



Arnold Roth and his daughter Malki some months before she was murdered in the Hamas bombing of Jerusalem's Sbarro pizzeria

Seeking Justice for Victims of Palestinian Terrorism in Israel

**Hearing before the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee,
Subcommittee on National Security**

Arnold Roth

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Chairman DeSantis, Ranking Member Lynch, distinguished members of the Subcommittee.

My name is Arnold Roth. I live in Jerusalem. My daughter Malki was murdered there in a Hamas bombing attack on August 9, 2001. She was 15.

I appreciate very much the invitation to testify from the very specific vantage point of a close-knit family devastated by an act of murder driven by terrorism. The death of a young child is generally regarded as one of the most challenging traumatic experiences life can serve up. Check with Amazon; there is a wide literature that guides parents who find themselves in that awful position. A smaller number of books exists that seek to comfort the parents of a child killed by a *criminal* act. But the death of a child by terrorists has sharp, painful angles to it that defy book-laden advice. If there is a literature of help for parents like my wife and me, it's a tiny bookshelf. And being able to read Hebrew is an advantage.

Practically everything I know about *terrorism and its victims* I learned through the prism of Malki's murder. Thank you for the opportunity you have afforded me to share some of the things I have learned, and the facts that underpin them.

I want to relate to four matters that I believe ought to affect the decisions you as legislators will consider in evaluating the subject matter of this hearing:

- **Incitement:** The ongoing encouragement to do more acts of terror that is rampant throughout Palestinian Arab society, starting at its politically-highest levels and extending out through the conventional media, and the social media.
- **Enablement:** Money, where it comes from, how it's spent, and the maneuvers of those who want to conceal its role.
- The troublesome matter of **defining terrorism**, calling it by its name and why this is so hard for important parts of Western societies to do.
- Practical matters that may lead to a better **return on effort** invested by the Congress, by the Department of Justice and by the Administration in aid of the needs of victims of overseas terror.

Justice

But for the winter storm and heavy snows that paralyzed the area, this hearing would have taken place a week earlier, on Wednesday January 27, which is Holocaust Memorial Day. President Obama honored that day by taking part in the "Righteous Among the Nations Award Ceremony" at Israel's Washington embassy.

Because I was in Jerusalem that day, and not already here in Washington, I caught a sound bite via an Israeli news program radio:

[W]e're called to live in a way that shows that we've actually learned from our past. And that means rejecting indifference. It means cultivating a habit of empathy, and recognizing ourselves in one another... It means taking a stand against bigotry in all its forms, and rejecting our darkest impulses and guarding against tribalism as the only value in our communities and in our politics... That's how we never forget - not simply by keeping the lessons of the Shoah in our memories, but by living them in our actions. As the book of Deuteronomy teaches us, "*Tzedek, tzedek tirdof*" - "Justice, Justice you shall pursue." ...May the memory of the lost be a blessing.

And as nations and individuals, may we always strive to be among the Righteous. [[Transcript of Pres Obama's January 27, 2016 speech](#)]

"Tzedek, Tzedek tirdof". The quotation is of course Biblical. But almost any Hebrew speaking child in a Jerusalem elementary school today will understand the words with no problem. Our language, along with the values it embodies, has deep roots.

But even for those with no Hebrew language skills, it's striking that one word is said twice in the three word phrase: it's the word for "justice", *tzedek*. What's more, Hebrew uses the same word, *tzedek*, for both *justice* and *righteousness*.

Jewish tradition, noticing the evident redundancy of that verse from Deuteronomy, extracts a simple message of timeless inspiration: ***When you do justice, do it in a just and righteous way.***

The phrase quoted by the President from Deuteronomy 16 calling on society to appoint judges who will carry out righteous judgment is followed by a simple statement of *why*: "...That you may live".

Justice is not meant to be only for the victims of injustice. It is for the larger society in which they and we engage and interact. Doing justice right, doing it justly, doing it with righteousness, is the way we ensure that all of us - individuals and communities - can live.

