



International Union of Police Associations

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Statement from Sam A. Cabral, President of the International Union of Police Associations

On December 8, 2022 Brittney Griner was released from a Russian prison camp and returned to the United States. We applaud her release and return.

While I emphatically disagree with her view of this great nation, I acknowledge the thousands of brave young men and women who have given their lives to ensure her right to those beliefs and the priceless freedom that allows her to express them.

I urge President Biden and the State Department to expend the same energy and political capital to bring home U.S.M.C. veteran Paul Whelan, also being incarcerated in Russia; and to secure the extradition of Joanne Chesimard, a prison escapee and the convicted killer of Trooper Werner Foerster who she brutally executed on May 2, 1973. Ms. Chesimard is currently living free in Cuba.

END

NOTE:

*Originally chartered in 1979, the **International Union of Police Associations** is the only chartered labor union that exclusively represents law enforcement personnel. The I.U.P.A. represents active-duty, rank and file law enforcement professionals and emergency medical personnel nationwide – including the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. The I.U.P.A.'s mission is to protect and advance officers' wages, benefits, and work conditions. Membership includes officers from agencies throughout the United States, U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico.*

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