

November 30th 2008

Ahmad Ressam Resentencing

My name is Gordon Haberman. On September 11, 2001; my beautiful daughter Andrea was murdered along with 3000 others in New York City. She died a horrific death far away from her family and from those that loved her. I will never forgive.

I have spent the last seven years attempting to comprehend why. I have searched for answers and reasons which could explain why you and your kind wish to cause such harm and destruction to innocent people. I am here today because it is important for me to see you despite your not being directly involved with the events of September 11, 2001. It is important to me because you are representative of the organization with intentions which were the same as the animals who perpetrated the atrocity of 9/11. You would wish the world to believe that America wishes your God and his people harm. We do not.

I am extremely grateful that your twisted and flawed plans were thwarted prior to execution. I am grateful that the families of the victims you intended to harm have not had to go through the pain that I and so many others live every day.

Your intention to disrupt our way of life, to injure and murder as many as you possibly could was intended to bring America to its knees.

On September 11, 2001 your kind did exactly that.

However not in the manner you expected, nor in the manner of those involved on 9/11 intended.

We fell to our knees in Prayer. We fell to our knees in Hope and Faith and Resolution. Just as you failed, they also failed on September 11th, 2001. Instead, what you and your kind have exposed are the weak, violent and cowardly followers of equally weak and pathetic leaders.

You wish us to believe that your religious beliefs provide you with a reason to destroy those who do not share in those beliefs. Somehow your beliefs provide you with both a reason for your wretched existence and a reason to murder; even those of your own faith, who do not share those beliefs. What God would command this?

You wish us to believe that our country and the freedoms it provides; to people of all religions, is the reason you and many of your people live a life of poverty, despair, warfare and misery. We are not. Your leaders bear responsibility for that alone. If we are to believe you are a true representative of your faith and its followers; your religion and your nations will fail.

I have tried to understand your hate. I cannot. What I do understand however is that your message of hate and your murderous intentions have failed to defeat the ideals and spirit and faith of this nation. History will only remember your pathetic life as that of a heinous criminal whose only purpose was to take that which was not yours; the most precious gift God has gave us all...life.

I have met the finest people of all faiths since 9/11 however Islam has suffered greatly because of the twisted beliefs of those like you. The hopes of its people continue to be cast to the winds by oppressive and misguided leadership. The threat they pose to Islam and to the Muslim people is

far greater than the threat your kind pose to us. Americans, along with the vast majority of the people in the world; recoil from the perverse intolerance of radical Islam. We do not hate you. We pity you. We pity the oppression and misery you impose on your people.

But beware: we pity you with a vengeance and strengthened resolve to free those forced to live under this zealous oppression.

As I have indicated I have attempted to understand you and what perplexes me the most in your indiscriminant murderous intentions is that you were never harmed by those you intended to hurt. Not in deed, nor in thought. You have been protected and attended to while in custody. My understanding is you promised to cooperate with officials while in custody and then withdrew that promise. I cannot help but wonder if your assistance could have perhaps prevented the atrocity of September 11, 2001 thereby sparing the life of my daughter and so many thousands of others. I do know this however: no matter what sentence this court imposes on you it will be much more compassionate and merciful than the sentence you wished to impose on your intended victims.

I will no longer waste any memory of my beautiful daughter on you again. You are not worthy to occupy these thoughts.

Be afraid of your eternity however, it is Hell that awaits you and those that think like you.

Gordon G. Haberman

Father of Andrea Lyn Haberman

