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## **Statement from NAPO President Mick McHale on the Release of Convicted Cop-Killer Clark Edward Squire, aka Sundiata Acoli**

Alexandria, VA – The National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO) representing some 241,000 law enforcement officers across the United States, including the Troopers of the New Jersey State Police, condemns in the strongest possible terms the release of Clark Edward Squire, aka Sundiata Acoli, who, along with other conspirators, is responsible for the cold-blooded killing of New Jersey State Trooper Werner Foerster in 1973.

This nation is experiencing the highest rates of violent crime in decades. States and localities are increasingly embracing policies that release violent criminals from jail despite the repeatedly demonstrated fact that refusing to keep violent felons locked up and releasing them back on the streets only leads to increased violence. Such actions not only endanger our communities but are a slap in the face to the officers risking their lives to respond to and contain the violent crime their communities are facing.

The New Jersey Supreme Court is demonstrating their callous indifference, not just to Trooper Foerster's memory and his family, but to all who currently serve our communities as law enforcement officers and all who rely on law-enforcement officers to keep them safe. When even officials in locations like Minneapolis and Seattle have realized the futility of not supporting law enforcement officers, and have done an about face, it looks like New Jersey did not get the memo.

This action by the New Jersey Supreme Court is an affront to the men and women who have dedicated their lives to protecting our communities as law enforcement officers and, above all, to the family and friends of law enforcement officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice.