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[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Friday, October 06, 2017 2:47 PM  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** FP: The FBI's New U.S. Terrorist Threat: 'Black Identity Extremists'

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Foreign Policy story is below.

# The FBI's New U.S. Terrorist Threat: 'Black Identity Extremists'

**Law enforcement calls it a violent movement. Critics call it racist.**

3 HOURS AGO

• CATEGORIES: EXCLUSIVE

• Jana Winter and Sharon Weinberger



As white supremacists prepared to descend on Charlottesville, Virginia, in August, the FBI warned about a new movement that was violent, growing, and racially motivated. Only it wasn't white supremacists; it was "black identity extremists."

Amid a rancorous debate over whether the Trump administration has downplayed the threat posed by white supremacist groups, the FBI's counterterrorism division has declared that black identity extremists pose a growing threat of premeditated violence against law enforcement.

"The FBI assesses it is very likely Black Identity Extremist (BIE) perceptions of police brutality against African Americans spurred an increase in premeditated, retaliatory lethal violence against law enforcement and will very likely serve as justification for such violence," reads the report, marked for official use only and obtained by Foreign Policy.

The August 2014 shooting of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, was the catalyst for widespread anger and violence, the FBI report says, concluding that continued "alleged" police abuses have fueled more violence.

"The FBI assesses it is very likely incidents of alleged police abuse against African Americans since then have continued to feed the resurgence in ideologically motivated, violent criminal activity within the BIE movement," the report states.

Some 748 people have been shot and killed by police so far in 2017, including at least 168 African-Americans.

The report, dated Aug. 3 — just nine days before the white supremacist rally in Charlottesville turned deadly — appears to be the first known reference to “black identity extremists” as a movement. But former government officials and legal experts said no such movement exists, and some expressed concern that the term is part of a politically motivated effort to find an equivalent threat to white supremacists.

A former senior counterterrorism and intelligence official from the Department of Homeland Security who reviewed the document at FP’s request expressed shock at the language.

“This is a new umbrella designation that has no basis,” the former official said. “There are civil rights and privacy issues all over this.”

The concept of “black identity extremists” appears to be entirely new. FP found only five references to the term in a Google search; all were to law enforcement documents about domestic terrorism from the last two months. One of those online references is to law enforcement training on identifying “domestic terror groups and criminally subversive subcultures which are encountered by law enforcement professionals on a daily basis.”

Among the six acts of premeditated violence linked to black identity extremists — it excludes violence toward police carried out in the normal course of their duties — the reports cites the July 2016 shooting of 11 police officers in Dallas. The shooter, Micah Johnson, was reportedly angry at police violence.

“Based on Johnson’s journal writings and statements to police, he appeared to have been influenced by BIE ideology,” the FBI report states. The attack took place during a Black Lives Matter protest of police shootings, though the BLM movement is not mentioned by name in the report.

Yet those involved in the Black Lives Matter movement have voiced concerns about FBI surveillance.

DeRay McKesson, an activist involved in the Black Lives Matter movement, told FP that the FBI visited his house in the run-up to the Republican National Convention. “I spoke about the FBI visit to my house and the houses of other activists in our final meeting with [President Barack] Obama,” he said.

“There is a long tradition of the FBI targeting black activists and this is not surprising,” McKesson said.

The FBI declined to comment on the report itself and did not respond to specific questions, but in an emailed statement to FP, the bureau defended its tracking of “black identity extremists,” saying that “the FBI cannot initiate an investigation based solely on an individual’s race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, or the exercise of First Amendment rights.”

In its August report, the FBI said it expects further attacks by black identity extremists, driven by both the perception and the reality of unfair treatment at the hands of police officers.

“The FBI further assesses it is very likely additional controversial police shootings of African Americans and the associated legal proceedings will continue to serve as drivers for violence against law enforcement,” the report says.

Some experts and former government officials said the FBI seemed to be trying to paint disparate groups and individuals as sharing a radical, defined ideology. And in the phrase “black identity extremist” they hear echoes of the FBI’s decades-long targeting of black activists as potential radicals, a legacy that only recently began to change.

“They are grouping together Black Panthers, black nationalists, and Washitaw Nation,” said the former homeland security official. “Imagine lumping together white nationals, white supremacists, militias, neo-Nazis, and calling it ‘white identity extremists.’”

The FBI is linking the people discussed in the report based only on them being black, rather than on any sort of larger ideological connection, the official said. “The race card is being played here deliberately.”

Michael German, a former FBI agent and now a fellow with the Brennan Center for Justice’s liberty and national security program, said manufacturing this type of threat was not new. He has criticized earlier FBI reports on “black separatists,” arguing that they conflated radical groups operating in the 1970s with attacks in 2010 and later, even though there was no obvious connection.

The use of terms like “black identity extremists” is part of a long-standing FBI attempt to define a movement where none exists. “Basically, it’s black people who scare them,” German said.

Even former officials who view the government’s concerns about black separatists as legitimate balked at the term “black identity extremist,” and point out that the threat from individuals or groups who want to establish their own homeland is much less than from the far right.

In 2009, Daryl Johnson, then a Department of Homeland Security intelligence analyst, warned of the rise of right-wing extremism, setting off a firestorm among congressional critics. Johnson, who left the department in 2010, said he could think of no reason why the FBI would create a new category for so-called black identity extremists. “I’m at a loss,” he replied, when asked about the term.

“I have no idea of why they would come up with a new term.”

There have been concerns about rising violence among black separatist groups in recent years, he said, but it does not approach the threat of right-wing extremism. “When talking about white supremacists versus black supremacists, there are way more white supremacists,” Johnson said.

For historians and academics who have looked at the history of FBI surveillance of black Americans, the report also smacks of the sort of blatant racism the bureau has worked hard to leave behind. From the time J. Edgar Hoover took over the anti-radical division in the FBI at the height of the first “red scare” in 1919, the bureau began systematically surveilling black activists.

### **Read more from FP:**

- [FBI and DHS Assessment Outlined Threat of Lone Offenders Targeting Las Vegas](#): The U.S. government warned of possible attacks on entertainment venues and mass gatherings.
- [California Is Already Preparing for a North Korean Nuclear Attack](#): Beware of radioactive pets, and don’t expect the feds to show up anytime soon.
- [Senate Probe Gets ‘Clearer Picture’ of Possible Trump, Russia Collusion](#): Sen. Richard Burr said his committee’s investigation has “expanded slightly.”

“Black protests get conflated for the bureau [with communism], and it begins there,” said William Maxwell, a professor at Washington University in St. Louis, who has researched the FBI’s monitoring of black writers in the 20th century.

What followed, according to Maxwell, was decades of FBI pursuit of black radicals in the belief, often mistaken, that they were part of a larger subversive movement. “It’s deep in the bureau’s DNA,” he said.

Lately, that seemed to be changing. As FBI director, James Comey famously kept a copy of the Martin Luther King Jr. wiretap order on his desk as a reminder of the bureau’s past abuses and made new agents learn the history of the FBI’s pursuit of the civil rights leader.

The FBI also appeared to be focusing more attention on the threat of white supremacists. In May, the FBI warned that white supremacist violence was growing, according to a report obtained and published by FP. That same report noted that white supremacists were responsible for more attacks in the United States than any other extremist group, including Islamic extremists.

Critics, however, accuse President Donald Trump of shifting attention away from right-wing violence. This year, the Trump administration decided to focus the Department of Homeland Security’s “countering violent extremism” program on Islamic terrorism and deprioritized funding to counter white supremacist groups.

“To hear there is a new initiative targeting black identity extremists is surprising given that shift,” said Alvaro Bedoya, the executive director of the Center on Privacy & Technology at Georgetown Law.

Maxwell, the Washington University professor, had an even darker view. “It’s classic Hoover-style labeling with little bit of maliciousness and euphemism wrapped up together,” he said. “The language — black identity extremist — strikes me as weird and really a continuation of the worst of Hoover’s past.”

In a sense, the FBI’s desire to identify a unifying ideological underpinning to what are often individual violent acts is not surprising, said David Garrow, a historian who wrote a Pulitzer Prize-winning biography of MLK. “Security agencies want to perceive a threat that is political, a threat that ideological,” Garrow said, “but what we’re actually witnessing is men, almost entirely men, acting out in violent criminal ways and grasping at some chimera of political justification.”

But the document itself smacks of incompetence more than conspiracy, according to Garrow, who reviewed a copy of the report provided by FP. “The immediate instinct is to think [the FBI] are a threat,” he said. “My immediate instinct is to wonder whether they are minimally competent.”

Garrow, who has reviewed decades’ worth of FBI documents for his work, warned against seeing this report as proof that the FBI is illegally targeting black Americans.

“They are often so clueless,” he said of the FBI. “I don’t find them a threat.”

But the former homeland security official said the report’s tendency to lump together different groups that have no obvious connection will make it harder for law enforcement to identify real threats. “It’s so convoluted — it’s compromising officer safety,” the former official said.

And even though the report mentions in a footnote that “political activism” and “strong rhetoric” by themselves don’t amount to extremism and “may be constitutionally protected,” it identifies anger with police or “anti-white rhetoric” as indicators of a potential “violent threat.”

“Just the term ‘black identity extremist’ is protected,” the former official said. “You can identify all you want.”

The FBI, however, defended the classification in its statement to FP.

“Domestic terrorism groups differ from traditional criminal groups in that they take action for a different purpose, to bring attention to a social or political cause,” the FBI wrote. “Therefore, their existence as a group has a legitimate purpose, at least in part. Their legitimate activity may include acts of protest, advocacy, and civil disobedience.”

The FBI says there are “nine persistent extremist movements” in the United States at present. Those include “white supremacy, black identities, militia, sovereign citizens, anarchists, abortion, animal rights, environmental rights, and Puerto Rican Nationalism.”

Photo credit: Joe Raedle/Getty Images

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[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Friday, October 06, 2017 10:53 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (OPA) (JMD)  
**Cc:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** Re: FBI report - FP magazine

b6  
b7C

Sorry [redacted] I went out of town today. Copying in [redacted] who was handling this.

Thanks, [redacted]

[redacted]  
FBI National Press Office  
[redacted]

----- Original message -----  
**From:** [redacted] (OPA)" [redacted]  
**Date:** 10/6/17 4:47 PM (GMT-05:00)  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)" [redacted]  
**Subject:** FW: FBI report - FP magazine

Hi [redacted]

This report came out in August. Has FBI said anything about this to date? I assume we wouldn't comment on an internal assessment that obviously leaked, but let us know what you think.

b6  
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Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Jarrett, Laura" [redacted]  
**Date:** October 6, 2017 at 4:39:43 PM EDT  
**To:** [redacted] (OPA)" [redacted]

<http://foreignpolicy.com/2017/10/06/the-fbi-has-identified-a-new-domestic-terrorist-threat-and-its-black-identity-extremists/>  
Would love any thoughts.

Laura Jarrett  
CNN Justice Reporter  
[redacted]

[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 10, 2017 1:09 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (OGC) (FBI); [redacted] (OPA) (JMD); [redacted] (CIV)  
**Cc:** [redacted] (CID) (FBI); [redacted] (CIV); [redacted] (OGC) (FBI); [redacted]  
[redacted] (OGC) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** RE: FBI Report regarding identity extremists

**Importance:** High

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b7C

Hi [redacted]

I'm adding in my UC [redacted] and my colleague [redacted] who is handling the Foreign Policy inquiry.

Thank you,

[redacted]

[redacted]  
National Press Office  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
(O) [redacted]  
(C) [redacted]

**From:** [redacted] (OGC) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 10, 2017 1:06 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (OPA) (JMD); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted]  
[redacted] (CIV); [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted] (CID) (FBI); [redacted] (CIV); [redacted]  
[redacted] (OGC) (FBI); [redacted] (OGC) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Subject:** FBI Report regarding identity extremists  
**Importance:** High

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All:

[redacted]

According to widespread media reporting, Foreign Policy magazine obtained a copy of a recent FBI domestic terrorism analysis report discussing potential attacks by "black identity extremists." [redacted]

[redacted]

Is there a copy of the report approved for dissemination outside the FBI? Is there also a copy available of the FBI's statement to Foreign Policy Magazine?

Thanks!

[REDACTED]  
Associate General Counsel  
Civil Litigation Unit II  
FBI OGC  
935 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.  
Washington, DC 20535

Tel.: [REDACTED]

b6  
b7C

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[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

**From:** [redacted] (OPA) [redacted]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 10, 2017 1:43 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (OPA) (JMD); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (OGC) (FBI); [redacted] (CIV)  
**Cc:** [redacted] (CID) (FBI); [redacted] (CIV); [redacted] (OGC) (FBI); [redacted] (OGC) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** RE: FBI Report regarding identity extremists

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**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 10, 2017 1:09 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (OGC) (FBI); [redacted] (OPA); [redacted] (CIV)  
**Cc:** [redacted] (CID) (FBI); [redacted] (CIV); [redacted] (OGC) (FBI); [redacted] (OGC) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** RE: FBI Report regarding identity extremists  
**Importance:** High

Hi [redacted]

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Thank you,

[redacted]

[redacted]  
National Press Office  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
(O) [redacted]  
(C) [redacted]

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**From:** [redacted] (OGC) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 10, 2017 1:06 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (OPA) (JMD); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (CIV)  
**Cc:** [redacted] (CID) (FBI); [redacted] (CIV); [redacted] (OGC) (FBI); [redacted] (OGC) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Subject:** FBI Report regarding identity extremists  
**Importance:** High

All:

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Thanks!

[Redacted]

Associate General Counsel  
Civil Litigation Unit II  
FBI OGC  
935 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.  
Washington, DC 20535

b6  
b7C

Tel.: [Redacted]

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[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 10, 2017 1:49 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (OPA); [redacted] (OPA) (JMD); [redacted] (DO) (FBI);  
[redacted] (OGC) (FBI); [redacted] (CIV)  
**Cc:** [redacted] (CID) (FBI); [redacted] (CIV); [redacted] (OGC) (FBI); [redacted]  
[redacted] (OGC) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** RE: FBI Report regarding identity extremists

b6  
b7C

Here is my full response to Foreign Policy:

We have no comment on the report that cited in your email.

With regard to the FBI's Domestic Terrorism investigative program, the threat of domestic terrorism remains a priority for the FBI. It is important to note that the FBI cannot initiate an investigation based solely on an individual's race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, or the exercise of First Amendment rights.

Domestic terrorism groups differ from traditional criminal groups in that they take action for a different purpose, to bring attention to a social or political cause. Therefore, their existence as a group has a legitimate purpose, at least in part. Their legitimate activity may include acts of protest, advocacy, and civil disobedience. The FBI's domestic terrorism program identifies nine persistent extremist movements in the US: white supremacy, black identities, militia, sovereign citizens, anarchists, abortion, animal rights, environmental rights, and Puerto Rican Nationalism. This does not preclude the FBI from investigating all other unique, extremist ideologies furthered wholly or in part through crime and violence are addressed as they arise.

The FBI may only initiate an investigation based upon information or allegations that an activity constitutes a federal crime or a threat to national security. Furthermore, the FBI does not and will not police ideology. When an individual takes action based on belief or ideology and breaks the law, the FBI will enforce the rule of law.

CTD has a copy of the document that FP obtained.

Sincerely,

[redacted]  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
National Press Office  
Desk [redacted]  
Cell: [redacted]

**From:** [redacted] (OPA) [redacted]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 10, 2017 1:43 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (OPA) (JMD); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted]  
[redacted] (OGC) (FBI); [redacted] (CIV)  
**Cc:** [redacted] (CID) (FBI); [redacted] (CIV); [redacted]  
[redacted] (OGC) (FBI); [redacted] (OGC) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
[redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: FBI Report regarding identity extremists

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[redacted]  
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**Sent:** Tuesday, October 10, 2017 1:09 PM

To: [redacted] (OGC) (FBI) [redacted] (OPA) [redacted]  
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[redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]

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b7C

Thank you,

[redacted]

[redacted]

National Press Office  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

(O) [redacted]  
(C) [redacted]

**From:** [redacted] (OGC) (FBI)

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 10, 2017 1:06 PM

**To:** [redacted] (OPA) (JMD) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]  
[redacted] (CIV) [redacted]

**Cc:** [redacted] (CID) (FBI) [redacted] (CIV) [redacted]  
(OGC) (FBI) [redacted] (OGC) (FBI) [redacted]

**Subject:** FBI Report regarding identity extremists  
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Is there a copy of the report approved for dissemination outside the FBI? Is there also a copy available of the FBI's statement to Foreign Policy Magazine?

Thanks!

[redacted]

Associate General Counsel

Civil Litigation Unit II  
FBI OGC  
935 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.  
Washington, DC 20535

Tel.:

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[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

**From:** [redacted] (OPA) [redacted]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 10, 2017 4:36 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Cc:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** RE: FBI report - FP magazine

Hi [redacted] - Any guidance? FBI have any lines on this?

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 06, 2017 10:53 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (OPA) [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]  
**Subject:** Re: FBI report - FP magazine

b6  
b7C

Sorry [redacted] I went out of town today. Copying in [redacted] who was handling this.

Thanks, [redacted]

[redacted]  
FBI National Press Office  
(o) [redacted]  
(c) [redacted]  
[redacted]

----- Original message -----  
**From:** [redacted] (OPA)" [redacted]  
**Date:** 10/6/17 4:47 PM (GMT-05:00)  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)" [redacted]  
**Subject:** FW: FBI report - FP magazine

Hi [redacted]

This report came out in August. Has FBI said anything about this to date? I assume we wouldn't comment on an internal assessment that obviously leaked, but let us know what you think.

b6  
b7C

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Jarrett, Laura" [redacted]  
**Date:** October 6, 2017 at 4:39:43 PM EDT  
**To:** [redacted] (OPA)" [redacted]

<http://foreignpolicy.com/2017/10/06/the-fbi-has-identified-a-new-domestic-terrorist-threat-and-its-black-identity-extremists/>  
Would love any thoughts.

Laura Jarrett  
CNN Justice Reporter



b6  
b7C

[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 10, 2017 4:44 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (OPA)  
**Subject:** RE: FBI report - FP magazine

Hey- What's your direct line?

b6  
b7C

**From:** [redacted] (OPA) [redacted]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 10, 2017 4:36 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: FBI report - FP magazine

Hi [redacted] - Any guidance? FBI have any lines on this?

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 06, 2017 10:53 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (OPA) [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]  
**Subject:** Re: FBI report - FP magazine

Sorry [redacted] I went out of town today. Copying in [redacted] who was handling this.

Thanks, [redacted]

[redacted]  
FBI National Press Office  
(o) [redacted]  
(c) [redacted]  
[redacted]

b6  
b7C

----- Original message -----  
**From:** [redacted] (OPA)" [redacted]  
**Date:** 10/6/17 4:47 PM (GMT-05:00)  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)" [redacted]  
**Subject:** FW: FBI report - FP magazine

Hi [redacted]

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**From:** "Jarrett, Laura" [redacted]

**Date:** October 6, 2017 at 4:39:43 PM EDT

**To:** [redacted] (OPA) [redacted]

<http://foreignpolicy.com/2017/10/06/the-fbi-has-identified-a-new-domestic-terrorist-threat-and-its-black-identity-extremists/>

Would love any thoughts.

Laura Jarrett  
CNN Justice Reporter

[redacted]

b6  
b7C

[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

**From:** [redacted] (OPA) [redacted]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 10, 2017 4:45 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** RE: FBI report - FP magazine

b6  
b7C

[redacted]

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 10, 2017 4:44 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (OPA) [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: FBI report - FP magazine

Hey- What's your direct line?

**From:** [redacted] (OPA) [redacted]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 10, 2017 4:36 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: FBI report - FP magazine

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**To:** [redacted] (OPA) [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]  
**Subject:** Re: FBI report - FP magazine

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Thanks, [redacted]

b6  
b7C

[redacted]  
FBI National Press Office  
(o) [redacted]  
(c) [redacted]  
[redacted]

----- Original message -----  
**From:** [redacted] (OPA)" [redacted]  
**Date:** 10/6/17 4:47 PM (GMT-05:00)  
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**Subject:** FW: FBI report - FP magazine

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b6  
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**From:** "Jarrett, Laura" [redacted]  
**Date:** October 6, 2017 at 4:39:43 PM EDT  
**To:** [redacted] (OPA)" [redacted]

<http://foreignpolicy.com/2017/10/06/the-fbi-has-identified-a-new-domestic-terrorist-threat-and-its-black-identity-extremists/>

Would love any thoughts.

Laura Jarrett  
CNN Justice Reporter

[redacted]

[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

**From:** [redacted] (OPA) [redacted]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 10, 2017 5:00 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** FW: Black Identity Extremist Intelligence Assessment

[redacted]

b6  
b7C

We'll push these over to you to respond as appropriate. Thanks again

[redacted]

**From:** Press  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 10, 2017 4:10 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (OPA) [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted] (OPA) [redacted]  
**Subject:** FW: Black Identity Extremist Intelligence Assessment

[redacted] would this fall under you or should I refer Gerald to FBI's National Public Affairs Office?

Thank you - [redacted]

**From:** Gerald Harris [redacted]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 10, 2017 3:32 PM  
**To:** Press <Press@jmd.usdoj.gov>  
**Subject:** Black Identity Extremist Intelligence Assessment

Hi,

I'm a reporter with Medill News Service, (D.C. Bureau), I looking to follow up with someone who put together this assessment or is very familiar with it and can speak about it.

<https://assets.documentcloud.org/documents/4067711/BIE-Redacted.pdf>

b6  
b7C

I'm interested in unpacking this assessment and getting a full understanding of it. That among other questions I have regarding this packet.

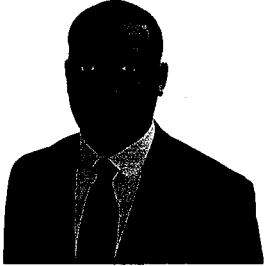
This is an enterprise story so I'm working with a little bit of time so, within a week or two (at the latest), I would like to get this turned around into publication.

My contact information is below, if you need anything else please let me know.

Gerald Harris

Politics and National Security Reporter  
Medill News Service

[redacted]



Twitter: @Geraldharrisreports

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[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 11, 2017 9:48 AM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** FW: Law Enforcement Liaison Issue  
**Attachments:** ia-17\_000\_530-ctd-20170803a-ules.pdf

[redacted]  
National Press Office  
FBI Office of Public Affairs

b6  
b7C

[redacted] office  
[redacted] mobile

**From:** Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 07, 2017 8:23 PM  
**To:** Murphy, Brian J. (OPE) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] Quinn, Richard P.  
(DO) (FBI) [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted] (CTD) (FBI) [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: Law Enforcement Liaison Issue

This is an August 2017 Intel Assessment that did go external to state and locals, and LEEP. It was simply documenting our redefinition of "Black Separatist Extremism," to broaden it beyond simply those seeking "separatism". The threat or movement has simply evolved and many are seeking more than/other than separation.

MP

**From:** Murphy, Brian J. (OPE) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 07, 2017 8:03 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] Quinn, Richard P. (DO) (FBI) [redacted] Paul, Michael F.  
(CTD) (FBI) [redacted]  
**Subject:** Re: Law Enforcement Liaison Issue

Michael  
Was the report disseminated via SIR?

b6  
b7C

----- Original message -----  
**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]  
**Date:** 10/7/17 7:57 PM (GMT-05:00)

To: "Quinn, Richard P. (DO) (FBI)" [redacted] "Murphy, Brian J. (OPE) (FBI)"

[redacted] "Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI)" [redacted]

Subject: Re: Law Enforcement Liaison Issue

Foreign policy magazine got a hold of the below report and wrote a story, which misconstrued the info. I don't have a copy but I can track one down on Tuesday.

b6  
b7C

(U//~~FOUO~~) Black Identity Extremists Likely Motivated to Target Law Enforcement Officers, and dated 3 August 2017.

[redacted]  
[redacted] National Press Office  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

[redacted] office  
cell  
@FBI

----- Original message -----

From: "Quinn, Richard P. (DO) (FBI)" [redacted]

Date: 10/7/17 7:33 PM (GMT-05:00)

To: "Murphy, Brian J. (OPE) (FBI)" [redacted] "Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI)" [redacted]

Cc: [redacted] (DO) (FBI)" [redacted]

Subject: Re: Law Enforcement Liaison Issue

Copy that/thanks Brian.

b6  
b7C

[redacted]

FYSA...

----- Original message -----

From: "Murphy, Brian J. (OPE) (FBI)" [redacted]

Date: 10/7/17 5:51 PM (GMT-06:00)

To: "Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI)" [redacted] "Quinn, Richard P. (DO) (FBI)" [redacted]

Subject: Fwd: Law Enforcement Liaison Issue

?

----- Original message -----

From: "Cook, Steven H. (ODAG)" [redacted]

Date: 10/7/17 6:42 PM (GMT-05:00)

To: "Sleeper, Kerry L. (DO) (FBI)" [redacted] "Murphy, Brian J. (OPE) (FBI)"

[redacted]

Subject: Law Enforcement Liaison Issue

I just received a call from [redacted] at the FOP. CNN contacted him for a comment on what they described as a July 17 FBI report on "Black identity Extremists" who present a danger to law enforcement. The FOP is making no comment because they have not heard of this report. But [redacted] expects to hear from members about why there had been no briefing of local law enforcement if there was an identified threat.

b6  
b7c

I don't know if you want to reach out to him or if you know anything to tell him. Just an FYI.

Steve

**Steven H. Cook**  
Associate Deputy Attorney General  
Director of Office of Law Enforcement Liaison  
950 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington D.C. 20530-0001

[redacted]

[redacted]





Federal Bureau of Investigation  
**INTELLIGENCE  
ASSESSMENT**

# **(U//~~FOUO~~) Black Identity Extremists Likely Motivated to Target Law Enforcement Officers**

3 August 2017

Prepared by:

**FBI**

**Counterterrorism  
Division**

(U) LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE: The information marked (U//LES) in this document is the property of FBI and may be distributed within the Federal Government (and its contractors), US intelligence, law enforcement, public safety or protection officials and individuals with a need to know. Distribution beyond these entities without FBI authorization is prohibited. Precautions should be taken to ensure this information is stored and/or destroyed in a manner that precludes unauthorized access. Information bearing the LES caveat may not be used in legal proceedings without first receiving authorization from the originating agency. Recipients are prohibited from subsequently posting the information marked LES on a website or an unclassified network without first obtaining FBI approval.

**(U) Executive Summary**

(U//~~FOUO~~) The FBI assesses it is very likely<sup>a</sup> Black Identity Extremist<sup>b</sup> (BIE) perceptions of police brutality against African Americans spurred an increase in premeditated, retaliatory lethal violence against law enforcement and will very likely serve as justification for such violence. The FBI assess it is very likely this increase began following the 9 August 2014 shooting of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, and the subsequent Grand Jury November 2014 declination to indict the police officers involved. The FBI assesses it is very likely incidents of alleged police abuse against African Americans since then have continued to feed the resurgence in ideologically motivated, violent criminal activity within the BIE movement. The FBI assesses it is very likely some BIEs are influenced by a mix of anti-authoritarian, Moorish sovereign citizen<sup>c</sup> ideology, and BIE ideology. The FBI has high confidence<sup>d</sup> in these assessments, based on a history of violent incidents attributed to individuals who acted on behalf of their ideological beliefs, documented in FBI investigations and other law enforcement and open source reporting. The FBI makes this judgment with the key assumption the recent incidents are ideologically motivated.

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<sup>a</sup> (U) See Appendix A: Expressions of Likelihood (or Probability).

<sup>b</sup> (U//~~FOUO~~) The FBI defines black identity extremists as individuals who seek, wholly or in part, through unlawful acts of force or violence, in response to perceived racism and injustice in American society and some do so in furtherance of establishing a separate black homeland or autonomous black social institutions, communities, or governing organizations within the United States. This desire for physical or psychological separation is typically based on either a religious or political belief system, which is sometimes formed around or includes a belief in racial superiority or supremacy. The mere advocacy of political or social positions, political activism, use of strong rhetoric, or generalized philosophic embrace of violent tactics may not constitute extremism, and may be constitutionally protected.

<sup>c</sup> (U//~~FOUO~~) The FBI defines sovereign citizen extremists as individuals who openly reject their US citizenship status, believe that most forms of established government, authority, and institutions are illegitimate, and seek, wholly or in part, through unlawful acts of force or violence, to further their claim to be immune from government authority. The mere advocacy of political or social positions, political activism, use of strong rhetoric, or generalized philosophic embrace of violent tactics may not constitute extremism, and may be constitutionally protected.

<sup>d</sup> (U) See Appendix B: Confidence in Assessments and Judgments Based on a Body of Information.

**(U) Scope Note**

(U) This intelligence assessment focuses on individuals with BIE ideological motivations who have committed targeted, premeditated attacks against law enforcement officers since 2014. This assessment does not address BIEs who have attacked law enforcement officers during the course of officers' routine duties, such as responding to calls and traffic stops, in which violent actions were reactionary in nature.

(U//~~LES~~) This assessment addresses the following key intelligence questions:

- (U//~~LES~~) To what extent are BIEs' targeting interests retaliatory?
- (U//~~LES~~) What cross-programmatic relationships influence the BIE movement?

(U//~~LES~~) This assessment is the first FBI analytic intelligence product to assess influences between the sovereign citizen extremist movement and the black identity extremist movement. The FBI has previously reported on BIE retaliatory violence against law enforcement in two products, both of which had findings consistent with this assessment. The 23 March 2016 FBI intelligence bulletin, titled "(U//~~FOUO~~) Black Separatist Extremists' Call for Retaliation in Response to Police-Involved Incidents Could Incite Acts of Violence against Law Enforcement," assessed incidents involving allegations of law enforcement abuse and related legal proceedings would likely lead to BSE calls for violent retaliation and incite these domestic extremists to commit violent acts against law enforcement. The 14 November 2014 FBI intelligence bulletin, titled "(U//~~FOUO~~) Potential Criminal Reactions to Missouri Grand Jury Announcement," assessed the announcement of the grand jury's decision in the shooting death of Michael Brown in Ferguson would likely be exploited by some individuals to justify threats and attacks against law enforcement and critical infrastructure.

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**(U) Source Summary Statement**

(U//~~LES~~) Reporting in this intelligence assessment was derived primarily from FBI and law enforcement investigations and open source reporting—media interviews of subjects, subjects' posting on social media accounts, and online news articles—deemed credible and reliable. The review of FBI investigations occurred between September 2014 and December 2016. The open source reporting was current as of 17 January 2017. Statements made by the subjects to law enforcement during the course of investigations were particularly helpful to identify motivations behind BIE attacks against law enforcement because ideological motivations are infrequently identified or collected. Additional reporting on the ideological motivations behind BIE attacks would improve the confidence levels in this assessment.

**(U//~~FOUO~~) Suspects' Grievances Very Likely Lead to Violent Targeting of Law Enforcement**

(U//~~FOUO~~) The FBI judges it is very likely BIE perceptions of police brutality against African Americans have become organizing drivers for the BIE movement since 2014, resulting in a spike of BIEs intentionally targeting law enforcement with violence. In all six targeted attacks since 2014, the FBI assesses it is very likely the BIE suspects acted in retaliation for perceived past police brutality incidents. Even though five of these attacks occurred following controversial police shootings of African Americans by white police officers, BIE targeting of officers was not, in every incident, based on their specific race.

- (U) On 7 July 2016, Micah Johnson ambushed and shot 11 law enforcement officers, killing five, in downtown Dallas, Texas, during a First Amendment protected protest, before being ultimately killed by police. The five deceased officers were white. The planned public event was protesting recent officer-involved shootings of African Americans in Louisiana and Minnesota. Based on Johnson's journal writings and statements to police, he appeared to have been influenced by BIE ideology.
  - (U//~~FOUO~~) During the standoff with police, Johnson told police negotiators he was upset about recent police shootings and white people, and expressed a desire to kill white people, especially white officers.<sup>1</sup> Johnson searched and liked social media pages of BIE and black separatist groups,<sup>2</sup> and had been ousted from a local BIE group for being too radical, according to an open source news article.<sup>3, 4</sup>
- (U//~~FOUO~~) On 23 October 2014, Zale H. Thompson attacked four white New York Police Department (NYPD) officers in Queens with a hatchet. One officer received injuries to the arm and a second officer received an injury to the side of his head. The two remaining NYPD officers at the scene shot and killed Thompson according to open source reporting.
  - (U//~~FOUO~~) According to open source reporting, Thompson was angered after "a recent spate of deaths at the hands of the police."<sup>5</sup> In his own writings, Thompson advocated for armed struggle against "the oppressors"<sup>6</sup> and "mass revolt" against the US social, economic, and political systems, which he perceived to be "white dominated." He also described the United States as a "beast" and called for "chopping off" its head, hands, and feet.<sup>7</sup> NYPD observed tattoos on Thompson's body that indicated he was affiliated with a black separatist extremist group and pocket litter indicating he may have been associated with another black separatist group according to law enforcement reporting.<sup>8</sup>

*(U//~~FOUO~~) Convergence of BIE and Moorish Sovereign Citizen Ideology Very Likely Leads to Violence against Law Enforcement Officers*

(U//~~FOUO~~) The FBI assesses it is very likely a few of the BIEs who have targeted law enforcement since 2014 were influenced by more than one ideological perspective. The FBI judges it is very likely in four of the six BIE attacks against law enforcement since 2014, the perpetrators were motivated by a mix of BIE ideology and Moorish sovereign citizen extremist

(SCE)<sup>e</sup> ideology, a category of SCE ideology. The FBI assesses it is very likely BIE adoption of a Moorish SCE identity reinforced a sense of disenfranchisement from society and a perception that the criminal justice system is unjust.

- (U) On 4 October and 13 October 2016, an individual allegedly shot at two different police stations in Indianapolis, Indiana. The subject left a hand-written note at the scene of one of the shootings, in which he identified himself as a Moor and made anti-white statements. The subject posted pictures on social media of African American men carrying assault rifles behind text calling for social injustice and retribution.<sup>9</sup> The subject was later involved in a shootout with police during his arrest on related charges according to law enforcement reporting.<sup>10, 11</sup>
- (U//~~LES~~) On 17 July 2016, Gavin Eugene Long ambushed and shot six law enforcement officers in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, before eventually being killed by police.<sup>12</sup> The deceased victims included one African American officer and one white officer from the Baton Rouge Police Department, and one white officer from the East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office. Long had expressed black separatist rhetoric both on social media and in his manifesto, including rants against "crackers" and reference to an African American male killed by police in Baton Rouge on 5 July 2016.<sup>13, 14</sup> In his manifesto, Long expressed his frustrations with the police and criminal justice system in the United States and saw his actions "as a necessary evil... in order to create substantial change."<sup>15</sup> A law enforcement search of Long's laptop contained biographical information and residential addresses of two officers involved in the Alton Sterling shooting, and Google searched directions to one of the officer's home address.<sup>16</sup> Long had also declared himself to be a Moor, had changed his "slave" name to the Moorish name Cosmo Ausar Setepenra, and was carrying a Moorish identification card at the time of his death according to open source reporting.<sup>17, 18</sup>
- (U//~~LES~~) On 13 September 2016, an individual reportedly intentionally drove his vehicle toward three white officers with the Police Department in Phoenix, Arizona, outside a gas station, striking two of them before he was arrested.<sup>19</sup> The subject's social media accounts indicated that he was tied to a BIE group and a Moorish group,<sup>20, 21</sup> and that he was angry over police shootings since at least the killing of Brown in 2014.<sup>22</sup> Consistent with BIE statements on social media, the subject stated, "The Caucasian needs to be slaughtered like the pigs that they are right along with the niggas who serve and protect them" according to law enforcement reporting.<sup>23, 24</sup>
- (U//~~FOUO~~) On 21 November 2014, a BIE was arrested and eventually convicted for purchasing explosives the subject intended to use in the Ferguson area upon release of the

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<sup>e</sup> (U//~~FOUO~~) Moorish sovereign citizens are a loose network of mostly African Americans who believe they are sovereign entities who do not recognize the authority of the US Government. Moorish sovereign citizen ideology derives from the Moorish Science Temple of America, a non-violent religious and cultural movement founded in 1913 by Nobel Drew Ali, who taught his followers they were not "negroes" but Moors, people of North African Berber and Arab descent. Some Moorish adherents adopt sovereign citizen strategies to assert diplomatic immunity by claiming membership in fictitious Native American tribes, claiming descent from settlers who arrived in North America during the pre-Columbian era, or identifying as foreign nationals or ambassadors. (Source: FBI; Primer; January 2014; "(U) Black Separatist Extremists: An Introduction for Law Enforcement"; UNCLASSIFIED; UNCLASSIFIED; Multiple sources.)

grand jury verdict for the police officer involved in the shooting death of Brown.<sup>25</sup> He previously discussed a desire to kill the white St. Louis County prosecutor and the white Ferguson police chief who were involved in Brown's case, according to FBI information. Additionally, the subject had ties to a BIE group<sup>26</sup> that had discussed ambushing police.<sup>27</sup> Furthermore, the subject had ties to the sovereign citizen movement<sup>28, 29</sup> filed paperwork declaring himself an "aboriginal/indigenous free sovereign moor,"<sup>30, 31</sup> and possessed a Moorish identification card according to open source reporting.<sup>32</sup>

### (U) Perspective

(U//~~FOUO~~) BIEs have historically justified and perpetrated violence against law enforcement, which they perceived as representative of the institutionalized oppression of African Americans, but had not targeted law enforcement with premeditated violence for the nearly two decades leading up to the lethal incidents observed beginning in 2014. BIE violence peaked in the 1960s and 1970s in response to changing socioeconomic attitudes and treatment of blacks during the Civil Rights Movement. BIE groups, such as the Black Liberation Army (BLA), which was created in the early 1970s to "take up arms for the liberation and self-determination of black people in the United States," engaged in murders, bank robberies, kidnappings, racketeering, possession of explosives, and weapons smuggling.

- (U) From 1970 to 1984, the BLA was involved in at least 38 criminal incidents, including 26 armed assaults, 3 assassinations, 4 bombings, and 4 hijackings and hostage takings. Almost half of these attacks took place in predominantly African American neighborhoods and targeted law enforcement officers without regard to their race according to an open source database.<sup>33</sup>

(U//~~FOUO~~) BIE violence has been rare over the past 20 years and there is sparse evidence of any convergence with SCEs who adhere to Moorish beliefs, who have historically engaged in nonviolent fraudulent schemes—including production of fraudulent personal identification documents such as International Motorist Certifications, passports, vehicle titles and registrations, and birth certificates—in support of their claims of sovereignty. In addition, although non-Moorish SCEs have committed lethal violence against law enforcement in the past, this violence has typically occurred in response to encounters with law enforcement—for example, during traffic stops or the issuing of warrants—rather than through premeditated, targeted aggression. In addition, not all self-identified Moors are sovereign citizens, and not all sovereign citizen Moors engage in violence against law enforcement or other illegal activity.

(U//~~FOUO~~) The FBI has previously reported on BIE retaliatory violence against law enforcement in two products. This intelligence assessment addresses actual incidents of lethal retaliatory violence. The previous black identity extremism intelligence products discussed calls for potential retaliatory violence, not actual violent incidents. Recent lethal violent incidents may be indicative of a resurgence of targeted violence within the BIE movement.

**(U) Analysis of Alternatives**

(U//~~FOUO~~) The FBI considered the alternative hypothesis that retaliatory violence against law enforcement is not ideologically motivated, but rather a result that some individuals may simply harbor animosity toward police and exploit racial tensions as an excuse to commit acts of violence. The FBI, however, assesses this alternative is very unlikely in the cases analyzed in this assessment because strictly criminal subjects typically commit spontaneous, “defensive” acts of violence against police rather than proactive targeting, and use idiosyncratic reasons unrelated to ideology, such as financial gain and personal disputes, to justify their actions. The FBI further judges it is very likely BIEs proactively target police and openly identify and justify their actions with social-political agendas commensurate with their perceived injustices against African Americans, and in some cases, their identified affiliations with violent extremist groups.

**(U) Outlook**

(U//~~FOUO~~) The FBI assesses it is very likely that BIEs’ perceptions of unjust treatment of African Americans and the perceived unchallenged illegitimate actions of law enforcement will inspire premeditated attacks against law enforcement over the next year. This may also lead to an increase in BIE group memberships, collaboration among BIE groups, or the appearance of additional violent lone offenders motivated by BIE rhetoric. The FBI further assesses it is very likely additional controversial police shootings of African Americans and the associated legal proceedings will continue to serve as drivers for violence against law enforcement. The FBI assesses it is likely police officers of minority groups are also targeted by BIEs because they are also representative of a perceived oppressive law enforcement system.

(U//~~FOUO~~) Possible indicators for BIEs posing a violent threat to law enforcement include advocating for violence against law enforcement, violent anti-white rhetoric, attempts to acquire illegal weapons or explosives, and affiliations with others in both the BSE and sovereign citizen extremist movements.

**(U) Intelligence Requirements**



b7E

(U) This Intelligence Assessment was prepared by the FBI [redacted] of the Counterterrorism Division. Comments and queries may be addressed to the [redacted] Section Chief by calling 1-202-324-3000 or via e-mail at FBI [redacted]@ic.fbi.gov.

**(U) Appendix A: Expressions of Likelihood (or Probability)**

(U) Phrases such as “the FBI judges” and “the FBI assesses,” and terms such as “likely” and “probably” convey analytical judgments and assessments. The chart approximates how expressions of likelihood and probability correlate with percentages of chance. The FBI only uses likelihood expressions. Furthermore, the FBI does not derive judgments via statistical analysis and will not use expressions of probability to convey uncertainty in external FBI intelligence products.

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<i>Terms of Likelihood</i>	<b>Almost No Chance</b>	<b>Very Unlikely</b>	<b>Unlikely</b>	<b>Roughly Even Chance</b>	<b>Likely</b>	<b>Very Likely</b>	<b>Almost Certain(ly)</b>
<i>Terms of Probability</i>	<b>Remote</b>	<b>Highly Improbable</b>	<b>Improbable (Improbably)</b>	<b>Roughly Even Odds</b>	<b>Probable (Probably)</b>	<b>Highly Probable</b>	<b>Nearly Certain</b>
	<b>1-5%</b>	<b>5-20%</b>	<b>20-45%</b>	<b>45-55%</b>	<b>55-80%</b>	<b>80-95%</b>	<b>95-99%</b>



**(U) Appendix B: Confidence in Assessments and Judgments Based on a Body of Information**

(U) Confidence levels reflect the quality and quantity of the source information supporting judgment. Consequently, the FBI ascribes high, medium, or low levels of confidence to assessments, as follows:

(U) **High confidence** generally indicates the FBI's judgments are based on high quality information from multiple sources. High confidence in a judgment does not imply the assessment is a fact or a certainty; such judgments might be wrong. While additional reporting and information sources may change analytical judgments, such changes are most likely to be refinements and not substantial in nature.

(U) **Medium confidence** generally means the information is credibly sourced and plausible but not of sufficient quality or corroborated sufficiently to warrant a higher level of confidence. Additional reporting or information sources have the potential to increase the FBI's confidence levels or substantively change analytical judgments.

(U) **Low confidence** generally means the information's credibility or plausibility is uncertain, the information is too fragmented or poorly corroborated to make solid analytic inferences, or the reliability of the sources is questionable. Absent additional reporting or information sources, analytical judgments should be considered preliminary in nature.

**(U) Endnotes**

- <sup>1</sup> (U) Online newspaper article; *The New York Times*; “(U) Five Dallas Officers Were Killed as Payback, Police Chief Says”; 9 July 2016; [https://www.nytimes.com/2016/07/09/us/dallas-police-shooting.html?\\_r=0](https://www.nytimes.com/2016/07/09/us/dallas-police-shooting.html?_r=0); accessed on 17 January 2017; Source is an open-source news article from a reputable news Web site.
- <sup>2</sup> (U) FBI; Information; 14 July 2016; 20 March 2016; “[TITLE REDACTED]”; UNCLASSIFIED//~~FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~; UNCLASSIFIED//~~FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~; Source is open source reporting.
- <sup>3</sup> (U//~~FOUO~~) FBI; Information; 13 July 2016; 12 July 2016; “(U//~~FOUO~~) Set Lead to FBI Houston to Interview [Name withheld]”; UNCLASSIFIED//~~FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~; UNCLASSIFIED//~~FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~; Source is open source reporting.
- <sup>4</sup> (U) FBI; Electronic Communication; 10 November 2016; 9 November 2016; “[TITLE REDACTED]”; UNCLASSIFIED//~~FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~; UNCLASSIFIED//~~FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~; Source is law enforcement reporting.
- <sup>5</sup> (U) Online newspaper article; *The New York Times*; “(U) Attacker With Hatchet Is Said to Have Grown Radical on His Own”; 25 October 2014; [https://www.nytimes.com/2014/10/25/nyregion/man-who-attacked-police-with-hatchet-ranted-about-us-officials-say.html?\\_r=1](https://www.nytimes.com/2014/10/25/nyregion/man-who-attacked-police-with-hatchet-ranted-about-us-officials-say.html?_r=1); accessed on 24 January 2017; Source is open source reporting.
- <sup>6</sup> (U) FBI; Electronic Communication; 6 November 2014; 23 October 2014; “(U) Lead requests to interview former female companions of subject [Name withheld]”; UNCLASSIFIED; UNCLASSIFIED; Source is law enforcement reporting.
- <sup>7</sup> (U//~~FOUO~~) FBI-DHS; Joint Intelligence Bulletin; 27 October 2014 “(U//~~FOUO~~) Lone Offender Hatchet Attack on New York Police Department Officers Has No Apparent Link to a Foreign Terrorist Organization”; UNCLASSIFIED//~~FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~; UNCLASSIFIED//~~FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~; Source is open source and law enforcement reporting.
- <sup>8</sup> (U) FBI; Electronic Communication; 24 October 2014; 23 October 2014; “(U) Opening EC”; “UNCLASSIFIED; UNCLASSIFIED; Source is law enforcement reporting.
- <sup>9</sup> (U) Online news article; Fox 59 News; “(U) DNA ties Zionsville murder suspect to IMPD headquarters shootings”; 31 October 2016; <http://fox59.com/2016/10/31/court-docs-dna-ties-zionsville-murder-suspect-tied-to-impd-headquarters-shootings>; accessed on 15 December 2016; Source is open source reporting from a local news organization.
- <sup>10</sup> (U) FBI; Electronic Communication; 7 October 2016; 4 October 2016; “(U) Opening EC”; UNCLASSIFIED; UNCLASSIFIED; Source is law enforcement reporting.
- <sup>11</sup> (U) FBI; Information; 8 November 2016; 31 October 2016; “(U) Arrest of [Name withheld]”; UNCLASSIFIED; UNCLASSIFIED; Source is law enforcement reporting.
- <sup>12</sup> (U) FBI; Electronic Communication; 17 July 2016; 17 July 2016; “[TITLE REDACTED]”; UNCLASSIFIED; UNCLASSIFIED; Source is law enforcement reporting.
- <sup>13</sup> (U) Online news article; The Daily Caller; “(U) Baton Rouge Cop Killer [Name withheld] Was Nation Of Islam”; 17 July 2016; [URL REDACTED]; Source is open source reporting.
- <sup>14</sup> (U) FBI; Information; 1 August 2016; 29 July 2016; “(U) Kansascity.com Interview with [Name withheld]”; UNCLASSIFIED; UNCLASSIFIED; Source is open source reporting.
- <sup>15</sup> (U//~~LES~~) FBI; Information; 2 August 2016; 2 August 2016; “(U//~~LES~~) Baton Rouge and Dallas Shooters Alluded to [Name withheld]”; UNCLASSIFIED; UNCLASSIFIED; Source is open source reporting.
- <sup>16</sup> (U) FBI; Information; 21 July 2016; 1 July 2016; “(U) Potential Targeting of Law Enforcement Officers through Open Source Personally Identifiable Information (PII)”; UNCLASSIFIED; UNCLASSIFIED; Source is law enforcement reporting.
- <sup>17</sup> (U) Online news article; NBC News; “(U) What Is the Washitaw Nation, ‘Sovereign’ Group Baton Rouge Shooter Identified With?”; 19 July 2016; <http://www.nbcnews.com/storyline/baton-rouge-police-ambush/what-washitaw-nation-sovereign-group-baton-rouge-shooter-identified-n612101>; accessed on 8 September 2016; Source is open source reporting.
- <sup>18</sup> (U//~~LES~~) FBI; Information; 31 August 2016; 29 July 2016; “(U//~~LES~~) Baton Rouge and Dallas Shooters Alluded to [Name withheld]”; UNCLASSIFIED; UNCLASSIFIED//~~FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~; Source is subject’s manifesto.
- <sup>19</sup> (U) Online news article; ABC News; “(U) Man crashes into Phoenix officers: [Name withheld] fought with officers after intentional crash”; 14 September 2016; [URL REDACTED]; accessed on 14 September 2016; Source is open source reporting.

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- <sup>20</sup> (U) FBI; Electronic Communication; 14 September 2016; 13 September 2016; “(U) Opening EC”; UNCLASSIFIED//~~LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE~~; UNCLASSIFIED//~~LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE~~; Source is law enforcement reporting.
- <sup>21</sup> (U) Blog post; Anti-Defamation League; “(U) Black Nationalist Charged With Attacking Phoenix Police Officers”; 15 September 2016; <http://blog.adl.org/?s=black+nationalist+charged+with+attacking+phoenix&x=0&y=0>; accessed on 15 September 2016; Source is open source reporting.
- <sup>22</sup> (U) *Ibid.*
- <sup>23</sup> (U) *Ibid.*
- <sup>24</sup> (U) FBI; Electronic Communication; 14 September 2016; 13 September 2016; “(U) Opening EC”; UNCLASSIFIED//~~LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE~~; UNCLASSIFIED//~~LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE~~; Source is law enforcement reporting.
- <sup>25</sup> (U) FBI; Electronic Communication; 9 September 2014; 9 September 2014; “(U) Opening EC”; UNCLASSIFIED//~~FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~; UNCLASSIFIED//~~FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~; Source is law enforcement reporting.
- <sup>26</sup> (U) FBI; Electronic Communication; 30 June 2016; 1 November 2014; “(U) Closing EC”; UNCLASSIFIED//~~FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~; UNCLASSIFIED//~~FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~; Source is law enforcement reporting.
- <sup>27</sup> (U//~~FOUO~~) FBI; Information; 17 June 2015; 1 November 2014; “(U//~~FOUO~~) Interview of [Name withheld]”; UNCLASSIFIED//~~FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~; UNCLASSIFIED//~~FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~; Source is law enforcement reporting.
- <sup>28</sup> (U//~~FOUO~~) FBI; Electronic Communication; 31 August 2015; 29 August 2015; “(U//~~FOUO~~) Kansas City Star article “(U) Sovereign Citizens Now Consist of All Colors and Creeds”; UNCLASSIFIED; UNCLASSIFIED; Source is open source reporting from a local news organization whose deemed reliable.
- <sup>29</sup> (U) *Op. cit.*, endnote 26.
- <sup>30</sup> (U) Online news article; Southern Poverty Law Center; “(U) Extremists Exploit Racial Tensions in Ferguson, MO”; 2015; <https://www.splcenter.org/fighting-hate/intelligence-report/2015/extremists-exploit-racial-tensions-ferguson-mo>; accessed on 11 August 2016; Source is open source reporting.
- <sup>31</sup> (U) Blog post; Anti-Defamation League; “(U) Arrested Black Panther Also Involved in Sovereign Citizen Movement”; 26 November 2014; <http://blog.adl.org/extremism/arrested-black-panther-also-involved-in-sovereign-citizen-movement>; accessed on 11 October 2016; Source is open source reporting.
- <sup>32</sup> (U) *Ibid.*
- <sup>33</sup> (U) FBI; Primer; January 2014; “(U) Black Separatist Extremists: An Introduction for Law Enforcement”; UNCLASSIFIED; UNCLASSIFIED; Multiple sources.

~~UNCLASSIFIED//LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE~~

**(U) Distribution**

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LEEP/LESC  
e-Guardian  
Department of Homeland Security

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# Federal Bureau of Investigation

## Intelligence Products Customer Service Satisfaction Survey

Product Title: (U//FOUO) Black Identity Extremists Likely Motivated to Target Law Enforcement Officers

1. (U//FOUO) Please select customer type:  and function:

2. (U//FOUO) Please rate your satisfaction with each of the following:

	Very Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Neither Satisfied nor Dissatisfied	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	N/A
Product's overall usefulness	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Product's relevance to your mission	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Product's timeliness	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Product's responsiveness to your intelligence needs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

3. (U//FOUO) How do you plan to use this product in support of your mission? (Check all that apply.)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Integrate into one of my own organization's finished information or intelligence products | <input type="checkbox"/> Incorporate into training                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Share contents with partners outside my organization                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Incorporate into planning and preparedness efforts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Share within my organization  | <input type="checkbox"/> Do not plan to use                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Improve situational awareness   | <input type="checkbox"/> Other:   |

4. (U//FOUO) How does this product add value to your mission? (Please portion mark comments.)

5. (U//FOUO) How could this product be improved? (Please portion mark comments.)

6. (U//FOUO) What is the primary intelligence source you rely on to perform your mission?

To help us understand more about your organization so we can better tailor future products, please provide:

Name: <input type="text"/>	Position: <input type="text"/>
Organization: <input type="text"/>	State: <input type="text"/>
Contact Number: <input type="text"/>	E-mail: <input type="text"/>



[Privacy Act Statement](#)

[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 11, 2017 10:56 AM  
**To:** [redacted] (SECD) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI);  
Thorley, Charles A. (DO) (FBI); Murphy, Brian J. (OPE) (FBI)  
**Cc:** Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** RE: [redacted] BIE Inquiry

b6  
b7C  
b7E

Adding Chad and Brian.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** [redacted] (SECD) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 11, 2017 9:38 AM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Cc:** Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted]  
(DO) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: [redacted] BIE Inquiry

Copy,  
Thanks very much

Will keep you updated

SSA [redacted]  
[redacted] Strategic Engagement Unit (SEU) FBI – Office of Partner Engagement  
Mobile: [redacted]

-----Original Message-----

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 11, 2017 9:30 AM  
**To:** [redacted] (SECD) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Cc:** Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted]  
(DO) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: [redacted] BIE Inquiry

Thanks [redacted] I appreciate the heads-up. The coverage of the assessment has been unfortunate and most of the media have taken the information out of context.

We will await any update from you but will start considering if we need to issue a statement.

Adding [redacted] and [redacted]

b6  
b7C  
b7E

[redacted]  
National Press Office  
FBI Office of Public Affairs

[redacted] office  
[redacted] mobile

-----Original Message-----

**From:** [redacted] (SECD) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 11, 2017 9:14 AM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted]

Cc: Paul Michael F. (CTD) (FBI) [redacted]  
Subject: [redacted] BIE Inquiry

[redacted] and [redacted]

I received a call from the National Association of Black Law Enforcement (NOBLE) regarding the August 3, 2017 intelligence assessment titled "Black Identity Extremists Likely Motivated to Target LE Officers". I bring this to your attention for a couple of reasons:

1. NOBLE [redacted] received multiple media inquiries on this report over the weekend. He is scheduled to meet with the Congressional Black Caucus where he expects this report to be discussed.
2. There is likely to be additional inquiries to the FBI and wanted to make OPA aware.

b6  
b7C  
b7E

OPE has reached out to SC Michael Paul for additional guidance on this inquiry. We will keep you in the loop.

Thanks

[redacted]

SSA [redacted]  
[redacted] Strategic Engagement Unit (SEU) FBI – Office of Partner Engagement  
Mobile: [redacted]

[Redacted]

(DO) (FBI)

**From:** [Redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 11, 2017 11:18 AM  
**To:** Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI)  
**Cc:** [Redacted] (DO) (FBI); [Redacted] (CTD) (FBI); [Redacted] (DO) (FBI); [Redacted] (DO) (FBI); [Redacted] (DO) (FBI); [Redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** FW: [Redacted] BIE Inquiry

Hello,

b6  
b7C  
b7E

Would it be possible to speak with you for a few minutes to get a better understanding of how and why the name changed? If any talking points have been developed for this it would be good to see those as well.

If members of the Black Caucus talk about the issue we may have to provide some sort of response.

[Redacted] is out of the office this morning but UC [Redacted] and I are here.

Thank you  
 [Redacted]  
 FBI National Press Office  
 [Redacted]

-----Original Message-----

**From:** [Redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 11, 2017 9:30 AM  
**To:** [Redacted] (SECD) (FBI); [Redacted] (DO) (FBI); [Redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Cc:** Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI); [Redacted] (DO) (FBI); [Redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** RE: [Redacted] BIE Inquiry

Thanks [Redacted] I appreciate the heads-up. The coverage of the assessment has been unfortunate and most of the media have taken the information out of context.

We will await any update from you but will start considering if we need to issue a statement.

