NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

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National Sheriffs' Association Strengthens Global Policing Partnerships at Historic Berlin Commemoration

NSA First Vice President Sheriff Jim Skinner and Executive Advisor Paul Goldenberg will join international law enforcement leaders in Berlin to strengthen global security partnerships and reaffirm the duty to protect communities, religious liberty, and democratic institutions.

ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA - The National Sheriffs' Association (NSA) is advancing its international leadership through participation in a landmark law enforcement gathering in Berlin, Germany on November 5, 2026, as part of its expanding Global Policing & Security Initiative. NSA First Vice President Sheriff Jim Skinner will join Paul Goldenberg, newly appointed Executive Advisor to the NSA President for Homeland Security and Global Partnerships, at a Kristallnacht commemoration at the historic Neue Synagogue.

Their participation reflects the Association's commitment to ensuring America's sheriffs have a seat at the table in global policing discussions that strengthen security in communities across the United States. Through its Global Policing & Security Initiative, the NSA is bringing sheriffs into direct engagement with trusted democratic policing partners to address emerging threats, exchange operational experience, and strengthen preparedness.

The Berlin gathering will bring together senior police officials from the United States, Canada, Germany, and elsewhere in Europe to commemorate Kristallnacht, the Nazi-orchestrated violence against Jewish communities on November 9–10, 1938.

Traditionally, police officers stand outside synagogues to protect Jewish worshippers. In Berlin, police leaders will stand inside a historic synagogue, alongside Jewish community representatives, to affirm that their responsibility extends beyond physical security to protecting religious liberty, human dignity, and democratic principles.

Strengthening the International Role of America's Sheriffs

Transnational crime, extremist violence, terrorism, and threats to vulnerable communities increasingly connect local jurisdictions to events beyond America's borders. The NSA is taking an active role in helping sheriffs build the international relationships needed to understand these threats earlier and respond more effectively.

Led by Sheriff Skinner, the Global Policing & Security Initiative places international cooperation within the Association's broader homeland security mission. The Berlin gathering provides an opportunity to deepen those relationships while affirming the professional obligations that sustain public trust.

"The threats facing our communities do not stop at county lines or national borders. What happens overseas can have direct consequences in the counties we serve. The NSA is taking a stronger role in building the partnerships that help sheriffs anticipate those challenges and protect their communities. In Berlin, we will also reaffirm a fundamental responsibility: to stand against hatred and protect every person with courage, integrity, and respect for the rule of law."

Sheriff Jim Skinner (Collin County, Texas)
First Vice President, National Sheriffs' Association

Goldenberg, a longtime law enforcement and homeland security leader, also serves as **Deputy Director of Rutgers University's Miller Center on Policing and Community Resilience**. He chairs the International Police Delegation associated with the International March of the Living and has helped advance **Operationalizing Never Again: Not on Our Watch**, connecting the lessons of the Holocaust to the responsibilities of contemporary police leadership.

"The NSA is bringing the experience and leadership of America's sheriffs into a stronger international partnership. My work with the Rutgers Miller Center reinforces the importance of connecting these relationships to practical education, preparedness, and public trust. In Berlin, remembrance must inspire action: recognizing the warning signs of hatred, defending democratic institutions, and ensuring that law enforcement stands with communities under threat."

Paul Goldenberg
Executive Advisor to the NSA President for Homeland Security and Global Partnerships; Deputy Director, Rutgers University Miller Center on Policing and Community Resilience

Lessons from History, Responsibilities for Today

Kristallnacht, often called the Night of Broken Glass, marked a decisive escalation in the Nazi persecution of Jews. Synagogues were set ablaze, Jewish-owned businesses were destroyed, and thousands of people were subjected to violence and arrest.

The events revealed the catastrophic consequences when government institutions participate in persecution or abandon their duty to protect. For sheriffs and police executives today, this history reinforces the importance of moral courage, accountability, equal protection under the law, and sustained relationships with communities exposed to hatred and violence.

The NSA's participation places these responsibilities firmly within its international engagement: effective security depends on both operational readiness and institutions worthy of the public's trust.

An International Leadership Initiative

The commemoration continues **Operationalizing Never Again: Not on Our Watch**, an international police leadership and education initiative using the lessons of the Holocaust to examine the responsibilities of modern law enforcement.

Jochen Kopelke, Federal Chairman of Germany's Gewerkschaft der Polizei and President of EU.Pol, will join Goldenberg as a keynote speaker, addressing the role of German and European policing in confronting antisemitism and upholding democratic values.
Through the International Police Delegation to the March of the Living, police executives have traveled to Poland, visited Auschwitz-Birkenau, and examined the institutional failures that enabled persecution.

The event is organized by the Rutgers University Miller Center on Policing and Community Resilience, Germany's Gewerkschaft der Polizei, and the University of Virginia Center for Public Safety and Justice, in collaboration with the International March of the Living.

From Remembrance to Responsibility

At the Neue Synagogue, a site targeted during Kristallnacht, international police leaders will affirm a shared responsibility to turn historical understanding into present-day leadership.
For the NSA, the gathering is also a step toward sustained international cooperation that delivers value to America's sheriffs: stronger professional relationships, greater awareness of emerging threats, and shared approaches to protecting communities.

As the Association expands its Global Policing & Security Initiative, events such as the Berlin commemoration reinforce the NSA's commitment to ensuring that America's sheriffs remain connected to trusted international partners while addressing the security challenges facing their communities at home.

About the National Sheriffs' Association

The National Sheriffs' Association is one of the largest associations of law enforcement professionals in the U.S., representing more than 3,000 elected Sheriffs across the nation. NSA is a non-profit organization dedicated to raising the level of professionalism among sheriffs, their deputies, and others in law enforcement, public safety, and criminal justice. Throughout its eighty-five-year history, NSA has also served as an information resource for all law enforcement, as well as state governments and the federal government.

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