



Law Enforcement Charitable Foundation, Inc.

Intelligence Brief



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Remembering Fallen Officers In 2018

K9 Officer Eric Joseph Joering
Police Officer
Anthony Pasquale Morelli
Commander Paul R. Bauer
Police Officer
Darren Maurice Weathers
Sergeant Mark J. Baserman
Deputy Sheriff Alexis
"Thunder" Eagle Locklear
Deputy Sheriff Jacob M. Pickett
Police Officer Rodney Scott Smith
Police Officer
Christopher Ryan Morton
Police Officer Gregory Casillas
Deputy Sheriff
David Lee'Sean Manning
Reserve Officer
Christopher Michael Lawton
Police Officer Scotty Hamilton
Deputy Sheriff Ryan Douglas Zirkle
Police Officer Andres Laza-Caraballo
Special Agent Melissa S. Morrow
Trooper First Class Kevin M. Miller
Police Officer Phillip Lynn Meacham
Corporal Dale Shannon Hallman
Police Officer Keith O'Neal Earle
Patrolman Kevin F. Crossley
Sergeant Sean McNamee Gannon
Sergeant Noel Ramirez
Deputy Sheriff Taylor Lindsey
Detective Sergeant
Brian Scott Cuscino
Deputy Sheriff Casey L. Shoemate
Police Officer Tamby Yagan
Master Deputy James Lester Kirk, Jr.

Corporal Eugene Cole
Police Officer Rogelio Santander, Jr.
Police Officer Jesus "Chuy" Cordova
Police Officer Charles Whites
Police Officer Robert Shawn Pitts
Agent Joel Alexis Pantojas-Fuente
Deputy Sheriff William J. Gentry, Jr.
Police Officer Verdell Smith, Sr.
Police Officer Natasha Maria Hunter
Police Officer
Endy Nddiobong Ekpanya
Sergeant Stacey Allen Baumgartner
Deputy Sheriff
David Francis Michel, Jr.
Sergeant David Kyle Elahi
Deputy Sheriff Paul Clark
Senior Corporal Lorne Bradley Ahrens
Police Officer Michael Leslie Krol
Sergeant Michael Joseph Smith
Police Officer Patricio E. Zamarripa
Police Officer Brent Alan Thompson
Security Supervisor Joseph P. Zangaro
Police Officer Marco Antonio Zarate
Corrections Officer Mari Johnson
Corporal Montrell Lyle Jackson
Deputy Sheriff Bradford Allen Garafola
Police Officer Matthew Lane Gerald
Correctional Officer
Kristopher D. Moules
Captain Robert David Melton
Police Officer Jonathan M. DeGuzman
Corporal Bill Cooper
Police Officer Jose Ismael Chavez
Police Officer Timothy Kevin Smith

Police Officer Kenneth Ray Moats
Police Officer Clint Corvinus
Court Officer Ronald Eugene Kienzle
Master Deputy Sheriff
Brandon Collins
K9 Officer Timothy James Brackeen
Correctional Officer Kenneth Bettis
Sergeant Kenneth Steil
Sergeant Steve Owen
Police Officer Blake Curtis Snyder
Police Officer Lesley Zerebny
Police Officer Jose Gilbert Vega
Deputy Sheriff Jack Hopkins
Sergeant Allen Brandt
Police Officer James Brockmeyer
Police Officer Myron Jarrett
Deputy Sheriff Dan Glaze
Police Officer Justin Scott Martin
Sergeant Anthony David Beminio
Sergeant Paul Tuozzolo
Sergeant Patrick Michael Sondron
Police Officer Cody Brotherson
Police Officer Darrin Reed
Deputy Sheriff Daryl Smallwood
Police Officer Scott Leslie Bashioum
Deputy Sheriff Dennis Wallace
Detective Benjamin Edward Marconi
Police Officer
Reginald Jacob "Jake" Gutierrez
Sergeant Collin James Rose
Police Officer Nicholas Ryan Smarr
Corrections Officer Lisa Mauldin
Trooper Landon E. Weaver

Names gathered by The Officer Down Memorial Page, Inc.

Our mission is to protect the bonds that exist between communities and local law enforcement through education, programs, and briefings, while offering charitable support to families of police officers killed in the line of duty, and grants to law enforcement agencies for protective equipment, educational training, and memorials.

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Editor

Robin Kinderman

Art Director

Joseph W. Kelly

Executive Assistant

Kris Hauser

Communications

Bill Hahn

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Julie DuFrane

Printed in the U.S.A.

P.O. Box 1241 • Appleton, WI 54912-1241
(877) 325-COPS (2677)
www.LECF-Inc.org

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The *Intelligence Brief* is published twice yearly by Law Enforcement Charitable Foundation, Inc. 501(c)(3) EIN 81-1594518



Letter From LECF

In this spring 2018 issue of the Law Enforcement Intelligence Brief, we review once again the Southern Poverty Law Center and its continued attack against responsible Americans and many of the traditional organizations they describe as hate groups. The SPLC has for many years used its enormous resources to publish and distribute an annual report that is sent to many law enforcement organizations throughout the country, including the FBI.

This report describes pro-life activists, Second Amendment supporters, and those involved in constitutional organizations as somehow destructive and hateful. The SPLC has become so discredited that many in law enforcement no longer receive to its annual report. While this appears to be good news, nevertheless the SPLC continues to label those who are politically conservative as hateful individuals and groups.

On those occasions when police officers are required to use deadly force to protect their lives and the lives of others, demonstrations of people carrying professionally printed signs often follow. Such was the case recently in New York City, where a man pointing what appeared to be a handgun at police was shot and killed. Within a short period of time, professionally printed signs condemning the New York Police Department were being carried by the demonstrators.

An editorial in the *New York Post* pointed to the fact that those who organized the demonstrations and provided the signs were Marxist revolutionaries who move quickly to march against the

police at every opportunity. It is notable that these very same signs can be seen in many parts of the country in demonstrations against law enforcement, and it should be evident that the goal of these revolutionary groups is to prevent local police from doing their job.

Police officers across the country are finding their job far more difficult, in many cases, due to this anti-police rhetoric. Recently, several police officers have been deliberately assassinated simply because they were wearing their uniforms. Their names will appear in the Law Enforcement Charitable Foundation's *Intelligence Brief*, listed among our honored dead.

One of our goals at LECF is to provide information to law enforcement that they might otherwise not have access to. We will continue to support our local police at every opportunity, and to keep them independent.

Sincerely,

James F. Fitzgerald
President, Law Enforcement
Charitable Foundation, Inc.,
Former Newark, N.J., detective
jffitzgerald@LECF-Inc.org



I want to help. Please contact me about:

- A grant for a family of an officer in my community killed in the line of duty
- Educational aid through FreedomProject Academy
- A community grant for protective police equipment
- An award for an outstanding officer in my community
- Adding a name to "Memorializing Fallen Officers" list
- A tax-exempt donation to LECF
- A personal endorsement for LECF
- I would like this newsletter sent to me electronically.

Here's my email: _____

Name _____ Address _____ Phone _____

Mail to: P.O. Box 1241 • Appleton, WI 54912-1241 or visit www.LECF-Inc.org

LECF1711



Recognized for Outstanding Character

In 2016, 19-year-old Jourdan Duncan of Vallejo, California, was walking home from his job in Benicia. His shift ended at midnight, so when police Corporal Kirk Keffer saw him walking down an ill-lit street at such an odd hour, he stopped to question him. When Duncan explained that he had been walking to and from work because his car had broken down and he didn't want to burden anyone with giving him rides, Cpl. Keffer offered him a ride home. During the ride, he learned that Duncan was saving money to attend college and become a police officer. Inspired, Keffer later asked his fellow officers to use their police association



Courtesy Benicia Police Department

funds to buy Duncan a bicycle. Not only did they do that, but they started a GoFundMe account to get Duncan a car.

