



International Union of Police Associations

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Statement of Sam A. Cabral, President of the International Union of Police Associations, on Martin Luther King Breakfast Remarks

On January 17, 2023, Sam A. Cabral, President of the International Union of Police Associations, sent a letter to United States President Joe Biden, regarding his remarks at the Martin Luther King Breakfast the prior day in Washington, D.C.

President Cabral stated, “During your time as a U.S. Senator, and as Vice President, you met with law enforcement representatives hundreds of times. You are fully aware of the situations they face, and the split-second decisions they make daily. One of the most traumatic for them is situations that require the use of force including, unfortunately, firearms.”

President Cabral continued, “As you well know, police officers do not ever ‘shoot to kill’. They shoot to stop the threat to themselves or others. When they are forced to shoot, it is imperative for the safety of everyone else that they hit their intended target. Failure to do so can result in the injury or death of innocent persons in the area. The largest and most reliable target is the torso of the threatening person. To attempt to shoot the arms or legs of a moving target is something for movie makers and has absolutely no realistic outcome in fast moving critical incidents.”

The letter went on to say, “Your unrealistic remarks about not shooting with ‘deadly force’ feeds the misperception about police shootings and encourages distrust in these brave men and women. I am disappointed that you are encouraging such distrust while at the same time you speak of building confidence in our law enforcement officers in our communities.”

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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