



ASSIST's Helping Hand Newsletter

Terrorism Survivors Helping Survivors

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 74
OCT TO DEC 2024

Suggested Improvements to our Legal System

By Worley (Lee) Reed



ASSIST is dedicated to helping injured survivors of terrorism with legal, medical and financial assistance based on available organizational funds. ASSIST endeavors to fill the gap between government entitlements and real need.

The American Society for the Support of Injured Survivors of Terrorism, Inc. Newsletter is published quarterly at Lake Wales, FL. The Chief Editor is Bret W Reed, Administrative Officer.

ASSIST is a IRS Approved 501 (c) 3 Public Charity. Contributions and dues are tax deductible as prescribed by law. Please see your tax professional for details.

Please send correspondence to ASSIST, 4371 Dinner Lake Blvd, Lake Wales, Florida 33859-2135

No one can be a great thinker who does not recognize that as a thinker it is his/her first duty to follow his/her intellect to whatever conclusions it may lead. Truth gains more even by the errors of one who, with due study, and preparation, thinks for himself/herself, than by the true opinions of those who only hold them because they do not suffer themselves to think.

John Stuart Mill, On Liberty

I think, therefore, I am. René Descartes

I want to challenge you, the Newsletter readers, to step out of your box of beliefs you were taught by society

since childhood. Simply assume you are looking at our Legal System from across the street. First, I must advise you that the statements and options of this article are solely the ones of the author, and they do not necessarily reflect the position of ASSIST, the ASSIST Board, or staff.

I believe our Legal System is the best system in the world, yet it is also dysfunctional be-

Continued on Page 2

ASSIST Board of Directors

W. Lee Reed – Chairman (Nairobi Embassy Bombing)
Frank Pressley – Vice Chairperson (Nairobi)
Joyce Reed – Secretary / Treasurer (Nairobi)
Louise Rogers – Board Director (9/11)
Ellen Richards — Board Director (Nairobi)
Yasemin Pressley – Board Director (Nairobi)
Elliott Adler – Board Legal Counsel

Bret Reed—Administrative Officer and Chief Editor
Telephone: (407) 361-0546
FAX: (863) 949-4645
www.assist-survivors.org

We are grateful to the US Department of Justice and the National Organization for Victims Assistance (NOVA) for their support and leadership in the area of victims' rights.

Suggested Improvements to our Legal System

By Worley (Lee) Reed

cause it fails to provide for its basic functional principle. Our laws, regulations and directives should only protect the individual American from interference by other individuals in their rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness as well as our Bill of Rights in our Constitution. No one has the right to implead any American from the full enjoyment of their liberties in any manner unless their actions directly inhibit the same rights of other Americans. In other words, the function of law is to protect us from harmful actions of other people. Therefore, for a law to be valid, **there must be a victim** in each case of violation unless the law provides for common welfare, such as tax laws, where the entire society is the victim.

Our Legal System is dysfunctional because it functions on the theory of inertia. For example, many Florida counties and cities have ordinances prohibiting the sale of alcohol at various times on Sunday. The laws originated in the 19th century to prevent cow hands and agricultural workers from getting drunk on Sunday morning then showing up drunk for church services. This is no longer a problem, yet the law is still enforced. Please do not forget that not all religions hold services on Sunday.

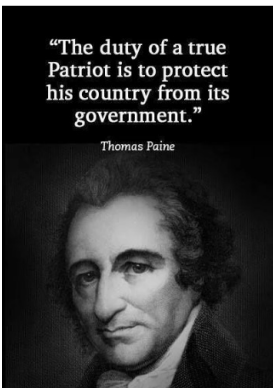
Laws can outlive the problem for which the laws were created to solve. When I was in the US Army, I was assigned a short tour, normally 12 months, to Korea. When I arrived in Korea, the Army informed me that my tour would be 13 months by regulation. When I asked why they added the additional month, they said it originated in the 1950's when soldiers would travel to Korea by ship. It took the ship two weeks to travel one way between the US West Coast to Korea. In 1972, the trip by airplane was just longer than one day.

Our Legal System also functions on the principle of legal precedent. If a judge decides on a specific case at any time in our history, a lawyer can cite this decision as a reason for a current judge to decide in an analogous manner a case now. Since societies and their problems change with time, this can also create the problem of invalid inertia and faulty judgments. The solution is to create a Supreme Court panel of judges who review local, state, and federal law. They could void out-of-date and unconstitutional laws, clearing the books.