Adding [Redacted] and [Redacted]

[Redacted]  
 National Press Office  
 FBI Office of Public Affairs

b6  
b7C  
b7E

[Redacted] office  
 [Redacted] mobile

-----Original Message-----

**From:** [Redacted] (SECD) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 11, 2017 9:14 AM  
**To:** [Redacted] (DO) (FBI); [Redacted] (DO) (FBI); [Redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Cc:** Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI); [Redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** [Redacted] BIE Inquiry

[Redacted] and [Redacted]



I received a call from the National Association of Black Law Enforcement (NOBLE) regarding the August 3, 2017 intelligence assessment titled "Black Identity Extremists Likely Motivated to Target LE Officers". I bring this to your attention for a couple of reasons:

1. NOBLE [redacted] received multiple media inquiries on this report over the weekend. He is scheduled to meet with the Congressional Black Caucus where he expects this report to be discussed.
2. There is likely to be additional inquiries to the FBI and wanted to make OPA aware.

OPE has reached out to SC Michael Paul for additional guidance on this inquiry. We will keep you in the loop.

Thanks

b6  
b7C

[redacted]

SSA [redacted]

[redacted] Strategic Engagement Unit (SEU) FBI – Office of Partner Engagement

Mobile: [redacted]

[Redacted]

(DO) (FBI)

**From:** [Redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 11, 2017 1:34 PM  
**To:** [Redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Cc:** Kortan, Michael P. (DO) (FBI); [Redacted] (DO) (FBI); [Redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** FW: Foreign Policy Magazine  
**Attachments:** Foreign Policy Magazine Article BIE.docx; FOX BIE.docx; HuffPost BIE.docx; Brennan Center opinion - BIE.docx; The Guardian BIE.docx; Newsweek BIE.docx

b6  
b7c

Adding some of the other articles on this.

**From:** [Redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 11, 2017 1:19 PM  
**To:** [Redacted] (DO) (FBI); [Redacted]  
**Cc:** Kortan, Michael P. (DO) (FBI); [Redacted] (DO) (FBI); [Redacted] (DO) (FBI); [Redacted]  
**Subject:** Foreign Policy Magazine

Sorry it took so long - behind a paywall.  
Attached is a copy of the BIE related article.

<http://foreignpolicy.com/2017/10/06/the-fbi-has-identified-a-new-domestic-terrorist-threat-and-its-black-identity-extremists/>

## Foreign Policy Magazine

October 6, 2017

### *The FBI's New U.S. Terrorist Threat: 'Black Identity Extremists'*

Law enforcement calls it a violent movement. Critics call it racist.

- By Jana Winter and Sharon Weinberger

As white supremacists prepared to descend on Charlottesville, Virginia, in August, the FBI warned about a new movement that was violent, growing, and racially motivated. Only it wasn't white supremacists; it was "black identity extremists."

Amid a rancorous debate over whether the Trump administration has downplayed the threat posed by white supremacist groups, the FBI's counterterrorism division has declared that black identity extremists pose a growing threat of premeditated violence against law enforcement.

"The FBI assesses it is very likely Black Identity Extremist (BIE) perceptions of police brutality against African Americans spurred an increase in premeditated, retaliatory lethal violence against law enforcement and will very likely serve as justification for such violence," reads the report, marked for official use only and obtained by Foreign Policy.

The August 2014 shooting of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, was the catalyst for widespread anger and violence, the FBI report says, concluding that continued “alleged” police abuses have fueled more violence.

“The FBI assesses it is very likely incidents of alleged police abuse against African Americans since then have continued to feed the resurgence in ideologically motivated, violent criminal activity within the BIE movement,” the report states.

Some 748 people have been shot and killed by police so far in 2017, including at least 168 African-Americans.

The report, dated Aug. 3 — just nine days before the white supremacist rally in Charlottesville turned deadly — appears to be the first known reference to “black identity extremists” as a movement. But former government officials and legal experts said no such movement exists, and some expressed concern that the term is part of a politically motivated effort to find an equivalent threat to white supremacists.

A former senior counterterrorism and intelligence official from the Department of Homeland Security who reviewed the document at FP’s request expressed shock at the language.

“This is a new umbrella designation that has no basis,” the former official said. “There are civil rights and privacy issues all over this.”

The concept of “black identity extremists” appears to be entirely new. FP found only five references to the term in a Google search; all were to law enforcement documents about domestic terrorism from the last two months. One of those online references is to law enforcement training on identifying “domestic terror groups and criminally subversive subcultures which are encountered by law enforcement professionals on a daily basis.”

Among the six acts of premeditated violence linked to black identity extremists — it excludes violence toward police carried out in the normal course of their duties — the reports cites the July 2016 shooting of 11 police officers in Dallas. The shooter, Micah Johnson, was reportedly angry at police violence.

“Based on Johnson’s journal writings and statements to police, he appeared to have been influenced by BIE ideology,” the FBI report states. The attack took place during a Black Lives Matter protest of police shootings, though the BLM movement is not mentioned by name in the report.

Yet those involved in the Black Lives Matter movement have voiced concerns about FBI surveillance.

DeRay McKesson, an activist involved in the Black Lives Matter movement, told FP that the FBI visited his house in the run-up to the Republican National Convention. “I spoke about the FBI visit to my house and the houses of other activists in our final meeting with [President Barack] Obama,” he said.

“There is a long tradition of the FBI targeting black activists and this is not surprising,” McKesson said.

The FBI declined to comment on the report itself and did not respond to specific questions, but in an emailed statement to FP, the bureau defended its tracking of “black identity extremists,” saying that “the FBI cannot initiate an investigation based solely on an individual’s race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, or the exercise of First Amendment rights.”

In its August report, the FBI said it expects further attacks by black identity extremists, driven by both the perception and the reality of unfair treatment at the hands of police officers.

“The FBI further assesses it is very likely additional controversial police shootings of African Americans and the associated legal proceedings will continue to serve as drivers for violence against law enforcement,” the report says.

Some experts and former government officials said the FBI seemed to be trying to paint disparate groups and individuals as sharing a radical, defined ideology. And in the phrase “black identity extremist” they hear echoes of the FBI’s decades-long targeting of black activists as potential radicals, a legacy that only recently began to change.

“They are grouping together Black Panthers, black nationalists, and Washitaw Nation,” said the former homeland security official. “Imagine lumping together white nationals, white supremacists, militias, neo-Nazis, and calling it ‘white identity extremists.’”

The FBI is linking the people discussed in the report based only on them being black, rather than on any sort of larger ideological connection, the official said.

Michael German, a former FBI agent and now a fellow with the Brennan Center for Justice’s liberty and national security program, said manufacturing this type of threat was not new. He has criticized earlier FBI reports on “black separatists,” arguing that they conflated radical groups operating in the 1970s with attacks in 2010 and later, even though there was no obvious connection.

The use of terms like “black identity extremists” is part of a long-standing FBI attempt to define a movement where none exists. “Basically, it’s black people who scare them,” German said.

Even former officials who view the government’s concerns about black separatists as legitimate balked at the term “black identity extremist,” and point out that the threat from individuals or groups who want to establish their own homeland is much less than from the far right.

In 2009, Daryl Johnson, then a Department of Homeland Security intelligence analyst, warned of the rise of right-wing extremism, setting off a firestorm among congressional critics. Johnson, who left the department in 2010, said he could think of no reason why the FBI would create a new category for so-called black identity extremists. “I’m at a loss,” he replied, when asked about the term.

“I have no idea of why they would come up with a new term.”

There have been concerns about rising violence among black separatist groups in recent years, he said, but it does not approach the threat of right-wing extremism. “When talking about white supremacists versus black supremacists, there are way more white supremacists,” Johnson said.

For historians and academics who have looked at the history of FBI surveillance of black Americans, the report also smacks of the sort of blatant racism the bureau has worked hard to leave behind. From the time J. Edgar Hoover took over the anti-radical division in the FBI at the height of the first “red scare” in 1919, the bureau began systematically surveilling black activists.

“Black protests get conflated for the bureau [with communism], and it begins there,” said William Maxwell, a professor at Washington University in St. Louis, who has researched the FBI’s monitoring of black writers in the 20th century.

What followed, according to Maxwell, was decades of FBI pursuit of black radicals in the belief, often mistaken, that they were part of a larger subversive movement. “It’s deep in the bureau’s DNA,” he said.

Lately, that seemed to be changing. As FBI director, James Comey famously kept a copy of the Martin Luther King Jr. wiretap order on his desk as a reminder of the bureau's past abuses and made new agents learn the history of the FBI's pursuit of the civil rights leader.

The FBI also appeared to be focusing more attention on the threat of white supremacists. In May, the FBI warned that white supremacist violence was growing, according to a report obtained and published by FP. That same report noted that white supremacists were responsible for more attacks in the United States than any other extremist group, including Islamic extremists.

Critics, however, accuse President Donald Trump of shifting attention away from right-wing violence. This year, the Trump administration decided to focus the Department of Homeland Security's "countering violent extremism" program on Islamic terrorism and deprioritized funding to counter white supremacist groups.

"To hear there is a new initiative targeting black identity extremists is surprising given that shift," said Alvaro Bedoya, the executive director of the Center on Privacy & Technology at Georgetown Law.

Maxwell, the Washington University professor, had an even darker view. "It's classic Hoover-style labeling with little bit of maliciousness and euphemism wrapped up together," he said.

"The language — black identity extremist — strikes me as weird and really a continuation of the worst of Hoover's past."

In a sense, the FBI's desire to identify a unifying ideological underpinning to what are often individual violent acts is not surprising, said David Garrow, a historian who wrote a Pulitzer Prize-winning biography of MLK. "Security agencies want to perceive a threat that is political, a threat that ideological," Garrow said, "but what we're actually witnessing is men, almost entirely men, acting out in violent criminal ways and grasping at some chimera of political justification."

But the document itself smacks of incompetence more than conspiracy, according to Garrow, who reviewed a copy of the report provided by FP. "The immediate instinct is to think [the FBI] are a threat," he said. "My immediate instinct is to wonder whether they are minimally competent."

Garrow, who has reviewed decades' worth of FBI documents for his work, warned against seeing this report as proof that the FBI is illegally targeting black Americans.

"They are often so clueless," he said of the FBI. "I don't find them a threat."

But the former homeland security official said the report's tendency to lump together different groups that have no obvious connection will make it harder for law enforcement to identify real threats. "It's so convoluted — it's compromising officer safety," the former official said.

And even though the report mentions in a footnote that "political activism" and "strong rhetoric" by themselves don't amount to extremism and "may be constitutionally protected," it identifies anger with police or "anti-white rhetoric" as indicators of a potential "violent threat."

"Just the term 'black identity extremist' is protected," the former official said. "You can identify all you want."

The FBI, however, defended the classification in its statement to FP.

"Domestic terrorism groups differ from traditional criminal groups in that they take action for a different purpose, to bring attention to a social or political cause," the FBI wrote. "Therefore, their existence as a group

has a legitimate purpose, at least in part. Their legitimate activity may include acts of protest, advocacy, and civil disobedience.”

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## Foreign Policy Magazine

October 6, 2017

### *The FBI's New U.S. Terrorist Threat: 'Black Identity Extremists'*

Law enforcement calls it a violent movement. Critics call it racist.

- By Jana Winter and Sharon Weinberger

As white supremacists prepared to descend on Charlottesville, Virginia, in August, the FBI warned about a new movement that was violent, growing, and racially motivated. Only it wasn't white supremacists; it was "black identity extremists."

Amid a rancorous debate over whether the Trump administration has downplayed the threat posed by white supremacist groups, the FBI's counterterrorism division has declared that black identity extremists pose a growing threat of premeditated violence against law enforcement.

"The FBI assesses it is very likely Black Identity Extremist (BIE) perceptions of police brutality against African Americans spurred an increase in premeditated, retaliatory lethal violence against law enforcement and will very likely serve as justification for such violence," reads the report, marked for official use only and obtained by Foreign Policy.

The August 2014 shooting of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, was the catalyst for widespread anger and violence, the FBI report says, concluding that continued "alleged" police abuses have fueled more violence.

"The FBI assesses it is very likely incidents of alleged police abuse against African Americans since then have continued to feed the resurgence in ideologically motivated, violent criminal activity within the BIE movement," the report states.

Some 748 people have been shot and killed by police so far in 2017, including at least 168 African-Americans.

The report, dated Aug. 3 — just nine days before the white supremacist rally in Charlottesville turned deadly — appears to be the first known reference to "black identity extremists" as a movement. But former government officials and legal experts said no such movement exists, and some expressed concern that the term is part of a politically motivated effort to find an equivalent threat to white supremacists.

A former senior counterterrorism and intelligence official from the Department of Homeland Security who reviewed the document at FP's request expressed shock at the language.

"This is a new umbrella designation that has no basis," the former official said. "There are civil rights and privacy issues all over this."

The concept of “black identity extremists” appears to be entirely new. FP found only five references to the term in a Google search; all were to law enforcement documents about domestic terrorism from the last two months. One of those online references is to [law enforcement training](#) on identifying “domestic terror groups and criminally subversive subcultures which are encountered by law enforcement professionals on a daily basis.”

Among the six acts of premeditated violence linked to black identity extremists — it excludes violence toward police carried out in the normal course of their duties — the reports cites the July 2016 shooting of 11 police officers in Dallas. The shooter, Micah Johnson, was reportedly angry at police violence.

“Based on Johnson’s journal writings and statements to police, he appeared to have been influenced by BIE ideology,” the FBI report states. The attack took place during a Black Lives Matter protest of police shootings, though the BLM movement is not mentioned by name in the report.

Yet those involved in the Black Lives Matter movement have voiced concerns about FBI surveillance.

DeRay McKesson, an activist involved in the Black Lives Matter movement, told FP that the FBI visited his house in the run-up to the Republican National Convention. “I spoke about the FBI visit to my house and the houses of other activists in our final meeting with [President Barack] Obama,” he said.

“There is a long tradition of the FBI targeting black activists and this is not surprising,” McKesson said.

The FBI declined to comment on the report itself and did not respond to specific questions, but in an emailed statement to FP, the bureau defended its tracking of “black identity extremists,” saying that “the FBI cannot initiate an investigation based solely on an individual’s race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, or the exercise of First Amendment rights.”

In its August report, the FBI said it expects further attacks by black identity extremists, driven by both the perception and the reality of unfair treatment at the hands of police officers.

“The FBI further assesses it is very likely additional controversial police shootings of African Americans and the associated legal proceedings will continue to serve as drivers for violence against law enforcement,” the report says.

Some experts and former government officials said the FBI seemed to be trying to paint disparate groups and individuals as sharing a radical, defined ideology. And in the phrase “black identity extremist” they hear echoes of the FBI’s decades-long targeting of black activists as potential radicals, a legacy that only recently began to change.



“They are grouping together Black Panthers, black nationalists, and Washitaw Nation,” said the former homeland security official. “Imagine lumping together white nationals, white supremacists, militias, neo-Nazis, and calling it ‘white identity extremists.’”

The FBI is linking the people discussed in the report based only on them being black, rather than on any sort of larger ideological connection, the official said.

Michael German, a former FBI agent and now a fellow with the Brennan Center for Justice’s liberty and national security program, said manufacturing this type of threat was not new. He has criticized earlier FBI reports on “black separatists,” arguing that they conflated radical groups operating in the 1970s with attacks in 2010 and later, even though there was no obvious connection.

The use of terms like “black identity extremists” is part of a long-standing FBI attempt to define a movement where none exists. “Basically, it’s black people who scare them,” German said.

Even former officials who view the government’s concerns about black separatists as legitimate balked at the term “black identity extremist,” and point out that the threat from individuals or groups who want to establish their own homeland is much less than from the far right.

In 2009, Daryl Johnson, then a Department of Homeland Security intelligence analyst, warned of the rise of right-wing extremism, setting off a firestorm among congressional critics. Johnson, who left the department in 2010, said he could think of no reason why the FBI would create a new category for so-called black identity extremists. “I’m at a loss,” he replied, when asked about the term.

“I have no idea of why they would come up with a new term.”

There have been concerns about rising violence among black separatist groups in recent years, he said, but it does not approach the threat of right-wing extremism. “When talking about white supremacists versus black supremacists, there are way more white supremacists,” Johnson said.

For historians and academics who have looked at the history of FBI surveillance of black Americans, the report also smacks of the sort of blatant racism the bureau has worked hard to leave behind. From the time J. Edgar Hoover took over the anti-radical division in the FBI at the height of the first “red scare” in 1919, the bureau began systematically surveilling black activists.

“Black protests get conflated for the bureau [with communism], and it begins there,” said William Maxwell, a professor at Washington University in St. Louis, who has researched the FBI’s monitoring of black writers in the 20th century.

What followed, according to Maxwell, was decades of FBI pursuit of black radicals in the belief, often mistaken, that they were part of a larger subversive movement. “It’s deep in the bureau’s DNA,” he said.

Lately, that seemed to be changing. As FBI director, James Comey famously kept a copy of the Martin Luther King Jr. wiretap order on his desk as a reminder of the bureau's past abuses and made new agents learn the history of the FBI's pursuit of the civil rights leader.

The FBI also appeared to be focusing more attention on the threat of white supremacists. In May, the FBI warned that white supremacist violence was growing, according to a report obtained and published by FP. That same report noted that white supremacists were responsible for more attacks in the United States than any other extremist group, including Islamic extremists.

Critics, however, accuse President Donald Trump of shifting attention away from right-wing violence. This year, the Trump administration decided to focus the Department of Homeland Security's "countering violent extremism" program on Islamic terrorism and deprioritized funding to counter white supremacist groups.

"To hear there is a new initiative targeting black identity extremists is surprising given that shift," said Alvaro Bedoya, the executive director of the Center on Privacy & Technology at Georgetown Law.

Maxwell, the Washington University professor, had an even darker view. "It's classic Hoover-style labeling with little bit of maliciousness and euphemism wrapped up together," he said.

"The language — black identity extremist — strikes me as weird and really a continuation of the worst of Hoover's past."

In a sense, the FBI's desire to identify a unifying ideological underpinning to what are often individual violent acts is not surprising, said David Garrow, a historian who wrote a Pulitzer Prize-winning biography of MLK. "Security agencies want to perceive a threat that is political, a threat that ideological," Garrow said, "but what we're actually witnessing is men, almost entirely men, acting out in violent criminal ways and grasping at some chimera of political justification."

But the document itself smacks of incompetence more than conspiracy, according to Garrow, who reviewed a copy of the report provided by FP. "The immediate instinct is to think [the FBI] are a threat," he said. "My immediate instinct is to wonder whether they are minimally competent."

Garrow, who has reviewed decades' worth of FBI documents for his work, warned against seeing this report as proof that the FBI is illegally targeting black Americans.

"They are often so clueless," he said of the FBI. "I don't find them a threat."

But the former homeland security official said the report's tendency to lump together different groups that have no obvious connection will make it harder for law enforcement to identify real threats. "It's so convoluted — it's compromising officer safety," the former official said.

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# FBI cites black extremists as new domestic terrorist threat

By Elizabeth Llorente, Fox News

In a leaked FBI counterterrorism report, "black identity extremist" or BIE are described as a domestic threat for motivating attacks against law enforcement. Critics say the government report is racist, targeting African Americans, while the FBI stands by its findings.

The 2014 shooting of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Mo., has spawned a violent domestic threat from "black identity extremists" who have stepped up attacks on police, according to an explosive new report by the FBI's counterterrorism division.

The warning, first reported by Foreign Policy magazine, says that "it is very likely BIEs proactively target police and openly identify and justify their actions with social-political agendas commensurate with their perceived injustices against African Americans ..."

Brown, an African-American 18-year-old, was shot in August 2014 after struggling with white police officer Darren Wilson. Although Brown's supporters claimed it was a deadly case of police brutality, Wilson was cleared of wrongdoing and resigned in November 2014.

Police officials said that Wilson stopped Brown after getting a call about a robbery at a convenience store in which the clerk was strong-armed after the suspect -- with whom Brown was a match -- attempted to leave.

Wilson and Brown got into a scuffle as Brown reportedly reached for the police officer's gun, and Wilson then gave chase, shooting him. Brown's family said he had his hands up when he was shot, police said it was untrue.

The shooting led to protests in Ferguson that then spread to other parts of the country. It gained added momentum after subsequent racially charged police shootings, spurred on via social media and the group Black Lives Matter.

The FBI report said that the agency previously had analyzed the potential for violence of black identity extremism, a term that was unfamiliar before it appeared in the document. What has changed, according to the report, is that violence has now actually occurred and is "likely" to continue.

“It is very likely that BIEs’ perceptions of unjust treatment of African-Americans and the perceived unchallenged illegitimate actions of law enforcement will inspire premeditated attacks against law enforcement over the next year,” the report said. “It is very likely additional controversial police shootings of African-Americans and the associated legal proceedings will continue to serve as drivers for violence against law enforcement.”

Attacks in which police officers are targeted have been on the rise in recent years. The most high-profile such incident occurred last year in Dallas, when a gunman named Micah Johnson hid in a parking garage and fired on 11 police officers, killing five of them, during a protest against officer-involved shootings. The FBI report noted that Johnson referred to anger over police shootings and toward whites as what drove him to kill the five police officers.

The FBI report drew accusations of racial profiling.

DeRay Mckesson of Black Lives Matter told The Guardian the terrorism report echoes the days when the FBI tracked activist groups including the NAACP and those that opposed wars.

“We knew that we were likely being watched,” said Mckesson, a longtime critic of government monitoring of protest groups. “This is confirmation that the work of social justice continues to threaten those in power.”

The Guardian also quoted an unnamed source it described only as a former senior official from the Department of Homeland Security saying that the category "black identity extremist" was troubling.

"This is a new umbrella designation that has no basis," the source is quoted as saying. "There are civil rights and privacy issues all over this."

But others say that the FBI is correctly sounding an alarm about a serious trend.

"It's not racial profiling, it's violence profiling," Scott Walter, president of Capital Research Center, a conservative think tank, told Fox News. "Identity politics can kill, whether it's white identity politics, which killed in Charlottesville, or black identity politics, which kills cops."

"We have to be able to distinguish between free speech and violence," Walter said. "[Many] longtime [black] activist groups were not obsessed with violence."

Randy Sutton, a former Las Vegas law enforcement official who now is the national spokesman for Blue Lives Matter, told Fox News that the FBI report makes official what he and others in police work have been observing in recent years.

"Nobody is saying anything negative about protests," Sutton said, "Protesting is everyone's right. This is about committing acts of violence. Many Black Lives Matter protests call for violence against police, with chants like 'What do we want?' and 'Dead cops!' It's terrorism, and it's no different than Islamic terrorism."

Sutton said the rising number of ambush attacks on police has had a chilling effect on how they do their jobs.

"Police are not being as aggressive because of the political climate," he said. "There's been a dramatic decrease in proactive policing."

# The FBI's 'Black Identity Extremist' Classification Is As Absurd As 'Reverse Racism'

The government will prey on civil rights activists by suggesting they—not white supremacists—pose a threat to our nation.

10/10/2017 10:18 am ET **Updated** 20 hours ago

Donald Trump's presidency continues to be an abject lesson in the persistence of systematic racism, and a recent FBI report shows how little this administration regards black people. The FBI released a report warning that "black identity extremists" are a new threat to law enforcement, even though white supremacist violence and police violence are more prevalent issues, because Trump's administration is more focused on quelling black people's response to oppression than actually stopping systematic racism.

Foreign Policy obtained an August 3 FBI report that named black identity extremism (BIE) as a "movement" motivated by "incidents of alleged police abuse against African Americans." The report predicts an increase in violence against law enforcement based on six attacks on police officers from 2014 to 2016, including Micah Johnson's July 7, 2016 shooting in Dallas where he killed five police officers.

In all six incidents, a total of eight police officers were killed, but this doesn't compare to how many police officers have killed black people according to the Washington Post's database. In 2015, police killed 259 black people, 38 of whom were unarmed, and less than 40 percent of those unarmed black people were an "attack in progress." In 2016, police killed 233 black people and 17 of them were unarmed. So far in 2017, police have killed 169 black people and 10 of them were unarmed.

Comparing the FBI's recent number of "BIE"-related deaths and police-related shootings of unarmed black people within the same time period brings a ratio of 8:65, and yet Trump's administration has scaled back Barack Obama's efforts toward police reform.

Jessie Daniels, sociologist and professor at Hunter College-CUNY, said black people are "routinely killed by police at rates that mirror those of the racial terrorism of lynching," but the FBI's report works against black citizens by shifting the blame to "identity politics, which is code for activism against racism and police brutality."

The FBI report says five of these attacks occurred after "controversial police shootings of African Americans by white officers," and that "BIEs' perceptions of unjust treatment of African Americans and the perceived unchallenged illegitimate actions of law enforcement will inspire premeditated attacks against law enforcement over the next year." The report said additional police shootings, and their legal proceedings, will be future catalysts for violence against law enforcement.

Daniels said the report uses a "cynical" tone toward injustice, and it is motivated by "white fear of black violence," a typical response to black progress in the United States.

"I think we're seeing a continued backlash against our first black president and the powerful Black Lives Matter movement," Daniels said.

The report states nearly all of the perpetrators were influenced by Moorish Sovereign Citizens and other black separatist groups, but Johnson was “ousted from a local BIE group for being too radical” before he attacked police officers at a Black Lives Matter rally in Dallas. Black Lives Matter activists were quick to condemn the attack, but right-wing pundits and social media platforms blamed them anyway continue to do so. Dallas-based political commentator Tomi Lahren called Black Lives Matter “the new KKK” and said their goals are “far from equality” after Johnson’s shooting. After Gavin Long’s attack on police officers in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Republicans Rudy Giuliani and Sean Duffy blamed Black Lives Matter for an increase in violence against police officers. Historian Yohuru Williams called this framing of the incident dishonest and careless, and said it “creates a context that shifts attention away from the very police practices that nonviolent protesters are demonstrating against.” “There is no need to use pseudo-political labels or to willfully conflate it with nonviolent protests,” Williams said. “Micah Johnson and Gavin Long were disturbed individuals who acted on their own.”

The FBI report doesn’t directly blame Black Lives Matter or clarify if it fits under “BIE ideology,” but it doesn’t explain why it needs the term “BIE” when it already identifies Moorish Sovereign Citizens and black separatists.

Speaking of the “new KKK,” white supremacist killings outweigh the FBI’s recorded “BIE” attacks during the same time period. In 2014, Frazier Glenn Miller, founder of the Carolina Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, murdered three people because he wanted to kill Jews before he died. In 2015, Dylann Roof massacred nine black people in a church to start a race war, and John Russell Houser praised Adolf Hitler and David Duke online before he killed two people in a Lafayette, Louisiana, movie theater. In 2016, Russell Orlando Courtier, member of the European Kindred white supremacist prison gang, killed black teen Larnell Bruce in Oregon and was charged with a hate crime. This year, James Harris Jackson traveled from Maryland to New York City and killed Timothy Caughman, an elderly black man, to discourage white women from interracial dating, and Jeremy Joseph Christian stabbed two men to death on a Portland, Oregon train after they stepped in to protect two Muslim girls from his hate speech. On August 12, James Fields Jr. killed Heather Heyer, an anti-racism protester, with his car during the “Unite the Right” rally in Charlottesville, Virginia.

Comparing the deaths in the report with high-profile white supremacist violence that occurred before it was written brings a ratio of 1:2, and a joint memo from the FBI and DHS earlier this year warned this administration about white supremacist violence as the dominant threat of domestic terrorism, but Trump’s administration has cut funding for organizations designed to prevent white supremacist violence. Now, the FBI presents a black “movement” that former officials say doesn’t exist. Former FBI agent Michael German defined the FBI’s new term “BIE” as “black people who scare them,” per Foreign Policy.

**(U//FOUO) BIE violence has been rare over the past 20 years and there is sparse evidence of an convergence with SCEs who adhere to Moorish beliefs, who have historically engaged in nonviolent fraudulent schemes—including production of fraudulent personal identification documents such as International Motorist Certifications, passports, vehicle titles and registrations, and birth certificates—in support of their claims of sovereignty. In addition,**

(FOREIGN POLICY)

A screenshot of the FBI report.



The FBI should focus on any threat to society, regardless of race, but creating a racialized term for a form of violence that the report admits has been rare over the last 20 years is excessive. The mentality behind the term, however, isn't new. The tone of this recent report pays homage to J. Edgar Hoover's COINTELPRO program that led the FBI to track James Baldwin due to his bitter criticism of the American government's response to violence against the black community.

**The November 6, 1963, issue of the "Washington Daily News," a daily newspaper in Washington, D. C. carried an article concerning a civil rights conference held at Howard University, Washington, D. C., on November 5, 1963. Among those participating at this conference was JAMES BALDWIN concerning whom the article made the following statement "Mr. Baldwin dropped several veiled hints of future trouble. 'I wonder how long we can endure--stand and not fight back,' he said at one point. At another, he said he knew of 'Many...even members of my own family' who would 'think nothing of picking up arms tomorrow.'" The article also states that BALDWIN advocates the use of the general strike as a means to achieve civil rights.**

**The "New York Herald Tribune" of September 29, 1963, contains an article dealing with plans of Negro civil rights leaders to hold mass meetings in New York to mourn the six Negro children killed in Birmingham, Alabama. The article indicates that BALDWIN bitterly criticized the Kennedy Administration and the Federal Bureau of Investigation for their alleged "lack of action" following the bombing of the church in**

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(FBI.GOV)

Screenshot of James Baldwin's COINTELPRO file.

**NY 100-146553**

**Birmingham in which four Negro girls were killed. The article continued "He (Baldwin) said the mass meetings Sunday would serve 'as a warning, but not a threat, that Negroes in America, since the Birmingham atrocities, are dangerously on the edge of violence, violence that could erupt in Birmingham and spread across this Nation.'"**

**On June 30, 1963, the "Miami News," a local Miami, Florida, newspaper reported that a Negro writer who they described as "The angry young man of American literature," James Baldwin, warned that there are a lot of angry young people among his race and their tempers are wearing thin, and that the self-control which Negro integrationists use in their non-violence campaign for equality is reaching the breaking point. The article further reported Baldwin as stating that obstruction to the passage of President Kennedy's civil rights legislation in Congress could well be the spark to touch off widespread rioting.**

**The "Washington Post and Times Herald" of September 27, 1963, contained an Associated Press article dated New York September 25th which states that Baldwin termed the appointment by President Kennedy of Kenneth C. Royall and Earl H. Blaik as peacemakers in Birmingham was "cynical." The article also quoted Baldwin as saying "We must make the establishment afraid of us."**

(FBI.GOV)

A screenshot of James Baldwin's COINTELPRO file.

Considering Trump and Mike Pence's conduct toward NFL players protesting American systematic racism, this administration's unflinching dedication to rolling back Obama's efforts toward criminal justice reform (frankly, rolling back Obama's legacy as a whole), and Trump's praise for white supremacists as "very fine people." it's likely Trump favors an authoritarian regime that stomps out any black-led resistance, much to his base's delight.

Terms like "Black Identity Extremist" are intended to create a false equivalence to the systematic racism that plagues and traumatizes the black community. It's the law enforcement version of "reverse racism," and it's a logical extension to Trump's racist, fact-allergic administration that doesn't seek criminal justice reform but calls for ESPN to fire a black woman journalist for calling out its white supremacist leanings, and then rails against her while ignoring yet another white supremacist gathering in Charlottesville.

Trump's administration focuses more on "black identity extremism" than the extreme conditions that, if unchecked, will only serve to provoke the violence the FBI fears, because it considers any

form of black anger toward injustice extreme. Meanwhile, white supremacy gets a pass, along with the most powerful positions in government.

## The FBI New Fantasy: 'Black Identity Extremists'

The FBI has conjured up a new domestic terrorism movement that does not exist.

Andrew Cohen

October 11, 2017

*The views expressed are the author's own and not necessarily those of the Brennan Center for Justice.*

The history of the FBI is the history of surveillance and intimidation of black Americans that frequently goes beyond legitimate law enforcement into paranoia, racism, and political expediency.

This was true almost 50 years ago, when J. Edgar Hoover sent his loyal line officers into black communities to try to gin up evidence designed to convince one president after another that the civil rights movement was some sort of communist plot. It was true in the 1970s when the feds hounded those whom they perceived to be black separatists. And it is true today now that we know the FBI is promoting the hoary idea that something called “black identity extremists” pose a dangerous domestic terror threat, particularly to police officers.

*Foreign Policy* broke the news this weekend of an internal report, leaked to reporters of the respected journal, in which the FBI “assesses it is very likely that Black Identity Extremists (BIE) perceptions of police brutality against African Americans spurred an increase in premeditated, retaliatory lethal violence against law enforcement and will likely serve as justifications for such violence.” There has been a “resurgence,” the FBI wants us to believe, “in ideologically motivated, violent criminal activity within the BIE movement.”

Except there is no “BIE movement,” but in the fertile mind of those within the Trump administration who want you to believe there is some sinister black force out there bent on attacking police officers. No journalists or academics have discovered and chronicled such a movement or its leaders. No such leaders have come forward to say they are part of such a movement. No one has killed a cop in the name of such a movement. The only citations to the movement, the *Foreign Policy* piece tells us, come from internal law enforcement writings made over the past two months.

The same two months that followed the white supremacist rally in Charlottesville, Virginia. The same two months in which it has become clear the extent to which the Trump administration gives aid and comfort to white supremacists. The feds have invented a title — BIE — and linked it to a handful of episodes of violence against the

police and now claim they've discovered a domestic terrorism movement. A cynic might say that the Trump administration, for its own political purposes, has manufactured the whole thing to make white Americans fearful of some new race war.

In this sense, the report is the FBI's version of the cynical "war on cops" argument that President Trump, Attorney General Jeff Sessions, and police union officials have been pitching as policy to justify ending even the modest judicial reforms implemented by the Obama administration. But there is no viable "war on cops," either, except in the minds of a few lone killers, like the gunman who slew six police officers in Dallas in July 2016. The truth is that fatal shootings of police officers by black or white suspects is down 20 percent this year from last.

The tactic here is almost diabolical. To deflect legitimate criticism of police tactics, to undermine a legitimate protest movement that has emerged in the past three years to protest police brutality, the FBI has tarred the dissenters as domestic terrorists; an organized group with a criminal ideology that are a threat to police officers. Martin Luther King was not a Communist no matter how hard the duplicitous Hoover wished it to be. And the Black Lives Matter movement is not a domestic terrorist movement no matter how hard Donald Trump and Jeff Sessions wish it so.

What exactly is the ideology of this non-existent "Black Identity Extremist" movement? And who exactly are the members of it? Do you become a member of the BIE if you believe that police brutality continues is a significant problem hindering criminal justice? Do you become a member of the BIE if you believe that the police too often avoid accountability for the use of excessive force on unarmed black civilians? Does the FBI consider every member of the "Black Lives Matter" movement, which *is* real, a member of the BIE, which is not?

There is no room in law enforcement for alternative facts. There is no room in law enforcement for chasing ghosts. The FBI has a problem of extremism in this country and in the ranks of law enforcement. And it has nothing to do with black "terrorists" targeting police officers. The feds have worried for years about white supremacists infiltrating police departments and yet they appear to have been unable to do much about it. And the Trump administration knows it has a problem of white supremacist violence even as its tribunes coddle white supremacists.

The final word here belongs to James Comey, the FBI Director Trump fired in May. In February 2015, in a speech at Georgetown University, Comey spoke about the FBI's ugly, racist legacy. He said:

The Irish had tough times, but little compares to the experience on our soil of black Americans. That experience should be part of every American's consciousness, and law enforcement's role in that experience — including in recent times — must be remembered. It is our cultural inheritance.

There is a reason that I require all new agents and analysts to study the FBI's interaction with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and to visit his memorial in Washington as part of their training. And there is a reason I keep on my desk a copy of Attorney General Robert Kennedy's approval of J. Edgar Hoover's request to wiretap Dr. King. It is a single page. The entire application is five sentences long, it is without fact or substance, and is predicated on the naked assertion that there is "communist influence in the racial situation." The reason I do those things is to ensure that we remember our mistakes and that we learn from them.

This BIE nonsense is a reminder that the FBI has not learned from its past mistakes. Yet another generation of black Americans is destined to be the targets of unwarranted surveillance and harassment. And those of us who had hoped that the FBI had finally achieved a measure of reform will sadly watch it further divide an already fractured nation.

# FBI terrorism unit says 'black identity extremists' pose a violent threat

Leaked report, citing concerns of retaliation over 'perceptions of police brutality against African Americans', prompts fears of crackdown on activists

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The US government has declared "black identity extremists" a violent threat, according to a leaked report from the FBI's counter-terrorism division.

The assessment, obtained by Foreign Policy, has raised fears about federal authorities racially profiling activists and aggressively prosecuting civil rights protesters.

The report, dated August 2017 and compiled by the Domestic Terrorism Analysis Unit, said: "The FBI assesses it is very likely Black Identity Extremist (BIE) perceptions of police brutality against African Americans spurred an increase in premeditated, retaliatory lethal violence against law enforcement and will very likely serve as justification for such violence." Incidents of "alleged police abuse" have "continued to feed the resurgence in ideologically motivated, violent criminal activity within the BIE movement".

The FBI's dedicated surveillance of black activists follows a long history of the US government aggressively monitoring protest movements and working to disrupt civil rights groups, but the scrutiny of African Americans by a domestic terrorism unit was particularly alarming to some free speech campaigners.

"When we talk about enemies of the state and terrorists, with that comes an automatic stripping of those people's rights to speak and protest," said Mohammad Tajsar, staff attorney with the American Civil Liberties Union. "It marginalizes what are legitimate voices within the political debate that are calling for racial and economic justice."

The document has emerged at a time of growing concerns about Donald Trump's links to the far right and white nationalists, and increasing anxieties about his administration's efforts to further criminalize communities of color and shield police from scrutiny. Anti-Trump protesters and Black Lives Matter activists have continued to face harsh prosecutions and close federal monitoring.

The FBI did not immediately respond to the Guardian's request for comment on Friday, but defended its tracking of "black identity extremists" in a statement to Foreign Policy, claiming the "FBI cannot initiate an investigation based solely on an individual's race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, or the exercise of First Amendment rights".

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The FBI's report noted specific cases of recent violence against police, most notably Micah Johnson, a 25-year-old shooter in Dallas who killed five officers and said he was targeting white people and law enforcement. Black Lives Matter – a movement protesting the disproportionate killings of black citizens by police in the US – had no ties to Johnson or other targeted killings of police and has condemned those shootings.

The number of police officers killed on the job also remains a fraction of the number of citizens killed by officers each year, and statistics suggest that more white offenders than black offenders kill officers.

The new FBI report said “BIE violence” peaked in the 1960s and 1970s “in response to changing socioeconomic attitudes and treatment of blacks”, adding that possible indicators today for “BIEs posing a violent threat to law enforcement” include “violent anti-white rhetoric” and “attempts to acquire illegal weapons or explosives”. BIE appears to be a very new term within law enforcement, Foreign Policy noted.

Elsa Waithe, a comedian and activist with Black Lives Matter, said she feared the FBI's classification could deter people from joining protests and further “criminalize anyone who is already in the movement”.

She noted that she often wears a “black power” button and could easily see the FBI labeling her as a threat as a result: “The term ‘black identity extremist’ is so vague on purpose ... If I wanted to do a picnic for black folks, is this now some sort of terrorist activity?”

But law enforcement threats would not discourage her, she said. “This changes nothing. For some people, this means we fight harder.”

Some reports have suggested that the Trump administration has also pushed to focus counter-terrorism efforts solely on Islamist extremism and no longer target white supremacist groups. The president further faced significant backlash in August for saying there were “very fine people” on both sides of a neo-Nazi rally where a civil rights activist was killed by an alleged white nationalist.

## Advertisement

The FBI document seemed to be aligned with far-right figures who have increasingly called Black Lives Matter a terrorist group, some comparing it to the Ku Klux Klan, noted Tajsar.

DeRay Mckesson, a prominent Black Lives Matter activist, likened the “black identity extremist” monitoring to the FBI's highly controversial domestic counterintelligence program known as Cointelpro, which was used to target political groups and activists like the NAACP, Martin Luther King Jr, socialist and communist groups and anti-war protesters.

“We knew that we were likely being watched,” said Mckesson, who has spoken out about being monitored by the US government and FBI. “This is confirmation that the work of social justice continues to threaten those in power.”



# **FBI Says 'Black Identity Extremists' Are A Violent Threat Because of Their Views on Police Brutality**

By Jack Moore On 10/7/17 at 1:29 PM

The FBI has declared internally that "black identity extremists" are a violent threat because of their views about police brutality toward African-Americans, according to a leaked document.

The August report, obtained by *Foreign Policy Magazine*, is from the agency's Domestic Terrorism Analysis Unit appears to point to the FBI monitoring black rights activists, from movements such as Black Lives Matter, because of the perceived threat they pose to law enforcement personnel. It appears to be the first publicized mention of the term "black identity extremists" as an apparent movement from an official U.S. body.

"The FBI assesses it is very likely Black Identity Extremist (BIE) perceptions of police brutality against African Americans spurred an increase in premeditated, retaliatory lethal violence against law enforcement and will very likely serve as justification for such violence," it reads.

"The FBI assesses it is very likely incidents of alleged police abuse against African Americans since then have continued to feed the resurgence in ideologically motivated, violent criminal activity within the BIE movement," it continues.

The agency defended its decision to classify black rights activists as extremists and a threat in a statement to the magazine. "FBI cannot initiate an investigation based solely on an individual's race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, or the exercise of First Amendment rights," it said.

The protest movement has grown in light of a series of high-profile police shootings, in particular, Michael Brown's killing in August 2014 in Ferguson, Missouri.

The report cites one particular example of "black identity extremist" violence, the shooting of 11 police officers in Dallas, Texas, in July 2016 by Micah Johnson.

"Based on Johnson's journal writings and statements to police, he appeared to have been influenced by BIE ideology," the FBI report said. It goes to say that it expects further such attacks in retaliation for grievances over perceived police brutality.

"The FBI further assesses it is very likely additional controversial police shootings of African Americans and the associated legal proceedings will continue to serve as drivers for violence against law enforcement," the report said.

Police face off with demonstrators as protests continue in the wake of 18-year-old Michael Brown's death on October 22, 2014 in Ferguson, Missouri. Scott Olson/Getty

As left-wing protests have grown, so has far-right sentiment, becoming more prominent since the inauguration of President Donald Trump. It culminated in a violent series of events in Charlottesville, Virginia, where neo-Nazis marched and a white nationalist subsequently ran down and killed a left-wing counter-protester with his car.

The report is dated August 3, just over a week before the white supremacist rally.

Black Lives Matter activists appeared regularly at Trump's campaign rallies in the build-up to the 2016 presidential election. The president made it clear that he would back law enforcement and battle the protests against police brutality.

"The Trump Administration will be a law and order administration," reads a page on the White House website titled "Standing Up for Our Law Enforcement Community."

It said that “President Trump will honor our men and women in uniform and will support their mission of protecting the public. The dangerous anti-police atmosphere in America is wrong. The Trump Administration will end it.”

So far in 2017, 748 people have been shot and killed by U.S. police, 168 of them African-Americans, according to the *Washington Post's* Fatal Force tracker.

[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 11, 2017 1:57 PM  
**To:** Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI)  
**Cc:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (CTD) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted]  
[redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** RE: [redacted] BIE Inquiry

b6  
b7C  
b7E  
b5

Sir,

Could you take a look at this language when you have a moment? [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Best,

[redacted]

-----Original Message-----

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 11, 2017 1:18 PM  
**To:** Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (CTD) (FBI); [redacted] (DO)  
(FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: [redacted] BIE Inquiry

If you could send those on FBI net that would be great.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 11, 2017 11:20 AM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (CTD) (FBI); [redacted] (DO)  
(FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: [redacted] BIE Inquiry

b6  
b7C  
b7E

I can share some internal talking points prepared for the DD and the DAG, via red-side.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 11, 2017 11:18 AM  
**To:** Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI); [redacted]

Cc: [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (CTD) (FBI) [redacted] (DO)  
(FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]  
Subject: FW: [redacted] BIE Inquiry

Hello,

Would it be possible to speak with you for a few minutes to get a better understanding of how and why the name changed? If any talking points have been developed for this it would be good to see those as well.

b6  
b7C  
b7E

If members of the Black Caucus talk about the issue we may have to provide some sort of response.

[redacted] is out of the office this morning but UC [redacted] and I are here.

Thank you.

[redacted]  
FBI National Press Office  
[redacted]

-----Original Message-----

From: [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
Sent: Wednesday, October 11, 2017 9:30 AM  
To: [redacted] (SECD) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]  
Cc: Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (DO)  
(FBI) [redacted]  
Subject: RE: [redacted] BIE Inquiry

Thanks, [redacted] I appreciate the heads-up. The coverage of the assessment has been unfortunate and most of the media have taken the information out of context.

We will await any update from you but will start considering if we need to issue a statement.

Adding [redacted] and [redacted]

[redacted]  
National Press Office  
FBI Office of Public Affairs

b6  
b7C  
b7E

[redacted] office  
[redacted] mobile

-----Original Message-----

From: [redacted] (SECD) (FBI)  
Sent: Wednesday, October 11, 2017 9:14 AM  
To: [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]  
Cc: Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI) [redacted]  
Subject: [redacted] BIE Inquiry

[redacted] and [redacted]

[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 11, 2017 2:28 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (CTD) (FBI); Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI)  
**Cc:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** RE: [redacted] BIE Inquiry

b6  
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We'd like to see what you suggest and we'll discuss it with AD Kortan. I think he would like us to be well informed here at OPA but provide only a fairly short statement to the media. At any rate, we'll definitely hang tight until we hear back from you.

[redacted]

**From:** [redacted] (CTD) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 11, 2017 2:24 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** RE: [redacted] BIE Inquiry

Hi [redacted] I'm actually in the process of getting some more detailed language on the change to BIE approved for you guys to use. Can you hang tight until later today?

Thanks,

[redacted]

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 11, 2017 1:57 PM  
**To:** Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (CTD) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** RE: [redacted] BIE Inquiry

b6  
b7C  
b7E  
b5

Sir,

Could you take a look at this language when you have a moment?

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Best,

[redacted]

-----Original Message-----

From: [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
Sent: Wednesday, October 11, 2017 1:18 PM  
To: Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI) [redacted]  
Cc: [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (CTD) (FBI) [redacted] (DO)  
(FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]  
Subject: RE: [redacted] BIE Inquiry

If you could send those on FBI net that would be great.

b6  
b7C  
b7E

-----Original Message-----

From: Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI)  
Sent: Wednesday, October 11, 2017 11:20 AM  
To: [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]  
Cc: [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (CTD) (FBI) [redacted] (DO)  
(FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]  
Subject: RE: [redacted] BIE Inquiry

I can share some internal talking points prepared for the DD and the DAG, via red-side.

-----Original Message-----

From: [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
Sent: Wednesday, October 11, 2017 11:18 AM  
To: Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI) [redacted]  
Cc: [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (CTD) (FBI) [redacted] (DO)  
(FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]  
Subject: FW: [redacted] BIE Inquiry

Hello,

Would it be possible to speak with you for a few minutes to get a better understanding of how and why the name changed? If any talking points have been developed for this it would be good to see those as well.

If members of the Black Caucus talk about the issue we may have to provide some sort of response.

[redacted] is out of the office this morning but UC [redacted] and I are here.

Thank you.

[redacted]  
FBI National Press Office  
[redacted]

b6  
b7C  
b7E

-----Original Message-----

From: [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
Sent: Wednesday, October 11, 2017 9:30 AM  
To: [redacted] (SECD) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]  
Cc: Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (DO)  
(FBI) [redacted]  
Subject: RE: [redacted] BIE Inquiry

Thanks [redacted] I appreciate the heads-up. The coverage of the assessment has been unfortunate and most of the media have taken the information out of context.

b6  
b7C

We will await any update from you but will start considering if we need to issue a statement.

Adding [redacted] and [redacted]

[redacted]

National Press Office  
FBI Office of Public Affairs

[redacted] office  
[redacted] mobile

-----Original Message-----

From: [redacted] (SECD) (FBI)  
Sent: Wednesday, October 11, 2017 9:14 AM  
To: [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted]  
Cc: Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI); [redacted]  
Subject: [redacted] BIE Inquiry

[redacted] and [redacted]

I received a call from the National Association of Black Law Enforcement (NOBLE) regarding the August 3, 2017 intelligence assessment titled "Black Identity Extremists Likely Motivated to Target LE Officers". I bring this to your attention for a couple of reasons:

1. NOBLE [redacted] received multiple media inquiries on this report over the weekend. He is scheduled to meet with the Congressional Black Caucus where he expects this report to be discussed.
2. There is likely to be additional inquiries to the FBI and wanted to make OPA aware.

b6  
b7C  
b7E

OPE has reached out to SC Michael Paul for additional guidance on this inquiry. We will keep you in the loop.

Thanks

[redacted]

SSA [redacted]  
[redacted] Strategic Engagement Unit (SEU) FBI – Office of Partner Engagement  
Mobile: [redacted]



[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 11, 2017 3:59 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (CTD) (FBI)  
**Subject:** RE: [redacted] BIE Inquiry

Sorry for the reboot on all of this. I was out of the office this morning.....

b6  
b7C  
b7E

**From:** [redacted] (CTD) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 11, 2017 2:24 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO)  
(FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: [redacted] BIE Inquiry

Hi [redacted] I'm actually in the process of getting some more detailed language on the change to BIE approved for you guys to use. Can you hang tight until later today?

Thanks,

[redacted]

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 11, 2017 1:57 PM  
**To:** Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (CTD) (FBI); [redacted] (DO)  
(FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: [redacted] BIE Inquiry

Sir,

Could you take a look at this language when you have a moment?

[redacted]

[redacted]

[Large redacted block]

b6  
b7C  
b7E  
b5

Best,

[redacted]

-----Original Message-----

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 11, 2017 1:18 PM  
**To:** Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (CTD) (FBI); [redacted] (DO)

(FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]  
Subject: RE [redacted] BIE Inquiry

If you could send those on FBI net that would be great.

-----Original Message-----

From: Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI)  
Sent: Wednesday, October 11, 2017 11:20 AM  
To: [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]  
Cc: [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (CTD) (FBI) [redacted] (DO)  
(FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]  
Subject: RE [redacted] BIE Inquiry

b6  
b7C  
b7E

I can share some internal talking points prepared for the DD and the DAG, via red-side.

-----Original Message-----

From: [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
Sent: Wednesday, October 11, 2017 11:18 AM  
To: Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI) [redacted]  
Cc: [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (CTD) (FBI) [redacted] (DO)  
(FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]  
Subject: FW: [redacted] BIE Inquiry

Hello,

Would it be possible to speak with you for a few minutes to get a better understanding of how and why the name changed? If any talking points have been developed for this it would be good to see those as well.

If members of the Black Caucus talk about the issue we may have to provide some sort of response.

[redacted] is out of the office this morning but UC [redacted] and I are here.

Thank you.

[redacted]  
FBI National Press Office  
[redacted]

b6  
b7C  
b7E

-----Original Message-----

From: [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
Sent: Wednesday, October 11, 2017 9:30 AM  
To: [redacted] (SECD) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]  
Cc: Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (DO)  
(FBI) [redacted]  
Subject: RE [redacted] BIE Inquiry

Thanks [redacted] I appreciate the heads-up. The coverage of the assessment has been unfortunate and most of the media have taken the information out of context.

We will await any update from you but will start considering if we need to issue a statement.

Adding [redacted] and [redacted]

[Redacted]

National Press Office  
FBI Office of Public Affairs

[Redacted]

office  
mobile

-----Original Message-----

From: [Redacted] (SECD) (FBI)

Sent: Wednesday, October 11, 2017 9:14 AM

To: [Redacted] (DO) (FBI) [Redacted] (DO) (FBI) [Redacted]

Cc: Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI) [Redacted]

Subject: [Redacted] BIE Inquiry

b6  
b7C  
b7E

[Redacted] and [Redacted]

I received a call from the National Association of Black Law Enforcement (NOBLE) regarding the August 3, 2017 intelligence assessment titled "Black Identity Extremists Likely Motivated to Target LE Officers". I bring this to your attention for a couple of reasons:

1. NOBLE [Redacted] received multiple media inquiries on this report over the weekend. He is scheduled to meet with the Congressional Black Caucus where he expects this report to be discussed.
2. There is likely to be additional inquiries to the FBI and wanted to make OPA aware.

OPE has reached out to SC Michael Paul for additional guidance on this inquiry. We will keep you in the loop.

Thanks

[Redacted]

SSA [Redacted]

[Redacted] Strategic Engagement Unit (SEU) FBI – Office of Partner Engagement

Mobile: [Redacted]

[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

**From:** [redacted] (CTD) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 11, 2017 4:26 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** RE: [redacted] BIE Inquiry

b6  
b7C  
b7E

No problem. Should I stand down on trying to get some actual responses approved? [redacted] seems to think Kortan wouldn't be supportive of having a more detailed response?

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 11, 2017 3:59 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (CTD) (FBI) [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: [redacted] BIE Inquiry

Sorry for the reboot on all of this. I was out of the office this morning.....

**From:** [redacted] (CTD) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 11, 2017 2:24 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI) [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** RE: [redacted] BIE Inquiry

Hi [redacted] I'm actually in the process of getting some more detailed language on the change to BIE approved for you guys to use. Can you hang tight until later today?

Thanks,  
[redacted]

b6  
b7C  
b7E

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 11, 2017 1:57 PM  
**To:** Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI) [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (CTD) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** RE: [redacted] BIE Inquiry

Sir,

Could you take a look at this language when you have a moment? [redacted]  
[redacted]

[Large redacted block]

Best,

[Redacted]

-----Original Message-----

From: [Redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
Sent: Wednesday, October 11, 2017 1:18 PM  
To: Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI) [Redacted]  
Cc: [Redacted] (DO) (FBI) [Redacted] (CTD) (FBI) [Redacted] (DO) (FBI) [Redacted] (DO) (FBI) [Redacted] (DO) (FBI) [Redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
Subject: RE: [Redacted] BIE Inquiry

b6  
b7C  
b7E

If you could send those on FBI net that would be great.

-----Original Message-----

From: Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI)  
Sent: Wednesday, October 11, 2017 11:20 AM  
To: [Redacted] (DO) (FBI) [Redacted]  
Cc: [Redacted] (DO) (FBI) [Redacted] (CTD) (FBI) [Redacted] (DO) (FBI) [Redacted] (DO) (FBI) [Redacted] (DO) (FBI) [Redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
Subject: RE: [Redacted] BIE Inquiry

I can share some internal talking points prepared for the DD and the DAG, via red-side.

-----Original Message-----

From: [Redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
Sent: Wednesday, October 11, 2017 11:18 AM  
To: Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI) [Redacted]  
Cc: [Redacted] (DO) (FBI) [Redacted] (CTD) (FBI) [Redacted] (DO) (FBI) [Redacted] (DO) (FBI) [Redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
Subject: FW: [Redacted] BIE Inquiry

Hello,

Would it be possible to speak with you for a few minutes to get a better understanding of how and why the name changed? If any talking points have been developed for this it would be good to see those as well.

If members of the Black Caucus talk about the issue we may have to provide some sort of response.

[Redacted] is out of the office this morning but UC [Redacted] and I are here.

b6  
b7C  
b7E

Thank you.

[Redacted]  
FBI National Press Office  
[Redacted]

-----Original Message-----

From: [Redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
Sent: Wednesday, October 11, 2017 9:30 AM  
To: [Redacted] (SECD) (FBI) [Redacted] (DO) (FBI) [Redacted]  
Cc: Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI) [Redacted] (DO) (FBI) [Redacted] (DO) (FBI) [Redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
Subject: RE: [Redacted] BIE Inquiry

[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

---

**From:** [redacted] (NY) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 11, 2017 4:30 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (DL) (FBI)  
**Cc:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** RE: Have you ever seen this before

b6  
b7C

[redacted] and [redacted]

I know you've been dealing with the BIE matter. ....do we have a statement we can share with [redacted] or would we rather that reporters come to us at NPO?

Thank you,

SSA [redacted]  
FBI National Press Office  
Desk - [redacted]  
[redacted]

**From:** [redacted] (DL) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 11, 2017 4:22 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (NY) (FBI) [redacted]  
**Subject:** FW: Have you ever seen this before

Hi [redacted]

Any guidance on how to handle the below request (related to that leaked document re Black Identity Extremists)? My thought is just to refer him to the National Press Office.

Thanks,

[redacted]

[redacted]

FBI Dallas Division  
Desk: [redacted]  
Email: [redacted]  
Follow us on Twitter @FBIDallas

b6  
b7C

**From:** Mitchell, Mitch [redacted]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 11, 2017 3:18 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (DL) (FBI) [redacted]  
**Subject:** Have you ever seen this before

Hello [redacted]

My name is Mitch Mitchell and I am a staff writer at the Fort Worth Star-Telegram.

I've come across this document that I am trying to find out about and wondered if you could help me.

It has an intelligence assessment subhead and claims to have been originated by the FBI. It is titled Black Identity Extremists Likely Motivated to Target Law Enforcement Officers.

My initial question is -- Was this document actually generated by someone who works with, for or was employed by the FBI or the federal government?

If so I have some other questions I'd like to ask.

If not, I'm wondering if anyone at the FBI has been asked about this before and does anyone at the FBI have any idea about the document's origin?

I am attaching the document to this email.

Thanks for whatever assistance with this that you might be able to provide.

