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1007 W. Harrison Street
Chicago, Illinois 60607-7140

July 12, 2019

Dr. Robert Friedmann
Founding Director
Georgia International Law Enforcement Exchange (GILEE)
Andrew Young School of Policy Studies
Georgia State University

Dear Director Friedmann:

I am writing as a criminologist/victimologist who has been conducting extensive research in the USA and Israel on crime, terrorism, and victimization, collaborated with Israeli Arab scholars on issues related to terrorism and violence against women, and as one who is well familiar with the Israeli criminal Justice system and the Israel National Police. The research output of my collaborative work has been published in reputable scholarly journals, books, and grant reports.

Modern policing and the provision of public safety is a multifaceted task that is becoming more challenging as the scope, depth, magnitude of criminal activities and terrorism have become complex and sophisticated, requiring serious efforts at public safety policy and practice that are sensitive, fair, and effective. Police are increasingly losing trust in the community, suffer from budgetary challenges, and face growing numbers of opioid victims, cyber-crime, and other threats that require smart use of expensive technology. Yet it is imperative to address these challenges while maintaining civil rights and liberties as appropriate for democratic societies governed by the rule of law. I certainly adhere to John Alderson's view of police (in his work on "policing freedom") whereby the role of police in democratic societies is to guarantee the freedom of movement of people and merchandize.

Agencies address these challenges by learning first-hand about best practices and sources of excellence. Police leaders and members of agency command staff continually seek access to resources of best practice and to training opportunities, in addition to the standard training required by agencies, often used as basis for accreditation. There are only a few programs that provide domestic, national and international exchanges through a peer- to-peer approach. I, for one, appreciate the long-standing reputable track record of organizations that deliver leadership development training with high professional standards, with innovative approaches, and with measurable value they demonstrate.

I can state, without any reservation, that such programs provide significant benefits for the law enforcement community in the U.S. and elsewhere. The Georgia International Law Enforcement Exchange (GILEE) with 27 years of impressive achievements offering programs in, and for, more than half of the 50 U.S. states and in more than 25 countries is one such example. Therefore, I firmly believe

in, and am pleased to endorse, the value of GILEE and its program offerings for practicing what I would consider a model law enforcement.

I am baffled by, and outright reject, claims that some of these professional training programs are, or have been used, to train law enforcement in tactical or military operational techniques that are presumably designed to oppress and/or kill minorities. Such claims lack any basis, and their inflammatory attribution of causal connections between the training and any deadly encounters in the United States is false, slanderous, and simply outrageous.

I commend the numerous law enforcement agencies and their respective professional associations, as well as the private sector, along with civic and community groups, for the support of and cooperation with GILEE, the efforts they make and funds they invest in spreading the word of fair, professional, and exemplary law enforcement. I wish GILEE continued success in offering its professional programs and congratulate all the police leaders who benefit from it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Edna Erez".

Edna Erez, LL.B., Ph.D.
Professor