Justice is not vengeance. It's about putting things right in the name of society's shared values and hopes.

OVT

It's a universal reality that terror victims, no matter where, go through an intensely personal, often lonely and isolating, process of dealing with the loss and pain and insult and sense of violation. They need support. Often they need advocates.

Created by the Koby Mandell Act of 2005, OVT is exemplary in the way it addresses the core needs the primary parts of which [its website describes this way](#):

- To work to ensure that where Americans are injured or killed in terrorist attacks overseas, investigation and prosecution remain a high priority within the Department of Justice
- To monitor the investigation and prosecution of terrorist attacks against Americans abroad in both foreign and the United States criminal justice systems.
- To work to ensure that the rights of victims and their families are honored and respected throughout the criminal justice system.

In [formally announcing its establishment](#) back in May 2005, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales captured well the optimism that many of us felt:

- "This new office guarantees a voice for victims and their families in the investigation and prosecution of terrorists who prey on Americans overseas," said Attorney General Gonzales. "Our commitment to these victims is as strong as our dedication to bringing their terrorist attackers to justice."

And in the Implementation Memo, issued by the Attorney General in May 2005, specific guidelines were issued that spoke of a significant commitment of resources and effort. Here are some extracts I noted in reviewing the memo:

- The Congressional mandate can best be satisfied through appropriate oversight of operational components by high ranking officials with expertise in criminal investigation and prosecution. The Office shall therefore be established within the Office of the Assistant Attorney General for the Criminal Division [*later changed to National Security division – AR*]. The Assistant Attorney General for the Criminal Division shall appoint a senior official with the requisite expertise as Director of the Office. The Director shall be accountable for the performance of the Office and shall report directly to the Assistant Attorney General for the Criminal Division.
- Because of the importance of the Office and its mission, and as part of his oversight responsibilities, the Deputy Attorney General shall identify an official within the Office of the Deputy Attorney General (ODAG) to serve as a point of contact on issues relating to terrorist incidents against American citizens overseas. The point of contact in ODAG shall receive regular updates on the activities of the Office.
- The FBI, the Criminal Division's Counterterrorism Section, and the Criminal Division's Office of International Affairs shall also designate one or more liaisons to assist the Office in the fulfillment of its responsibilities. In addition, the Criminal Division's Office of Enforcement Operations (OEO) shall designate one or more liaisons, including OEO's Victim-Witness Coordinator, to assist the Office in the fulfillment of its responsibilities.
- ...The Office shall be responsible for the following:
 - monitoring the investigation and prosecution of terrorist attacks against Americans abroad;
 - working with the Criminal Division's Victim-Witness Coordinator, the FBI, the United States Attorneys' Offices, and other pertinent components to ensure that the rights of victims and their families are honored and respected;
 - establishing a Joint Task Force with the Department of State, as described below;
 - compiling pertinent data and statistics;
 - responding to Congressional and citizen inquiries on the Department's response to such attacks; and
 - filing any necessary reports with Congress.

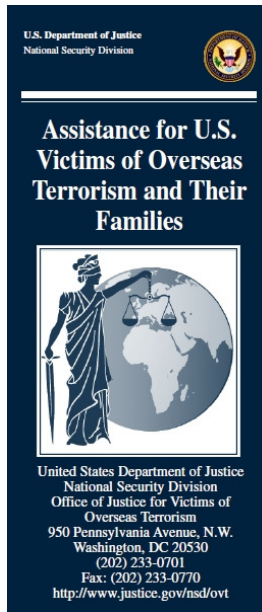
These pieces collectively form the components of a valuable mission that brings tremendous credit on its authors and does substantial good.

In reaching out to the OVT and in our dealings with its officers and with the DOJ at large, there is no doubt we encountered unflinching courtesy and got respectful hearings. But it has to be said that tangible results have been in short supply. We have learned far more, for instance, over the past decade about our daughter's killers from YouTube and Twitter than from updates received from the OVT. To say it bluntly, I am sorry to report that there have been no updates.

