



HEZBOLLAH ROCKET VICTIMS SUE AL-JAZEERA TV

On the fourth anniversary of start of the Lebanese-Israeli War, we have filed an unprecedented lawsuit against the Qatar-based Al-Jazeera television network on behalf of 91 American, Israeli and Canadian victims of Hezbollah rocket attacks. The suit filed in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York in Manhattan, seeks \$1.2 billion in compensatory damages plus punitive damages.

Al-Jazeera is widely acknowledged to have an extreme anti-American and anti-Israel political agenda. For example, in September 2001, U.S. officials filed a diplomatic complaint against Al Jazeera, accusing it of having an anti-American slant and objecting to Al Jazeera's description of Palestinian suicide bombers as "martyrs."

In 2002, Professor Khalid al Dakheel of King Saud University stated that: "Al-Jazeera is the mouthpiece of the Arabs. Their coverage is anti-Israelis. Their coverage is anti-Americans." In 2006, Lt. Col. Todd Vician, spokesman for the U.S. Department of Defense stated: "Anyone, even an American living in the Middle East watching a network like Al Jazeera day after day after day, would begin to believe that America was bad just based on the biased, one-sided coverage." And according to Amira Oron of the Israeli Foreign Ministry, during the 2006 war in Lebanon, "Al-Jazeera was no different from [Hezbollah's own station] Al-Manar. It's an Arab station and its intent is to promote the Arab cause."

Al-Jazeera allowed itself to become a crucial component of the Hezbollah missile offensive. The intent was to assist Hezbollah in targeting and killing civilians. Without the assistance of Al-Jazeera's on-the-ground spotters, Hezbollah would have been unable to accurately aim its missiles into Israeli cities. Al-Jazeera, which has offices in New York, aided and abetted Hezbollah terrorism and shares responsibility for the injuries suffered by the victims of these attacks.

According to my co-council, attorney Robert Tolchin from New York: "By giving Hezbollah real-time targeting feedback, effectively helping the terrorists to improve the aim of its missiles, Al-Jazeera crossed the line between reporting the news and being part of the news". For too long we Israelis have been the main target of the biased media which never met an Islamic terrorist organization they didn't like. No media outlet deserves to be sued more than the extremist Al-Jazeera network. Finally, through the use of civil lawsuits the families of the victims are able to target Al-Jazeera.