

Chairman Jordan, Ranking Member Nadler,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of my bill, the *Meaningful Access to Court Proceedings for Victims of Pan Am Flight 103 Act*.

On December 21, 1988, the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 claimed the lives of 270 people, leaving a permanent scar on the international community.

The recent indictment of the alleged bombmaker of this terrible attack, Abu Agila Mohammad Mas'ud Kheir Al-Marimi, has recently brought this tragedy back into the public eye.

The initial appearance of Al-Marimi in U.S. court marks a significant step in the judicial process of holding terrorists accountable for their actions and that no matter where they hide, America will deliver justice.

However, the court's refusal to provide a listen-only telephone line for the victims based on the Crime Victims' Rights Act is an unfortunate denial of meaningful access to that justice.

This incident is now 35 years old, and the victims were citizens of 21 different countries.

Many of these victims' families are now elderly or residing far from Washington, D.C., making travel too impractical if not impossible for those that seek to attend this trial.

The legislation I stand for today seeks to rectify this by mandating the provision of remote video and telephonic access to the trial proceedings.

This bill is based on historical precedents and recent adaptations during the COVID-19 pandemic that have demonstrated the feasibility and value of remote courtroom access.

As we continue to uphold the values of justice and transparency, it is imperative that the Judiciary Committee supports this legislation.

It is not only a measure of legal necessity but also a gesture of compassion towards those who have suffered immeasurable loss.

I urge the members of this Committee to consider the importance of this bill in affirming the United States' commitment to justice for all victims of terrorism, regardless of their nationality or residence.

By doing so, we honor the spirit of cooperation that has characterized the international investigation into this tragedy and take a definitive step towards closure for the victims' families.

Thank you and I yield back.