

# PASSAIC COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

***Sheriff Richard H. Berdnik***

Undersheriff Joseph C. Dennis  
Undersheriff Mario Recinos  
Undersheriff Leonard Lovely



Warden Michael Tolerico, CPM, CJM  
Chief William McCrary  
Chief Serafino Caporuscio

## **BERDNIK STATEMENT ON THE RETURN OF JOANNE CHESIMARD**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** January 9, 2015

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(WAYNE) – Passaic County Sheriff Richard H. Berdnik issued the following statement regarding the return of Joanne Chesimard to New Jersey to complete her sentence for killing a New Jersey State Trooper four decades ago. Chesimard is on the FBI's list of Most Wanted Terrorists and an escape from a New Jersey State Prison.

"In 1977 Joanne Chesimard was convicted on killing [New Jersey State Trooper Werner Foerster](#) and assaulting Trooper James Harper on the New Jersey Turnpike. This incident inspired me to undertake my current law enforcement career. To this day, I often visit the memorial for Trooper Foerster, because his sacrifice can never be forgotten. The fact that his killer is still at large and not incarcerated is a major disappointment to law enforcement and needs to be corrected immediately."

It is my opinion and the opinion shared by virtually everyone in law enforcement that the State Department should not remove Cuba from the list of State Sponsor of Terrorism until the Cuban government returns Joanne Chesimard, and the dozens of American fugitives wanted for crimes including the murder of law enforcement officers, arms trafficking and the high jacking of airplanes.

"I want to commend Senator Menendez, Congressman Pascrell and the other members of New Jersey's Congressional Delegation for their leadership on this issue. Out of respect to Trooper Foerster and his sacrifice, we need to fight to make sure that justice is served and that Chesimard is returned to New Jersey to pay for her crimes."