DEMILITARIZE! DURHAM 2 PALESTINE

INFORMATION PACKET FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS

We are concerned members of Durham's community committed to peace and justice from Durham to Palestine.

We call on the City of Durham to immediately halt any partnerships that the Durham Police Department (DPD) has or might enter into with the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) and/or the Israel Police.

The campaign coalition consists of the following organizations:

AIME (Abrahamic Initiative on the Middle East)
Black Youth Project 100 - Durham Chapter
Durham for All
Inside Outside Alliance
Jewish Voice for Peace - Triangle Chapter
Muslim American Public Affairs Council
Muslims for Social Justice
SpiritHouse
Students for Justice in Palestine - Duke
Students for Justice in Palestine - UNC-CH

The campaign has also been endorsed by the following organizations:

Alerta Migratoria
Balance & Accuracy in Journalism
Black Workers for Justice
Coalition for Peace with Justice
Movement to End Racism and Islamophobia
NC Piedmont Democratic Socialists of America
NC Stop Torture Now
People's Alliance
Salaam Shalom support group of Church of Reconciliation in Chapel Hill
Southerners on New Ground
Triangle Chapter Resource Generation
Triangle SURJ
Veterans for Peace
Watts Street Baptist Church Peace and Reconciliation Mission Group

DURHAM2PALESTINE@GMAIL.COM **FB.ME/DURHAM2PALESTINE**

DEMILITARIZE! DURHAM2PALESTINE

We are concerned members of Durham's community committed to peace and justice from Durham to Palestine. **Therefore we call on the City of Durham to immediately halt any partnerships that the Durham Police Department (DPD) has or might enter into with the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) and/or the Israel Police.**

The IDF and the Israel Police have a long history of violence and harm against Palestinian people and Jews of Color. They persist in using tactics of extrajudicial killing, excessive force, racial profiling, and repression of social justice movements. Such tactics have been condemned by international human rights organizations for violating the human rights of Palestinians. These tactics further militarize U.S. police forces that train in Israel, and this training helps the police terrorize Black and Brown communities here in the US. Additionally, such practices erode our constitutional rights to due process, freedom of speech, and freedom of assembly. Durham officials -- including former Chief Jose Lopez and current Chief Cerelyn Davis -- have participated in these racist police exchange programs.

Policing in the US has a long history of violence and harm against Black and Brown communities, and the DPD is no exception. From traffic stops that target Black drivers, to SWAT teams entering Black people's homes illegally, to checkpoints that occupy immigrant neighborhoods, to police murders of Black, Brown, and disabled people, everyday militarization of Durham police already endangers our communities. Training police in Israel exacerbates this ongoing harm.

Durham City Council, we as concerned members of Durham's community ask you to support justice and true collective safety, beyond police.

We call on you to halt any partnerships that the DPD has or might enter into with the IDF and/or the Israel Police, including but not limited to:

-Anti-Defamation League Counter-Terrorism Seminar
-Anti-Defamation League Advanced Training School
-Any exchange program between the DPD and the IDF
-Any exchange program between the DPD and the Israel Police.

The Durham City Council has a history of taking a stance for justice around the world, including passing a resolution in 1986 to boycott Apartheid in South Africa. You have a responsibility to take a stance today and to protect our city's own residents from all forms of police terror. **We demand: Durham, don't train police with the IDF! Divest from war and occupation, from Durham to Palestine! Divest from racism and militarization -- invest in Black and Brown communities!**

FACTS + FAQS

DEMILITARIZE! DURHAM 2 PALESTINE

What are police exchange programs?

- Local police forces across the country, ICE, and Border Patrol often participate in "exchange" or "training" trips to Israel for police department leaders and officers training alongside the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) and Israel Police.
- These programs have become more common as "counter-terrorism" has emerged as a priority for US police departments and as they become increasingly militarized.
- These programs exchange "worst practices," including extrajudicial executions, shoot-to-kill policies, racial profiling, mass spying & surveillance, deportation & detention, and violent suppression of political dissent.
- A sample itinerary is available online at https://deadlyexchange.org/police-exchange-program-itinerary/.
- Prominent examples:
  - Anti-Defamation League (ADL)'s **"National Counter-Terrorism Seminar in Israel,"** founded in 2003, has trained representatives from over 100 different American police departments, including Durham.
  - Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs (JINSA)'s **"Law Enforcement Exchange Program"** hosted more than 90 high-ranking police officials between 2004 and 2009.
  - Georgia State University's **"Georgia International Law Enforcement Exchange"** (GILEE), has brought over 1,400 police officers to Israel since 1992.

The Durham Police Department's Involvement.

- Durham's last police chief, Jose Lopez, participated in an **ADL Leadership Training Program** with the IDF in 2008.
- Durham's current police chief, Cerelyn Davis, ran the **Atlanta Police Leadership Institute International Exchange Program** in her role as an Atlanta Police Division Commander.
  - See **"Inside GILEE, the US-Israel law enforcement training program seeking to redefine terrorism"** for analysis of the relationship between Atlanta police violence and police trainings in Israel. http://mondoweiss.net/2016/01/enforcement-training-terrorism/

The IDF and Israel Police are occupying forces and violators of human rights.

- Israeli security forces are guilty of countless instances of **use of excessive force** against Palestinians, especially children, in Occupied Palestine, according to Human Rights Watch.
- Israel Police operate under a **de-facto shoot-to-kill policy** as a first line of defense when dealing with Palestinians suspected of terrorism, mirroring practices of American police departments that treat people of color as deadly threats by default.
- "Counter-terrorism" strategies of Israeli security forces consist of racial profiling & Islamophobia, arbitrary detentions, and disproportionate responses to non-violent or non-threatening protests.

