

Distinguished Guests,
Mr. President,
honoured associates and fellow members of IBSSA,
I send my warmest greetings from the United States of America.

For the past 25 years, our organization has prospered under the guidance and leadership of Prof. George Popper. It has been through his vision and foresight that the International Bodyguard and Security Services Association has grown into a global power within the industry of professional protective services. There is not a finer network and operational organization for our profession that I am aware of anywhere in the world. Why? Because we continue to hold honesty, integrity and professional values above all else.

My humble beginnings with our organization started 13 years ago, and since that time I have been personal witness to the dedication and loyalty of hundreds of men and women, across the globe, who share common ground, a common focus, as members of the IBSSA. We truly are an organization of our people and an organization of the world!

To think that 25 years ago, the vision of one man, joined by a few colleagues, would ignite a global movement of change in this industry, is something history will not take for granted. A movement of change was created on the day the IBSSA came into being. And that movement continues to this day in the efforts, dedication and professional pursuits of our members, our leadership and our executives. Every time we place the IBSSA brand on a product, in any country in the world, we announce our global solidarity. And that brand, that shield of excellence we have all come to know and admire, will continue to shine within our industry as bright as it has for the past 25 years.

Every one of our members does what they do, because we believe in you, Sir George. We believe in what you have created and what you have accomplished. And we believe in the goals you have set before us to achieve.

As for me, you continue to be a mentor, a good friend and a true professional. The international protective services community owes to you, a debt of gratitude and a thank you, for making so many opportunities available on such a large scale. The world truly is your back yard.

I would be remiss now, without noting the accomplishments of a team within IBSSA that Prof. Popper authorized me to launch a mere 3 years ago, the IBSSA International Anti-Human Trafficking Project. When we began this assignment, I cast a large net of opportunity to our leadership, knowing that cream always rises to the top. And so, it has, to an extent I could never have imagined. Please join me in recognizing Mr. Zeljko Gajic, who began as our Serbian Bureau Chief and now represents the IHTP across all of Europe.

Zeljko has distinguished himself by developing our IBSSA Anti-Human Trafficking efforts in the Balkans to a degree that no one saw possible. Through media, education, community outreach and business, Zeljko has become a prominent leader as his efforts are felt international. All the while maintaining the brand and prestige of our great organization.

Thank you for all that you and your team accomplish every day! Please continue to do what you do best with the guidance and leadership of IHTP Director Jonathan Wallace and the support of our Bureau Chiefs around the world. Ladies and Gentlemen, well done!

In closing, I would like to express my regret for being unable to join you in Malta for this significant occasion. But as we all know, it is those we serve and protect whose needs come first.

Ladies and Gentlemen,
as Chairman of the IBSSA Board of Directors, I wish each of you great success. And I wish I was there to shake hands and share a word with each and every one of you, as we embark on what will be an amazing future for our industry, our colleagues and our organization.

Regards,

Karl DelaGuerra

31st October 2019