

**Prepared Statement of Richard Horowitz, Esq.**  
**To the Committee on Public Safety of the**  
**Council of the City of New York**  
**November 27, 2001**

Good morning. I feel privileged to have been invited by the committee to discuss my views on security in New York's public areas after September 11 and thank the committee for this opportunity.

I am an attorney here in Manhattan and a former Israeli army officer, having lived in Israel for a number of years in the eighties. I therefore view security matters from the perspective of an American with Israeli training. In addition to my law practice, I have over the years given numerous presentations to professional audiences on the methods and mentality of terrorists, and recently was the terrorism consultant on Fox New York during the week of September 11.

September 11 has presented us with a great security challenge and one that will require a very serious and long-term response. Unfortunately, we are in a situation where at present the physical well-being of New Yorkers is to some extent a function of the intention of the terrorists. That, in my opinion, was the status of America's airline security over the years, which explains how four aircraft could have been hijacked in a coordinated effort.

Notwithstanding the extraordinary and heroic emergency response we witnessed immediately after the attack on September 11, I have indeed noticed weaknesses in New York City's security, constituting a threat to the safety of people and the City's infrastructure. I should point out at the outset however that I am very aware of the counterintelligence aspects of public hearings, whether at the city or federal level. I have heard information broadcast by the media on the state of airport security for example, understanding full well that terrorists or their supporters could literally be taking notes and incorporating that information into the planning of potential attacks.

Similarly, I would not want to publicize what precise security weaknesses I have observed, which I maintain should be left for private discussion. Rather, I intend to discuss what I think should be the approach New York ought to take in order to implement an appropriate and effective security plan.

I believe that City officials from the relevant agencies are fully aware of security procedures, techniques, and equipment. I have confidence in their professionalism in the various aspects of security – from, for example, two fundamental components of physical security – access security (i.e., letting people in) and perimeter security (i.e., keeping people out), to video and undercover surveillance, to security patrols, physical barriers, and the use of hi-tech security devices.

I think the following two points should be emphasized when discussing security measures. First, that physical security, no matter how appropriate, is in a sense the last line of defense – the first line of defense being the intelligence forewarning that an attack would take place. For the most part, this responsibility is in the hands of the federal government.

Second, that whatever security precautions and procedures are implemented are a function of a threat assessment, and to a great extent a threat assessment is itself a function of the political and psychological will to recognize the threat. It is here that we can find the roots of whatever weaknesses exist.

Americans have difficulty in recognizing that we are at war with an enemy who wants to kill us simply because we are Americans. Bin Laden has said so explicitly. His February 1998 fatwa, or religious ruling, stated “The ruling to kill Americans and their allies – civilian and military – is an individual duty for every Muslim who can do it in any country in which it is possible.” Bin Laden reiterated this goal in his June 1998 interview with John Miller from ABC News. Referring to Americans he said “We do not differentiate between those dressed in military uniforms or civilians.”

Though the overwhelming majority of Muslims world-wide reject Bin Laden's call, thousands have already been trained in terrorist training camps in Afghanistan.

It is the difficulty in accepting the harsh reality of Bin Laden's declared objective that leads to weaknesses in proper security. Even the 1993 World Trade Center attack was not enough for the United States to fundamentally alter its security policy. In the award-winning documentary *Jihad in America*, produced by investigative journalist Steven Emerson and broadcast on PBS in November 1994, Mr. Emerson asks former US Ambassador for Counterterrorism Paul Bremer to comment on the fact that a well known terrorist leader was able to enter the United States freely over a number of years. Ambassador Bremer replied that this is another indication of "how lax our immigration procedures are dealing with terrorist. It's shocking because, what it means, in effect, is it's easier to come to the United States as a terrorist than as a refugee."

Sadly, all September 11 suicide hijackers entered the United States with a valid visa.

The implementation of security procedures depends on a clear understanding of the security threat. The threat we currently face was not born on September 11. The 1993 World Trade Center attack, the bombing of the Marine barracks in Saudi Arabia, the bombing of two U.S. embassies in Africa, the attack the USS Cole, Bin Laden's fatwas and interviews, and many other statements and speeches made by Islamic fundamentalist leaders, some on American soil, as exposed by Mr. Emerson's *Jihad in America*, require us to fully come to terms with this existing threat.

Destroying the Taliban regime and the terrorists training camps Afghanistan, even capturing or killing Bin Laden, will not end the threat. We need to recognize that we are confronting an enemy who believes they have time on their side and are will stop at nothing to carry out their declared mission. Our security planning and procedures need to reflect this reality, and it is my hope that through a proper understanding of the threat we will meet this challenge.

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Richard Horowitz is an attorney concentrating in corporate, security, and international matters. He holds a private investigator's license and served in the Israel Defense Forces from 1983 to 1989 where he was involved in national security projects, attaining the rank of captain.

Mr. Horowitz has a long record of involvement with corporate security and routinely advises companies and organizations on security matters. He was the security consultant for a public relations event held for Bosnia in 1993 under the auspices of the President of United Nations General Assembly and is a frequent speaker on terrorism at professional security conferences in Europe, Latin America, and the United States, including presentations at various annual conventions of the American Society for Industrial Security. He has prepared educational material for the U.S. Department of Defense and most recently was the terrorism consultant on Fox New York during the week of September 11.

Mr. Horowitz is the author of the Society of Competitive Intelligence Professional's Policy Analysis on Competitive Intelligence and the Economic Espionage Act and is consulting editor to the money laundering section of Offshoretoday.com. He is a member of the American Society for Industrial Security's Economic Crime Council and the American Bar Association's Trade Secrets and Interference with Contracts Committee.

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