

The
Southern
Poverty
Law
Center

October 25, 1994

White supremacists and their paramilitary supporters have been closely associated with David Duke and other white racist leaders.

We have also received reports that active-duty military personnel as well as former servicemen may be assisting some of the open-former militia. Based on our North Carolina experience, these reports are ominous.

Honorable Janet Reno
United States Attorney General
United States Department of Justice
511 Main Justice Building
10th Street and Constitution Avenue
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Reno,

On behalf of the Southern Poverty Law Center's 1,000,000+ supporters. I urge you to alert all federal law enforcement authorities to the growing danger posed by the ~~white supremacists~~ ~~paramilitaries~~ ~~now~~ ~~arising~~ ~~up~~ ~~in~~ ~~at~~ ~~least~~ ~~eighteen~~ ~~states.~~ Some sources put this number as high as thirty.

We have substantial evidence that white supremacists are infiltrating the leadership of these organizations. In our view, this mixture of armed groups and those who hate is a recipe for disaster.

The Justice Department's own experience demonstrates that the danger is very real. In 1984, for example, federal prosecutors obtained convictions of 22 members of the Order, an armed ~~and~~ ~~illegal~~ ~~white racist~~ ~~group~~ ~~mentoring~~ ~~inciting~~ ~~a race war~~ ~~that would lead to the~~ ~~overthrow of the government.~~ These men had robbed over \$ 4.1 million, stored caches of military weapons, killed a well-known person from ~~Death~~ and ~~injuring~~ ~~the~~ ~~lives~~ ~~of many~~ ~~other~~ ~~nonwhite~~ ~~citizens.~~

In 1986, the Justice Department helped stop the paramilitary operations of the North Carolina White Patriot Party after our office provided evidence that active-duty military personnel were assisting the group and providing military armament. White Patriot Party members were linked to many crimes, including ~~murder~~.

Our office has corroborated the involvement of a member of well-known white supremacists, Posse Comitatus, Identity Christian, and other extremist leaders and groups in the growing militia movement. Those individuals involved include Louis Beam, ~~one~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~most~~ ~~wanted~~ ~~list~~ ~~and~~ ~~now~~ ~~an~~ ~~American~~ ~~National~~ ~~Leader~~, ~~Weld~~, a Posse Comitatus =

leaders who intended to violently go to Bass' counter-revolutionary army, and James "Bo" Gritz, a notorious anti-Semite who has been associated with David Duke and other white racist leaders.

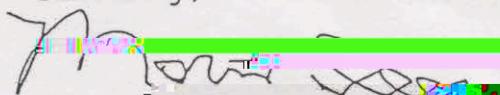
We have also received reports that active duty military personnel, the National Guard, and the North Carolina experience, these reports are ominous.

Citizens have the right to form peaceful groups to protest gun legislation and to engage in target practice. But they do not have the right to possess illegal weapons. Based on the history of past military operations of white supremacists, a new, highly illegal sort is already occurring.

I have enclosed a brief biographical sketch of some white leaders and others who are involved in the militia movement, a list of all militia groups, their help and a list of state militia groups that have no known white supremacy involvement. I will be happy to express my case issued by the Carter administration in this regard.

Please feel free to contact me or my staff if you can be of assistance.

Sincerely,



Morris Dees
Chief Trial Counsel

MD/jb

Enclosed

cc: Linda Davis, Chief
Criminal Section, Civil Rights Division
U. S. Department of Justice