

Dr. Robert Friedmann
GILEE Founding Director

GILEE, is an important law enforcement executive leadership development training program that involves cross-cultural exchanges between law enforcement and counterterrorism practitioners to enhance public safety. GILEE currently works with more than 25 countries and more than 25 states.

These exchanges are not merely about police practices but also about the rule of law and the protection of human rights. The fact that post-totalitarian countries that have only recently adopted democracy, like Hungary, are part of it, is fantastic achievement because they have the opportunity to learn about the importance the U.S. police attributes to human rights and the importance of adhering to the law. This is a direct outcome of offering sources of excellence and best practices to program participants. In fact, these exchanges benefit human rights and help curb abuse around the world.

Attacks against GILEE stem from an organized campaign aimed at boycotting Israel. Claims that training offered by GILEE and other groups constitutes a “deadly exchange” is unfounded and should be flatly rejected. This campaign, known as BDS (Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions) is based on a discriminatory targeting of Israel. Organizers claim it is an effort to improve Israel’s human rights policy when in fact this campaign aims to delegitimize the very existence of the State of Israel.

This campaign systematically targets Israeli businesses, Israeli academics, art, health and more. In fact, the prospects of terrorist attacks in the United States, make experienced law enforcement agencies such as the Israeli security establishment useful to American and European police confronting similar threats of terrorism and deadly assaults. GILEE provides an important value-added dimension to public safety and for that it should be commended.

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