



**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN**

Directorate of Intelligence/Counterterrorism Analysis Section

28 January 2010

(U) White Supremacist Extremist Violence Possibly Decreases but Racist Skinheads Remain the Most Violent

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(U//FOUO) This intelligence bulletin addresses the intelligence requirements contained in the Domestic Terrorism Standing Intelligence Requirements Set Q-FBI-24000-002-04: TERR DT-I.C.1, DT-III.B.1, DT-III.D1, and DT-IV.1 and FBI Terrorism Production Topic 4, Targets, Planning, Surveillance and Selection; Topic 8, Tactics, Techniques and Procedures; and Topic 13, Weapons.

(U) Based on data from FBI^a and open source reporting, the FBI assesses with medium confidence^b that acts of violence^c by White Supremacist Extremists (WSEs) slightly

UNCLASSIFIED

(U) Source Summary Statement

(U) This report is based on open source information; investigations conducted by various state and local law enforcement entities; and intelligence gathered from FBI criminal investigations, ranging from those with no confidential informant reporting to those where confidential informants have either limited access or excellent access and whose reporting is deemed reliable. The FBI believes this reporting from a wide variety of sources provides a good assessment of the subject but recognizes the picture may be incomplete because some crimes, such as assaults, may not be reported or the assailants are not identified as WSEs.

^a (U) The criminal incidents and statistics examined in this bulletin stem from those reported to the FBI's Counterterrorism Analysis Section in addition to open sources.

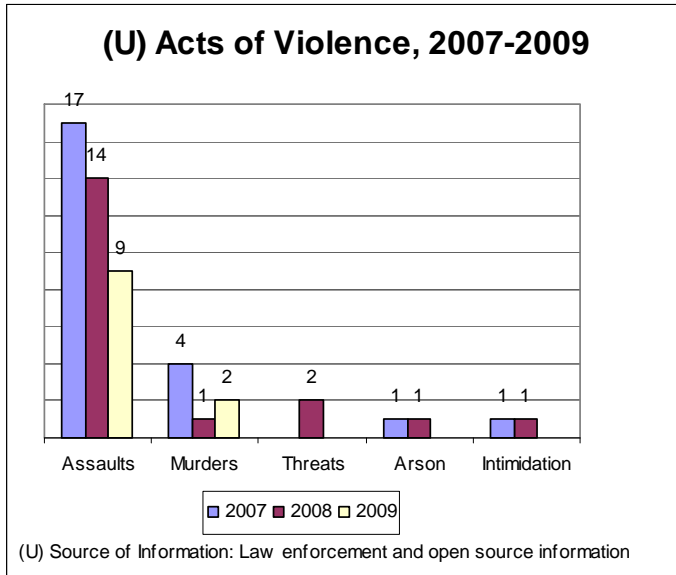
^b (U) FBI assessments are supported by information that varies in scope, quality, and sourcing. Consequently, the FBI ascribes high, medium, or low levels of confidence to judgments, as follows:

- (U) **High confidence** generally indicates judgments are based on high-quality information from multiple sources or from a single highly reliable source, and/or the nature of the issue makes it possible to render a solid judgment.
- (U) **Medium confidence** generally means the information is credibly sourced and plausible, but can be interpreted in various ways, or is not of sufficient quality or corroborated sufficiently to warrant a higher level of confidence.
- (U) **Low confidence** generally means the information's credibility and/or plausibility is questionable, the information is too fragmented or poorly corroborated to make solid analytic inferences, or the FBI has significant concerns or problems with the sources.

^c (U) For the purposes of this report, acts of violence include arson; assaults and murders; and acts designed to threaten or intimidate due to a person's ethnicity, religious beliefs, or lifestyle.

decreased between 1 January 2007 and 31 October 2009.^d As the majority of incidents involved racist skinheads, the FBI assesses with high confidence this element is the most violent in the WSE movement. Much of the violence has been against ethnic, religious, government, and law enforcement targets in furtherance of racial views, but violence has also occurred against other WSEs^e or non-WSE whites.

(U) Law enforcement and media reporting indicates WSEs were involved in 53 acts of violence during the review period.^f Twenty-three incidents (43 percent) occurred in 2007, 19 (36 percent) in 2008, and 10 (21 percent) in 2009. The acts of violence were directed primarily at African Americans, other WSEs, and Latinos, in that order; more acts occurred in the western United States than in the east; and racist skinheads accounted for the majority of the violence.



