

WIN WITHOUT WAR



Progressive Foreign Policy Debrief

Intel for Advocacy

DATE: 06/26/2020

SL: The U.S.'s secret export?

The Takeaway:

- As we continue to seek the end of policing at home, we must also reckon with, and end, the United States' long history of exporting police violence abroad.
- The United States and Israel regularly share police trainings and tactics, mutually reinforcing the two repressive governments' abilities to violently suppress resistance. The [Deadly Exchange](#) campaign is fighting to stop it.
- During the Cold War, the United States developed a vast program of training and arming foreign police forces, often with the intent of quashing Left-wing movements. Many of these practices continue today.

The World's Top Exporter of Police Violence

[Last week](#), we spoke about the stark parallels between policing in the United States and U.S. war-making. The police, like the military, are violence-first institutions designed to quell unrest and instill fear in oppressed — particularly Black, brown, and Muslim — communities. As we call to dismantle the system of policing in the United States, we must do the same for unchecked militarism.

But the U.S. military is not the only perpetrator of state violence at home and abroad. From Israel to Brazil to Hong Kong, police forces across the globe violently suppress resistance in the same manner as police in the United States. In many cases, that's no coincidence: the U.S. has exported its model of policing around the world.

Deadly Exchange

As the ongoing Black-led protests force the United States to reckon with its violent, racist system of policing, the Israeli government is set to annex significant portions of the occupied West Bank. Though these may seem like two distinct issues, they're actually closely tied: for two decades, the United States and Israel have regularly [exchanged](#) police forces to share trainings and tactics. In the words of [Deadly Exchange](#), a campaign aimed at stopping these programs, U.S.-Israeli police exchanges are about "[sharing] 'worst practices'... including racial profiling, massive spying and surveillance, deportation and detention, and attacks on human rights defenders." In short, U.S. police departments travel to Israel to help enforce apartheid, and they return equipped with the "crowd control" tactics of forces that [regularly murder](#) unarmed

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protestors. While, some progress has been made — the city of [Durham, NC](#) voted to ban participation in the programs — the deadly exchanges with Israel remain pernicious examples of the exportation of U.S. police violence. But they're far from the only ones.

[Badges Without Borders](#)

After World War II, the United States sought to cement the so-called liberal international order and quell any resistance to capitalist hegemony. While the Cold War brinkmanship, coups, and dirty wars that would follow are now well recognized, a lesser known weapon in the U.S. arsenal was, and still is, policing. First under the auspices of the CIA, and then the Office of Public Safety (OPS), the United States [sent teams](#) to train, strengthen, and “professionalize” local police forces across the Global South with the goal of suppressing Left-wing resistance in postcolonial states. Like the U.S.-Israel exchanges, this process cut two ways: police trainers returning from abroad played a key role in forming the modern U.S. carceral state.

Notable Alumni

While OPS was formally dissolved in the 1970s, its tactics lived on elsewhere, including under the FBI, DEA, and DoD. Perhaps most infamously, the DoD-led [School of the Americas \(SOA\)](#) trained politicians, military leaders, and police officers from across Latin America in a variety of areas including intelligence and counterintelligence, “riot control,” guerilla warfare, and even torture. SOA's [esteemed roster of alumni](#) now includes dictators, coup-leaders, drug kingpins, torturers, murderers, [massacrers](#), and war criminals. Though the school has since been renamed, and its worst excesses curtailed, [these types](#) of trainings [live on today](#).

Made in America

But U.S. complicity in global police brutality goes beyond trainings. Since the days of OPS, the U.S. has gifted and sold weapons and other equipment to foreign police forces, often with little oversight. And while weapons sales to foreign *militaries* far exceed sales to *police* forces, in many cases, the two [aren't so distinct](#). When it's not the U.S. government behind the weapons flows, it's U.S. companies. The [misnamed](#) “non-lethal weapon” business is booming, with U.S. manufacturers [selling](#) weapons like tear gas for use against protestors in Egypt, Israel, Bahrain, [Hong Kong](#), and more.

