

Victims of Nairobi embassy attack register to lobby

About The Author : Hailey Fuchs Hailey Fuchs is a reporter at POLITICO. : 8-10 minutes

With Daniel Lippman

VICTIMS OF THE 1998 NAIROBI EMBASSY BOMBING BEGIN LOBBYING SPREE:

Earlier this week, a team registered to lobby Congress and the executive branch for compensation for designated victims of the attack, according to filings with the Department of Justice.

— The team registered with the DOJ includes **Philip M. Musolino**, a lawyer who has been representing the victims for decades; **Joseph Szlavik**, partner at Scribe Strategies & Advisors; and **Melvin P. Foote**, president of the non-profit organization Constituency for Africa.

— The attacks on Aug. 7, 1998, in front of the embassies in Nairobi, Kenya and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania — linked to al Qaeda — left 224 people dead and more than 4,500 wounded, [according to the F.B.I.](#)

— The Justice for United States Victims of State Sponsored Terrorism Act established a fund that entitled victims of state-sponsored terrorism to compensation. However, victims of the Nairobi attack are not eligible, Musolino said.

— In an interview, Musolino told Influence that they planned to lobby to pass legislation that would entitle victims of the bombing to money in the fund currently designated for victims of state-sponsored terrorism. In a lawsuit against al Qaeda, hundreds of Musolino's clients were awarded millions but have received nothing, he said.

— Among the others working to pass the legislation, Szlavik's firm also represents Banco Multiple Activo Dominicana (a commercial bank in the Dominican Republic), Gécamines SA (a Democratic Republic of Congo state-owned corporation) and the Republic of Uganda. Musolino said that, as the agreement currently stands, 25 percent of the payout would be distributed to those who helped out with the Kenyans' cause.

— "They're in this position because they were our friends and allies. No other reason. They were our friends and allies, and they suffered with us," Musolino said of the bombing victims and their families. "This legislation not only equalizes the position of our African friends and allies, but I think it will strengthen the perception in Africa of the United States as a long-term reliable partner, ally and friend."

Happy (FARA!) Friday and welcome to PI. My name is Hailey Fuchs, and I'm filling in for Caitlin this week. Send your tips to hfuchs@politico.com. Your great host Caitlin will be back next week, but you can always find me on Twitter. Throw me a follow there: [@Hailey_Fuchs](https://twitter.com/Hailey_Fuchs).