

ROBERT V. ROTA
POSTMASTER

U.S. House of Representatives
Office of Postmaster
Washington, D.C. 20515

1985 DEC 12 AM 11:09

[Handwritten signature]

Dear Congressman:

Rahall

This will acknowledge the receipt of
your "Dear Colleague" letter dated 12-11.

The letter will be in the 11AM
mail.

Sincerely,

[Handwritten signature of Robert V. Rota]

ROBERT V. ROTA, Postmaster
U.S. House of Representatives

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

December 11, 1985

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Dear Colleague:

The American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee is circulating the statement on the reverse, which will run in newspapers around the country as a paid advertisement. I am asking you to join me in supporting the right of all Americans to speak out by endorsing this statement.

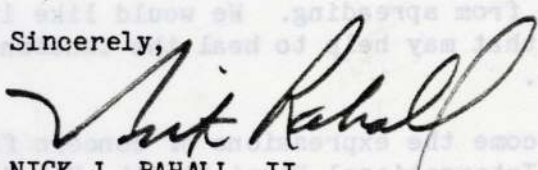
Though the committee is no stranger to minor incidents of harassment, the latter part of 1985 has been fraught with serious incidents of violence directed against A.D.C. In August, a pipe bomb found in front of the A.D.C. office in Boston exploded as two police officers were attempting to disarm it. In October, A.D.C.'s southern California regional director, Alex Odeh, was killed by a bomb that was trip-wired to his office door. And on Thanksgiving weekend, A.D.C.'s national headquarters in Washington were severely damaged by a fire, believed to have been deliberately set on the second floor of the building that houses the national offices. The deputy executive director, who was working late that evening, narrowly escaped.

These incidents are all a result of A.D.C. members and staff exercising their constitutionally guaranteed right of free speech. An assault by lawless thugs on the right of one's free speech is an assault on the rights of all of us -- and it is happening right here in America.

We cannot stand by and watch as the United States turns into another Belfast, or Beirut, where violence begets violence and vengeance becomes a way of life. Join me in denouncing these cowardly acts of terrorism against peaceful people wherever they occur. Please sign the statement on the reverse and lend your name to support the rights of all Americans to speak out. Please contact Kathy Eadeh or Marvin Wingfield at (202) 797-7662 by Tuesday, December 17, 1985, with your response.

With warm regard, I am

Sincerely,


NICK J. RAHALL, II
Member of Congress

Ad

Don't Let Terrorism Spread Into America

There have been three terrorist attacks in the past few weeks in three different cities on offices of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee.

In the first, on August 16, 1985, a pipe bomb was placed in front of the Boston regional office. Two officers of the Boston Police Bomb Squad were injured, one critically, when the bomb exploded in their faces.

The second occurred during the night of October 10, 1985 when a trip wire bomb was placed inside A.D.C.'s California regional office in Santa Ana. When A.D.C. Regional Director, 41 year old Alex Odeh, opened the office door the next morning, the explosion killed him. He left a 29 year old widow and three children, aged 7, 5 and 2. During Odeh's funeral, bomb threats were phoned in to St. Norbert's Catholic Church where it was held.

In the third and latest incident, on November 29, 1985, the building which houses the Washington, D.C. National Headquarters of the A.D.C. was set afire, in highly suspicious circumstances. A.D.C.'s Assistant Director, Barbara Shahn, narrowly escaped as the flames engulfed the office in which she had been working. Countless threatening telephone calls and telegrams have been received during the past three years by the staff of A.D.C. in Washington and other cities. Immediately after the Washington fire four telegrams were received, purporting to come from a fanatical Jewish fringe group. One telegram, in a reference to one of two near fatal bombings of West Bank Arab Mayors several years ago said, "We have Bassam Shaka's legs." Shaka, then Mayor of Nablus, lost both legs in that bombing.

We cannot stand by and watch silently as the terrorist evils of Northern Ireland, Beirut, and the West Bank begin to spread into the United States. Those chronic sores on our planet demonstrate how quickly intercommunal hatred and paranoia can escalate, and how easily fanatics on either side can propel their communities into violence.

As Americans, we are proud of the fact that in our country, rival ethnic and religious grouping who hate and kill each other abroad manage to live here in peace, friendship and intermarriage. In this respect our country, despite its failings, sets a model for humankind. Those of us who are Americans of Jewish or Arabic origin feel a special obligation to prevent this miasma from spreading. We would like instead to set an example of fraternity that may help to heal the tension between our kindred in the Middle East.

We welcome the expressions of concern from the American Jewish Committee, International B'nai B'rith, New Jewish Agenda, and by the Washington Jewish Community Council, as well as many Moslem and Christian groups and individuals, in the wake of these events, and ask all Americans of good will to join in a common effort to stifle intercommunal terrorism here while there is still time, good will and good sense.

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