

The
Southern
Poverty
Law
Center

October 20, 25 1994

Honorable Janet Reno
United States Attorney General
United States Department of Justice
511 Main Justice Building
1500 California and Constitution Avenue
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Reno:

On behalf of the Southern Poverty Law Center and its 350,000 supporters, I urge you to alert all federal law enforcement authorities to the growing danger posed by the 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 in Seattle obtained convictions of 22 members of the Order, an armed white racist group bent on inciting a race war that would lead to the overthrow of the government. These convicted had robbed armored cars over \$ 4.1 million, stored caches of military weapons, killed a well-known person from Denver, and threatened other 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

Our office has also identified the involvement of a number 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 Farrakhan, a member of the Posse Comitatus list and now an Army National Guard member, and a Posse Comitatus

leader [redacted] of conspiracy to pass counterfeit bills to fund a militia
army, and James "Bo" Gritz, a notorious anti-Semite who has
associated with David Duke and other white racist leaders.

We have also received reports that active duty military personnel
Based on our 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 on the property of a parent, or to engage in air operations of
white supremacist organizations.

I have enclosed a brief biographical sketch of some white
leaders and others who are involved in the militia movement, a list of the
militia groups existing in their state, and a list of state militia groups that have
no known white supremacy involvement. These are the groups that have
press releases issued by the FBI.

Please feel free to contact me or my staff if you need assistance.

Sincerely,



Morris E. Bus
Chief Trial Clerk

MD/jb

Encl. 2

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