



## **Press Release**

### **FAMILIES OF AMERICANS KILLED AND INJURED BY AL-QAEDA AND TALIBAN TERRORISTS SUE DEUTSCHE BANK, STANDARD CHARTERED BANK, DANSKE BANK, AND TWO MONEY REMITTERS FOR FINANCING THE ATTACKS**

WASHINGTON (August 5, 2021) – An Anti-Terrorism Act lawsuit was filed today on behalf of hundreds of Americans, including members of more than 100 Gold Star families, against three global financial institutions and two money remitters that stand accused of supporting a campaign of terrorism in Afghanistan led by al-Qaeda.

The defendants being sued are Deutsche Bank, Standard Chartered Bank, Danske Bank, Placid Express, and Wall Street Exchange.

In the Complaint, 487 Americans, including 115 Gold Star families and dozens of severely injured veterans, accuse each bank and money remitter of violating the Anti-Terrorism Act by knowingly financing al-Qaeda and its affiliates from 2001 through 2016.

After 9/11, Osama bin Laden organized al-Qaeda’s long-standing affiliates in Afghanistan and Pakistan into an anti-American jihadist alliance that was dedicated to killing Americans in Afghanistan. Through what the U.S. government described as al-Qaeda’s “Syndicate” of terrorism, al-Qaeda planned, authorized, and often jointly committed attacks throughout Afghanistan alongside its allies the Taliban, including the Haqqani Network, Lashkar-E-Taiba, Jaish-e-Mohammed, and D-Company.

As alleged in the Complaint, Deutsche Bank, Standard Chartered Bank, Danske Bank, Placid Express, and Wall Street Exchange aided these terrorists by knowingly serving them as what people in the financial industry call a “Laundromat”: a bank or money remitter that operates as a criminal enterprise by knowingly profiting from transactions that help terrorists.

As alleged, each defendant pursued longstanding “Laundromat” schemes to maximize profits by knowingly helping al-Qaeda, the Haqqani Network, and their allies raise, manage, secure, transfer, and deploy their illicit money. The Complaint alleges that these schemes violated U.S. law and collectively caused hundreds of millions of U.S. Dollars to flow from American financial institutions to al-Qaeda and its allies from 2001 through 2016.

The plaintiffs are Americans who were severely physically injured, or whose loved ones were killed or severely physically injured, in Afghanistan by terrorist attacks from 2011 through 2016 that were planned, authorized, and often jointly committed, by al-Qaeda in alliance with its long-standing affiliates in Afghanistan and Pakistan, including the Taliban and its Haqqani Network.

“As alleged in the Complaint, while thousands of Americans were risking their lives to support and rebuild Afghanistan, defendants were fueling attacks against Americans by serving as Laundromats for al-Qaeda and its allies,” said Eli J. Kay-Oliphant, a partner at Sparacino. “The Complaint filed today by 487 Americans alleges that the defendants aided and abetted terrorism in Afghanistan by providing the terrorists with critical funding.”

Stacy J. Taylor, a partner at Sparacino, stated: “As alleged, Defendants were sophisticated banks and money remitters that earned vast profits through their relationships with the terrorist customers identified in the Complaint. We allege they were aware what they were doing was illegal – and did it anyway to make more money.”

“The Anti-Terrorism Act complaint filed today alleges that Deutsche Bank responded to 9/11 by intensifying its services as a Laundromat for the world’s worst terrorists,” according to Ryan R. Sparacino, a partner at Sparacino. “As alleged, Deutsche Bank actively facilitated al-Qaeda and the Haqqani Network’s terrorist finance schemes just as a sophisticated al-Qaeda financier would have done, helping al-Qaeda and its allies raise terrorist funds, conceal their illicit income, convert their money to the U.S. Dollars they needed most, and then transfer their cleansed U.S. Dollars back to al-Qaeda and its allies so they could murder Americans in Afghanistan. As alleged, Deutsche Bank even charged the terrorists a premium for Deutsche’s services.”

“But this case is about much more than Deutsche Bank’s depravity,” said Mr. Sparacino. “As alleged, Standard Chartered Bank and the other defendants also deliberately aided terrorists by also operating as Laundromats. All will be held accountable.”

For many of the survivors of these attacks and the families of those killed, much of what the investigation uncovered came as a shock.

“This case is about changing the financial equation that banks and money remitters consider when dealing with suspected terrorists,” said August Wildman, the widow of U.S. Army LTC David E. Cabrera, who was killed in a suicide bombing in Kabul, Afghanistan on October 29, 2011. “I hope every financial institution understands that operating as a Laundromat for terrorists is not a viable business choice.”

The case is captioned *Wildman et al. v. Deutsche Bank AG et al.*, Case 1:21-cv-04400 (E.D.N.Y. Compl. Filed Aug. 5, 2021).

**The Complaint is available at <https://terrorismcase.com/banks>**

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