

FOREIGN CLAIMS SETTLEMENT COMMISSION  
OF THE UNITED STATES  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
WASHINGTON, DC 20579

In the Matter of the Claim of

Personally Identifiable Information  
Redacted under 5 U.S.C. §552(b)(6)

Against the Great Socialist People's  
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

Claim No. LIB-I-026

Decision No. LIB-I-034

Counsel for Claimant:

Stuart H. Newberger, Esq.  
Crowell & Moring LLP

PROPOSED DECISION

This claim against the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya ("Libya") is based upon physical injuries said to have been sustained during the hijacking of Pan Am Flight 73 in Karachi, Pakistan, on September 5, 1986.

Under subsection 4(a) of Title I of the International Claims Settlement Act of 1949 ("ICSA"), as amended, the Commission has jurisdiction to

receive, examine, adjudicate, and render a final decision with respect to any claim of . . . any national of the United States . . . included in a category of claims against a foreign government which is referred to the Commission by the Secretary of State.

22 U.S.C. § 1623(a)(1)(C) (2006).

On December 11, 2008, under a delegation of authority from the Secretary of State, the State Department Legal Adviser referred to the Commission for adjudication a category of claims of United States nationals against Libya. *Letter from the Honorable John B. Bellinger, III, Legal Adviser, Department of State, to Mauricio J. Tamargo,*

*Chairman, Foreign Claims Settlement Commission* (“December Referral Letter”). The category of claims referred consists of

claims of U.S. nationals for physical injury, provided that (1) the claim meets the standard for physical injury adopted by the Commission; (2) the claim is set forth as a claim for injury other than emotional distress alone by a named party in the Pending Litigation; and (3) the Pending Litigation against Libya and its agencies or instrumentalities; officials, employees, and agents of Libya or Libya’s agencies or instrumentalities; and any Libyan national (including natural and juridical persons) has been dismissed before the claim is submitted to the Commission.

*Id.* at ¶ 3. Attachment 1 to the December Referral Letter lists the suits comprising the Pending Litigation.

The December Referral Letter followed a number of official actions that were taken with respect to the settlement of claims between the United States and Libya. Specifically, on August 14, 2008, the United States and Libya concluded the *Claims Settlement Agreement Between the United States of America and the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya* (“Claims Settlement Agreement”) 2008 U.S.T. Lexis 72, entered into force Aug. 14, 2008. On October 31, 2008, the Secretary of State certified, pursuant to the Libyan Claims Resolution Act (“LCRA”), Pub. L. No. 110-301, 122 Stat. 2999 (2008), that the United States Government had received funds sufficient to ensure “fair compensation of claims of nationals of the United States for . . . physical injury in cases pending on the date of enactment of this Act against Libya . . . .” December Referral Letter, *supra*, ¶ 1. On the same day, the President issued Executive Order No. 13,477, 73 Fed. Reg. 65,965 (Oct. 31, 2008), espousing the claims of United States nationals coming within the terms of the Claims Settlement Agreement, barring United States nationals from asserting or maintaining such claims, terminating any pending suit within the terms of the Claims Settlement Agreement, and directing the Secretary of State to establish procedures governing claims by United States nationals

falling within the terms of the Claims Settlement Agreement. On March 23, 2009, the Commission published notice in the *Federal Register* announcing the commencement of this Libya Claims Program pursuant to the ICOSA and the December Referral Letter. *Notice of Commencement of Claims Adjudication Program*, 74 Fed. Reg. 12,148 (2009).

#### BASIS OF THE PRESENT CLAIM

On June 30, 2009, the Commission received from claimant's counsel a completed Statement of Claim and accompanying exhibits supporting the elements of the claim, including evidence of: claimant's United States nationality; her inclusion as a named party in the complaint filed in *Patel, et al. v. Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya*, 06-cv-0626 (D.D.C.), part of the Pending Litigation referred to in Attachment 1 of the December Referral Letter, setting forth a claim for injury other than emotional distress alone; the dismissal of *Patel*; and her physical injuries. The claimant states that she was a passenger on Pan Am flight 73 which was hijacked by terrorists on September 5, 1986 in Karachi, Pakistan. According to the Statement of Claim and accompanying exhibits, the claimant was injured when a bullet struck her in the head during the final attack by the terrorists who had hijacked the airplane. The claimant has provided current medical documentation, insurance statements identifying costs associated with care contemporaneous with the incident, her own sworn statement as well as a sworn statement from her father, and newspaper articles, in support of her claim.

#### DISCUSSION

##### Jurisdiction

As an initial matter, the Commission must consider whether this claim falls within the category of claims referred to it by the Department of State. The Commission's jurisdiction under the December Referral Letter is limited to claims of individuals who:

(1) are United States nationals, (2) have been named as parties in a Pending Litigation which has been dismissed, and (3) set forth a claim for an injury other than emotional distress alone in the Pending Litigation. December Referral Letter, *supra*, ¶¶ 2-3.

*Nationality*

In the *Claim of* Personally Identifiable Information  
Redacted under 5 U.S.C. §552(b)(6) Claim No. LIB-I-001, Decision No. LIB-I-001 (2009), the Commission held, consistent with its past jurisprudence and generally accepted principles of international law, that in order for a claim to be compensable, the claimant must have been a national of the United States, as that term is defined in the Commission's authorizing statute, from the date the claim arose until the date of the Claims Settlement Agreement. Based on the evidence submitted with this claim, the Commission determines that this claim was held by a United States national at the time of the injury upon which the claim is based and that it has been held by a United States national continuously until the effective date of the Claims Settlement Agreement.