As of early 2017, the GoFundMe account had raised \$40,000. Duncan used a small portion of that to purchase a car, and is using the rest to pay for college, while continuing to work. He still plans on becoming a police officer.

One wonders what would have happened if Cpl. Keffer hadn't been patrolling that street that night, or if he hadn't stopped Duncan and offered him a ride, or presented him with a bicycle, or started a GoFundMe account. Although Duncan's determination likely would have seen him through college and becoming a police officer, Keffer's actions will positively impact him and inspire him to change a life, as well. Thank you, Cpl. Keffer. ■



Words of Encouragement From Our Donors

I have nothing other than the highest regard for LECF. I have contributed to it and LECF is in our Wills.

— Alex and Nancy Kamwell, VA

State Department Publication 7277, which was published by the U.S. Department of State in September of 1961 and is the fixed, determined, and approved policy of the U.S. government, states that a "U.N. Peace Force" should take over the world. If the police forces in this country, however, stay local and independent, such a nightmarish scenario can never become a reality. The Law Enforcement Charitable Foundation is working to help police officers, as well as members of the general public, understand this vitally important fact. It deserves the support of every American.

— John J. Tobak, NJ



Kurt Hyde

As an advocate of *Support Your Local Police and Keep Them Independent*, I am proud to support the Law Enforcement Charitable Foundation in its educational programs, its Intelligence Briefs, and its assistance to the families of fallen local law enforcement officers.

— Kurt Hyde, TX



New Phenomenon: “Fake Hate Crimes”

Create Perplexing Problems for Law Enforcement



AP Images

Trump supporters took Hillary’s ridiculous statement — that they were all a “basket of deplorables” — and turned it around to campaign for the future anti-establishment president.

by **Jerome R. Corsi**

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Though little reported by the mainstream media, the U.S. has been hit by a series of “fake hate crimes,” also known as “hate crime hoaxes,” that have created a perplexing new set of circumstances for state and local law enforcement.

These cases of “fake hate crimes” have become particularly incendiary since Hillary Clinton famously characterized Trump supporters as a “Basket of Deplorables,” at a New York fundraiser during the campaign, stating, “The racist, sexist, homophobic, xenophobic, Islamophobic — you

name it. And unfortunately, there are people like that. And he [Donald Trump] has lifted them up.”

Ironically, the fact that the U.S. is experiencing this wave of “hoax hate crimes” suggests that racial animosity — which began subsiding in the 1960s — has continued to subside to the point where perpetrators must commit crimes in order to make whites seem hateful, when most whites have long rejected racial discrimination as abhorrent.

The twisted psychology of the hoax hate crime perpetrator involves a minority person willing to commit a crime, believing that blaming majority whites will somehow validate the political narrative that “white supremacists” are growing in number and

becoming increasingly dangerous.

The burden of setting the record straight falls to law enforcement authorities — they must investigate each crime as a legitimate hate crime until they are able to establish incontrovertible evidence that it was in fact a hoax.

As the following two examples make clear, the perpetrators of fake hate crimes have to be capable of staging a crime that the victims will initially assume was committed by a white supremacist, causing a shocked reaction from the offended community, often accompanied by protest demonstrations and marches, and the victims demanding the hate criminal be apprehended and punished.

Four Black Churches Vandalized in Morristown, New Jersey

On November 25, 2017, the glass marquee signs posting notices of church services outside four African-American churches in Morristown, New Jersey, were vandalized.

“Whoever’s doing this, we want this classified as a hate crime,” Pastor Sidney Williams, Jr. of Bethel A.M.E. Church told the *Morristown Green*. “We’re concerned about the safety of our members. Someone targeted African American churches, and went out of their way to do so.”

The *Morristown Green* reported that the Morris County Prosecutor’s Office had begun an active investigation of the damage. “Authorities are taking these incidents very seriously,” Morristown Mayor Tim Dougherty added. The Rev. Jerry Castor, pastor for 27 years of one of the churches affected, told the newspaper he has never seen multiple churches vandalized in Morristown, an affluent community 45 minutes west of New York City.



Within hours, police examining stationary video camera evidence identified the perpetrator as an African-American male who was a former congregant of one of the churches. A 45-year-old man, who had attended one of the churches as a child, was arrested and charged with four fourth-degree counts of criminal mischief and one third-degree count of criminal mischief.

“As a result of the investigation, no evidence was obtained that would indicate this was a biased incident which legally requires purpose to intimidate a person or group based on their protected class,” Fredric M. Knapp, the Morris County prosecutor, explained to the *Morristown Daily Record*.

While this case may have been motivated by a personal incident that affected the perpetrator as a former congregant, the incident still created an emotional reaction from Morristown’s minority population. “That they are all African-American churches causes an immediate sense of outrage in people of faith throughout Morris County, and especially for us as religious leaders,” Rev. Cynthia L. Black, rector of the Church of the Redeemer on South Street in Morristown and president of the Morris Area Clergy Council, told the *Morristown Daily Record*.

“Since the political rise of Donald Trump, the Left has ramped up their coverage of ‘hate crimes,’ many of which have been uncovered to be perpetrated by hoaxers looking to advance a false victimhood narrative,” wrote Amanda Prestigiaco in the *Daily Wire* about the Morristown church vandalism incident. “The latest string of ‘hate crimes’ discovered to be a hoax comes to us from New Jersey, where it turns out a black male vandalized five black churches, for which there is video surveillance evidence,” the *Daily Wire* article continued. “At the time of the attacks, the Left hyped the incidents as evidence of their grim narrative of an America plagued by constant racial targeting,

particularly against minorities. In other words, the ‘hate crimes’ helped bolster the Left’s drive to divide the country by race.”

Even the New Jersey governor-elect got into the act. “Disgusted by reported vandalism of African-American churches across Morristown,” Governor-elect Phil Murray, a Democrat, tweeted on November 26, 2017. “These cowardly acts will not shake our faith. They will renew our determination to come together as one NJ.”

University Vandalized With Racist Hate Remarks

At approximately 9:00 a.m. local time on September 20, 2016, a professor found the hate messages “KKK” and “Leave [N-word plural]” spray-painted in black on the outside west wall of Eastern Michigan University’s (EMU) King Residence Hall. By 10:30 a.m., university workers were using power-sprays to remove the racially offending insults. University

President James Smith released a statement reassuring parents, faculty, and students that “the University strongly condemns such a racist and thoughtless act, which runs completely counter to the values and welcoming environment of our highly diverse Eastern Michigan University community.”

The next day, Eastern Michigan University protesters joined with Black Lives Matter organizers to gather at the scene of the spray-painting incident. “I am highly upset about the actions that took place on this wall,” said Zachery Badger-House, an EMU student. “I want answers. I want to know what EMU is going to do outside of just removing the writing. These are the type of hate crimes we are just sick of. I want to know how is EMU going to make me feel comfortable to be at this institution.”

Then, on October 31, 2016, another incident occurred at EMU when “Leave N*****” was spray-painted on Ford Hall in letters five-feet wide and two-feet deep. EMU President Jim Smith said the incident was receiving the full attention of EMU police. “There is no place on our campus for these kinds of hateful actions and I am deeply angry and saddened that it occurred,” Smith said in an email. “Our police officers continue to investigate the incidents in late September. They have responded to many tips and continue to actively pursue them. The \$5,000 reward for the previous incident is now being doubled to \$10,000 and will apply to this incident as well.”

One year later, on October 24, 2017, Eddie Curlin, a 29-year-old African-American who attended EMU from 2014 to 2016, was arrested and arraigned in Washtenaw County District Court on three counts of malicious destruction of property, four counts of identity theft, and one count of using computers to commit a crime in connection with the racist vandalism that took place on the EMU campus in the 2016 fall term. Police said Curlin was not a student



Photo courtesy of Bethel A.M.E. Church.