(U) The number of assaults by WSEs fell by almost 50 percent by October 2009, but assaults still outpaced all other acts of violence in the review period. Likewise, the total number of incidents of WSE violence fell by nearly half from 2007 to 2009. The percentage of WSE-related violent acts perpetrated by racist skinheads decreased from 2007 to 2008—from 69 percent (16 of 23 incidents) to 58 percent (11 of 19 incidents)—but increased in 2009 to 82 percent (nine of 11 incidents). The latter can be partially attributed to incomplete statistics for 2009, but may also be linked

to the overall drop in violence in the WSE movement. The FBI assesses with medium confidence the decline in violent acts could be:

- a consequence of increased law enforcement scrutiny of violence-prone WSE groups;
- because the more violent WSEs are already in prison; or
- because persons who have committed past acts of violence have left the WSE movement.

(U) A more complete data set for 2009 and future years will assist in determining whether the decline in both the number of assaults and the overall number of incidents is the start of a new trend of less violence or an aberration.

^d (U) Information for 2009 is incomplete and reflects what is available as of 31 October 2009. It is expected that additional incidents will be forthcoming but they are unlikely to alter the statistical data in any significant manner.

^e (U) Assaults between WSEs or their associates are not considered domestic terrorism issues but state and local matters. However, these internecine assaults are demonstrative of the violence in the movement.

^f (U) Incidents in which white supremacist extremist WSE connections cannot be clearly established have not been used in this report. Incidents involving white supremacist WSE-oriented, prison-based groups are not included.

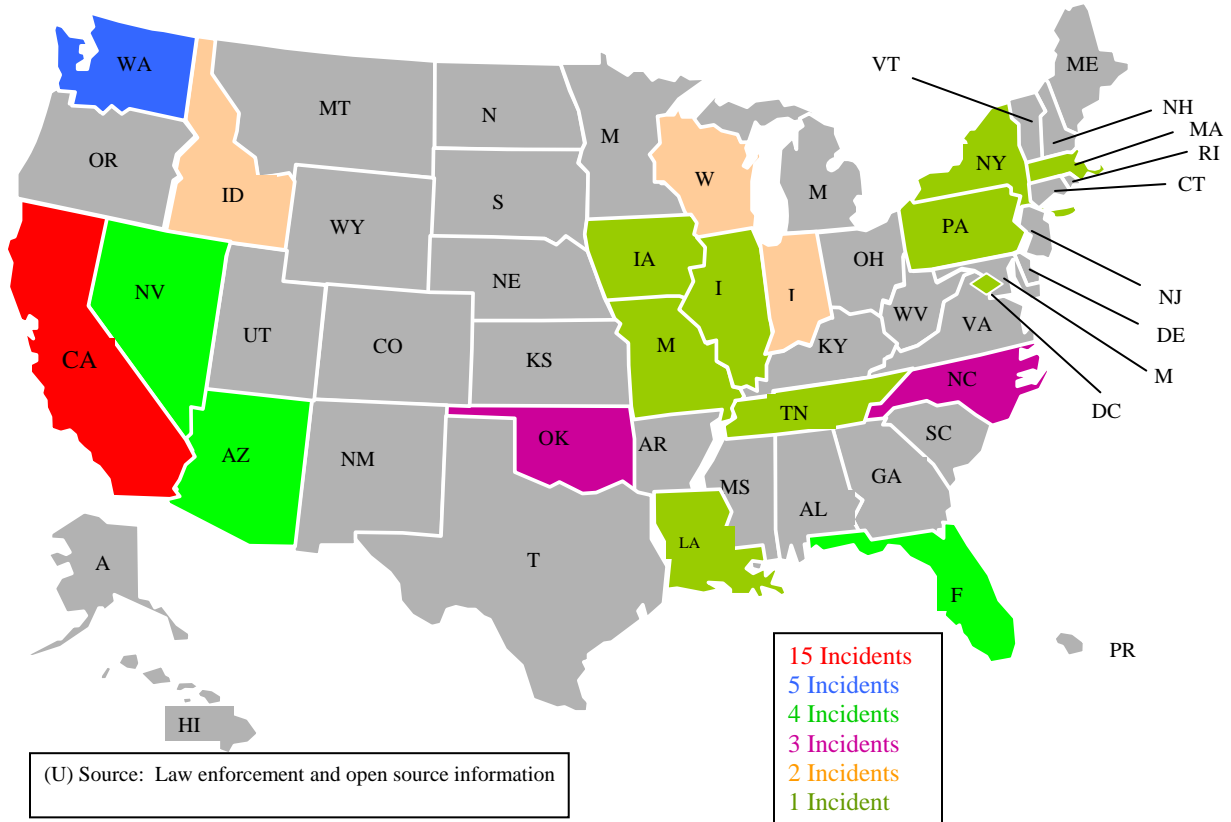
(U) The fact that two incidents in 2009 were allegedly committed by lone offenders is troubling and could be the onset of a new phase of WSE violence. The FBI considers the lone offender a primary concern within the WSE movement.