Please see attached:

Mitch Mitchell  
staff writer, Fort Worth Star-Telegram

(office)  
 (cell)  
 (fax)

[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 11, 2017 4:33 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (CTD) (FBI)  
**Subject:** RE: [redacted] BIE Inquiry

b6  
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Please continue to try to get responses approved. The statement will only suffice for so long.....

**From:** [redacted] (CTD) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 11, 2017 4:26 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: [redacted] BIE Inquiry

No problem. Should I stand down on trying to get some actual responses approved? [redacted] seems to think Kortan wouldn't be supportive of having a more detailed response?

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 11, 2017 3:59 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (CTD) (FBI) [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: [redacted] BIE Inquiry

Sorry for the reboot on all of this. I was out of the office this morning.....

**From:** [redacted] (CTD) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 11, 2017 2:24 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI) [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** RE: [redacted] BIE Inquiry

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Hi [redacted] I'm actually in the process of getting some more detailed language on the change to BIE approved for you guys to use. Can you hang tight until later today?

Thanks,

[redacted]

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 11, 2017 1:57 PM  
**To:** Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI) [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (CTD) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** RE: [redacted] BIE Inquiry

Sir,

Could you take a look at this language when you have a moment? [redacted]

[redacted]



[Redacted]

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b5

Best,

[Redacted]

-----Original Message-----

From: [Redacted] (DO) (FBI)

Sent: Wednesday, October 11, 2017 1:18 PM

To: Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI) [Redacted]

Cc: [Redacted] (DO) (FBI) [Redacted] (CTD) (FBI) [Redacted] (DO) (FBI) [Redacted] (DO) (FBI) [Redacted] (DO) (FBI) [Redacted]

Subject: RE: [Redacted] BIE Inquiry

If you could send those on FBI net that would be great.

-----Original Message-----

From: Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI)

Sent: Wednesday, October 11, 2017 11:20 AM

To: [Redacted] (DO) (FBI) [Redacted]

Cc: [Redacted] (DO) (FBI) [Redacted] (CTD) (FBI) [Redacted] (DO) (FBI) [Redacted] (DO) (FBI) [Redacted]

Subject: RE: [Redacted] BIE Inquiry

I can share some internal talking points prepared for the DD and the DAG, via red-side.

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b7E

-----Original Message-----

From: [Redacted] (DO) (FBI)

Sent: Wednesday, October 11, 2017 11:18 AM

To: Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI) [Redacted]

Cc: [Redacted] (DO) (FBI) [Redacted] (CTD) (FBI) [Redacted] (DO) (FBI) [Redacted] (DO) (FBI) [Redacted]

Subject: FW: [Redacted] BIE Inquiry

Hello,

Would it be possible to speak with you for a few minutes to get a better understanding of how and why the name changed? If any talking points have been developed for this it would be good to see those as well.

If members of the Black Caucus talk about the issue we may have to provide some sort of response.

[Redacted] is out of the office this morning but UC [Redacted] and I are here.

Thank you.

[Redacted]

FBI National Press Office

[Redacted]

-----Original Message-----

From: [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
Sent: Wednesday, October 11, 2017 9:30 AM  
To: [redacted] (SECD) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]  
Cc: Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]  
Subject: RE: [redacted] BIE Inquiry

Thanks, [redacted] I appreciate the heads-up. The coverage of the assessment has been unfortunate and most of the media have taken the information out of context.

We will await any update from you but will start considering if we need to issue a statement.

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Adding [redacted] and [redacted]

[redacted]

National Press Office  
FBI Office of Public Affairs

[redacted] office  
[redacted] mobile

-----Original Message-----

From: [redacted] (SECD) (FBI)  
Sent: Wednesday, October 11, 2017 9:14 AM  
To: [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]  
Cc: Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI) [redacted]  
Subject: [redacted] BIE Inquiry

[redacted] and [redacted]

I received a call from the National Association of Black Law Enforcement (NOBLE) regarding the August 3, 2017 intelligence assessment titled "Black Identity Extremists Likely Motivated to Target LE Officers". I bring this to your attention for a couple of reasons:

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1. NOBLE [redacted] received multiple media inquiries on this report over the weekend. He is scheduled to meet with the Congressional Black Caucus where he expects this report to be discussed.
2. There is likely to be additional inquiries to the FBI and wanted to make OPA aware.

OPE has reached out to SC Michael Paul for additional guidance on this inquiry. We will keep you in the loop.

Thanks

[redacted]

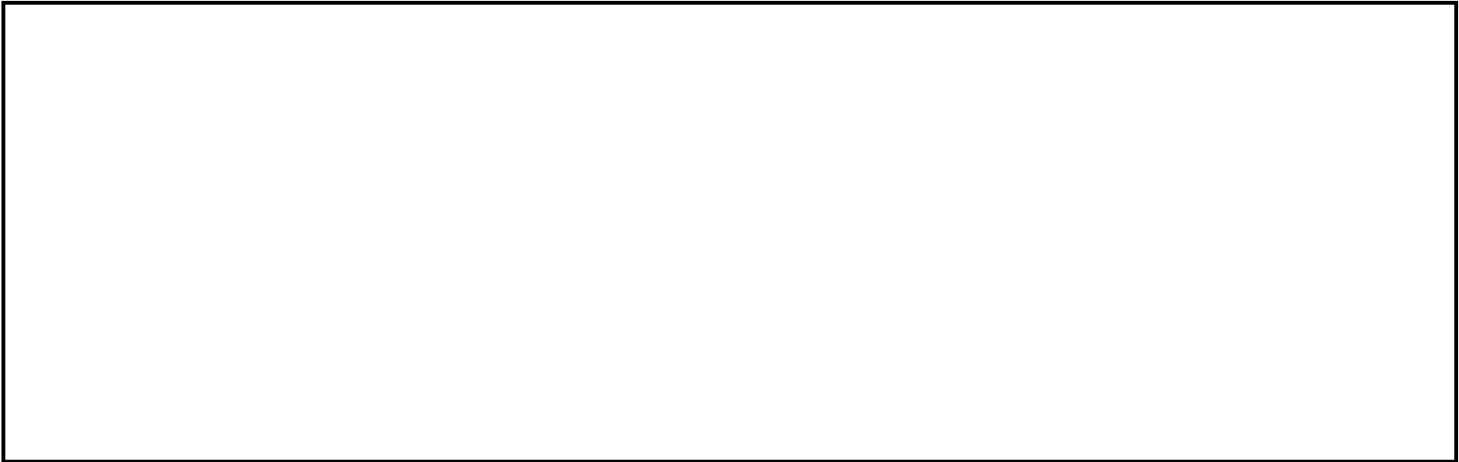
SSA [redacted]  
[redacted] Strategic Engagement Unit (SEU) FBI – Office of Partner Engagement  
Mobile: [redacted]

[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

**From:** [redacted] (CTD) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 11, 2017 6:15 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** RE: [redacted] BIE Inquiry

b6  
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Hey, just wanted to go ahead and shoot this over to you. This was approved by the AD, just waiting for one more DAD to approve. This is very bu-speak so I assume we will want to press-ify it?



**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 11, 2017 4:34 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (CTD) (FBI) [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: [redacted] BIE Inquiry

Please continue to try to get responses approved. The statement will only suffice for so long.....

**From:** [redacted] (CTD) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 11, 2017 4:26 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: [redacted] BIE Inquiry

b6  
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No problem. Should I stand down on trying to get some actual responses approved? [redacted] seems to think Kortan wouldn't be supportive of having a more detailed response?

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 11, 2017 3:59 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (CTD) (FBI) [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: [redacted] BIE Inquiry

Sorry for the reboot on all of this. I was out of the office this morning.....

**From:** [redacted] (CTD) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 11, 2017 2:24 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI) [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (DO)

(FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]

Subject: RE: [redacted] BIE Inquiry

Hi [redacted] I'm actually in the process of getting some more detailed language on the change to BIE approved for you guys to use. Can you hang tight until later today?

Thanks,

[redacted]

b6  
b7C  
b7E

From: [redacted] (DO) (FBI)

Sent: Wednesday, October 11, 2017 1:57 PM

To: Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI) [redacted]

Cc: [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (CTD) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]

Subject: RE: [redacted] BIE Inquiry

Sir,

Could you take a look at this language when you have a moment? [redacted]

[redacted]

[Large redacted block]

Best,

[redacted]

b6  
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b7E

-----Original Message-----

From: [redacted] (DO) (FBI)

Sent: Wednesday, October 11, 2017 1:18 PM

To: Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI) [redacted]

Cc: [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (CTD) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]

Subject: RE: [redacted] BIE Inquiry

If you could send those on FBI net that would be great.

-----Original Message-----

From: Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI)

Sent: Wednesday, October 11, 2017 11:20 AM

To: [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]

Cc: [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (CTD) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]

Subject: RE: [redacted] BIE Inquiry

I can share some internal talking points prepared for the DD and the DAG, via red-side.

-----Original Message-----

From: [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
Sent: Wednesday, October 11, 2017 11:18 AM  
To: Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI) [redacted]  
Cc: [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (CTD) (FBI) [redacted] (DO)  
(FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]  
Subject: FW: [redacted] BIE Inquiry

b6  
b7C  
b7E

Hello,

Would it be possible to speak with you for a few minutes to get a better understanding of how and why the name changed? If any talking points have been developed for this it would be good to see those as well.

If members of the Black Caucus talk about the issue we may have to provide some sort of response.

[redacted] is out of the office this morning but UC [redacted] and I are here.

Thank you.

[redacted]  
FBI National Press Office  
[redacted]

-----Original Message-----

From: [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
Sent: Wednesday, October 11, 2017 9:30 AM  
To: [redacted] (SECD) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]  
Cc: Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (DO)  
(FBI) [redacted]  
Subject: RE: [redacted] BIE Inquiry

Thanks, [redacted] I appreciate the heads-up. The coverage of the assessment has been unfortunate and most of the media have taken the information out of context.

We will await any update from you but will start considering if we need to issue a statement.

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Adding [redacted] and [redacted]

[redacted]  
National Press Office  
FBI Office of Public Affairs

[redacted] office  
[redacted] mobile

-----Original Message-----

From: [redacted] (SECD) (FBI)  
Sent: Wednesday, October 11, 2017 9:14 AM  
To: [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]  
Cc: Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI) [redacted]  
Subject: [redacted] BIE Inquiry

[redacted] and [redacted]

I received a call from the National Association of Black Law Enforcement (NOBLE) regarding the August 3, 2017 intelligence assessment titled "Black Identity Extremists Likely Motivated to Target LE Officers". I bring this to your attention for a couple of reasons:

1. NOBLE [redacted] received multiple media inquiries on this report over the weekend. He is scheduled to meet with the Congressional Black Caucus where he expects this report to be discussed.
2. There is likely to be additional inquiries to the FBI and wanted to make OPA aware.

OPE has reached out to SC Michael Paul for additional guidance on this inquiry. We will keep you in the loop.

Thanks

[redacted]

SSA [redacted]

[redacted] Strategic Engagement Unit (SEU) FBI – Office of Partner Engagement

Mobile: [redacted]

[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

**From:** [redacted] (SECD) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 12, 2017 8:41 AM  
**To:** Murphy, Brian J. (OPE) (FBI); Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI);  
[redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); Thorley, Charles A. (DO) (FBI)  
**Cc:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (CTD) (FBI); [redacted] (OPE) (FBI);  
[redacted] (OIO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** RE: [redacted] BIE Inquiry

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All,  
The call with the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement (NOBLE) is scheduled for today at 1000 hrs EST time.  
The call in number is as follows:

• [redacted]  
• [redacted]

We are scheduling a pre-call coordination meeting at 0930 hrs on the 11th floor, room, 11189.

Please let me know if you have any questions

Thanks

[redacted]

SSA [redacted]  
[redacted] Strategic Engagement Unit (SEU) FBI – Office of Partner Engagement  
Mobile: [redacted]

b6  
b7C  
b7E

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Murphy, Brian J. (OPE) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 11, 2017 4:44 PM  
**To:** Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI); [redacted] (SECD) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI);  
[redacted] Thorley, Charles A. (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Cc:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (CTD) (FBI); [redacted] (OPE) (FBI); [redacted] (OIO) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: [redacted] BIE Inquiry

Folks

We are confirming with NOBLE, but it will likely be at 10am tomorrow. The bu team should plan on getting on the call in number 30 min prior. We will provide the dial in info.

Section Chief  
Office of Partner Engagement  
Brian Murphy  
O [redacted]  
C [redacted]

-----Original Message-----

From: Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI)  
Sent: Wednesday, October 11, 2017 4:38 PM  
To: [REDACTED] (SECD) (FBI) [REDACTED] (DO) (FBI) [REDACTED] Murphy, Brian J. (OPE) (FBI) [REDACTED] (DO) (FBI) [REDACTED] Thorley, Charles A. (DO) (FBI) [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED] (DO) (FBI) [REDACTED] (CTD) (FBI) [REDACTED] (OPE) (FBI) [REDACTED] (OIO) (FBI) [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: [REDACTED] BIE Inquiry

b6  
b7C  
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I should be done by 5:30pm. I could also do 9am.

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED] (SECD) (FBI)  
Sent: Wednesday, October 11, 2017 4:36 PM  
To: [REDACTED] (DO) (FBI) [REDACTED] Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI) [REDACTED] Murphy, Brian J. (OPE) (FBI) [REDACTED] (DO) (FBI) [REDACTED] Thorley, Charles A. (DO) (FBI) [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED] (DO) (FBI) [REDACTED] (CTD) (FBI) [REDACTED] (OPE) (FBI) [REDACTED] (OIO) (FBI) [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: [REDACTED] BIE Inquiry

All,  
Thanks for the quick turnaround. Let me reach out to NOBLE and identify the best time for this call. How long is your 5:00 pm call today?

If not today, what about 9:00 am tomorrow morning?

I will set up the call and provide the dial in number

Thanks

[REDACTED]

SSA [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Strategic Engagement Unit (SEU) FBI – Office of Partner Engagement  
Mobile: [REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED] (DO) (FBI)  
Sent: Wednesday, October 11, 2017 4:34 PM  
To: Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI) [REDACTED] Murphy, Brian J. (OPE) (FBI) [REDACTED] [REDACTED] (SECD) (FBI) [REDACTED] (DO) (FBI) [REDACTED] (DO) (FBI) [REDACTED] Thorley, Charles A. (DO) (FBI) [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED] (DO) (FBI) [REDACTED] (CTD) (FBI) [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: [REDACTED] BIE Inquiry

b6  
b7C  
b7E

Do you have time to jump on a quick call before your 5p?

-----Original Message-----

From: Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI)  
Sent: Wednesday, October 11, 2017 4:25 PM  
To: Murphy, Brian J. (OPE) (FBI) [REDACTED] (DO) (FBI) [REDACTED] [REDACTED] (SECD) (FBI) [REDACTED] (DO) (FBI) [REDACTED] (DO) (FBI) [REDACTED] Thorley, Charles A. (DO) (FBI) [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED] (DO) (FBI) [REDACTED] (CTD) (FBI) [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: [REDACTED] BIE Inquiry

Yes. I have concurrence. I can do the call this evening. Let me know when is a good time. I have another call at 5pm.



-----Original Message-----

From: Murphy, Brian J. (OPE) (FBI)

Sent: Wednesday, October 11, 2017 2:55 PM

To: [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (SECD) (FBI) [redacted]  
[redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] Thorley, Charles A. (DO) (FBI)  
[redacted]  
Cc: Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]  
Subject: RE: [redacted] BIE Inquiry

Michael

b6  
b7C  
b7E

Any decision on this? We are hitting a potential tipping point.

Section Chief  
Office of Partner Engagement  
Brian Murphy

O [redacted]  
C [redacted]

-----Original Message-----

From: [redacted] (DO) (FBI)

Sent: Wednesday, October 11, 2017 10:56 AM

To: [redacted] (SECD) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]  
[redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] Thorley, Charles A. (DO) (FBI) [redacted] Murphy, Brian J. (OPE)  
(FBI) [redacted]  
Cc: Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]  
Subject: RE: [redacted] BIE Inquiry

Adding Chad and Brian.

-----Original Message-----

From: [redacted] (SECD) (FBI)

Sent: Wednesday, October 11, 2017 9:38 AM

To: [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]  
Cc: Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]  
(DO) (FBI) [redacted]  
Subject: RE: [redacted] BIE Inquiry

Copy,  
Thanks very much

b6  
b7C  
b7E

Will keep you updated

SSA [redacted]  
[redacted] Strategic Engagement Unit (SEU) FBI – Office of Partner Engagement  
Mobile: [redacted]

-----Original Message-----

From: [redacted] (DO) (FBI)

Sent: Wednesday, October 11, 2017 9:30 AM

To: [redacted] (SECD) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]  
Cc: Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]  
(DO) (FBI) [redacted]  
Subject: RE: [redacted] BIE Inquiry

Thanks [redacted] I appreciate the heads-up. The coverage of the assessment has been unfortunate and most of the media have taken the information out of context.

We will await any update from you but will start considering if we need to issue a statement.

Adding [redacted] and [redacted]

[redacted]

National Press Office  
FBI Office of Public Affairs

b6  
b7C  
b7E

[redacted] office  
[redacted] mobile

-----Original Message-----

From: [redacted] (SECD) (FBI)  
Sent: Wednesday, October 11, 2017 9:14 AM  
To: [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted]  
Cc: Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI); [redacted]  
Subject: [redacted] BIE Inquiry

[redacted] and [redacted]

I received a call from the National Association of Black Law Enforcement (NOBLE) regarding the August 3, 2017 intelligence assessment titled "Black Identity Extremists Likely Motivated to Target LE Officers". I bring this to your attention for a couple of reasons:

1. NOBLE [redacted] received multiple media inquiries on this report over the weekend. He is scheduled to meet with the Congressional Black Caucus where he expects this report to be discussed.
2. There is likely to be additional inquiries to the FBI and wanted to make OPA aware.

OPE has reached out to SC Michael Paul for additional guidance on this inquiry. We will keep you in the loop.

Thanks

[redacted]

SSA [redacted]  
[redacted] Strategic Engagement Unit (SEU) FBI – Office of Partner Engagement  
Mobile: [redacted]

[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 12, 2017 11:29 AM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Cc:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** FW: Foreign Policy Magazine  
**Attachments:** Foreign Policy Magazine Article BIE.docx; FOX BIE.docx; HuffPost BIE.docx; Brennan Center opinion - BIE.docx; The Guardian BIE.docx; Newsweek BIE.docx

b6  
b7c

[redacted]  
Here are a few articles. The Foreign Policy one was the first. The reporter reached out to [redacted] last week. The article was behind a pay wall but we have it now in text below and also in one of the attachments.

<http://foreignpolicy.com/2017/10/06/the-fbi-has-identified-a-new-domestic-terrorist-threat-and-its-black-identity-extremists/>

## Foreign Policy Magazine

October 6, 2017

### *The FBI's New U.S. Terrorist Threat: 'Black Identity Extremists'*

Law enforcement calls it a violent movement. Critics call it racist.

- By Jana Winter and Sharon Weinberger

As white supremacists prepared to descend on Charlottesville, Virginia, in August, the FBI warned about a new movement that was violent, growing, and racially motivated. Only it wasn't white supremacists; it was "black identity extremists."

Amid a rancorous debate over whether the Trump administration has downplayed the threat posed by white supremacist groups, the FBI's counterterrorism division has declared that black identity extremists pose a growing threat of premeditated violence against law enforcement.

"The FBI assesses it is very likely Black Identity Extremist (BIE) perceptions of police brutality against African Americans spurred an increase in premeditated, retaliatory lethal violence against law enforcement and will very likely serve as justification for such violence," reads the report, marked for official use only and obtained by Foreign Policy.

The August 2014 shooting of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, was the catalyst for widespread anger and violence, the FBI report says, concluding that continued "alleged" police abuses have fueled more violence.

"The FBI assesses it is very likely incidents of alleged police abuse against African Americans since then have continued to feed the resurgence in ideologically motivated, violent criminal activity within the BIE movement," the report states.

Some 748 people have been shot and killed by police so far in 2017, including at least 168 African-Americans.

The report, dated Aug. 3 — just nine days before the white supremacist rally in Charlottesville turned deadly — appears to be the first known reference to “black identity extremists” as a movement. But former government officials and legal experts said no such movement exists, and some expressed concern that the term is part of a politically motivated effort to find an equivalent threat to white supremacists.

A former senior counterterrorism and intelligence official from the Department of Homeland Security who reviewed the document at FP’s request expressed shock at the language.

“This is a new umbrella designation that has no basis,” the former official said. “There are civil rights and privacy issues all over this.”

The concept of “black identity extremists” appears to be entirely new. FP found only five references to the term in a Google search; all were to law enforcement documents about domestic terrorism from the last two months. One of those online references is to law enforcement training on identifying “domestic terror groups and criminally subversive subcultures which are encountered by law enforcement professionals on a daily basis.”

Among the six acts of premeditated violence linked to black identity extremists — it excludes violence toward police carried out in the normal course of their duties — the reports cites the July 2016 shooting of 11 police officers in Dallas. The shooter, Micah Johnson, was reportedly angry at police violence.

“Based on Johnson’s journal writings and statements to police, he appeared to have been influenced by BIE ideology,” the FBI report states. The attack took place during a Black Lives Matter protest of police shootings, though the BLM movement is not mentioned by name in the report.

Yet those involved in the Black Lives Matter movement have voiced concerns about FBI surveillance.

DeRay McKesson, an activist involved in the Black Lives Matter movement, told FP that the FBI visited his house in the run-up to the Republican National Convention. “I spoke about the FBI visit to my house and the houses of other activists in our final meeting with [President Barack] Obama,” he said.

“There is a long tradition of the FBI targeting black activists and this is not surprising,” McKesson said.

The FBI declined to comment on the report itself and did not respond to specific questions, but in an emailed statement to FP, the bureau defended its tracking of “black identity extremists,” saying that “the FBI cannot initiate an investigation based solely on an individual’s race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, or the exercise of First Amendment rights.”

In its August report, the FBI said it expects further attacks by black identity extremists, driven by both the perception and the reality of unfair treatment at the hands of police officers.

“The FBI further assesses it is very likely additional controversial police shootings of African Americans and the associated legal proceedings will continue to serve as drivers for violence against law enforcement,” the report says.

Some experts and former government officials said the FBI seemed to be trying to paint disparate groups and individuals as sharing a radical, defined ideology. And in the phrase “black identity extremist” they hear echoes of the FBI’s decades-long targeting of black activists as potential radicals, a legacy that only recently began to change.

“They are grouping together Black Panthers, black nationalists, and Washitaw Nation,” said the former homeland security official. “Imagine lumping together white nationals, white supremacists, militias, neo-Nazis, and calling it ‘white identity extremists.’”

The FBI is linking the people discussed in the report based only on them being black, rather than on any sort of larger ideological connection, the official said.

Michael German, a former FBI agent and now a fellow with the Brennan Center for Justice’s liberty and national security program, said manufacturing this type of threat was not new. He has criticized earlier FBI reports on “black separatists,” arguing that they conflated radical groups operating in the 1970s with attacks in 2010 and later, even though there was no obvious connection.

The use of terms like “black identity extremists” is part of a long-standing FBI attempt to define a movement where none exists. “Basically, it’s black people who scare them,” German said.

Even former officials who view the government’s concerns about black separatists as legitimate balked at the term “black identity extremist,” and point out that the threat from individuals or groups who want to establish their own homeland is much less than from the far right.

In 2009, Daryl Johnson, then a Department of Homeland Security intelligence analyst, warned of the rise of right-wing extremism, setting off a firestorm among congressional critics. Johnson, who left the department in 2010, said he could think of no reason why the FBI would create a new category for so-called black identity extremists. “I’m at a loss,” he replied, when asked about the term.

“I have no idea of why they would come up with a new term.”

There have been concerns about rising violence among black separatist groups in recent years, he said, but it does not approach the threat of right-wing extremism. “When talking about white supremacists versus black supremacists, there are way more white supremacists,” Johnson said.

For historians and academics who have looked at the history of FBI surveillance of black Americans, the report also smacks of the sort of blatant racism the bureau has worked hard to leave behind. From the time J. Edgar Hoover took over the anti-radical division in the FBI at the height of the first “red scare” in 1919, the bureau began systematically surveilling black activists.

“Black protests get conflated for the bureau [with communism], and it begins there,” said William Maxwell, a professor at Washington University in St. Louis, who has researched the FBI’s monitoring of black writers in the 20th century.

What followed, according to Maxwell, was decades of FBI pursuit of black radicals in the belief, often mistaken, that they were part of a larger subversive movement. “It’s deep in the bureau’s DNA,” he said.

Lately, that seemed to be changing. As FBI director, James Comey famously kept a copy of the Martin Luther King Jr. wiretap order on his desk as a reminder of the bureau’s past abuses and made new agents learn the history of the FBI’s pursuit of the civil rights leader.

The FBI also appeared to be focusing more attention on the threat of white supremacists. In May, the FBI warned that white supremacist violence was growing, according to a report obtained and published by FP. That same report noted that white supremacists were responsible for more attacks in the United States than any other extremist group, including Islamic extremists.

Critics, however, accuse President Donald Trump of shifting attention away from right-wing violence. This year, the Trump administration decided to focus the Department of Homeland Security's "countering violent extremism" program on Islamic terrorism and deprioritized funding to counter white supremacist groups.

"To hear there is a new initiative targeting black identity extremists is surprising given that shift," said Alvaro Bedoya, the executive director of the Center on Privacy & Technology at Georgetown Law.

Maxwell, the Washington University professor, had an even darker view. "It's classic Hoover-style labeling with little bit of maliciousness and euphemism wrapped up together," he said.

"The language — black identity extremist — strikes me as weird and really a continuation of the worst of Hoover's past."

In a sense, the FBI's desire to identify a unifying ideological underpinning to what are often individual violent acts is not surprising, said David Garrow, a historian who wrote a Pulitzer Prize-winning biography of MLK. "Security agencies want to perceive a threat that is political, a threat that ideological," Garrow said, "but what we're actually witnessing is men, almost entirely men, acting out in violent criminal ways and grasping at some chimera of political justification."

But the document itself smacks of incompetence more than conspiracy, according to Garrow, who reviewed a copy of the report provided by FP. "The immediate instinct is to think [the FBI] are a threat," he said. "My immediate instinct is to wonder whether they are minimally competent."

Garrow, who has reviewed decades' worth of FBI documents for his work, warned against seeing this report as proof that the FBI is illegally targeting black Americans.

"They are often so clueless," he said of the FBI. "I don't find them a threat."

But the former homeland security official said the report's tendency to lump together different groups that have no obvious connection will make it harder for law enforcement to identify real threats. "It's so convoluted — it's compromising officer safety," the former official said.

And even though the report mentions in a footnote that "political activism" and "strong rhetoric" by themselves don't amount to extremism and "may be constitutionally protected," it identifies anger with police or "anti-white rhetoric" as indicators of a potential "violent threat."

"Just the term 'black identity extremist' is protected," the former official said. "You can identify all you want."

The FBI, however, defended the classification in its statement to FP.

"Domestic terrorism groups differ from traditional criminal groups in that they take action for a different purpose, to bring attention to a social or political cause," the FBI wrote. "Therefore, their existence as a group has a legitimate purpose, at least in part. Their legitimate activity may include acts of protest, advocacy, and civil disobedience."

The FBI says there are "nine persistent extremist movements" in the United States at present. Those include "white supremacy, black identities, militia, sovereign citizens, anarchists, abortion, animal rights, environmental rights, and Puerto Rican Nationalism."

[REDACTED] (DO) (FBI)

---

**From:** NPO  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 12, 2017 5:14 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED] (DO) (FBI); [REDACTED] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** FW: Have you ever seen this before  
**Attachments:** BIE-Redacted.pdf

b6  
b7c

**From:** Mitchell, Mitch [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 12, 2017 4:23 PM  
**To:** NPO <NPO@FBI.GOV>  
**Subject:** Have you ever seen this before

Hello:

My name is Mitch Mitchell and I am a staff writer at the Fort Worth Star-Telegram.

I've come across this document that I am trying to find out about and wondered if you could help me.

It has an intelligence assessment subhead and claims to have been originated by the FBI. It is titled Black Identity Extremists Likely Motivated to Target Law Enforcement Officers.

My initial question is -- Was this document actually generated by someone who works with, for or was employed by the FBI or the federal government?

If so I have some other questions I'd like to ask.

If not, I'm wondering if anyone at the FBI has been asked about this before and does anyone at the FBI have any idea about the document's origin?

I am attaching the document to this email.

Should you need any further information or need to contact me, or if there is anything that I can do to expedite this process, please do not hesitate to send a reply email or contact me by phone at

Thanks for whatever assistance with this that you might be able to provide.

b6  
b7c

Please see attached:

Mitch Mitchell  
staff writer, Fort Worth Star-Telegram

(office)  
(cell)  
(fax)



[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 12, 2017 6:52 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (NY) (FBI); [redacted] (DL) (FBI)  
**Cc:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** RE: Have you ever seen this before

b6  
b7C

[redacted]

This reporter sent an email here. I will respond to him and copy you.

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 11, 2017 4:42 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (NY) (FBI); [redacted] (DL) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: Have you ever seen this before

We don't have anything approved by CTD and AD Kortan yet. If there's a way to delay responding to that reporter that would be great. Basically we anticipate a variation of – we look at illegal activity and not participation in groups.

**From:** [redacted] (NY) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 11, 2017 4:30 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (DL) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: Have you ever seen this before

[redacted] and [redacted]

I know you've been dealing with the BIE matter. ....do we have a statement we can share with [redacted] or would we rather that reporters come to us at NPO?

Thank you,

b6  
b7C

SSA [redacted]  
FBI National Press Office  
Desk - [redacted]  
[redacted]

**From:** [redacted] (DL) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 11, 2017 4:22 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (NY) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Subject:** FW: Have you ever seen this before

Hi [redacted]

Any guidance on how to handle the below request (related to that leaked document re Black Identity Extremists)? My thought is just to refer him to the National Press Office.

Thanks,

[redacted]

[redacted]

b6  
b7C

FBI Dallas Division

Desk: [redacted]

Email: [redacted]

Follow us on Twitter @FBIDallas

From: Mitchell, Mitch [redacted]

Sent: Wednesday, October 11, 2017 3:18 PM

To: [redacted] (DL) (FBI) [redacted]

Subject: Have you ever seen this before

Hello [redacted]

My name is Mitch Mitchell and I am a staff writer at the Fort Worth Star-Telegram.

I've come across this document that I am trying to find out about and wondered if you could help me.

It has an intelligence assessment subhead and claims to have been originated by the FBI. It is titled Black Identity Extremists Likely Motivated to Target Law Enforcement Officers.

My initial question is -- Was this document actually generated by someone who works with, for or was employed by the FBI or the federal government?

If so I have some other questions I'd like to ask.


If not, I'm wondering if anyone at the FBI has been asked about this before and does anyone at the FBI have any idea about the document's origin?

I am attaching the document to this email.

Thanks for whatever assistance with this that you might be able to provide.

Please see attached:

Mitch Mitchell  
staff writer, Fort Worth Star-Telegram

 (office)  
(cell)  
(fax)

b6  
b7C

[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Friday, October 13, 2017 3:58 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (NY) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI);  
[redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (NY) (FBI); [redacted]  
(DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted]  
(DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** FW: Questions for the Director for IACP  
**Attachments:** 2017.10.13 - Potential Director Questions for IACP V2.docx

b6  
b7C

Take a look at the questions highlighted in the attached document. Please provide answers to those Qs we can address.

[redacted]  
National Press Office  
FBI Office of Public Affairs

[redacted] office  
[redacted] mobile

-----Original Message-----  
**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Friday, October 13, 2017 2:45 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Subject:** Questions for the Director for IACP

Hi, [redacted]

OPE just emailed us a list of questions for the Director but they failed to provide answers. Of course. We highlighted a few that NPO might have standard answers for, and thought you could farm this out to the various POCs. We can touch base Monday. Thank you!

b6  
b7C

[redacted]  
[redacted] Executive Writing Unit  
Office of Public Affairs  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
[redacted] (direct)  
[redacted] (mobile)  
[redacted]

[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Friday, October 13, 2017 5:02 PM  
**To:** NPO  
**Subject:** OPA Horizon 10/13/17

**UNCLASSIFIED // ~~FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~**

***The Horizon***  
**Friday, October 13, 2017**

**National Issues**

- Las Vegas Shooting: LV/OPA – SAC Rouse participated in a press conference on the Las Vegas shooting and stressed the various resources the FBI is devoting to the investigation and the assistance to victims. He also stated nothing has been found to indicate the shooter had a particular affiliation or ideology. Clark County Sheriff Joe Lombardo spoke about the timeline, the status of victims and the heroism of his officers.
- Wray 702: OPA – Director Wray delivered remarks and participated in a moderated discussion hosted by the Heritage Foundation about the importance of 702 to the FBI and the need for its renewal. DNI Coates and NSA Director Rogers participated in separate sessions on 702.
- Dark Web Marketplaces: OPA – Multiple outlets inquired about the fact some of the largest dark web marketplaces appear to be inactive or down, and asked whether the FBI was involved in any law enforcement action targeting these marketplaces. OPA declined to comment.
- Black Identity: OPA/DL – The Fort Worth Star-Telegram inquired about a leaked intelligence assessment which discussed black identity extremist violence against law enforcement officers. OPA did not discuss the document but after consultation with CTD provided a general statement: "The FBI investigates activity which may constitute a federal crime or pose a threat to national security and cannot initiate an investigation based solely on an individual's race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, or the exercise of First Amendment rights. The FBI remains committed to protecting those rights for all Americans. Our focus is not on membership in particular groups but on individuals who commit violence and other criminal acts. Furthermore, the FBI does not and will not police ideology. When an individual takes violent action based on belief or ideology and breaks the law, the FBI will enforce the rule of law."
- FBI Top Story: OPA - Several naturalized Americans from The Gambia planned an unsuccessful coup against the government of their homeland in 2014, violating the Neutrality Act, a little-known federal law. Story link: <https://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/coup-attempt-in-the-gambia>
- Cyber Monday: OPA - Forbes CenturyLink Voice interviewed UC [redacted] of the Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) regarding Cyber Monday. UC [redacted] discussed the function of IC3, commonly reported cybercrimes, and tips to avoid falling victim to cybercrimes during the holiday season. The article will be published in November.

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**Local Stories**

- Boston - SA [redacted] was interviewed by the New Bedford Standard Times about the FBI's efforts to locate long time former Top Ten fugitive, Donald Eugene Webb. Webb was wanted for the murder of the Saxonburg, PA Police Chief 36 years ago, and his remains were recovered in the backyard of his ex-wife's home in Dartmouth, MA this past July. Former FBI agents, state troopers, and the Saxonburg PA police chief were also interviewed for the story which is slated to run in next Sunday's paper.
- Dallas – FBI Dallas issued a press release requesting the public's assistance in identifying a group of serial robbers dubbed the "Country Boy Bandits," who have been robbing banks and conveniences stores in Fort Worth, Texas. The press release included photos and video clips. Multiple DFW outlets are covering the story.

- El Paso – SAC Buie participated in a press conference about the Civil Rights investigation into the vandalism of the Nestora Granillo Piarote Monument. The SAC announced a \$6000 FBI reward for information regarding the incident. This reward is in conjunction with a \$4000 reward offered by the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo and the Sociedad de Cultural de España.
- 
- San Antonio – A local TV reporter inquired about Isai Varela, who was charged with a double homicide in Hidalgo County, Texas and fled to Mexico where he was recently killed. The reporter requested details surrounding Varela's death and asked whether he was working with a drug cartel in Mexico before he was killed. San Antonio confirmed FBI Agents working in the Rio Grande Valley assisted the Hidalgo County Sherriff's office by coordinating with Mexican officials to confirm Varela's death, but declined to comment further.

**UNCLASSIFIED//~~FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~**

[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Monday, October 16, 2017 12:03 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** RE: Black Identities

b6  
b7C

Thank you. All on the record and it was on Oct. 12.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Monday, October 16, 2017 12:03 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]  
**Subject:** FW: Black Identities

Hi,  
I am going to update the statement tracker. What date did you give this to Foreign Policy and it was all on the record, right?  
I'll put the shorter statement in too.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 11, 2017 9:47 AM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]  
**Subject:** Black Identities

Our response on the assessment:

We have no comment on the report that cited in your email.

With regard to the FBI's Domestic Terrorism investigative program, the threat of domestic terrorism remains a priority for the FBI. It is important to note that the FBI cannot initiate an investigation based solely on an individual's race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, or the exercise of First Amendment rights.

Domestic terrorism groups differ from traditional criminal groups in that they take action for a different purpose, to bring attention to a social or political cause. Therefore, their existence as a group has a legitimate purpose, at least in part. Their legitimate activity may include acts of protest, advocacy, and civil disobedience. The FBI's domestic terrorism program identifies nine persistent extremist movements in the US: white supremacy, black identities, militia, sovereign citizens, anarchists, abortion, animal rights, environmental rights, and Puerto Rican Nationalism. This does not preclude the FBI from investigating all other unique, extremist ideologies furthered wholly or in part through crime and violence are addressed as they arise.

The FBI may only initiate an investigation based upon information or allegations that an activity constitutes a federal crime or a threat to national security. Furthermore, the FBI does not and will not police ideology. When an individual takes action based on belief or ideology and breaks the law, the FBI will enforce the rule of law.

[redacted]  
National Press Office  
FBI Office of Public Affairs

b6  
b7C

[redacted] office  
[redacted] mobile

[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Monday, October 16, 2017 2:31 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI);  
[redacted] (NY) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (NY) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** RE: Questions for the Director for IACP

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b5

[redacted]

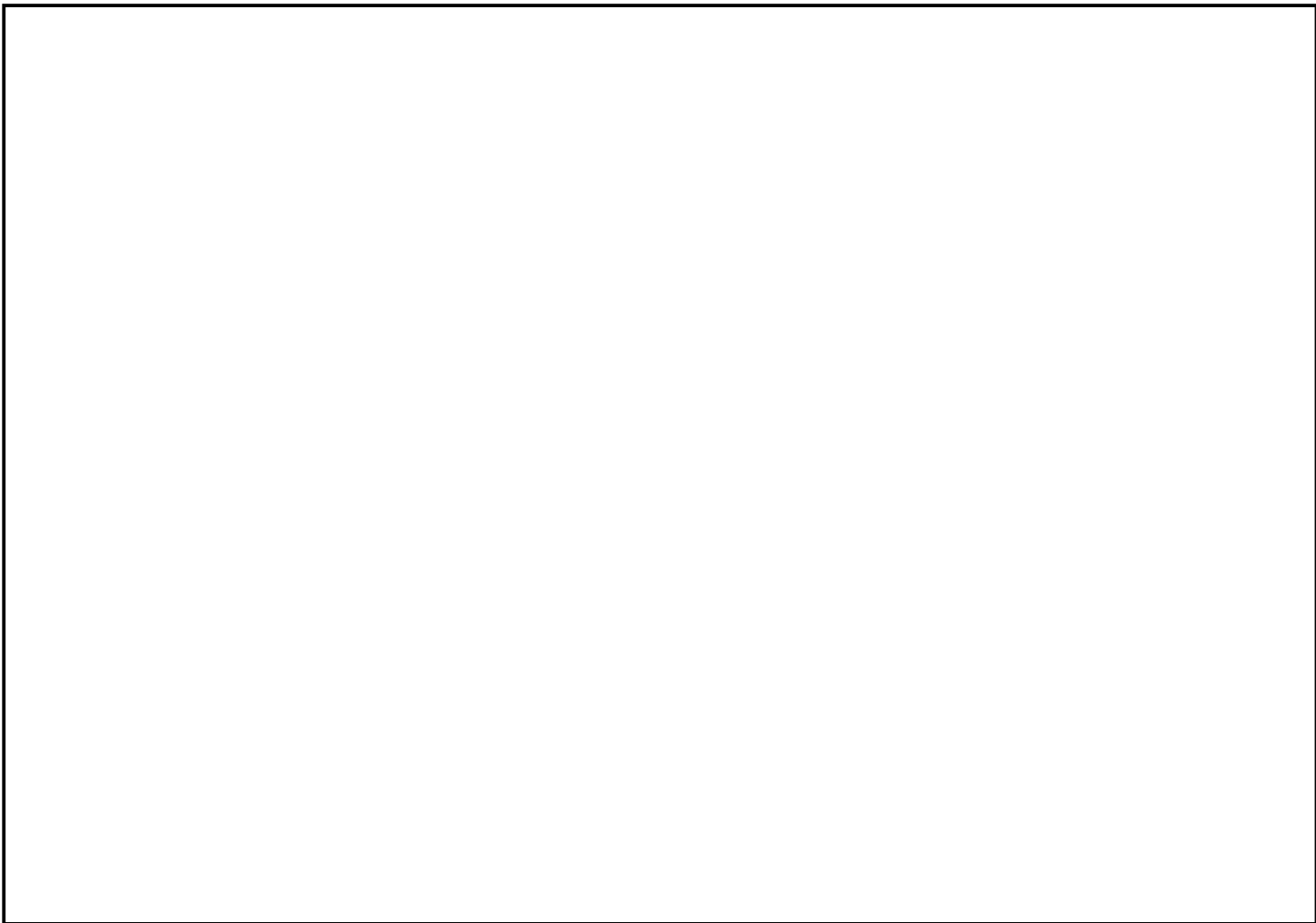
**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Monday, October 16, 2017 12:17 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (NY) (FBI); [redacted] (NY) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** RE: Questions for the Director for IACP

b6  
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b5

Hi - I don't see any questions that specifically hit on my program areas. However, [redacted]  
[redacted]

[redacted]





b5

-----Original Message-----

From: [redacted] (DO) (FBI)

Sent: Friday, October 13, 2017 3:58 PM

To: [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (NY) (FBI) [redacted]

[redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (NY) (FBI)

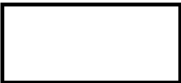
[redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI)

[redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]

Subject: FW: Questions for the Director for IACP

b6  
b7C

Take a look at the questions highlighted in the attached document. Please provide answers to those Qs we can address.



National Press Office  
FBI Office of Public Affairs



office  
mobile

-----Original Message-----

From: [redacted] (DO) (FBI)

Sent: Friday, October 13, 2017 2:45 PM

To: [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]

Cc: [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]

Subject: Questions for the Director for IACP

b6  
b7C

Hi, [redacted]

OPE just emailed us a list of questions for the Director but they failed to provide answers. Of course. We highlighted a few that NPO might have standard answers for, and thought you could farm this out to the various POCs. We can touch base Monday. Thank you!

[redacted]

[redacted] Executive Writing Unit

Office of Public Affairs

Federal Bureau of Investigation

[redacted] (direct)

[redacted] (mobile)

[redacted]

[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

**From:** [redacted] (NY) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Monday, October 16, 2017 5:11 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (NY) (FBI)  
**Subject:** OPA Horizon 10/16/17

**UNCLASSIFIED // ~~FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~**

**FBI Office of Public Affairs  
The Horizon  
Monday, October 16, 2017**

**National Issues**

- **HIG Symposium: OPA** - Director Wray spoke to the High-Value Interrogation Group's annual research summit about the general terrorism threat, cooperation with partners, and the importance of the HIG's work. A number of reporters covered the remarks.
- **Black Caucus: OPA** - A reporter asked whether the FBI will meet with the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) to discuss an intelligence assessment about black identity extremists. OPA declined to comment on the leaked document or any response we might give the CBC and provided a general statement: "The FBI investigates activity which may constitute a federal crime or pose a threat to national security and cannot initiate an investigation based solely on an individual's race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, or the exercise of First Amendment rights. The FBI remains committed to protecting those rights for all Americans. Our focus is not on membership in particular groups but on individuals who commit violence and other criminal acts. Furthermore, the FBI does not and will not police ideology. When an individual takes violent action based on belief or ideology and breaks the law, the FBI will enforce the rule of law."
- **Palantir: OPA** - CBS is working on a story regarding Palantir and requested confirmation as to whether the FBI uses the data analytics software. OPA advised the FBI does not comment on specific tools or techniques.
- **Chess Set Repatriation: OPA** - The Wall Street Journal inquired about the repatriation of a looted Saddam Hussein chess set in September by the U.S. government. OPA confirmed the repatriation took place, but declined to comment further on the investigation, and referred the reporter to FBI.gov for historical looting cases that have been adjudicated. A story on antiquities looting is expected soon.
- **Executive Announcement: OPA** - A press release was issued to announce the appointment of Paul Delacourt as the new assistant director in charge of the Los Angeles Field Office.
- **FBI.gov Top Story: OPA** - The annual *Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted* report for 2016 shows 118 law enforcement officers were killed and 57,180 were assaulted in the line of duty last year. <https://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/2016-leoka-report-released>
- **FBI.gov Top Story: OPA** - Virtual kidnapping - an extortion fraud that can take many forms - has been around for decades, but a new twist on this frightening scam makes U.S. residents more vulnerable than ever. <https://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/virtual-kidnapping>
- **FBI Radio: OPA** - Several public service announcements were released today to include these topics: the *Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted* (LEOKA) report, Virtual Kidnapping for Ransom schemes, and how FBI employees are providing much-needed assistance to those in isolated communities in Puerto Rico who were impacted by Hurricane Marie. The LEOKA PSA featured DAD Drolshagen. The virtual kidnapping PSA featured SSA [redacted] of the Criminal Investigative Division, and a victim.

**Local Stories**

- Chicago - FBI Chicago launched a Business Email Compromise (BEC) scam media campaign to include a story at FBI.gov/Chicago. The story included a Chicago BEC email address for those who feel they may have been caught up in a scam and want to report their information.
- Dallas - In response to the national awareness campaign, the Univision affiliate reached out to FBI Dallas for an interview regarding virtual kidnappings for ransom. PAO [redacted] provided the interview, discussing common trends and tactics used by virtual kidnappers, how to recognize when you're being victimized, and what to do if you are a victim. The segment will air during tonight's evening news.
- Detroit - SAC Gelios provided a statement to a USAO press release on the sentencing of a pilot who was observed by others as operating an aircraft while under the influence of alcohol at The Cherry Capital Airport in Traverse City, MI. The statement, in part, read: "While troubling, this case does not reflect the vast majority of flight crew professionals who conduct themselves in the best interest of public safety. It does reinforce the importance of how the public's vigilance can result in the protection of other people's lives."
- Kansas City - A/SSA [redacted] was interviewed by the local public radio station regarding human trafficking. The interview is not schedule to air until the end of October.
- Los Angeles - A press release was issued to announce the 9<sup>th</sup> annual Cyber Symposium in Los Angeles where FBI agents and investigative partners provide cyber safety instruction for middle and high school students at the California Endowment for the Arts in downtown Los Angeles. A/ADIC Los Angeles provided a quote for the release.
- Los Angeles - [redacted] was sentenced to 10 years in prison after she was convicted at trial of mail fraud, witness tampering and obstruction of justice in connection with a health care fraud investigation involving supplemental insurance provider AFLAC. The USAO will issue a press release.
- Phoenix - All major media outlets in Phoenix (including radio, newspaper, and TV) interviewed SA Media Coordinator [redacted] about Virtual Kidnapping schemes. FBI Phoenix has seen an uptick in these crimes in the last few months and is focused on raising awareness of the scheme and encouraging people to report the crime.
- Seattle: Following a joint sextortion investigation, local police in Chehalis, WA, arrested a high school student last Tuesday. In response to the school district's factually inaccurate statement to the media claiming the FBI asked them to do nothing to separate the students, the field office issued this statement to inquiring media: "The FBI informed the WF West High School administration about our investigation, including the nature of it, and that the subject and victims were current students. An FBI agent on multiple occasions emphasized concern for the safety of all students involved and recommended the school follow its applicable district policies for such matters. The FBI did not provide any specific instruction on how the school should proceed, aside from advising that the school take the measures it deemed appropriate to keep students safe. An FBI investigation neither dictates nor precludes any actions by other agencies."

b6  
b7c

**UNCLASSIFIED//~~FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~**

[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 17, 2017 8:53 AM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** RE: Director Qs

b6  
b7C

Will do. I got it.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 17, 2017 8:52 AM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Subject:** Director Qs

Would you see if CT will clear the below response?

[Large redacted area]

b6  
b7C  
b5

[redacted]

National Press Office  
FBI Office of Public Affairs

[redacted] office  
[redacted] mobile

[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 17, 2017 8:56 AM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (NY) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI);  
[redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (NY) (FBI); [redacted]  
(DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted]  
(DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** FW: Director's Potential Q&A for IACP  
**Attachments:** Q&A for IACP(2).docx

b6  
b7C

If you still have outstanding questions please get them to me as soon as possible.

[redacted]  
National Press Office  
FBI Office of Public Affairs

[redacted] office  
[redacted] mobile

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 17, 2017 8:53 AM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] Sleeper, Kerry L. (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] Brower, Gregory (DO) (FBI); [redacted] Thorley, Charles A. (DO) (FBI); [redacted] Kortan, Michael P. (DO) (FBI); [redacted] Quinn, Richard P. (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (SECD) (FBI); [redacted] Murphy, Brian J. (OPE) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Subject:** Director's Potential Q&A for IACP

Hi, all,

b6  
b7C

We've drafted responses to various questions posed by OPE for the Director for IACP to the best of our ability, but still need responses to several questions, as we noted to most of you on Friday. If you could please have your folks provide us with responses to the questions where your unit or division is referenced in brackets by COB today, that would be most helpful.

Greg, as I wrote in my email to you and Chad yesterday, [redacted] suggested you might have resource material that addresses some of these questions. If so, would you mind having someone on your team send my way?

Many thanks,

[redacted]  
Executive Writing Unit  
Office of Public Affairs  
[redacted]

[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 17, 2017 8:57 AM  
**To:** [redacted] (CTD) (FBI); [redacted] (CTD) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Cc:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** FW: Director Qs  
**Attachments:** Q&A for IACP(2).docx

b6  
b7C  
b5

Good morning,

We are preparing a "Hot Topics" document for the Director as he prepares for the IACP conference. One of the questions

[redacted]

[redacted] asked if we could clear the language below for inclusion in the document. (I don't see an issue with it, but wanted to be sure.) I've attached the Q&A document for your reference.

Thank you! [redacted]

-----Original Message-----

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 17, 2017 8:52 AM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Subject:** Director Qs

b6  
b7C  
b5

Would you see if CT will clear the below response?

[Large redacted area]

[redacted]  
National Press Office  
FBI Office of Public Affairs

[redacted] office  
[redacted] mobile

[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 17, 2017 9:15 AM  
**To:** [redacted] (CTD) (FBI); [redacted] (CTD) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Cc:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** RE: Director Qs

b6  
b7c

Thank you!

-----Original Message-----

**From:** [redacted] (CTD) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 17, 2017 9:12 AM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (CTD) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: Director Qs

Approved! Thanks!

-----Original Message-----

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 17, 2017 8:58 AM  
**To:** [redacted] (CTD) (FBI); [redacted] (CTD) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Subject:** FW: Director Qs

Good morning,

b6  
b7c  
b5

We are preparing a "Hot Topics" document for the Director as he prepares for the IACP conference. One of the questions

[redacted] asked if we could clear the language below for inclusion in the document. (I don't see an issue with it, but wanted to be sure.) I've attached the Q&A document for your reference.

Thank you! [redacted]

-----Original Message-----

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 17, 2017 8:52 AM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Subject:** Director Qs

Would you see if CT will clear the below response?

[Large redacted area]



b6  
b7C  
b5



National Press Office  
FBI Office of Public Affairs



office  
mobile

[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

---

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 17, 2017 9:15 AM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** RE: Director Qs

Approved for use! Thank you.

b6  
b7C  
b5

-----Original Message-----

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 17, 2017 8:52 AM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Subject:** Director Qs

Would you see if CT will clear the below response?

[Large redacted area]

[redacted]

National Press Office  
FBI Office of Public Affairs

[redacted] office  
[redacted] mobile

[REDACTED] (DO) (FBI)

---

**From:** NPO  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 17, 2017 11:59 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED] (DO) (FBI); [REDACTED] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** FW: FBI Intelligence assessment of Aug. 3, 2017

b6  
b7C

**From:** Russ, Valerie [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 17, 2017 11:51 AM  
**To:** NPO <NPO@FBI.GOV>  
**Subject:** FBI Intelligence assessment of Aug. 3, 2017

Hello,

I'm a reporter at the Philadelphia Inquirer & Daily News. I'm working on a story about the Aug. 3, 2017 report that warned that "Black Identity Extremists Likely Motivated to Target Law Enforcement Officers."

There has been criticism from the ACLU and others who say this warning is dangerous and is tantamount to stripping protest groups of their right to protest against questionable police shootings.

Others I've spoken to said that the warning essentially gives both the FBI and local law enforcement the authorization to "racially profile" anyone, but especially black people, who protest against police brutality.

[REDACTED] said there is no such thing as a "Black Identity Extremist" movement. He said this report is "manufacturing a black separatist threat."

The people I spoke to also said that the examples of "threats" cited in the report are examples of people who have embraced either a black separatist or sovereign citizen ideology and that "black identity" seems to be conflating people such as Black Lives Matter protests with other people who are more "separatist" in belief.

Also I have a question about the accuracy of the FBI report itself.

This question is about the first example of violence directed at law enforcement: “On 7 July 2016, Micah Johnson ambushed and shot 11 law enforcement officers, killing five ,” in Dallas, Texas. It says, “The five deceased officers were white.”

But I looked up the incident. One of the deceased officers, was Patricio “Patrick” Zamarripa. His obit information said he was [REDACTED]

I understand Johnson’s motives were to target white people and white police officers. But is the report accurate in saying all deceased officers in the July 7, 2016 attack in Dallas were white?

When I questioned [REDACTED] about this, he said by saying all the victims were white, if this is not accurate, then this might cause even more alarm for white law enforcement officials in how they approach black protesters or others who identify with protests against brutality?

He called the report an “ attempt to create parity” between the minor black separatists movement and the white supremacist and far-right movements that has been active and organized for 150 years.

Thank you,

Valerie Russ  
Staff Writer  
Philadelphia Inquirer & Daily News

Philadelphia Media Network | 801 Market Street Ste 300 | Philadelphia, PA 19107  
[REDACTED] (o) | [REDACTED] (c) | [REDACTED] @ValerieRussDN

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[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

b6  
b7c

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 17, 2017 12:06 PM  
**To:** NPO; [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** RE: FBI Intelligence assessment of Aug. 3, 2017

I got it.

**From:** NPO  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 17, 2017 11:59 AM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]  
**Subject:** FW: FBI Intelligence assessment of Aug. 3, 2017

**From:** Russ, Valerie [redacted]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 17, 2017 11:51 AM  
**To:** NPO <NPO@FBI.GOV>  
**Subject:** FBI Intelligence assessment of Aug. 3, 2017

Hello,

I'm a reporter at the Philadelphia Inquirer & Daily News. I'm working on a story about the Aug. 3, 2017 report that warned that "Black Identity Extremists Likely Motivated to Target Law Enforcement Officers."

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Others I've spoken to said that the warning essentially gives both the FBI and local law enforcement the authorization to "racially profile" anyone, but especially black people, who protest against police brutality.

[redacted] said there is no such thing as a "Black Identity Extremist" movement. He said this report is "manufacturing a black separatist threat."

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ideology and that “black identity” seems to be conflating people such as Black Lives Matter protests with other people who are more “separatist” in belief.

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But I looked up the incident. One of the deceased officers, was Patricio “Patrick” Zamarripa. His obit information said he was [REDACTED]

b6  
b7c

I understand Johnson’s motives were to target white people and white police officers. But is the report accurate in saying all deceased officers in the July 7, 2016 attack in Dallas were white?

When I questioned [REDACTED] about this, he said by saying all the victims were white, if this is not accurate, then this might cause even more alarm for white law enforcement officials in how they approach black protesters or others who identify with protests against brutality?

He called the report an “ attempt to create parity” between the minor black separatists movement and the white supremacist and far-right movements that has been active and organized for 150 years.

Thank you,

Valerie Russ  
Staff Writer  
Philadelphia Inquirer & Daily News

Philadelphia Media Network | 801 Market Street, Ste 300 | Philadelphia, PA 19107  
[REDACTED] (o) [REDACTED] (c) [REDACTED] @ValerieRussDN

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---

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[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

**From:** Ames, Andrew C. (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 17, 2017 12:45 PM  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** Re: FBI Intelligence assessment of Aug. 3, 2017

b6  
b7C

Hi Valerie,

Thank you for your inquiry. As is our long-standing practice, we do not comment on intelligence products.

In response to some of the opinions below, here is our statement.

**"The FBI investigates activity which may constitute a federal crime or pose a threat to national security and cannot initiate an investigation based solely on an individual's race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, or the exercise of First Amendment rights. The FBI remains committed to protecting those rights for all Americans. Our focus is not on membership in particular groups but on individuals who commit violence and other criminal acts. Furthermore, the FBI does not and will not police ideology. When an individual takes violent action based on belief or ideology and breaks the law, the FBI will enforce the rule of law."**

Sincerely,

Andrew C. Ames  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
National Press Office  
Desk: [redacted]  
Cell: [redacted]

**From:** Russ, Valerie [redacted]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 17, 2017 11:51 AM  
**To:** NPO <NPO@FBI.GOV>  
**Subject:** FBI Intelligence assessment of Aug. 3, 2017

Hello,

I'm a reporter at the Philadelphia Inquirer & Daily News. I'm working on a story about the Aug. 3, 2017 report that warned that "Black Identity Extremists Likely Motivated to Target Law Enforcement Officers."