When African-American establishments are targeted, the left-wing media immediately hypes it up as a racist hate crime. Social media spreads the racist rhetoric like wildfire, and the damage is done, even after the truth has been reported.



at the time of his arrest and that his motivation was totally personal.

At the time of being charged for the EMU graffiti attacks, Curlin was in custody of the Michigan Department of Corrections serving a one-year sentence on an unrelated charge of receiving and concealing stolen property.

“As far as his motivation for this [the racist graffiti attacks at EMU], it was totally self-serving,” EMU Police Chief Robert Heighes said at a press conference after Curlin was arrested. “It was not driven by race. It was an individual item done by one individual for all three of the major graffiti incidents on our campus.” In addition to the spray-painting incidents, a third incident took place during EMU’s 2017 spring term in which a racist message was found in a men’s restroom stall on campus.

Gage Skidmore (https://www.flickr.com/people/22007612@N05)



Too few understand that their actions are causing more harm than help. Groups such as Black Lives Matter encourage hostility and blame under the guise of civil rights, rather than taking responsibility for their own actions and problems.

Identifying and Quantifying Hate Crimes

On November 13, 2017, the FBI’s Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program released *Hate Crime Statistics, 2016* as its latest annual compilation of bias-motivated incidents reported throughout the United States.

This FBI report documented that law enforcement agencies reported 6,121 criminal incidents that were motivated by bias against race, ethnicity, ancestry, religion, sexual orientation, disability, gender, or gender identity – otherwise known as hate crimes.

Of the 6,121 criminal incidents reported, 6,063 were single-bias incidents (there were also 58 multiple-bias incidents). Of the single-bias incidents:

- 57.5 percent were motivated by a race, ethnicity, or ancestry bias;
- 21.0 percent were motivated by a religious bias;
- 17.7 percent were motivated by a sexual orientation bias; and
- The remaining incidents were motivated by a gender identity, disability, or gender bias.

In 2015, the FBI UCR identified 5,818 hate crimes; in 2014, the FBI UCR identi-

fied 5,478 hate crimes; and in 2013, the FBI UCR identified 5,928 hate crimes.

Investigator Laird Wilcox, author of *Crying Wolf*, a book on fake hate crimes, has created a database of 331 fake hate crimes going back to the 1990s, with some 100 of the cases occurring in the years 2014-2016.

Wilcox’s database makes it clear that fake hate crimes, while a serious problem, are but a significant fraction of the hate crimes committed annually in the United States.

Taking Hoax Hate Crimes Seriously

The incident that drew national attention to the phenomenon of hoax hate crimes occurred last September, when five black students reported racial slurs posted outside their dormitory rooms at the Air Force Academy Preparatory School in Colorado.

The incident drew nationwide media attention that centered around a powerful speech Air Force Academy Superintendent Lt. Gen. Jay Silveria gave to all 4,000 cadets at the academy, in which Silveria made clear the Air Force Academy would not tolerate racism. “If you cannot treat someone with dignity and respect, get out,” Silveria told the cadets. The speech

was posted on YouTube and went viral, registering more than one million views.

It turned out that one of the cadet candidates who was targeted by the racist remarks was actually responsible for the act. The individual admitted responsibility that was validated by the investigation the Air Force and local law enforcement authorities had conducted.

Jeremy C. Hunt, a 24-year-old writer and commentator who currently serves as an active-duty U.S. Army officer, provided insight into the Air Force Academy hoax hate crime, writing the following:

Of course, there will be people who make up racial strife when they know the press is itching for their next story. Each instance of racism is fresh fodder to fuel their narrative about how America is mired in white supremacy. The media use the same pattern every time. A minority gets mistreated at a coffee shop. The media makes a celebrity out of the victim. The story triggers a national debate and Americans rush to their ideological corners – leaving a whole country divided over one person’s bad experience at a coffee shop. The media wins and America loses.



While fake hate crimes are a relatively new phenomenon, law enforcement officers are well advised to investigate before rushing to judgment. This was illustrated by President Trump’s reluctance to comment on the yet unsolved case of the Dar Al-Farooq Islamic Center in Bloomington, Minnesota, which was bombed on August 5, 2017.

Almost immediately, Minnesota’s Democratic Party Governor Mark Dayton called the bombing “an act of terrorism.” But White House national security aide Sebastian Gorka was more cautious, noting the White House would wait until the FBI’s investigation was finalized before commenting on the incident.

“There’s a great rule: all initial reports are false. You have to check them, you have to find out who the perpetrators are,” Gorka explained to the *Washington Examiner*. “We’ve had a series of crimes committed, alleged hate crimes, by right-wing individuals in the last six months

that turned out to actually have been propagated by the Left.”

When asked why Trump was quick to comment on other attacks, Gorka said it was “unequivocally clear” those incidents were terrorism.

“When someone shouts ‘Allahu Akbar’ as they are stabbing a police officer, it’s pretty clear it’s not a case of a mafia robbing the bank,” Gorka responded. “When people fake hate crimes in the last six months with some regularity, it’s wise to find out what exactly is going on before you make statements, when they could turn out to be not who you are expecting.”

In conclusion, the danger with hoax hate crimes is that political activists are becoming so determined to prove that crimes of “social injustice” are rampant in American society that they commit crimes that no one in the majority community had ever contemplated committing.

Careful and cautious police work is a must in order to prevent these fake hate

crimes from inflaming communities that may be otherwise absent of hate.

Black activists contriving to paint racist slogans on a university wall, or Muslims who would bomb a mosque, are the same in that in each case the political activist is willing to attack their own minority group in order to intensify feelings of hate and fear among that group, while drawing public sympathy and aggressive police response targeted at vilifying the supposed criminal assailants in the majority white community.

As evidence of fake hate crimes become more prevalent, police must be trained to not overreact or rush to judgment in their efforts to investigate and apprehend culprits. Mayors or police chiefs who overreact to initial reports of hate crimes may create riots before realizing they were tricked by psychologically clever criminals willing to injure or otherwise damage citizens in order to cast blame on innocent majority whites within the community. ■

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Domestic Threats

Marxist-Leninists Behind Anti-police Signs and Demonstrations in New York



AP Images

Anti-police protestors take to the streets in Crown Heights, Brooklyn, with signs and banners branding the web address PSLweb.org, the official website for the Party for Socialism and Liberation, which is a radical Marxist-Leninist communist party.

by Christian Gomez

Earlier this past April, the *New York Post* reported that the dozens of professionally printed signs used by demonstrators to protest against the New York Police Department (NYPD) over the fatal police shooting of Brooklyn native Saheed Vassell, 34, were made by a cadre of radical socialist outfits. Vassell was thought to have been pointing a firearm, shortly before being struck by seven bullets from four NYPD officers.

“The Party for Socialism & Liberation and the Workers World Party distributed the bold, black-on-yellow and black-and-red-on-white signs that anti-cop demon-

strators held aloft on sticks outside the 71st Precinct headquarters in Crown Heights,” the *Post* reported.

The organizations behind the protest boast about themselves as being anti-capitalist, “revolutionary Marxist-Leninist.” More radical even than the Communist Party USA, both the Party for Socialism and Liberation (PSL) and the Workers World Party (WWP) regard themselves as being “anti-revisionist,” lamenting the demise of the old Soviet empire. In their various publications and other printed materials, the PSL and WWP exuberate their support for the despotic one-party state dictatorships of North Korea, and communist Cuba, and Nicolás Maduro’s socialist Venezuela.

On the WWP’s website, it reads: “Workers World Party is a revolutionary Marxist-Leninist party dedicated to organizing and fighting for a socialist revolution in the United States and around the world.”

Unashamedly, the WWP continues: “With branches around the U.S., WWP develops militant organizers in every struggle, from anti-racist and immigrant rights to labor, anti-war and anti-imperialist struggles.”