- (U) An 88-year-old white male with white supremacist sympathies allegedly opened fire at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, killing an African American security guard.¹
- (U) In January 2009, a self-avowed white supremacist and lone offender allegedly murdered two people and raped and attempted to murder a third in Brockton, Massachusetts. All the victims were non-whites.²

(U) African Americans, Latinos, and WSE Associates Are Most Targeted Elements By WSEs

(U//FOUO) African Americans, Latinos, and WSE associates and affiliates were the most targeted groups of WSE violence between 2007 and 2009, accounting for 43 of the 53 incidents (81 percent). African Americans were targeted in 17 of 53 incidents (32 percent), WSE associates or affiliates were targeted in 14 incidents (26 percent), and Latinos were victims in 12 incidents (22 percent). Other targets included non-WSE whites (five attacks, 9 percent), Native Americans (two attacks, 4 percent), an Asian American (one attack, 2 percent), and a homeless person whose ethnicity was not identified (one attack, 2 percent); additionally, an Islamic mosque was destroyed by arson (one attack, 2 percent).

(U) Acts of Violence, 2007-2009



(U) Most Acts of Violence in Western United States

(U) Although acts of violence were national in scope, more than half (33 incidents or 62 percent) occurred west of the Mississippi River, with 23 of those incidents (69 percent) occurring in the Arizona-California-Nevada tri-state area. Sixteen of those 23 incidents, or 70 percent, involved racist skinheads. This may be explained by the large number of racist skinheads in California. There were 32 skinhead chapters in California in 2008, according to the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC),³ twice the number the SPLC listed in New Jersey, which had the second-highest number.⁴

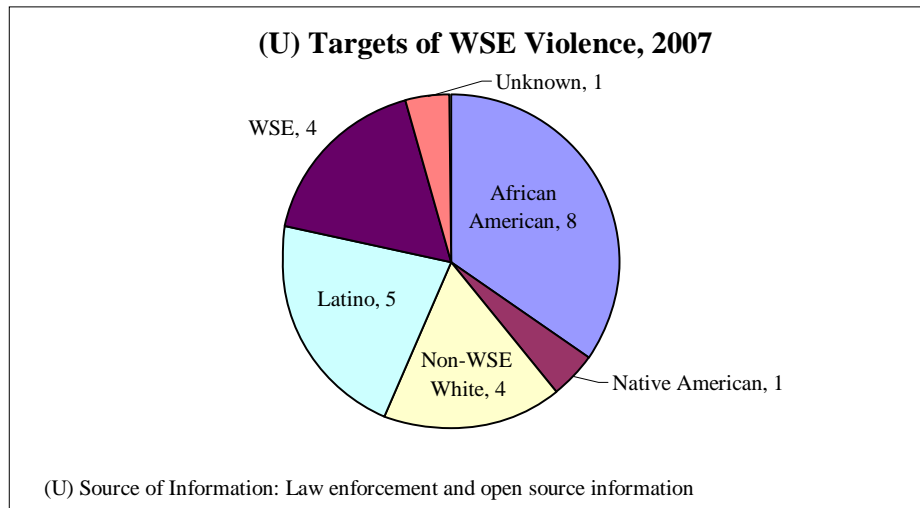
(U) Most Incidents Committed by Racist Skinheads, the Most Violent WSE Element

