



# NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC.

*Representing America's Finest*

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General Counsel

August 1, 2024

Hon. Lloyd J. Austin, III  
Secretary of Defense  
1000 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20301-1000

Re: Plea bargaining with 9/11 conspirators

Dear Mr. Secretary,

Every single Police Officer of the New York City Police Department and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey Police Department who were murdered, **murdered**, on 9/11 were members of NAPO. I do not have language strong enough to convey to you the profound disappointment you have provoked in our 241,000 living members by negotiating with admitted terrorists. These persons criminally responsible for the deaths of our brother and sister officers and the bereavement of their widows, the orphaning of their children.

It goes beyond breaking faith with those souls who gave their lives that others might live. It is a *betrayal* of their surviving families and coworkers as well. Not to mention the thousands of civilians, the flight crews, firefighters, and military personnel murdered that day, and their families, as well. Not to mention the thousands of others condemned to a lingering and painful death from cancer and other terrible diseases, the first responders, iron workers, and volunteers who selflessly worked "the Pile" for months in the desperate effort to save lives, and, then, to recover even the smallest fragments of bone and flesh to have something, *anything*, to return to the devastated families.

At the same time that the Administration you serve demands absolute transparency and accountability from the law enforcement officers whom we are proud to represent, it now seems that you have been secretly bargaining with the greatest mass murderers in our nation's history. More than merely inconsistent, this is shameful.

Sincerely,

Michael McHale  
President

cc: The Attorney General