The WWP further incriminates itself, admitting its involvement in much of the radical civil unrest directed against law enforcement. “We are active in the Black Lives Matter movement including advocating for disarming the police and other repressive state apparatus.”

The PSL is no different, advocating on its website for the “socialist transformation of society.” While both organizations may not ostensibly call for violence against police, their rhetoric certainly fuels it.

As the *Post* pointed out, some of the PSL-printed signs read, “NYPD: Biggest GANG in New York” and “NYPD: RAPISTS MURDERERS THIEVES.” Footage of the demonstrators captured by CBS 2 in New York showed individuals carrying additional signs saying “END RACIST POLICE TERROR!” and walking with a large, PSL-branded banner reading, “STOP RACIST POLICE BRUTALITY!” Another sign read, “ABOLISH THE NYPD,” with the WWP’s website *Workers.org* printed below.

The *Post*’s article further corroborates what both the *Intelligence Brief* and *The New American* magazine have previously said about such anti-police protests around the country not being spontaneous, but rather the concerted effort of organizations, in particular ones that self-identify with Marxism-Leninism.



AP Images

Protestors marching toward the NYPD's 71 Precinct in Brooklyn, carrying signs branded with the Web address for the Workers World Party, another radical Marxist-Leninist party that openly supports the ruling Workers Party of Korea in North Korea.

Such protests have occurred elsewhere throughout the country, in cities such as Ferguson, Missouri; St. Louis; Baltimore; Chicago; and San Francisco, to name a few. Local and national television stations will typically show footage of these protests, depicting the signs paraded by demonstrators with either the RevCom.us, PSLWeb.org, or Workers.org websites printed on them. However, these same news broadcasters omit any mention of the obvious identifiers printed on the signs revealing the organization behind the mass demonstrations.

This omission by the media is not only true of liberal-oriented networks such as CNN, ABC, NBC, and CBSN, but also true of the purportedly conservative alternative FOX News. Rather than reporting what their own news footage reveals, news anchors and other commentators

frequently describe the protests as being “spontaneous” or the product of “community outrage.”

These glaring omissions have aided in concealing the identity of these organizations, enabling them to operate free from scrutiny. Meanwhile, local police and sheriff departments are given no such quarter as they bear the brunt of public condemnation by the media and communist street agitators.

Communist organizers of anti-police protests typically have no regard for the actual circumstances leading up to the fatal shooting. Instead they focus their attention on how to exploit the situation to portray police and law enforcement negatively.

In the case of Saheed Vassell, shortly before he was fatally shot by NYPD he was caught randomly pulling out the tubu-

lar end of a silver welding torch and pointing it at sidewalk pedestrians in Crown Heights as though he were going to shoot them with a gun, according to private surveillance footage released by the NYPD.

The communist PSL and WWP have since portrayed Vassell as a martyr against what they describe as “racist police brutality.” In fact, communist organizations such as the PSL and WWP, as well as the Revolutionary Communist Party (RevCom) and the Communist Party USA (CPUSA), typically exploit police shootings involving African-American suspects in order to stir distrust and anger toward local law enforcement. Communists often utilize this tactic as a means of building support for their revolutionary, anti-capitalist, and anti-government agendas.

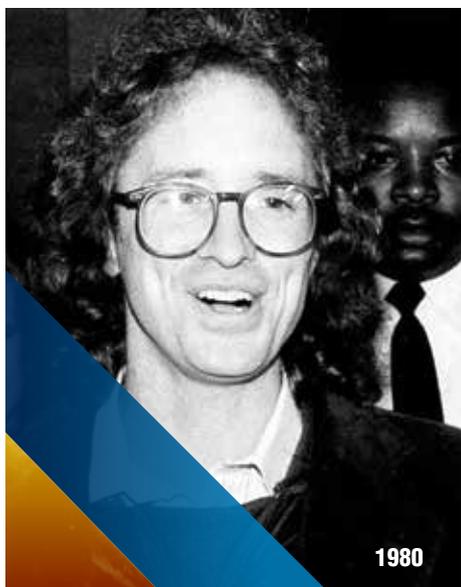
RevCom, WWP, and the PSL and its parent organization, the Answer Coalition, aim to undermine local law enforcement and overthrow the U.S. government, further seeking to replace the government with their own despotic regime akin to that of the Soviet Union’s and in lockstep solidarity with the ruling Stalinist-style dictatorships in North Korea and Laos.

As lofty and radical as their aims are, the hateful and dangerous nature of these communist outfits should not be underestimated. Nor is there any evidence to suggest that they will simply disband and abandon their anti-police and revolutionary tendencies anytime soon.

Police departments and their personnel ought to maintain a degree of vigilance with regard to the Party for Socialism and Liberation, the Workers World Party, and other subversive organizations that ideologically identify with Marxism-Leninism or that openly call for the violent overthrow of capitalism and the American government.

Such Marxist-Leninist organizations also have the potential of placing uniformed law-enforcement personnel in danger, as their rhetoric may inspire others to commit violence or other acts of attrition against law enforcement. The recent demonstrations in Crown Heights reported by the *New York Post* are a call to attention to the Marxist menace behind the current lawless, anti-police movement. ■

SPLC Civil Rights Group, or Hateful Smear Machine?



1980

Unrepentant communist terrorist leader Bill Ayers, whose Castro-funded Weather Underground bombed police stations and murdered cops, is celebrated as a visionary leader by the far-left SPLC.



2010

AP Images

by Alex Newman

Did you know that a practicing Muslim and a peaceful former Muslim concerned about terrorism were “anti-Muslim extremists”? Or how about the idea that a prominent black woman who teaches law and fights white nationalism was really “an apologist for white supremacists”? Did you know the “matriarch” of a vast “anti-Indian movement” in the United States was actually a Cherokee Indian married to another Indian? Or that “more than half of white Americans” have “anti-black attitudes”? You probably never would have guessed that numerous women, including self-described feminists, were really advocates of “a hateful ideology advocating for the subjugation of women,” would you? And you almost certainly never would have guessed that evangelical Christians, Catholics, and Orthodox Jews are examples of “religious extremism,” alongside al-Qaeda and Hamas — Right?

If all of those claims sound beyond absurd to you, you’re not alone, obviously. But despite sounding like they might have come from an alternative universe, those wild claims have nevertheless been made in recent years by what was once viewed as a highly influential organization — a group that still seeks to influence police and government agencies all across America. Meet the Southern Poverty Law Center, the self-styled “civil rights” organization that expects law enforcement professionals and others to believe such absurdities — and even to act on them. More than a few experts across the political spectrum have actually warned that it is the SPLC that threatens America, and not just because a convicted terrorist cited the group as his inspiration.

With a war chest approaching half a billion dollars, the SPLC has become an incredibly powerful machine. But the facts are still the facts, and the SPLC is not known for sticking to them. In fact, the

organization has developed a reputation as a money-making scam that traffics in lies and innuendo to demonize conservatives, at best — or a dangerous anti-Christian “hate group” that openly praises and inspires murderous terrorists and cop killers, at worst. Even many voices on the far left side of the political spectrum, with whom the SPLC would seem to have much in common, have started denouncing the organization in growing numbers. There are good reasons for the increasing suspicion and hostility toward the SPLC.

But despite declining credibility, the SPLC retains significant influence. From creating controversial materials that are used on children in public schools, to establishing a newly revealed partnership with video-hosting giant YouTube to censor Christian and conservative content, to its work seeking influence over government agencies, the Alabama-based “non-profit” has a broad reach. However, as the group becomes increasingly extreme and smears an increasingly broad segment of the mainstream American population, the SPLC’s reputation as a fringe attack group with a hatred of Christians and conservatives is likely to solidify. In the meantime, great damage is being done to innocent people.

