



NATIONAL FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE®

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STATEMENT OF FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE NATIONAL PRESIDENT CHUCK CANTERBURY ON MURDER OF OFFICERS IN BATON ROUGE

On behalf of the 325,000 members of the Fraternal Order of Police, I want to convey the shock, anger, and sadness we felt as we learned of the horrible loss our nation suffered today in Baton Rouge. Our love and prayers go out to the loved ones of those who were lost and those who were injured; we will never leave their sides.

I want to express my gratitude and the gratitude of all of our members to the President for his forceful condemnation of the hateful attacks on law enforcement officers in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The President is exactly right—there is no justification for the mass murder of law enforcement officers and we will work to bring these killers to justice.

We need to call these acts what they are—despicable, cowardly acts of hate directed at our nation's peace officers and the guardians of our liberties. When tragedies strike our communities and law enforcement officers take a life in the line of duty, there are thousands who take to the airwaves, to the streets and to social media calling for us to be held accountable. We welcome this and ask only that we allow the investigations to take place and that the results of due process are embraced. This is our system of justice, not vengeful murder of those who wear the uniform.

We must also reject those who seek retribution, not justice. Who call for violence, not peace. Who stoke hatred and mistrust. It is these voices that must be challenged and, on behalf of our members and the families of the slain officers in Dallas and Baton Rouge and all across our nation, we ask that those thousands who have taken to the streets with such fervor and asked for justice to be done to join us and ask that the violence against law enforcement also stop. When the men and women charged with keeping all of us safe are targets to be gunned down by masked assassins, there is no justice and no peace.

We are heartsick with grief for the families of the fallen. We are tired of seeing multiple incidents of mass murder aimed at law enforcement officers. We implore that our national leaders speak up against these horrific events and repeat our urgent request that Congress, on its return to session, pass legislation expanding the Federal hate crimes law to protect police. Enough is enough.

May God bless our officers and keep them safe in the days ahead.

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