

Important Message from Pan Am 103 Lockerbie Legacy Foundation

The following information was forwarded by HQMDP for the attention of MDP Retired Officers and has also been circulated to serving officers through Force Weekly Bulletin this Friday 4th October 2024.

The Foundation is seeking all Lockerbie 'victims' to register an interest by 9th October 2024.

From: John Palser <UK.Dev.Mgr@pa103ll.org>

Sent: Monday, September 30, 2024 12:52 PM

To:

Subject: Assistance Requested for Time-Sensitive Work

Dear Sir / Madam,

Abu Agila Masud, a Libyan who denies making the bomb that blew up Pan Am Flight 103 on 21 December 1988, is due to stand trial in Washington in May 2025. The London to New York flight was blown up over Lockerbie, killing all 259 passengers and crew on board, as well as 11 residents of the town. The debris field covered more than 845 square miles and remains the largest crime scene in UK history. The 270 people killed in the terrorist attack were from 21 different countries, with 190 of the victims from America and 43 from the UK. The attack remains both the deadliest terrorist attack in UK history and its worst act of mass murder.

Police officer from 12 forces were involved in dealing with the aftermath of the bombing:

British Transport Police
Central Scotland Constabulary
Cumbria Police
Dumfries and Galloway Constabulary
Grampian Constabulary
Lincolnshire Police
Lothian and Borders Constabulary
Metropolitan Police
Ministry of Defence Police
Northumbria Police
Strathclyde Constabulary
West Yorkshire Police

I am writing as a representative of the Pan Am 103 Lockerbie Legacy Foundation to make you aware of the upcoming trial of the alleged bomb maker and to request your urgent assistance in disseminating important and time-sensitive information wherever possible to Ministry of Defence Police officers who were involved in the response and recovery operations.

Recent US legislation requires the Criminal Court that will try Masud to provide remote access to the proceedings, for all those who qualify under the definition of 'victim'. The Court would like to identify not only the total number of victims, but also their geographic locations, to evaluate the type of remote access to grant. This will either be to victims' personal devices or to designated trial-viewing sites around the world.

The U.S. Criminal Court and the FBI have set a deadline of October 09 2024 for all Lockerbie 'victims' to come forward and register ahead of the trial.

One of the definitions of a 'victim' in this case is someone who was "present at or near the scene in Lockerbie when the bombing occurred or immediately thereafter" and who suffered "direct or proximate harm (e.g. physical or emotional injury) as a result".

Thousands of police officers, firefighters, emergency service responders, local authority workers, military personnel and volunteers were involved on the night of the bombing and the aftermath. They are covered by the above definition.

In a statement, the FBI said, "We understand that this notice may be unexpected and raise questions for many who are connected to this tragedy. Please accept our apologies for any apprehensions caused by this sudden outreach, and rest assured that we have a team of dedicated individuals prepared to address any concerns you may have about this process."

Our Founder and CEO, Victoria Cummock, is the widow of Pan Am flight 103 passenger John Cummock. She has said:

"Many thousands of people qualify as living crime victims, like I do, and are entitled by US law to a range of support services during the trial, including mental health counseling, court trial access, and travel expense reimbursement. I appeal to everyone who qualifies to register to receive these benefits, regardless of whether they intend to access the court proceedings. This will probably be our last chance to be counted in demanding accountability and justice. I urge crime victims to use the FBI form to request virtual trial access via Zoom on our personal devices, which is the more humane, practical, and cost-efficient option. This allows aging victims, like me, to remain in their supportive home environments and younger victims to continue to meet their work and family obligations, without creating unnecessary, daily travel hardships during a trial that could last at least a year."

Almost 36 years after the attack took place, it is widely accepted that there are thousands of people who have suffered some form of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder associated with the bombing.

Police Scotland has been working to contact groups of first responders who may wish to register their interest in accessing the trial remotely.

A spokesperson for the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service said they were: "continuing to support the US Department of Justice and the FBI in the prosecution of Abu Agila Masud".

The FBI is asking those who were directly affected by the attack, and fit the description of 'victim', to register their interest by accessing the link below. The deadline is 09 October 2024.

<https://www.fbi.gov/how-we-can-help-you/victim-services/seeking-victim-information/seeking-victim-information-concerning-pan-american-flight-103>

The Pan Am 103 Lockerbie Legacy Foundation would therefore be exceptionally grateful if you were able to use your network of contacts to send this information out and raise awareness among those Ministry of Defence Police officers who worked in and around Lockerbie on 21 December 1988 and afterwards.

The 09 October deadline makes this work very time-sensitive, so I would greatly appreciate e-mail confirmation that you will be able to assist us.

Yours faithfully,

John Palser.

John Palser UK Community Engagement and Development Manager, Pan Am 103 Lockerbie Legacy Foundation