

BACKGROUND:

On May 12, attorneys representing Stanley and Joyce Boim filed papers in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois in Chicago seeking to enforce a 2004 judgment for \$156 million against two Chicago-based organizations – American Muslims for Palestine (AMP) and Americans for Justice in Palestine Legal Foundation (AJP) - and three individuals. The Boims contend that these organizations and individuals are the alter egos and successors of organizations who were previously found liable for providing material support to Hamas, a violation of the federal Anti-Terrorism Act, and are therefore liable for the judgment awarded to the Boims in connection with the 1997 murder of their son, 17-year-old David Boim, by Hamas gunmen.

Original Boim Case

On May 13, 1996 David Boim was waiting with his classmates for a bus to Jerusalem when Hamas gunmen shot at the group from their car, hitting David in the head. David died the next day.

- In 2000, Stanley and Joyce Boim filed lawsuit against individuals and organizations in the United States for providing material support to Hamas, a violation of the [Anti-Terrorism Act](#). The defendants included, among others, the Islamic Association for Palestine (IAP), the American Muslim Society (AMS), and the Holy Land Foundation (HLF).
- In 2004, a federal jury rendered a \$52 million verdict against the organizations, finding them liable for David Boim’s death. That verdict was tripled by the trial judge to \$156 million.
- In 2007, a federal appeals court overturned the judgment citing a lack of evidence. However, in 2008, following an *en banc* hearing before the full court, the same court of appeals [upheld the \\$156 million judgment](#). It was the first case brought under the anti-terrorism laws on behalf of American victims of terror against organizations based in the United States that provide material support to international terrorist groups. It has become the landmark case establishing the right of American victims of terror to collect damages from such organizations.

Boim 2.0 Case

Despite the 2008 landmark ruling, only a small percentage of the \$156 million judgment has been collected. Claiming that the defendant organizations had no funds and had closed down, the defendants have formed new organizations to escape their legal obligations. These successor groups or alter egos are liable for the unsatisfied portion of the original Boim Judgment.

- The current management and donors of the AMP and AJP are significantly identical to their predecessors HLF, IAP, and AMS.
 - [According to 2016 Congressional testimony](#) by Foundation for Defense of Democracies Vice President of Research Jonathan Schanzer, at least seven individuals who work for or on behalf of the AMP have worked for or on behalf of previous organizations that were

shut down for providing financial support to Hamas, including HLF, IAP, and an affiliate known as KindHearts.

- The Mosque Foundation in Bridgeview, IL, is the charitable arm of the Bridgeview Mosque, which is a significant supporter and [funder of AMP](#) just as it had donated to HLF.
- Rafeeq Jaber: Former president of IAP is now an organizer of AJP and is [listed as a representative](#) of AMP.
- Abdelbasset Hamayel: Former Secretary General of IAP is now AMP's [registered agent](#) in Chicago.
- Osama Abu Irshaid: Was found "ineligible for naturalization" by the US Citizen and Immigration Services because he failed to properly disclose connections to IAP. He is [currently listed](#) as AMP's National Policy Director.
- AMP runs an annual conference in Chicago that is identical in its pro-Hamas message to conferences previously held annually by IAP. [Many of the speakers](#) are the same.

Bottom Line

These groups and individuals have literally taken their organizations down the street and adopted new names in order to avoid their liability for the 2004 judgment. The defendants cannot walk away from the judgment by simply changing their names while continuing to carry out the same mission. The Boim 2.0 litigation will ensure that the Anti-Terrorism Act remains a meaningful tool in the battle against terrorist-front organizations by holding these groups and individuals accountable for their actions.