

*Ambassador's Office*



EMBASSY OF THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN  
WASHINGTON D.C.

*Ref.* .....

*Date* .....

6 March 2017  
The Honorable Congressman Ted Poe  
2132 Rayburn Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Poe:

I would like to take this opportunity to present a brief on the unfortunate and tragic incident which took place in Jordan on 4 November 2016 at the entrance of King Faisal Air Base in Jafer. The incident had the attention and follow-up from the highest levels in Jordan and upon directives from His Majesty King Abdullah II. The Jordanian authorities handled the incident with the utmost of transparency and professionalism. From the start, contacts were established with the concerned US authorities to investigate the details and circumstances of the incident.

A thorough and extensive investigation by a joint US-Jordanian committee was launched. The committee comprised the FBI, CIA, Jordanian military, security and judicial services. All examined the circumstances of the incident and conducted wide investigations at different levels and stages (field inspection, lifting of fingerprints and other criminal evidence, examining details of the incident) in addition to the extensive investigations and enquiries with Jordanian military personnel who were at the base at the time (there were seven).

Full intelligence and technical operations were carried out in relation to the network and ties of Jordanian military personnel working at the base (especially staff srg. M'aarek Abu Tayeh/ in charge of swift response at the base).

All findings of the investigations (all stages of which the FBI was a member of) confirmed absence of any terrorist motives or an organized nature for the incident. The incident was the result of implementation of military rules of engagement following hearing gunshot near the main entrance to the base and the subsequent belief of an ongoing attack. M'aarek Abu Tayeh was tasked with swift response and accordingly fired towards the source of the sound in tandem with the passing of the vehicles of the US side coming from the shooting field and who, in turn, fired directly at M'aarek Abu Tayeh believing he was targeting them. Abu Tayeh was badly wounded in the incident.

The findings of the investigations and circumstances of the incident confirm absence of premeditated intentions by M'aarek Abu Tayeh to target the friendly US side in light of a number of considerations: his 14 years of service, serving for more than 10 years in various military bases where the US side frequents; and on the day of the incident, seven vehicles for the US side emerged from the area Abu Tayeh was to guard without him targeting them despite having an M60 machine gun. It is noteworthy that the gun he used in the incident was M16 which he made ready upon hearing gun shots from outside as he was leaving his position at the base's gate to recharge his wireless device at the entrance.

Against the backdrop of fire exchange, rules of engagement were applied by the swift response vehicle in the base to defend the latter without knowing that Americans were on the other side. The fire exchange was quickly halted upon knowing that friendly US members were on the other side.

It is worth noting that at the time of the incident, there were heightened security tensions in the area and region, especially following the operations in Baq'a and Ruqban.

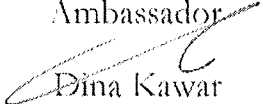
The Jordanian side provided full cooperation and facilitated for the US side to carry out the investigation. However, given that the citizens in the deplorable attack were US nationals, the FBI is the primary contact party to the investigation on the US side with knowledge of all its stages. Therefore, since this is a joint investigation with the US, the Jordanian side cannot take the initiative of publishing information or releasing material or video footage relating to the incident. Any requests for information from US citizens should be addressed to the FBI.

The incident was a tragic accident devoid of any terrorist or hostile motives or premeditated act towards the friendly US side. US forces have worked and trained in

different military bases in Jordan without coming to any harm or attack throughout the past.

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Jordanian Armed Forces offer their condolences and sympathies for the families of the victims of this tragic and very unfortunate incident.

Ambassador

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dina Kawar', written over the printed name.

Dina Kawar