There has been criticism from the ACLU and others who say this warning is dangerous and is tantamount to stripping protest groups of their right to protest against questionable police shootings.

Others I've spoken to said that the warning essentially gives both the FBI and local law enforcement the authorization to "racially profile" anyone, but especially black people, who protest against police brutality.

[redacted] said there is no such thing as a "Black Identity Extremist" movement. He said this report is "manufacturing a black separatist threat."

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b7C

The people I spoke to also said that the examples of "threats" cited in the report are examples of people who have embraced either a black separatist or sovereign citizen ideology and that "black identity" seems to be conflating people such as Black Lives Matter protests with other people who are more "separatist" in belief.



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This question is about the first example of violence directed at law enforcement: "On 7 July 2016, Micah Johnson ambushed and shot 11 law enforcement officers, killing five," in Dallas, Texas. It says, "The five deceased officers were white."

But I looked up the incident. One of the deceased officers, was Patricio "Patrick" Zamarripa. His obit information said he was [redacted]

b6  
b7C

I understand Johnson's motives were to target white people and white police officers. But is the report accurate in saying all deceased officers in the July 7, 2016 attack in Dallas were white?

When I questioned [redacted] about this, he said by saying all the victims were white, if this is not accurate, then this might cause even more alarm for white law enforcement officials in how they approach black protesters or others who identify with protests against brutality?

He called the report an "attempt to create parity" between the minor black separatists movement and the white supremacist and far-right movements that has been active and organized for 150 years.

Thank you,

Valerie Russ  
Staff Writer  
Philadelphia Inquirer & Daily News

Philadelphia Media Network | 801 Market Street, Ste 300 | Philadelphia, PA 19107

[redacted] (o) | [redacted] (c) [redacted] @ValerieRussDN

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**The Inquirer** **DAILY NEWS** **philly.com**

---

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[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 17, 2017 1:07 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Cc:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** RE: Director's Potential Q&A for IACP  
**Attachments:** 2017.10.13 - Potential Director Questions for IACP NPO Answers.docx

b6  
b7C

Here you go. Let me know if you have any questions or need something additional.

We'd love to have a final version of all the answers once you are done.

[redacted]

National Press Office  
FBI Office of Public Affairs

[redacted]

office  
mobile

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 17, 2017 12:58 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** RE: Director's Potential Q&A for IACP

b6  
b7C

[redacted] I just got those things from CJIS so you can send me whatever else you have!

[redacted]

Executive Writing Unit  
Office of Public Affairs  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

[redacted]

(desk)  
(mobile)

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 17, 2017 12:57 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Subject:** Re: Director's Potential Q&A for IACP

Whatever you think is best. [redacted] is filling in holes.

----- Original message -----

From: [redacted] (DO) (FBI)" [redacted]

Date: 10/17/17 12:44 PM (GMT-05:00)

To: [redacted] (DO) (FBI)" [redacted]

Subject: RE: Director's Potential Q&A for IACP

b6  
b7C  
b5

We are just waiting on CJS for their answers to [redacted]

Do you want what we have thus far?

[redacted]

National Press Office  
FBI Office of Public Affairs

[redacted] office  
[redacted] mobile

From: [redacted] (DO) (FBI)

Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2017 10:09 AM

To: [redacted] (DO) (FBI)" [redacted]

Subject: Re: Director's Potential Q&A for IACP

I shouldn't have zinged anyone by email.

----- Original message -----

From: [redacted] (DO) (FBI)" [redacted]

Date: 10/17/17 10:02 AM (GMT-05:00)

To: [redacted] (DO) (FBI)" [redacted]

Subject: RE: Director's Potential Q&A for IACP

b6  
b7C

Sorry [redacted] I must have forwarded something to someone with your email.

Forgive me and I hope it doesn't cause you trouble.

[redacted]

National Press Office  
FBI Office of Public Affairs

[redacted] office  
[redacted] mobile

From: Murphy, Brian J. (OPE) (FBI)

Sent: Tuesday, October 17, 2017 9:50 AM

To: [redacted] (DO) (FBI)" [redacted] (DO) (FBI)

[Redacted]

**Subject:** FW: Director's Potential Q&A for IACP

ouch

b6  
b7C

**From:** [Redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Friday, October 13, 2017 2:45 PM  
**To:** [Redacted] (DO) (FBI) [Redacted]  
**Cc:** [Redacted] (DO) (FBI) [Redacted]  
**Subject:** Questions for the Director for IACP

Hi, [Redacted]

***OPE just emailed us a list of questions for the Director but they failed to provide answers. Of course.*** We highlighted a few that NPO might have standard answers for, and thought you could farm this out to the various POCs. We can touch base Monday. Thank you!

[Redacted]  
[Redacted] Executive Writing Unit  
Office of Public Affairs  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
[Redacted] (direct)  
[Redacted] (mobile)  
[Redacted]

Section Chief  
Office of Partner Engagement  
Brian Murphy  
O [Redacted]  
C [Redacted]

**From:** [Redacted] (LD) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 17, 2017 9:42 AM  
**To:** Murphy, Brian J. (OPE) (FBI) [Redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
[Redacted] (DO) (FBI) [Redacted] Sleeper, Kerry L. (DO) (FBI)  
[Redacted] (DO) (FBI) [Redacted] Brower, Gregory (DO) (FBI) [Redacted]  
Thorley, Charles A. (DO) (FBI) [Redacted] Kortan, Michael P. (DO) (FBI) [Redacted] Quinn, Richard P.  
(DO) (FBI) [Redacted] (DO) (FBI) [Redacted] (SECD) (FBI)  
[Redacted] (IB) (FBI) [Redacted]  
**Cc:** [Redacted] (LD) (FBI) [Redacted] Delgado, Tina M. (LD) (FBI) [Redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: Director's Potential Q&A for IACP

b6  
b7C  
b5  
b7E

Brian,

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

FYI - I leave for the CJIS APB Committee meeting in FL at 11:00 today and arrive in Philly on Friday night. I've coordinated my IACP breakout meeting attendance with [Redacted] and will be presenting on Rapid DNA at the IACP Forensic Meeting on Sunday afternoon. I leave Philly on Monday morning. I am available anytime this weekend to address Rapid DNA issues and will be in the Lab until November 13.

[Redacted]

**From:** Delgado, Tina M. (LD) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Monday, October 16, 2017 3:42 PM  
**To:** [Redacted] (LD) (FBI) [Redacted]  
**Cc:** [Redacted] (LD) (FBI) [Redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: Questions for the Director for IACP

b6  
b7C  
b5  
b7E

My suggested response is below. If it is too long, I recommend parsing out the bold type and just rolling with that. I've also attached the document that the Director should have received in his briefing book as a refresher. Let me know if you need anything else.

[Redacted]

T

**From:** [redacted] (LD) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Monday, October 16, 2017 2:57 PM  
**To:** Delgado, Tina M. (LD) (FBI) [redacted]  
**Subject:** FW: Questions for the Director for IACP

b6  
b7C

Email chain on request for the IACP question for Director. They would like a response today...

SSA [redacted]  
[redacted]  
Laboratory Division  
[redacted] office  
[redacted] cell

**From:** [redacted] (NY) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Monday, October 16, 2017 9:13 AM  
**To:** [redacted] (LD) (FBI) [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: Questions for the Director for IACP

Hi [redacted]

Thank you for this response. There was no other context to the question.....I think it is supposed to be along the lines of a question posed to the Director out of the blue. [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

b6  
b7C  
b5

Along those lines.....?!?!?

SSA [redacted]  
FBI National Press Office  
Desk [redacted]  
[redacted]

**From:** [redacted] (LD) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 14, 2017 12:07 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (NY) (FBI) [redacted]  
**Subject:** Re: Questions for the Director for IACP

[redacted]

That's my guess as to what it's about, but was there any other context with the question so we can be sure what they are referereng to?

We can chat Monday and I can definitely get you some sentences.

[redacted]

SSA [redacted]  
[redacted]  
Laboratory Division  
[redacted] office  
[redacted] mobile

----- Original message -----  
From: [redacted] (NY) (FBI)" [redacted]  
Date: 10/13/17 5:02 PM (GMT-05:00)  
To: [redacted] (LD) (FBI)" [redacted]  
Subject: FW: Questions for the Director for IACP

b6  
b7C  
b5

Hi [redacted]

We've been asked to help with question that may be posed to the Director [redacted]

[redacted]

Thank you!

SSA [redacted]  
FBI National Press Office  
Desk - [redacted]  
[redacted]

-----Original Message-----  
From: [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
Sent: Friday, October 13, 2017 3:58 PM  
To: [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (NY) (FBI) [redacted] (DO)  
[redacted] (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (NY) (FBI)  
[redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]  
Subject: FW: Questions for the Director for IACP

Take a look at the questions highlighted in the attached document. Please provide answers to those Qs we can address.

b6  
b7C

[redacted]  
National Press Office  
FBI Office of Public Affairs  
[redacted] office  
[redacted] mobile

-----Original Message-----  
From: [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
Sent: Friday, October 13, 2017 2:45 PM  
To: [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]  
Cc: [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]  
Subject: Questions for the Director for IACP

Hi, [redacted]

OPE just emailed us a list of questions for the Director but they failed to provide answers. Of course. We highlighted a few that NPO might have standard answers for, and thought you could farm this out to the various POCs. We can touch base Monday. Thank you!

[redacted]  
[redacted] Executive Writing Unit  
Office of Public Affairs  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
[redacted] (direct)  
[redacted] (mobile)  
[redacted]

b6  
b7C

**From:** Murphy, Brian J. (OPE) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 17, 2017 9:11 AM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI);  
Sleeper, Kerry L. (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI);  
Brower, Gregory (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); Thorley, Charles A. (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); Kortan, Michael P. (DO) (FBI);  
[redacted] (DO) (FBI); Quinn, Richard P. (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI);  
[redacted] (SECD) (FBI); [redacted] (LD) (FBI); [redacted] (LD) (FBI);  
[redacted] (IB) (FBI); [redacted] (IB) (FBI); [redacted] (IB) (FBI); [redacted] (IB) (FBI);  
**Subject:** RE: Director's Potential Q&A for IACP

[redacted]

The below question is best answered by the lab. See below deadline.

[redacted]

b6  
b7C  
b5

Section Chief  
Office of Partner Engagement  
Brian Murphy

O [redacted]  
C [redacted]

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 17, 2017 8:53 AM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); Sleeper, Kerry L. (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI);  
[redacted] (DO) (FBI); Brower, Gregory (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); Thorley, Charles A. (DO) (FBI);  
[redacted] (DO) (FBI); Kortan, Michael P. (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); Quinn, Richard P. (DO) (FBI);  
[redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (SECD) (FBI); [redacted] (SECD) (FBI);  
[redacted] (IB) (FBI); Murphy, Brian J. (OPE) (FBI); [redacted] (IB) (FBI); [redacted] (IB) (FBI);  
**Subject:** Director's Potential Q&A for IACP

Hi, all,



We've drafted responses to various questions posed by OPE for the Director for IACP to the best of our ability, but still need responses to several questions, as we noted to most of you on Friday. If you could please have your folks provide us with responses to the questions where your unit or division is referenced in brackets by COB today, that would be most helpful.

Greg, as I wrote in my email to you and Chad yesterday, [redacted] suggested you might have resource material that addresses some of these questions. If so, would you mind having someone on your team send my way?

Many thanks,

b6  
b7C

[redacted]

Executive Writing Unit  
Office of Public Affairs

[redacted]

[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 17, 2017 2:14 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (NY) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI);  
[redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (NY) (FBI); [redacted]  
(DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted]  
(DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** FW: Director's Responses to Potential Q&A for IACP  
**Attachments:** 10.17.2017 Potential Q&A for IACP.docx

b6  
b7C

Thanks for all the help with this doc! Attached is the final version.

[redacted]  
National Press Office  
FBI Office of Public Affairs

[redacted] office  
[redacted] mobile

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 17, 2017 1:56 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] Rybicki, James E. (DO) (FBI); [redacted] Kortan, Michael P.  
(DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (SECD) (FBI); [redacted]  
[redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
[redacted] Sleeper, Kerry L. (DO) (FBI); [redacted] Murphy, Brian J. (OPE) (FBI); [redacted]  
[redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted]

**Subject:** Director's Responses to Potential Q&A for IACP

Hi, all,

b6  
b7C

Attached please find draft responses for the Director for potential questions during IACP. Many thanks to everyone who gathered info for responses. It's very much appreciated. Let us know if you have any changes.

[redacted] and [redacted]

[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

b6  
b7C  
b7E

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 18, 2017 11:33 AM  
**To:** Kortan, Michael P. (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** FW: [redacted] domestic terrorism movements  
**Attachments:** [redacted]

FYSA,  
Halvorsen is supposed to talk about the BIE assessment with NOBLE on Friday morning. She participated in the conference call with the group last week  
Brian Murphy sent NOBLE [redacted] regarding other groups to add context.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Murphy, Brian J. (OPE) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Monday, October 16, 2017 11:21 AM  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted] (SECD) (FBI); [redacted] Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI); [redacted] Halvorsen, Christine A. (CTD) (FBI); [redacted] Sleeper, Kerry L. (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** [redacted] domestic terrorism movements

b6  
b7C  
b7E

[redacted]  
Here are the [redacted] mentioned on the call last week. All the [redacted]  
[redacted] Please provide to NOBLE members as you see fit. All documents are unclassified and for law enforcement personnel only.

Thanks

Section Chief  
Office of Partner Engagement  
Brian Murphy

O [redacted]  
C [redacted]

[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

**From:** Ames, Andrew C. (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 18, 2017 12:45 PM  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: 3rd Request for phone interview..Fw: Fwd: Request for phone interview

b6  
b7C

Charlene,

Apologies for the delay in responding. We were under the impression that your inquiry had been responded to.

We must decline a phone interview. We have no comment on the intelligence product itself. Below is a statement for your story.

**"The FBI investigates activity which may constitute a federal crime or pose a threat to national security and cannot initiate an investigation based solely on an individual's race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, or the exercise of First Amendment rights. The FBI remains committed to protecting those rights for all Americans. Our focus is not on membership in particular groups but on individuals who commit violence and other criminal acts. Furthermore, the FBI does not and will not police ideology. When an individual takes violent action based on belief or ideology and breaks the law, the FBI will enforce the rule of law."**

Sincerely,

Andrew C. Ames  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
National Press Office  
Desk: [redacted]  
Cell: [redacted]

**From:** charlene muhammad [redacted]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 18, 2017 12:17 PM  
**To:** NPO <NPO@FBI.GOV>  
**Subject:** 3rd Request for phone interview..Fw: Fwd: Request for phone interview

b6  
b7C

Dear Press Office:

Per my call this morning, I'm forwarding my previous email requests for phone interview re the FBI's report on 'Black Identity Extremists'.

My story is due tomorrow at 5 pm CST.

Sincerely,

Charlene Muhammad  
National Correspondent  
The Final Call Newspaper  
[www.finalcall.com](http://www.finalcall.com)

[redacted] direct

On Monday, October 16, 2017 11:22 AM, Charlene Muhammad [redacted] wrote:

Follow up request...

Story due this Wed 5 pm EST.

**From:** charlene muhammad [redacted]  
**Date:** October 11, 2017 at 6:49:36 PM PDT  
**To:** "npo@ic.fbi.gov" <npo@ic.fbi.gov>  
**Subject:** Request for phone interview  
**Reply-To:** charlene muhammad [redacted]

b6  
b7c

Dear Spokespersons [redacted] or [redacted]

I am emailing to request a phone interview for my national, print newspaper story regarding an alleged FBI Intelligence Assessment entitled "Black Identity Extremists Likely Motivated to Target Law Enforcement Officers," dated August 3, 2017.

My article is due this Friday morning at 10 AM Central standard time.

Here is a link to the document, which is also attached.

<https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/4067711-BIE-Redacted.html#document/p2>

I anticipate needing no more than 7 to 10 minutes for the interview.

Sincerely,

Charlene Muhammad  
National Correspondent  
The Final Call Newspaper  
[www.finalcall.com](http://www.finalcall.com)

[redacted] direct

[Redacted]

(DO) (FBI)

b6  
b7C

**From:** NPO  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 19, 2017 4:17 PM  
**To:** [Redacted] (DO) (FBI); [Redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** FW: NBC News Request

**From:** Duster, Chandelis (NBCUniversal) [Redacted]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 19, 2017 3:49 PM  
**To:** NPO <NPO@FBI.GOV>  
**Subject:** NBC News Request

Good afternoon,

Chandelis Duster here with NBC News. I'm interested in speaking with someone regarding reports about a Black Identity Extremist Intelligence Assessment.

Thanks,

Chandelis R. Duster  
*Associate Producer, NBCBLK*

DESK [Redacted]  
CELL [Redacted]

4001 Nebraska Ave. NW | Washington, D.C. 20016



[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

---

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 19, 2017 4:52 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** FW: NBC News Request

b6  
b7C

Did you already get this one?

**From:** NPO  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 19, 2017 4:17 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]  
**Subject:** FW: NBC News Request

**From:** Duster, Chandelis (NBCUniversal) [redacted]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 19, 2017 3:49 PM  
**To:** NPO <NPO@FBI.GOV>  
**Subject:** NBC News Request

Good afternoon,

Chandelis Duster here with NBC News. I'm interested in speaking with someone regarding reports about a Black Identity Extremist Intelligence Assessment.

Thanks,

Chandelis R. Duster  
*Associate Producer, NBCBLK*  
DESK [redacted]  
CELL [redacted]  
4001 Nebraska Ave. NW | Washington, D.C. 20016

b6  
b7C



[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 19, 2017 4:58 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** RE: NBC News Request

b6  
b7C

No but I can.....

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 19, 2017 4:52 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]  
**Subject:** FW: NBC News Request

Did you already get this one?

**From:** NPO  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 19, 2017 4:17 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]  
**Subject:** FW: NBC News Request

**From:** Duster, Chandelis (NBCUniversal) [redacted]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 19, 2017 3:49 PM  
**To:** NPO <NPO@FBI.GOV>  
**Subject:** NBC News Request

b6  
b7C

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Chandelis Duster here with NBC News. I'm interested in speaking with someone regarding reports about a Black Identity Extremist Intelligence Assessment.

Thanks,

Chandelis R. Duster  
*Associate Producer NBCBLK*

DESK [redacted]  
CELL [redacted]

4001 Nebraska Ave. NW | Washington, D.C. 20016





[Redacted]

(DO) (FBI)

**From:** Ames, Andrew C. (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 19, 2017 5:07 PM  
**To:** [Redacted]  
**Subject:** Re: NBC News Request

b6  
b7C

Chandelis,

Thank you for your inquiry. It is the long-standing practice of the FBI not to comment on intelligence products.

With regard to the overarching issue, I can provide you the following statement. Please let me know if you have any further questions.

**"The FBI investigates activity which may constitute a federal crime or pose a threat to national security and cannot initiate an investigation based solely on an individual's race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, or the exercise of First Amendment rights. The FBI remains committed to protecting those rights for all Americans. Our focus is not on membership in particular groups but on individuals who commit violence and other criminal acts. Furthermore, the FBI does not and will not police ideology. When an individual takes violent action based on belief or ideology and breaks the law, the FBI will enforce the rule of law."**

Sincerely,

Andrew C. Ames  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
National Press Office  
Desk: [Redacted]  
Cell: [Redacted]

**From:** Duster, Chandelis (NBCUniversal) [Redacted]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 19, 2017 3:49 PM  
**To:** NPO <NPO@FBI.GOV>  
**Subject:** NBC News Request

b6  
b7C

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Chandelis Duster here with NBC News. I'm interested in speaking with someone regarding reports about a Black Identity Extremist Intelligence Assessment.

Thanks,

Chandelis R. Duster  
*Associate Producer, NBCBLK*  
DESK [Redacted]  
CELL [Redacted]  
4001 Nebraska Ave. NW | Washington, D.C. 20016



[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 24, 2017 2:29 PM  
**To:** Kortan, Michael P. (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Cc:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** BIE

b6  
b7C

Here are the two statements we have given publicly. The first one, the longer one, I think was only given to foreign policy. We have given the shorter one to folks who inquired after FP.

**Black Identity Extremists**

Foreign Policy inquiry after obtaining leaked intelligence assessment

Statement date: 10/12/17

"We have no comment on the report that cited in your email.

With regard to the FBI's Domestic Terrorism investigative program, the threat of domestic terrorism remains a priority for the FBI. It is important to note that the FBI cannot initiate an investigation based solely on an individual's race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, or the exercise of First Amendment rights.

Domestic terrorism groups differ from traditional criminal groups in that they take action for a different purpose, to bring attention to a social or political cause. Therefore, their existence as a group has a legitimate purpose, at least in part. Their legitimate activity may include acts of protest, advocacy, and civil disobedience. The FBI's domestic terrorism program identifies nine persistent extremist movements in the US: white supremacy, black identities, militia, sovereign citizens, anarchists, abortion, animal rights, environmental rights, and Puerto Rican Nationalism. This does not preclude the FBI from investigating all other unique, extremist ideologies furthered wholly or in part through crime and violence are addressed as they arise.

The FBI may only initiate an investigation based upon information or allegations that an activity constitutes a federal crime or a threat to national security. Furthermore, the FBI does not and will not police ideology. When an individual takes action based on belief or ideology and breaks the law, the FBI will enforce the rule of law."

-----  
**Black Identity Extremists – shorter statement as recommended by AD**

Statement date: 10/12/17

Without commenting on the document, ""The FBI investigates activity which may constitute a federal crime or pose a threat to national security and cannot initiate an investigation based solely on an individual's race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, or the exercise of First Amendment rights. The FBI remains committed to protecting those rights for all Americans. Our focus is not on membership in particular groups but on individuals who commit violence and other criminal acts. Furthermore, the FBI does not and will not police ideology. When an individual takes violent action based on belief or ideology and breaks the law, the FBI will enforce the rule of law."

[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 24, 2017 2:38 PM  
**To:** Kortan, Michael P. (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Cc:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** RE: BIE  
**Attachments:** BIE Intelligence Assessment Aug-2017.pdf

b6  
b7C

I am also attaching the document that leaked out.

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 24, 2017 2:27 PM  
**To:** Kortan, Michael P. (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Subject:** BIE

Here are the two statements we have given publicly. The first one, the longer one, I think was only given to foreign policy. We have given the shorter one to folks who inquired after FP.

**Black Identity Extremists**

Foreign Policy inquiry after obtaining leaked intelligence assessment  
Statement date: 10/12/17

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-----  
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[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

b6  
b7C

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 24, 2017 3:13 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** FW: BIE

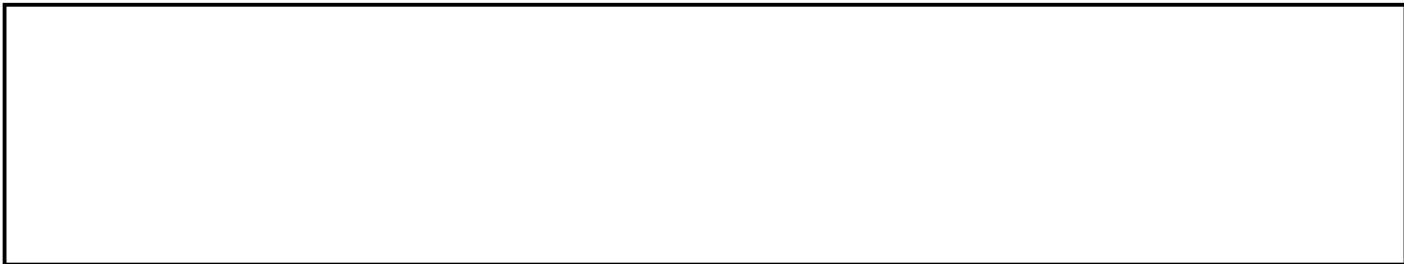
**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 24, 2017 3:02 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (SE) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted] (CTD) (FBI); [redacted] Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: BIE

[redacted]  
As we discussed, do mind taking a quick look at these talking points? Not expecting you to do any research or otherwise jump through hoops. I just wanted to ensure that I have adequately addressed [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

b5



b5

From: [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
 Sent: Tuesday, October 24, 2017 2:29 PM  
 To: Kortan, Michael P. (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]  
 Cc: [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]  
 Subject: BIE

b6  
b7C

Here are the two statements we have given publicly. The first one, the longer one, I think was only given to foreign policy. We have given the shorter one to folks who inquired after FP.

**Black Identity Extremists**

Foreign Policy inquiry after obtaining leaked intelligence assessment

Statement date: 10/12/17

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**Black Identity Extremists – shorter statement as recommended by AD**

Statement date: 10/12/17

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[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 24, 2017 5:52 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); Kortan, Michael P. (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** Fwd: BIE

b6  
b7C

Input from DT.

[redacted]  
[redacted] National Press Office  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

[redacted] office  
[redacted] cell  
@FBI

----- Original message -----

**From:** "Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI)" [redacted]  
**Date:** 10/24/17 5:43 PM (GMT-05:00)  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)" [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted] (CTD) (FBI)" [redacted] (SE) (FBI)"  
[redacted]  
**Subject:** Re: BIE

[redacted] Just a few clarifying points of context:

[Large redacted block]

b6  
b7C  
b5

----- Original message -----

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)" [redacted]  
**Date:** 10/24/17 3:03 PM (GMT-05:00)  
**To:** [redacted] (SE) (FBI)" [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted] (CTD) (FBI)" [redacted] "Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI)" [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: BIE

[redacted]

As we discussed, do mind taking a quick look at these talking points? Not expecting you to do any research or otherwise jump through hoops.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

b5

**From:** [Redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 24, 2017 2:29 PM  
**To:** Kortan, Michael P. (DO) (FBI); [Redacted] (DO) (FBI); [Redacted]  
**Cc:** [Redacted] (DO) (FBI); [Redacted]  
**Subject:** BIE

b6  
b7C

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**Black Identity Extremists**

Foreign Policy inquiry after obtaining leaked intelligence assessment

Statement date: 10/12/17

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-----  
**Black Identity Extremists – shorter statement as recommended by AD**

Statement date: 10/12/17

Without commenting on the document, ““The FBI investigates activity which may constitute a federal crime or pose a threat to national security and cannot initiate an investigation based solely on an individual's race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, or the exercise of First Amendment rights. The FBI remains committed to protecting those rights for all Americans. Our focus is not on membership in particular groups but on individuals who commit violence and other criminal acts. Furthermore, the FBI does not and will not police ideology. When an individual takes violent action based on belief or ideology and breaks the law, the FBI will enforce the rule of law.”



[Redacted]

(DO) (FBI)

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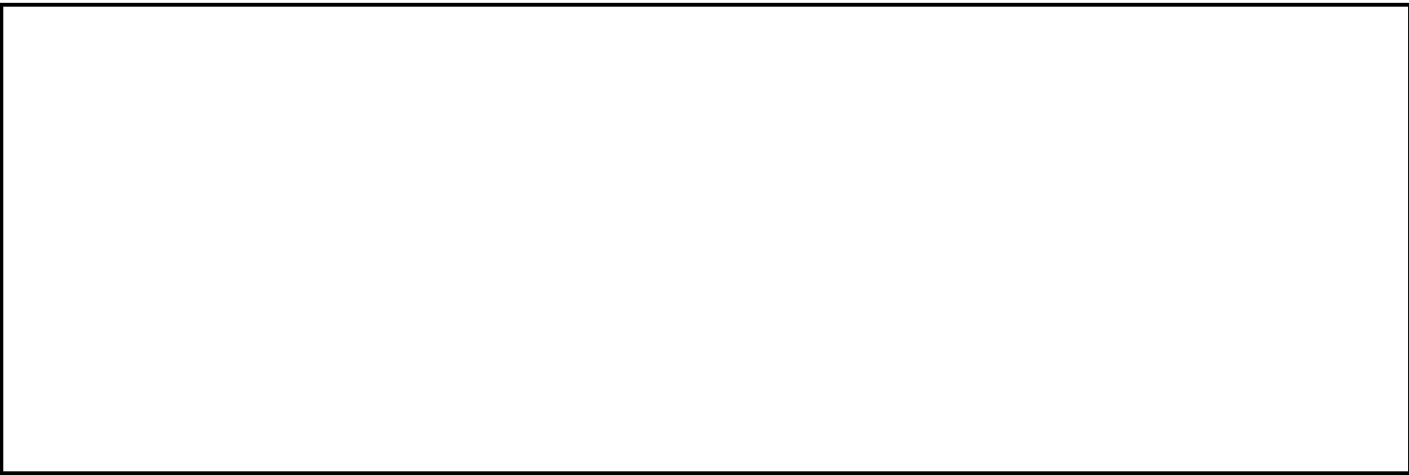
**From:** [Redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 25, 2017 1:41 PM  
**To:** [Redacted] (DO) (FBI); [Redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** FW: BIE

b6  
b7C

Those in Blue are based upon a convo with Halvorsen and Paul's feedback below...Edit away!

[Large redacted area]

b5



b5

**From:** Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI)

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 24, 2017 5:44 PM

**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]

**Cc:** [redacted] (CTD) (FBI) [redacted] (SE) (FBI) [redacted]

**Subject:** Re: BIE

[redacted] Just a few clarifying points of context:



----- Original message -----

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)" [redacted]

**Date:** 10/24/17 3:03 PM (GMT-05:00)

**To:** [redacted] (SE) (FBI)" [redacted]

**Cc:** [redacted] (CTD) (FBI)" [redacted] "Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI)" [redacted]

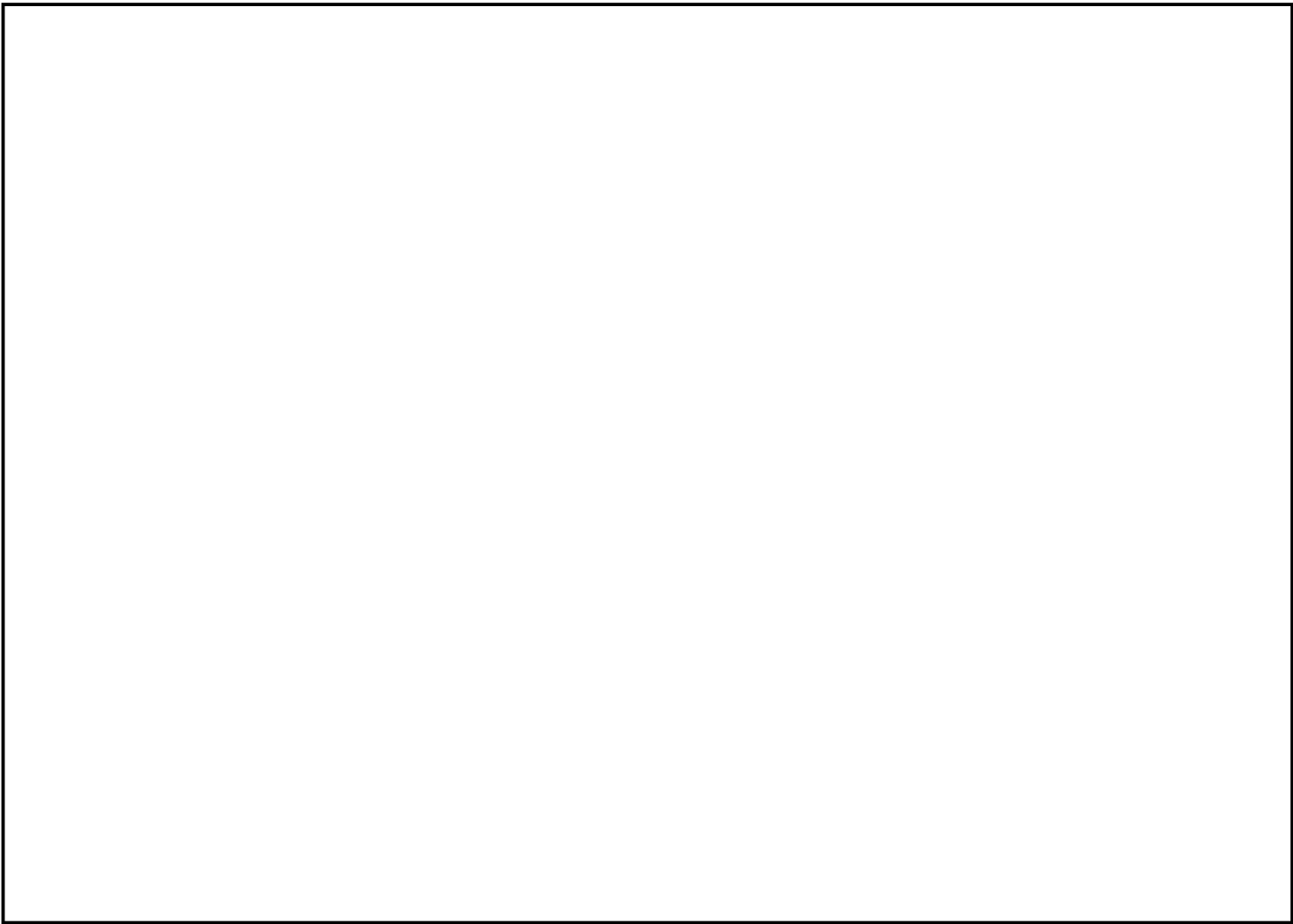
**Subject:** RE: BIE



As we discussed, do mind taking a quick look at these talking points? Not expecting you to do any research or otherwise jump through hoops. I just wanted to ensure that I have adequately addressed [redacted]



b6  
b7C  
b5



b5

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 24, 2017 2:29 PM  
**To:** Kortan, Michael P. (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]  
**Subject:** BIE

b6  
b7C

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Statement date: 10/12/17

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[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

---

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 25, 2017 3:08 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** RE: BIE

b6  
b7C

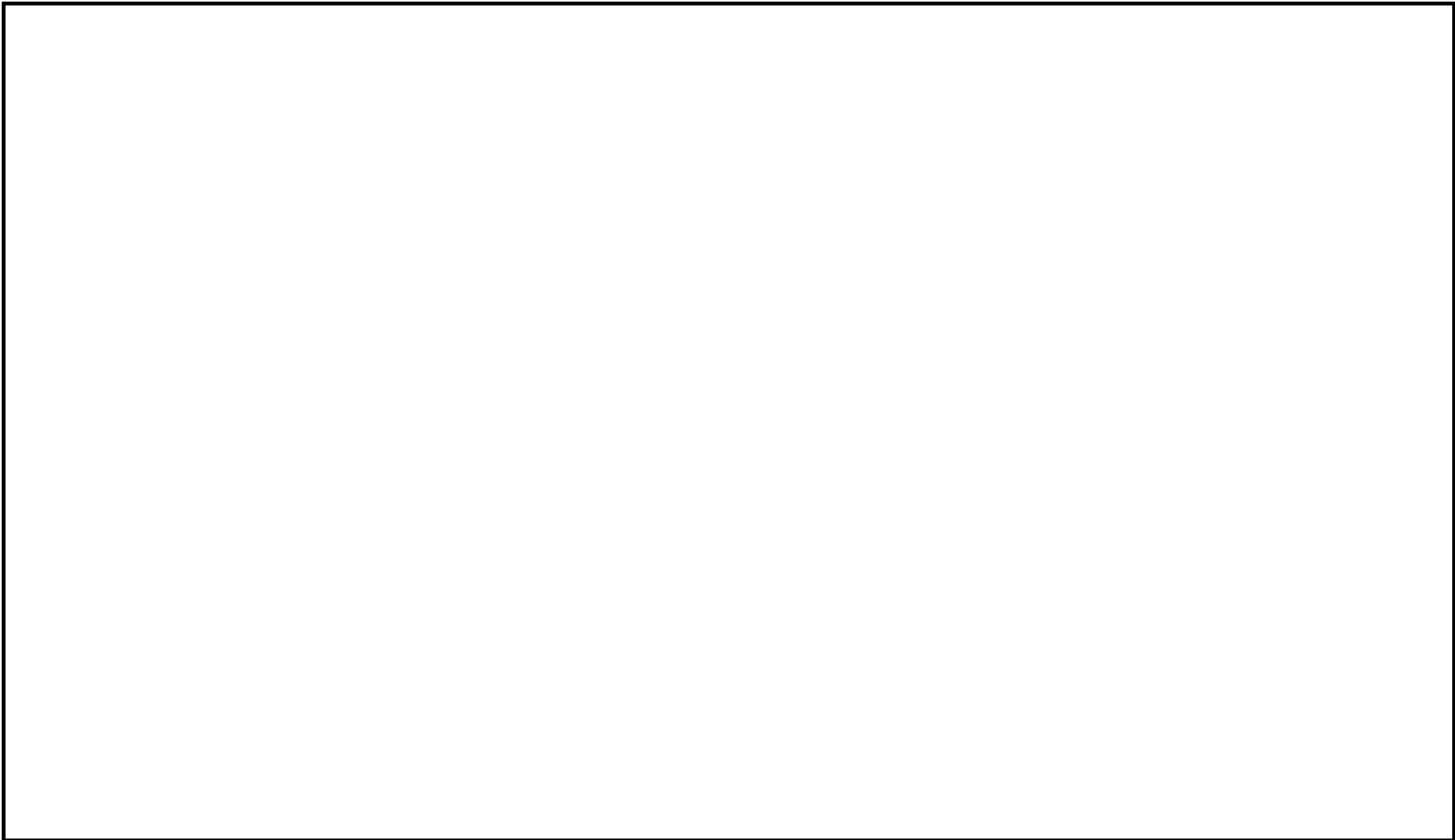
Just small stuff marked below.

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 25, 2017 1:41 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Subject:** FW: BIE

Those in Blue are based upon a convo with Halvorsen and Paul's feedback below...Edit away!

[Large redacted area]

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**From:** Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI)

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 24, 2017 5:44 PM

**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]

**Cc:** [redacted] (CTD) (FBI) [redacted] (SE) (FBI) [redacted]

**Subject:** Re: BIE

[redacted] Just a few clarifying points of context:



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----- Original message -----

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)" [redacted]

**Date:** 10/24/17 3:03 PM (GMT-05:00)

**To:** [redacted] (SE) (FBI)" [redacted]

**Cc:** [redacted] (CTD) (FBI)" [redacted] "Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI)" [redacted]

**Subject:** RE: BIE

[Redacted]

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As we discussed, do mind taking a quick look at these talking points? Not expecting you to do any research or otherwise jump through hoops. I just wanted to ensure that I have adequately addressed [Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

**From:** [Redacted] (DO) (FBI)

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 24, 2017 2:29 PM

**To:** Kortan, Michael P. (DO) (FBI) [Redacted] (DO) (FBI) [Redacted]

**Cc:** [Redacted] (DO) (FBI) [Redacted]

**Subject:** BIE

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Here are the two statements we have given publicly. The first one, the longer one, I think was only given to foreign policy. We have given the shorter one to folks who inquired after FP.

**Black Identity Extremists**

Foreign Policy inquiry after obtaining leaked intelligence assessment

Statement date: 10/12/17

"We have no comment on the report that cited in your email.

With regard to the FBI's Domestic Terrorism investigative program, the threat of domestic terrorism remains a priority for the FBI. It is important to note that the FBI cannot initiate an investigation based solely on an individual's race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, or the exercise of First Amendment rights.

Domestic terrorism groups differ from traditional criminal groups in that they take action for a different purpose, to bring attention to a social or political cause. Therefore, their existence as a group has a legitimate purpose, at least in part. Their legitimate activity may include acts of protest, advocacy, and civil disobedience. The FBI's domestic terrorism program identifies nine persistent extremist movements in the US: white supremacy, black identities, militia, sovereign citizens, anarchists, abortion, animal rights, environmental rights, and Puerto Rican Nationalism. This does not preclude the FBI from investigating all other unique, extremist ideologies furthered wholly or in part through crime and violence are addressed as they arise.

The FBI may only initiate an investigation based upon information or allegations that an activity constitutes a federal crime or a threat to national security. Furthermore, the FBI does not and will not police ideology. When an individual takes action based on belief or ideology and breaks the law, the FBI will enforce the rule of law."

-----  
**Black Identity Extremists – shorter statement as recommended by AD**

Statement date: 10/12/17

Without commenting on the document, ""The FBI investigates activity which may constitute a federal crime or pose a threat to national security and cannot initiate an investigation based solely on an individual's race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, or the exercise of First Amendment rights. The FBI remains committed to protecting those rights for all Americans. Our focus is not on membership in particular groups but on individuals who commit violence and other criminal acts. Furthermore, the FBI does not and will not police ideology. When an individual takes violent action based on belief or ideology and breaks the law, the FBI will enforce the rule of law."



[Redacted]

(DO) (FBI)

**From:** [Redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 25, 2017 4:21 PM  
**To:** [Redacted] (DO) (FBI); [Redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** RE: BIE

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I made one minor edit in the first bullet.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

So could we say something like

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted] Or if that is too specific, something more general.

Just my two cents. Thanks!

**From:** [Redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 25, 2017 3:08 PM  
**To:** [Redacted] (DO) (FBI); [Redacted] (DO) (FBI); [Redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: BIE

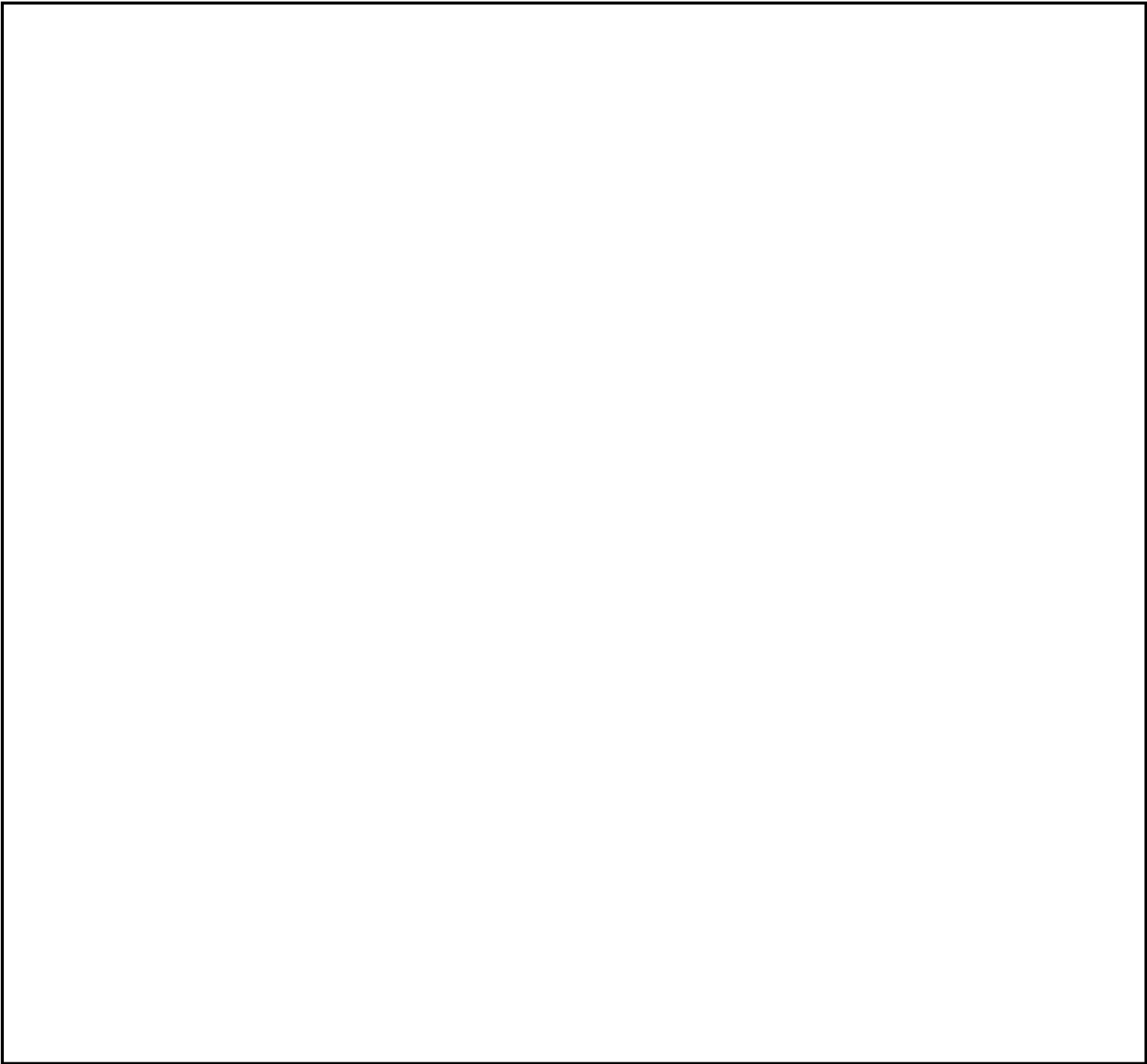
Just small stuff marked below.

**From:** [Redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 25, 2017 1:41 PM  
**To:** [Redacted] (DO) (FBI); [Redacted] (DO) (FBI); [Redacted]  
**Subject:** FW: BIE

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Those in Blue are based upon a convo with Halvorsen and Paul's feedback below...Edit away!

[Large Redacted Area]



b5

**From:** Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI)

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 24, 2017 5:44 PM

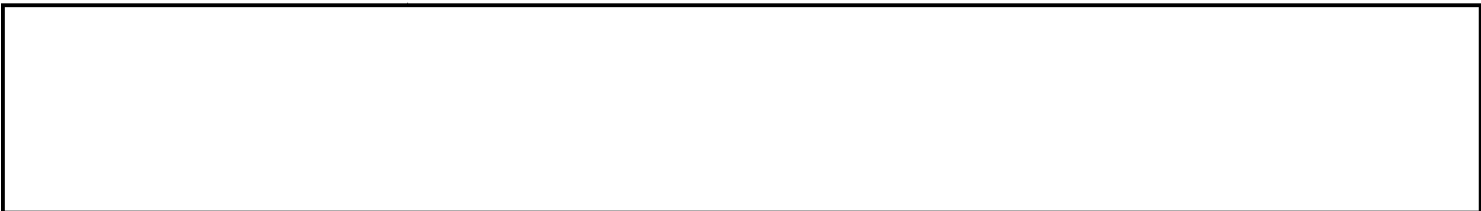
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]

**Cc:** [redacted] (CTD) (FBI) [redacted] (SE) (FBI) [redacted]

**Subject:** Re: BIE

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[redacted] Just a few clarifying points of context:



[Redacted]

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----- Original message -----

From: [Redacted] (DO) (FBI)" [Redacted]  
Date: 10/24/17 3:03 PM (GMT-05:00)  
To: [Redacted] (SE) (FBI)" [Redacted]  
Cc: [Redacted] (CTD) (FBI)" [Redacted] "Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI)" [Redacted]  
Subject: RE: BIE

[Redacted]

As we discussed, do mind taking a quick look at these talking points? Not expecting you to do any research or otherwise jump through hoops. I just wanted to ensure that I have adequately addressed [Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

b5



**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 24, 2017 2:29 PM  
**To:** Kortan, Michael P. (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]  
**Subject:** BIE

Here are the two statements we have given publicly. The first one, the longer one, I think was only given to foreign policy. We have given the shorter one to folks who inquired after FP.

**Black Identity Extremists**

Foreign Policy inquiry after obtaining leaked intelligence assessment  
Statement date: 10/12/17

“We have no comment on the report that cited in your email.

With regard to the FBI's Domestic Terrorism investigative program, the threat of domestic terrorism remains a priority for the FBI. It is important to note that the FBI cannot initiate an investigation based solely on an individual's race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, or the exercise of First Amendment rights.

Domestic terrorism groups differ from traditional criminal groups in that they take action for a different purpose, to bring attention to a social or political cause. Therefore, their existence as a group has a legitimate purpose, at least in part. Their legitimate activity may include acts of protest, advocacy, and civil disobedience. The FBI's domestic terrorism program identifies nine persistent extremist movements in the US: white supremacy, black identities, militia, sovereign citizens, anarchists, abortion, animal rights, environmental rights, and Puerto Rican Nationalism. This does not preclude the FBI from investigating all other unique, extremist ideologies furthered wholly or in part through crime and violence are addressed as they arise.

The FBI may only initiate an investigation based upon information or allegations that an activity constitutes a federal crime or a threat to national security. Furthermore, the FBI does not and will not police ideology. When an individual takes action based on belief or ideology and breaks the law, the FBI will enforce the rule of law.”

-----  
**Black Identity Extremists – shorter statement as recommended by AD**

Statement date: 10/12/17

Without commenting on the document, ““The FBI investigates activity which may constitute a federal crime or pose a threat to national security and cannot initiate an investigation based solely on an individual's race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, or the exercise of First Amendment rights. The FBI remains committed to protecting those rights for all Americans. Our focus is not on membership in particular groups but on individuals who commit violence and other criminal acts. Furthermore, the FBI does not and will not police ideology. When an individual takes violent action based on belief or ideology and breaks the law, the FBI will enforce the rule of law.”

[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

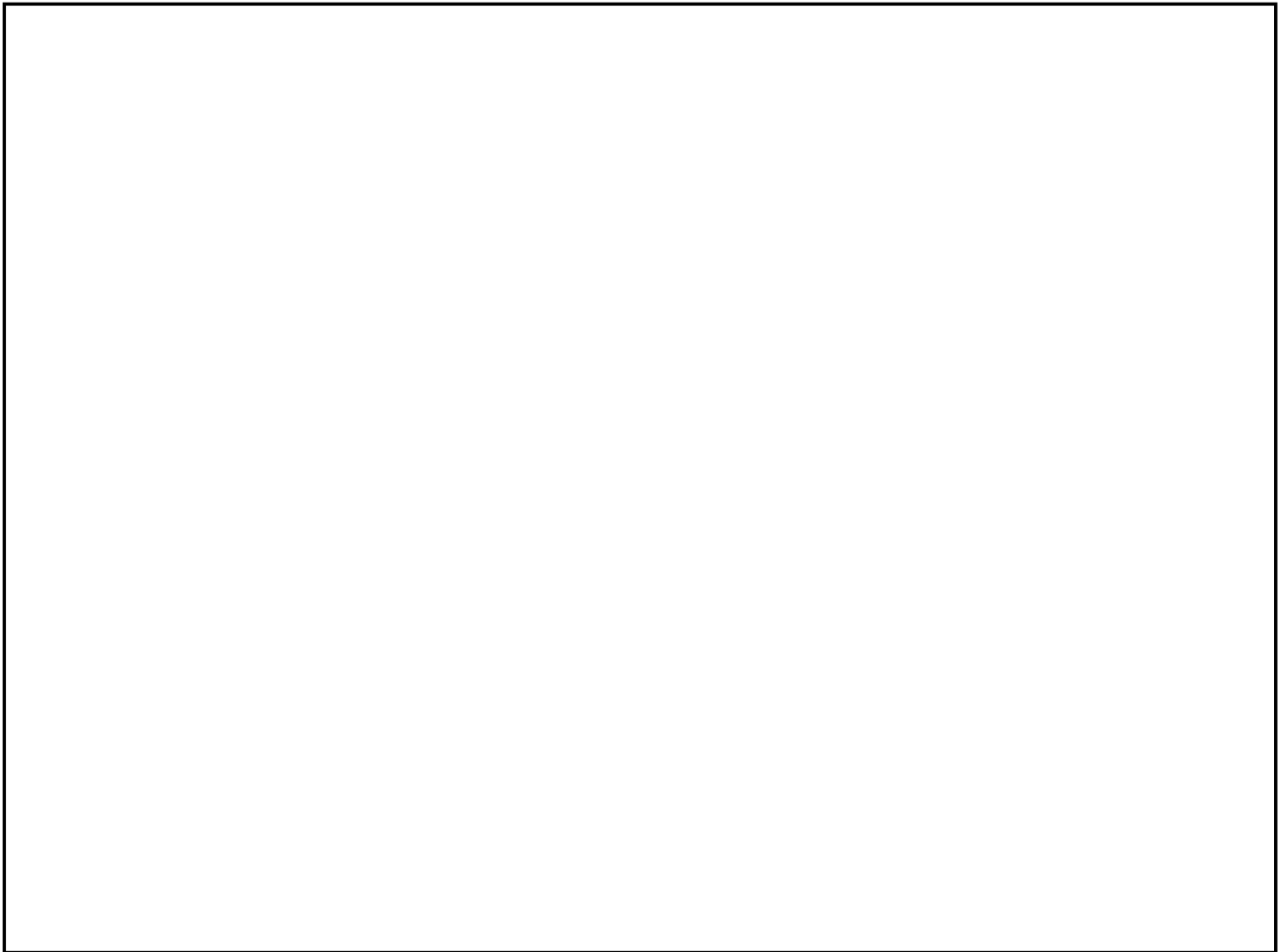
**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 26, 2017 10:32 AM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** FW: BIE

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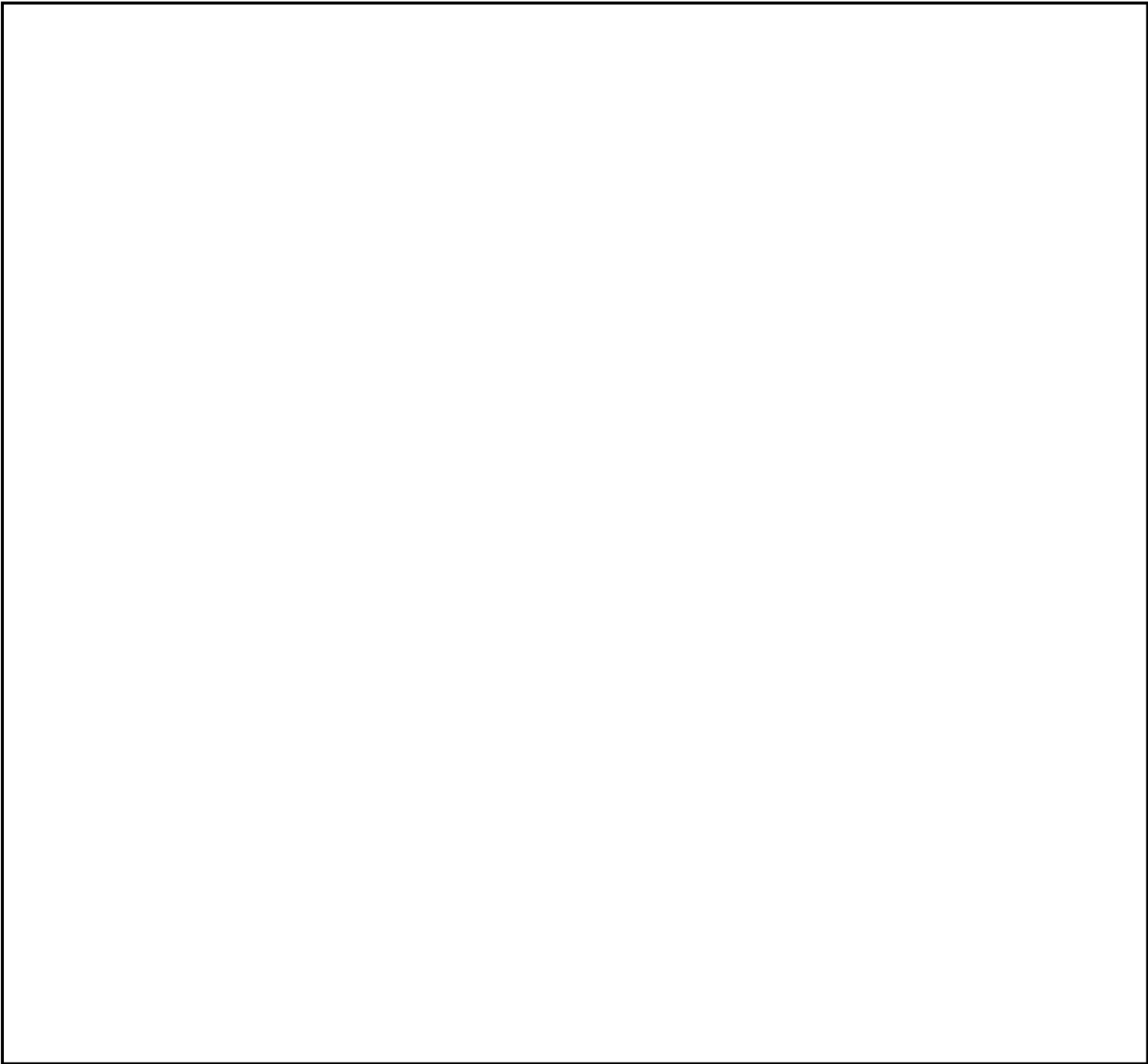
I have not heard anything back as of yet.

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 25, 2017 4:46 PM  
**To:** Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted] (CTD) (FBI); [redacted] (SE) (FBI); [redacted] Halvorsen,  
Christine A. (CTD) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: BIE

See revised draft talkers below which are based upon Michael's feedback and a conversation with Chris. Let me know if they capture the overarching issue in relation to BIE. Feel free to edit.