The Durham police have engaged in excessive force and hyper-militarized actions against persons of color.

- Over a 5-year period when Durham police abused the concept of "consent" searches: 80% of those searched by Durham police pursuant to traffic stops were black. Since then, probable cause searches remain over 60% higher than they were from 2010-2013 and undercut the full benefit of written consent auto searches.
- Other examples of police excess/abuse in Durham have included the excessive use of force (e.g. 8 officers conducting an armed and warrantless home invasion in the black community simply after claiming to smell marijuana), the inexcusably killing, rather than negotiating, with at least two clearly mentally ill black men (Derek Walker and La'vante Biggs), shooting and killing a retreating black suspect in the back, and, until March 2017, creating checkpoints that target Black and Latinx communities.
- Durham police have shown militarized responses to community protests, such as the deployment of SWAT and tear gas at a community gathering protesting the death of Jesus Huerta while in police custody.
- Whatever steps forward the Durham Police Department has taken after the City Council adopted some of the Fostering Alternatives to Drug Enforcement (FADE) Coalition demands would be completely undermined by a renewal of this "deadly exchange" of police forces/strategies with Israel.

There is local precedent for municipalities participating in boycotts for justice.

- In 1986, the City of Durham opposed apartheid in South Africa with a boycott resolution.
- In 2010 the City of Durham joined many other municipalities in passing **a travel ban against Arizona** because of its racist "show me your papers" law HB1070.

WHY STOP THESE DEADLY POLICE EXCHANGES?

Since the early 2000s, thousands of US police officers, sheriffs, border patrol agents, ICE officers, and FBI agents have trained with Israeli military and police forces. We want to stop these exchanges for a few key reasons:

1

Because holding up Israel's use of military technology, lethal force, mass surveillance, and racial profiling as a global gold standard serves to legitimize, reinforce, and deepen Israeli Occupation and apartheid.

According to the director of the Anti-Defamation League's (ADL) US-Israel law enforcement program, David C. Friedman, the **goal of their delegations** is for US cops "to learn lessons from Israel in terms of tactics and strategies and the evolution of terrorism, but also examples of leadership." The Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs (JINSA) similarly markets their program as a way for **US law enforcement to learn from Israeli expertise in surveillance** and countering "Islamic fundamentalism," developed in the context of military occupation.

These programs transform Israel's 70 years of dispossession and 50 years of Occupation into a marketing brochure for "successful" policing. We want to end Israel's human rights abuses, not valorize them.

2

Because we want to boycott and divest from the brutality of policing by both the US and Israeli governments. Policing in both the US and Israel is deeply rooted in discrimination and violence.

As has been **well-documented** by human rights organizations like Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, Israel's security, military, and policing systems maintain the occupation through extrajudicial killings, torture, and collective punishment. In the US, the **Movement for Black Lives** has brought renewed attention to the ongoing phenomena of police killings of Black people, as a critical part of a **long legacy of violence against communities of color**, beginning with slavery. Likewise, immigrant rights activists have been fighting the massive growth of the **world's biggest detention and deportation machine**, and Native communities in the US have demanded accountability in the face of the nation's highest rate of police murder. Boycott, divestment, and sanctions are powerful tools to demonstrate our values and bring about real change.

By demanding that these programs end, we are asking elected leaders and nongovernmental organizations to both withdraw funds and moral support from these dangerous institutions and policies.

3

Because these programs are a worst practices exchange that bring paramilitary tactics to US policing and "broken windows" policing to Israel.

In the US, these exchange programs are one example of a wider shift in policing over the last two decades. The programs grew out of a post-9/11 trend to bring counter-terrorism logics, technology, and tactics into policing and immigration policy. This can be seen in the **increasing criminalization of everyday life in communities of color**; intrusive surveillance, particularly in Muslim communities; violent repression of Indigenous-led movements; the importation of military tactics, technologies, and weapons **from the war on terror into domestic policing**; and unprecedented deportations fueled by the intertwining of immigration and counter-terrorism policies. Law enforcement exchange programs under the banner of Israeli counter-terrorism expertise contribute to these deadly trends by encouraging an even deeper application of counter-terror and counter-insurgency models to domestic policing, immigration, and surveillance policies and practices.

Conversely, in recent years, and owing to the great degree of collaboration with US police, Israeli law enforcement have started adopting a "broken windows" approach to policing, following the idea that constant policing of low-level disorder–which takes the form of constant police surveillance, harassment, and arrests in communities of color–will deter serious criminal activity. The Knesset's adoption of a "stop and frisk" law, and the Israel Police adopting the Compstat program used by the NYPD to implement and track their "broken windows" approach to community policing are examples of how Israel is adding new layers of discriminatory policing and detention to the paramilitary and spying practices they've always used. In 2013, as the NYPD was embroiled in federal civil rights litigation for their harassment of communities of color, top Israeli officials were traveling to NY to study the program. Donna Lieberman, ED of the NYCLU wrote, "Israel is showing an incredible lack of concern for community relations if they're trying to emulate 'broken windows' policing and out of control 'stop-and-frisk' practices."

Information via **Deadly Exchange** website

DURHAM2PALESTINE@GMAIL.COM
FB.ME/DURHAM2PALESTINE