Anti-Muslim Muslims

Among the many examples of the SPLC’s antics that have been pounced on by critics in recent years was the group’s now-infamous *Field Guide to Anti-Muslim Extremists*. Published in December of 2016, the SPLC guide argues that America is becoming a bastion of anti-Muslim hate. And the hatred is fueled by “propaganda” coming from a “network of anti-Muslim extremists and their enablers.” According to the SPLC, these anti-Muslim haters go on TV and write in newspapers, where they “routinely espouse a wide range of utter falsehoods, all designed to make Muslims appear as blood-thirsty terrorists or people



In its widely ridiculed “Field Guide to Anti-Muslim Extremists,” the SPLC even designated a moderate Muslim who speaks out against jihad terrorism as an anti-Muslim extremist.

intent on undermining American constitutional freedoms.” It all sounds pretty scary. Until one actually reads the report.

The SPLC list includes 15 people, mostly journalists, researchers, and academics, who have been sounding the alarm about what they view as the threat to the West from radical Islam. None of the targets identified by the SPLC are considered violent, and most are actually very mainstream. They include Daniel Pipes, founder of the Middle East Forum; Walid Shoebat, a former Islamic jihadist who converted to Christianity; David Yerushalmi, a lawyer and Hasidic Jew who opposes Sharia (Islamic) law; former FBI agent John Guandolo, who educates law enforcement and policymakers on what he considers to be the threat of Islamist terrorism; and more. In many cases, the SPLC cites factual statements the alleged “extremists” have made as evidence of their supposed extremism.

But some of the names on the list sparked worldwide criticism and ridicule. Consider, for example, Maajid Nawaz, a former jihadist turned moderate Muslim activist and politician who works to counter the violent Islamic narratives spread by extremists such as ISIS and al-Qaeda. Incredibly, the SPLC listed him as one of its top “Anti-Muslim Extremists” in the world. Among the evidence of his anti-Muslim extremism: his opposition to women wearing a full veil in identity-sensitive public locations in the West such as courts and airports, his post of a cartoon with Jesus and Mohammed

that the SPLC complained many Muslims see “as blasphemous,” and his assertion that non-violent Islamists share the same ideology as violent Islamists even if they disagree on tactics.

Nawaz ridiculed the SPLC for its smear. “A bunch of first-world, comfortable liberal Americans who are not Muslims have decided from their comfortable perch to label me, an activist who is working within his Muslim community to push back against extremism, an anti-Muslim extremist,” he was quoted as saying. “I learned Arabic in order to read my holy book. In an Intelligence Squared debate, I defended the proposition that Islam was a religion of peace. This was the same week that the man who attempted to bomb Times Square was sentenced so it wasn’t the friendliest New York audience. I hosted Morgan Freeman in a mosque for his documentary *The Story of God*.”

But as others on the list, Nawaz says the SPLC actually put his life in danger by labeling him. “They’ve put a target on my head,” he told a reporter after the SPLC report came out. “This is what putting people on lists does. When Theo Van Gogh was killed in the Netherlands, a list was stuck to his body that included [fellow SPLC-designated anti-Muslim extremist] Ayaan Hirsi Ali’s name. It was a hit list. When Bangladeshi reformers were hacked to death by jihadist terrorists, they were working off lists. Only fascists produce lists.” In a troubling example of the danger, a convicted terrorist told the FBI in

2012 that he used the SPLC’s “hate map” to select his intended victims.

The SPLC’s extremism has gotten so out of control that the *New York Times*, which even liberals admit is a liberal publication, allowed a response to the group’s “Anti-Muslim” smear operations. On August 24, 2017, the paper published an opinion piece by former Muslim Ayaan Hirsi Ali, a black woman and self-described feminist who serves as a research fellow at the Hoover Institution. Because the Somalia-born activist sounds the alarm about Islamic extremists such as al-Qaeda and ISIS, and Islamic extremism generally, she found herself labeled an “anti-Muslim extremist” as well. While the SPLC includes moderate, non-violent victims of Islamism such as Hirsi Ali on its hit list, she noted, it has no list of Muslim extremists — many of whom actually *do* use violence and terror against innocent people.

In her *Times* opinion piece, Hirsi Ali argued that “the S.P.L.C. is an organization that has lost its way, smearing people who are fighting for liberty and turning a blind eye to an ideology and political movement that has much in common with Nazism.” That ideology, she said, is Islamic extremism — a totalitarian and deeply hateful ideology that Ali says has victimized millions, primarily in Muslim nations such as Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan, and Syria. She slammed as a “travesty” the SPLC’s targeting of those “who speak up for the civil rights of Muslims.”

“Muslims today cannot freely debate the role of their religion in most Muslim-majority countries, where the charges of heresy or apostasy can mean a death sentence or a lynch mob,” she concluded in her piece chastising the SPLC and the large corporations that fund it. “Here in the West, too, free discussion of Islam is getting harder, not least because Islamic organizations like the Council on American-Islamic Relations pounce on any criticism of Islam, branding it ‘hate speech,’ the modern word for heresy. Unwittingly or not, the S.P.L.C. is abetting Islamic extremists by branding critical thinkers like Mr. Nawaz and me ‘extremists.’”

The Tablet, a prominent Jewish publication, ridiculed the SPLC list as a “blacklist



of prominent writers whose opinions on a range of cultural and political issues are offensive to the SPLC.” Digging a little deeper into the list of 15 alleged “Anti-Muslim Extremists,” who are listed as haters by the SPLC alongside genuine haters such as the Ku Klux Klan and neo-Nazis, revealed that the group had truly gone off the deep end, critics said. “The SPLC document is simply an enemies’ list, of the kind that fascists, Stalinists, and other totalitarian thinkers can’t help producing,” the *Tablet* continued. The writer, Lee Smith, went on to criticize the SPLC for “aggressively defending the kind of violent supremacists it had once sought to prosecute, and attacking types like Nawaz it had once defended against violence.”

After being threatened with a lawsuit, the SPLC appears to have quietly removed the report from its website. But the damage had already been done.

The SPLC does believe there is some religious extremism, though. In fact, it emerged that the Obama administration’s Defense Department was using SPLC propaganda on U.S. troops. In one especially outrageous example, a PowerPoint presentation used by the Obama DOD on “religious extremism” even included a list of examples. On that list were al-Qaeda and Hamas, two officially designated Islamist terrorist organizations, as well as the KKK. Also on the list, though, were evangelical Christians, Catholics, and Orthodox Jews. While the SPLC tried to distance itself from the scandal, the presentation and the presenter listed the SPLC as the source of the information.

Anti-Indian Indians

If Muslims can be “Anti-Muslim Extremists,” it may come as no surprise that the SPLC imagined a vast supposed “Anti-Indian” movement — led by an actual Indian. In the Spring 2016 issue of its “Intelligence Report,” the SPLC ran a piece headlined “Seeing Red” that purported to uncover a vast network of “anti-Indian activists.” Calling American Indians “weak,” the SPLC piece described “violent hostility” that is “our original hatred.” But now, the nefarious “organized anti-Indian movement” has a new tactic:

They speak of “equality,” the SPLC said, with the term “equality” supposedly being a code word for hate.

The ostensible leader of all this, a gentle woman named Elaine Willman, is described as “the silver-haired matriarch” of the “Anti-Indian” movement. The SPLC quotes her concerns as she outlined them at a conference put on by the Citizens Equal Rights Alliance (CERA), “arguably the most important anti-Indian group in the nation,” the SPLC said, adding that Willman, the former leader of CERA, was still on the board. In particular, the SPLC was outraged by CERA and Willman speaking about the United Nations and the UN Agenda 21, a global sustainability program that critics say threatens private property rights, national sovereignty, and self-government. The SPLC falsely characterized Agenda 21 as a “conspiracy theory,” despite the fact that the UN program, signed by then-President George H.W. Bush, can be downloaded straight from the UN’s website.