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**From:** Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI)

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 24, 2017 5:44 PM

**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]

**Cc:** [redacted] (CTD) (FBI) [redacted] (SE) (FBI) [redacted]

**Subject:** Re: BIE

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[redacted] Just a few clarifying points of context:



**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Friday, October 27, 2017 5:14 PM  
**To:** NPO  
**Subject:** OPA Horizon - 10/27/2017

**UNCLASSIFIED // ~~FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~**

**FBI Office of Public Affairs  
The Horizon  
Friday, October 27, 2017**

**National Issues**

- **JFK Files: OPA** – Significant media inquiries regarding the release of FBI files on the JFK Assassination. OPA is coordinating with RMD and OGC on a statement in response to inquiries.
- **BIE Intelligence Assessment: OPA** – McClatchy requested an interview about the FBI’s domestic terrorism designations as well as information on the Black Identities Extremist Movement intelligence assessment which was released to law enforcement in August. NPO provided the following response: “Without commenting on the document, the FBI investigates activity which may constitute a federal crime or pose a threat to national security and cannot initiate an investigation based solely on an individual’s race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, or the exercise of First Amendment rights. The FBI remains committed to protecting those rights for all Americans. Our focus is not on membership in particular groups but on individuals who commit violence and other criminal acts. Furthermore, the FBI does not and will not police ideology. When an individual takes violent action based on belief or ideology and breaks the law, the FBI will enforce the rule of law.”
- **Personnel Matter: OPA** – The New York Times inquired about a personnel matter related to a former Special Agent who was fired and is seeking reinstatement. OPA declined to provide a comment for the story.
- **MS-13 Membership: OPA** – VOA inquired about the number of MS-13 members in the U.S. and requested a breakdown by region and state. OPA responded that the National Gang Intelligence Center estimates there are about 10,000 MS-13 gang members in the U.S., but declined to provide regional or state-by-state numbers.
- **FBI.gov Top Story: OPA** – A Peruvian national living in New York was sentenced to 12 years for stealing more than \$1.2 million from unsuspecting investors in a Ponzi scheme involving commodities fraud:  
<https://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/commodities-fraud-sentencing>

**Local Stories**

- **Detroit** – Media attention is expected regarding a press release issued by the USAO, Eastern District, regarding a Flint man who plead guilty to kidnapping and being a felon in possession of ammunition. The defendant was said to have been a drug dealer who traveled from Arkansas to Michigan to collect a drug debt resulting in a kidnapping and ransom demand. SAC Gelios offered a statement that read, in part, “This incident once again underscores the dangers we face from illegal drugs and the violent crimes that often accompany drug trafficking activities.”
- **El Paso** – El Paso received an inquiry regarding a Las Cruces local media story about teenagers involved in sexting receiving federal child pornography charges. Reporter inquired if the FBI was seeing this in El Paso. El Paso responded, “This type of sexting is occurring nationwide. Federal/state/local law enforcement are working these incidents through outreach, education and lastly, prosecutions. FBI educates 3rd through 8th graders on these situations during the FBI’s Safe Online Surfing program.”
- **Los Angeles** – Three officers with the Pomona Police Department self-surrendered yesterday to face federal charges that allege one officer violated the civil rights of a minor who was struck twice at the Los Angeles County Fair two years ago, and that all three took illegal steps to justify and cover-up the attack. Inquiries are being referred to the USAO.

- New Orleans – New Orleans participated in a joint press conference with several federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies to address violent crime in New Orleans. The press conference generated a significant number of news inquiries into potential subjects and areas of focus in the New Orleans area.
- New Orleans – According to a second superseding indictment, two subjects conspired together to commit two armored car robberies, a 2015 robbery at a Chase Bank and then the 2017 attempted robbery at the Campus Federal Credit Union at Tulane in which the subjects shot and killed an armored car employee. New Orleans is referring all media inquiries to the USAO-EDLA.
- Salt Lake City – SA [redacted] was interviewed by the NBC affiliate in Billings, MT about white collar crime and how businesses can protect themselves. The story will air at a later date.
- Salt Lake City – ABC News asked about the FBI's involvement in a missing person case out of Browning, MT. [redacted] was last seen June 5th. The reporter was told that the FBI is aware of the case and not involved at this time. However, we are coordinating with the appropriate authorities currently investigating the matter and we are prepared to assist, if asked.
- San Francisco – Local media inquired about the FBI's role in Oakland PD's arrest of [redacted] for the murder of Andrew Henderson. San Francisco released a seeking information poster last week offering a \$20,000 reward for public tips on five unsolved murders, which included Andrew Henderson.
- San Francisco – Yesterday's FBI and Oakland PD joint press conference announcing the solved homicide of a local musician, continues to receive significant media coverage after the victim's mother provided a statement to the local Fox affiliate.
- San Juan – On 10/25/17, SA [redacted] was interviewed by the local New York Times about the creation of the Elderly Task Force and distribution of food, water, and other commodities to assisted living facilities in Puerto Rico affected by Hurricane Maria.

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[redacted]  
FBI National Press Office  
(o) [redacted]  
(c) [redacted]  
[redacted]

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[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

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**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 02, 2017 5:12 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** OPA Horizon - 11/2/17

**UNCLASSIFIED//~~FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~**

**FBI Office of Public Affairs  
The Horizon  
Thursday, November 2, 2017**

**National Issues**

- **Congressional Black Caucus and Director Wray:** OPA – A spokesperson for the Congressional Black Caucus said Director Wray will be meeting with the group to discuss an intelligence assessment regarding black identity extremists; reporters sought FBI comment and OPA declined.
- **Watchlist Inquiry:** OPA – CBS news inquired as to whether such services as Uber and Lyft, or agencies similar to the New York City Taxi & Limousine Commission, have access to data on the Terrorist Screening Center's (TSC) watchlist. OPA, in consultation with the TSC, declined to comment.
- **Anticom:** OPA – Received an inquiry from ProPublica regarding if the FBI is investigating a group called Anti-Communist Action, or Anticom, the group who allegedly helped orchestrate recent protests by white supremacists and other extremists. In particular the reporter asked if the FBI has disrupted any terror plots related to Anticom. After consultation with CTD, OPA provided the following statement: "The FBI does not confirm or deny specific investigations. However, any information regarding violent criminal activity or threats of terrorism should be reported promptly to the FBI. We have no comment on any individuals or groups. The FBI investigates activity which may constitute a federal crime or pose a threat to national security and cannot initiate an investigation based solely on an individual's race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, or the exercise of First Amendment rights. The FBI remains committed to protecting those rights for all Americans. Our focus is not on membership in particular groups but on individuals who commit violence and other criminal acts. Furthermore, the FBI does not and will not police ideology. When an individual takes violent action based on belief or ideology and breaks the law, the FBI will enforce the rule of law."

**Local Stories**

- **Atlanta** - Equifax will release a press statement in the morning indicating that the company has completed an internal investigation into alleged insider trading related to the breach. The press release will likely state that the federal investigation continues and that Equifax will cooperate fully with federal authorities.
- **Boston** – Received multiple media inquiries regarding the FBI's presence at Enneking Parkway in West Roxbury, MA relative to an ongoing missing person investigation. FBI Boston confirmed that the FBI's Evidence Response Team is assisting Boston Police in an ongoing investigation, declined further comment, and referred reporters back to the Boston Police.
- **Boston** – Received multiple media inquiries regarding the FBI's involvement in investigating racially charged graffiti found at Framingham State University. This is the third incident this year. FBI Boston declined to comment, in keeping with DOJ policy.
- **Boston** – Received multiple media inquiries about NYC terror suspect [redacted] ties to Massachusetts after the *New York Times* published an article stating that [redacted] was a truck driver who logged tens of thousands of miles from Denver to Detroit, from Canton, Mass. to Salt Lake City. FBI Boston responded that FBI Boston is not aware of any connections to the Boston AOR.
- **Detroit** - National media attention is expected as a result of an article in today's Detroit News citing "FBI's UAW training center probe widens to GM, Ford". Prior to the article's release, the reporter requested

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comment from FBI Detroit regarding the Fiat Chrysler-UAW corruption investigation expanding to Ford Motor and General Motors; FBI Detroit declined comment.

• [REDACTED]

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- Knoxville - PAS [REDACTED] was interviewed by the NBC affiliate regarding the one day Teen Academy Program hosted at FBI Knoxville. Approximately 18 students from two high schools attended the program which provided an inside look at the FBI. Presentations topics consisted of the FBI history and mission as well as firearms trajectory, cold case study, evidence recovery, FBI career information and more.
- Las Vegas - SAC Rouse was interviewed by the Las Vegas Sun about the FBI's involvement in the October 1 shooting. SAC Rouse discussed providing FBI resources for the investigation and highlighted the strong public and private partnerships in Las Vegas.
- Portland - PAS [REDACTED] was interviewed by the NBC affiliate for its "Portland Today" afternoon talk show regarding the risks associated with cloud computing, especially for small and medium sized businesses. This interview came subsequent to FBI Portland's Tech Tuesday PSA campaign.
- Sacramento - PAS [REDACTED] was interviewed by the Fox affiliate regarding the East Area Rapist/Golden State Killer Case. Interest in the case has elevated since People magazine covered the case and published photos and sketches provided by the Sacramento County DA and Contra Costa County Sheriff of items possibly stolen during the commission of crimes. The interview covered the continued need for information to help identify the subject and the benefit of the national coverage to ensure individuals who may have lived in the areas impacted the subject but who have relocated are aware of the need for information from the public.

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[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 15, 2017 5:11 PM  
**To:** NPO  
**Subject:** OPA Horizon - 11/15/17

**UNCLASSIFIED // ~~FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~**

**FBI Office of Public Affairs  
The Horizon  
Wednesday, November 15, 2017**

**National Issues**

- **School Cyber Hackings:** OPA – NBC Nightly News interviewed DAD Marshall from the Cyber Division about recent school cyber hackings, where the perpetrators steal sensitive information, including student data, and then threaten school administrators to pay a ransom or the sensitive data will be released. The piece is scheduled to air this evening.
- **Russian Wire Transfers:** OPA – Multiple media inquiries about reports of an FBI investigation into money transfers from the Russian Embassy "to finance election campaign of 2016." OPA declined to comment.
- **Black Identity Extremists:** OPA – Several reporters asked about an intelligence assessment concerning black identity extremists. AG Sessions received questions about the document at a congressional oversight hearing yesterday. OPA declined to talk about the specific document but provided the following statement: "The FBI investigates activity which may constitute a federal crime or pose a threat to national security and cannot initiate an investigation based solely on an individual's race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, or the exercise of First Amendment rights. The FBI remains committed to protecting those rights for all Americans. Our focus is not on membership in particular groups but on individuals who commit violence and other criminal acts. Furthermore, the FBI does not and will not police ideology. When an individual takes violent action based on belief or ideology and breaks the law, the FBI will enforce the rule of law."
- **No Fly:** OPA – The BBC asked for the number of people on the no fly list and how someone is placed on that list. OPA responded we are not able to provide any numbers and referred the reporter to the Terrorist Screening Center's frequently asked questions document on fbi.gov.
- **Executive Announcement:** OPA – A press release was issued to announce the appointment of Brian Brooks as the new assistant director of the Operational Technology Division.
- **The Hunt for the Zodiac Killer:** OPA – History Channel has premiered a five-part documentary series titled "The Hunt for the Zodiac Killer: The New Suspect," featuring a team of top investigators and code breakers working together to solve and ultimately break the code from over 50 years ago. SAC Bennett in San Francisco was interviewed.

**Local Stories**

- **Chicago** – [redacted] a Chicago investment advisor, stole more than \$5 million from several clients, including his elderly in-laws, and used some of the cash on a mortgage and a luxury automobile, according to federal criminal charges filed today. The U.S. Attorney's Office issued a press release announcing the charges.
- **Los Angeles** – Los Angeles agents arrested [redacted] this morning for allegedly making a series of online threats to kill law enforcement personnel and others at the Los Angeles Superior Court's Inglewood Courthouse, a nearby school and a private business. [redacted] who used the online moniker [redacted] allegedly made the threats using techniques designed to make his internet communications anonymous, which included using Tor and proxy servers. [redacted] is expected to be arraigned on a 10-count indictment this afternoon in United States District Court in downtown Los Angeles.

- Phoenix – FBI Phoenix Field Office issued a statement about a phone scam that spoofs, or fraudulently displays, the FBI’s real telephone number on the victim’s caller ID. The scam claims the victims are being investigated by the FBI for federal or other violations and will be arrested if they don’t pay a fee immediately. In some cases, the scammers are calling victims in Arizona and spoofing the phone numbers of the FBI offices in Tucson, Phoenix, and other locations. The statement reminded people that the FBI does not call or e-mail private citizens to demand money or threaten arrest.
- Phoenix – Pima County issued a statement to local media advising that the FBI will help provide training to study crime scene preservation and safety techniques at a training session featuring elaborately staged emergency scenarios. Dozens of representatives from local and federal law enforcement agencies, fire departments, emergency response agencies, and local utilities are expected to attend the free training Wednesday, November 15. The FBI is participating as part of the Utilities Threat Assessment Group (UTAG), an informal ad hoc a local partnership of agencies focused on safely and effectively managing accidents, criminal incidents and security threats that impact law enforcement, first responders, utility providers and the general community.
- Phoenix – SSA [redacted] participated in an interview with a local television station to discuss safe on-line surfing, email compromises, ransomware and other cybercrime threats.
- Tampa – Continued local and national media coverage of the investigation into the Seminole Heights murders. FBI Tampa is responding to media with the following: "Tampa Police Department has the lead in the Seminole Heights murders investigation. FBI Tampa is in constant communication with our law enforcement partner and offering assistance as needed. In effort to stay consistent with information released, Tampa Police Department is handling all media inquiries regarding the investigation."

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[redacted]  
FBI National Press Office  
(o) [redacted]  
(c) [redacted]  
[redacted]

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[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 16, 2017 9:32 AM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** FW: Possible Statements

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**Follow Up Flag:** FollowUp  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[redacted]

*National Press Office  
FBI Office of Public Affairs*

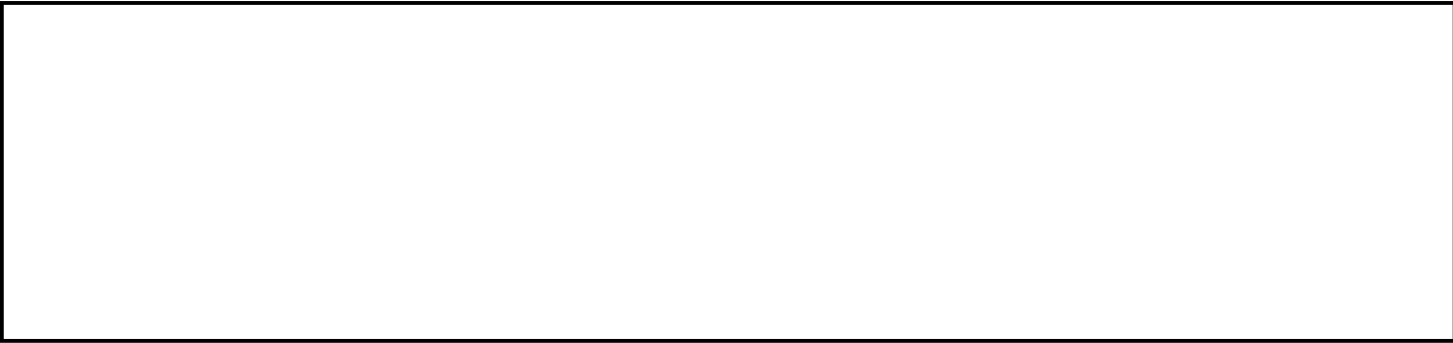
[redacted] (desk) | [redacted] (cell) | [redacted] (main)  
[@FBI](#) | [@FBIMostWanted](#)

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 26, 2017 12:17 PM  
**To:** Kortan, Michael P. (DO) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Subject:** Possible Statements

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Mike,  
Below are two versions to review.

[Large redacted area]



National Press Office

(office)  
(mobile)

[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 16, 2017 4:41 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** RE: Possible Statements  
**Attachments:** BIE possible statements.docx

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[redacted] and I took another look. I moved it into a document so we can do track changes.

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 16, 2017 9:32 AM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Subject:** FW: Possible Statements

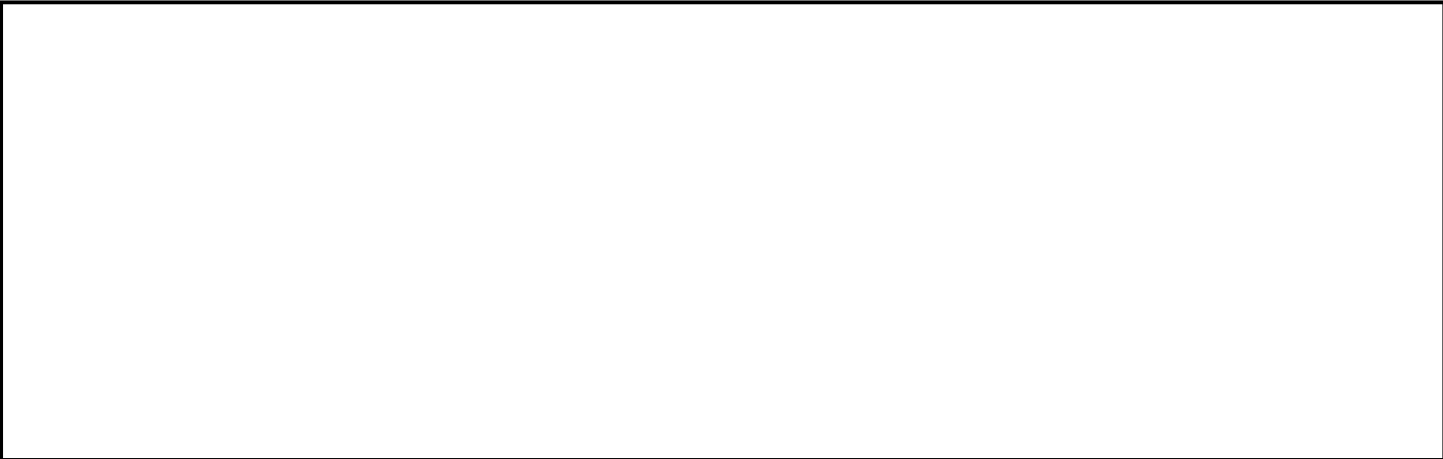
[redacted]  
*National Press Office  
FBI Office of Public Affairs*

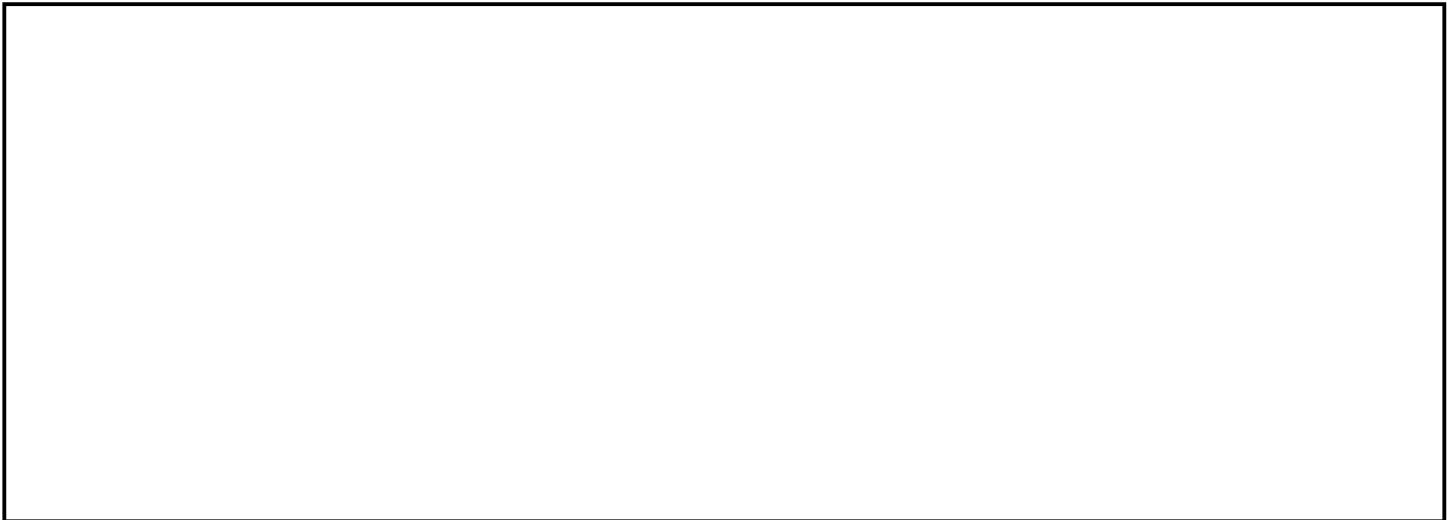
[redacted] (desk) | [redacted] (cell) | [redacted] (main)  
**@FBI | @FBIMostWanted**

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**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 26, 2017 12:17 PM  
**To:** Kortan, Michael P. (DO) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Subject:** Possible Statements

Mike,  
Below are two versions to review.





National Press Office  
(office)  
(mobile)





[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

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**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Monday, November 20, 2017 2:38 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** FW: Urgent: Response requested - Al Jazeera  
**Attachments:** FBI 1035-1037.pdf; FBI 1057-1059.pdf; OIAC Fusion Center.pdf; IA 253.pdf; NPPD 2055.pdf; DHS Field Analysis Report.pdf

**From:** Sweta Vohra [redacted]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 20, 2017 1:20 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] mediainquiry@dhs.gov  
**Subject:** Urgent: Response requested - Al Jazeera

To [redacted] and the DHS press officer,

My name is Sweta Vohra and I am journalist with Al Jazeera English based in New York City. [redacted] we have been in touch recently regarding a story that I was working on. This is a follow-up to that request.

I have been given access to six internal FBI and DHS documents that have been turned over to the Center for Constitutional Rights and Color of Change through a FOIA lawsuit regarding surveillance of Black Lives Matter.

I have attached the six documents to this email.

We are going to press **Wednesday, November 22nd** with the documents and reactions from the Center for Constitutional Rights, Color of Change and a national security expert. The analysis being put forth in the article broadly states that Black Lives Matter protests are being assessed as violent or threatening by both agencies, without explanation, potentially allowing the FBI and DHS to conduct surveillance on what would otherwise be a protected 1st Amendment activity. Additionally, we explore how that assessment compares to a DHS analysis on white supremacist events.

What is the FBI and DHS response to the language in these documents as well as this analysis?

This will be for a print article on our website. I request a response in writing by **EOB tomorrow, Tuesday November 21st.**

Many thanks,  
Sweta

Sweta Vohra  
Al Jazeera Network | Producer, Fault Lines  
200 Liberty Street, 18th Floor  
New York, NY 10280

b6  
b7C

[redacted] (M)

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[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

**From:** Ames, Andrew C. (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Monday, November 20, 2017 3:47 PM  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: Urgent: Response requested - Al Jazeera  
**Attachments:** FBI 1035-1037.pdf; FBI 1057-1059.pdf; OIAC Fusion Center.pdf; IA 253.pdf; NPPD 2055.pdf; DHS Field Analysis Report.pdf

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Sweta,

I received your note from [redacted] My office handles daily media inquiries rather than long form media. Thank you for your inquiry. As a matter of practice, we do not comment on FOIA documents nor do we comment on other agency's FOIA documents.

For your story, here is our on the record statement regarding our legal authorities:

"The FBI investigates activity which may constitute a federal crime or pose a threat to national security and cannot initiate an investigation based solely on an individual's race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, or the exercise of First Amendment rights. The FBI remains committed to protecting those rights for all Americans. Our focus is not on membership in particular groups but on individuals who commit violence and other criminal acts. Furthermore, the FBI does not and will not police ideology. When an individual takes violent action based on belief or ideology and breaks the law, the FBI will enforce the rule of law."

I'd also like to discuss your story with you over the phone if you have a moment.

Sincerely,

Andrew C. Ames  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
National Press Office  
Desk: [redacted]  
Cell: [redacted]

**From:** Sweta Vohra [redacted]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 20, 2017 1:20 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI) <adbell@fbi.gov>; mediainquiry@dhs.gov  
**Subject:** Urgent: Response requested - Al Jazeera

b6  
b7C

To [redacted] and the DHS press officer,

My name is Sweta Vohra and I am journalist with Al Jazeera English based in New York City. [redacted] we have been in touch recently regarding a story that I was working on. This is a follow-up to that request.

I have been given access to six internal FBI and DHS documents that have been turned over to the Center for Constitutional Rights and Color of Change through a FOIA lawsuit regarding surveillance of Black Lives Matter.

I have attached the six documents to this email.

We are going to press **Wednesday, November 22nd** with the documents and reactions from the Center for Constitutional Rights, Color of Change and a national security expert. The analysis being put forth in the article broadly states that Black Lives Matter protests are being assessed as violent or threatening by both agencies, without explanation, potentially allowing the FBI and DHS to conduct surveillance on what would otherwise be a protected 1st Amendment activity. Additionally, we explore how that assessment compares to a DHS analysis on white supremacist events.

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Sweta

---

Sweta Vohra  
Al Jazeera Network | Producer, Fault Lines  
200 Liberty Street, 18th Floor  
New York, NY 10280

[Redacted] (M)  
[Redacted]

b6  
b7c

---

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[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Monday, November 20, 2017 4:01 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** FW: Urgent: Response requested - Al Jazeera  
**Attachments:** FBI 1035-1037.pdf; FBI 1057-1059.pdf; OIAC Fusion Center.pdf; IA 253.pdf; NPPD 2055.pdf; DHS Field Analysis Report.pdf

b6  
b7C

As discussed.

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Monday, November 20, 2017 2:38 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Subject:** FW: Urgent: Response requested - Al Jazeera

**From:** Sweta Vohra [redacted]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 20, 2017 1:20 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] mediainquiry@dhs.gov  
**Subject:** Urgent: Response requested - Al Jazeera

To [redacted] and the DHS press officer,

My name is Sweta Vohra and I am journalist with Al Jazeera English based in New York City. [redacted] we have been in touch recently regarding a story that I was working on. This is a follow-up to that request.

b6  
b7C

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I have attached the six documents to this email.

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This will be for a print article on our website. I request a response in writing by **EOB tomorrow, Tuesday November 21st.**

Many thanks,  
Sweta

Sweta Vohra  
Al Jazeera Network | Producer, Fault Lines  
200 Liberty Street, 18th Floor  
New York, NY 10280

[Redacted] (M)  
[Redacted]

b6  
b7C

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[REDACTED] (DO) (FBI)

**From:** [REDACTED] (NY) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Monday, November 20, 2017 5:32 PM  
**Subject:** OPA Horizon - 11/20/2017

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**UNCLASSIFIED // ~~FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~**

**FBI Office of Public Affairs  
The Horizon  
Monday, November 20, 2017**

**National Issues**

- **Border Patrol Agents Assaulted: EP/OPA** – Significant media interest in an assault on Saturday, 11/18, that left one CPB agent killed and another in critical condition. FBI EP is the lead investigative agency. EP PAO anticipates releasing statement on the status of the investigation.
- **NICS: CJIS/OPA** – CBS News asked why there appear to be significant gaps in the data supplied to the databases queried during NICS checks. CJIS provided information on how NICS works and the fact the system relies on data submitted by local, state, and federal partners.
- **NK Counterfeit Money: OPA** – Dow Jones News Fund Fellow, who is working on a piece for American Banker, inquired about North Korean counterfeit money and what preventative measures the U.S. is taking, as well as what consumers can be on the lookout for. OPA declined to comment.
- **Alex Villamayor Murder: OPA** – The Daily Beast asked to confirm whether Paraguayan authorities barred the FBI from investigating the death of Alex Villamayor, an American citizen who was killed in Paraguay in 2015. Per coordination with IOD, OPA declined to comment and referred the reporter to FBI.gov for publicly available information regarding IOD.
- **DAPL Protestor: OPA** – The Intercept inquired about accounts from someone who protested the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL), that he and others were interviewed by the FBI about a Facebook post he had made calling for pipeline opponents to attack the pipeline. OPA declined to comment on the accounts or confirm nor deny the existence of an investigation.
- **Church Shooter Phone: OPA** - The Washington Post asked about efforts to unlock the cell phone belonging to the Sutherland Springs church shooter. The reporter also asked about warrants relating to the phone and for information on the number of encrypted phones which could not be unlocked last year. OPA declined specific questions about the shooter's phone but provided figures on the number of phones the FBI could not access last year.
- **BIE: OPA** – Media asked for FBI comment regarding an intelligence assessment concerning black identity extremists. OPA did not comment on the specific document but provided a general statement: "The FBI investigates activity which may constitute a federal crime or pose a threat to national security and cannot initiate an investigation based solely on an individual's race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, or the exercise of First Amendment rights. The FBI remains committed to protecting those rights for all Americans. Our focus is not on membership in particular groups but on individuals who commit violence and other criminal acts. Furthermore, the FBI does not and will not police ideology. When an individual takes violent action based on belief or ideology and breaks the law, the FBI will enforce the rule of law."

**Local Stories**

- **Albuquerque** - Local CBS affiliate requested video connected to the FBI investigation of former New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department agent [REDACTED] who pleaded guilty to Hobbs Act extortion charges Friday. Reporter was referred to the U.S. Attorney's Office, since the case is not fully adjudicated. At sentencing, which has not been set, [REDACTED] faces a statutory penalty of imprisonment for not more than 20 years and a fine not to exceed \$250,000.

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- Milwaukee - Local NBC affiliate will air part one of a two part story tonight on the Milwaukee Division's Gang Task Force with Milwaukee Police Department. ASAC [redacted] and SSA [redacted] were interviewed for the story.
- Omaha - SAC Thyse granted local CBS affiliate an interview to discuss a fraud awareness message for the upcoming holiday season. The story covered topics such as credit card scams and online financial information security. The special will air on Wednesday night.
- San Francisco - SAC Bennett held a news conference with the U.S. Attorney's Office to announce a large-scale Hells Angels takedown in Santa Rosa, Fresno, and Boston. Charges included murder, conspiracy, assault, weapons trafficking, and witness intimidation.

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[redacted]  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
National Press Office  
[redacted]

*This communication may be subject to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).*



[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

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**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 29, 2017 3:41 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** CBC  
**Attachments:** Directors Opening Statement CBC Rountable November 2017 [redacted] edits.docx

[redacted]  
[redacted] Executive Writing Unit  
Office of Public Affairs  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
[redacted] (direct)  
[redacted] (mobile)  
[redacted]

[Redacted]

(DO) (FBI)

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**From:** [Redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 29, 2017 3:56 PM  
**To:** [Redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** FW: CBC  
**Attachments:** Directors Opening Statement CBC Rountable November 2017 [Redacted] edits.docx

-----Original Message-----

**From:** [Redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 29, 2017 3:41 PM  
**To:** [Redacted] (DO) (FBI) [Redacted]  
**Subject:** CBC

[Redacted]  
[Redacted] Executive Writing Unit  
Office of Public Affairs  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
[Redacted] (direct)  
[Redacted] (mobile)  
[Redacted]

**From:** NPO  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 29, 2017 5:29 PM  
**To:** NPO  
**Subject:** OPA Horizon 11/29/17

***The Horizon***  
**Wednesday, November 29, 2017**

**National Issues**

- Super Micro Supply Chain Attack: OPA – Bloomberg inquired about an alleged supply chain attack in 2015 that hit multiple U.S. companies via server motherboards manufactured in China and integrated into products sold by Super Micro Computer Inc. Bloomberg will report that the FBI, the NSA, and the CIA were involved in the investigation of this sophisticated attack, which affected as many as 30 U.S. companies, including Apple Inc. The story will also report that the U.S. government has attributed this attack to the PLA, and that among its goals was the theft of source code and commercial secrets from U.S. companies. OPA declined to comment.
- Black Caucus/BIE: OPA – Reporters asked about a meeting between Director Wray and members of the Congressional Black Caucus to discuss a leaked intelligence assessment on Black Identity Extremists. OPA did not provide a comment, but the chairman of the caucus made a statement praising the Director’s transparency.
- FBI Radio: OPA - FBI Radio released a Wanted by the FBI podcast/vodcast in which a young daughter of Ten Most Wanted Fugitive Jesus Munguia tells him to turn himself in to authorities. Case agent [REDACTED] also speaks. Video shows photos of the fugitive, his estranged wife (the victim) and their four children. FBI, This Week also was released today and it tells the business community how to connect with the FBI through its private sector coordinators. UC [REDACTED] in the Office of Private Sector spoke about partnerships.
- Zodiac Killer: OPA – Tonight the History Channel will air part three of its five-episode documentary series “The Hunt for the Zodiac Killer.” This episode is titled “A New Code Uncovered” and looks at new ciphers related to the case.

**Local Stories**

- Charlotte - SSRA [REDACTED] participated in another news conference today with the Sheriff of Onslow County regarding a missing 3-year old.
- Detroit – Local media interviewed members of Detroit’s community outreach team as they helped organize clothing for Detroit’s largest coat drive for needy families. The FBI is working with the Detroit Police Department and Molina Healthcare on an event planned for Saturday. The goal is to outfit over 4,000 kids and adults with winter jackets.
- Los Angeles - [REDACTED] a longtime fugitive, was named today in a nine-count indictment that alleges he participated in a \$9 million loan fraud scheme that targeted Wells Fargo Bank [REDACTED] is believed to be in Venezuela after fleeing the United States approximately eight years ago. Two alleged conspirators have pleaded guilty. A photograph of [REDACTED] will be issued with the USAO press release and anyone with information as to his whereabouts is directed to contact the FBI.
- Philadelphia – A 19th century Polish painting, looted during World War II and recovered in the Philadelphia area, was formally returned to Poland today. SAs [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and SSA [REDACTED] from the Art Crime Team took part in the handover ceremony at the Polish Ministry of Culture and National Heritage in Warsaw. PAO received local and national inquiries.
- Philadelphia – The so-called “godfather of payday lending” and his longtime lawyer were found guilty of racketeering conspiracy relating to payday lending businesses. [REDACTED] a multimillionaire former investment banker, was convicted on 17 counts, including fraud and money-laundering. He and co-defendant [REDACTED] participated in a conspiracy that violated the usury laws of Pennsylvania and other states, and

generated more than \$688 million in revenue from hundreds of thousands of customers. SAC Harpster was quoted in USAO-EDPA's press release.

- Pittsburgh - SAC Johnson attended a press conference with the U.S. Attorney's Office regarding an indictment that was unsealed against three Chinese nationals for computer hacking, theft of trade secrets, and conspiracy and identity theft directed at U.S. and foreign employees. SAC Johnson provided the following statement: "In order to effectively address the cyber threat, a threat that respects no boundaries and continues to grow in both its scope and complexity, law enforcement must come together and transcend borders to target criminal actors no matter where they are in the world."
- Phoenix - Numerous television and radio reporters attended a Tuesday briefing by SA [redacted] on Active Shooter training. Immediately following the briefing, SAC DeLeon participated in an on-the-record question and answer session with the reporters.
- Phoenix - An Arizona man was sentenced in federal court Tuesday to two years of probation and a \$2,000 fine for aiming a laser pointer at a law enforcement aircraft this spring. SA [redacted] did an interview with a Tucson newspaper about the dangers of laser pointers and how we work with our state and local partners to combat the issue.
- San Antonio - A reporter asked the FBI's position on cyber insurance for small and medium sized businesses. SA declined to weigh in and noted businesses make such decisions after considering several factors including assessments of risks and costs.
- San Francisco - A former DOJ fraud attorney, [redacted] pleaded guilty to obstruction of justice and stolen property after he stole sealed complaints before leaving DOJ and then tried to sell them to the accused companies. He also used the sealed complaints to identify companies under investigation and in turn recruit them as clients. [redacted] was arrested in a Bay Area hotel lobby when he met an FBI UC employee and tried to exchange a sealed complaint for a duffel bag full of cash. A court hearing for [redacted] is underway and is expected to generate media inquiries.
- St. Louis - BuzzFeed asked if the FBI is investigating [redacted] According to news reports, the single father has a YouTube channel called, "Toy Freaks" which has millions of subscribers. The videos feature the father playing pranks on his two young daughters. YouTube deactivated the channel for "violating policies against child endangerment." SL did not confirm or deny an investigation.
- Tampa - SA [redacted] and SA [redacted] represented FBI Tampa Division in a press conference this morning regarding the arrest in the Seminole Heights murders. The Chief of Tampa Police Department commended the FBI and other law enforcement agencies for their valuable assistance in the investigation.
- Tampa - A local TV station inquired about the reward money FBI offered in connection with the above case. After consulting with OPA, Tampa provided the following statement: "Whether or not the reward money is paid, and to whom, is not information law enforcement will share with the public. The FBI offers monetary rewards to incentivize the public to come forward with tips and information when they have information that law enforcement is seeking to further an investigation and keep the public safe. The FBI has paid and continues to pay out reward money to tipsters who have provided valuable information."

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[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

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b7c

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 29, 2017 5:54 PM  
**To:** Kortan, Michael P. (DO) (FBI)  
**Cc:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** Newsweek on Wray CBC meeting  
**Attachments:** Newsweek - Wray BIE.docx

Mike,  
I don't see Rep Richmond's statement on his webpage or twitter feed. Maybe it will be added later. Here's a pdf of the Newsweek story [redacted] noted earlier.

## FBI's 'Black Identity Extremists' Assessment Spurs Questions From Lawmakers

By Max Kutner On 11/29/17 at 4:56 PM

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Members of the Congressional Black Caucus met on Wednesday with the director of the FBI to discuss concerns over a bureau assessment that “black identity extremists” posed a threat to police officers.

Speaking with reporters after the meeting, Representative Cedric Richmond, chairman of the caucus, said the discussion went well and he praised FBI Director Christopher Wray’s leadership style as “transparent and fair.”

“It’s a breath of fresh air to talk to this director compared to our relationship with the Justice Department,” Richmond said. “With that, he’s the director, he’s not the agents, and we just have to always be very cautious and diligent about making sure that the people we represent all across the country, and all the citizens of the country, are treated fairly.”

Details from the FBI’s August 3 intelligence assessment, titled “Black Identity Extremists Likely Motivated to Target Law Enforcement Officers,” first appeared in *Foreign Policy* in October. The assessment blamed “Black Identity Extremist (BIE) perceptions of police brutality against African Americans” for an uptick in “premeditated, retaliatory lethal violence against law enforcement.”

Soon after the *Foreign Policy* report, the Congressional Black Caucus, which has 49 members from both the House of Representatives and the Senate, requested a meeting with Wray. “The assessment and the analyses upon which it is based are flawed because it conflates black political activists with dangerous domestic terrorist organizations that pose actual threats to law enforcement,” the caucus said in a letter to the bureau. “It relies on a handful of obviously terrible incidents to paint black Americans who exercise free speech against witnessed police brutality as possible violent extremists.”

On Tuesday, Al Jazeera published more details from FBI communications about “black identity extremists.” Documents obtained through a lawsuit showed that after fatal attacks on police officers in Dallas and Baton Rouge, Louisiana in 2016, the bureau expressed concerns about “the threat of copycat attacks against law enforcement” at the Republican and Democratic national conventions. The documents also showed that the FBI has monitored Black Lives Matter protesters.

Andrew Ames, an FBI spokesman, told *Newsweek* on Tuesday, “The FBI investigates activity which may constitute a federal crime or pose a threat to national security and cannot initiate an investigation based solely on an individual’s race, ethnicity, national origin, religion or the exercise of First Amendment rights.”

On Wednesday, Richmond told reporters that labeling protesters as extremists “is very alarming” and “a mischaracterization.”

“We don’t want anybody to view Black Lives Matter and other organizations that protest as an extremist group or a domestic terrorist group,” he said.

Richmond added that the meeting “was a good first step” and said that Wray would continue speaking with lawmakers about the subject on Thursday.

Wray became FBI director on August 2, one day before the date of the assessment.

[Redacted]

(DO) (FBI)

**From:** Ames, Andrew C. (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 30, 2017 3:31 PM  
**To:** [Redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: NBC News

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Chandelis,

There is no statement regarding the meeting. Here is the statement in response to questions about the intelligence assessment:

"The FBI investigates activity which may constitute a federal crime or pose a threat to national security and cannot initiate an investigation based solely on an individual's race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, or the exercise of First Amendment rights. The FBI remains committed to protecting those rights for all Americans. Our focus is not on membership in particular groups but on individuals who commit violence and other criminal acts. Furthermore, the FBI does not and will not police ideology. When an individual takes violent action based on belief or ideology and breaks the law, the FBI will enforce the rule of law."

Sincerely,

Andrew C. Ames  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
National Press Office  
Desk: [Redacted]  
Cell: [Redacted]

*All correspondence contained in this e-mail, to include all names and associated contact information, may be subject to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. § 552.*

**From:** NPO  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 30, 2017 9:54 AM  
**To:** [Redacted] (DO) (FBI) [Redacted] (DO) (FBI) [Redacted]  
**Subject:** FW: NBC News

**From:** Duster, Chandelis (Contractor-NBCUniversal) [Redacted]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 29, 2017 5:40 PM  
**To:** NPO <NPO@FBI.GOV>  
**Subject:** NBC News

b6  
b7C

Good evening,

Is there a statement regarding Director Wray's meeting with the Congressional Black Caucus about the "Black Identity Extremists" report?

Chandelis R. Duster  
*Associate Producer, NBCBLK*  
DESK [Redacted]  
CELL [Redacted]  
4001 Nebraska Ave. NW | Washington, D.C. 20016





[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

b6  
b7C

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 06, 2017 8:54 AM  
**To:** [redacted] (DE) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Cc:** Gelios, David P. (DE) (FBI); [redacted] (DE) (FBI)  
**Subject:** RE: Interview questions

[redacted]

From a CT/DT standpoint, we have been using the statement below to respond to a number of inquiries related to the intel assessment on Black Identity Extremists, White Supremacists, etc. It is not directly related to civil rights investigations but addresses the common question we get about "tracking membership in groups" which we do not do. Hope this helps. [redacted] can address any civil rights guidance. Sincerely, [redacted]

"The FBI investigates activity which may constitute a federal crime or pose a threat to national security and cannot initiate an investigation based solely on an individual's race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, or the exercise of First Amendment rights. The FBI remains committed to protecting those rights for all Americans. Our focus is not on membership in particular groups but on individuals who commit violence and other criminal acts. Furthermore, the FBI does not and will not police ideology. When an individual takes violent action based on belief or ideology and breaks the law, the FBI will enforce the rule of law."

**From:** [redacted] (DE) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 06, 2017 8:23 AM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); Gelios, David P. (DE) (FBI); [redacted]  
(DE) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Subject:** FW: Interview questions

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[redacted]

Good morning, DE's SAC intends to participate in an on-camera interview with the Middle Eastern American TV-Radio (MEATV) news outlet on Monday, 12/18. As such, I have requested that the reporter send me the questions/content that she plans to cover during the interview.

Please advise if NPO has any specific guidance on racial profiling that I may use in an effort to develop suggested responses to the questions listed below. In an effort to draft potential responses for the remaining questions, I have

[redacted]

Thanks for any assistance you able to provide!

[redacted]

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 27, 2017 8:27 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (DE) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Subject:** Interview questions

Hello,

Here are the interview questions:

- 1- From a high school teacher and a college coach, What made you decide to join the FBI? Was it something you wanted to do all along?
- 2- Transitioning over to Detroit, a city with high crime rates and vast diversity definitely requires more responsibility. ( serious and violent crimes , terrorism). Can you tell us about the transition and the changes that came along with it!
- 3-Racial profiling has been a controversy since 9/11 till the latest deadly terror attack in New york.  
Can racial profiling be a necessary part of effective law enforcement? Does it work? And what extreme?
- 4- FBI is assumed to always investigate Arabs. What is your perception about that?
- 5-Some Americans say or feel that the humiliation and inconvenience for some Arabs are a small price to pay in order to ensure the safety of this country. How would you respond to that?  
(Ex: Muslim passenger was removed from a flight because his presence set off alarm bells.)
- 6- When some people stereotype and descriminate against muslims. Don't you think this act will aggravate some muslims to get lured to radicalization?
- 7-In the metro Detroit area, how do you as an FBI communicate with Arab American muslims in fighting terrorism?
- 8- Will Arab Americans cooperate with the FBI to identify possible radical threat?
- 9- how is the FBI trying to prevent future attacks?
- 10- On the news or social media we always hear the negative image of Arab American How can we highlight or shed more light on the positive side? .

NOTE: please talk to Mr.Gelious about changing the interview date to Wednesday December 6 at 11 am.

Sincerely yours,

Hanan Skaf

[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

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**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 06, 2017 9:10 AM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DE) (FBI)  
**Cc:** Gelios, David P. (DE) (FBI); [redacted] (DE) (FBI)  
**Subject:** RE: Interview questions

Hi [redacted]  
[redacted] so that should be a good resource if you need any assistance on that front. We continue to reiterate that we do not investigate hate speech or first amendment protected activities and explain what constitutes a federal civil rights violation.

Thanks,  
[redacted]

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 06, 2017 8:54 AM  
**To:** [redacted] (DE) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Cc:** Gelios, David P. (DE) (FBI); [redacted] (DE) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: Interview questions

b6  
b7C

[redacted]  
From a CT/DT standpoint, we have been using the statement below to respond to a number of inquiries related to the intel assessment on Black Identity Extremists, White Supremacists, etc. It is not directly related to civil rights investigations but addresses the common question we get about "tracking membership in groups" which we do not do. Hope this helps. [redacted] can address any civil rights guidance. Sincerely, [redacted]

"The FBI investigates activity which may constitute a federal crime or pose a threat to national security and cannot initiate an investigation based solely on an individual's race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, or the exercise of First Amendment rights. The FBI remains committed to protecting those rights for all Americans. Our focus is not on membership in particular groups but on individuals who commit violence and other criminal acts. Furthermore, the FBI does not and will not police ideology. When an individual takes violent action based on belief or ideology and breaks the law, the FBI will enforce the rule of law."

**From:** [redacted] (DE) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 06, 2017 8:23 AM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] Gelios, David P. (DE) (FBI); [redacted] (DE) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Subject:** FW: Interview questions

[redacted]  
Good morning, DE's SAC intends to participate in an on-camera interview with the Middle Eastern American TV-Radio (MEATV) news outlet on Monday, 12/18. As such, I have requested that the reporter send me the questions/content that she plans to cover during the interview.

Please advise if NPO has any specific guidance on racial profiling that I may use in an effort to develop suggested responses to the questions listed below. In an effort to draft potential responses for the remaining questions, I have

[REDACTED]

Thanks for any assistance you able to provide!

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 27, 2017 8:27 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED] (DE) (FBI) [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Interview questions

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Hello,

Here are the interview questions:

- 1- From a high school teacher and a college coach, What made you decide to join the FBI? Was it something you wanted to do all along?
- 2- Transitioning over to Detroit, a city with high crime rates and vast diversity definitely requires more responsibility. ( serious and violent crimes , terrorism). Can you tell us about the transition and the changes that came along with it!
- 3-Racial profiling has been a controversy since 9/11 till the latest deadly terror attack in New york.  
Can racial profiling be a necessary part of effective law enforcement? Does it work? And what extreme?
- 4- FBI is assumed to always investigate Arabs. What is your perception about that?
- 5-Some Americans say or feel that the humiliation and inconvenience for some Arabs are a small price to pay in order to ensure the safety of this country. How would you respond to that?  
(Ex: Muslim passenger was removed from a flight because his presence set off alarm bells.)
- 6- When some people stereotype and descriminate against muslims. Don't you think this act will aggravate some muslims to get lured to radicalization?
- 7-In the metro Detroit area, how do you as an FBI communicate with Arab American muslims in fighting terrorism?
- 8- Will Arab Americans cooperate with the FBI to identify possible radical threat?
- 9- how is the FBI trying to prevent future attacks?
- 10- On the news or social media we always hear the negative image of Arab American How can we highlight or shed more light on the positive side? .

NOTE: please talk to Mr.Gelious about changing the interview date to Wednesday December 6 at 11 am.

Sincerely yours,

Hanan Skaf

[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 31, 2017 12:33 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** FW: BIE product --- UNCLASSIFIED

b6  
b7C

**SentinelCaseId:** NON-RECORD

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED  
=====

[redacted]  
National Press Office  
Office of Public Affairs  
[redacted]

**From:** KORTAN, MICHAEL P. (OPA) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 31, 2017 11:41 AM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]  
**Subject:** FW: BIE product --- UNCLASSIFIED

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED  
=====

**From:** SLEEPER, KERRY (DI) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 31, 2017 11:18 AM  
**To:** MENDENHALL, BRADLEY G. (CTD) (FBI) [redacted] BROWER, GREGORY (DO) (FBI)  
[redacted] KORTAN, MICHAEL P. (OPA) (FBI) [redacted] MORGAN, VOVIETTE D. (LA)  
(FBI) [redacted]  
**Cc:** RYBICKI, JAMES E. (DO) (FBI) [redacted] MURPHY, BRIAN J. (OPE) (FBI) [redacted]  
SKULE, JOSHUA (DO) (FBI) [redacted] GHATTAS, CARL (CTD) (FBI) [redacted]  
**Subject:** BIE product --- UNCLASSIFIED

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Classification: UNCLASSIFIED  
=====

Folks,  
Over the last few weeks OPE worked closely with CTD to communicate to the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE) partners the purpose and intent behind the Black Identity Extremist product. A series of calls and a meeting in Philadelphia with the Director and the NOBLE Board resulted in an effective understanding of why we produced the product and an appreciation by NOBLE for our collective communication efforts. NOBLE is now

requesting a follow-up meeting in Atlanta with the Director next month to extend the dialogue to a broader set of advocacy groups; I also understand that the Black Congressional Caucus has requested a hill briefing. The focus of these future discussions have far broader policy implications than OPE's mission set. OPE remains committed to engaging in thoughtful dialogue with NOBLE on this issue but I'd like to differ to the collective group on who has the lead on this important discussion and ensure its raised to high enough a level in the organization. Thanks.

Kerry

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Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

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Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

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Classification: UNCLASSIFIED



[Redacted] (DO) (FBI)

**From:** [Redacted] (CTD) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 19, 2017 6:17 PM  
**To:** [Redacted] (DO) (FBI); [Redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** FW: Letter from Congressional Black Caucus Regarding BIE --- UNCLASSIFIED  
**Attachments:** Congressional from ~ Bennie G. Thompson and Elijah E. Cummings expressing concern regarding the FBI s Intelligence Assessment entitled Black.pdf

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**SentinelCaseId:** NON-RECORD

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED  
=====

Attached for your reference. Apologies again, I was under the impression that OCA had shared with you.

Thanks,  
[Redacted]

**From:** [Redacted] (CTD) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 17, 2017 1:20 PM  
**To:** [Redacted] (WMD) (FBI); [Redacted] (DO) (FBI); [Redacted] (CTD)(FBI); [Redacted]  
**Cc:** [Redacted] (CTD) (FBI); [Redacted] (CTD) (FBI); [Redacted]  
**Subject:** FW: Letter from Congressional Black Caucus Regarding BIE --- UNCLASSIFIED

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED  
=====

For the EAD's awareness

**From:** [Redacted] (CTD) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 17, 2017 1:18 PM  
**To:** [Redacted] PAUL, MICHAEL F. (CTD) (FBI); [Redacted]; [Redacted] (CTD) (FBI); [Redacted]  
**Cc:** MENDENHALL, BRADLEY G. (CTD) (FBI); [Redacted]  
**Subject:** Letter from Congressional Black Caucus Regarding BIE --- UNCLASSIFIED

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Classification: UNCLASSIFIED  
=====

All,

Via ExecSec, we received the attached letter from the Congressional Black Caucus to the Director expressing concern about the August 2017 product about Black Identity Extremism. The CBC is requesting a written response from the FBI by next Monday, October 23 and a follow-up meeting with all 49 members to address their concerns.

Please advise how we'd like to proceed with crafting a response and coordinating up the chain of command. We'll pass this notification to the EAD's staff for common awareness.

Thanks,  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]

[Redacted]  
Counterterrorism Division  
Office: [Redacted]  
Mobile: [Redacted]

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First Vice Chair

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Hon. Brenda Lawrence  
Secretary

Hon. Gwen Moore  
Whip

Hon. Anthony Brown  
Parliamentarian

Hon. Yvette D. Clarke  
Member-At-Large

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Hon. Val Demings, FL - '17  
Hon. Al Lawson, FL - '17  
Hon. A. Donald McEachin, VA - '17



October 13, 2017

Director Christopher Wray  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
935 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20535-0001

Dear Director Wray:

We write to express our concern over the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) recent "Intelligence Assessment" dated August 3, 2017, entitled "Black Identity Extremists Likely Motivated to Target Law Enforcement Officers." We also request a briefing on the origins of this research and the FBI's intended next steps now that this assessment has been performed and disseminated.

As you are no doubt aware, the FBI has a troubling history of utilizing its broad investigatory powers to target black citizens. During the 1960s, Director J. Edgar Hoover used the Counter Intelligence Program (COINTELPRO) to surveil and discredit civil rights activists and members of the Black Panther Party. For example, the FBI falsified letters in an effort to blackmail Martin Luther King, Jr. into silence. Given this history, and given several concerning actions this Administration has taken on racial issues, Members of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) are justifiably concerned about this FBI Assessment.

Unfortunately, this Administration has developed a pattern of statements and actions that are hostile to African Americans. The President and his advisors have at times failed to condemn Neo-Nazis and white supremacists. The President encouraged law enforcement personnel to use less restraint in dealing with individuals *suspected* of crimes. Lastly, the Attorney General has rolled back criminal justice reforms – a move that will disproportionately harm African Americans.

Against this backdrop, the Members of the CBC cannot help but be concerned about the aforementioned intelligence assessment. The FBI is responsible for investigating criminal activity and referring its findings to Department of Justice attorneys for prosecution. The intelligence assessment, citing only a handful of incidents since 2013, has concluded with "high confidence" that "Black Identity Extremists" are likely to target law enforcement based on "perceptions of police brutality against African Americans."

The assessment and the analyses upon which it is based are flawed because it conflates black political activists with dangerous domestic terrorist organizations that pose actual threats to law enforcement. It relies on a handful of obviously terrible incidents to paint black Americans who exercise free speech against witnessed police brutality as possible violent extremists. These broad characterizations can only serve to further erode trust between law enforcement officials and many of the black communities they serve, further inflaming an already tense and complicated dynamic. Local law enforcement may erroneously target non-violent but politically-engaged persons or groups because of this assessment. Our constituents continue to express their frustration about being ignored and being attacked for exercising their constitutionally-protected right to free speech to protest inequities across American institutions.

We are concerned that this assessment could lead the FBI to target black communities, and it is imperative that you come to meet with the 49 Members of the CBC to address our concerns. Please respond to this letter in writing by October 23, 2017, as many of our Members and constituents will interpret a lack of response as confirmation that the FBI intends to unfairly target African Americans. Thank you for your personal attention to this critical matter, and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Cedric L. Richmond  
Chair  
Congressional Black Caucus

John Conyers, Jr.  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on the Judiciary



Bennie G. Thompson  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Homeland Security

Elijah E. Cummings  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

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b7C

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Monday, October 16, 2017 12:34 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** RE: Letter from the CBC

Hi [redacted]

Can we please assign to CTD?

Thank you!

[redacted]

[redacted]

FBI Office of Congressional Affairs

[redacted]

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Monday, October 16, 2017 11:52 AM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** FW: Letter from the CBC

Good Morning, All-

Please enter the attached letter into TRIM. Hope your Monday is off to a great start!

Respectfully,

[redacted]

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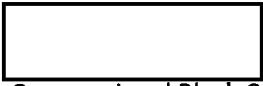
[redacted]

**Supervisory Special Agent**  
**FBI Director's Office**  
**Office of Congressional Affairs**  
Cell [redacted]

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 13, 2017 4:24 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Subject:** Letter from the CBC

[redacted] great to speak with you. Please find attached correspondence from the Chairman of the CBC and a few colleagues. Please acknowledge receipt? Thanks and have a great weekend.

[redacted]



Congressional Black Caucus

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[Redacted] (DO) (FBI)

**From:** [Redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 11, 2017 5:40 PM  
**To:** [Redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** FW: Black Identity Extremism Talking Points --- UNCLASSIFIED//~~LES~~

**SentinelCaseId:** TRANSITORY RECORD

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED//~~LES~~

=====  
TRANSITORY RECORD

**From:** [Redacted] (CTD) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 11, 2017 5:28 PM  
**To:** KORTAN, MICHAEL P. (OPA) (FBI) [Redacted] (CTD) (FBI) [Redacted]  
[Redacted] (DO) (FBI) [Redacted] (DO) (FBI) [Redacted]  
**Cc:** [Redacted] (CTD) (FBI) [Redacted] (CTD) (FBI)  
[Redacted] (DO) (FBI) [Redacted]  
**Subject:** Black Identity Extremism Talking Points --- UNCLASSIFIED//~~LES~~

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED//~~LES~~

=====  
TRANSITORY RECORD

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Good evening,

Per [Redacted] earlier request, attached are the talking points on Black Identity Extremism to be used for your background. These were written for a briefing with the AG this morning.



