



# Open Letter: Campaign at Tufts University on Banning Police Exchanges With Israel

The Algemeiner - Thursday, January 7, 2021 by Tufts Alumni and Criminal Justice Officials

***The Jewish Institute for National Security of America (JINSA) sent an open letter yesterday to Tufts University President Anthony Monaco in response to a recent referendum passed by the student body calling on Tufts to end its participation in U.S.-Israel law enforcement exchange programs.***

***The effort at Tufts to denigrate and cancel such exchanges is part of a larger, deeply dishonest, and anti-Semitic campaign known as “Deadly Exchanges” that is part of the Boycott, Divest & Sanction (BDS) movement. BDS activists target JINSA because our Homeland Security Program is the preeminent program bringing together senior U.S. and Israeli law enforcement officials for a best practices exchange of counterterrorism and homeland security policies. While JINSA has not taken any participants from Tufts University on its program before, we are committed to fighting back against this nefarious campaign to harm U.S. national security.***

***We are proud of our program, grateful to the Israeli and American officers who participate, undeterred by the vote at Tufts, and committed to exposing the “Deadly Exchange” campaign for what it really is – propaganda from the BDS movement.***

Dear President Monaco,

We are a coalition of Tufts University alumni, donors, and senior law enforcement professionals who are writing to express concern about a recent campaign at Tufts to ban police exchanges with Israel.

The so-called “Deadly Exchange” campaign against police cooperation between the United States and Israel has been promoted by anti-Israel groups nationwide since 2017, as part of a broader push to erode public support for the Jewish state. It depicts police exchanges, and their sponsors in the American Jewish community, as driving violence against minorities in America, rather than sharing lessons that save and improve lives.

Efforts to link Israel and American Jewish organizations to incidents of police violence in the United States are rooted in readily refutable falsehoods. Now that they have appeared for the first time in the US as a campus referendum — which Jewish leaders at Tufts said “is more about vilifying Israel than addressing police reform” — we would like to set the record straight.

Law enforcement cooperation programs seek to leverage the decades of experience that Israel has tragically accumulated in dealing with mass casualty attacks, in order to best protect Americans of all backgrounds. They focus on subjects including the modus operandi of terrorist organizations, community policing, and minimizing casualties in the event of a hostage-taking situation, a mass shooting, or a terrorist incident.

These topics remain unfortunately relevant for schools and universities. As Kevin Maguire, the former Tufts police chief who participated in an exchange program in Israel in 2017, said last month, “Terror attacks in cities throughout the US, including Boston, and on college campuses, such as Ohio State University and some others have demonstrated the need for local and university police departments to prepare for potential terror attacks and to know how to prevent and respond to them.”

Our lead signatory, who designed the preeminent US-Israel police exchange program run by the Jewish Institute for National Security of America (JINSA), can likewise directly attest that it does not teach racial profiling, protest suppression, or arrest mechanics, or promote the targeting of vulnerable groups. Our law enforcement signatories can speak to the importance of the lessons that they learned during the program, and how their participation has made their communities safer.

The academy is a place to explore new and provocative ideas, and we strongly respect the right of students and faculty to freely debate, including about policing in America and police reform. Yet we also believe that when open falsehoods are being widely disseminated on campus, administrators can play an important and positive role by rejecting misinformation and acknowledging the benefits of programs that aim to improve public safety.

We applaud the university for committing not to act against the exchanges, and we urge administrators to do even more, and stand firm as the truth is challenged.

Sincerely,

Tufts Alumni:

**Diana Ely Epstein** '67

**Joan Bernheimer Sahl** '67

**Bernard Shavitz** '61

**Dr. Andrew Sklover** '62

Criminal Justice:

**Steven L. Pomerantz** *Former Assistant Director of the FBI and Director of the Homeland Security Program at the Jewish Institute for National Security of America (JINSA)*

**Roland Sellon** *Chief of Police Mansfield, MA*

**James DiGianvittorio** *Chief of Police Middleton, MA*

**Helen Rafferty** *Deputy Chief of Police Canton, MA*

**Michael Morrissey** *District Attorney Norfolk County, MA*

**Kenneth Berkowitz** *Chief of Police Canton, MA*

**Lt. Col. Joseph Philbin** *Rhode Island State Police*

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