



**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN**  
Counterterrorism Division

12 May 2006

**Intelligence Bulletin No. 198**

**(U) US-Based Street Gangs a Potential Recruiting Pool for Terrorist Groups**

**(U) THREAT LEVEL: YELLOW (ELEVATED)**

**(U) THIS INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN PROVIDES LAW ENFORCEMENT AND OTHER PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICIALS WITH SITUATIONAL AWARENESS CONCERNING INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC TERRORIST GROUPS AND TACTICS.**

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**(U) OVERVIEW**

(U//LES) Several domestically based extremist organizations have demonstrated an interest in recruiting current and former gang members. No specific, credible intelligence indicates members of US-based street gangs are currently engaged in operational planning on behalf of terrorist organizations targeting the United States; however, former gang members have been arrested for terrorist plotting as recently as 2005. Terrorist recruitment patterns could potentially increase gang member involvement with terrorist groups.

**(U) DETAILS**

(U//LES) Intelligence indicates terrorists are interested in recruiting current or former gang members. Some domestic extremist groups have targeted US-based street gangs for recruitment.

- (U//LES) In late 2005 the leader of the New Black Panther Nation (NBPN) expressed a desire to recruit gang members for potential membership in NBPN.

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(U//LES) Intelligence indicates that some international terrorist groups in the United States have members with former ties to street gangs. Gangs offer a desirable pool of potential recruits for international terrorist organizations. Many gang members are US citizens, giving them more operational flexibility within the United States than foreign-born potential recruits. Gang members are also likely to have experience in illegal or violent activity and may feel disenfranchised from the US Government or society.

- (U//LES) In the Seattle, Washington, area, a group of Islamic extremists with ambitions to engage in jihad included several former gang members with a history of criminal activity. Some of these individuals attempted to convert street gang members to radical Islam, possibly for the purpose of recruiting them.

(U//LES) Former gang members associated with terrorist organizations have recently become involved in terrorist planning against US interests.

- (U//LES) Two members of Jamiyyat Ul Islam Is-Saheeh (JIS), an Islamic extremist group originating in a California prison, were also former members of the Crips street gang. FBI investigations determined in 2005 that a JIS cell had been plotting to attack several targets in California.
- (U//LES) Jose Padilla, a former member of the Maniac Latin Disciples gang, attended al-Qa'ida training camps overseas. In November 2005 Padilla was indicted for aiding terrorists and conspiracy to murder US nationals abroad.

(U//LES) Law enforcement officials should be aware that terrorist groups may target street gang members for recruitment. Recipients should immediately report suspicious or criminal gang activities potentially related to terrorism to their local FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force. FBI regional phone numbers can be found at [www.fbi.gov/contact/fo/fo.htm](http://www.fbi.gov/contact/fo/fo.htm).

**(U) ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE: LAW ENFORCEMENT RESPONSE**

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## FBI Customer Satisfaction Survey

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Threat Analysis Unit, Counterterrorism Analysis Section,  
Counterterrorism Division, FBIHQ, Room 4371

Marking Instructions: Circle the appropriate response accordingly.

- 1 Strongly Disagree
- 2 Disagree
- 3 Neither Agree or Disagree
- 4 Agree
- 5 Strongly Agree
- NA Not Applicable

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Thank you for cooperation and assistance.

Product Title **(U) US-Based Street Gangs a Potential Recruiting Pool for Terrorist Groups**

Product Date **12 May 2006**

Customer \_\_\_\_\_

Intelligence Function/Investigative Program \_\_\_\_\_

### Quality

1 2 3 4 5 NA This product was delivered within established deadlines.

1 2 3 4 5 NA The product was timely and relevant to your mission, programs, priorities or initiatives.

1 2 3 4 5 The product was clear and logical in the presentation of information with supported judgments and conclusions.

1 2 3 4 5 The product is reliable i.e., sources well documented and reputable.

### Value

1 2 3 4 5 NA The product contributed to satisfying intelligence gaps or predicated cases or intelligence operations, especially in previously unknown areas.

1 2 3 4 5 NA The product resulted in change in investigative or intelligence priorities and/or a shift from unaddressed to addressed work, or vice versa.

1 2 3 4 5 NA The product resulted in more informed decisions concerning investigative or intelligence initiatives and/or resource allocation.

1 2 3 4 5 NA The product identified new information associated with pending matters or offered insights into information that could change the working premise in a program or initiative.

Comments

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