



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

Far too often, our communities are racked with murders that could have been prevented. Many times, those who commit these crimes are persons who have previously been arrested for crimes of violence and then released back onto our streets.

Texans are upset after a Houston Judge set bail for Ronnie Palmer, who is accused of murdering Harris County Deputy Fernando Esqueda in July 2024. This was one day after his co-defendant in the same case was released on bond.

It isn't just Texas.

Tyree Smith pleaded guilty to killing a homeless man with an axe, and then eating part of his brain and his eye in 2011. Smith was declared not guilty by reason of insanity in Bridgeport, Connecticut. Last week he was given conditional release.

In Maryland 18-year-old Emmetson Zeah was charged with first degree murder following the shooting death of two teenagers outside of the Mall of Columbia. He should not have been on the streets. Prior to Saturday's shooting, Zeah was out on bail for attempted first-degree murder and first-degree assault charges related to a home invasion and attempted stabbing case from November 2024, according to charging documents. He was also identified as a suspect in a shooting on February 14 on Twin Rivers Road.

This needs to stop.

District Attorneys and Judges are too often putting the desires of violent criminals ahead of the interests of public safety. Killers are being released to kill again. It is far past time to speed the judicial process, hold violent criminals, and either determine their innocence or

guilt to release them or lock them up. In the meantime, the public must be protected. Police Officers can only react to tragedies after they have occurred, and by then it is often too late.

District Attorneys and Superior Court Judges are elected in most communities. Voters need to pay attention to those who are putting the interests of criminals ahead of public safety professionals and vote accordingly.

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, including the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico.*

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