



About Mark Siljander:

Former U.S. Congressman & U.S./U.N. Ambassador Rank



Mark Siljander skillfully blends 30 years in America's political power circles as a man of faith. His journey includes life shaping stories beginning with his travels to over 145 countries. His private interactions with major political and religious world leaders, especially in conflict hotspots around the world, have gripped audiences as they compellingly defy the status quo of traditional diplomacy. Many of these stories are recounted in his award-winning book, *A Deadly Misunderstanding*.

Follow Mark's personal story of spiritual transformation from an anti-Muslim, right-wing, war-hawk to a pioneer of unique international peacemaking. His bridge-building efforts were acknowledged by former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, who publicly recognized his, "...efforts toward a more just, humane and peaceful world," with the presentation of *Mohandas K. Gandhi International Peace Award* in 1996. Mark regularly recounts his practical application of long-hidden linguistic and cultural common ground that connects followers of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam in new and dynamic ways.

Mark's track record of seemingly unbelievable results has inspired many of America's friends – and enemies – toward a more spiritual path achieving tangible results in complex conflicts and crises. It is said that there is "no profit in peace". At times Mark's success in places like Sudan, Iran & Libya threatened certain financial and political "interests" of the hidden "elite" who will do anything to protect their agenda. This resulted in personal attacks and outrageous federal charges. After years of futile efforts seeking justice, facing hostile and unrelenting legal attacks - this chapter ended as so many do in today's justice system; with a forced settlement, making Mark likely the only person to be convicted under this law for at least 40 years (an unregistered foreign agent).

Mark was surprisingly given a year and a day prison sentence (an unprecedented outcome), served not in a low-security "camp", but among the general population of low to maximum security prisons; where assaulting or killing a former congressman would certainly be a badge of honor. Yet even this frightening prospect was used for "good." Mark found hope in this storm as hundreds of inmates, including skinheads and gang leaders came together, affected by the transforming principles he has applied internationally. The more the prison guards attempted to humiliate Mark, the more his fellow inmates responded to the message of hope.

Days before his release, Mark was diagnosed with a rare and terminal cancer normally only found in infants. Facing a diagnosis with mere months to live, Mark was miraculously spared. According to Duke University Hospital, he may be the only adult on record to survive. These tests of faith, character, and courage provided for a deeper personal transformation. Mark has experienced life from the heights of political achievement to the depths of personal brokenness.

His academic achievements include a Masters Degree in Political Science, and post graduate work in International Business and Education. He has served on numerous boards and lectured in diverse and prestigious institutions including: Oxford University, Edinburgh University, Khartoum University, and Wheaton College.