I imagine providing people like us with updates from time to time on the things being done by the DOJ and various operational agencies imposes a heavy load on the OVT. But if this is not what the OVT exists to do, then in light of what we know of its *raison d'être*, what are we entitled to expect from it?

Last week, in advance of coming here, I looked carefully at the [Rewards for Justice](#) website, which is listed and linked to under "Resources" on OVT's website. I remember that in the past it had a full page devoted to my daughter's murder but I found that that is now gone. Malki is not mentioned anywhere.

While I can think of reasons why, even while being surprised about it, I was astonished to see that across the entire web site, the word *Israel* now appears exactly three times. (One of those is when a Palestinian Arab terrorist, born in 1936, is described as being born in “Jaffa, Israel”. 1936, of course, is a dozen years before the state of Israel was established.) Why the change? I do not know.



I was puzzled by another observation: an OVT brochure (see left) providing basic information about OVT’s work was sent to us some years ago. (I am unsure about the exact dates.) Then a fresher version came into my possession. The two look almost identical, except that the later version omits the section entitled “**What are the rights of victims of overseas terrorism?**”, which describes several of those rights. While the mandate of the OVT did not change in the intervening years, the message to terror victims evidently did. I can offer no explanation for this.

If the explanation for the scaling-down of a focus on terror attacks in Israel is that matters of state and diplomacy trump the rights of parents of an American citizen to be kept informed, then it would help us manage our own expectations, and reduce the emotional wear-and-tear of a very challenging situation, if someone in authority would speak up and tell us that.

In the particular circumstances of the terrorism that turned my family’s life upside down, we are left with a sense that things could have been managed differently and with greater and better effect.

A massacre by terrorists

The circumstances of the massacre in the heart of Israel’s national capital on August 9, 2001 that eventually brought me here today are well enough documented that they can be summarized in just a few points [background [here](#)].

- A cluster of jihadists dispatched by Hamas attacked the local branch of the Sbarro pizzeria chain on a hot Thursday afternoon during the school summer vacation. A human bomb was brought there from Ramallah by the chief planner of the operation. She had tried, and failed, to carry out another lethal explosion just days earlier inside a downtown supermarket by means of an explosive-filled beer can. This time, her bomb, prepared by an expert in such matters, was carefully concealed within a guitar case. And her target was thoughtfully selected, after several site visits she made to central Jerusalem, for the maximum number of Jewish children who could be killed in a single blow.
- She planted the bomb – a human bomb – and instructed him to wait until she was safely out of range and able to flee back to Ramallah. She described to a clearly delighted Arabic television interviewer in July 2012 [video](#) how the initial results of the explosion reached her inside an Arab taxi making its way out of Jerusalem, how the details of the steadily mounting death toll coming in over the radio filled her with joy and how the strangers traveling in the vehicle with her began smiling and cheering as the scale of the carnage became known.
- The death toll grew to fifteen people by that evening with tens of dozens of people injured, mostly women and children - which was always the plan. Two Americans were among the dead, one of them my Malki, the other Judith Hayman Greenbaum and the unborn first baby she was

carrying. A third American woman, Joanne Finer Nachenberg, remains unconscious in a vegetative state more than 14 years later. The two-year old daughter she brought into Sbarro that day has been raised without a mother.

- That chief planner, the woman I have been mentioning, was 21 years old. Besides studying journalism, she had an evening job reading the news for a Palestinian Arab TV station. That day, she impassively reported the killings on camera that evening, giving no outward sign of the excitement she felt. It's possible she was the first news presenter in history to have been the central figure in the day's major story about which she was reading aloud the details.
- She was subsequently arrested, indicted, tried, imprisoned (for no fewer than 16 terms of life imprisonment), freed – but never pardoned - as part of a massive deal with Hamas to secure the life of an Israeli hostage, and sent back to Jordan, the land of her birth and of her parents and siblings and where she had lived almost all her life.
- There, after barely eight years in an Israeli prison, she has been transformed into a uniquely bizarre form of public figure – a mass murderer who regrets no aspect except that she wished the death toll were higher; whose success has made her a figure of adulation across the Middle East and beyond; who today skillfully leverages television and the social media – Twitter and Facebook, in particular – to proselytize for more killings and for greater support for those caught trying to do them. I think the public platform at her disposal and the extraordinary megaphone it gives her are literally unique in the annals of sociopathy.