Human Security is Not Divisible

At Win Without War, we believe that “[human security is not divisible](#).” This is a statement of principle: ensuring U.S. security does not justify making others less secure. But it is also a recognition of hard fact: safety is a collective endeavor. Violence at home and violence abroad — including the state-led violence of policing — are tied. We cannot reimagine our approach to state violence domestically while ignoring how the United States perpetuates it globally. As we join Black-led movements in calling to defund the police within the United States, we call for a similar rethinking of U.S. policy abroad: it's time to end the export of police violence.

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Black and Palestinian Liberation — A Shared Struggle

The deadly exchange of policing is not the only connection between the Black American and Palestinian struggles. Here are a few resources on both the interlocking nature of their oppressions – and their shared solidarity in the fight for liberation.

- [Activists in Atlanta](#) share their connection to the Palestinian liberation struggle following the murder of Rayshard Brooks.
- The legendary Angela Davis [speaks to](#) the connections between prisons, policing, and Palestine.
- Palestinians and Israelis alike have [rallied](#) in solidarity with anti-police violence protesters in the United States.
- In 2015, over 1,000 Black activists, artists, scholars, students, and organizations — including Angela Davis, Cornel West, Mumia Abu-Jamal, and Talib Kweli — signed [a statement of solidarity](#) with Palestine.

BURIED LEDES

Speaking of Palestinian liberation, we joined **over 100 organizations in [calling on all presidential candidates to break from the status quo of unconditional backing of the Israeli government](#)** and take concrete steps to support Palestinians.

This past weekend's **Mass Poor People's Assembly was a HUGE success: over 2.5 million people and counting viewed the inspiring event!** You can still catch the full broadcast [here](#).

Before the Assembly, Win Without War's **Stephen Miles and the Poor People's Campaign's Reverend Dr. Liz Theoharis [co-wrote](#) an op-ed with a simple message: "It's time to dismantle the war economy."**

What does Jamaal Bowman's victory mean for the foreign policy world? **"Bowman succeeded because he ["campaigned directly on Engel's \[support for\] unfettered militarism, and turned \[Engel's\] past positions...into weaknesses,"](#) [says](#) our Erica Fein.**

Yes, John Bolton's insight into Trump's misdeeds are valuable... but let's not go lionizing the man himself. As **our Michael Galant [writes](#): "John Bolton is the physical embodiment of all that is wrong with U.S. foreign policy."**

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More than 50 civil rights, labor, and education organizations, including Win Without War, [publicly protested](#) Trump's decision to nominate racist Islamophobe Anthony Tata for a top Pentagon post.

Even under the shadow of the Coronavirus pandemic, thousands of migrants and asylum-seekers cross the U.S. border in search of a better life. **No More Deaths' Paige Corich-Kleim says that while the pandemic has restricted volunteer flow, it has not curbed the [organization's drive](#) to deliver water to those making the dangerous crossing.**

Studies of the 2013 Ebola outbreak showed [terrifying links](#) between the disease and deforestation. While it's too soon to say the same of COVID-19, **scientists warn that rampant global deforestation could increase the likelihood of deadly outbreaks in the future.**

North Korea [has suspended](#) all military action plans against the South, a welcome sign of decreasing tensions. This week also marks the 70th anniversary of the Korean war — a war that legally continues to this day.

Shortly after the Iraqi government lifted curfew, coronavirus cases have [spiked](#) to nearly 1,800 cases per day. Doctors warn that the Iraqi healthcare system is on the verge of collapse.

And finally, humans aren't the only ones in need of relief from lockdown! To foster better human-plant relations, **musicians from UceLi Quartet based in Barcelona [performed](#) for an audience of 2,292 houseplants.** The uplifted plants were later delivered to healthcare professionals across the city.