

**Opening Statement of Chairman Joseph Lieberman  
“Lessons from the Mumbai Terrorist Attacks, Part II”  
Washington, DC  
January 28, 2009  
AS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY**

**On the evening of November 26, 2008, 10 terrorists began a series of coordinated attacks targets on the city of Mumbai – India’s largest city and the financial capital of that great country and our very close ally. Over the next 60 hours, as the entire world watched, these 10 terrorists paralyzed this city of more than 13 million, killing nearly 200 people and leaving hundreds more wounded before the situation was brought under control with nine of the terrorists killed and one captured.**

**On January 8<sup>th</sup>, this Committee held a hearing to examine lessons learned from these attacks that could help us strengthen our own homeland security here in the United States.**

**We heard from three government witnesses, representing the Department of Homeland Security, the FBI, and the New York City Police Department.**

**We examined a range of issues related to the attacks, including the nature of the threat posed by the terrorist group that apparently carried them out, Lashkar-e-Taiba, the tactics used by the attackers, and efforts to protect so-called “soft targets.”**

**The hearing today is “Part II” of that inquiry, addressing again the same set of issues, with particular emphasis on what we here in the United States – with the public and private sectors working together – can do to strengthen so called “soft” targets.**

**Our witnesses today are from outside the government, including independent terrorism experts and representatives of the private sector.**

**One of the most difficult challenges that the Mumbai attacks illuminated is the protection of soft targets.**

**The Mumbai terrorists attacked hotels, an outdoor café, a Jewish community center, and a movie theater – places that are not traditionally subject to a high level of security.**

**The protection of these kinds of soft targets is a challenge in an open society as – by definition – they are facilities that must be easily accessible to the general public and are often used by large numbers of people at one time, making them inviting targets for terrorists who don't care about killing innocents.**

**But that does not mean that we can leave soft targets unguarded.**

**A range of activities and investments must be deployed to enhance soft target security, including security awareness training for personnel, physical security measures and effective information sharing between the government and the private sector. A basic level of security is important across all commercial sectors and to commerce itself.**

**In 2007, this Committee created legislation to increase the ability of private sector companies to manage and respond to disasters by creating the Voluntary Private Sector Preparedness Accreditation and Certification Program in the 9/11 Commission bill of 2007, which will allow interested private sector companies to be certified as complying with voluntary preparedness standards.**

**Preparedness is important, but it's only one aspect of security. I look forward to hearing from our witnesses on how we can also improve private sector prevention, protection and response capabilities today.**

**I am pleased that representatives of Marriott and Tishman Speyer are here today to discuss best practices and lessons learned from Mumbai and other terrorist attacks, and in particular how they can increase security while balancing the interests of commerce.**

**I look forward to hearing about their experiences with this unique set of challenges.**

**We will explore additional issues in this hearing, including the threat posed by the terrorist group Lashkar-e-Taiba, the tactics used in the Mumbai attacks, and the challenges of responding to such an attack.**

**On these topics and on the soft target issue, I am pleased to welcome Brian Jenkins from RAND and Ashley Tellis from the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace to testify.**

**Both are experts in terrorism and in the region of the world in which these attacks took place, and I look forward to their testimony.**

**It is my hope that the public record of these two hearings will provide Congress and other public officials, law enforcement personnel, the private sector and the general public with better strategies and insights into how we can more effectively protect our nation from the kind of attack suffered by our allies and friends in Mumbai.**

**Senator Collins.**