Malki

Nothing is more about business and less about feelings and sentiment than a legislative chamber. But the people who make laws are people, and people are the sum total of the humanity inside them.

I therefore permit myself, as a witness testifying before this Committee, to describe Malki briefly. She is the reason I am here – my exuberant, ever-smiley daughter, bursting with the love of life and who is eternally going to be three months short of the sixteenth birthday we never celebrated.

But since addressing the beauty of her life is hard to do on paper or briefly, I want to mention just two particular aspects of it.

First, her **song**. In her tenth grade class at school, the girls were invited to take part in a contest. Those who could compose music, should do that. Those who could write accompanying words were advised to try. Those who could sing should sing. Malki never mentioned this competition to us, or the fact that she had embarked on composing a melody, and wrote the words, and sang it to her friends. But she didn't complete this in time. She missed the contest deadline because when you're fifteen, you are entitled to believe you have all the time in the world.

Her devastated friends from school visited us in our home during the seven days of mourning. We learned about the song from them. It's uplifting, optimistic, warm - exactly as Malki was. Different versions of it have been sung at concerts around the world and downloaded and streamed and shared in the years since her life's music was stolen from us. Today, it accompanies the lives of uplifting, optimistic, warm, smiley youngsters – a wonderful heritage to share, even if hearing it remains impossibly painful for my wife and me.

Then there was her *cell phone*. The police phoned me some weeks after the massacre that destroyed the pizzeria in the center of Jerusalem. They asked me to come downtown to collect a bag of personal effects they had identified as Malki's. Inside, we found the mangled red phone that was always with her, and on whose screen she had been happily tapping to friends at the moment when the human bomb pressed the button on the deceptive guitar case on his back. That case, engineered by one of Hamas' most accomplished engineers, was filled not with music but with explosives.

Malki had written these words on the mouthpiece of the cell phone: *Don't speak ill of other people*.

The mastermind

That cursed guitar case, along with the human bomb who carried it, and the woman who masterminded the Sbarro massacre, are at the heart of a grotesque celebration of hateful bigotry that goes on and continues to destroy lives. It's a process that anyone willing to look for it will see it at work daily on the streets of Jerusalem and in many other places in Israel and well beyond Israel's borders.

I will confine myself to testifying about those aspects of that young Jordanian woman's story that are connected with *justice*.

She confessed to the 15 Sbarro pizzeria murders at her trial including the murder of my Malki though she had no knowledge or interest in the identity of her victims once she satisfied herself that they were all Jewish. Her confession in front of the panel of three Israeli judges was proud, triumphant, accompanied by smiles. No, not the warm smiles of young women bursting to help other people and rushing to celebrate life and do good, but a different kind of smile that all of us have seen at dark moments in our lives.

She has repeated her confession over and over again since that time. She has done it in front of large crowds of college students, of ordinary folk, of religious functionaries and of politicians. And most of all, she has done it via the mass media, and the social media and via her weekly television program. The signs are that what she wants people to know, the people in her vast audience want to hear.

Intelligent discussions of terrorism and what makes people do it tend to focus on the need to identify 'root causes' and programs that will address long-standing grievances, deprivation, poverty, oppression, frustration. The instance of my daughter's killer offers what I believe is a very different view:

- Terrorism as an act of redemption and triumph.
- Self-destruction as a macabre celebration of life.
- Murder as an expression of solidarity and identification with a cause.
- And the urge that most of us have to be a hero in the society that raised us.

