



The
CENTER for
VICTIMS of
TORTURE

March 22, 2023

Dear Madam Chair and Committee:

Founded in 1985, the Center for Victims of Torture (CVT) is a non-profit organization that is headquartered in Minnesota and has operations in the U.S., Africa and the Middle East. We extend rehabilitative care to survivors of torture and other forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (CIDT); build the capacity of colleague torture rehabilitation programs and human rights defenders worldwide; and engage in advocacy aimed at ending torture and CIDT and supporting the rehabilitation of survivors.

Our Healing, Incarceration, and Policing Program advocates for legislation that uplifts and supports our clients and communities in Minnesota, while increasing equity and accountability in our public safety infrastructure. With our longstanding history of advocating for the basic rights of people and seeing an end to state inflicted violence and trauma, we support HF 2290 and urge the committee to pass this bill. Public safety has to center the rights and safety of all people. We see time and time again that no-knock warrants present dangerous risks, traumatize the public and endanger life. No-knock warrants are a symptom of over policing in our communities, and as we've seen in the Twin Cities, overutilized. They are intrusive, and in the hands law enforcement who are quick to shoot, they are deadly.

Policies and practices like no-knock warrants are traumatizing the people law enforcement are supposed to serve. Every death, every no-knock warrant, every excuse, decreases trust for law enforcement and increases collective fear, resentment and trauma. Internationally at CVT, we serve people who experienced state violence while living in Africa and the Middle East. Our clients tell stories of being afraid of police, of their governments not doing anything to help, of being afraid in their own homes because law enforcement could barge into their houses at any time to take them away, hurt them or kill them. We hear these same stories from communities we serve in the Twin Cities.

Our legislature has had the opportunity to end no-knock warrants before, and it failed to do so. That failure cost Amir Locke his life, his future. That failure has stolen another life and left another family reeling. It has passed on another collective trauma. It made Minnesota international news again, for a horrendous reason. It's only a matter of time before another person is killed during the execution of a no-knock warrant in Minnesota, again. The time is now to stop the cycle of violence and trauma communities are experiencing by law enforcement in Minnesota, and passing bill to prohibit no-knock warrants is a commitment to that end.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

On behalf of CVT:

Ta'Mara Hill, Policy Officer
Healing, Incarceration, and Policing Program