



# INTERNATIONAL UNION OF POLICE ASSOCIATIONS

THE ONLY UNION FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

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Mr. Richard Trumka  
AFL-CIO President  
815 16th Street, N.W., 8th Floor South  
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Mr. President:

Your recent statement where you speak of "America's long history of racism and police violence against black people" is inflammatory and patently false. Further your call to end racial profiling and to "demilitarize" police forces makes assumptions that are, again, ridiculous. Racial profiling is already banned in every police agency I am aware of. If by "militarization" you are referring to our members having military surplus armored vehicles and other equipment, you should first have, at least, gained a passing knowledge of when and why those vehicles and equipment are deployed. In short, they save *both* law enforcement and civilian lives.

Last Sunday, 18 people were murdered in Chicago while the police were being deployed elsewhere to maintain order. It was their deadliest day in 60 years. Most of those victims were African American citizens, some of them children. None of them were shot by the police.

**No police officer I have spoken with, or heard from, thinks that what happened to George Floyd is excusable in any fashion. We were all shocked and saddened by it!** I find it reprehensible that you would paint us with so broad a brush by including all of our fine membership in such an abhorrent act - it is disgraceful that you would dishonor all of Law Enforcement based on the act of one, or the extreme few.

Your indictment of "police officers" based on the Minneapolis event is akin to someone making allegations against the labor movement based on indictments and investigations

involving Vance Peterson and others of the UAW or local officers of the Steelworkers in Albany and Cleveland or even the recent inquiry of Tefere Gebre. Those, we accept, were outliers and were handled appropriately when their crimes or administrative misdeeds were discovered. That courtesy, however, does not apply to union member police officers from YOU, the President of the union to which they belong.

The American police officer is the 6<sup>th</sup> most trusted occupation in America. Labor Leaders fall well below that mark, just above lawyers.

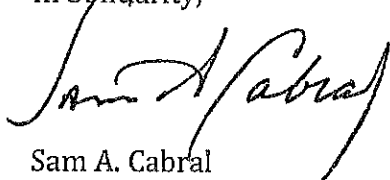
I don't believe that anything I say will have the slightest impact on your rhetoric. You are playing to the crowd. I believe it is a crowd you are seriously misreading.

I know you are under pressure to remove us from the AFL-CIO. I hear no call to remove the police officers, deputy sheriffs, and corrections officers from the dozen of other Internationals which represent them.

We are more than willing and even anxious to discuss how we can improve what we believe are misconceptions that cause fear in some members of our communities. We will not, however, sit down with those that march the streets calling for our death or those with a loud voice that have already indicted 850,000 men and women based on one horrible incident.

Your statements, President Trumka, are a prime example of "profiling". You should be ashamed.

In Solidarity,



Sam A. Cabral  
International President

cc: Presidents of all Affiliated AFL-CIO Unions