The First Amendment to our Constitution prohibits making laws favoring any one religion, yet many laws at the national, state and local levels do favor religious views of one or more religions. The Amendment also protects Americans who do not believe in any religion. Our religious laws usually have no victims.

"The duty of a true Patriot is to protect his country from its government."

Thomas Paine



IT'S TIME WE
ABORTED OUR
OUTDATED LAWS



Suggested Improvements to our Legal System

By Worley (Lee) Reed

They are therefore unconstitutional and should be removed from our legal system.

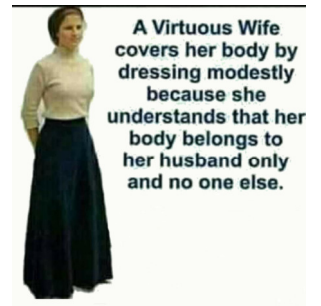
While I am a Christian and believe applicable principles of the Bible, secular laws created on specific religions create additional problems. The Bible, the Koran and other religious texts were written hundreds to thousands of years ago. Our society and scientific progress have drastically changed as have the problems of protecting individuals in each society. For example, in Biblical times, slavery was an established institution, and women were treated as private property with little to no rights.

The Bible instructs slaves to obey their masters, while in our current society, we consider slavery highly illegal. We believe that no one person has any right to own another person for any reason. The ownership of a person violates the basic principle of law stated previously in this article.

The Bible's treatment of women does not match the realities of our present society. Women were the property of their father until their father gave them to their husbands. This ritual is still followed today in marriage ceremonies. When I married my wife, she promised to obey me as a part of her vows. Given today's freedoms, she broke the vow quickly with no objection from me.

Dowries also involved ownership. When a husband accepted ownership of his wife, he also accepted responsibility for providing support for an additional member of the family who, at that time, did not work outside of the home. The father, on the other hand, was relieved of his daughter's support burden. Hence, the father compensated the husband by giving him a dowry.

The Biblical Jewish Legal system is the basis for most other religious beliefs concerning marriage and women. Women were the property of their father or husband. Women could not hold any position of responsibility or outside job for that matter. Lacking any form of birth control, a man who has relations with a woman could produce a child. A man who has relations with a woman who was not his wife suffered punishments based on the status of the woman. If she was unmarried and not engaged with any other man, then the man was required to marry her. If the woman was engaged or married, both the man and woman suffered death. If the woman did not belong to a family, then what happened to the woman was based on the married status of the man. She was stoned if he were married, but what would have happened if he was single is not clear since there was no father/husband to file charges. What



A Virtuous Wife covers her body by dressing modestly because she understands that her body belongs to her husband only and no one else.

Suggested Improvements to our Legal System

By Worley (Lee) Reed



is strange under this system is that prostitution was common. The entire system existed on the fact that there was no birth control and children conceived by a wife were the financial responsibility of the husband. A man did not want to be responsible for another man's child.

The status of women in our society has completely changed. People are considered equals in every aspect. With the existence of modern birth control, the possibility of intimate relationships producing children has almost vanished. Yet, the laws against adultery still existed until recent time and still exists in our military law. Laws against prostitution still exist, yet there is no actual victim except in the cases of white slavery and child exploitation.

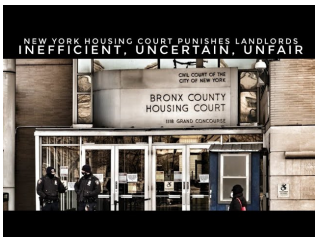
The final reason for our dysfunctional legal system is the efficiency of our court process. For example, in our specific case against Iran and Sudan, the bombing occurred on August 7, 1998. Our lawyer was not able to file a viable case until just after 9/11. The final verdict in our favor did not occur until 2011, and we are still in the process of collecting on that verdict.

Our court system is simply too slow, so we should follow other modern countries' examples. For instance, when we

were in Geneva, Switzerland from 1986 to 1989, airline hijackers landed in Geneva and the police captured them the same day. Their trial occurred the day after they landed. On the second day, they were in prison serving life sentences.

A major problem slowing down our court system is the abundance of frivolous cases clogging the system. We need a pre-case system, where cases are examined by legal panels to decide if the case should be dismissed, sent to binding arbitration or forwarded as a normal case. This would weed out trivial cases vastly improving the processing of the court's docket.

