A Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF) is a multi-agency law enforcement coalition bringing together various federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies, led by the FBI.

To work within a JTTF, members of state and local law enforcement are deputized as JTTF officers. And to complicate things, JTTF officers may not always identify themselves as JTTF but may instead refer back to their original affiliation (e.g., they may only identify themselves as “detectives”).

The focus and methods of JTTFs today are far from novel. The FBI’s predecessor agency targeted leftist movements during the PALMER RAIDS in the early-1900s. Later, with COINTELPRO, the FBI sought to disrupt groups organizing towards civil rights and Black liberation. After 9/11, the JTTFs have disproportionately targeted Muslim (including Black Muslim) communities and organizations.

The national network of JTTFs has since grown significantly, especially post-9/11. There are now about 200 task forces around the country, including at least one in each of the FBI’s 56 field offices, with hundreds of participating state, local, and federal agencies.

In response to the current uprising, U.S. Attorney General Bill Barr announced that the federal government would be using the JTTFs to “identify criminal organizers and instigators,” specifically naming “Antifa and other similar groups.”

In the Department of Justice’s words: “A disruption is the result of direct actions and may include but is not limited to the arrest; seizure of assets; or impairing the operational capabilities of the key threat actors.”

Tactics JTTFs employ include:
- Offering incentives like money or leniency in the criminal justice or immigration system in exchange for information
- Leveraging the power to place people on watchlists to extract information
- Sending informants and undercovers to infiltrate organizing spaces, and
- Collecting open source intelligence by scouring social media and public websites.

Keep organizing and showing out on the streets. If we stop, they win.

Support amnesty demands for protestors who have been charged as part of JTTF and other law enforcement investigations.

If your city has a relationship with the JTTF, connect to local organizing (or start organizing!) for withdrawal from that relationship.

Decline to speak to the JTTF without an attorney present and do not consent to a search. For more information regarding your rights, please refer to our other resource: “Encounters with the FBI.”
Operation Legend is a U.S. Department of Justice-led operation focused on increasing federal law enforcement presence in our cities. Federal agents are being deployed under the guise of reducing violent crime, but with the actual motive of stifling what Trump dubs the “radical movement to defund, dismantle, and dissolve our police departments.”

This sets a dangerous precedent of silencing the voices of protesters and organizers in our cities as a form of federally-sponsored violence targeting Black and Brown communities.

**What is Operation Legend?**

Operation Legend started in **Kansas City** with the deployment of 225 federal agents from various Justice Department entities (FBI, ATF, DEA, U.S. Marshals Service) and from the Department of Homeland Security.

**Timeline of Expansion**

**July 8, 2020**
- DOJ announced deployment of 200+ federal agents to **Chicago** and 35 federal agents to **Albuquerque**.

**July 22, 2020**
- DOJ announced deployment of 25 federal agents to **Cleveland**, 25 federal agents to **Milwaukee**, and 42 federal agents in **Detroit**.

**July 29, 2020**
- DOJ announced deployment of 25 federal agents to **Cleveland**, 25 federal agents to **Milwaukee**, and 42 federal agents in **Detroit**.

**August 6, 2020**
- DOJ announced deployment of 50 federal agents to **St. Louis** and 24 federal agents to **Memphis**.

**August 14, 2020**
- DOJ announced deployment of 40 federal agents to **Indianapolis**.

Other possible expansion cities referenced in official announcements so far are New York City, Minneapolis, and Baltimore. It is unclear whether and when Operation Legend may reach these cities, but organizers should stay on high alert.

**What can you do?**

- **Keep organizing and showing out on the streets. If we stop, they win.**
- **Support amnesty demands** for protestors who have been charged as part of Operation Legend.
- **Support the BREATHE Act, M4BL’s bill to eliminate federal funding for punitive programs and to ensure that communities get the resources they need to thrive.**
- **Decline** to speak to any law enforcement agents without an attorney present and do not consent to a search. For more information regarding your rights, please refer to our other resource: “Encounters with the FBI.”

If you have been approached by law enforcement or if you have any questions, concerns or interest in hosting a rights awareness workshop, please reach out to CLEAR – cunyclear@law.cuny.edu