

Sander Gerber: Evidence of PA Financial Support for Terror

By [Jerry Gordon](#) and Rod Bryant (July 2018)



Terror Antiquus, Leon Bakst, 1908

On March 23, 2018 President Trump signed into law the National Defense Appropriations Act. Among its amendments was the Taylor Force Act—named after a US Military Academy graduate and former US Army officer who served tours in both

Afghanistan and Iraq. On the evening of March 10, 2016 while in Israel with a group of Vanderbilt University School of Management graduate students, he was brutally murdered in a



knifing attack by a Palestinian terrorist at a seaside restaurant in Jaffa, near Tel Aviv. Taylor's wife was seriously injured as were others in the terrorist incident.

The Palestinian terrorist was shot and killed by an Israeli police officer.

The incident might have been buried in the back pages of *The New York Times* as just another Palestinian 'militant' incident, if it had not aroused the commitment of a New York hedge fund principal and fellow at the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs, Sander Gerber, and colleague, Israeli Brig. General (res.) Yossi Kupperwasser, former Director General of the Israeli Ministry of Strategic Affairs. The research effort they led at the JCPA revealed the extent of the Palestinian Authority's annual payment of more than \$360 million annually to 36,000 terrorists and their families in accordance with its laws. The research by the JCPA team led to the development and enactment of the eponymous US Taylor Force Act. We noted in a *New English Review* [interview](#) with JCPA colleague, Dan Diker, that we considered the Center's effort led by Gerber and Kupperwasser as exemplary "entrepreneurially-driven counterterrorism."

Gerber's background was well positioned to lead the effort for passage of Taylor Force. Gerber is Managing Partner and CEO of the Manhattan-based Hudson Bay Capital. Besides being a Fellow at The Jerusalem Center of Public Affairs, he is a Member of the Council of Foreign Relations here in the U.S. He served as



a member of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee board from 2004 to 2016. In 2005, Gerber represented the United States at the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Conference on Anti- Semitism and other Intolerances in Cordoba, Spain. He was appointed

by President Bush in 2006 as a Trustee of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington D.C. He served as Vice Chairman in that capacity from 2008 to 2016. For Gerber's leadership on the research and advocacy for the Taylor Force Act he was awarded the Henry M. "Scoop" Jackson Distinguished Service Award by the Jewish Institute for National Security of America or JINSA in November, 2017.

Israel's Knesset is currently considering passage of a parallel bill, the Stern Act, introduced by former Shin Bet Director Avi Dichter and a senior IDF leader Gen. Elazar Stern. It is currently undergoing development towards possible passage. This, despite internal Israeli government opposition from a unit of Israel's Ministry of Defense COGAT—the Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories and the Finance Ministry. Their opposition is directed at provisions to withhold tax remittances due the PA collected by

Israel to provide compensation for court awards to victims of Palestinian terrorism. Gerber considers that an important feature not included in the Taylor Force Act. Especially in view of two US Supreme Court rulings this Spring barring lower federal court awards for compensation to both US and Israeli victims under the 1991 US Anti-Terrorism Act.

There was skepticism from US newspapers of record about the findings of the JCPA team.

Sander Gerber and Yossi Kupperwasser noted in a June 5, 2018 *Washington Examiner* [article](#) what happened when the JCPA report findings confirmed the magnitude of the Palestinian “pay for slay” program. They wrote:

The stunning acknowledgment by Congress through the passage of the Taylor Force Act that the Palestinian Authority has laws in place and budgets allocated to paying terrorists and their families has changed the narrative regarding the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

This bloody truth has also finally been acknowledged by the mainstream media. Even *The New York Times* [felt](#) compelled to issue a correction that PA payments to terrorists are not “far-right conspiracy stories” because the PA admits as much.

However, Glenn Kessler [in](#) the *Washington Post*, and a recent *Atlantic* [article](#) by Neri Zilber, dispute whether the 2018 PA budget of \$360 million for Prisoners and

Martyrs in fact goes primarily to terrorists.

Zilber and Kessler postulate that prisoners include innocents that happen to be arrested, and attempt to inject definitional terms on what a terrorist is. Both claim that these payments are a social responsibility. At least Zilber concedes that the PA should differentiate “between payments . . . to prisoners with blood on their hands . . . and genuine political prisoners, orphans, and the like that Abbas speaks of.”

[...]

We applaud the media for following Congress and finally recognizing this way in which the PA is rewarding and incentivizing terror. But a simple examination of the facts—for example the PA’s institutional commitment to sponsoring terror against Israel; the PA’s annual budget