If I am right, this has practical implications wherever her message reaches – and that reach certainly includes the United States. In this country, as in many other countries, her jihad-promoting weekly television program is beamed every Friday from a studio in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to hundreds of thousands of households. Because the audience is Arabic-speaking, this phenomenon is largely unnoticed, slipping beneath the radar screen of mainstream observers. Nonetheless, the dissemination of the woman's message of hateful triumph, extreme bigotry, the redemptive power of murder – all the points I mentioned a moment ago - is a reality that exacts a desperately high price in every society in which it happens.

What makes this especially serious is that her platform is *global* even while its message remains mostly unknown to the people who – whether they know it or not – may be in her cross-hairs today or in the future.

Should the OVT address any of this? Within the terms of the mandate given to it by Congress, should it be taking this challenge on board? If it did, would this contribute to preventing further deaths of American citizens at the hands of Palestinian Arab terrorists?

A “cash for terror” reward scheme

Any rational person will ask, on hearing the trajectory of this mass-murdering woman’s life, why she ought to be helped to get her lethal brand of Islamist hatred out into the public sphere. She is obviously helped by the fact that she has been completely free and out of prison since October 2011 [[Background: Shalit Deal](#)]. But she is helped in less obvious ways as well. We ought to be asking how that help arrives and who sends it.

In the world that most of us know, a felon who does some unspeakable act of violence causing the severe injury or death of a victim can expect to spend years in prison. The upside: he or she might tap into the educational opportunities that come with the sentence and emerge with a degree or other trade qualification. Some pocket money would be available, but it would mostly go on candies, personal hygiene consumables, the small expenses of living in conditions of incarceration.

The downside: After serving all or most of the full sentence and/or being paroled - depending on the usual factors – the time comes to walk free. Emerging back into the real world, it’s likely to be hard to get back on a reasonable track, to re-establish connections, to find a place in society and so on.

The fate of my daughter’s murderer is different. She has never had to confront social stigma or a shortage of money. She never will.

I was given some calculations last week done for me by an Israeli group, *Palestinian Media Watch* ([Palwatch.org](#)), that has devoted years to understanding the fine details of the dangerous and disgraceful program run by the Palestinian Authority (PA) for funding its convicted terrorists and encouraging more acts of terror.

On the assumption that she spent a total of 10 years one month and 4 days in Israeli prison for the fifteen acts of murder for which she was convicted and to which she confessed, the woman who masterminded the Sbarro massacre received hundreds of thousands of shekels in monthly salary, a one-time release grant and a post-prison stipend. She is not alone in this. Every single one of the several thousand Palestinian Arab murderers imprisoned in Israel as a consequence of terror receives similar fat payments, well above those available to ordinary civil servants and many professionals. At a time of huge economic uncertainty inside the Palestinian Authority and Hamas, the reliability of the cash-flow emanating from the PA’s coffers (and benefitting its own terrorists as well as those of its mortal rival Hamas) means **terror is now a legitimate career option** in their society. Terror pays.

Plainly, terror is not going to end so long as the scheme remains viable and funded.

The Palestinian Authority receives on the order of a billion dollars in international aid each year. Starting in 2011, there has been an awareness on the part of some of the fund providers that the payment of out-of-proportion salaries and cash payments to people we would call terrorists – whether in prison or released – and who are called “heroic” and “exemplary” within their own society, poses a problem. As political liabilities go, this one can be especially irksome at a time when the PA refers to itself as almost insolvent and when the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), the agency that provides much of the schooling and welfare for millions of Palestinian Arabs, is forced to resort to a succession of emergency appeals to foreign donors.

In the most recent reporting period, that PA scheme for rewarding terror made payments of more than US \$150 million. Under a certain amount of pressure from some of its donor countries (The Netherlands is a good example), and in order to safeguard continuing foreign aid funding, the PA in August 2014 engaged in what I would call a shell game trick and shut down its Ministry of Prisoners’ Affairs. The argument was that, having done this, donors could be assured that foreign aid could no longer be said to have flowed into the cash-for-terror reward scheme.

I have taken a close look at the August 2014 changes because of the way they impact on killers who have affected my family’s life. What I have found leads to such obvious conclusions (namely that a fraud is being perpetrated on the donor countries, including the United States) that I am forced to the view that everyone in those countries who needs to know it’s a fraud knows it, but for political reasons chooses to pretend to believe it.

