

Patrick Lawrence

The ‘Zionization’ of I.C.E.

There is a video taken on 25 May 2020 that is now etched into the memories of most Americans. It shows Derek Chauvin, a Minneapolis police officer, kneeling on the neck of George Floyd, a black resident suspected of passing a counterfeit \$20 bill, while he, Floyd, gasps “I can’t breathe, I can’t breathe!” Floyd died of asphyxiation after 10 minutes under Chauvin’s knee. Chauvin, who is now serving a long prison sentence, was by the time he murdered Floyd the subject of 18 complaints of criminal misconduct while in uniform.

There is one other thing many Americans recall about George Floyd’s fate. Years prior to his murder, the Minneapolis police took “restraint” training from the Israeli security forces. There is no clear evidence that Derek Chauvin learned the knee-on-neck technique from the Zionist regime, but it is a common practice in the Israeli Occupation Forces and the Israeli police in their aggressions against the Palestinian population.

Last Friday a New York City court began to select a jury for the trial of Omar Habib, a Bronx cop accused of using the same technique—which is now outlawed in New York—to subdue a local resident who, while intoxicated, got into a street fight outside a catering hall three years ago. So do police across the United States mimic the practices of Israel’s infamously brutal security apparatus.

American police departments have for many years been “militarizing.” There is a longstanding practice of supplying them with surplus military equipment—artillery, battlefield explosives, personnel carriers, etc.—to the point police squads

are more or less indistinguishable from army units. And it has long been known that ranking law enforcement officials, federal agents, and police chiefs have taken training in Israel under I.O.F. and Israeli police supervision. Security and surveillance technologies, at which the Zionist regime excels, are commonly deployed in American towns and cities.

To be noted: What American police learn from the Israelis, and the technologies they acquire from Israel's high-technology sector are techniques, practices, and equipment the Zionist regime uses against the Palestinians of Gaza and the West Bank. The intent in both cases is totalized control without recourse to law or anything resembling due process. It is merely a question of degree.

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There is now a growing body of evidence that Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the now-infamous I.C.E, has long collaborated with the I.O.F. by way of training programs and shared technologies. *Liberty Beats News*, a digital newsletter of a left-libertarian stripe, published [an admirably careful piece on this topic](#) earlier this year under the headline, “The Ties Between U.S. ICE and Israel’s IDF: Joint Training, Shared Tactics, and the Role of Agile Gear.” I have seen nothing that compares with this report for its detail and the historical context it gives to these ties.

Among the compelling revelations of this report is the influence of an aggressively Zionist ideological organization, the Anti-Defamation League, in cultivating what are apparently extensive I.C.E.–I.O.F. collaborations. The A.D.L., indeed, has sponsored two of the programs, a National Counter-Terrorism Seminar and an Advanced Training School, N.C.T.S. and A.T.S., that seem to serve as the principal conduits of these many-sided exchanges.

Here is a passage from *Liberty Beats News*'s thoroughly researched report. Agilite is an Israeli maker of high-technology tactical equipment with a worldwide market for its products:

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Direct joint training between ICE and the IDF is a point of contention. Some sources, including advocacy groups like Jewish Voice for Peace, J.V.P., and their “Deadly Exchange” campaign, assert that ICE officers have regularly trained alongside Israeli forces, including the IDF, through programs focused on counterterrorism tactics, surveillance, and inter-agency cooperation. For instance, ICE officials participated in ADL’s NCTS trips to Israel in 2010, 2014, and 2015, where they visited checkpoints, prisons, settlements, and airports—sites associated with Israel’s security practices. Additionally, ICE joined all eight ATS sessions from 2013 to 2016, featuring presentations by Israeli military and police, such as former Israel National Police Chief Superintendent Roy Valdman.

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I admire *Liberty Beats News*'s measured method as it reports the controversy these ties seem to have provoked. But to my mind there is simply no refuting its report for its detail.

The same applies to the chronological background the author or authors provide. “U.S.–Israel law enforcement exchanges trace back to the early 1990s, with programs like the Georgia International Law Enforcement Exchange launching in 1992 to foster inter-agency cooperation on topics such as community policing and drug enforcement,” the news site reports. And then:

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However, the post-9/11 era marked a surge in formalized collaborations. By the early 2000s, thousands of U.S. law enforcement personnel—including police, sheriffs, border patrol agents, ICE officers, and FBI agents—began participating in training with Israeli military and police forces. These exchanges were often framed as sharing “best practices” in counterterrorism, surveillance, and threat detection.

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As widely reported, there have been two more I.C.E. murders in recent weeks—one in Texas and the other in Maine. Per usual, the Department of Homeland Security, of which I.C.E. is a subsidiary unit, has defended its agents pending—the established practice—a D.H.S. investigation of itself. It is precisely the same in cases of I.O.F. crimes and abuses, I may as well add: The Zionist military is left to investigate the Zionist military.

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I do not read the I.C.E.–Israel connection as the isolated problem of any kind of rogue government agency. As *Liberty Beat News*’s long history of the connection between the Israeli and American police and security apparatuses make clear, the collaborations of I.C.E. and the I.O.F. are the lower level of an elaborate edifice of relations that extends to the upper reaches of the American government.

Last Thursday the House of representatives passed an extravagant defense authorization bill raising U.S. military spending 40–odd percent in a year, to \$1.5 trillion. This is preposterous enough but not our point. The bill included the now-notorious Section 219, which effectively merges the U.S. and Israeli militaries. This feature of the bill, which now goes to the Senate for debate and passage, is so

shocking the Zionist-controlled mainstream press, *The New York Times* first on the list, has to date refused even report it. “I am not aware of any argument as to how such a merger would serve the interests of the American people,” John Whitbeck, the international attorney with long experience in West Asia, wrote in his privately circulated blog.

I hold to the reaction of Chas Freeman, the emeritus ambassador now active as a commentator on global events. “This is indistinguishable from treason,” he remarked after the House vote. “It delegitimizes our government in ways that invite revolution.”

Phil Giraldi, a former C.I.A. operative and now executive director of the Council for the National Interest, a group advocating greater transparency in the U.S.–Israeli relationship, published [a piece the other day in *The Unz Review*](#) under the headline “Is America Truly Becoming a “Zionocracy”? The Zionization of America, the Zionocracy: The term is getting around among independent analysts such as Giraldi.

Corporate media, Hollywood, the banking system, the universities, now the military, the Executive Branch and Congress of course, and on and on: I do not see there is much argument against this thought. And it is against this background that I read the condemnable relationships between the Zionist state’s security apparatus and assorted American law enforcement agencies, the F.B.I., and I.C.E. These, too, can be counted treasons of another kind.

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This commentary is for Harry Elhardt.

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