Thanks,

[Redacted]

Exec Staff

Counterterrorism Division

D: [Redacted]

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Classification: UNCLASSIFIED//~~LES~~

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Classification: UNCLASSIFIED//~~LES~~

[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 23, 2017 9:28 AM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** FW: DT LYNC Call briefs --- UNCLASSIFIED//~~LES~~

b6  
b7c

**SentinelCaseId:** NON-RECORD

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED//~~LES~~

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Here is the info that was briefed on yesterday's SVTC. Looks like a pretty straightforward general briefing of DT issue areas.

**From:** PAUL, MICHAEL F. (CTD) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 22, 2017 5:39 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted] (CTD) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Subject:** DT LYNC Call briefs --- UNCLASSIFIED//~~LES~~

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED//~~LES~~

(U) ~~LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE~~: The information marked (U//~~LES~~) in this document is the property of FBI and may be distributed within the Federal Government (and its contractors), US intelligence, law enforcement, public safety or protection officials and individuals with a need to know. Distribution beyond these entities without FBI authorization is prohibited. Precautions should be taken to ensure this information is stored and/or destroyed in a manner that precludes unauthorized access. Information bearing the ~~LES~~ caveat may not be used in legal proceedings without first receiving authorization from the originating agency. Recipients are prohibited from subsequently posting the information marked ~~LES~~ on a website or an unclassified network.

b7E



On the call, we only covered the intel briefing points on WSE, BIE and ANARCHISTS.

MP

Michael F. Paul



Section Chief  
Domestic Terrorism Operations

[redacted] ofc  
[redacted] mbl

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"Well, you have a kinda easy job now [redacted] You aren't fighting the bad guys - you just get the reports." March 2016,

[redacted]

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Classification: UNCLASSIFIED//~~LES~~

[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

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**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Monday, December 04, 2017 6:08 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); Kortan, Michael P. (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** RE: Issues List  
**Attachments:** Issues List 12-04-2017 Draft.doc

Updated after speaking with Mike.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Monday, December 04, 2017 4:58 PM  
**To:** Kortan, Michael P. (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Subject:** Issues List

Attached is the latest version of the Issues List in the event you need it tonight. [redacted] can make edits if necessary. Otherwise, I can finalize in the morning.

[redacted]

National Press Office  
FBI Office of Public Affairs

[redacted] (desk) [redacted] (cell) [redacted] (main) @FBI | @FBIMostWanted All correspondence contained in this e-mail, to include all names and associated contact information, may be subject to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. § 552.

[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

b6  
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**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Monday, December 04, 2017 4:58 PM  
**To:** Kortan, Michael P. (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** Issues List  
**Attachments:** Issues List 12-01-2017 Draft.doc

Attached is the latest version of the Issues List in the event you need it tonight. [redacted] can make edits if necessary. Otherwise, I can finalize in the morning.

[redacted]

National Press Office  
FBI Office of Public Affairs

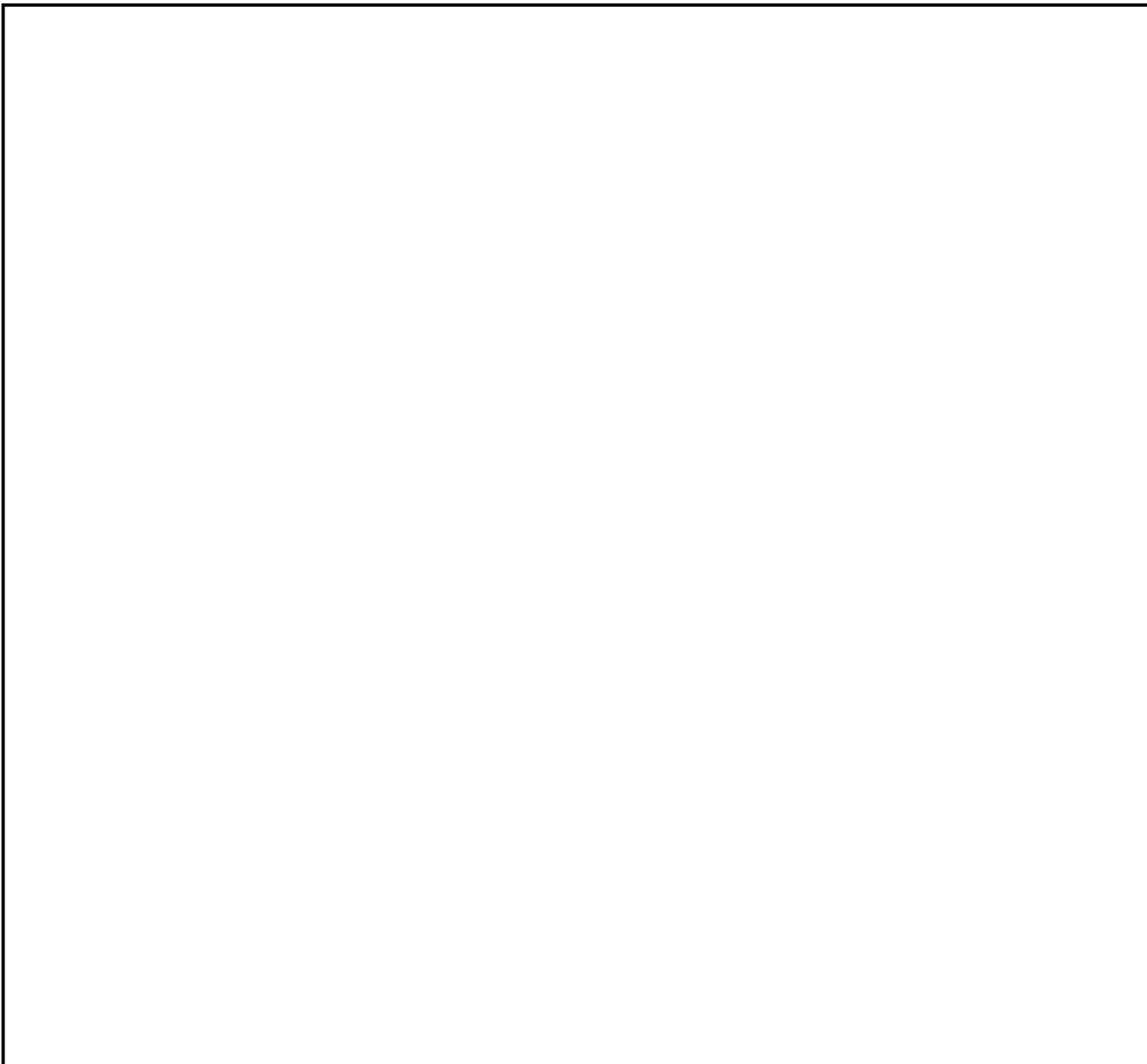
[redacted] (desk) | [redacted] (cell) | [redacted] (main) @FBI | @FBIMostWanted All correspondence contained in this e-mail, to include all names and associated contact information, may be subject to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. § 552.

[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

b6  
b7C

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Friday, December 01, 2017 3:34 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (NY) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI);  
[redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (NY) (FBI); [redacted] (DO)  
(FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO)  
(FBI)  
**Attachments:** Issues List 10112017.doc

Below was the last issues list we created. Please add/subtract topics and bullets.  
Media Issues List



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b5

[redacted]  
National Press Office

FBI Office of Public Affairs

[redacted] (desk) | [redacted] (cell) | [redacted] (main)

@FBI | @FBIMostWanted

b6  
b7c

All correspondence contained in this e-mail, to include all names and associated contact information, may be subject to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. § 552.

[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

b6  
b7c

**From:** NPO  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 30, 2017 9:54 AM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** FW: NBC News

**From:** Duster, Chandelis (Contractor-NBCUniversal) [redacted]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 29, 2017 5:40 PM  
**To:** NPO <NPO@FBI.GOV>  
**Subject:** NBC News

Good evening,

Is there a statement regarding Director Wray's meeting with the Congressional Black Caucus about the "Black Identity Extremists" report?

Chandelis R. Duster  
*Associate Producer, NBCBLK*  
DESK 202.885.4200  
CELL [redacted]  
4001 Nebraska Ave. NW | Washington, D.C. 20016



**From:** NPO  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 29, 2017 5:29 PM  
**To:** NPO  
**Subject:** OPA Horizon 11/29/17

***The Horizon***  
**Wednesday, November 29, 2017**

**National Issues**

- **Super Micro Supply Chain Attack:** OPA – Bloomberg inquired about an alleged supply chain attack in 2015 that hit multiple U.S. companies via server motherboards manufactured in China and integrated into products sold by Super Micro Computer Inc. Bloomberg will report that the FBI, the NSA, and the CIA were involved in the investigation of this sophisticated attack, which affected as many as 30 U.S. companies, including Apple Inc. The story will also report that the U.S. government has attributed this attack to the PLA, and that among its goals was the theft of source code and commercial secrets from U.S. companies. OPA declined to comment.
- **Black Caucus/BIE:** OPA – Reporters asked about a meeting between Director Wray and members of the Congressional Black Caucus to discuss a leaked intelligence assessment on Black Identity Extremists. OPA did not provide a comment, but the chairman of the caucus made a statement praising the Director’s transparency.
- **FBI Radio:** OPA – FBI Radio released a Wanted by the FBI podcast/vodcast in which a young daughter of Ten Most Wanted Fugitive Jesus Munguia tells him to turn himself in to authorities. Case agent [redacted] also speaks. Video shows photos of the fugitive, his estranged wife (the victim) and their four children. FBI, This Week also was released today and it tells the business community how to connect with the FBI through its private sector coordinators. UC [redacted] in the Office of Private Sector spoke about partnerships.
- **Zodiac Killer:** OPA – Tonight the History Channel will air part three of its five-episode documentary series “The Hunt for the Zodiac Killer.” This episode is titled “A New Code Uncovered” and looks at new ciphers related to the case.

**Local Stories**

- **Charlotte** - SSRA [redacted] participated in another news conference today with the Sheriff of Onslow County regarding a missing 3-year old.
- **Detroit** – Local media interviewed members of Detroit’s community outreach team as they helped organize clothing for Detroit’s largest coat drive for needy families. The FBI is working with the Detroit Police Department and Molina Healthcare on an event planned for Saturday. The goal is to outfit over 4,000 kids and adults with winter jackets.
- **Los Angeles** - [redacted] a longtime fugitive, was named today in a nine-count indictment that alleges he participated in a \$9 million loan fraud scheme that targeted Wells Fargo Bank [redacted] is believed to be in Venezuela after fleeing the United States approximately eight years ago. Two alleged conspirators have pleaded guilty. A photograph of [redacted] will be issued with the USAO press release and anyone with information as to his whereabouts is directed to contact the FBI.
- **Philadelphia** – A 19th century Polish painting, looted during World War II and recovered in the Philadelphia area, was formally returned to Poland today. SAs [redacted] and [redacted] and SSA [redacted] from the Art Crime Team took part in the handover ceremony at the Polish Ministry of Culture and National Heritage in Warsaw. PAO received local and national inquiries.
- **Philadelphia** – The so-called “godfather of payday lending” and his longtime lawyer were found guilty of racketeering conspiracy relating to payday lending businesses [redacted] a multimillionaire former investment banker, was convicted on 17 counts, including fraud and money-laundering. He and co-defendant [redacted] participated in a conspiracy that violated the usury laws of Pennsylvania and other states, and generated more than \$688 million in revenue from hundreds of thousands of customers. SAC Harpster was quoted in USAO-EDPA’s press release.

- Pittsburgh - SAC Johnson attended a press conference with the U.S. Attorney's Office regarding an indictment that was unsealed against three Chinese nationals for computer hacking, theft of trade secrets, and conspiracy and identity theft directed at U.S. and foreign employees. SAC Johnson provided the following statement: "In order to effectively address the cyber threat, a threat that respects no boundaries and continues to grow in both its scope and complexity, law enforcement must come together and transcend borders to target criminal actors no matter where they are in the world."
- Phoenix - Numerous television and radio reporters attended a Tuesday briefing by SA [redacted] on Active Shooter training. Immediately following the briefing, SAC DeLeon participated in an on-the-record question and answer session with the reporters.
- Phoenix - An Arizona man was sentenced in federal court Tuesday to two years of probation and a \$2,000 fine for aiming a laser pointer at a law enforcement aircraft this spring. SA [redacted] did an interview with a Tucson newspaper about the dangers of laser pointers and how we work with our state and local partners to combat the issue.
- San Antonio - A reporter asked the FBI's position on cyber insurance for small and medium sized businesses. SA [redacted] declined to weigh in and noted businesses make such decisions after considering several factors including assessments of risks and costs.
- San Francisco - A former DOJ fraud attorney, [redacted] pleaded guilty to obstruction of justice and stolen property after he stole sealed complaints before leaving DOJ and then tried to sell them to the accused companies. He also used the sealed complaints to identify companies under investigation and in turn recruit them as clients. [redacted] was arrested in a Bay Area hotel lobby when he met an FBI UC employee and tried to exchange a sealed complaint for a duffel bag full of cash. A court hearing for [redacted] is underway and is expected to generate media inquiries.
- St. Louis - BuzzFeed asked if the FBI is investigating [redacted] According to news reports, the single father has a YouTube channel called, "Toy Freaks" which has millions of subscribers. The videos feature the father playing pranks on his two young daughters. YouTube deactivated the channel for "violating policies against child endangerment." SL did not confirm or deny an investigation.
- Tampa - SA [redacted] and SA [redacted] represented FBI Tampa Division in a press conference this morning regarding the arrest in the Seminole Heights murders. The Chief of Tampa Police Department commended the FBI and other law enforcement agencies for their valuable assistance in the investigation.
- Tampa - A local TV station inquired about the reward money FBI offered in connection with the above case. After consulting with OPA, Tampa provided the following statement: "Whether or not the reward money is paid, and to whom, is not information law enforcement will share with the public. The FBI offers monetary rewards to incentivize the public to come forward with tips and information when they have information that law enforcement is seeking to further an investigation and keep the public safe. The FBI has paid and continues to pay out reward money to tipsters who have provided valuable information."

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[Redacted]

(DO) (FBI)

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**From:** [Redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 29, 2017 3:56 PM  
**To:** [Redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** FW: CBC  
**Attachments:** Directors Opening Statement CBC Rountable November 2017 [Redacted] edits.docx

-----Original Message-----

**From:** [Redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 29, 2017 3:41 PM  
**To:** [Redacted] (DO) (FBI) [Redacted]  
**Subject:** CBC

[Redacted]  
[Redacted] Executive Writing Unit  
Office of Public Affairs  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
[Redacted] (direct)  
[Redacted] (mobile)  
[Redacted]

**NPO**

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**From:** NPO  
**Sent:** Monday, November 27, 2017 12:59 PM  
**To:** 'Aaron Morrison'  
**Subject:** RE: INFORMATION REQUEST: FBI director's meetings with black law enforcement group

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Hello Aaron,

We are happy to provide information about public events but our usual practice is to not comment on any private meetings.

Thank you.

**From:** Aaron Morrison [redacted]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 27, 2017 11:34 AM  
**To:** NPO <NPO@FBI.GOV>  
**Subject:** INFORMATION REQUEST: FBI director's meetings with black law enforcement group

Hello,

I just had a conversation with [redacted] of the National Organization for Black Law Enforcement Executives. He tells me his group has had conversations with Director Wray about the bureau's "Black Identity Extremists" memo.

I'd like to confirm that those conversations with Director Wray took place and that the director expressed concerns with the content of the BIE memo.

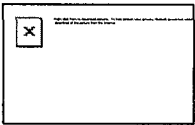
I'd also like to confirm a report that the director will meet this week with members of the Congressional Black Caucus.

I have a 3:00pm ET deadline today.

My cell number is [redacted] if someone need to reach me.

Sincerely,  
AM

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Senior Staff Writer, *The Movement*

**Aaron Morrison**

@aaronlmorrison [redacted]

**NPO**

---

**From:** NPO  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 21, 2017 11:14 AM  
**To:** 'Gerardo Lissardy'  
**Subject:** RE: BBC World Service request

Hello,

We do not have a comment on any specific document. But we often share information with our law enforcement partners. We decline the interview invitation.

We can provide you a general statement:

"The FBI investigates activity which may constitute a federal crime or pose a threat to national security and cannot initiate an investigation based solely on an individual's race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, or the exercise of First Amendment rights. The FBI remains committed to protecting those rights for all Americans. Our focus is not on membership in particular groups but on individuals who commit violence and other criminal acts. Furthermore, the FBI does not and will not police ideology. When an individual takes violent action based on belief or ideology and breaks the law, the FBI will enforce the rule of law."

Thank you.

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**From:** Gerardo Lissardy [redacted]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 21, 2017 10:12 AM  
**To:** NPO <NPO@FBI.GOV>  
**Subject:** BBC World Service request

Hello,  
I'm a correspondent with the Americas hub of the BBC World Service trying to get some information about a recent F.B.I. report on "black identity extremists" in the United States. Specifically we would like to interview someone at the Bureau about the contents of the report and the criticism it has received by some experts, activists and the Congressional Black Caucus as something that could undermine relations between police and minority groups. Please let me know if this is possible. Many thanks,

Gerardo Lissardy  
BBC World Service/Americas hub  
New York correspondent  
[redacted]

-----  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk>

This e-mail (and any attachments) is confidential and may contain personal views which are not the views of the BBC unless specifically stated.

If you have received it in error, please delete it from your system.

Do not use, copy or disclose the information in any way nor act in reliance on it and notify the sender immediately.

Please note that the BBC monitors e-mails sent or received.

Further communication will signify your consent to this.

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[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

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From: [redacted] (NY) (FBI)  
Sent: Monday, November 20, 2017 5:32 PM  
Subject: OPA Horizon - 11/20/2017

~~UNCLASSIFIED // FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~

**FBI Office of Public Affairs  
The Horizon  
Monday, November 20, 2017**

### National Issues

- Border Patrol Agents Assaulted: EP/OPA – Significant media interest in an assault on Saturday, 11/18, that left one CPB agent killed and another in critical condition. FBI EP is the lead investigative agency. EP PAO anticipates releasing statement on the status of the investigation.
- NICS: CJIS/OPA – CBS News asked why there appear to be significant gaps in the data supplied to the databases queried during NICS checks. CJIS provided information on how NICS works and the fact the system relies on data submitted by local, state, and federal partners.
- NK Counterfeit Money: OPA – Dow Jones News Fund Fellow, who is working on a piece for American Banker, inquired about North Korean counterfeit money and what preventative measures the U.S. is taking, as well as what consumers can be on the lookout for. OPA declined to comment.
- Alex Villamayor Murder: OPA – The Daily Beast asked to confirm whether Paraguayan authorities barred the FBI from investigating the death of Alex Villamayor, an American citizen who was killed in Paraguay in 2015. Per coordination with IOD, OPA declined to comment and referred the reporter to FBI.gov for publicly available information regarding IOD.
- DAPL Protestor: OPA – The Intercept inquired about accounts from someone who protested the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL), that he and others were interviewed by the FBI about a Facebook post he had made calling for pipeline opponents to attack the pipeline. OPA declined to comment on the accounts or confirm nor deny the existence of an investigation.
- Church Shooter Phone: OPA - The Washington Post asked about efforts to unlock the cell phone belonging to the Sutherland Springs church shooter. The reporter also asked about warrants relating to the phone and for information on the number of encrypted phones which could not be unlocked last year. OPA declined specific questions about the shooter's phone but provided figures on the number of phones the FBI could not access last year.
- BIE: OPA – Media asked for FBI comment regarding an intelligence assessment concerning black identity extremists. OPA did not comment on the specific document but provided a general statement: "The FBI investigates activity which may constitute a federal crime or pose a threat to national security and cannot initiate an investigation based solely on an individual's race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, or the exercise of First Amendment rights. The FBI remains committed to protecting those rights for all Americans. Our focus is not on membership in particular groups but on individuals who commit violence and other criminal acts. Furthermore, the FBI does not and will not police ideology. When an individual takes violent action based on belief or ideology and breaks the law, the FBI will enforce the rule of law."

### Local Stories

- Albuquerque - Local CBS affiliate requested video connected to the FBI investigation of former New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department agent [redacted] who pleaded guilty to Hobbs Act extortion charges Friday. Reporter was referred to the U.S. Attorney's Office, since the case is not fully adjudicated. At sentencing, which has not been set, [redacted] faces a statutory penalty of imprisonment for not more than 20 years and a fine not to exceed \$250,000.
- Milwaukee - Local NBC affiliate will air part one of a two part story tonight on the Milwaukee Division's Gang Task Force with Milwaukee Police Department. ASAC [redacted] and SSA [redacted] were interviewed for the story.

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- Omaha – SAC Thyse granted local CBS affiliate an interview to discuss a fraud awareness message for the upcoming holiday season. The story covered topics such as credit card scams and online financial information security. The special will air on Wednesday night.
- San Francisco - SAC Bennett held a news conference with the U.S. Attorney's Office to announce a large-scale Hells Angels takedown in Santa Rosa, Fresno, and Boston. Charges included murder, conspiracy, assault, weapons trafficking, and witness intimidation.

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[Redacted]  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
National Press Office  
[Redacted]

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*This communication may be subject to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).*

[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

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**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Monday, November 20, 2017 5:44 PM  
**To:** Thorley, Charles A. (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** RE: Statement

Okay. Thanks.

**From:** Thorley, Charles A. (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Monday, November 20, 2017 5:08 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: Statement

No new letter. We are scheduled to brief the CBC on 11/29

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Monday, November 20, 2017 4:32 PM  
**To:** Thorley, Charles A. (DO) (FBI) [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: Statement

I should add the only one I remember seeing was from mid October.

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Monday, November 20, 2017 4:23 PM  
**To:** Thorley, Charles A. (DO) (FBI) [redacted]  
**Subject:** FW: Statement

Is there a new letter from the CBC to Director Wray?

**From:** NPO  
**Sent:** Monday, November 20, 2017 4:20 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]  
**Subject:** FW: Statement

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b7C


**From:** Tom Fitzgerald [redacted]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 20, 2017 4:19 PM  
**To:** NPO <NPO@FBI.GOV>  
**Subject:** Statement

Hello,

I'd like to know if I could get the FBI statement on the 8/3/17 intelligence assessment titled "Black identity extremists likely motivated to target law enforcement officers"

Congressional black caucus has sent us a copy of their letter to Director Wray.

Thank you

Tom Fitzgerald  
Fox 5 News  
  
@FitzFox5DC

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**NPO**

---

**From:** NPO  
**Sent:** Monday, November 20, 2017 4:51 PM  
**To:** 'Tom Fitzgerald'  
**Subject:** RE: Statement

We don't have a comment on any particular document. Here's a general statement:

The FBI investigates activity which may constitute a federal crime or pose a threat to national security and cannot initiate an investigation based solely on an individual's race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, or the exercise of First Amendment rights. The FBI remains committed to protecting those rights for all Americans. Our focus is not on membership in particular groups but on individuals who commit violence and other criminal acts. Furthermore, the FBI does not and will not police ideology. When an individual takes violent action based on belief or ideology and breaks the law, the FBI will enforce the rule of law.

Thank you.  
NPO

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**From:** Tom Fitzgerald [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 20, 2017 4:19 PM  
**To:** NPO <NPO@FBI.GOV>  
**Subject:** Statement

Hello,

I'd like to know if I could get the FBI statement on the 8/3/17 intelligence assessment titled "Black identity extremists likely motivated to target law enforcement officers"

Congressional black caucus has sent us a copy of their letter to Director Wray.

Thank you

Tom Fitzgerald  
Fox 5 News  
[REDACTED]  
@FitzFox5DC

[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

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**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 16, 2017 4:41 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** RE: Possible Statements  
**Attachments:** BIE possible statements.docx

[redacted] and I took another look. I moved it into a document so we can do track changes.

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 16, 2017 9:32 AM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Subject:** FW: Possible Statements



*National Press Office  
FBI Office of Public Affairs*

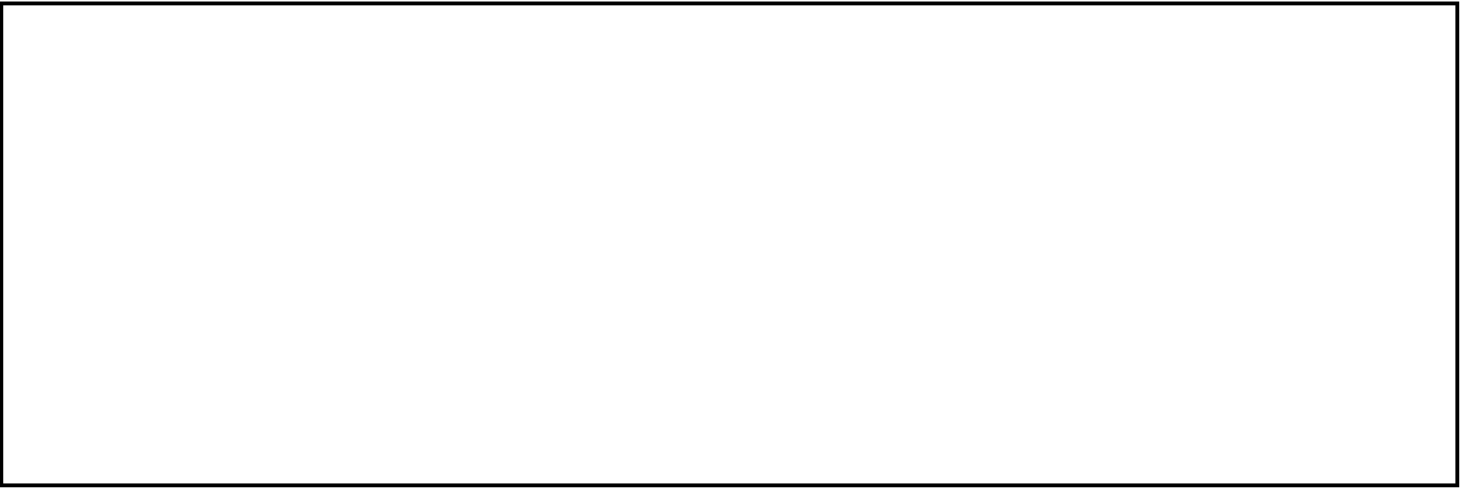
[redacted] (desk) | [redacted] (cell) | [redacted] (main)  
[@FBI](#) | [@FBIMostWanted](#)

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 26, 2017 12:17 PM  
**To:** Kortan, Michael P. (DO) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Subject:** Possible Statements

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b5

Mike,  
Below are two versions to review.





b6  
b7C  
b5



National Press Office  
(office)  
(mobile)



[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

b6  
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**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 16, 2017 9:32 AM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** FW: Possible Statements

[redacted]

*National Press Office  
FBI Office of Public Affairs*

[redacted] (desk) | [redacted] (cell) | [redacted] (main)  
[@FBI](#) | [@FBIMostWanted](#)

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 26, 2017 12:17 PM  
**To:** Kortan, Michael P. (DO) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Subject:** Possible Statements

b6  
b7C  
b5

Mike,  
Below are two versions to review.





b6  
b7C  
b5



National Press Office



(office)

(mobile)

[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

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**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 15, 2017 5:11 PM  
**To:** NPO  
**Subject:** OPA Horizon - 11/15/17

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**FBI Office of Public Affairs  
The Horizon  
Wednesday, November 15, 2017**

### **National Issues**

- School Cyber Hackings: OPA – NBC Nightly News interviewed DAD Marshall from the Cyber Division about recent school cyber hackings, where the perpetrators steal sensitive information, including student data, and then threaten school administrators to pay a ransom or the sensitive data will be released. The piece is scheduled to air this evening.
- Russian Wire Transfers: OPA – Multiple media inquiries about reports of an FBI investigation into money transfers from the Russian Embassy "to finance election campaign of 2016." OPA declined to comment.
- Black Identity Extremists: OPA – Several reporters asked about an intelligence assessment concerning black identity extremists. AG Sessions received questions about the document at a congressional oversight hearing yesterday. OPA declined to talk about the specific document but provided the following statement: "The FBI investigates activity which may constitute a federal crime or pose a threat to national security and cannot initiate an investigation based solely on an individual's race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, or the exercise of First Amendment rights. The FBI remains committed to protecting those rights for all Americans. Our focus is not on membership in particular groups but on individuals who commit violence and other criminal acts. Furthermore, the FBI does not and will not police ideology. When an individual takes violent action based on belief or ideology and breaks the law, the FBI will enforce the rule of law."
- No Fly: OPA – The BBC asked for the number of people on the no fly list and how someone is placed on that list. OPA responded we are not able to provide any numbers and referred the reporter to the Terrorist Screening Center's frequently asked questions document on fbi.gov.
- Executive Announcement: OPA – A press release was issued to announce the appointment of Brian Brooks as the new assistant director of the Operational Technology Division.
- The Hunt for the Zodiac Killer: OPA – History Channel has premiered a five-part documentary series titled "The Hunt for the Zodiac Killer: The New Suspect," featuring a team of top investigators and code breakers working together to solve and ultimately break the code from over 50 years ago. SAC Bennett in San Francisco was interviewed.

### **Local Stories**

- Chicago – [redacted] a Chicago investment advisor, stole more than \$5 million from several clients, including his elderly in-laws, and used some of the cash on a mortgage and a luxury automobile, according to federal criminal charges filed today. The U.S. Attorney's Office issued a press release announcing the charges.
- Los Angeles – Los Angeles agents arrested [redacted] this morning for allegedly making a series of online threats to kill law enforcement personnel and others at the Los Angeles Superior Court's Inglewood Courthouse, a nearby school and a private business. [redacted] who used the online moniker [redacted] allegedly made the threats using techniques designed to make his internet communications anonymous, which included using Tor and proxy servers. [redacted] is expected to be arraigned on a 10-count indictment this afternoon in United States District Court in downtown Los Angeles.
- Phoenix – FBI Phoenix Field Office issued a statement about a phone scam that spoofs, or fraudulently displays, the FBI's real telephone number on the victim's caller ID. The scam claims the victims are being investigated by

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the FBI for federal or other violations and will be arrested if they don't pay a fee immediately. In some cases, the scammers are calling victims in Arizona and spoofing the phone numbers of the FBI offices in Tucson, Phoenix, and other locations. The statement reminded people that the FBI does not call or e-mail private citizens to demand money or threaten arrest.

- Phoenix – Pima County issued a statement to local media advising that the FBI will help provide training to study crime scene preservation and safety techniques at a training session featuring elaborately staged emergency scenarios. Dozens of representatives from local and federal law enforcement agencies, fire departments, emergency response agencies, and local utilities are expected to attend the free training Wednesday, November 15. The FBI is participating as part of the Utilities Threat Assessment Group (UTAG), an informal ad hoc a local partnership of agencies focused on safely and effectively managing accidents, criminal incidents and security threats that impact law enforcement, first responders, utility providers and the general community.
- Phoenix – SSA [redacted] participated in an interview with a local television station to discuss safe on-line surfing, email compromises, ransomware and other cybercrime threats.
- Tampa – Continued local and national media coverage of the investigation into the Seminole Heights murders. FBI Tampa is responding to media with the following: "Tampa Police Department has the lead in the Seminole Heights murders investigation. FBI Tampa is in constant communication with our law enforcement partner and offering assistance as needed. In effort to stay consistent with information released, Tampa Police Department is handling all media inquiries regarding the investigation."

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[redacted]  
FBI National Press Office  
(o) [redacted]  
(c) [redacted]  
[redacted]

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[Redacted]

(DO) (FBI)

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**From:** [Redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 15, 2017 5:07 PM  
**To:** [Redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** For Horizon

Hi. I just put this in the calendar:

Black Identity Extremists: OPA - Several reporters asked about an intelligence assessment concerning black identity extremists. AG Sessions received questions about the document at a congressional oversight hearing yesterday. OPA declined to talk about the specific document but provided the following statement: "The FBI investigates activity which may constitute a federal crime or pose a threat to national security and cannot initiate an investigation based solely on an individual's race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, or the exercise of First Amendment rights. The FBI remains committed to protecting those rights for all Americans. Our focus is not on membership in particular groups but on individuals who commit violence and other criminal acts. Furthermore, the FBI does not and will not police ideology. When an individual takes violent action based on belief or ideology and breaks the law, the FBI will enforce the rule of law."



**NPO**

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**From:** NPO  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 15, 2017 4:57 PM  
**To:** 'Ryan Reilly'  
**Subject:** RE: "Black Identity Extremists" report

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Hello,

We don't have a comment on any particular document. But here is a short general comment which may be attributed to the FBI:

The FBI investigates activity which may constitute a federal crime or pose a threat to national security and cannot initiate an investigation based solely on an individual's race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, or the exercise of First Amendment rights. The FBI remains committed to protecting those rights for all Americans. Our focus is not on membership in particular groups but on individuals who commit violence and other criminal acts. Furthermore, the FBI does not and will not police ideology. When an individual takes violent action based on belief or ideology and breaks the law, the FBI will enforce the rule of law.

Thank you.

**From:** Ryan Reilly [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 15, 2017 4:40 PM  
**To:** NPO <NPO@FBI.GOV>  
**Subject:** "Black Identity Extremists" report

Not sure who is fielding this, but writing a story about the report and some of the questions the AG faced yesterday, and wanted to reach out to see if the Bureau is reconsidering the report or plans to respond to lawmakers who have raised concerns.

Thanks,

Ryan J. Reilly  
HuffPost Senior Justice Reporter

[REDACTED]  
[@ryanjreilly](#)

[www.huffingtonpost.com/ryan-j-reilly/](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/ryan-j-reilly/)

[Redacted]

(DO) (FBI)

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**From:** [Redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 14, 2017 3:26 PM  
**To:** [Redacted] (DO) (FBI); [Redacted] (PX) (FBI)  
**Cc:** [Redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** RE: Media inquiry from KGUN9  
**Attachments:** [Redacted]

Hey [Redacted]

Thanks for checking. [Redacted]

[Large Redacted Area]

Let me know if you have any other questions.

Thanks, [Redacted]

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**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 14, 2017 3:14 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (PX) (FBI) [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: Media inquiry from KGUN9

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Hey [redacted]

I think if the definitions are on the website and in our [redacted] those are the FBI's definitions, but I'm copying in [redacted] & [redacted] to confirm.

Thanks, [redacted]

[redacted]  
FBI National Press Office

(o) [redacted]  
(c) [redacted]

**From:** [redacted] (PX) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 14, 2017 3:04 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]  
**Subject:** FW: Media inquiry from KGUN9

[redacted]

We decided to go ahead and do this interview with KGUN. I spoke with the reporter and the piece will only feature us and is designed to educate the public on definitions/differences in DT, IT, mass shootings.

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SSA [redacted] is doing the interview. I sent him [redacted] and this link online:  
<https://www.fbi.gov/investigate/terrorism>

We want to make sure our definitions align with HQ definitions. Are there any changes to these? Are there any talking points that you could provide that would be beneficial?



[redacted]  
FBI Phoenix Field Office

Follow us on Twitter: @FBIPhoenix  
Web: [www.fbi.gov/phoenix](http://www.fbi.gov/phoenix)  
Media Requests: [Phoenix-media@fbi.gov](mailto:Phoenix-media@fbi.gov)

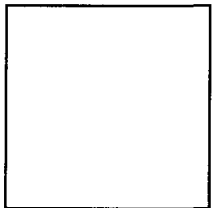
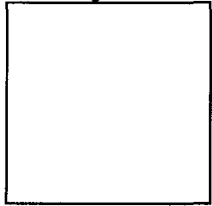
**From:** Clark, Whitney [redacted]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 07, 2017 2:25 PM  
**To:** Phoenix-Media <Phoenix-Media@ic.fbi.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Media inquiry from KGUN9

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Just circling back around to see what may be possible this week. Thanks!

Whitney Clark  
Reporter/Anchor  
KGUN-TV

[redacted]  
Mobile: [redacted] | Newsroom: [redacted]  
"Give light and the people will find their own way"



---

**From:** Clark, Whitney  
**Sent:** Monday, November 6, 2017 12:58:35 PM  
**To:** Phoenix-media@fbi.gov  
**Subject:** Media inquiry from KGUN9

Hey there!

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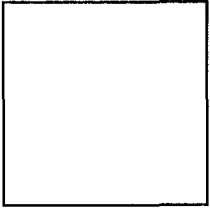
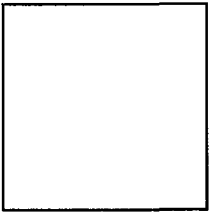
I am a reporter for KGUN9 in Tucson. I am hoping to set up an interview with someone from your Tucson office about how the FBI defines "terrorism." This is in light of the recent mass shootings in Texas and in New York.

I fully understand agents can't talk about specific cases and we can speak in general terms. Thank you!

I was hoping to do on-camera interview sometime this week, possibly Wednesday or Thursday. Anytime after 1:30 p.m. would work, but we are flexible.

Whitney Clark  
Reporter/Anchor  
KGUN-TV

[redacted]  
Mobile: [redacted] | Newsroom: [redacted]  
"Give light and the people will find their own way"



[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

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From: [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
Sent: Thursday, November 02, 2017 5:12 PM  
To: [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
Subject: OPA Horizon - 11/2/17

**UNCLASSIFIED // ~~FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~**

**FBI Office of Public Affairs  
The Horizon  
Thursday, November 2, 2017**

### **National Issues**

- **Congressional Black Caucus and Director Wray: OPA** – A spokesperson for the Congressional Black Caucus said Director Wray will be meeting with the group to discuss an intelligence assessment regarding black identity extremists; reporters sought FBI comment and OPA declined.
- **Watchlist Inquiry: OPA** – CBS news inquired as to whether such services as Uber and Lyft, or agencies similar to the New York City Taxi & Limousine Commission, have access to data on the Terrorist Screening Center's (TSC) watchlist. OPA, in consultation with the TSC, declined to comment.
- **Anticom: OPA** – Received an inquiry from ProPublica regarding if the FBI is investigating a group called Anti-Communist Action, or Anticom, the group who allegedly helped orchestrate recent protests by white supremacists and other extremists. In particular the reporter asked if the FBI has disrupted any terror plots related to Anticom. After consultation with CTD, OPA provided the following statement: "The FBI does not confirm or deny specific investigations. However, any information regarding violent criminal activity or threats of terrorism should be reported promptly to the FBI. We have no comment on any individuals or groups. The FBI investigates activity which may constitute a federal crime or pose a threat to national security and cannot initiate an investigation based solely on an individual's race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, or the exercise of First Amendment rights. The FBI remains committed to protecting those rights for all Americans. Our focus is not on membership in particular groups but on individuals who commit violence and other criminal acts. Furthermore, the FBI does not and will not police ideology. When an individual takes violent action based on belief or ideology and breaks the law, the FBI will enforce the rule of law."

### **Local Stories**

- **Atlanta** - Equifax will release a press statement in the morning indicating that the company has completed an internal investigation into alleged insider trading related to the breach. The press release will likely state that the federal investigation continues and that Equifax will cooperate fully with federal authorities.
- **Boston** – Received multiple media inquiries regarding the FBI's presence at Enneking Parkway in West Roxbury, MA relative to an ongoing missing person investigation. FBI Boston confirmed that the FBI's Evidence Response Team is assisting Boston Police in an ongoing investigation, declined further comment, and referred reporters back to the Boston Police.
- **Boston** – Received multiple media inquiries regarding the FBI's involvement in investigating racially charged graffiti found at Framingham State University. This is the third incident this year. FBI Boston declined to comment, in keeping with DOJ policy.
- **Boston** – Received multiple media inquiries about NYC terror suspect [redacted] ties to Massachusetts after the *New York Times* published an article stating that [redacted] was a truck driver who logged tens of thousands of miles from Denver to Detroit, from Canton, Mass. to Salt Lake City. FBI Boston responded that FBI Boston is not aware of any connections to the Boston AOR.
- **Detroit** - National media attention is expected as a result of an article in today's Detroit News citing "FBI's UAW training center probe widens to GM, Ford". Prior to the article's release, the reporter requested comment from FBI Detroit regarding the Fiat Chrysler-UAW corruption investigation expanding to Ford Motor and General Motors; FBI Detroit declined comment.

b6  
b7c

- [REDACTED] b7E
- Knoxville – PAS [REDACTED] was interviewed by the NBC affiliate regarding the one day Teen Academy Program hosted at FBI Knoxville. Approximately 18 students from two high schools attended the program which provided an inside look at the FBI. Presentations topics consisted of the FBI history and mission as well as firearms trajectory, cold case study, evidence recovery, FBI career information and more. b6 b7C
- Las Vegas – SAC Rouse was interviewed by the Las Vegas Sun about the FBI's involvement in the October 1 shooting. SAC Rouse discussed providing FBI resources for the investigation and highlighted the strong public and private partnerships in Las Vegas.
- Portland – PAS [REDACTED] was interviewed by the NBC affiliate for its "Portland Today" afternoon talk show regarding the risks associated with cloud computing, especially for small and medium sized businesses. This interview came subsequent to FBI Portland's Tech Tuesday PSA campaign.
- Sacramento - PAS [REDACTED] was interviewed by the Fox affiliate regarding the East Area Rapist/Golden State Killer Case. Interest in the case has elevated since People magazine covered the case and published photos and sketches provided by the Sacramento County DA and Contra Costa County Sheriff of items possibly stolen during the commission of crimes. The interview covered the continued need for information to help identify the subject and the benefit of the national coverage to ensure individuals who may have lived in the areas impacted the subject but who have relocated are aware of the need for information from the public.

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[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

b6  
b7C

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 02, 2017 12:35 PM  
**To:** 'Maxwell Kutner'  
**Subject:** RE: Quick question re: Black Congressional Caucus

We don't have anything for you.  
Thank you.

**From:** Maxwell Kutner [redacted]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 02, 2017 10:17 AM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]  
**Subject:** Quick question re: Black Congressional Caucus

Hi [redacted]  
I understand from [redacted] that the FBI has responded to the caucus's October 13 request for a meeting with Director Wray to discuss the bureau's "black identity extremists" memo, and that the caucus is working with the bureau to schedule the meeting. Would you like to comment further? I'm on deadline for 1 p.m. today.

Thank you and I look forward to hearing from you,  
Max

b6  
b7C

--

**Max Kutner** *Senior Writer*

Direct: [redacted] | Fax: [redacted]

**Newsweek**

7 Hanover Square, FL. 5, New York, NY 10004

[www.newsweek.com](http://www.newsweek.com)





[Redacted]

(DO) (FBI)

b6  
b7C

**From:** [Redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 02, 2017 12:35 PM  
**To:** Thorley, Charles A. (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** FW: Quick question re: Black Congressional Caucus

Chad,  
We have gotten a few inquiries. We're not commenting. Just making you aware.

**From:** Maxwell Kutner [Redacted]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 02, 2017 10:17 AM  
**To:** [Redacted] (DO) (FBI) [Redacted]  
**Subject:** Quick question re: Black Congressional Caucus

Hi [Redacted]  
I understand from [Redacted] that the FBI has responded to the caucus's October 13 request for a meeting with Director Wray to discuss the bureau's "black identity extremists" memo, and that the caucus is working with the bureau to schedule the meeting. Would you like to comment further? I'm on deadline for 1 p.m. today.

Thank you and I look forward to hearing from you,  
Max

b6  
b7C

--

**Max Kutner** *Senior Writer*

Direct: [Redacted] | Fax: [Redacted]



7 Hanover Square, FL. 5, New York, NY 10004

[www.newsweek.com](http://www.newsweek.com)



[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

b6  
b7C

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 01, 2017 1:42 PM  
**To:** 'Amber Randall'  
**Subject:** RE: Media Inquiry

Hi Amber,

I don't have any information for you.

Thanks,

[redacted]

**From:** Amber Randall [redacted]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 01, 2017 1:38 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]  
**Subject:** Re: Media Inquiry

Hi [redacted]

The CBC confirmed to me that they are in the works to plan a meeting with the FBI Director. I just wanted to reach out to see if the FBI had any additional comment?

Thanks,  
Amber Randall

On Wed, Oct 18, 2017 at 2:37 PM [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] wrote:

Ms. Randall,

I understand you already made an inquiry through our NPO mailbox. We don't have any additional information to provide you.

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b7C

Thank you.

**From:** Amber Randall [redacted]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 18, 2017 2:29 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]  
**Subject:** Media Inquiry

Hi [redacted]

I am a reporter with the DC News Foundation; my colleague  passed me your information.

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I am writing about a recent report that came out of the FBI on black identity extremists. I was wondering if FBI Director Christopher Wray had any plans to meet with the Congressional Black Caucus over the report?

Do you have additional information on how the FBI conducted its research and how the FBI plans to use it?

Thanks,

Amber Randall

[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

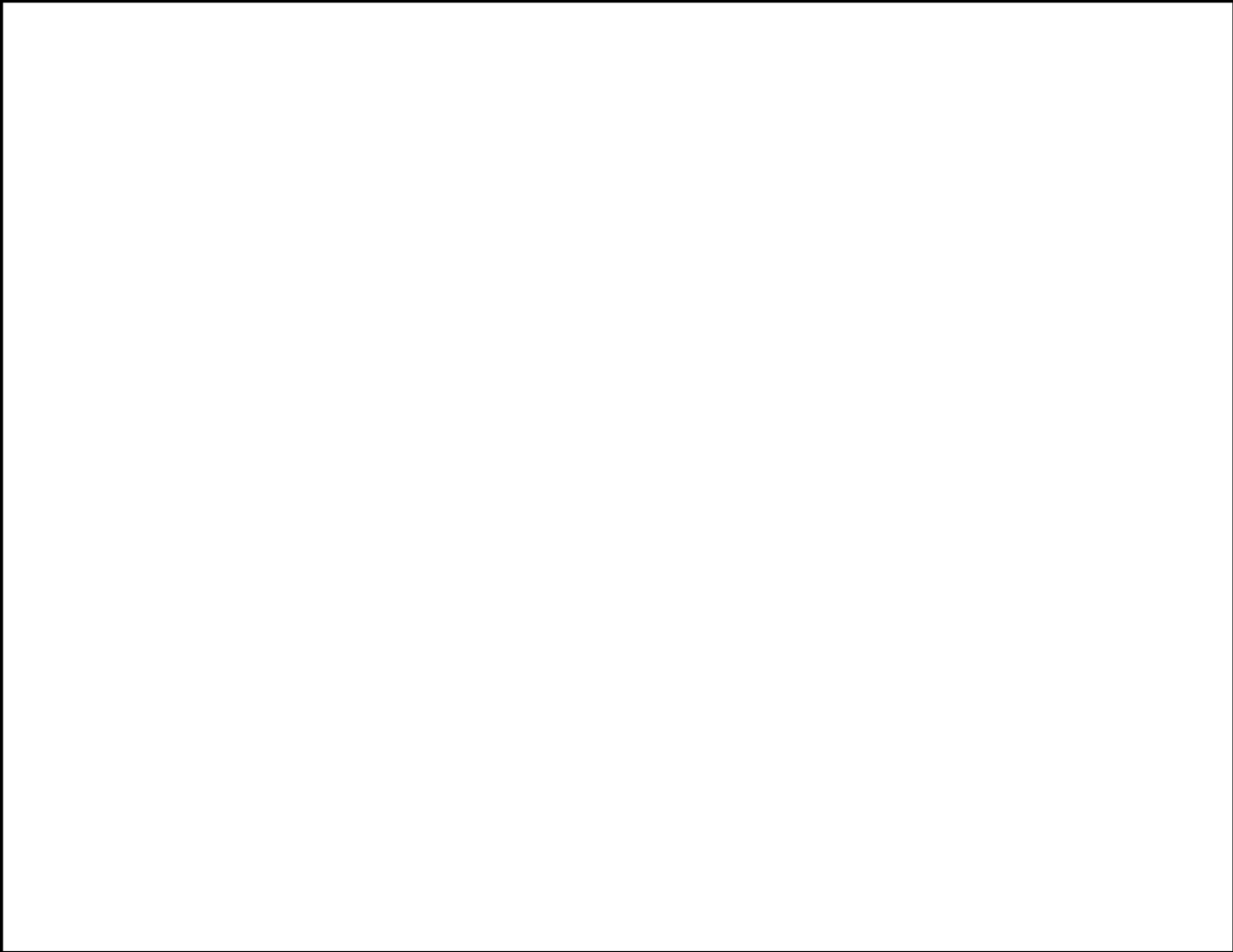
**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 31, 2017 12:09 PM  
**To:** Thorley, Charles A. (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** BIE

b6  
b7C

Chad,

Here's the statement we have given reporters:

"Without commenting on the document, the FBI investigates activity which may constitute a federal crime or pose a threat to national security and cannot initiate an investigation based solely on an individual's race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, or the exercise of First Amendment rights. The FBI remains committed to protecting those rights for all Americans. Our focus is not on membership in particular groups but on individuals who commit violence and other criminal acts. Furthermore, the FBI does not and will not police ideology. When an individual takes violent action based on belief or ideology and breaks the law, the FBI will enforce the rule of law."



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[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

b6  
b7C

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Monday, October 30, 2017 1:45 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (CE) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** RE: Black extremist

Hi [redacted]

This matter is still being discussed here. But right now we're still just using a very general comment when we get inquiries.

"Without commenting on the document, the FBI investigates activity which may constitute a federal crime or pose a threat to national security and cannot initiate an investigation based solely on an individual's race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, or the exercise of First Amendment rights. The FBI remains committed to protecting those rights for all Americans. Our focus is not on membership in particular groups but on individuals who commit violence and other criminal acts. Furthermore, the FBI does not and will not police ideology. When an individual takes violent action based on belief or ideology and breaks the law, the FBI will enforce the rule of law."

Best,  
[redacted]

-----Original Message-----

**From:** [redacted] (CE) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 26, 2017 10:53 AM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: Black extremist

b6  
b7C

Ok, well add this to your discussion. Our major police partner is getting the below questions. Just for a different perspective.

**From:** Aaron Morrison [redacted]  
**Date:** October 25, 2017 at 13:33:45 EDT  
**To:** "Adams, Michael" [redacted]  
**Subject:** Re: MEDIA REQUEST: Interview with CMPD executive about how it handles counterterrorism intelligence from the FBI Hi [redacted]

Here are likely questions I'll ask in our conversation:

- What does the CMPD counterterrorism unit look like? When was it established?
- In what situations are officers/detectives trained in counterterrorism dispatched to address or assess threats?
- How frequently are you working with your partners in the FBI on counterterrorism issues?
- When the FBI makes you aware of an emerging threat, how is that communicated during roll call?
- What are the difficulties involved? Police officers routinely say they don't get enough training. Do FBI assessments like the "black identity extremist" designation put new, unfair burdens on officers?

Again, I'd like to have a conversation over the phone about this. I'm available this afternoon, (have some availability on Thursday), and Friday all day.

What works for you?

Thanks,  
AM

b6  
b7c

-----Original Message-----

From: [redacted] (DO) (FBI)

Sent: Thursday, October 26, 2017 10:37 AM

To: [redacted] (CE) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]

Subject: RE: Black extremist

We have not discussed any particular leaked intelligence assessment, including that one.  
We are having more discussions today about how to handle inquiries.

-----Original Message-----

From: [redacted] (CE) (FBI)

Sent: Thursday, October 26, 2017 10:35 AM

To: [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]

Subject: Black extremist

Can I have the guidance on the black extremist bulletin. Our local law enforcement partner is looking for information on what we released as they are getting questioned about our bulletins and how they use them, etc.

[redacted]

FBI Charlotte Division

Office: [redacted]

Follow us on twitter: @FBICharlotte

[REDACTED] (DO) (FBI)

b6  
b7c

**From:** [REDACTED] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Friday, October 27, 2017 5:14 PM  
**To:** NPO  
**Subject:** OPA Horizon - 10/27/2017

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**FBI Office of Public Affairs  
The Horizon  
Friday, October 27, 2017**

### **National Issues**

- JFK Files: OPA – Significant media inquiries regarding the release of FBI files on the JFK Assassination. OPA is coordinating with RMD and OGC on a statement in response to inquiries.
- BIE Intelligence Assessment: OPA – McClatchy requested an interview about the FBI's domestic terrorism designations as well as information on the Black Identities Extremist Movement intelligence assessment which was released to law enforcement in August. NPO provided the following response: "Without commenting on the document, the FBI investigates activity which may constitute a federal crime or pose a threat to national security and cannot initiate an investigation based solely on an individual's race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, or the exercise of First Amendment rights. The FBI remains committed to protecting those rights for all Americans. Our focus is not on membership in particular groups but on individuals who commit violence and other criminal acts. Furthermore, the FBI does not and will not police ideology. When an individual takes violent action based on belief or ideology and breaks the law, the FBI will enforce the rule of law."
- Personnel Matter: OPA – The New York Times inquired about a personnel matter related to a former Special Agent who was fired and is seeking reinstatement. OPA declined to provide a comment for the story.
- MS-13 Membership: OPA – VOA inquired about the number of MS-13 members in the U.S. and requested a breakdown by region and state. OPA responded that the National Gang Intelligence Center estimates there are about 10,000 MS-13 gang members in the U.S., but declined to provide regional or state-by-state numbers.
- FBI.gov Top Story: OPA – A Peruvian national living in New York was sentenced to 12 years for stealing more than \$1.2 million from unsuspecting investors in a Ponzi scheme involving commodities fraud:  
<https://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/commodities-fraud-sentencing>

### **Local Stories**

- Detroit – Media attention is expected regarding a press release issued by the USAO, Eastern District, regarding a Flint man who plead guilty to kidnapping and being a felon in possession of ammunition. The defendant was said to have been a drug dealer who traveled from Arkansas to Michigan to collect a drug debt resulting in a kidnapping and ransom demand. SAC Gelios offered a statement that read, in part, "This incident once again underscores the dangers we face from illegal drugs and the violent crimes that often accompany drug trafficking activities."
- El Paso – El Paso received an inquiry regarding a Las Cruces local media story about teenagers involved in sexting receiving federal child pornography charges. Reporter inquired if the FBI was seeing this in El Paso. El Paso responded, "This type of sexting is occurring nationwide. Federal/state/local law enforcement are working these incidents through outreach, education and lastly, prosecutions. FBI educates 3rd through 8th graders on these situations during the FBI's Safe Online Surfing program."
- Los Angeles – Three officers with the Pomona Police Department self-surrendered yesterday to face federal charges that allege one officer violated the civil rights of a minor who was struck twice at the Los Angeles County Fair two years ago, and that all three took illegal steps to justify and cover-up the attack. Inquiries are being referred to the USAO.
- New Orleans – New Orleans participated in a joint press conference with several federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies to address violent crime in New Orleans. The press conference generated a significant number of news inquiries into potential subjects and areas of focus in the New Orleans area.

- New Orleans – According to a second superseding indictment, two subjects conspired together to commit two armored car robberies, a 2015 robbery at a Chase Bank and then the 2017 attempted robbery at the Campus Federal Credit Union at Tulane in which the subjects shot and killed an armored car employee. New Orleans is referring all media inquiries to the USAO-EDLA.
- Salt Lake City – SA [redacted] was interviewed by the NBC affiliate in Billings, MT about white collar crime and how businesses can protect themselves. The story will air at a later date.
- Salt Lake City – ABC News asked about the FBI's involvement in a missing person case out of Browning, MT. [redacted] was last seen June 5th. The reporter was told that the FBI is aware of the case and not involved at this time. However, we are coordinating with the appropriate authorities currently investigating the matter and we are prepared to assist, if asked.
- San Francisco – Local media inquired about the FBI's role in Oakland PD's arrest of [redacted] for the murder of Andrew Henderson. San Francisco released a seeking information poster last week offering a \$20,000 reward for public tips on five unsolved murders, which included Andrew Henderson.
- San Francisco – Yesterday's FBI and Oakland PD joint press conference announcing the solved homicide of a local musician, continues to receive significant media coverage after the victim's mother provided a statement to the local Fox affiliate.
- San Juan – On 10/25/17, SA [redacted] was interviewed by the local New York Times about the creation of the Elderly Task Force and distribution of food, water, and other commodities to assisted living facilities in Puerto Rico affected by Hurricane Maria.

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[redacted]  
 FBI National Press Office  
 (o) [redacted]  
 (c) [redacted]  
 [redacted]

b6  
 b7c



**NPO**

---

**From:** NPO  
**Sent:** Friday, October 27, 2017 3:57 PM  
**To:** Irby, Kate  
**Subject:** RE: Press request

Without commenting on the document, "The FBI investigates activity which may constitute a federal crime or pose a threat to national security and cannot initiate an investigation based solely on an individual's race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, or the exercise of First Amendment rights. The FBI remains committed to protecting those rights for all Americans. Our focus is not on membership in particular groups but on individuals who commit violence and other criminal acts. Furthermore, the FBI does not and will not police ideology. When an individual takes violent action based on belief or ideology and breaks the law, the FBI will enforce the rule of law."

**From:** Irby, Kate [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 27, 2017 12:26 PM  
**To:** NPO <NPO@FBI.GOV>  
**Subject:** Press request

b6  
b7C

I'm the criminal justice reporter for McClatchy and am writing a story about domestic terrorism designations. I was hoping to speak with someone today about how the FBI goes about labeling groups domestic terrorists and what the practical labels of such a designation are.

I am citing the leaked report on black identity extremists in my article, and if an interview isn't possible I'd like to request a response specific to the criticism of that report, namely that some are saying it is a flawed term that could be used to widely target black people.

My deadline is 4 p.m., but can push it back slightly if needed.