To state the argument simply, there is a new Commission of Prisoners’ Affairs which makes these payments. This is not part of the PA but of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). But the head of the PLO is also the head of the PA. (His name is Mahmoud Abbas, and his day job is president of Palestine.) The head of the Commission is a man called Qaraqe who, by no coincidence, was also the head of the PA ministry that shut down a day before the new commission started. The web address of the new commission is identical to the web address of the now-shuttered ministry. The money which the PLO spends on its prisoner payments scheme is exactly the same as the sum spent by the closed-down ministry. There are more details but to recount them here would be to take seriously the assertion that something changed.

Nothing changed. The PA, funded by the US and the EU and others, is rewarding terrorists like Malki’s killers using cash provided by taxpayers in Western countries. This reality is being deliberately obfuscated by all concerned. [Background: [“Is the PA lying to Western donors?”](#), Palestinian Media Watch, May 18, 2015]

This vexed issue of foreign taxpayers delivering up unspeakably large amounts of money to politicians prepared to lie right into the faces of the donors is a key factor in the enduring nature of terrorist savagery, Palestinian Arab-style.

The US provides a substantial part of the money that makes this possible.

Should the OVT address any of this? Within the terms of the mandate given to it by Congress, should it be taking this challenge on board? If it did, would this contribute to preventing further deaths of American citizens at the hands of Palestinian Arab terrorists?

Incitement

Whether or not the president of the PA, Mahmoud Abbas, is good for peace or bad for peace is probably seen by most as a political question calling for political judgement.

But public statements by the head of state of the Palestinian Authority urging greater recognition of the alleged heroism of Palestinian Arabs who engage in terror against Israelis do not call for political judgement. No matter what his views, or ours, of a one-state solution versus a two-state solution, or an immediate end to occupation as a precondition to peace negotiations, it means something very concrete when he appears in public holding aloft the hands of convicted terrorist prisoners and declares them to be “[political prisoners](#)”, “[freedom fighters](#)” and his nation’s [heroes](#).

Even if Mr Abbas had ever publicly condemned a specific Palestinian Arab for engaging in a terrorist act, we would still think that the preponderance of his messages encouraging such acts amounts to clear encouragement of terror from his people’s most influential single voice.

But we have checked carefully, and we believe he has ***never once issued such a condemnation***. Moreover, while she was still in an Israeli prison cell serving her sixteen life terms (prior to being released in 2011), Mr Abbas [awarded](#) the murderer of our daughter the Palestinian Authority's highest medal, the Al Quds Mark of Honor.

Should the OVT address any of this? Within the terms of the mandate given to it by Congress, should it be taking this challenge on board? If it did, would this contribute to preventing further deaths of American citizens at the hands of Palestinian Arab terrorists?

Conclusion

I have already mentioned here that the criticism we feel is not directed at the people of the DOJ with whom we have had dealings. My wife and I have been treated by them respectfully and courteously. Everything we have seen tells us the DOJ people are committed to doing their jobs professionally and have sought to do so.

Why has so little of a practical nature come from those interactions? We do not know. We do not know what efforts have been made by them. To the extent those efforts are being, or were, undertaken within the confines of the legal system, we know that confidentiality can play a major role.

But since ***justice*** is the heart of our concerns, and years have gone by without update or result, it has to be said that justice has not been achieved here. At the same time, it should also be acknowledged that the responsibility of the US government is to administer justice for its citizens, including for my murdered daughter Malki and for her family.

If some larger truth lies behind the lack of momentum, that truth ought to be disclosed. If diplomatic considerations override the law enforcement imperatives, we wish that were made known too. If foreign governments are thwarting US government efforts to enforce its laws, that too should be known.

Washington is not just about laws and values. It's about politics – both domestic and global. If for instance this great nation's relations with the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Palestinian Authority take precedence over the pursuit of justice and the protection of innocent civilians and their lives, then as painful, as distasteful, as that would be, it's the kind of thing that societies do. We don't know that that is what has happened. We don't say it has, even if others say it is perfectly obvious to them that it has.