*Pending Litigation and its Dismissal*

To fall within the category of claims referred to the Commission, the claimant must be a named party in the Pending Litigation listed in Attachment 1 to the December Referral Letter and must provide evidence that the Pending Litigation against Libya has been dismissed. December Referral Letter, *supra*, ¶ 3. The claimant has provided a copy of the complaint in Case No. 06-cv-626, filed in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, which names her as a party. Additionally, the claimant has provided a Stipulation of Dismissal as evidence of the dismissal of this Pending Litigation dated December 16, 2008. Based on this evidence, the Commission finds that the claimant was a named party in the Pending Litigation and that the Pending Litigation has been properly dismissed.

*Claim for Injury Other than Emotional Distress*

Claimant has provided, with her Statement of Claim, a copy of the Second Amended Complaint in the Pending Litigation, in which she states a cause of action for, *inter alia*, battery and assault under Counts VI and VII of the complaint. The Commission therefore finds that the claimant set forth a claim for injury other than emotional distress alone in the Pending Litigation.

In summary, therefore, the Commission concludes that this claim is within the Commission's jurisdiction pursuant to the December Referral Letter and is entitled to adjudication on the merits.

Merits

*Standard for Physical Injury*

As stated in the December Referral Letter, to qualify for compensation, a claimant asserting a claim for physical injury must meet a threshold standard for physical injury adopted by the Commission. In order to develop such a threshold standard for compensability, the Commission has considered both its own jurisprudence and pertinent sources in international and domestic law.

After careful and thorough consideration, the Commission held in the *Claim of* *supra*, that in order for a claim for physical injury to be considered compensable, a claimant:

Personally Identifiable Information  
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- (1) must have suffered a discernible physical injury, more significant than a superficial injury, as a result of an incident referred to in the Pending Litigation; and
- (2) must have received medical treatment for the physical injury within a reasonable time; and

(3) must verify the injury by medical records.

*Physical Injury*

According to her Statement of Claim, claimant,

Personally Identifiable Information  
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was a passenger on Pan Am flight 73 which was hijacked by terrorists on September 5, 1986 in Karachi, Pakistan. In her sworn statement, the claimant states that during the hijackers' final attack on the passengers, she was injured by a bullet which struck her in the head. Claimant has provided insurance statements which document the medical treatment received by her upon her return to the United States. The claimant has also submitted numerous news articles in which she is pictured with a bandage around her head in a location consistent with her statement. In addition, claimant's father, a flight surgeon at the time of the incident, has provided a sworn statement detailing his daughter's injuries and treatment immediately following the incident. According to the claimant, and verified by current medical records, she continues to experience lasting effects from her injuries.

Based on the evidence submitted, the Commission finds that the claimant's injury meets the standard for physical injury set forth above. Accordingly, claimant

Personally Identifiable Information  
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is entitled to compensation in this claim.

COMPENSATION

In the *Claim of*

Personally Identifiable Information  
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, *supra*, the Commission held that

\$3,000,000.00 is an appropriate amount of compensation for physical injuries that meet the Commission's standard in this claims program. The Commission also held that compensable physical injury claims in this claims program are not entitled to interest as part of the awards granted therein. *Id.* Accordingly, the Commission determines that the claimant,

Personally Identifiable Information  
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is entitled herein to an award of

\$3,000,000.00 and that this amount constitutes the entirety of the compensation that the claimant is entitled to in the present claim.

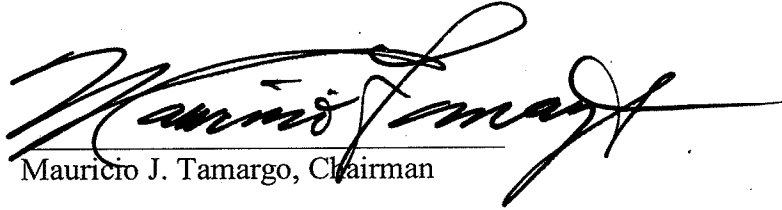
Therefore, the Commission enters the following award, which will be certified to the Secretary of Treasury for payment under sections 7 and 8 of the ICOSA. 22 U.S.C. §§ 1626-27 (2006).

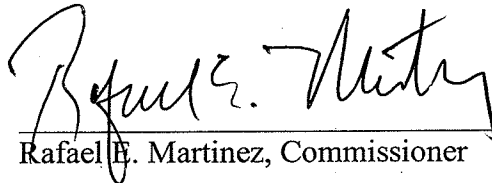
AWARD

Claimant Personally Identifiable Information  
Redacted under 5 U.S.C. §552(b)(6) is entitled to an award in the amount of Three Million Dollars (\$3,000,000.00).

Dated at Washington, DC, and entered as the Proposed Decision of the Commission.

JAN 12 2010

  
Mauricio J. Tamargo, Chairman

  
Rafael E. Martinez, Commissioner

**This decision was entered as the Commission's Final Decision on**

~~FEB 24 2010~~

NOTICE: Pursuant to the Regulations of the Commission, any objections must be filed within 15 days after service or receipt of notice of this Proposed Decision. Absent objection, this decision will be entered as the Final Decision of the Commission upon the expiration of 30 days after such service or receipt of notice, unless the Commission otherwise orders. FCSC Regulations, 45 C.F.R. 509.5 (e), (g) (2008).