The courts should work eight hours a day, five days a week like the rest of us. They can also reduce the normal two-hour lunches to one hour. Any additional work after hours should be homework like the rest of us do. This also applies to the appeals process. Hold the hearing, decide, write it up and send it by electronic means to the parties involved and the lower court. Victims would receive justice in a timely manner. □

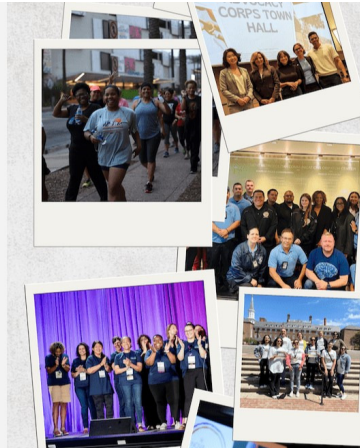


NOVA's Annual Training Event

July 22-25, 2025 | San Francisco, CA

Discover the power of connection and reignite your passion when you attend NOVA's Annual Training Event! Network with 1000s of victim assistance professionals from around the world, participate in expert training sessions and hear from dynamic keynote speakers.

[LEARN MORE...](#)



See <https://www.trynova.org/> for more information

The Good Life Section



Happy Holidays from the ASSIST Staff

ASSIST

Memorabilia

The ASSIST memorabilia below are available from ASSIST, 4371 Dinner Lake Blvd, Lake Wales, Florida 33859. Please add \$4.50 to your total order for shipping and handling. All profits from the sales of items goes to support terrorism survivors.



ASSIST Coin (front and back) \$10.00

ASSIST Lapel Pin \$4.00



ASSIST Hat Adjustable \$10.00



ASSIST T-Shirt \$10.00 L and XL Based on Availability of Size

ASSIST Calendar

Oct 14—Columbus Day/Indigenous People’s Day

Oct 23—Beirut US Marine Barracks Bombing 1983

Oct 31—Halloween

Nov 4—Tehran “Students” seize US Embassy 1979

Nov 3—Daylight Savings Time (Set your clock
back one hour)

Nov 5— Election Day

Nov 11—Veterans’ Day

Nov 28—Thanksgiving

Dec 7—Pearl Harbor 1941

Dec 12—Kuwait City Truck Bomb US Embassy 1983

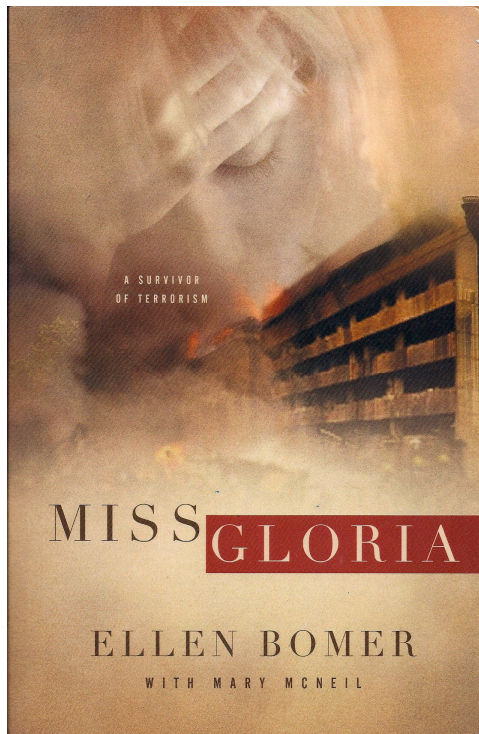
Dec 25-Jan 2— Hanukkah / Chanukah

Dec 24—25—Christmas

Dec 26—Jan 2—Kwanzaa

Dec 31—New Year’s Eve

Note: If we inadvertently omit an important
date, please contact us and we will correct
it.



Miss Gloria details the struggles and triumphs of a wonderful lady blinded by the Al Qaeda attack on the United States Embassy, Nairobi, Kenya on August 7, 1998. We highly recommend this book as a must-read.

