

Bob Dole



NEWS

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 27, 1993

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CROWN HEIGHTS

DOLE URGES FEDERAL CIVIL RIGHTS PROBE OF YANKEL ROSENBAUM MURDER

Washington -- Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole today urged Attorney General Janet Reno to launch a federal civil rights investigation into the August 1991 murder of Yankel Rosenbaum in the Crown Heights section of New York City.

"The murder of Yankel Rosenbaum is not just a local issue, affecting only the citizens of Crown Heights and New York City. It is an issue that deeply affects all Americans," Dole said in a letter to Reno urging the investigation. "All decent Americans are shocked when they hear the Yankel Rosenbaum story, the story of a young man who came to our country to study, only to be victimized, killed, simply because of his ethnicity and religious beliefs. The American people and the Rosenbaum family have been patient. They deserve some answers," Dole continued.

The text of the letter to Attorney General Reno follows:

The Honorable Janet Reno
U.S. Department of Justice
Tenth Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Attorney General Reno:

It is my understanding that you are now considering whether to initiate a federal investigation into the brutal murder of Yankel Rosenbaum.

As you weigh your decision, I hope you would remember one important point: The murder of Yankel Rosenbaum is not just a local issue, affecting only the citizens of Crown Heights and New York City. It is an issue that deeply affects all Americans.

As you know, Mr. Rosenbaum's murder took place during the Crown Heights riots in August of 1991. News reports indicate that Mr. Rosenbaum was chased down a street and stabbed repeatedly by a mob of twenty or more assailants. Apparently, some of these assailants were yelling anti-Semitic epithets.

Yankel Rosenbaum died because he happened to be at the wrong place at the wrong time. But I am convinced he also died because he happened to be Jewish.

Attorney General Reno, it is my sincere hope that you will direct your Department to commence a federal civil rights investigation into the Rosenbaum murder and the circumstances in Crown Heights that created the environment in which it occurred.

All decent Americans are shocked when they hear the Yankel Rosenbaum story, the story of a young man who came to our country to study, only to be victimized, killed, simply because of his ethnicity and religious beliefs. The American people and the Rosenbaum family have been patient. They deserve some answers.

Thank you for your prompt consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Bob Dole
BOB DOLE