



Seattle City Council Resolution: U.S. Law Enforcement Programs in Israel
Background and Talking Points

Background: After September 11, 2001, U.S. law enforcement leaders sought educational opportunities to learn best practices in responding to terrorist attacks and how to build community resilience. Since 2004, ADL has brought small groups of senior American law enforcement leaders with homeland security responsibilities to Israel for a week-long seminar designed to increase their understanding of extremist and terrorist violence, mass casualty attacks and community resilience.

International exchanges between U.S. law enforcement and their counterparts in many countries around the globe are common and facilitate sharing of best practices and strategies to combat threats to public safety, including drug trafficking, violent extremism, and counterterrorism.

ADL's seminars in Israel consist of briefings, presentations and site visits, which allow participants to meet with their counterparts in the Israel National Police (INP), and gain insights into the lessons they have learned in preventing and responding to terror attacks and strengthening community resilience in the face of terrorist attacks. Participants are exposed to the INP's efforts to serve Israeli minority communities. They also meet with Palestinian law enforcement leaders, and over the course of their visit hear a variety of perspectives on contemporary issues related to security, extremism and terrorism. The seminar enables U.S. law enforcement leaders to better consider the prevention, preparation and response to terrorist threats, active shooters, and mass casualty attacks in their own communities.

ADL's seminars are educational in nature and the itineraries include a visit to Yad Vashem, Israel's renowned Holocaust museum and research center, as well as visits to Christian, Jewish and Muslim holy sites.

Talking Points:

- International exchanges between U.S. law enforcement and their counterparts in many countries around the globe are common and facilitate sharing of best practices and strategies to combat threats to public safety, including drug trafficking, violent extremism, and counter-terrorism;
- After 9/11, U.S. law enforcement sought to learn from Israel about how to build community resilience in the wake of mass casualty situations and ADL trips started in 2004;



- There has been systematic racism in the U.S. for centuries, and it exists within our law enforcement and criminal justice systems. These problems were not imported to the U.S. from Israel or any other foreign country;
- Blaming Israel for these grave and serious issues only serves as a distraction from legitimate problems that we as a nation and community need to confront;
- ADL's seminars in Israel were educational in nature and meant for a select group of a few dozen senior law enforcement executives with homeland responsibilities each year;
- U.S. law enforcement on the ADL trip met with Israeli and Palestinian law enforcement, visited Christian, Jewish, and Muslim holy sites, and Yad Vashem, Israel's renowned Holocaust museum;
- Only two senior members of Seattle's Police Department traveled to Israel on this program, in 2013 and 2015;
- Words matter and by singling out Israel, the only Jewish State, the resolution is divisive and sends a hostile message to many of Jewish community members who already feel vulnerable during a time of rising antisemitism;
- Following the recent conflict between Israelis and Hamas, members of Seattle's Jewish community reported being spit on, verbally harassed, and having their home vandalized; nationally, ADL logged 251 antisemitic incidents from May 11 -- the official start of military action -- through the end of the month, an increase of 115% over the same period in 2020;
- This policy proposal is divisive and unnecessary, and the Council should be focusing on meaningful, consensus-driven local issues that impact the lives of everyday Seattleites.