

Statement of Brian McEnroe
Bradenton, Florida
Father of Staff Sergeant Kevin McEnroe
National Press Club
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“On Nov. 3, 2016, I exchanged text messages with my son, Staff Sergeant Kevin Joseph McEnroe. It was the usual exchange between us, ‘Hey, Buddy. How’s it going?’ and ‘Hey, Pops, I’m OK. Just been really busy. Tell Mom and the boys that I’m OK and I’ll call everybody around Thanksgiving.’ I replied, ‘OK, Buddy I will, love you, talk soon.’ His reply was, ‘Love you too Pops.’

“On Nov. 4, I got in my car to run an errand. About a block from the house the very first words I heard from the radio were ‘Three American trainers were killed at an airbase in Jordan.’ I cannot tell you how, but at that very moment, I knew in my heart that I would never see my son again.

“I spent most of the day reaching out to anyone who might have some news or details, hoping and praying that I was wrong, and that my son was safe. Details were sparse and no names were released. However, it was widely reported that the Jordanian sources had made a statement that the Americans had failed to stop at the security checkpoint causing the guards to open fire, and calling it an unfortunate misunderstanding, but clearly laying the blame on the American trainers.

“Late that night I received the notification that parents, siblings and loved ones of those who serve our country dread most, when Kevin’s brothers called with the sad news, and like all the other members, of all the Gold Star Families, our lives will never be the same.

“I continued to follow the story, hoping for an explanation as to why our boys were killed by an ally of our country. Subsequently, the Jordanians released a new and equally false assertion, that one of the American soldiers had accidentally discharged a weapon in their vehicle, causing the guards to fire on them. Department of Defense and FBI forensic investigations would find no evidence to support lie No. 2.

“Last week our families were briefed on the findings of the investigating agencies, including descriptions of how the events unfolded, augmented by a very comprehensive video. The shooter, who was interviewed by FBI agents, testified that he heard a loud noise as the Americans approached the gate and, thinking he was under attack, panicked and opened fire. I can tell you with absolute certainty, that anyone viewing the video will only conclude that this third false narrative, is as insulting as the first two.

“Over four months have passed since our boys were murdered. None of our families have heard any apology, condolences, or explanation from the Jordanians, other than the three false and insulting narratives they have advanced. In doing so, Jordan is, at the very least, guilty of complicity in the murder of three of America’s finest and bravest soldiers.

“Based on their behavior, the Jordanians apparently believe that our sons were expendable, but I can promise you they were not expendable to us.

“I’d like to take a moment here to acknowledge and thank The Army and the FBI for the support they have provided my family through this horrible ordeal. I’d especially like to thank everyone from the 5th Special Forces Group in Fort Campbell. I don’t know how we’d have made it through this without your support.

“We are told that Jordan is an important ally in the war on terror, a war I personally support. I encourage our President and administration to take a hard look at our relationship with an ally, who would so badly disrespect those who have sacrificed and died on their behalf.”

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