In the whole 1,500-plus word “intelligence” report, the author fails to mention a single time that the “anti-Indian” leader — the “matriarch” of the whole “anti-Indian movement” — is actually an Indian of Cherokee ancestry. Her husband is also an American Indian, and is, in fact, a direct descendant of Sacajawea, arguably America’s most famous Indian. In addition to being an Indian, Willman is an activist

in favor of equal rights without regard to race, as she emphasizes repeatedly in her book *Going to Pieces: The Dismantling of the United States of America*. All she wants is for everyone to be treated equally by the government regardless of their race, which the SPLC imagines is part of some secret conspiracy.

The SPLC’s omission of those crucial facts is typical of how the organization attempts to mislead law enforcement, donors, the media, and the public at large. After all, who would believe that there was a big, scary anti-Indian movement in need of fighting if they knew that the movement for equal rights was actually led by an Indian married to an Indian who openly proclaims her love for all things Indian? In comments to the media afterwards, Willman also highlighted a number of other blatant factual errors and misrepresentations contained in the SPLC report, which were not corrected as of April of 2018. Incredibly, the group’s report even concludes by suggesting that Willman and the movement she ostensibly leads is “implicit” white nationalism.

Anti-Women Women; White Supremacist Blacks

In its quest to find ever more haters lurking under every bed, the SPLC has also created new categories of “Hate Groups” and “hate.” One of the relatively new additions



Moderate Muslim activist Maajid Nawaz of the United Kingdom was smeared by the SPLC as an “anti-Muslim extremist,” prompting outrage and ridicule of the group.

AP Images



to the hate list is known as “Male Supremacy.” According to the SPLC, which added the category in 2018, Male Supremacists vilify women based on their gender. “The vilification of women by these groups makes them no different than other groups that demean entire populations, such as the LGBT community, Muslims or Jews, based on their inherent characteristics,” the SPLC report claims, without delving into the question of whether homosexuality or transgenderism are actually inherent characteristics, or how being a “woman” and being able to choose one’s gender can both be inherent characteristics simultaneously.

Delving deeper into the new “hate” category it identified, the SPLC paints a scary, if imaginary, picture of a vast underworld of women haters. “Driven by a biological analysis of women as fundamentally inferior to men, male supremacists malign women specifically for their gender,” the SPLC said. “Their thinly veiled desire for the domination of women and their conviction that the current system oppresses men in favor of women are the unifying tenets of the male supremacist worldview.”

In the “Male Supremacy” category, the SPLC listed two websites as “hate groups” that had not been previously included in its hate list. Both are what is known as “men’s rights” advocates, which essentially argue that feminism has gone too far, that promiscuity is wrong, and that patriarchy is superior to what has come to be known as “women’s liberation.” One of the website operators targeted by the SPLC, Daryush Valizadeh of the site Return of Kings, ridiculed the SPLC, saying, “there’s already a perfectly good word for ‘male supremacy’ which you happen to lovingly support: Islam.” But on a more serious note, he blasted the group for using a “mountain of lies” to “shut down speech that goes against their far-left agenda.”

As if to confirm the arguments of crit-



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Former Vanderbilt Law Professor Carol Swain was smeared as a “white supremacist apologist” by the SPLC for opposing illegal immigration.

ics, though, the SPLC went on to attack allegedly anti-women *women* as well. “Women, too, have helped give the men’s rights movement a veneer of even-handedness,” the SPLC said in its description of the new “hate” categorization. “Prominent MRAs [Men’s Rights Activists] also include anti-feminist female voices, such as popular Canadian YouTube personality Karen Straughan, American psychologist Helen Smith, and the former head of a domestic-violence shelter for women, the British Erin Pizzey. Men’s rights issues also overlap with the rhetoric of equality feminists like Christina Hoff Sommers, who give a mainstream and respectable face to some MRA concerns.”

Sommers, a mainstream feminist who questions theories such as the “wage gap,” expressed surprise at being included. “The Factual Feminist has been denounced by the Southern Poverty Law Center as an enabler of male supremacy,” she wrote on Twitter. “Last year leader of MRA group denounced me for being a female supremacist. Both wrong. I’m a facts and logic supremacist.” When she criticized the SPLC for the attack, the SPLC went even further. In a massive diatribe against her, the group

suggested she was an apologist for white supremacy, too, because she had shared the stage with homosexual activist and alleged “white supremacy enabler” Milo Yiannopolous and had appeared on a podcast with a host she did not realize was a white nationalist. Both Yiannopolous and Sommers are Jewish, making the SPLC accusations against them especially bizarre.

But accusing women of being anti-women may seem like small potatoes compared to the SPLC’s attack against Dr. Carol Swain. Swain, a professor of political science and law at Vanderbilt University, is known for her expertise on racism and white nationalism, having written books about it. She is so highly regarded on the subject that she was appointed to the Tennessee Advisory Committee of the U.S.

Civil Rights Commission in 2007. The next year, she was confirmed by the U.S. Senate for a seat with the National Council on the Humanities, the advisory board to the National Endowment for the Humanities. She is also a black woman, who grew up in rural poverty and dropped out of school in eighth grade, married at 16, had three children, and yet somehow went to college and succeeded against all odds.

But the SPLC did not approve of her bonafides. “Carol Swain is an apologist for white supremacists,” said SPLC bigwig Mark Potok, who has contributed articles to the Communist Party USA’s official mouthpiece *People’s World*. Her sin, in the eyes of the SPLC, was having the temerity to suggest in a book that America has a right to have borders and enforce immigration laws, she explained in a response to the accusations. “Because of that book, which has been well received, I think they wanted to shut my voice down on the immigration issue,” she said. The professor is also a Christian, which is another big no-no for the folks at SPLC, if their hate listings of mainstream Christian groups are any indication. And she had the gall to criticize the SPLC for its smears of decent Americans.

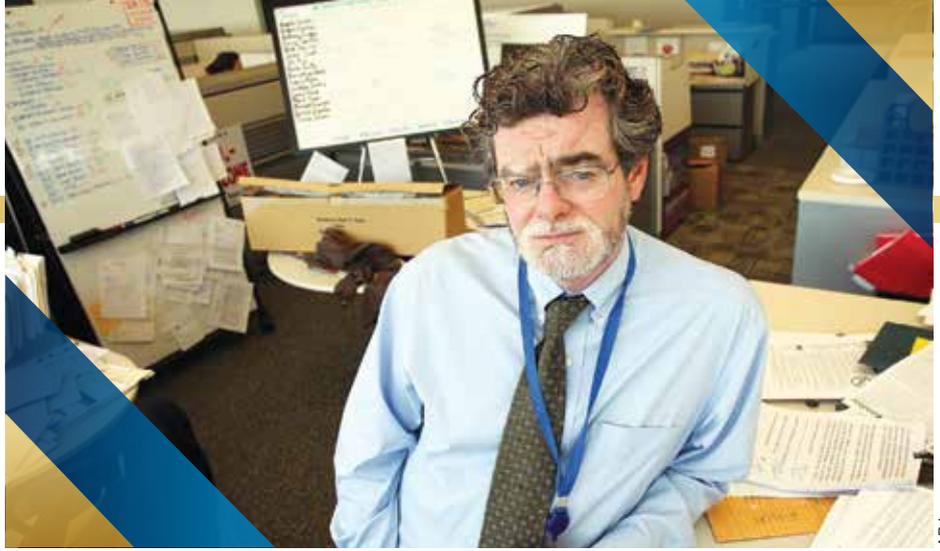


“Being targeted by the SPLC has had a lasting impact on my life and career,” Swain wrote in the *Wall Street Journal*. “Offers from other universities ended and speaking opportunities declined. Once you’ve been smeared in this way, mainstream news outlets are less likely to cite you as an expert of any kind. Yet today I wear the SPLC’s mud as a badge of honor because I know I am in the company of many good men and women who have been similarly vilified for standing for righteousness and truth.... Some of those vilified by the SPLC have been subjected to even worse treatment. The Family Research Council and House Majority Whip Steve Scalise have been violently attacked by individuals inspired by the propaganda the SPLC regularly dishes out.”