--  
Kate Irby  
Criminal Justice Reporter  
McClatchy DC  
[REDACTED]

**NPO**

---

**From:** NPO  
**Sent:** Friday, October 27, 2017 1:41 PM  
**To:** Kortan, Michael P. (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** FW: Press request

I spoke a little too soon. We have not heard anything back from the AP but McClatchy is asking about BIE now.

I can pop her the original statement or wait until we have clarity on a revised version.

**From:** Irby, Kate [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 27, 2017 12:26 PM  
**To:** NPO <NPO@FBI.GOV>  
**Subject:** Press request

b6  
b7c

I'm the criminal justice reporter for McClatchy and am writing a story about domestic terrorism designations. I was hoping to speak with someone today about how the FBI goes about labeling groups domestic terrorists and what the practical labels of such a designation are.

I am citing the leaked report on black identity extremists in my article, and if an interview isn't possible I'd like to request a response specific to the criticism of that report, namely that some are saying it is a flawed term that could be used to widely target black people.

My deadline is 4 p.m., but can push it back slightly if needed.

--  
Kate Irby  
Criminal Justice Reporter  
McClatchy DC  
[REDACTED]

[Redacted]

(DO) (FBI)

b6  
b7c

**From:** [Redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 26, 2017 4:44 PM  
**To:** [Redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** FW: BIE

**From:** Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 26, 2017 2:28 PM  
**To:** [Redacted] (DO) (FBI) [Redacted]  
**Cc:** [Redacted] (CTD) (FBI) [Redacted]  
**Subject:** Re: BIE

Thanks [Redacted] I think what you have herein is well written.

I saw the SPLC article, and while we don't align the FBI's program with their organizational perspectives as a general rule, I did find it interesting their interpretation yielded some supportive points towards the end of the article - namely acknowledging the threat, which is the purest objective of the intel assessment.

Thank you for all of your efforts on this.

MP

----- Original message -----  
**From:** [Redacted] (DO) (FBI)" [Redacted]  
**Date:** 10/26/17 2:20 PM (GMT-05:00)  
**To:** "Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI)" [Redacted]  
**Cc:** [Redacted] (CTD) (FBI)" [Redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: BIE

b6  
b7c  
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I talked to [Redacted] earlier today and let him know we are floating a couple statements at our AD's request

[Redacted]

Southern Poverty wrote a rather scathing story about it today and the Associated Press is asking - [Redacted]

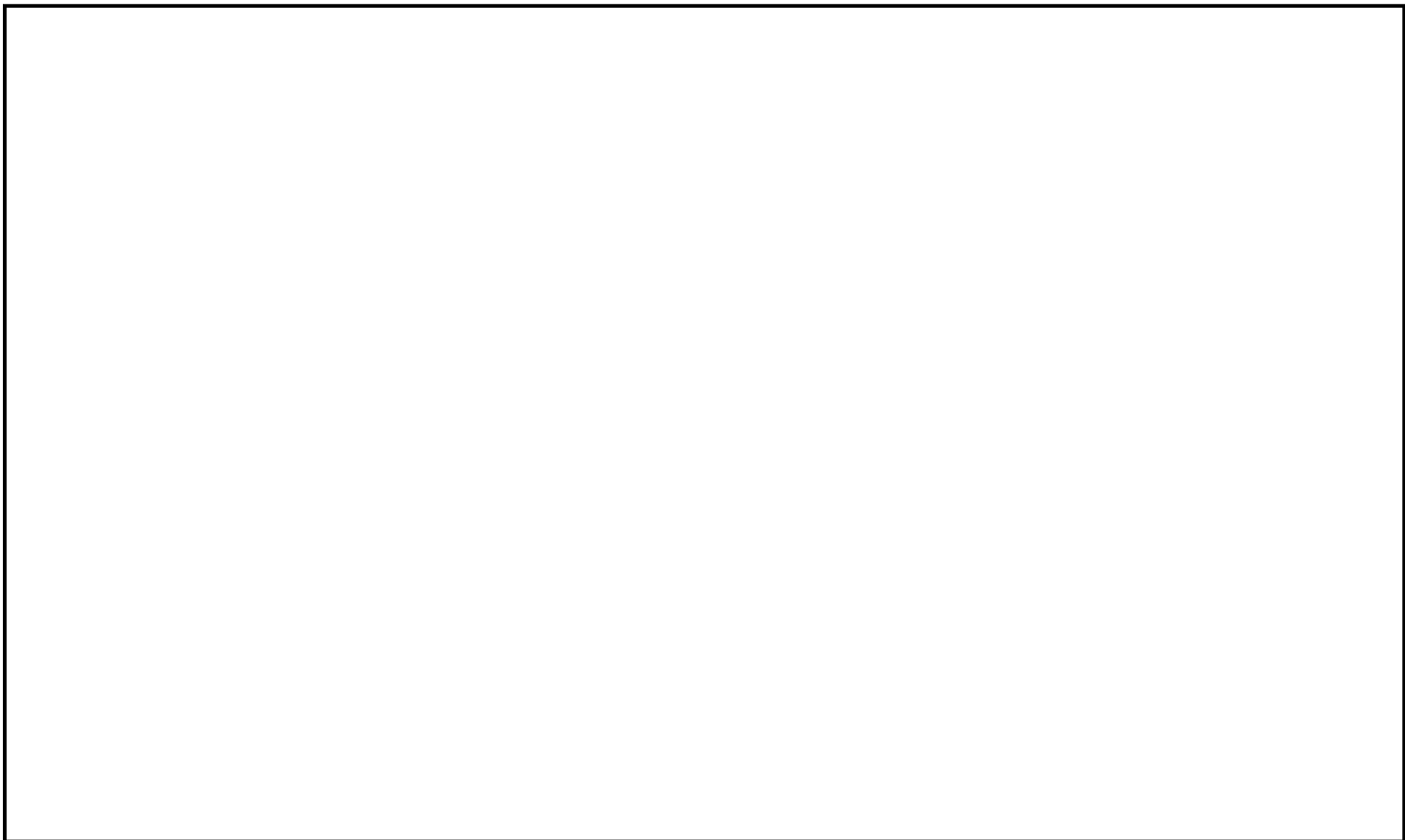
[Redacted]

[Redacted]

So, for awareness. [Redacted]

[Redacted] However, I am going to wait until I hear back from the Mike before formally sending your way for input/approval.

[Redacted]



**From:** Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 26, 2017 12:58 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]  
**Subject:** Re: BIE

[redacted] I am away on travel, but happy to chat around 530pm.

b6  
b7C

----- Original message -----

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)" [redacted]  
**Date:** 10/26/17 10:33 AM (GMT-05:00)  
**To:** "Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI)" [redacted] (CTD) (FBI)" [redacted]  
**Subject:** BIE

Do either of you have time for a quick call on BIE this morning?

[redacted]

National Press Office  
[redacted] (office)  
[redacted] (mobile)

[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

**From:** [redacted] (CTD) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 26, 2017 4:27 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (CTD) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** RE: Washington Post request -- black identity extremists

[redacted]

Sorry for the delay. Working on a potential update, but will need to send up the chain.

Thanks,

[redacted]

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 26, 2017 2:24 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (CTD) (FBI); [redacted] (CTD) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
[redacted]  
**Subject:** FW: Washington Post request -- black identity extremists

We have been discussing this request here. Aside from this particular media inquiry we are discussing in general whether we need to do a new statement.

AP also inquired and a field office said it got an inquiry from a local police department about what we are saying. The police department is being asked what it did after seeing the BIE document.

My UC touched based with Michael Paul and said we'll likely suggest some new language.

**From:** NPO  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 26, 2017 8:54 AM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Subject:** FW: Washington Post request -- black identity extremists

**From:** Svrluga, Susan [redacted]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 25, 2017 5:35 PM  
**To:** NPO <NPO@FBI.GOV>  
**Subject:** Washington Post request -- black identity extremists

Hi, is it accurate that the FBI this summer characterized a new domestic terror threat, black identity extremists? If so, are people misunderstanding that if it leads them to believe that black activists may be deemed a threat to national security?

Thank you for your help with this, I'm writing about people protesting their understanding of this and want to be sure I have accurate information.

If there is other context you'd like to share, please do let me know. Thank you!

My cell is [redacted]

Susan Svrluga  
Reporter  
The Washington Post



@susansvrluga

**NPO**

---

**From:** NPO  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 26, 2017 1:53 PM  
**To:** 'Svrluga, Susan'  
**Subject:** RE: Washington Post request -- black identity extremists

Hello,  
What is your story deadline?  
Thank you.

b6  
b7C

**From:** Svrluga, Susan [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 25, 2017 5:35 PM  
**To:** NPO <NPO@FBI.GOV>  
**Subject:** Washington Post request -- black identity extremists

Hi, is it accurate that the FBI this summer characterized a new domestic terror threat, black identity extremists? If so, are people misunderstanding that if it leads them to believe that black activists may be deemed a threat to national security?

Thank you for your help with this, I'm writing about people protesting their understanding of this and want to be sure I have accurate information. If there is other context you'd like to share, please do let me know. Thank you!

My cell is [REDACTED]

Susan Svrluga  
Reporter  
The Washington Post  
[REDACTED]  
@susansvrluga

[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

b6  
b7C

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 26, 2017 1:51 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** RE: Quick question for you re: black identity extremists

I'll get back to her. Thanks.

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 26, 2017 1:28 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]  
**Subject:** Fwd: Quick question for you re: black identity extremists

----- Original message -----  
**From:** "Gurman, Sadie" [redacted]  
**Date:** 10/26/17 1:26 PM (GMT-05:00)  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]  
**Subject:** Quick question for you re: black identity extremists

Hi, [redacted]

I hope you are well. I am sorry to hit you with a hodgepodge of questions but I am wondering if there is any chance you would confirm, even on background, that this document being circulated among Hill-types is truly an FBI document:  
<https://assets.documentcloud.org/documents/4067711/BIE-Redacted.pdf>

Looking for any direction you can provide.



**ASSOCIATED PRESS**

**Sadie Gurman**  
Justice Department Reporter

1100 13th Street, NW, 5th Fl.  
Washington, D.C. 20005

b6  
b7C

[redacted]  
[www.ap.org](http://www.ap.org)

T [redacted]  
C [redacted]

The information contained in this communication is intended for the use of the designated recipients named above. If the reader of this communication is not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that you have received this communication in error, and that any review, dissemination, distribution or copying of this



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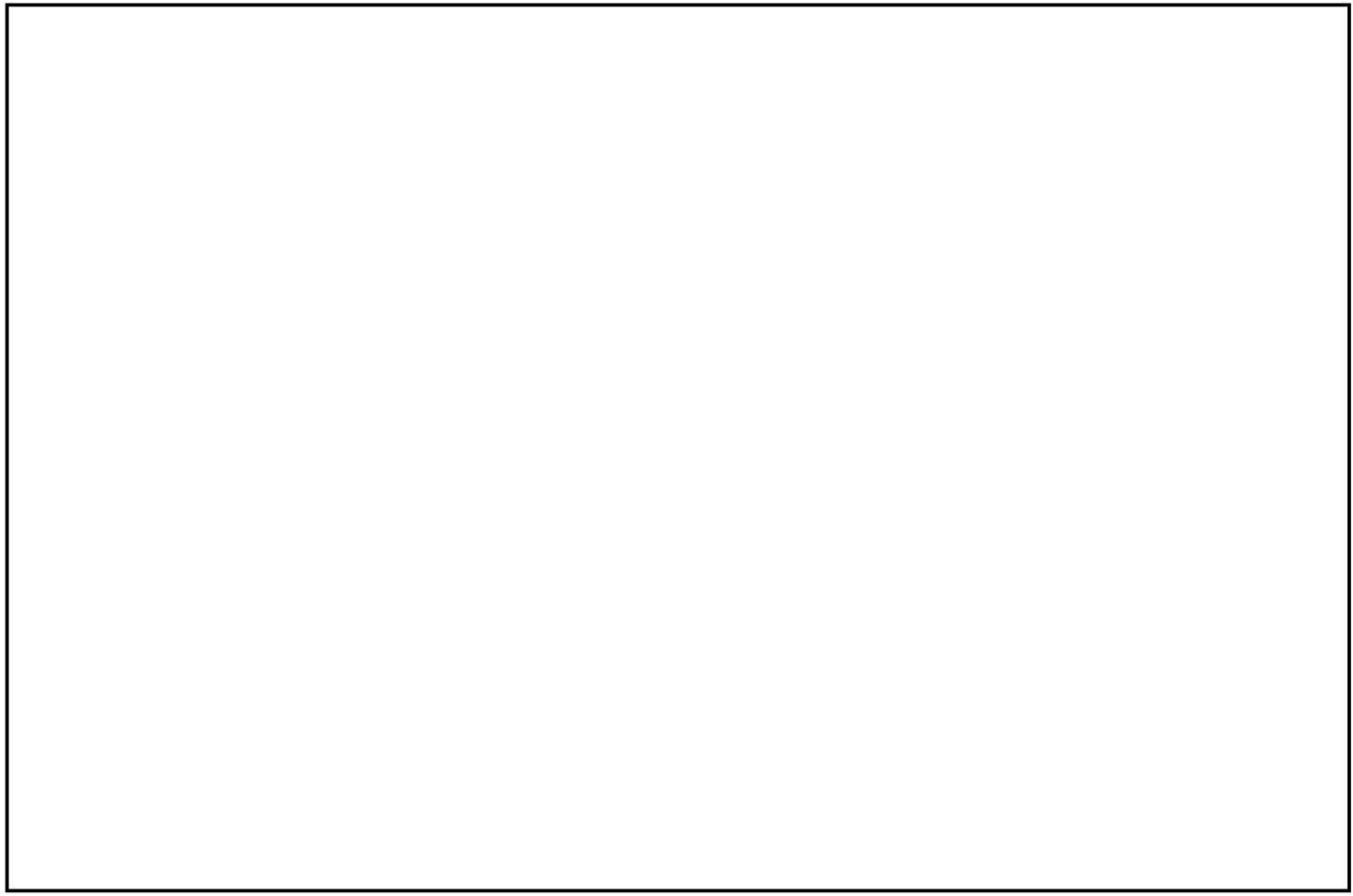
b6  
b7C

[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

b6  
b7C

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 26, 2017 12:18 PM  
**To:** Kortan, Michael P. (DO) (FBI)  
**Cc:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** Possible Statements

Mike,  
Below are two versions to review.



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b7C  
b5

[redacted]  
National Press Office  
[redacted] (office)  
[redacted] (mobile)

[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 26, 2017 11:40 AM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** RE: SPLC post on BIE

Thanks [redacted]

-----Original Message-----

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 26, 2017 10:42 AM  
**To:** Halvorsen, Christine A. (CTD) (FBI); [redacted] Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI); [redacted]  
[redacted] (CTD) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (CTD) (FBI)  
**Cc:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Subject:** SPLC post on BIE

FYSA in case you haven't seen this

FBI 'Black Identity Extremists' report stirs controversy

October 25, 2017

As America continues to process the aftermath of white nationalist violence in Charlottesville, the nation's premiere law enforcement agency appears to be focused on yet another emerging terrorist threat — Black Identity Extremists, or BIE.

In August, the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) Counterterrorism Division released a law enforcement sensitive report entitled, "Black Identity Extremists Likely Motivated to Target Law Enforcement." This report coincides with an SPLC article discussing the "Return of the Violent Black Nationalist," also released in August. Last week, Foreign Policy published an exclusive article about this FBI report and the controversy it created. Foreign Policy also released a copy of the report.

Although both the FBI report and SPLC article warn of increased violence by black nationalists in response to incidents of perceived police brutality against African-Americans, the FBI exclusively is taking some heat from historians, academics and former government officials for creating the new "BIE" term. Non-government experts are citing a wide-range of concerns related to this report; ranging from civil rights issues to political bias to institutional incompetence. After reviewing the FBI report, the SPLC agrees with these outside criticisms.

In the FBI's report, BIE is described as a conglomeration of black nationalists, black supremacists, and black separatists, among other disaffiliated racist individuals who are anti-police, anti-white, and/or seeking to rectify perceived social injustices against blacks. The FBI essentially merged these various black hate groups under one umbrella, giving it a new name, in the hopes of classifying these groups as an organized extremist movement. The SPLC does not endorse this unification characterization; rather, black nationalists are assessed as a loose-knit network of various hate groups, charismatic leaders, as well as unaffiliated individuals who may identify as black nationalists, but do not associate with black nationalist groups. The BIE term, however, is creating quite a stir due to its benign, confusing, and ethno-specific characterization. The SPLC objects to using the new term "black identity extremists" to describe violent black nationalists. It can be easily misconstrued as focusing on black activists (who are law-abiding and peaceful). Further, it may be offensive to those who merely "identify" themselves as "black" (due to their African heritage and ethnic pride) — equating such people to extremists.

Former U.S. government officials, academics, and legal experts point out that no such movement actually exists. Some claim coining the phrase “black identity extremists” may even be politically motivated. They say it might be a deliberate attempt by the Trump administration to divert attention away from the larger, more serious threat of white supremacists and other far-right extremists. Earlier this year, President Donald Trump changed the Department of Homeland Security’s “Countering Violent Extremism” (CVE) program to exclusively focus on Muslim terrorism at the expense of other viable terrorist threats. Trump also reportedly rescinded funding to CVE programs, such as Life After Hate, which are focused on countering violent white supremacy and inspiring individuals to leave hate groups.

Although Black Lives Matter is not specifically mentioned by name in the FBI report, BLM spokespersons have previously voiced concerns over possible FBI surveillance of their activities. And the BIE term likely gives them pause.

“There is a long tradition of the FBI targeting black activists and this [i.e. the new FBI report] is not surprising,” DeRay McKesson told Foreign Policy.

Mike German, a former FBI agent now working as a fellow for the Liberty and National Security Program and the Brennan Center for Justice, told Foreign Policy, “The use of terms like ‘black identity extremist’ is part of a long-standing FBI attempt to define a movement where none exists.”

Historians and academics further state that the new BIE phrase harkens back to the FBI’s decades-long targeting of black civil rights activists as potential radicals during the 1960s and 1970s. Others also expressed privacy and civil rights concerns with using such a vague phrase as BIE.

David Garrow, a historian who wrote a Pulitzer Prize-winning biography of Martin Luther King, Jr., told Foreign Policy, “The FBI’s desire to identify a unifying ideological underpinning to what is often individual violent acts is not surprising.”

“Security agencies want to perceive a threat that is political, a threat that’s ideological,” Garrow also said, “but what we’re actually witnessing is men, almost entirely men, acting out in violent criminal ways and grasping at some chimera of political justification.”

The FBI reportedly defended its tracking of “black identity extremists,” to Foreign Policy stating that “the FBI cannot initiate an investigation based solely on an individual’s race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, or the exercise of First Amendment rights.” Nevertheless, the FBI’s new term can easily be misinterpreted to mean something more menacing.

No one will ever know if the FBI’s BIE report is representative of mere government incompetence, ethnic insensitivity, or devious political diversion. Regardless, the report’s underlying message of a rising violent black nationalist threat targeting law enforcement and white civilians has some merit. The mass shooting attacks in Dallas, Baton Rouge, Fresno, and Antioch (among others) clearly illustrate this point. Nevertheless, the FBI’s attempt to lump various, disparate black extremists together under one umbrella movement does not appear factual. And, it may actually inflate the threat from violent black nationalists at the expense of other, larger, and more serious domestic extremist movements within the U.S., such as white supremacy and sovereign citizens which number in the hundreds of thousands of members.

[Redacted]

(DO) (FBI)

b6  
b7C

**From:** [Redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 26, 2017 10:32 AM  
**To:** [Redacted] (DO) (FBI); [Redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** FW: BIE

I have not heard anything back as of yet.

**From:** [Redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 25, 2017 4:46 PM  
**To:** Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI); [Redacted]  
**Cc:** [Redacted] (CTD) (FBI); [Redacted] (SE) (FBI); [Redacted] Halvorsen, Christine A. (CTD) (FBI); [Redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: BIE

See revised draft talkers below which are based upon Michael's feedback and a conversation with Chris. Let me know if they capture the overarching issue in relation to BIE. Feel free to edit.

[Large Redacted Area]

b5

[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

b6  
b7C  
b5

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 25, 2017 4:22 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** RE: BIE

I made one minor edit in the first bullet. [redacted]

So, could we say something like [redacted]

Just my two cents. Thanks!

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 25, 2017 3:08 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: BIE

b6  
b7C  
b5

Just small stuff marked below.

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 25, 2017 1:41 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Subject:** FW: BIE

Those in Blue are based upon a convo with Halvorsen and Paul's feedback below...Edit away!

[Large redacted area]

[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

b6  
b7C

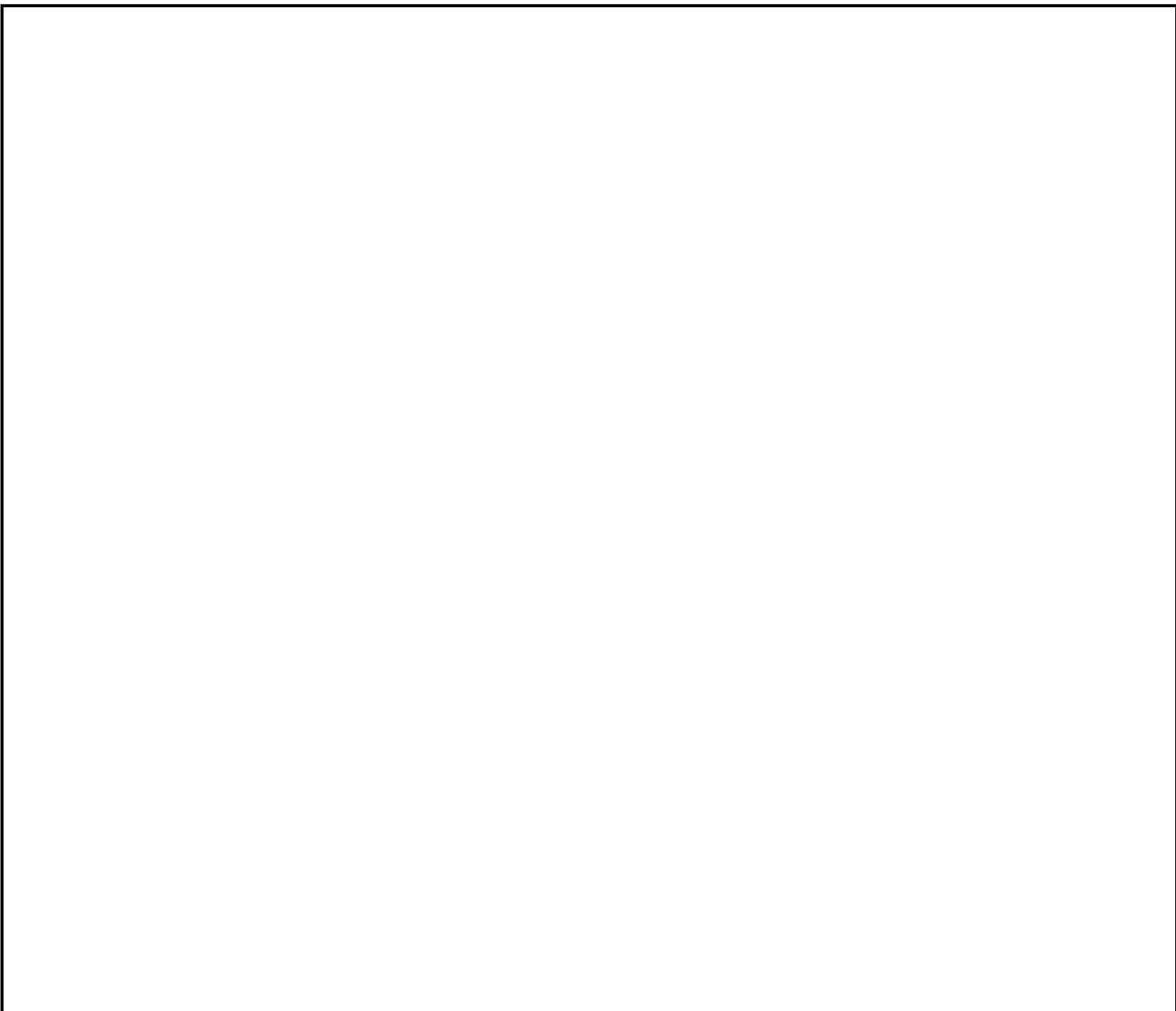
**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 25, 2017 3:07 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** RE: BIE

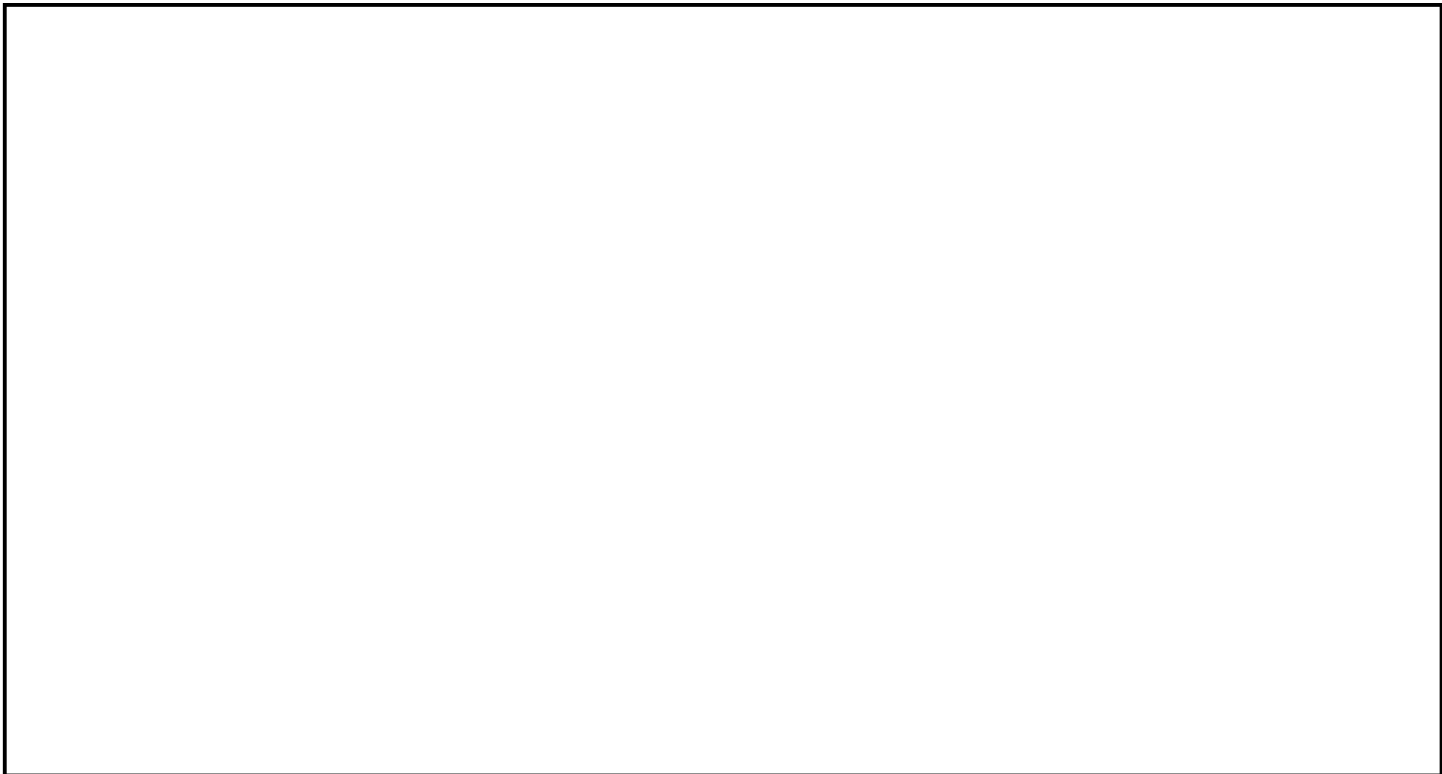
Just small stuff marked below.

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 25, 2017 1:41 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Subject:** FW: BIE

b6  
b7C  
b5

Those in Blue are based upon a convo with Halvorsen and Paul's feedback below...Edit away!





**From:** Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI)

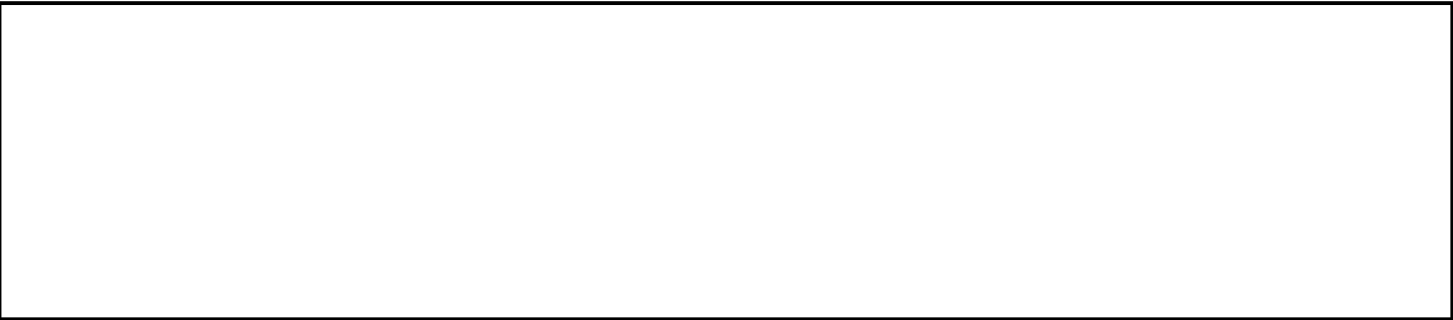
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 24, 2017 5:44 PM

**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]

**Cc:** [redacted] (CTD) (FBI) [redacted] (SE) (FBI) [redacted]

**Subject:** Re: BIE

[redacted] Just a few clarifying points of context:



b6  
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b5

----- Original message -----

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)" [redacted]

**Date:** 10/24/17 3:03 PM (GMT-05:00)

**To:** [redacted] (SE) (FBI)" [redacted]

**Cc:** [redacted] (CTD) (FBI)" [redacted] "Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI)" [redacted]

**Subject:** RE: BIE





[Redacted]

(DO) (FBI)

b6  
b7C  
b5

**From:**

[Redacted] (DO) (FBI)

**Sent:**

Wednesday, October 25, 2017 1:41 PM

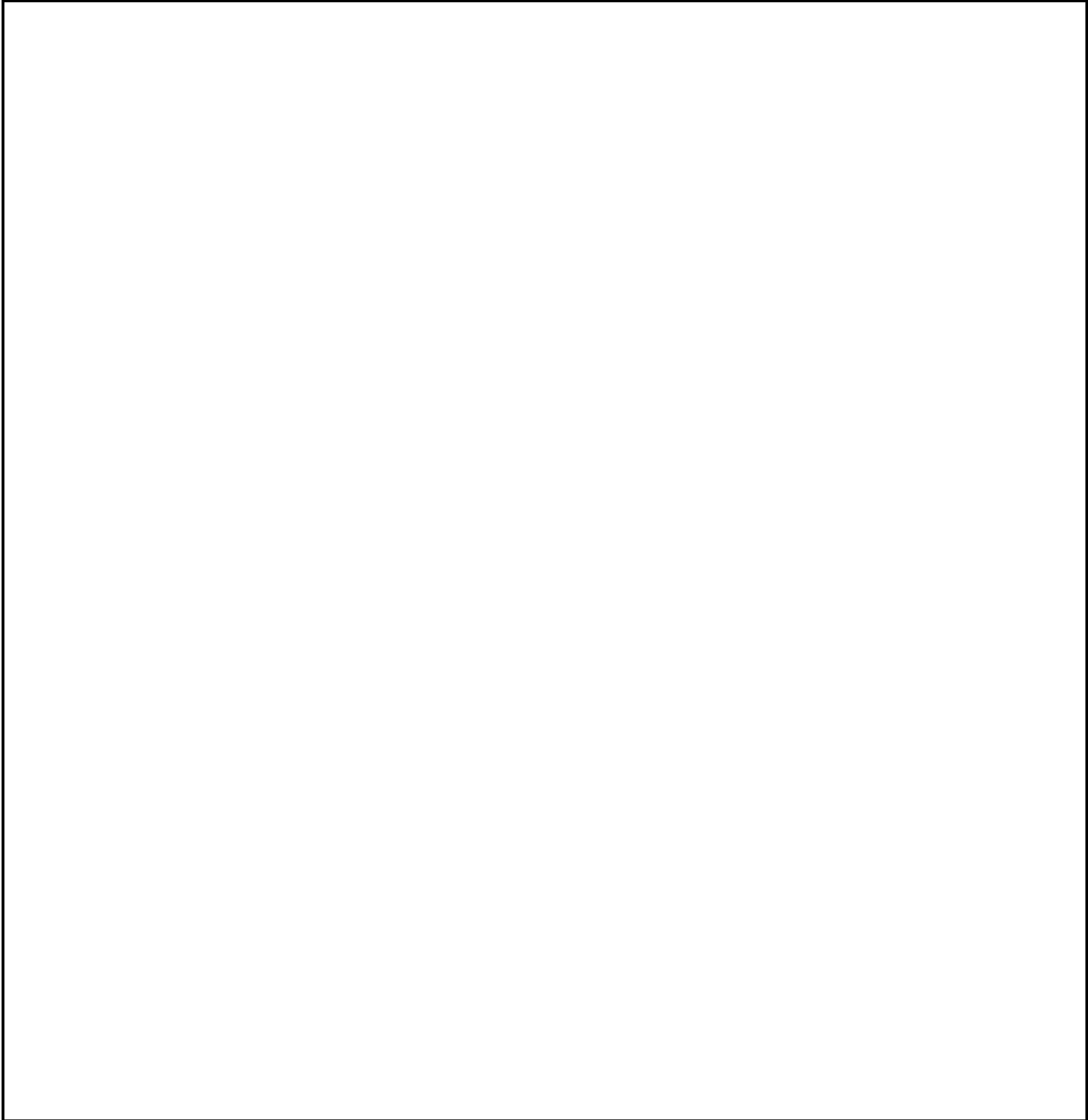
**To:**

[Redacted] (DO) (FBI); [Redacted] (DO) (FBI)

**Subject:**

FW: BIE

Those in Blue are based upon a convo with Halvorsen and Paul's feedback below...Edit away!



[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

b6  
b7C

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 24, 2017 5:52 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); Kortan, Michael P. (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** Fwd: BIE

Input from DT.

[redacted]  
[redacted] National Press Office  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

[redacted] office  
[redacted] cell  
@FBI

----- Original message -----

**From:** "Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI)" [redacted]  
**Date:** 10/24/17 5:43 PM (GMT-05:00)  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted] (CTD) (FBI) [redacted] (SE) (FBI)"  
[redacted]  
**Subject:** Re: BIE

b6  
b7C  
b5

[redacted] Just a few clarifying points of context:

[Large redacted block]

----- Original message -----

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)" [redacted]  
**Date:** 10/24/17 3:03 PM (GMT-05:00)  
**To:** [redacted] (SE) (FBI)" [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted] (CTD) (FBI)" [redacted] "Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI)" [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: BIE

[redacted]  
As we discussed, do mind taking a quick look at these talking points? Not expecting you to do any research or otherwise jump through hoops. I just wanted to ensure that I have adequately addressed [redacted]

[Redacted]

b5

[Redacted]

**From:** [Redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 24, 2017 2:29 PM  
**To:** Kortan, Michael P. (DO) (FBI) [Redacted] (DO) (FBI) [Redacted]  
**Cc:** [Redacted] (DO) (FBI) [Redacted]  
**Subject:** BIE

b6  
b7c

Here are the two statements we have given publicly. The first one, the longer one, I think was only given to foreign policy. We have given the shorter one to folks who inquired after FP.

**Black Identity Extremists**  
Foreign Policy inquiry after obtaining leaked intelligence assessment

Statement date: 10/12/17

"We have no comment on the report that cited in your email.

With regard to the FBI's Domestic Terrorism investigative program, the threat of domestic terrorism remains a priority for the FBI. It is important to note that the FBI cannot initiate an investigation based solely on an individual's race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, or the exercise of First Amendment rights.

Domestic terrorism groups differ from traditional criminal groups in that they take action for a different purpose, to bring attention to a social or political cause. Therefore, their existence as a group has a legitimate purpose, at least in part. Their legitimate activity may include acts of protest, advocacy, and civil disobedience. The FBI's domestic terrorism program identifies nine persistent extremist movements in the US: white supremacy, black identities, militia, sovereign citizens, anarchists, abortion, animal rights, environmental rights, and Puerto Rican Nationalism. This does not preclude the FBI from investigating all other unique, extremist ideologies furthered wholly or in part through crime and violence are addressed as they arise.

The FBI may only initiate an investigation based upon information or allegations that an activity constitutes a federal crime or a threat to national security. Furthermore, the FBI does not and will not police ideology. When an individual takes action based on belief or ideology and breaks the law, the FBI will enforce the rule of law."

-----  
**Black Identity Extremists – shorter statement as recommended by AD**

Statement date: 10/12/17

Without commenting on the document, ""The FBI investigates activity which may constitute a federal crime or pose a threat to national security and cannot initiate an investigation based solely on an individual's race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, or the exercise of First Amendment rights. The FBI remains committed to protecting those rights for all Americans. Our focus is not on membership in particular groups but on individuals who commit violence and other criminal acts. Furthermore, the FBI does not and will not police ideology. When an individual takes violent action based on belief or ideology and breaks the law, the FBI will enforce the rule of law."

[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

b6  
b7C  
b5

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 24, 2017 4:23 PM  
**To:** Kortan, Michael P. (DO) (FBI)  
**Cc:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** BIE

Mike - [redacted] As soon as they get back to me I will let you know. [redacted]



[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

b6  
b7C

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 24, 2017 3:13 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** FW: BIE

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 24, 2017 3:02 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (SE) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted] (CTD) (FBI); Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: BIE

b6  
b7C  
b5

[redacted]  
As we discussed, do mind taking a quick look at these talking points? Not expecting you to do any research or otherwise jump through hoops. I just wanted to ensure that I have adequately addressed [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 24, 2017 2:37 PM  
**To:** Kortan, Michael P. (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Cc:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** RE: BIE  
**Attachments:** BIE Intelligence Assessment Aug-2017.pdf

I am also attaching the document that leaked out.

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 24, 2017 2:27 PM  
**To:** Kortan, Michael P. (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Subject:** BIE

Here are the two statements we have given publicly. The first one, the longer one, I think was only given to foreign policy. We have given the shorter one to folks who inquired after FP.

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Statement date: 10/12/17

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**Black Identity Extremists – shorter statement as recommended by AD**

Statement date: 10/12/17

Without commenting on the document, ""The FBI investigates activity which may constitute a federal crime or pose a threat to national security and cannot initiate an investigation based solely on an individual's race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, or the exercise of First Amendment rights. The FBI remains committed to protecting those rights for all Americans. Our focus is not on membership in particular groups but on individuals who commit violence and other criminal acts. Furthermore, the FBI does not and will not police ideology. When an individual takes violent action based on belief or ideology and breaks the law, the FBI will enforce the rule of law."

[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

b6  
b7C

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 19, 2017 4:59 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** RE: NBC News Request

No but I can.....

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 19, 2017 4:52 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]  
**Subject:** FW: NBC News Request

Did you already get this one?

**From:** NPO  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 19, 2017 4:17 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]  
**Subject:** FW: NBC News Request

**From:** Duster, Chandelis (NBCUniversal) [redacted]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 19, 2017 3:49 PM  
**To:** NPO <NPO@FBI.GOV>  
**Subject:** NBC News Request

b6  
b7C

Good afternoon,

Chandelis Duster here with NBC News. I'm interested in speaking with someone regarding reports about a Black Identity Extremist Intelligence Assessment.

Thanks,

Chandelis R. Duster  
*Associate Producer, NBCBLK*  
DESK [redacted]  
CELL [redacted]

4001 Nebraska Ave. NW | Washington, D.C. 20016





[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

b6  
b7C

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 19, 2017 4:42 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** FW: Black Identity Extremists

Sorry!

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 19, 2017 4:23 PM  
**To:** Halvorsen, Christine A. (CTD) (FBI); [redacted] Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI); [redacted]  
[redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] Kortan, Michael P. (DO) (FBI); [redacted]  
Murphy, Brian J. (OPE) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (CTD) (FBI); [redacted] (CTD) (FBI)  
[redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] Thorley, Charles A. (DO) (FBI)  
[redacted]  
**Subject:** FW: Black Identity Extremists

Please see the link below for an editorial by the NYT.

NYT had our statement, just chose not to incorporate it in to their writing on the matter.

**From:** Goldman, Adam [redacted]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 19, 2017 3:46 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Subject:** Re: Black Identity Extremists

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/10/19/opinion/columnists/fbi-blacks-civil-rights.html?action=click&pgtype=Homepage&clickSource=story-heading&module=opinion-c-col-left-region&region=opinion-c-col-left-region&WT.nav=opinion-c-col-left-region&r=0>

b6  
b7C

On Tue, Oct 10, 2017 at 4:36 PM, [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] wrote:

With regard to the FBI's Domestic Terrorism investigative program, the threat of domestic terrorism remains a priority for the FBI. It is important to note that the FBI cannot initiate an investigation based solely on an individual's race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, or the exercise of First Amendment rights.

Domestic terrorism groups differ from traditional criminal groups in that they take action for a different purpose, to bring attention to a social or political cause. Therefore, their existence as a group has a legitimate purpose, at least in part. Their legitimate activity may include acts of protest, advocacy, and civil disobedience. The FBI's domestic terrorism program identifies nine persistent extremist movements in the US: white supremacy, black identities, militia, sovereign citizens, anarchists, abortion, animal rights, environmental rights, and Puerto Rican Nationalism. This does not preclude the FBI from investigating all other unique, extremist ideologies furthered wholly or in part through crime and violence are addressed as they arise.

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[redacted]

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
National Press Office

Desk: [REDACTED]

Cell: [REDACTED]

b6  
b7C

--

Adam Goldman  
Reporter  
The New York Times

(M) [REDACTED]

(O) [REDACTED]

[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

b6  
b7c

**From:** NPO  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 19, 2017 12:02 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** FW: "The G-Man Interviews: Black Identity Extremists (An FBI Official Sets the Record Straight)"

**From:** Gary Glennell Toms [redacted]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 19, 2017 11:51 AM  
**To:** NPO <NPO@FBI.GOV>  
**Subject:** "The G-Man Interviews: Black Identity Extremists (An FBI Official Sets the Record Straight)"

## The FBI's New U.S. Terrorist Threat: 'Black Identity Extremists'

Law enforcement calls it a violent movement. Critics call it racist.

**Excerpt:** *"As white supremacists prepared to descend on Charlottesville, Virginia, in August, the FBI warned about a new movement that was violent, growing, and racially motivated. Only it wasn't white supremacists; it was "black identity extremists."*

*"Amid a rancorous debate over whether the Trump administration has downplayed the threat posed by white supremacist groups, the FBI's counterterrorism division has declared that black identity extremists pose a growing threat of premeditated violence against law enforcement."*

### Question

Would it be possible to have a spokesperson from the bureau appear on my show to discuss this matter in greater detail? There is a great deal of speculation on the Internet about what this directive means for members of the Black community. Moreover, the report is extremely vague in its categorization of BIE. "The G-Man Interviews" wants to set the record straight and dispel rumors by going straight to the source.

If possible, I would like to conduct the interview on October 23rd, 24th or 25th. I would email the call-in number and access code for my show. The interview would be 15 to 25 minutes.

### My Background

"From The G-Man" (my news site) and "The G-Man Interviews" (my YouTube interview series) are independent news and information sources based in Harlem, New York.

I conduct exclusive interviews with celebrities, community activists, foreign policy experts, and political/social figures, to name a few. My sources of information include the White House Press Office, federal, state and local agencies and officials, the Office of Governor Andrew Cuomo, and the New York State Senate, to name a few.


I created and manage both sites and operate solely off public donations in order to maintain creative and editorial control. My objective is to make a difference through quality journalism while adhering to its best standards and practices.

I'm the recipient of multiple journalism/community service awards, including a 2010 proclamation from the New York State Senate for excellence in journalism and online media. In 2013, my work received the endorsement of four journalism icons, including Les Payne, co-founder of the National Association of Black Journalists. Mr. Payne is also a Pulitzer Prize-winning author and the former assistant managing editor of Newsday.

b6  
b7C

Regards,

Gary Glennell Toms  
"The G-Man"  
Creator and Managing Editor,  
"From The G-Man" & "The G-Man Interviews"

  
<http://fromthegman.blogspot.com/>  
<http://www.youtube.com/user/GaryTheGmanToms/videos>  
<http://theawakenin2.wix.com/the-gman>  
<http://www.linkedin.com/pub/gary-glennell-toms/31/347/48a>



[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 18, 2017 2:38 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); NPO  
**Subject:** RE: Media Inquiry

b6  
b7C

She hit me up directly too, so I provided her our response. Thank you!

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 18, 2017 2:38 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] NPO  
<NPO@FBI.GOV>  
**Subject:** FW: Media Inquiry

**From:** Amber Randall [redacted]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 18, 2017 2:31 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Subject:** Media Inquiry

Hi [redacted]

b6  
b7C

I am a reporter with the DC News Foundation; my colleague [redacted] passed me your information.

I am writing about a recent report that came out of the FBI on black identity extremists. I was wondering if FBI Director Christopher Wray had any plans to meet with the Congressional Black Caucus over the report?

Do you have additional information on how the FBI conducted its research and how the FBI plans to use it?

Thanks,

Amber Randall

[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

---

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 18, 2017 2:36 PM  
**To:** 'Amber Randall'  
**Subject:** RE: Media Inquiry

b6  
b7C

Ms. Randall,

I understand you already made an inquiry through our NPO mailbox. We don't have any additional information to provide you.

Thank you.

**From:** Amber Randall [redacted]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 18, 2017 2:29 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]  
**Subject:** Media Inquiry

Hi [redacted]

I am a reporter with the DC News Foundation; my colleague [redacted] passed me your information.

I am writing about a recent report that came out of the FBI on black identity extremists. I was wondering if FBI Director Christopher Wray had any plans to meet with the Congressional Black Caucus over the report?

Do you have additional information on how the FBI conducted its research and how the FBI plans to use it?

Thanks,

Amber Randall

[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

b6  
b7C

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 18, 2017 12:38 PM  
**To:** NPO; [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** RE: Media inquiry re: ACLU FOIA request regarding FBI report on Black Identity Extremists

Got it.

**From:** NPO  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 18, 2017 12:38 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Subject:** FW: Media inquiry re: ACLU FOIA request regarding FBI report on Black Identity Extremists

**From:** Ronn Blitzer [redacted]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 18, 2017 11:58 AM  
**To:** NPO <NPO@FBI.GOV>  
**Subject:** Media inquiry re: ACLU FOIA request regarding FBI report on Black Identity Extremists

Hello,

The ACLU and Center for Media Justice filed a FOIA request with the FBI today regarding a report titled, "Black Identity Extremists Likely Motivated to Target Law Enforcement Officers." Their concern is that the labeling of Black Identity Extremists may be a justification for racial profiling.

Does the FBI have any statement on this matter?

I'm on a tight deadline, so I would appreciate any response as soon as possible.

Thank you.

--  
Ronn Blitzer  
Senior Editor, LawNewz.com

[redacted]  
[redacted]

b6  
b7C

NPO

---

**From:** NPO  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 18, 2017 12:38 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** FW: 3rd Request for phone interview..Fw: Fwd: Request for phone interview  
**Attachments:** BIE-Redacted.pdf

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**From:** charlene muhammad [redacted]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 18, 2017 12:17 PM  
**To:** NPO <NPO@FBI.GOV>  
**Subject:** 3rd Request for phone interview..Fw: Fwd: Request for phone interview

Dear Press Office:

Per my call this morning, I'm forwarding my previous email requests for phone interview re the FBI's report on 'Black Identity Extremists'.

My story is due tomorrow at 5 pm CST.

Sincerely,

Charlene Muhammad  
National Correspondent  
The Final Call Newspaper  
[www.finalcall.com](http://www.finalcall.com)  
[redacted] direct

On Monday, October 16, 2017 11:22 AM, Charlene Muhammad [redacted] wrote:

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Follow up request...

Story due this Wed 5 pm EST.

**From:** charlene muhammad [redacted]  
**Date:** October 11, 2017 at 6:49:36 PM PDT  
**To:** "npo@ic.fbi.gov" <npo@ic.fbi.gov>  
**Subject: Request for phone interview**  
**Reply-To:** charlene muhammad [redacted]

Dear Spokespersons [redacted] or [redacted]

I am emailing to request a phone interview for my national, print newspaper story regarding an alleged FBI Intelligence Assessment entitled "Black Identity Extremists Likely Motivated to Target Law Enforcement Officers," dated August 3, 2017.



My article is due this Friday morning at 10 AM Central standard time.

Here is a link to the document, which is also attached.

<https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/4067711-BIE-Redacted.html#document/p2>

I anticipate needing no more than 7 to 10 minutes for the interview.

Sincerely,

Charlene Muhammad  
National Correspondent  
The Final Call Newspaper  
[www.finalcall.com](http://www.finalcall.com)

direct

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[Redacted]

(DO) (FBI)

b6  
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**From:** [Redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 18, 2017 11:29 AM  
**To:** Kortan, Michael P. (DO) (FBI); [Redacted] (DO) (FBI); [Redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** FW: [Redacted] domestic terrorism movements

**Attachments:** [Redacted]

FYSA,  
Halvorsen is supposed to talk about the BIE assessment with NOBLE on Friday morning. She participated in the conference call with the group last week.  
Brian Murphy sent NOBLE [Redacted] regarding other groups to add context.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Murphy, Brian J. (OPE) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Monday, October 16, 2017 11:21 AM  
**To:** [Redacted]  
**Cc:** [Redacted] (SECD) (FBI); Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI); [Redacted] Halvorsen, Christine A. (CTD) (FBI); [Redacted] Sleeper, Kerry L. (DO) (FBI); [Redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** [Redacted] domestic terrorism movements

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[Redacted]  
Here are the [Redacted] mentioned on the call last week. All the [Redacted]  
[Redacted] Please provide to NOBLE members as you see fit. All documents are unclassified and for law enforcement personnel only.

Thanks

Section Chief  
Office of Partner Engagement  
Brian Murphy

O [Redacted]  
C [Redacted]

[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

b6  
b7C

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 17, 2017 2:14 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (NY) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI);  
[redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (NY) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI);  
[redacted] (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI);  
**Subject:** FW: Director's Responses to Potential Q&A for IACP  
**Attachments:** 10.17.2017 Potential Q&A for IACP.docx

Thanks for all the help with this doc! Attached is the final version.

[redacted]  
National Press Office  
FBI Office of Public Affairs

[redacted] office  
[redacted] mobile

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 17, 2017 1:56 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] Rybicki, James E. (DO) (FBI); [redacted] Kortan, Michael P.  
[redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (SECD) (FBI); [redacted]  
[redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
[redacted] Sleeper, Kerry L. (DO) (FBI); [redacted] Murphy, Brian J. (OPE) (FBI); [redacted]  
[redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted]

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Hi, all,

Attached please find draft responses for the Director for potential questions during IACP. Many thanks to everyone who gathered info for responses. It's very much appreciated. Let us know if you have any changes.

[redacted] and [redacted]

[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

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**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 17, 2017 12:07 PM  
**To:** NPO; [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** RE: FBI Intelligence assessment of Aug. 3, 2017

I got it.

**From:** NPO  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 17, 2017 11:59 AM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Subject:** FW: FBI Intelligence assessment of Aug. 3, 2017

**From:** Russ, Valerie [redacted]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 17, 2017 11:51 AM  
**To:** NPO <NPO@FBI.GOV>  
**Subject:** FBI Intelligence assessment of Aug. 3, 2017

Hello,

I'm a reporter at the Philadelphia Inquirer & Daily News. I'm working on a story about the Aug. 3, 2017 report that warned that "Black Identity Extremists Likely Motivated to Target Law Enforcement Officers."

There has been criticism from the ACLU and others who say this warning is dangerous and is tantamount to stripping protest groups of their right to protest against questionable police shootings.

Others I've spoken to said that the warning essentially gives both the FBI and local law enforcement the authorization to "racially profile" anyone, but especially black people, who protest against police brutality.

[redacted] said there is no such thing as a "Black Identity Extremist" movement. He said this report is "manufacturing a black separatist threat."

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The people I spoke to also said that the examples of "threats" cited in the report are examples of people who have embraced either a black separatist or sovereign citizen ideology and that "black identity" seems to be conflating people such as Black Lives Matter protests with other people who are more "separatist" in belief.

Also I have a question about the accuracy of the FBI report itself.

This question is about the first example of violence directed at law enforcement: “On 7 July 2016, Micah Johnson ambushed and shot 11 law enforcement officers, killing five ,” in Dallas, Texas. It says, “The five deceased officers were white.”

But I looked up the incident. One of the deceased officers, was Patricio “Patrick” Zamarripa. His obit information said he was [REDACTED]

I understand Johnson’s motives were to target white people and white police officers. But is the report accurate in saying all deceased officers in the July 7, 2016 attack in Dallas were white?

When I questioned [REDACTED] about this, he said by saying all the victims were white, if this is not accurate, then this might cause even more alarm for white law enforcement officials in how they approach black protesters or others who identify with protests against brutality?

He called the report an “ attempt to create parity” between the minor black separatists movement and the white supremacist and far-right movements that has been active and organized for 150 years.

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Thank you,

Valerie Russ  
Staff Writer  
Philadelphia Inquirer & Daily News

Philadelphia Media Network | 801 Market Street, Ste 300 | Philadelphia, PA 19107

[REDACTED] (o) | [REDACTED] (c) | [REDACTED] @ValerieRussDN

PHILADELPHIA MEDIA NETWORK

The Inquirer **DAILY NEWS** philly.com

[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

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**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 17, 2017 9:16 AM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** RE: Director Qs

Approved for use! Thank you.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 17, 2017 8:52 AM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Subject:** Director Qs

Would you see if CT will clear the below response?

[Large redacted area]

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[redacted]

National Press Office  
FBI Office of Public Affairs

[redacted]

office  
mobile

[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

b6  
b7c

**From:** [redacted] (CTD) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 17, 2017 9:12 AM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (CTD) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Cc:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** RE: Director Qs

Approved! Thanks!

-----Original Message-----

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 17, 2017 8:58 AM  
**To:** [redacted] (CTD) (FBI); [redacted] (CTD) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Cc:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Subject:** FW: Director Qs

Good morning,

We are preparing a "Hot Topics" document for the Director as he prepares for the IACP conference. One of the questions [redacted] [redacted] asked if we could clear the language below for inclusion in the document. (I don't see an issue with it, but wanted to be sure.) I've attached the Q&A document for your reference.

Thank you! [redacted]

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-----Original Message-----

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 17, 2017 8:52 AM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Subject:** Director Qs

Would you see if CT will clear the below response?

[Large redacted area]

[redacted]

National Press Office

 office  
mobile

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From: [redacted] (NY) (FBI)  
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2017 5:11 PM  
To: [redacted] (NY) (FBI)  
Subject: OPA Horizon 10/16/17

**UNCLASSIFIED//~~FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~**

**FBI Office of Public Affairs  
The Horizon  
Monday, October 16, 2017**

**National Issues**

- **HIG Symposium: OPA** - Director Wray spoke to the High-Value Interrogation Group’s annual research summit about the general terrorism threat, cooperation with partners, and the importance of the HIG’s work. A number of reporters covered the remarks.
- **Black Caucus: OPA** – A reporter asked whether the FBI will meet with the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) to discuss an intelligence assessment about black identity extremists. OPA declined to comment on the leaked document or any response we might give the CBC and provided a general statement: "The FBI investigates activity which may constitute a federal crime or pose a threat to national security and cannot initiate an investigation based solely on an individual’s race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, or the exercise of First Amendment rights. The FBI remains committed to protecting those rights for all Americans. Our focus is not on membership in particular groups but on individuals who commit violence and other criminal acts. Furthermore, the FBI does not and will not police ideology. When an individual takes violent action based on belief or ideology and breaks the law, the FBI will enforce the rule of law."
- **Palantir: OPA** – CBS is working on a story regarding Palantir and requested confirmation as to whether the FBI uses the data analytics software. OPA advised the FBI does not comment on specific tools or techniques.
- **Chess Set Repatriation: OPA** – The Wall Street Journal inquired about the repatriation of a looted Saddam Hussein chess set in September by the U.S. government. OPA confirmed the repatriation took place, but declined to comment further on the investigation, and referred the reporter to FBI.gov for historical looting cases that have been adjudicated. A story on antiquities looting is expected soon.
- **Executive Announcement: OPA** – A press release was issued to announce the appointment of Paul Delacourt as the new assistant director in charge of the Los Angeles Field Office.
- **FBI.gov Top Story: OPA** - The annual *Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted* report for 2016 shows 118 law enforcement officers were killed and 57,180 were assaulted in the line of duty last year. <https://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/2016-leoka-report-released>
- **FBI.gov Top Story: OPA** - Virtual kidnapping - an extortion fraud that can take many forms - has been around for decades, but a new twist on this frightening scam makes U.S. residents more vulnerable than ever. <https://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/virtual-kidnapping>
- **FBI Radio: OPA** - Several public service announcements were released today to include these topics: the *Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted* (LEOKA) report, Virtual Kidnapping for Ransom schemes, and how FBI employees are providing much-needed assistance to those in isolated communities in Puerto Rico who were impacted by Hurricane Marie. The LEOKA PSA featured DAD Drolshagen. The virtual kidnapping PSA featured SSA [redacted] of the Criminal Investigative Division, and a victim.

