident of Philadelphia, was reportedly shot to death by an Israeli settler near the village of Mukhmas in the West Bank on February 18, 2026.

I have spoken with Mr. Abu Siyam's uncle, who also resides in Philadelphia, to express my deepest sympathies for his loss and to express my increasing concern about settler violence against Palestinian civilians in the West Bank. His ask is the same as any grieving family would have: a full and independent investigation into their loved one's killing.

The circumstances of Mr. Abu Siyam's killing suggest it may have been a violation of United States law. As you know, federal law imposes penalties on anyone who kills a U.S. citizen or national outside the territory of the United States, provided that "such offense was intended to coerce, intimidate, or retaliate against a government or a civilian population." See 18 U.S.C. § 2332(a), (d). This statute has been triggered in multiple instances in recent years. Based on reports, there are numerous questions about the circumstances surrounding Mr. Abu Siyam's killing and whether it was done to coerce or intimidate this community and an American citizen.

While the killing of Mr. Abu Siyam and similar incidents in the region demand a diplomatic response, I hope you will agree that the death of a citizen of our Commonwealth under such circumstances also requires a criminal investigation, as prescribed under the law, to ensure accountability and provide answers to the Abu Siyam family.

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My office stands ready to assist you in such an investigation in any way possible. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Josh Shapiro", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Governor Josh Shapiro

cc: David Metcalf, U.S. Attorney, Eastern District of Pennsylvania