But at the SPLC, it seems anybody can be a racist and a hater. Indeed, if even black people can be defenders of white supremacy in SPLC world, and Muslims can be anti-Muslim extremists, it may not shock the reader to learn that one of the group’s key voices, Potok, told CNN *most* white Americans are racists. “Well I think the best data shows that in fact anti-black racism has risen over the last four or five years,” Potok claimed in an interview before being ridiculed even by a black CNN contributor. “There’s polling that shows that both implicit and explicit anti-black attitudes among American whites have gone up quite significantly between 2008 and 2012 to the point where now more than half of white Americans have these anti-black attitudes.”

Mainstream Conservatives, Christians Smeared

While the SPLC imagines and concocts racism in anything and everything, it appears to have a special animus for black Christians who hold fast to biblical notions of morality and sexuality. Among the many black pastors and preachers that have found themselves in the group’s cross hairs — primarily for their views on marriage — are Chicago’s Rev. Gregory Daniels; Bishop Harry Jackson of the Washington, D.C., area; Bishop Eddie Long from Atlanta; Rev. Keith Butler from Detroit; Bishop Wellington Boone of Norcross, Georgia; Pastor Ken Hutcherson of Redmond, Washington; Rev. Jesse Lee



AP Images

In a bizarre interview on CNN, SPLC spokesman Mark Potok claimed most white Americans have “anti-black attitudes,” a claim that was ridiculed even by a CNN black contributor.

Peterson of Los Angeles; and the Chicago area’s Rev. James Meeks.

In 2015, the SPLC even listed famed pediatric brain surgeon Dr. Ben Carson, one of America’s most celebrated black men, on its “Extremist Watch List.” His crime: daring to stand for traditional marriage. He was listed alongside former KKK Grand Wizard David Duke and other racist leaders. In particular, the SPLC claimed Carson’s arguments against “re-defining marriage” were extreme, as well as his view that homosexuality is a sin. Carson, who currently serves as President Donald Trump’s U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, was simply stating what Christians, Muslims, Jews, and virtually all other major faiths and cultures have believed for millennia. In fact, even former President Barack Obama ran on a traditional-marriage platform before his views “evolved,” though the SPLC never listed Obama.

After starting a firestorm of criticism for listing the mild-mannered Christian neurosurgeon as an extremist, the SPLC backed down — a little. “This week, as we’ve come under intense criticism for doing so, we’ve reviewed our profile and have concluded that it did not meet our standards, so we have taken it down and apologize to Dr. Carson for having posted it,” the SPLC said after being mercilessly mocked across the media. “We’ve also come to the conclusion that the question of whether a better-researched profile of Dr. Carson should or should not be included in our ‘Extremist Files’ is taking attention from the fact that Dr. Carson has, in fact, made a number of statements that express views that we believe most people would conclude are extreme.”

Among the many prominent and loyal Americans denounced and smeared by the SPLC was Phyllis Schlafly, widely regarded as the most important female conservative leader in American history. While most remember her for her pro-family activism and her successful efforts to derail the controversial “Equal Rights Amendment” to the Constitution, the SPLC took a much darker view. To mark her death in 2016, the group blasted her as the “ultra-conservative movement matriarch” who “went on to oppose gay rights and promote antigovernment conspiracy theories.” Of course, like most other victims of the SPLC’s smear machine, Schlafly did not have an “antigovernment” bone in her body. The half-baked attack on a gentle, deceased woman’s memory was filed under the SPLC website’s “Hate Watch” section, although the outfit never identified any examples of “hate.”

Some of America’s leading Christian ministries have been smeared, too. Among them is the American Family Association and its millions of members and supporters. Another, the Family Research Council, also found itself listed as a “hate group” for supporting marriage. As critics have pointed out, the SPLC’s criteria on “hate” regarding homosexuality is so loose that it could have landed many Democrats or even the Dalai Lama, who considers homosexuality “sexual misconduct,” on its list of haters. To artificially boost the number of haters, the SPLC also frequently exaggerates or lies, labeling a defunct website or blog a “hate group” so it can claim that the number of hate groups is rising. Even the “Granny Warriors,” founded by a patriotic 74-year-old grandmother, landed on the SPLC’s list.



RELIGIOUS EXTREMISM

- ▶ EVANGELICAL CHRISTIANITY (U.S./CHRISTIAN)
- ▶ IKHWAN or MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD (EGYPT/MUSLIM)
- ▶ ULTRA-ORTHODOX (ISRAEL/JUDAISM)
- ▶ CHRISTIAN IDENTITY (U.S./CHRISTIAN)
- ▶ AL QUAEDA (TRANSNATIONAL/ISLAM)
- ▶ HAMAS (PALESTINIAN/ISLAMIST)
- ▶ ABU SAYYAH (PHILIPPINES/ISLAM)
- ▶ KU KLUX KLAN (U.S./CHRISTIANITY)
- ▶ SRI RAM SENE (INDIA/HINDU)
- ▶ CATHOLICISM (U.S./CHRISTIAN)
- ▶ KAHANE MOVEMENT/KACH (ISRAEL/JEWISH)
- ▶ ARMY OF GOD (U.S./CHRISTIANITY)
- ▶ SUNNI MUSLIMS (IRAQ/ISLAM)
- ▶ NATION OF ISLAM (U.S./ISLAM)
- ▶ JEWISH DEFENSE LEAGUE (U.S./JUDAISM)
- ▶ FUNDAMENTALIST CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS (U.S./MORMAN)
- ▶ HUTAREE (U.S./CHRISTIAN)
- ▶ ISLAMOPHOBIA

Citing SPLC hate propaganda, the Obama administration used this slide to teach U.S. troops that Evangelical Christians, Orthodox Jews, and Catholics have “religious extremism” like al Qaeda and Hamas.

Conclusion

It isn't just the SPLC's enemies lists that tell a tale. As the *Law Enforcement Intelligence Brief* explained in its very first issue, much can also be gleaned about the SPLC from those praised by the organization. Consider, for example, the SPLC's treatment of Bill Ayers, a proud, violent extremist whose terror group, the Weather Underground, murdered police officers, and bombed multiple U.S. targets including the NYPD headquarters and Capitol Hill. The Weather Underground even plotted the re-education and mass extermination of millions of counter-revolutionary Americans in camps, according to the FBI infiltrator who penetrated the group's leadership. The outfit's terror was funded and guided in part by the mass-murdering communist dictatorship enslaving Cuba, which was a puppet of the Soviet Union. And not only did Ayers never repent, he boasted publicly that his only regret was failing to set even more bombs.

The SPLC's treatment of Ayers reveals a great deal. Instead of featuring him as a prime example of real violent extremism in America, the SPLC glorified him on its website in a featured interview. “Throughout his career as a civil rights organizer, radical anti-Vietnam War activist, teacher and

author, Ayers has developed a rich vision of teaching that interweaves passion, responsibility and self-reflection,” the SPLC wrote on its website aimed at schools. “Ayers has taught in public schools and spearheaded alternative education projects.... As a professor of education at the University of Illinois at Chicago, he helps aspiring teachers recognize and tap the potential of every child. For Ayers, challenging stereotypes and reforming inner-city schools is as much about fighting for social justice as about improving the quality of teaching and learning.”

When controversy erupted around the SPLC's brazen glorification of the proud, unrepentant, murderous terrorist, the group added an “Editor's Note” defending its decision to praise and promote the “former anti-war activist.” While the website eventually admitted that Ayers and his group were indeed involved in multiple bombings and deadly terrorism — and that the criminal charges were only dropped due to a legal technicality — the SPLC doubled down, praising the terrorist yet again as a “highly respected figure.” The group did not mention that Ayers regretted not having set more bombs, or the fact that he publicly said he might set bombs again in the future.