**Local Stories**

- **Chicago** - FBI Chicago launched a Business Email Compromise (BEC) scam media campaign to include a story at FBI.gov/Chicago. The story included a Chicago BEC email address for those who feel they may have been caught up in a scam and want to report their information.

- Dallas - In response to the national awareness campaign, the Univision affiliate reached out to FBI Dallas for an interview regarding virtual kidnappings for ransom. PAO [redacted] provided the interview, discussing common trends and tactics used by virtual kidnappers, how to recognize when you're being victimized, and what to do if you are a victim. The segment will air during tonight's evening news.
- Detroit - SAC Gelios provided a statement to a USAO press release on the sentencing of a pilot who was observed by others as operating an aircraft while under the influence of alcohol at The Cherry Capital Airport in Traverse City, MI. The statement, in part, read: "While troubling, this case does not reflect the vast majority of flight crew professionals who conduct themselves in the best interest of public safety. It does reinforce the importance of how the public's vigilance can result in the protection of other people's lives."
- Kansas City - A/SSA [redacted] was interviewed by the local public radio station regarding human trafficking. The interview is not schedule to air until the end of October.
- Los Angeles - A press release was issued to announce the 9<sup>th</sup> annual Cyber Symposium in Los Angeles where FBI agents and investigative partners provide cyber safety instruction for middle and high school students at the California Endowment for the Arts in downtown Los Angeles. A/ADIC Los Angeles provided a quote for the release.
- Los Angeles - [redacted] was sentenced to 10 years in prison after she was convicted at trial of mail fraud, witness tampering and obstruction of justice in connection with a health care fraud investigation involving supplemental insurance provider AFLAC. The USAO will issue a press release.
- Phoenix - All major media outlets in Phoenix (including radio, newspaper, and TV) interviewed SA Media Coordinator [redacted] about Virtual Kidnapping schemes. FBI Phoenix has seen an uptick in these crimes in the last few months and is focused on raising awareness of the scheme and encouraging people to report the crime.
- Seattle: Following a joint sextortion investigation, local police in Chehalis, WA, arrested a high school student last Tuesday. In response to the school district's factually inaccurate statement to the media claiming the FBI asked them to do nothing to separate the students, the field office issued this statement to inquiring media: "The FBI informed the WF West High School administration about our investigation, including the nature of it, and that the subject and victims were current students. An FBI agent on multiple occasions emphasized concern for the safety of all students involved and recommended the school follow its applicable district policies for such matters. The FBI did not provide any specific instruction on how the school should proceed, aside from advising that the school take the measures it deemed appropriate to keep students safe. An FBI investigation neither dictates nor precludes any actions by other agencies."

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[Redacted]

(DO) (FBI)

**From:**

[Redacted] (DO) (FBI)

**Sent:**

Monday, October 16, 2017 2:30 PM

**To:**

[Redacted] (DO) (FBI); [Redacted] (DO) (FBI); [Redacted] (DO) (FBI);  
[Redacted] (NY) (FBI); [Redacted] (DO) (FBI); [Redacted] (NY)  
(FBI); [Redacted] (DO) (FBI); [Redacted] (DO) (FBI); [Redacted] (DO)  
(FBI)

**Subject:**

RE: Questions for the Director for IACP

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[Redacted]

**From:** [Redacted] (DO) (FBI)

**Sent:** Monday, October 16, 2017 12:17 PM

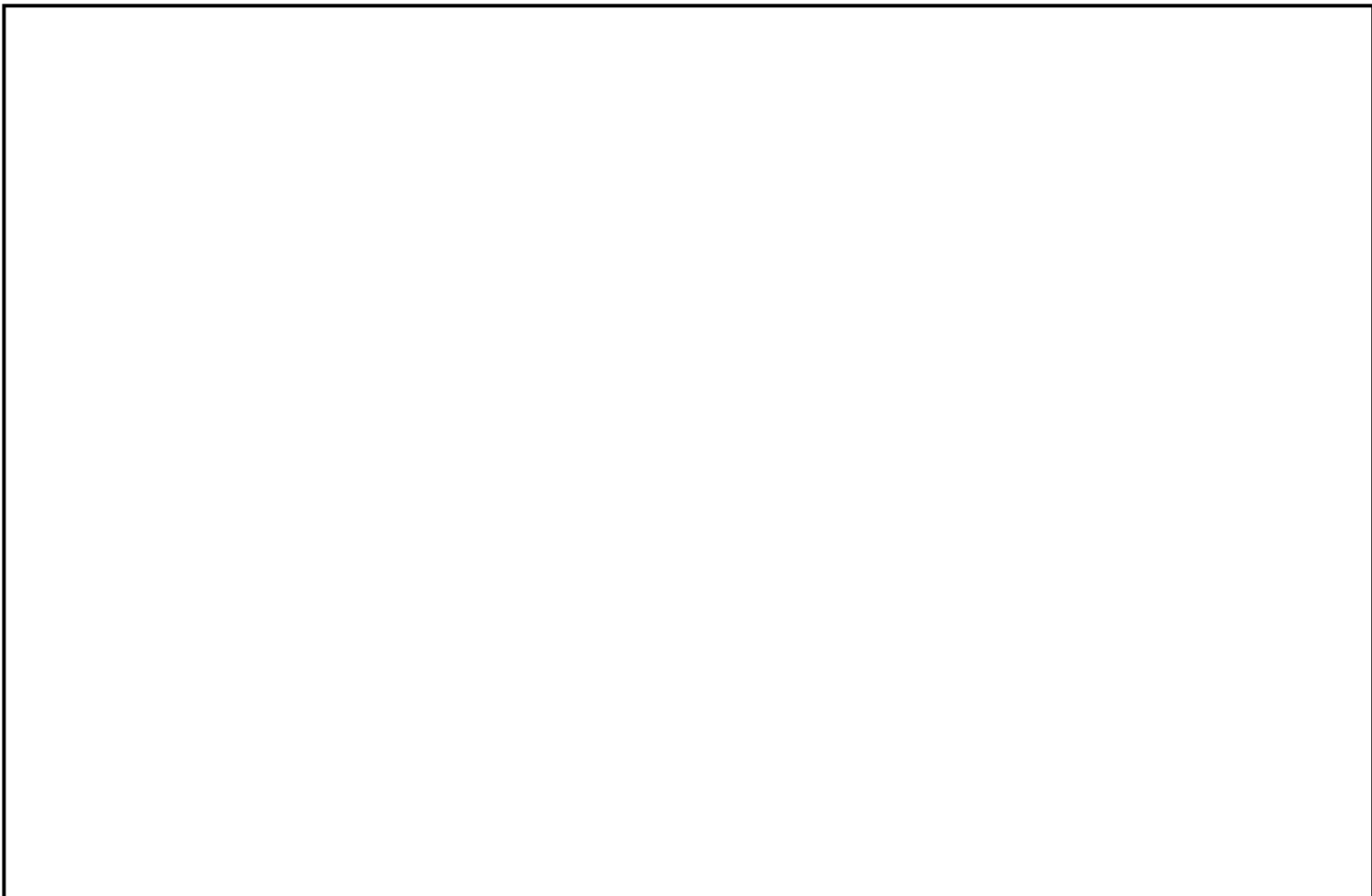
**To:** [Redacted] (DO) (FBI); [Redacted] (DO) (FBI); [Redacted] (DO) (FBI);  
[Redacted] (NY) (FBI); [Redacted] (DO) (FBI); [Redacted] (DO) (FBI); [Redacted] (DO) (FBI);  
[Redacted] (NY) (FBI); [Redacted] (DO) (FBI); [Redacted] (DO) (FBI);  
[Redacted] (DO) (FBI); [Redacted] (DO) (FBI)

**Subject:** RE: Questions for the Director for IACP

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Hi - I don't see any questions that specifically hit on my program areas. However, [Redacted]  
[Redacted]

[Redacted]



-----Original Message-----

From: [redacted] (DO) (FBI)

Sent: Friday, October 13, 2017 3:58 PM

To: [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (NY) (FBI) [redacted]

[redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (NY) (FBI)

[redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI)

[redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]

Subject: FW: Questions for the Director for IACP

Take a look at the questions highlighted in the attached document. Please provide answers to those Qs we can address.



National Press Office  
FBI Office of Public Affairs

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office  
mobile

-----Original Message-----

From: [redacted] (DO) (FBI)

Sent: Friday, October 13, 2017 2:45 PM

To: [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]  
Cc: [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]  
Subject: Questions for the Director for IACP

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Hi [redacted]

OPE just emailed us a list of questions for the Director but they failed to provide answers. Of course. We highlighted a few that NPO might have standard answers for, and thought you could farm this out to the various POCs. We can touch base Monday. Thank you!

[redacted]  
[redacted] Executive Writing Unit  
Office of Public Affairs  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
[redacted] (direct)  
[redacted] (mobile)  
[redacted]

[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

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**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Monday, October 16, 2017 12:28 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Cc:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** BIE Statement

[redacted]

[redacted] informed me you are fielding an inquiry from Al Jazeera on the Black Identity Extremist issue. Below is our statement on the category designation within the domestic terrorism program. We have declined to comment outright on the intel product that was leaked to Foreign Policy. Please note there is no mention of Black Lives Matter in the intel document, which has been confused by some outlets.

**“The FBI investigates activity which may constitute a federal crime or pose a threat to national security and cannot initiate an investigation based solely on an individual’s race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, or the exercise of First Amendment rights. The FBI remains committed to protecting those rights for all Americans. Our focus is not on membership in particular groups but on individuals who commit violence and other criminal acts. Furthermore, the FBI does not and will not police ideology. When an individual takes violent action based on belief or ideology and breaks the law, the FBI will enforce the rule of law.”**

Let me know if you have any questions!

Thanks, [redacted]

[redacted]  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
National Press Office  
Desk: [redacted]  
Cell: [redacted]

## NPO

---

**From:** NPO  
**Sent:** Monday, October 16, 2017 12:16 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Media Inquiry

Hello,

Our practice is to provide any responses directly to the members who made the requests, and we don't have any comment on the document you mention.

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We can provide this general statement attributable to the FBI:

"The FBI investigates activity which may constitute a federal crime or pose a threat to national security and cannot initiate an investigation based solely on an individual's race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, or the exercise of First Amendment rights. The FBI remains committed to protecting those rights for all Americans. Our focus is not on membership in particular groups but on individuals who commit violence and other criminal acts. Furthermore, the FBI does not and will not police ideology. When an individual takes violent action based on belief or ideology and breaks the law, the FBI will enforce the rule of law."

Thank you.  
FBI National Press Office

**From:** Amber Randall [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 14, 2017 10:04 AM  
**To:** NPO <NPO@FBI.GOV>  
**Subject:** Media Inquiry

Hi,

I am a reporter with the DC News Foundation. The Congressional Black Caucus recently requested a meeting/research on a FBI document about black identity extremists.

Does the FBI have plans to respond or meet with the CBC?

Thanks,  
Amber Randall

[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Monday, October 16, 2017 11:56 AM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI); Murphy, Brian J. (OPE) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); Thorley, Charles A. (DO) (FBI)  
**Cc:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (CTD) (FBI); [redacted] (CTD) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** RE: Media Inquiry

On the media inquiry I talked to [redacted] and Brian Murphy. It's my understanding that any meeting with CBC will wait until after IACP and NOBLE.

So we'll decline to comment on any discussions or meetings. We also will continue to decline comment on the leaked document are just providing a short general statement approved by CTD:

"The FBI investigates activity which may constitute a federal crime or pose a threat to national security and cannot initiate an investigation based solely on an individual's race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, or the exercise of First Amendment rights. The FBI remains committed to protecting those rights for all Americans. Our focus is not on membership in particular groups but on individuals who commit violence and other criminal acts. Furthermore, the FBI does not and will not police ideology. When an individual takes violent action based on belief or ideology and breaks the law, the FBI will enforce the rule of law."

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Monday, October 16, 2017 11:45 AM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] Paul, Michael E. (CTD) (FBI); [redacted] Murphy, Brian J. (OPE) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] Thorley, Charles A. (DO) (FBI)  
**Cc:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (CTD) (FBI); [redacted] (CTD) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: Media Inquiry

I also wanted to bring this editorial in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch to everyone's attention. SL is asking if we should respond in the form of a letter to the editor to address the inaccurate understanding. We will raise it with management in OPA.

[http://www.stltoday.com/opinion/editorial/editorial-justice-department-goes-after-lgbt-rights-smears-black-protests/article\\_59449f78-f5ce-5876-8f21-8d68c4028fa5.html](http://www.stltoday.com/opinion/editorial/editorial-justice-department-goes-after-lgbt-rights-smears-black-protests/article_59449f78-f5ce-5876-8f21-8d68c4028fa5.html)

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Monday, October 16, 2017 9:38 AM  
**To:** Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI); [redacted] Murphy, Brian J. (OPE) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] Thorley, Charles A. (DO) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (CTD) (FBI); [redacted] (CTD) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Subject:** Fwd: Media Inquiry

Hello all,



See the inquiry below about meeting with the CBC.

I think we probably should just respond that we are in communication with the caucus without getting specific. Let me know what you think.

-

----- Original message -----

From: NPO <NPO@FBI.GOV>

Date: 10/16/17 9:05 AM (GMT-05:00)

To: [REDACTED] (DO) (FBI)" [REDACTED] (DO) (FBI)" [REDACTED]

Subject: FW: Media Inquiry

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b7c

**From:** Amber Randall [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Saturday, October 14, 2017 10:04 AM

**To:** NPO <NPO@FBI.GOV>

**Subject:** Media Inquiry

Hi,

I am a reporter with the DC News Foundation. The Congressional Black Caucus recently requested a meeting/research on a FBI document about black identity extremists.

Does the FBI have plans to respond or meet with the CBC?

Thanks,  
Amber Randall

[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

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**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Monday, October 16, 2017 11:45 AM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI); Murphy, Brian J. (OPE) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); Thorley, Charles A. (DO) (FBI)  
**Cc:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (CTD) (FBI); [redacted] (CTD) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** RE: Media Inquiry

I also wanted to bring this editorial in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch to everyone's attention. SL is asking if we should respond in the form of a letter to the editor to address the inaccurate understanding. We will raise it with management in OPA.

[http://www.stltoday.com/opinion/editorial/editorial-justice-department-goes-after-lgbt-rights-smears-black-protests/article\\_59449f78-f5ce-5876-8f21-8d68c4028fa5.html](http://www.stltoday.com/opinion/editorial/editorial-justice-department-goes-after-lgbt-rights-smears-black-protests/article_59449f78-f5ce-5876-8f21-8d68c4028fa5.html)

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Monday, October 16, 2017 9:38 AM  
**To:** Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI); [redacted] Murphy, Brian J. (OPE) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] Thorley, Charles A. (DO) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (CTD) (FBI); [redacted] (CTD) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Subject:** Fwd: Media Inquiry

Hello all,

b6  
b7C

See the inquiry below about meeting with the CBC.  
I think we probably should just respond that we are in communication with the caucus without getting specific.  
Let me know what you think.

----- Original message -----

**From:** NPO <NPO@FBI.GOV>  
**Date:** 10/16/17 9:05 AM (GMT-05:00)  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Subject:** FW: Media Inquiry

**From:** Amber Randall [redacted]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 14, 2017 10:04 AM  
**To:** NPO <NPO@FBI.GOV>  
**Subject:** Media Inquiry

Hi,

I am a reporter with the DC News Foundation. The Congressional Black Caucus recently requested a meeting/research on a FBI document about black identity extremists.

Does the FBI have plans to respond or meet with the CBC?

Thanks,  
Amber Randall

[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

b6  
b7C

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Friday, October 13, 2017 5:02 PM  
**To:** NPO  
**Subject:** OPA Horizon 10/13/17

**UNCLASSIFIED // ~~FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~**

***The Horizon***  
**Friday, October 13, 2017**

**National Issues**

- **Las Vegas Shooting: LV/OPA** – SAC Rouse participated in a press conference on the Las Vegas shooting and stressed the various resources the FBI is devoting to the investigation and the assistance to victims. He also stated nothing has been found to indicate the shooter had a particular affiliation or ideology. Clark County Sheriff Joe Lombardo spoke about the timeline, the status of victims and the heroism of his officers.
- **Wray 702: OPA** – Director Wray delivered remarks and participated in a moderated discussion hosted by the Heritage Foundation about the importance of 702 to the FBI and the need for its renewal. DNI Coates and NSA Director Rogers participated in separate sessions on 702.
- **Dark Web Marketplaces: OPA** – Multiple outlets inquired about the fact some of the largest dark web marketplaces appear to be inactive or down, and asked whether the FBI was involved in any law enforcement action targeting these marketplaces. OPA declined to comment.
- **Black Identity: OPA/DL** – The Fort Worth Star-Telegram inquired about a leaked intelligence assessment which discussed black identity extremist violence against law enforcement officers. OPA did not discuss the document but after consultation with CTD provided a general statement: "The FBI investigates activity which may constitute a federal crime or pose a threat to national security and cannot initiate an investigation based solely on an individual's race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, or the exercise of First Amendment rights. The FBI remains committed to protecting those rights for all Americans. Our focus is not on membership in particular groups but on individuals who commit violence and other criminal acts. Furthermore, the FBI does not and will not police ideology. When an individual takes violent action based on belief or ideology and breaks the law, the FBI will enforce the rule of law."
- **FBI Top Story: OPA** - Several naturalized Americans from The Gambia planned an unsuccessful coup against the government of their homeland in 2014, violating the Neutrality Act, a little-known federal law. Story link: <https://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/coup-attempt-in-the-gambia>
- **Cyber Monday: OPA** - Forbes CenturyLink Voice interviewed UC [redacted] of the Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) regarding Cyber Monday. UC [redacted] discussed the function of IC3, commonly reported cybercrimes, and tips to avoid falling victim to cybercrimes during the holiday season. The article will be published in November.

b6  
b7C

**Local Stories**

- **Boston** - SA [redacted] was interviewed by the New Bedford Standard Times about the FBI's efforts to locate long time former Top Ten fugitive, Donald Eugene Webb. Webb was wanted for the murder of the Saxonburg, PA Police Chief 36 years ago, and his remains were recovered in the backyard of his ex-wife's home in Dartmouth, MA this past July. Former FBI agents, state troopers, and the Saxonburg PA police chief were also interviewed for the story which is slated to run in next Sunday's paper.
- **Dallas** – FBI Dallas issued a press release requesting the public's assistance in identifying a group of serial robbers dubbed the "Country Boy Bandits," who have been robbing banks and convenience stores in Fort Worth, Texas. The press release included photos and video clips. Multiple DFW outlets are covering the story.

[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

---

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 12, 2017 7:00 PM  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted] (DL) (FBI)  
**Subject:** RE: Have you ever seen this before

b6  
b7C

Hello,

We don't have any comment on the document you mention.

We are often asked about a variety of groups and can offer you this general statement which may be attributed to the FBI:

"The FBI investigates activity which may constitute a federal crime or pose a threat to national security and cannot initiate an investigation based solely on an individual's race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, or the exercise of First Amendment rights. The FBI remains committed to protecting those rights for all Americans. Our focus is not on membership in particular groups but on individuals who commit violence and other criminal acts. Furthermore, the FBI does not and will not police ideology. When an individual takes violent action based on belief or ideology and breaks the law, the FBI will enforce the rule of law."

Thank you for your inquiry.

[redacted]  
FBI National Press Office

**From:** Mitchell, Mitch [redacted]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 12, 2017 4:23 PM  
**To:** NPO <NPO@FBI.GOV>  
**Subject:** Have you ever seen this before

b6  
b7C

Hello:

My name is Mitch Mitchell and I am a staff writer at the Fort Worth Star-Telegram.

I've come across this document that I am trying to find out about and wondered if you could help me.

It has an intelligence assessment subhead and claims to have been originated by the FBI. It is titled Black Identity Extremists Likely Motivated to Target Law Enforcement Officers.

My initial question is -- Was this document actually generated by someone who works with, for or was employed by the FBI or the federal government?

If so I have some other questions I'd like to ask.

If not, I'm wondering if anyone at the FBI has been asked about this before and does anyone at the FBI have any idea about the document's origin?

I am attaching the document to this email.

Should you need any further information or need to contact me, or if there is anything that I can do to expedite this process, please do not hesitate to send a reply email or contact me by phone at

Thanks for whatever assistance with this that you might be able to provide.

Please see attached:

b6  
b7c

Mitch Mitchell  
staff writer, Fort Worth Star-Telegram

(office)  
(cell)  
(fax)

[Redacted]

(DO) (FBI)

**From:** [Redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 12, 2017 11:28 AM  
**To:** [Redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Cc:** [Redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** FW: Foreign Policy Magazine  
**Attachments:** Foreign Policy Magazine Article BIE.docx; FOX BIE.docx; HuffPost BIE.docx; Brennan Center opinion - BIE.docx; The Guardian BIE.docx; Newsweek BIE.docx

[Redacted]

Here are a few articles. The Foreign Policy one was the first. The reporter reached out to [Redacted] last week. The article was behind a pay wall but we have it now in text below and also in one of the attachments.

<http://foreignpolicy.com/2017/10/06/the-fbi-has-identified-a-new-domestic-terrorist-threat-and-its-black-identity-extremists/>

### Foreign Policy Magazine

October 6, 2017

#### *The FBI's New U.S. Terrorist Threat: 'Black Identity Extremists'*

Law enforcement calls it a violent movement. Critics call it racist.

- By Jana Winter and Sharon Weinberger

As white supremacists prepared to descend on Charlottesville, Virginia, in August, the FBI warned about a new movement that was violent, growing, and racially motivated. Only it wasn't white supremacists; it was "black identity extremists."

Amid a rancorous debate over whether the Trump administration has downplayed the threat posed by white supremacist groups, the FBI's counterterrorism division has declared that black identity extremists pose a growing threat of premeditated violence against law enforcement.

"The FBI assesses it is very likely Black Identity Extremist (BIE) perceptions of police brutality against African Americans spurred an increase in premeditated, retaliatory lethal violence against law enforcement and will very likely serve as justification for such violence," reads the report, marked for official use only and obtained by Foreign Policy.

The August 2014 shooting of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, was the catalyst for widespread anger and violence, the FBI report says, concluding that continued "alleged" police abuses have fueled more violence.

"The FBI assesses it is very likely incidents of alleged police abuse against African Americans since then have continued to feed the resurgence in ideologically motivated, violent criminal activity within the BIE movement," the report states.

Some 748 people have been shot and killed by police so far in 2017, including at least 168 African-Americans.

[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

b6  
b7C  
b7E

**From:** [redacted] (SECD) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 12, 2017 8:58 AM  
**To:** Murphy, Brian J. (OPE) (FBI); Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); Thorley, Charles A. (DO) (FBI)  
**Cc:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (CTD) (FBI); [redacted] (OPE) (FBI); [redacted] (OIO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** RE: [redacted] BIE Inquiry - LOCATION

All,  
Change of meeting and call location.

The 0930 hrs pre-meet and 1000 hrs call will take place in SIOC breakout room D.

Thanks

[redacted]

SSA [redacted]  
[redacted] Strategic Engagement Unit (SEU) FBI – Office of Partner Engagement  
Mobile: [redacted]

-----Original Message-----

**From:** [redacted] (SECD) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 12, 2017 8:41 AM  
**To:** Murphy, Brian J. (OPE) (FBI); [redacted] Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] Thorley, Charles A. (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (CTD) (FBI); [redacted] (OPE) (FBI); [redacted] (OIO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** RE: [redacted] BIE Inquiry

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All,  
The call with the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement (NOBLE) is scheduled for today at 1000 hrs EST time.  
The call in number is as follows:

- [redacted]
- [redacted]

We are scheduling a pre-call coordination meeting at 0930 hrs on the 11th floor, room, 11189.

Please let me know if you have any questions

Thanks

[redacted]



SSA [redacted]  
[redacted] Strategic Engagement Unit (SEU) FBI – Office of Partner Engagement  
Mobile: [redacted]

b6  
b7C  
b7E

-----Original Message-----

From: Murphy, Brian J. (OPE) (FBI)  
Sent: Wednesday, October 11, 2017 4:44 PM  
To: Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI) [redacted] (SECD) (FBI) [redacted]  
(DO) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]  
Thorley, Charles A. (DO) (FBI) [redacted]  
Cc: [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (CTD) (FBI) [redacted] (OPE)  
(FBI) [redacted] (OIO) (FBI) [redacted]  
Subject: RE: [redacted] BIE Inquiry

Folks

We are confirming with NOBLE, but it will likely be at 10am tomorrow. The bu team should plan on getting on the call in number 30 min prior. We will provide the dial in info.

Section Chief  
Office of Partner Engagement  
Brian Murphy  
O [redacted]  
C [redacted]

-----Original Message-----

From: Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI)  
Sent: Wednesday, October 11, 2017 4:38 PM  
To: [redacted] (SECD) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] Murphy, Brian J.  
(OPE) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]  
Thorley, Charles A. (DO) (FBI) [redacted]  
Cc: [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (CTD) (FBI) [redacted] (OPE)  
(FBI) [redacted] (OIO) (FBI) [redacted]  
Subject: RE: [redacted] BIE Inquiry

I should be done by 5:30pm. I could also do 9am.

b6  
b7C  
b7E

-----Original Message-----

From: [redacted] (SECD) (FBI)  
Sent: Wednesday, October 11, 2017 4:36 PM  
To: [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI) [redacted] Murphy, Brian J. (OPE)  
(FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]  
Thorley, Charles A. (DO) (FBI) [redacted]  
Cc: [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (CTD) (FBI) [redacted] (OPE)  
(FBI) [redacted] (OIO) (FBI) [redacted]  
Subject: RE: [redacted] BIE Inquiry

All,  
Thanks for the quick turnaround. Let me reach out to NOBLE and identify the best time for this call. How long is your 5:00 pm call today?

If not today, what about 9:00 am tomorrow morning?

I will set up the call and provide the dial in number

Thanks



SSA [redacted]  
[redacted] Strategic Engagement Unit (SEU) FBI – Office of Partner Engagement  
Mobile: [redacted]

b6  
b7C  
b7E

-----Original Message-----

From: [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
Sent: Wednesday, October 11, 2017 4:34 PM  
To: Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI) [redacted] Murphy, Brian J. (OPE) (FBI) [redacted]  
(SECD) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
[redacted] Thorley, Charles A. (DO) (FBI) [redacted]  
Cc: [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (CTD) (FBI) [redacted]  
Subject: RE: [redacted] BIE Inquiry

Do you have time to jump on a quick call before your 5p?

-----Original Message-----

From: Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI)  
Sent: Wednesday, October 11, 2017 4:25 PM  
To: Murphy, Brian J. (OPE) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]  
(SECD) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
[redacted] Thorley, Charles A. (DO) (FBI) [redacted]  
Cc: [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (CTD) (FBI) [redacted]  
Subject: RE: [redacted] BIE Inquiry

Yes. I have concurrence. I can do the call this evening. Let me know when is a good time. I have another call at 5pm.

b6  
b7C  
b7E

-----Original Message-----

From: Murphy, Brian J. (OPE) (FBI)  
Sent: Wednesday, October 11, 2017 2:55 PM  
To: [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (SECD) (FBI) [redacted]  
(DO) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] Thorley, Charles A. (DO) (FBI)  
[redacted]  
Cc: Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]  
Subject: RE: [redacted] BIE Inquiry

Michael

Any decision on this? We are hitting a potential tipping point.

Section Chief  
Office of Partner Engagement  
Brian Murphy

O [redacted]  
C [redacted]

-----Original Message-----

From: [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
Sent: Wednesday, October 11, 2017 10:56 AM  
To: [redacted] (SECD) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted]  
[redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] Thorley, Charles A. (DO) (FBI); [redacted] Murphy, Brian J. (OPE) (FBI)  
Cc: Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted]  
Subject: RE: [redacted] BIE Inquiry

b6  
b7C  
b7E

Adding Chad and Brian.

-----Original Message-----

From: [redacted] (SECD) (FBI)  
Sent: Wednesday, October 11, 2017 9:38 AM  
To: [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted]  
Cc: Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO)  
(FBI); [redacted]  
Subject: RE: [redacted] BIE Inquiry

Copy,  
Thanks very much

Will keep you updated

SSA [redacted]  
[redacted] Strategic Engagement Unit (SEU) FBI – Office of Partner Engagement  
Mobile: [redacted]

b6  
b7C  
b7E

-----Original Message-----

From: [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
Sent: Wednesday, October 11, 2017 9:30 AM  
To: [redacted] (SECD) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted]  
Cc: Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO)  
(FBI); [redacted]  
Subject: RE: [redacted] BIE Inquiry

Thanks [redacted] I appreciate the heads-up. The coverage of the assessment has been unfortunate and most of the media have taken the information out of context.

We will await any update from you but will start considering if we need to issue a statement.

Adding [redacted] and [redacted]

[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

b6  
b7C

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 11, 2017 4:42 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (NY) (FBI); [redacted] (DL) (FBI)  
**Cc:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** RE: Have you ever seen this before

We don't have anything approved by CTD and AD Kortan yet. If there's a way to delay responding to that reporter that would be great. Basically we anticipate a variation of – we look at illegal activity and not participation in groups.

**From:** [redacted] (NY) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 11, 2017 4:30 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (DL) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: Have you ever seen this before

[redacted] and [redacted]

I know you've been dealing with the BIE matter. ....do we have a statement we can share with [redacted] or would we rather that reporters come to us at NPO?

Thank you,

SSA [redacted]  
FBI National Press Office  
Desk - [redacted]  
[redacted]

b6  
b7C

**From:** [redacted] (DL) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 11, 2017 4:22 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (NY) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Subject:** FW: Have you ever seen this before

Hi [redacted]

Any guidance on how to handle the below request (related to that leaked document re Black Identity Extremists)? My thought is just to refer him to the National Press Office.

Thanks,

[redacted]  
[redacted]  
FBI Dallas Division  
Desk: [redacted]  
Email: [redacted]  
Follow us on Twitter @FBIDallas

**From:** Mitchell, Mitch [redacted]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 11, 2017 3:18 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (DL) (FBI) [redacted]  
**Subject:** Have you ever seen this before

b6  
b7c

Hello [redacted]

My name is Mitch Mitchell and I am a staff writer at the Fort Worth Star-Telegram.

I've come across this document that I am trying to find out about and wondered if you could help me.

It has an intelligence assessment subhead and claims to have been originated by the FBI. It is titled Black Identity Extremists Likely Motivated to Target Law Enforcement Officers.

My initial question is -- Was this document actually generated by someone who works with, for or was employed by the FBI or the federal government?

If so I have some other questions I'd like to ask.

If not, I'm wondering if anyone at the FBI has been asked about this before and does anyone at the FBI have any idea about the document's origin?

I am attaching the document to this email.

Thanks for whatever assistance with this that you might be able to provide.

Please see attached:

Mitch Mitchell  
staff writer, Fort Worth Star-Telegram



(office)

(cell)

(fax)

b6

b7C

[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 11, 2017 2:27 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (CTD) (FBI); Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI)  
**Cc:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI);  
[redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** RE: [redacted] BIE Inquiry

We'd like to see what you suggest and we'll discuss it with AD Kortan.  
I think he would like us to be well informed here at OPA but provide only a fairly short statement to the media. At any rate, we'll definitely hang tight until we hear back from you.

[redacted]

b6  
b7C  
b7E

**From:** [redacted] (CTD) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 11, 2017 2:24 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO)  
(FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: [redacted] BIE Inquiry

Hi [redacted] I'm actually in the process of getting some more detailed language on the change to BIE approved for you guys to use. Can you hang tight until later today?

Thanks,

[redacted]

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 11, 2017 1:57 PM  
**To:** Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (CTD) (FBI); [redacted] (DO)  
(FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: [redacted] BIE Inquiry

Sir,

Could you take a look at this language when you have a moment?

[redacted]

b6  
b7C  
b7E  
b5

[redacted]

[redacted]

Best,

[redacted]

-----Original Message-----

From: [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
Sent: Wednesday, October 11, 2017 1:18 PM  
To: Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI) [redacted]  
Cc: [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (CTD) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
Subject: RE: [redacted] BIE Inquiry

b6  
b7C  
b7E

If you could send those on FBI net that would be great.

-----Original Message-----

From: Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI)  
Sent: Wednesday, October 11, 2017 11:20 AM  
To: [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]  
Cc: [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (CTD) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
Subject: RE: [redacted] BIE Inquiry

I can share some internal talking points prepared for the DD and the DAG, via red-side.

-----Original Message-----

From: [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
Sent: Wednesday, October 11, 2017 11:18 AM  
To: Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI) [redacted]  
Cc: [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (CTD) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
Subject: FW: [redacted] BIE Inquiry

Hello,

Would it be possible to speak with you for a few minutes to get a better understanding of how and why the name changed? If any talking points have been developed for this it would be good to see those as well.

If members of the Black Caucus talk about the issue we may have to provide some sort of response.

[redacted] is out of the office this morning but UC [redacted] and I are here.

b6  
b7C  
b7E

Thank you.

[redacted]  
FBI National Press Office  
[redacted]

-----Original Message-----

From: [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
Sent: Wednesday, October 11, 2017 9:30 AM  
To: [redacted] (SECD) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]  
Cc: Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
Subject: RE: [redacted] BIE Inquiry

Thanks [redacted] I appreciate the heads-up. The coverage of the assessment has been unfortunate and most of the media have taken the information out of context.



We will await any update from you but will start considering if we need to issue a statement.

Adding [redacted] and [redacted]

b6  
b7C

[redacted]

National Press Office  
FBI Office of Public Affairs

[redacted] office  
[redacted] mobile

-----Original Message-----

From: [redacted] (SECD) (FBI)

Sent: Wednesday, October 11, 2017 9:14 AM

To: [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted]

Cc: Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI); [redacted]

Subject: [redacted] BIE Inquiry

[redacted] and [redacted]

b6  
b7C  
b7E

I received a call from the National Association of Black Law Enforcement (NOBLE) regarding the August 3, 2017 intelligence assessment titled "Black Identity Extremists Likely Motivated to Target LE Officers". I bring this to your attention for a couple of reasons:

1. NOBLE [redacted] received multiple media inquiries on this report over the weekend. He is scheduled to meet with the Congressional Black Caucus where he expects this report to be discussed.
2. There is likely to be additional inquiries to the FBI and wanted to make OPA aware.

OPE has reached out to SC Michael Paul for additional guidance on this inquiry. We will keep you in the loop.

Thanks

[redacted]

SSA [redacted]

[redacted] Strategic Engagement Unit (SEU) FBI – Office of Partner Engagement

Mobile [redacted]

[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 11, 2017 1:33 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Cc:** Kortan, Michael P. (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** FW: Foreign Policy Magazine  
**Attachments:** Foreign Policy Magazine Article BIE.docx; FOX BIE.docx; HuffPost BIE.docx; Brennan Center opinion - BIE.docx; The Guardian BIE.docx; Newsweek BIE.docx

Adding some of the other articles on this.

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 11, 2017 1:19 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Cc:** Kortan, Michael P. (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Subject:** Foreign Policy Magazine

Sorry it took so long - behind a paywall.  
Attached is a copy of the BIE related article.

<http://foreignpolicy.com/2017/10/06/the-fbi-has-identified-a-new-domestic-terrorist-threat-and-its-black-identity-extremists/>

**Foreign Policy Magazine**

**October 6, 2017**

***The FBI's New U.S. Terrorist Threat: 'Black Identity Extremists'***

Law enforcement calls it a violent movement. Critics call it racist.

- By Jana Winter and Sharon Weinberger

As white supremacists prepared to descend on Charlottesville, Virginia, in August, the FBI warned about a new movement that was violent, growing, and racially motivated. Only it wasn't white supremacists; it was "black identity extremists."

Amid a rancorous debate over whether the Trump administration has downplayed the threat posed by white supremacist groups, the FBI's counterterrorism division has declared that black identity extremists pose a growing threat of premeditated violence against law enforcement.

"The FBI assesses it is very likely Black Identity Extremist (BIE) perceptions of police brutality against African Americans spurred an increase in premeditated, retaliatory lethal violence against law enforcement and will very likely serve as justification for such violence," reads the report, marked for official use only and obtained by Foreign Policy.

The August 2014 shooting of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, was the catalyst for widespread anger and violence, the FBI report says, concluding that continued "alleged" police abuses have fueled more violence.

“The FBI assesses it is very likely incidents of alleged police abuse against African Americans since then have continued to feed the resurgence in ideologically motivated, violent criminal activity within the BIE movement,” the report states.

Some 748 people have been shot and killed by police so far in 2017, including at least 168 African-Americans.

The report, dated Aug. 3 — just nine days before the white supremacist rally in Charlottesville turned deadly — appears to be the first known reference to “black identity extremists” as a movement. But former government officials and legal experts said no such movement exists, and some expressed concern that the term is part of a politically motivated effort to find an equivalent threat to white supremacists.

A former senior counterterrorism and intelligence official from the Department of Homeland Security who reviewed the document at FP’s request expressed shock at the language.

“This is a new umbrella designation that has no basis,” the former official said. “There are civil rights and privacy issues all over this.”

The concept of “black identity extremists” appears to be entirely new. FP found only five references to the term in a Google search; all were to law enforcement documents about domestic terrorism from the last two months. One of those online references is to law enforcement training on identifying “domestic terror groups and criminally subversive subcultures which are encountered by law enforcement professionals on a daily basis.”

Among the six acts of premeditated violence linked to black identity extremists — it excludes violence toward police carried out in the normal course of their duties — the reports cites the July 2016 shooting of 11 police officers in Dallas. The shooter, Micah Johnson, was reportedly angry at police violence.

“Based on Johnson’s journal writings and statements to police, he appeared to have been influenced by BIE ideology,” the FBI report states. The attack took place during a Black Lives Matter protest of police shootings, though the BLM movement is not mentioned by name in the report.

Yet those involved in the Black Lives Matter movement have voiced concerns about FBI surveillance.

DeRay McKesson, an activist involved in the Black Lives Matter movement, told FP that the FBI visited his house in the run-up to the Republican National Convention. “I spoke about the FBI visit to my house and the houses of other activists in our final meeting with [President Barack] Obama,” he said.

“There is a long tradition of the FBI targeting black activists and this is not surprising,” McKesson said.

The FBI declined to comment on the report itself and did not respond to specific questions, but in an emailed statement to FP, the bureau defended its tracking of “black identity extremists,” saying that “the FBI cannot initiate an investigation based solely on an individual’s race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, or the exercise of First Amendment rights.”

In its August report, the FBI said it expects further attacks by black identity extremists, driven by both the perception and the reality of unfair treatment at the hands of police officers.

“The FBI further assesses it is very likely additional controversial police shootings of African Americans and the associated legal proceedings will continue to serve as drivers for violence against law enforcement,” the report says.

Some experts and former government officials said the FBI seemed to be trying to paint disparate groups and individuals as sharing a radical, defined ideology. And in the phrase “black identity extremist” they hear echoes of the FBI’s decades-long targeting of black activists as potential radicals, a legacy that only recently began to change.

“They are grouping together Black Panthers, black nationalists, and Washitaw Nation,” said the former homeland security official. “Imagine lumping together white nationalists, white supremacists, militias, neo-Nazis, and calling it ‘white identity extremists.’”

The FBI is linking the people discussed in the report based only on them being black, rather than on any sort of larger ideological connection, the official said.

Michael German, a former FBI agent and now a fellow with the Brennan Center for Justice’s liberty and national security program, said manufacturing this type of threat was not new. He has criticized earlier FBI reports on “black separatists,” arguing that they conflated radical groups operating in the 1970s with attacks in 2010 and later, even though there was no obvious connection.

The use of terms like “black identity extremists” is part of a long-standing FBI attempt to define a movement where none exists. “Basically, it’s black people who scare them,” German said.

Even former officials who view the government’s concerns about black separatists as legitimate balked at the term “black identity extremist,” and point out that the threat from individuals or groups who want to establish their own homeland is much less than from the far right.

In 2009, Daryl Johnson, then a Department of Homeland Security intelligence analyst, warned of the rise of right-wing extremism, setting off a firestorm among congressional critics. Johnson, who left the department in 2010, said he could think of no reason why the FBI would create a new category for so-called black identity extremists. “I’m at a loss,” he replied, when asked about the term.

“I have no idea of why they would come up with a new term.”

There have been concerns about rising violence among black separatist groups in recent years, he said, but it does not approach the threat of right-wing extremism. “When talking about white supremacists versus black supremacists, there are way more white supremacists,” Johnson said.

For historians and academics who have looked at the history of FBI surveillance of black Americans, the report also smacks of the sort of blatant racism the bureau has worked hard to leave behind. From the time J. Edgar Hoover took over the anti-radical division in the FBI at the height of the first “red scare” in 1919, the bureau began systematically surveilling black activists.

“Black protests get conflated for the bureau [with communism], and it begins there,” said William Maxwell, a professor at Washington University in St. Louis, who has researched the FBI’s monitoring of black writers in the 20th century.

What followed, according to Maxwell, was decades of FBI pursuit of black radicals in the belief, often mistaken, that they were part of a larger subversive movement. “It’s deep in the bureau’s DNA,” he said.

Lately, that seemed to be changing. As FBI director, James Comey famously kept a copy of the Martin Luther King Jr. wiretap order on his desk as a reminder of the bureau’s past abuses and made new agents learn the history of the FBI’s pursuit of the civil rights leader.

The FBI also appeared to be focusing more attention on the threat of white supremacists. In May, the FBI warned that white supremacist violence was growing, according to a report obtained and published by FP. That same report noted that white supremacists were responsible for more attacks in the United States than any other extremist group, including Islamic extremists.

Critics, however, accuse President Donald Trump of shifting attention away from right-wing violence. This year, the Trump administration decided to focus the Department of Homeland Security's "countering violent extremism" program on Islamic terrorism and deprioritized funding to counter white supremacist groups.

"To hear there is a new initiative targeting black identity extremists is surprising given that shift," said Alvaro Bedoya, the executive director of the Center on Privacy & Technology at Georgetown Law.

Maxwell, the Washington University professor, had an even darker view. "It's classic Hoover-style labeling with little bit of maliciousness and euphemism wrapped up together," he said.

"The language — black identity extremist — strikes me as weird and really a continuation of the worst of Hoover's past."

In a sense, the FBI's desire to identify a unifying ideological underpinning to what are often individual violent acts is not surprising, said David Garrow, a historian who wrote a Pulitzer Prize-winning biography of MLK. "Security agencies want to perceive a threat that is political, a threat that ideological," Garrow said, "but what we're actually witnessing is men, almost entirely men, acting out in violent criminal ways and grasping at some chimera of political justification."

But the document itself smacks of incompetence more than conspiracy, according to Garrow, who reviewed a copy of the report provided by FP. "The immediate instinct is to think [the FBI] are a threat," he said. "My immediate instinct is to wonder whether they are minimally competent."

Garrow, who has reviewed decades' worth of FBI documents for his work, warned against seeing this report as proof that the FBI is illegally targeting black Americans.

"They are often so clueless," he said of the FBI. "I don't find them a threat."

But the former homeland security official said the report's tendency to lump together different groups that have no obvious connection will make it harder for law enforcement to identify real threats. "It's so convoluted — it's compromising officer safety," the former official said.

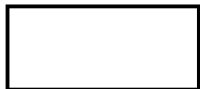
And even though the report mentions in a footnote that "political activism" and "strong rhetoric" by themselves don't amount to extremism and "may be constitutionally protected," it identifies anger with police or "anti-white rhetoric" as indicators of a potential "violent threat."

"Just the term 'black identity extremist' is protected," the former official said. "You can identify all you want."

The FBI, however, defended the classification in its statement to FP.

"Domestic terrorism groups differ from traditional criminal groups in that they take action for a different purpose, to bring attention to a social or political cause," the FBI wrote. "Therefore, their existence as a group has a legitimate purpose, at least in part. Their legitimate activity may include acts of protest, advocacy, and civil disobedience."

The FBI says there are “nine persistent extremist movements” in the United States at present. Those include “white supremacy, black identities, militia, sovereign citizens, anarchists, abortion, animal rights, environmental rights, and Puerto Rican Nationalism.”



National Press Office  
FBI Office of Public Affairs

b6  
b7C



office  
mobile

[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 11, 2017 1:18 PM  
**To:** Paul Michael F. (CTD) (FBI)  
**Cc:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (CTD) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** RE: [redacted] BIE Inquiry

If you could send those on FBI net that would be great.

b6  
b7C  
b7E

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 11, 2017 11:20 AM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Cc:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (CTD) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** RE: [redacted] BIE Inquiry

I can share some internal talking points prepared for the DD and the DAG, via red-side.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 11, 2017 11:18 AM  
**To:** Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI)  
**Cc:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (CTD) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** FW: [redacted] BIE Inquiry

Hello,

Would it be possible to speak with you for a few minutes to get a better understanding of how and why the name changed? If any talking points have been developed for this it would be good to see those as well.

If members of the Black Caucus talk about the issue we may have to provide some sort of response.

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[redacted] is out of the office this morning but UC [redacted] and I are here.

Thank you.

[redacted]  
FBI National Press Office  
[redacted]

-----Original Message-----

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 11, 2017 9:30 AM  
**To:** [redacted] (SECD) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Cc:** Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** RE: [redacted] BIE Inquiry

Thanks [redacted] I appreciate the heads-up. The coverage of the assessment has been unfortunate and most of the media have taken the information out of context.

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We will await any update from you but will start considering if we need to issue a statement.

Adding [redacted] and [redacted]

[redacted]

National Press Office  
FBI Office of Public Affairs

[redacted]

office  
mobile

-----Original Message-----

From: [redacted] (SECD) (FBI)

Sent: Wednesday, October 11, 2017 9:14 AM

To: [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]

Cc: Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI) [redacted]

Subject: [redacted] BIE Inquiry

[redacted] and [redacted]

b6  
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b7E

I received a call from the National Association of Black Law Enforcement (NOBLE) regarding the August 3, 2017 intelligence assessment titled "Black Identity Extremists Likely Motivated to Target LE Officers". I bring this to your attention for a couple of reasons:

1. NOBLE [redacted] received multiple media inquiries on this report over the weekend. He is scheduled to meet with the Congressional Black Caucus where he expects this report to be discussed.
2. There is likely to be additional inquiries to the FBI and wanted to make OPA aware.

OPE has reached out to SC Michael Paul for additional guidance on this inquiry. We will keep you in the loop.

Thanks

[redacted]

SSA [redacted]

[redacted] Strategic Engagement Unit (SEU) FBI – Office of Partner Engagement

Mobile: [redacted]



[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 11, 2017 10:56 AM  
**To:** [redacted] (SECD) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI);  
Thorley, Charles A. (DO) (FBI); Murphy, Brian J. (OPE) (FBI)  
**Cc:** Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** RE: [redacted] BIE Inquiry

Adding Chad and Brian.

b6  
b7C  
b7E

-----Original Message-----

**From:** [redacted] (SECD) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 11, 2017 9:38 AM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Cc:** Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: [redacted] BIE Inquiry

Copy,  
Thanks very much

Will keep you updated

SSA [redacted]  
[redacted] Strategic Engagement Unit (SEU) FBI – Office of Partner Engagement  
Mobile: [redacted]

-----Original Message-----

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 11, 2017 9:30 AM  
**To:** [redacted] (SECD) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Cc:** Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: [redacted] BIE Inquiry

Thanks [redacted] I appreciate the heads-up. The coverage of the assessment has been unfortunate and most of the media have taken the information out of context.

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We will await any update from you but will start considering if we need to issue a statement.

Adding [redacted] and [redacted]

[redacted]  
National Press Office  
FBI Office of Public Affairs

[redacted] office  
[redacted] mobile

-----Original Message-----

From: [redacted] (SECD) (FBI)

Sent: Wednesday, October 11, 2017 9:14 AM

To: [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]

Cc: Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI) [redacted]

Subject: [redacted] BIE Inquiry

b6  
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[redacted] and [redacted]

I received a call from the National Association of Black Law Enforcement (NOBLE) regarding the August 3, 2017 intelligence assessment titled "Black Identity Extremists Likely Motivated to Target LE Officers". I bring this to your attention for a couple of reasons:

1. [redacted] received multiple media inquiries on this report over the weekend. He is scheduled to meet with the Congressional Black Caucus where he expects this report to be discussed.
2. There is likely to be additional inquiries to the FBI and wanted to make OPA aware.

OPE has reached out to SC Michael Paul for additional guidance on this inquiry. We will keep you in the loop.

Thanks

[redacted]

SSA [redacted]

[redacted] Strategic Engagement Unit (SEU) FBI – Office of Partner Engagement

Mobile: [redacted]

[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

---

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 11, 2017 9:48 AM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** FW: Law Enforcement Liaison Issue  
**Attachments:** ia-17\_000\_530-ctd-20170803a-ules.pdf

[redacted]  
National Press Office  
FBI Office of Public Affairs

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[redacted] office  
[redacted] mobile

**From:** Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 07, 2017 8:23 PM  
**To:** Murphy, Brian J. (OPE) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] Quinn, Richard P.  
(DO) (FBI) [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted] (CTD) (FBI) [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: Law Enforcement Liaison Issue

This is an August 2017 Intel Assessment that did go external to state and locals, and LEEP. It was simply documenting our redefinition of "Black Separatist Extremism," to broaden it beyond simply those seeking "separatism". The threat or movement has simply evolved and many are seeking more than/other than separation.

MP

**From:** Murphy, Brian J. (OPE) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 07, 2017 8:03 PM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] Quinn, Richard P. (DO) (FBI) [redacted] Paul, Michael F.  
(CTD) (FBI) [redacted]  
**Subject:** Re: Law Enforcement Liaison Issue

b6  
b7C

Michael  
Was the report disseminated via SIR?

----- Original message -----

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]  
**Date:** 10/7/17 7:57 PM (GMT-05:00)  
**To:** "Quinn, Richard P. (DO) (FBI)" [redacted] "Murphy, Brian J. (OPE) (FBI)"  
[redacted] "Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI)" [redacted]

Subject: Re: Law Enforcement Liaison Issue

Foreign policy magazine got a hold of the below report and wrote a story, which misconstrued the info. I don't have a copy but I can track one down on Tuesday.

(U//~~FOUO~~) Black Identity Extremists Likely Motivated to Target Law Enforcement Officers, and dated 3 August 2017.

[redacted]  
[redacted] National Press Office  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

b6  
b7C

[redacted] office  
[redacted] cell  
[redacted]@FBI

----- Original message -----

From: "Quinn, Richard P. (DO) (FBI)" [redacted]  
Date: 10/7/17 7:33 PM (GMT-05:00)  
To: "Murphy, Brian J. (OPE) (FBI)" [redacted] "Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI)" [redacted]  
Cc: [redacted] (DO) (FBI)" [redacted]  
Subject: Re: Law Enforcement Liaison Issue

Copy that/thanks Brian.

[redacted]

FYSA...

----- Original message -----

From: "Murphy, Brian J. (OPE) (FBI)" [redacted]  
Date: 10/7/17 5:51 PM (GMT-06:00)  
To: "Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI)" [redacted] "Quinn, Richard P. (DO) (FBI)" [redacted]  
Subject: Fwd: Law Enforcement Liaison Issue

?

-

----- Original message -----

From: "Cook, Steven H. (ODAG)" [redacted]  
Date: 10/7/17 6:42 PM (GMT-05:00)  
To: "Sleeper, Kerry L. (DO) (FBI)" [redacted] "Murphy, Brian J. (OPE) (FBI)"  
[redacted]  
Subject: Law Enforcement Liaison Issue

I just received a call from [redacted] at the FOP. CNN contacted him for a comment on what they described as a July 17 FBI report on "Black identity Extremists" who present a danger to law enforcement. The FOP is making no comment because they have not heard of this report. But [redacted] expects to hear from members about why there had been no briefing of local law enforcement if there was an identified threat. I don't know if you want to reach out to him or if you know anything to tell him. Just an FYI.

b6  
b7C

**Steve**

**Steven H. Cook**  
Associate Deputy Attorney General  
Director of Office of Law Enforcement Liaison  
950 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington D.C. 20530-0001

[redacted]

Office: [redacted]  
Cell: [redacted]  
Cell: [redacted]

[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

b6  
b7C

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 11, 2017 9:47 AM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** FW: Queries on article about "black Identity extremists"

This was the original inquiry

[redacted]

National Press Office  
FBI Office of Public Affairs

[redacted]

office  
mobile

-----Original Message-----

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 04, 2017 3:45 PM  
**To:** Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI) [redacted] (CTD) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (CTD) (FBI) [redacted]  
**Subject:** FW: Queries on article about "black Identity extremists"

b6  
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Good Afternoon,

Foreign Policy has inquired about a CTD intelligence report regarding domestic terrorism. In particular they are interested in the use of the term "Black Identity Separatist" in the report. They have a source advising them that this is a new term, it is unique to the FBI and essentially suggest it is a racist term in and of itself. [redacted] and FP asks about this. There are further questions in the email below.

Please note that the reporter, Jana Winter, formerly of Fox News and of the Intercept continues to receive FBI JIBs and other FOUO-documents. I'd be interested in the distribution list for this particular document, whether it was widely distributed like JIBs or an internal FBI-only document. Their source seems to have some knowledge of DT groups.

Thank you,

[redacted]

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
National Press Office

Desk: [redacted]  
Cell: [redacted]

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Sharon Weinberger [redacted]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 04, 2017 2:50 PM

To: [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]  
Cc: Jana Winter [redacted]  
Subject: Queries on article about "black Identity extremists"

b6  
b7c

Hi [redacted]

Thanks again for your quick turnaround on the previous article. On a completely separate subject, Jana Winter and I are working on an article about a report out of the FBI's counterterrorism division about "black identity extremists."

The document is titled "(U//~~FOUO~~) Black Identity Extremists Likely Motivated to Target Law Enforcement Officers, and dated 3 August 2017.

While Jana and I are both fairly cautious about making a big deal out of these sorts of documents, this particular report did strike us as unusual, and we discussed it with a number of people, to include former FBI and DHS officials, and they had a similar reaction. Pretty much everyone we consulted was concerned about the use of the term "Black Identity Extremist," as both not meaningful in a law enforcement context (since no such movement exists), and potentially racist, since it groups together people based mostly on the fact that they are African-American.

To the point, I know that the FBI doesn't usually comment on the substance of these reports, but we would encourage the bureau to consider engaging us on this one, particularly because our sources raised a number of pointed questions and concerns about the report's language and assumptions.

We would welcome an interview with an appropriate official to discuss the concerns that were raised with us, though in the absence of that, here are specific questions:

1) Where is the term "black identity extremist" from and when? This appears to be an FBI creation, and does not exist prior to a few months ago, so far as we can see. Does anyone actually identify as a "black identity extremist"? And if not, why is this term useful in a law enforcement context?

[redacted]

b7E

3) One of the concerns raised by people we spoke with is the report, and the term BIE, lumps together groups that have little to do with each other. For example, a black separatist or Moorish sovereign citizen may have nothing to do with someone who is opposed to police abuses. A related concern was that the document appears to link current groups back historically, to the Black Panthers, yet there is no clear connection. Does FBI have a response to this concern?

4) Another concern is that such a report could lead to profiling and civil rights abuses. The main underlying factor, after all, is that someone is black and angry about police abuse.

If possible, we'd like to have feedback by COB Thursday, though as always, we're willing to consider more time, particularly if it's to get substantive feedback.

Best,

Sharon

[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

---

**From:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 11, 2017 9:47 AM  
**To:** [redacted] (DO) (FBI)  
**Subject:** Black Identities

b6  
b7C

Our response on the assessment:

We have no comment on the report that cited in your email.

With regard to the FBI's Domestic Terrorism investigative program, the threat of domestic terrorism remains a priority for the FBI. It is important to note that the FBI cannot initiate an investigation based solely on an individual's race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, or the exercise of First Amendment rights.

Domestic terrorism groups differ from traditional criminal groups in that they take action for a different purpose, to bring attention to a social or political cause. Therefore, their existence as a group has a legitimate purpose, at least in part. Their legitimate activity may include acts of protest, advocacy, and civil disobedience. The FBI's domestic terrorism program identifies nine persistent extremist movements in the US: white supremacy, black identities, militia, sovereign citizens, anarchists, abortion, animal rights, environmental rights, and Puerto Rican Nationalism. This does not preclude the FBI from investigating all other unique, extremist ideologies furthered wholly or in part through crime and violence are addressed as they arise.

The FBI may only initiate an investigation based upon information or allegations that an activity constitutes a federal crime or a threat to national security. Furthermore, the FBI does not and will not police ideology. When an individual takes action based on belief or ideology and breaks the law, the FBI will enforce the rule of law.

[redacted]  
National Press Office  
FBI Office of Public Affairs

[redacted] office  
[redacted] mobile