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OVER 200 LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS PARTICIPATE IN COUNTER-TERRORISM/EXTREMISM SYMPOSIUM

Tampa, FL, June 6, 2008 – Today, the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) in proud partnership with the United States Attorney’s Office, Middle District of Florida; the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI); the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE); and St. Petersburg College concluded a three-day, comprehensive law enforcement symposium entitled: ***Global Terrorism, Domestic Extremism, and the Dark Side of the Sunshine State***. Held at the Crowne Plaza in Tampa, Florida, over 200 law enforcement officers from around the state participated in this special symposium.

The objective of this law enforcement-only symposium was to train the upper echelon of the law enforcement community in the Middle District of Florida in the areas of: domestic and international terrorism, hate groups and extremism in Florida, hate crimes statutes, case studies on terrorists, left wing extremism and eco-terrorism among others. The symposium ended with a panel of community leaders, government officials and law enforcement who discussed ways in which each participant should be equipped with indispensable knowledge and ability to effect the changes necessary to meet the challenges of this new era head-on.

U.S. Attorney Robert E. O’Neill stated, “Our goal is to stay one step ahead of foreign and domestic terrorism. Education and training is essential to achieving that goal.”

“As the leading private organization that shares intelligence information with law enforcement regarding domestic extremism and terrorism, the Anti-Defamation League was pleased to provide this resource to the law enforcement community as well as serve as a liaison between civic community organizations and law enforcement,” stated Andrew Rosenkranz, ADL Florida Regional Director.

“The Florida RCPI is honored to be part of such an important training event with our local, state and federal law enforcement partners and ADL as we continue to combat foreign and domestic terrorism,” stated Eileen LaHaie, Executive Director, Regional Community Policing Institute (RCPI), St. Petersburg College.

"The detection and prevention of future terrorists' actions requires an understanding of their motives," said Special Agent in Charge Jim Madden, Florida Department of Law Enforcement. "Continued training, education and partnerships help to equip law enforcement agencies against these threats."

The Anti-Defamation League, founded in 1913, is the world's leading organization fighting anti-Semitism through programs and services that counteract hatred, prejudice and bigotry.