The fruit of the SPLC's hate-mongering has also been bloody. Indeed, on August

15, 2012, a would-be terrorist and mass murderer named Floyd Corkins got the SPLC hate map, a gun, and a bag of Chick-fil-A sandwiches. His plan was to massacre employees of the Family Research Council, a pro-family Christian ministry that landed on the SPLC “hate” list for opposing homosexuality. Only Corkins' incompetence and the bravery of a security guard prevented a massive bloodbath. After being arrested, the terrorist said the SPLC's hate propaganda has inspired him to massacre ministry employees.

Even many liberal voices have started wising up to the SPLC. Mainstream and liberal publications ranging from *Harper's* and *Politico* to *The Nation* and *The Week* have all exposed the group's increasingly unhinged attacks on mainstream Americans due to their political views. Writing at *The Week*, for example, anti-Trump activist Shikha Dalmia lambasted the group. “The SPLC is now useful only to Social Justice Warriors who share its ideology in toto,” she wrote. “For everyone else it is fast becoming a joke.”

Many leading liberals have also spoken out. Civil rights attorney and Southern Center for Human Rights President Stephen Bright, for example, citing investigations and even a federal judge, lambasted SPLC founder Morris Dees as a “con man and fraud” who takes advantage of “naive, well-meaning people” for his own benefit. What Bright did not mention: In court documents, Dees was accused of beating his wife and sexually molesting his underage stepdaughter, among other abhorrent behavior.

Far from being a credible source of information, the SPLC has become a well-funded smear machine that exists primarily to demonize and silence Christian and conservative voices while raking in “a pile of money,” as the SPLC founder's business partner put it. Specifically, the group has almost half a billion dollars in its endowment. Already, many government agencies and media organizations have quit relying on the SPLC for anything. For the sake of liberty and truth, it is time for all Americans from across the political spectrum — and especially law enforcement — to recognize that the SPLC has crossed the line too many times. ■

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Police Are People Too

Helping our fellow officers is easier than you think — no matter how big a city you live in.

By Robin Kinderman

If you watch any of the major news channels, you know that all police officers are racist, militant monsters who use their power to physically abuse minorities and shoot innocent people. You know they're all brainwashed military wannabes who love to assert their power by conducting drug raids and arresting civilians.

The reality — as many of us know (at least those of you reading this article) — is that law enforcement officers are people like you and me, and many are dealing with issues we can't even begin to imagine. Yet, even for those of us who know this, the world of policing is often alien and intimidating. We find it difficult to explain to our fellow citizens *why* they should support their local police.

The answer is this: because local police are the “thin blue line” between order and chaos. Our Founders laid out our nation so that the powers of the federal government were few and defined, and the powers of the states and the people were many and indefinite. The police are a branch of state and local law. Your local officers are hired by the chief, who is selected by the mayor (or city council), who is elected by YOU. Your local police are accountable to you, and this enables communities to remain autonomous from the federal government. Can you imagine if all the police officers in your town were actually FBI agents taking their orders from Washington? They would be completely out of touch with what's going on in your town, and probably wouldn't have time for you anyway.

Depending on the town or city they work for, law enforcement officers operate differently; they do what they feel is the most beneficial for their community.

Lieutenant Joe Benoit is an officer of 12 years for the small town of Omro, Wisconsin, located just east of Oshkosh. A total of nine officers serve the community of 3,500. It's a town much like Mayberry, where everyone knows everyone else, and the guy Officer Benoit arrests Saturday night may be standing in line with him at the grocery store the next day.

Officer Benoit explained that a small town officer is quite different than the perception people have of a big-city cop. He said a lot of the issues the police deal with are family squabbles. Because of the town's low population, everyone knows the officers on a personal basis — they frequent many of the same places and their kids all go to school together. The lack of privacy may seem like a drawback to those of us from bigger cities, but Benoit says it has its benefits:

Our citizens see through the negative propaganda. They don't see us as racist, abusive, power-hungry thugs. We're under a microscope all the time, but you get to know each other. You can't build that trust when you're just a number like [officers] are in a bigger city. The true meaning of community-oriented policing is like Mayberry — people will stand up for you.

Officer Benoit emphasized that maintaining good relationships with the people of his town is crucial to productive policing.



Lieutenant Joe Benoit



People need to be comfortable with you if you want to be proactive. This is difficult to do in a big city. Cops need to interact with people – go play basketball with the kids. They’ll get comfortable with the presence of a police officer and they will willingly share information.”

Knowing people on a first name basis may not be as easy in a larger community, but being involved is just as important.

Officer Kate Mann is the public affairs and resource officer for the city of Oshkosh, Wisconsin, population 66,579. Her department employs 101 officers who deal mostly with property crimes like theft and burglary. They work hard to keep up positive rapport with civilians, hosting and participating in fundraisers and community events like the Polar Plunge (a yearly fundraiser for Special Olympics that involves participants “plunging” into the lake – in the middle of winter).

“If you go on our Facebook page, you’ll see that we participate in all kinds of events.” Mann explained. “We just recently held a K9 fundraiser at Buffalo Wild Wings. We’re always doing stuff.” Indeed, scrolling down their news feed, there are pictures of a bike safety class at a local church, a “Unity in the Community” event, a city-wide race to raise money for the Kiwanis Club, and a question-and-answer session held at a local elementary school – and



Officer Kate Mann

that was all within the first half of May! Mann said they do whatever they can to practice their department’s motto, “Know us before you need us,” and it has resulted in a very pro-police community.

Police involvement in the community is not as easy in a large city, but everyday citizens can make a positive impact simply by understanding the police and sharing that knowledge.

Larger cities are where we see the riots taking place – radical groups like Black Lives Matter and Antifa chanting anti-cop sentiments, and the leftist media airing their edited clips of officers being racist, brutal, and trigger happy. The cops’ hands get tied by organizations such as the SPLC and ACLU so that chaos ensues, leaving no choice but for the police to either bring in their military gear, or call in the National Guard. What follows is what we typically see on TV.

Thomas Clarke is a retired undercover narcotics agent for the Montana Criminal Investigation Unit. He spent 20 years in the field, working his way up from patrol officer to detective to working directly with the FBI. He is now the owner and operator of TBK Tactical, which offers tactical training for law enforcement officers. He says,

Everything you do has an element of risk. When you pull someone over, you don’t know what’s behind the wheel. You just don’t know. Law enforcement is a contact sport. The reality is that things get dirty. Officers are people and they get scared. It’s not okay to let fear dictate your actions. A lot of places don’t have adequate training, but [the officers] are still expected to go out into the field.

Clarke explained that despite their academy training, officers can always benefit from additional training, especially in today’s racially and politically charged climate. One way people can help is to raise money to pay the tuition of these classes for their local officers.

Despite their different environments, all three of these officers strongly agreed on one thing – the best way people can support



Thomas Clarke

their local police is to simply go down to the station and ask how they can help.

“One of the best ways to help is to purchase equipment. There’s so much equipment that eats up a budget,” Benoit told me. “Just stop in and ask what they need.”

“The best way to help is to simply ask,” Mann agreed.

“Police are there to work with the community. It’s an open-door policy. You should never feel uncomfortable about talking to an officer and asking questions,” Clarke explained. “Police start to forget that the bad people they deal with are a microcosm of society. It’s okay to walk up to an officer and say hi.” He added that police (even in bigger cities) need to reciprocate this effort. “Get out of your car. Go talk to people, interact with people. Play games with kids. People shouldn’t have the perception that you only show up when there’s trouble.”

Remember, law enforcement officers are people, too. They are men and women who made the noble choice to go into a profession that involves risking their lives every day. The least we can do is thank them. Even better, we can understand them. Clarke summed it up best:

Understand that what you’re seeing on TV is only a microcosm of what’s really going on. People need to stop responding to what’s being spoon-fed to them by the media. Use common sense. Put your thinking cap on. ■



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