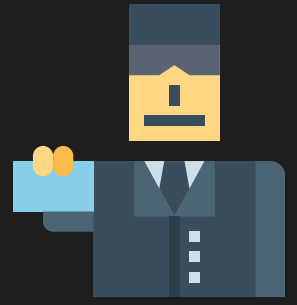


# JOINT TERRORISM TASK FORCES



## WHAT IS A JTTF?

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.

Non-federal JTTF officers continue to be paid on local taxpayer dime, even though they answer to federal authorities. Rules are unclear on how these local police officers should act when there is a conflict between obligations under state and local laws, on the one hand, and what JTTF superiors are ordering these officers to do, on the other hand.

**JTTFs are tasked with “disrupting terrorism suspects and suspected terrorism-related threats.”**



## EXPLOSION OF JTTFs



### 1980

The first JTTF was established in 1980 in New York City, with **ten FBI special agents and ten NYPD detectives**.



### TODAY

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.”**

## PRINCIPLES OF DISRUPTION

### DEFINITION

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

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.

## 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 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

## WHAT IS OPERATION LEGEND?

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.

## TIMELINE OF EXPANSION

JULY 8, 2020

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.



JULY 22, 2020

DOJ announced deployment of **200+** federal agents to **CHICAGO** and **35** federal agents to **ALBUQUERQUE**.



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**.



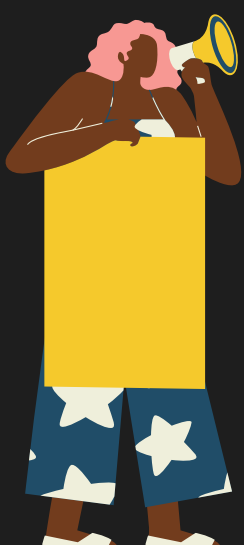
AUGUST 14, 2020

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.**”