



# US Dept. of Justice National Security Division Office of Justice for Victims of Overseas Terrorism

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DOJ/OVT Created in 2005



THE UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT *of* JUSTICE

Attorney General's Establishment Memorandum

“...working with [the FBI, US Attorney's Offices....] and other pertinent components to ensure that the **rights of victims and their families are honored and respected,...**”

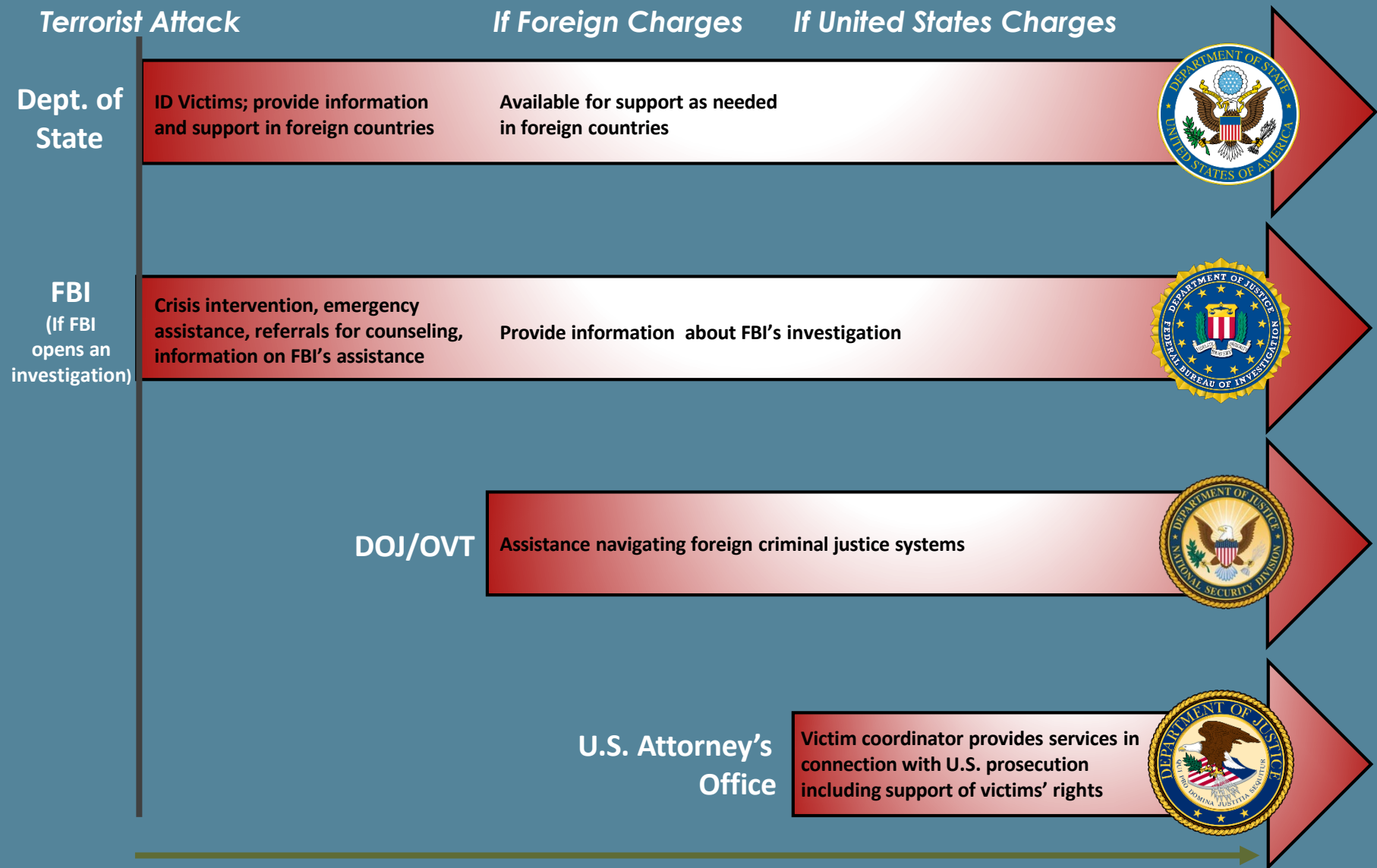
Mission Statement:

DOJ/OVT provides support to U.S. victims of overseas terrorism by helping them **navigate foreign criminal justice systems and by advocating for their voices to be heard** around the world.

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# U.S. Government Response to U.S. Citizen Victims of Terrorism Overseas

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DOJ/OVC – Administers ITVERP Reimbursement Program

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# DOJ/OVT Programs

- ▶ Provide information about foreign system and case updates via password protected websites, letters, emails, phone calls;
- ▶ Funding for travel to foreign court proceedings;
- ▶ Compensation program attack designation process;
- ▶ Court accompaniment;
- ▶ Assistance with victim impact statements.

# Coordination with Foreign Systems

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- Information is one of the greatest needs for service providers and it can be obtained through coordination;
- Coordinate victim support: best for victims when all supporters work together. Different programs (Govt. and NGO based) can compliment each other;
  - Internally in country where you operate; and
  - Between authorities/programs in the country where the attack took place, and authorities/victim services in the country where the victim resides.

# Coordination: HOW?

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- Identify correct contact persons in government and services provider organizations and conduct introductory briefing. Very helpful to do this in person;
- Identify available services and key providers as a basis for local referrals. When possible, this can be done in the preparatory phase, before there is an attack/court case;
- The victim list: Think about data sharing (ideally ahead of time):
  - Train internally on privacy protections;
  - Government and support providers develop strategies and agreements to facilitate sharing data while respecting victim privacy;
  - Can share info without revealing identities.



# Role of A Network

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- Include experts and services professionals in other countries;
  - They can help identify key providers and make introductions to the correct contacts in other countries.
- Share good practices and brainstorm on new challenges;
- Method of information gathering outside regular routes;
- Develop proven, trustworthy pre-crisis relationships;
- Talk and meet regularly to promote continuity;
  - Conference calls,
  - Symposia,
  - Introduce team so relationship is not dependent on one person.

# Office of Justice for Victims of Overseas Terrorism

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