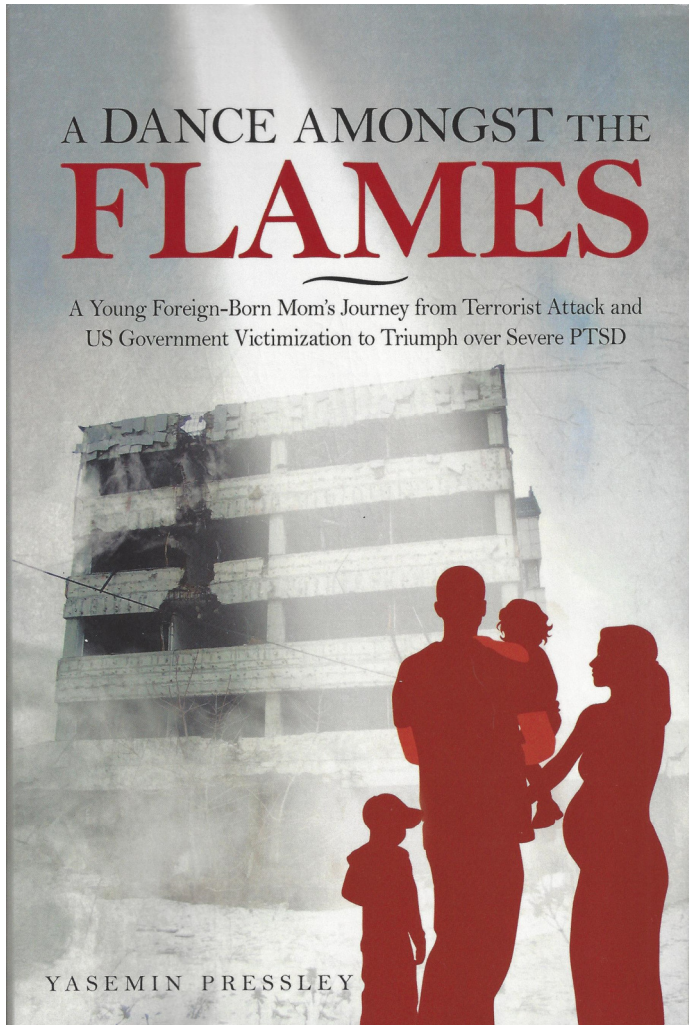
The book is available from the publisher: Redemption Press, 1730 Railroad St, Enumclaw, WA 98022 www.redemption-press.com as well as on Amazon Dot Com. http://www.amazon.com/Miss-Gloria-Terrorism-Ellen-Bomer/dp/1414113668/ref=sr_1_3?ie=UTF8&qid=1431978093&sr=8-3&keywords=Miss+Gloria



If you are seeking someone to help you manage your terrorism compensation or other funds, UBS has helped us find creative and safe investments. Our contact is Ms. Holidae Hayes, telephone: (202) 585-5372.

This is an unpaid endorsement by the ASSIST Staff, and does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the ASSIST Board or ASSIST membership.

ASSIST has a new website: <http://www.assist-survivors.org> .



A Dance Amongst the Flames is a highly recommended new book about the unique experiences of a terrorism survivor. The book is available at your local bookstore or through Amazon® at https://www.amazon.com/Dance-Amongst-Flames-Foreign-Born-Victimization/dp/0578581515/ref=sr_1_1?crid=20YC01N2RX455&keywords=a+dance+amongst+the+flames+by+yasemin+pressley&qid=1576686264&sprefix=A+Dance+Am%2Caps%2C160&sr=8-1 . A preview of the book can be found on Youtube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ikt9Hk01818> .

The American Society for the
Support of Injured Survivors of
Terrorism, Inc.
4371 Dinner Lake Blvd
Lake Wales, FL 33859-2135

Phone: 407-361-0546
Fax: 863-949-4645
E-mail: wreed3@tampabay.rr.com
<http://www.assist-survivors.org>

Terrorism Survivors Helping Survivors



WE ARE ON THE WEB!

[http://www.assist-
survivors.org](http://www.assist-survivors.org)

Nonprofit Org. US Postage Paid Lakeland, FL Permit No. 265
--

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

The Helping Hand is published by email. If you know someone who should receive a copy of our newsletter, please either forward it to her/him or print it out for them. This publication is free and not subject to sale or resale. If you either wish to be added to our email list or want to removed from it, please email us at wleereed@msn.com. Note: The opinions expressed here by the authors are his or her own and do not necessarily reflect the views of the ASSIST Board and membership. □