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The Honorable John Kerry  
Secretary of State  
US State Department 20520

Dear Secretary Kerry,

Reports of violence after the kidnappings and deaths of both the three Israeli teenagers and the Palestinian youth have reached a climax. Today, videos were released showing the horrifying beating of an American citizen at the hands of Israeli police officers in Shuafat, Jerusalem.

The videos showed Tariq Khdeir, 15, from Tampa, FL handcuffed and lying face down on the ground while one soldier sits on the high-school sophomore as another punches and kicks him repeatedly. Khdeir does not struggle throughout the pummeling. After two-minutes of pounding, the Israeli officers drag his limp, presumably unconscious, body away.

Khdeir is now in custody at a hospital under guard. Tariq Khdeir was born in the United States and is an American citizen. No matter what country or situation, an unresponsive juvenile should not be hit, struck, or kicked while subdued. This is a violation of not only Israeli law, but internationally-accepted standards of prisoner treatment.

The Muslim Public Affairs Council calls upon the Department of State to pressure the Israeli government for a quick release of the child and a thorough investigation into the incident to punish the officers involved and ensure it does not happen again. In addition, we ask that a Consular Officer from the US Embassy immediately get access to Khdeir. We further request that at the upcoming Department of State iftaar, a moment of silence is held for all the children who have been beaten, kidnapped, or killed in the conflict.

The downward spiral of violence in the region is a travesty in and of itself for which no easy solution is available. However, it is our nation's responsibility to take care of our own, and the shocking treatment of an American citizen must not go unheeded.

Sincerely,

Salam Al-Marayati  
President  
Muslim Public Affairs Council