But if – and I am just speculating – the inaction were the deliberate outcome of political thinking, then we could call it a terrible mistake, we could try to persuade the appropriate decision makers to see it differently, we could appeal to public sentiment that might agree with us. And we could hope for a new and different strategy.

But we do not know, and our efforts to help ourselves and to be helped by others whose role is to help, have been unhelpful.

I consulted Sherry Mandell just before flying to Washington this week. I told her I would convey the sense of her feelings to this hearing. Sherry is the mother of the American child whose cruel murder ultimately led to the enabling law that created the OVT being named for him: *Koby Mandell*. Sherry asked me to say this:

It hurts, saddens and enrages me that the OVT, which was once created by a law named after my 13 year old son who was beaten to death by terrorists--is not being used to help families such as ours. Koby Mandell's name was expunged from the OVT website with no sign that it was ever there. I did get a phone call telling me that the US government was closing the case--even though the killers were never found. They closed the case, burying Koby again. Causing us another round of pain. The office that was created in my son's name to protect us, instead damages us. There has been no communication since. No sign that the OVT could care less about an innocent 13 year old American boy named Koby--or others like him.

Thank you.

ARNOLD ROTH

Personal Like many Australian-born Jews of his generation, Arnold Roth is a child of Holocaust survivors who settled in Melbourne after World War II and rebuilt their lives there. Graduating in law from Monash University in 1975, he established a successful law practice in Melbourne and quickly became involved in the business and law of computer technology.

Arnold and his wife Frimet, a native New Yorker, immigrated to Israel (in Hebrew: made aliyah) from Australia in 1988 with three sons then aged 10, 7 and 5, and a two year-old daughter, Malka Chana. Settling in Jerusalem, they were blessed with the birth of three more daughters in the following years.

Roth was admitted to the Israel Bar and subsequently took senior management roles in several Israeli technology companies. He is currently an adviser to several Israeli technology ventures.

Malki The life of the eldest of the Roths' daughters, Malki, was cut tragically short in a bombing-massacre at central Jerusalem's Sbarro restaurant in 2001. A youth leader and a gifted classical musician, Malki was a vivacious 15 year-old high school student and enthusiastic volunteer who took every possible opportunity to give practical support and friendship to children with disabilities. Since her murder, Frimet and Arnold Roth have immersed themselves in researching, writing and speaking about terror. As a memorial to their daughter's life, they established Keren Malki, the Malki Foundation, in September 2001. It provides substantial practical support to thousands of Israeli families (Christians, Moslems, Jewish and Druze) who choose to care at home for their special-needs child rather than hand the child off to institutional care. Frimet and Arnold Roth were jointly honored in 2013 with the Israeli Minister of Social Welfare's *Lifetime Achievement* Shield.

Public Activity Arnold Roth writes and speaks frequently on terrorism and its impact. He has been an invited speaker at the UN and the European Parliament, and has met with senior political and national leaders in Australia, Belgium, Colombia, France, Germany, Greece, Luxembourg, Spain, United Kingdom, United States, the European Commission and elsewhere. His opinion articles and interviews have appeared in the *Wall Street Journal*, *New York Times*, *Sydney Morning Herald*, *Washington Post*, *Irish Times*, *Jewish Week*, *Baltimore Sun*, *Le Figaro*, *The Times (London)*, *Jerusalem Post*, *Times of India* among others. He has appeared as an invited guest on *BBC World Service*, *CNN*, *ABC News*, *Canada's CBC*, *SBS Australia*, *SKY News*, *RTÉ Ireland*, *Al-Jazeera* among others, and on numerous local radio talk programs. A lengthy interview in *The Australian*, a national daily newspaper, in July 2012 said: "One person every foreign journalist coming to Israel should meet is Arnold Roth..."

Together with his wife Frimet, Roth blogs at *This Ongoing War* [thisongoingwar.blogspot.com].