



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC.

Representing America's Finest

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The Honorable Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
United States House of Representatives
216 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Ocasio-Cortez:

On behalf of the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO), and the over 241,000 rank-and-file officers we represent across the country, I am writing to urge you to condemn the Movement for Black Lives' petition in honor of Black August to grant convicted murderers and cop-killers Joanne Chesimard, Matulu Shakur and Sundiata Acoli clemency, referring to them as political prisoners, prisoners of war, and exiles.

Joanne Chesimard is the only woman on the FBI's most wanted terrorist list for her role in the cold-blooded killing of New Jersey State Trooper Werner Foerster in 1973. Sundiata Acoli was convicted for murdering Trooper Foerster. Matulu Shakur killed an armed guard and two police officers in a 1981 Brinks robbery. These are not political prisoners, prisoners of war or exiles, they are violent felons who committed murder.

The fact that the Movement for Black Lives is raising them as leaders to follow and calling for their sacrifice to be honored is an affront to the men and women who have dedicated their lives to protecting our communities as law enforcement officers. Above all, it is an insult to the victims of their heinous crimes and similar crimes against law enforcement: the family and friends of officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

While you support defunding the police, that does not need to equate to supporting violence against our nation's law enforcement officers. If you do not repudiate everything for which Joanne Chesimard, Matulu Shakur and Sundiata Acoli stand, you are condoning and promoting that violence and killing a law enforcement officer is a responsible way to affect change. There is no way to delink them from the role they played in the killing of law enforcement officers.

You must condemn the invocation of these violent felons and everything they represent.

Sincerely,

Michael McHale
President