FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: CONTACT:
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STATEMENT BY CHIEF JIM JOHNSON, CHAIR NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE ON THE MASS SHOOTING AT THE INLAND REGIONAL CONFERENCE CENTER, IN SAN BERNARDINO, CA.

Members of the National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence (the Partnership) are once again grieving for victims killed in yet another horrific mass shooting. We offer our deepest condolences to the loved ones of the 14 people whose lives were cut short by callous murderers, and our hearts go out to all those shot and injured in the evil attack in San Bernardino.

While we do not know all the facts at this time, it is time that everyone face facts we do know: There are dangerous individuals intent on doing harm; and firearms are too easily accessible to them, acquirable through private sales without background checks or any questions asked.

Over and over, we have witnessed the tragic consequences of firearms in the wrong hands and excessive firepower on our streets. Mass shootings are occurring all too frequently, and gun violence is claiming an average of 92 lives every single day. Whether or not the motive is terrorism, incidents of gun violence, including the mass shooting in San Bernardino, are terrorizing our communities.

As law enforcement professionals, our organizations are calling for immediate measures to strengthen our nation’s gun laws, including:

- Limiting ammunition magazine capacity to 10 rounds
- Expanding background checks to cover all sales, not just those that occur through licensed dealers
- Providing the FBI additional time to conduct more thorough checks in the cases where a purchaser’s eligibility to possess firearms is in question
- Ensuring that all disqualifying records are contained in the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS), including disqualifying mental health records
- Providing the authority to the Attorney General to block firearms to those on the terror watch list
We also call on the President to nominate and the Senate to confirm, without delay, a permanent director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). Given the critical role ATF plays - through investigation and enforcement - in mitigating the harm caused by armed criminals and illegal firearms, it is vital that ATF has a permanent leader, is properly resourced, and is not hamstrung by new Congressional riders that prevent the agency from conducting its important work.

If lives are lost in a plane or train crash, a bridge collapse, or even in a natural disaster, action is immediately taken to lessen future loss of life. There is no excuse for a lack of action when it comes to lives lost to gun violence. We’ve seen too much bloodshed. Action is long overdue.

Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA)
Hispanic American Police Command Officers Association (HAPCOA)
International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA)
International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP)
Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA)
National Association of Women Law Enforcement Executives (NAWLEE)
National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE)
Police Executive Research Forum (PERF)
Police Foundation (PF)