

[redacted] (DO) (FBI)

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From: [redacted] (DO) (FBI)
Sent: Wednesday, October 11, 2017 9:47 AM
To: [redacted] (DO) (FBI)
Subject: FW: Queries on article about "black Identity extremists"

This was the original inquiry

[redacted]

National Press Office
FBI Office of Public Affairs

[redacted]

office
mobile

-----Original Message-----

From: [redacted] (DO) (FBI)
Sent: Wednesday, October 04, 2017 3:45 PM
To: Paul, Michael F. (CTD) (FBI) [redacted] (CTD) (FBI) [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]
Cc: [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted] (CTD) (FBI) [redacted]
Subject: FW: Queries on article about "black Identity extremists"

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Good Afternoon,

Foreign Policy has inquired about a CTD intelligence report regarding domestic terrorism. In particular they are interested in the use of the term "Black Identity Separatist" in the report. They have a source advising them that this is a new term, it is unique to the FBI and essentially suggest it is a racist term in and of itself. [redacted] and FP asks about this. There are further questions in the email below.

Please note that the reporter, Jana Winter, formerly of Fox News and of the Intercept continues to receive FBI JIBs and other FOUO-documents. I'd be interested in the distribution list for this particular document, whether it was widely distributed like JIBs or an internal FBI-only document. Their source seems to have some knowledge of DT groups.

Thank you,

[redacted]

Federal Bureau of Investigation
National Press Office

Desk: [redacted]
Cell: [redacted]

-----Original Message-----

From: Sharon Weinberger [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, October 04, 2017 2:50 PM

To: [redacted] (DO) (FBI) [redacted]
Cc: Jana Winter [redacted]
Subject: Queries on article about "black Identity extremists"

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Hi [redacted]

Thanks again for your quick turnaround on the previous article. On a completely separate subject, Jana Winter and I are working on an article about a report out of the FBI's counterterrorism division about "black identity extremists."

The document is titled "(U//~~FOUO~~) Black Identity Extremists Likely Motivated to Target Law Enforcement Officers, and dated 3 August 2017.

While Jana and I are both fairly cautious about making a big deal out of these sorts of documents, this particular report did strike us as unusual, and we discussed it with a number of people, to include former FBI and DHS officials, and they had a similar reaction. Pretty much everyone we consulted was concerned about the use of the term "Black Identity Extremist," as both not meaningful in a law enforcement context (since no such movement exists), and potentially racist, since it groups together people based mostly on the fact that they are African-American.

To the point, I know that the FBI doesn't usually comment on the substance of these reports, but we would encourage the bureau to consider engaging us on this one, particularly because our sources raised a number of pointed questions and concerns about the report's language and assumptions.

We would welcome an interview with an appropriate official to discuss the concerns that were raised with us, though in the absence of that, here are specific questions:

1) Where is the term "black identity extremist" from and when? This appears to be an FBI creation, and does not exist prior to a few months ago, so far as we can see. Does anyone actually identify as a "black identity extremist"? And if not, why is this term useful in a law enforcement context?

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3) One of the concerns raised by people we spoke with is the report, and the term BIE, lumps together groups that have little to do with each other. For example, a black separatist or Moorish sovereign citizen may have nothing to do with someone who is opposed to police abuses. A related concern was that the document appears to link current groups back historically, to the Black Panthers, yet there is no clear connection. Does FBI have a response to this concern?

4) Another concern is that such a report could lead to profiling and civil rights abuses. The main underlying factor, after all, is that someone is black and angry about police abuse.

If possible, we'd like to have feedback by COB Thursday, though as always, we're willing to consider more time, particularly if it's to get substantive feedback.

Best,

Sharon