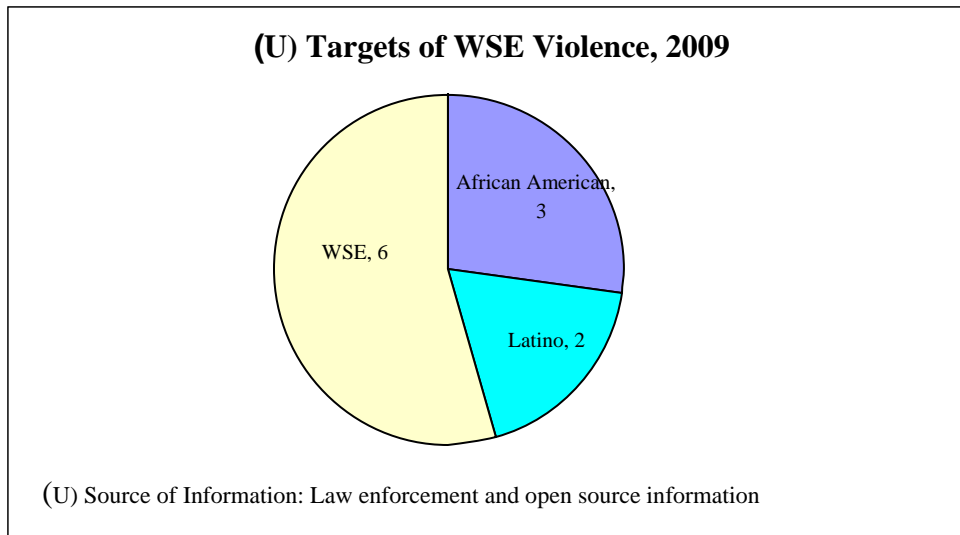
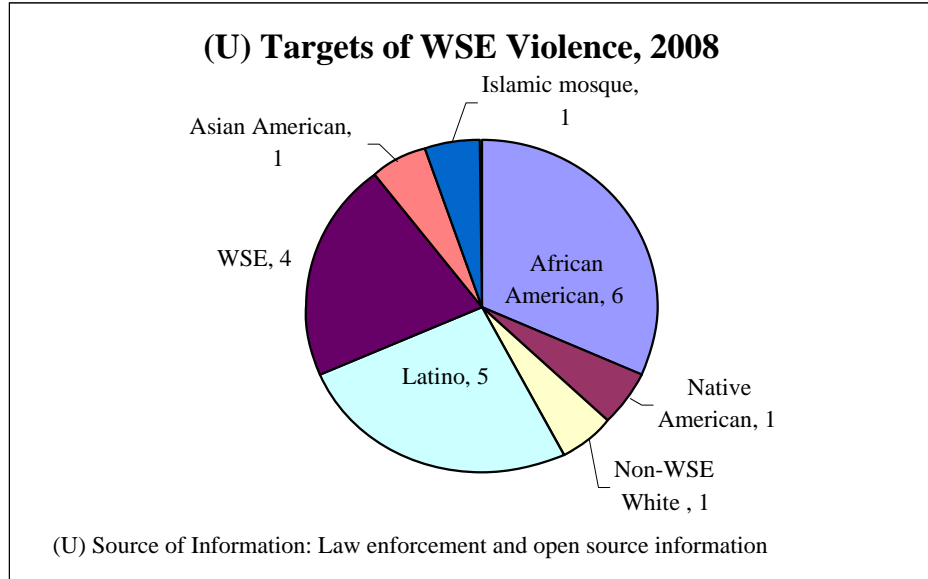
(U) Between 2007 and 2009, 36 of the 53 incidents (68 percent), including four of the seven murders, involved racist skinheads. Twenty-seven of those 36 incidents involved members or associates of racist skinhead crews, and nine incidents involved self-identified skinheads or individuals described by police or the media as racist skinheads.

(U) Fifteen of the remaining 17 incidents were committed by members or affiliates of other groups, self-described WSEs, or individuals identified by police or media as WSEs but not connected with a specific group. The remaining two incidents were the murders committed by individuals considered lone offenders in 2009, which were mentioned above.

(U) Outlook

(U//FOUO) Acts of violence by WSEs are expected to continue for the foreseeable future. Much of the violence is spur-of-the-moment attacks against targets of opportunity. Because of this, the total number of attacks may vary from year to year, and the number of assaults and murders may fluctuate. WSEs could use sociopolitical and economic conditions to justify attacks against targets based on ethnicity, religion, or other factors. WSEs are unlikely to carry out sophisticated, multiple-casualty attacks, although the possibility cannot be entirely dismissed. Racist skinheads will likely continue to be the single WSE element most likely to commit an assault, while lone offenders will remain the most difficult to detect and counter.





(U) This bulletin has been prepared by the Directorate of Intelligence of the FBI. Comments and queries may be addressed to the Domestic Terrorism Analysis Unit at (202) 324-0256.

(U) Endnotes

¹ (U) Online Newspaper Article; Theo Emery and Liz Robbins; *The Seattle Times*; “Holocaust Museum shooter James von Brunn had history of hate”; 12 June 2009;

http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/nationworld/2009330156_holocaustshooting12.html.

² (U) Online Newspaper article; Jessica Fargen; *Boston Herald*; “Mom of accused killer: ‘It’s so screwed up!’” 22 January 2009;

www.bostonherald.com/news/regional/view/200_01_22_mom_of_accused_killer:_It_s_so_screwed_up!/.

³ (U) Open Source material; The Southern Poverty Law Center; *Intelligence Report*; “Hate Groups Active in 2008”; Spring 2009; page 56; “Racist Skinhead”; www.splcenter.org/intel/intelreport/article.jsp?aid=1027.

⁴ (U) Ibid.

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