

ON THE

FRONTLINE

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED BY THE ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE

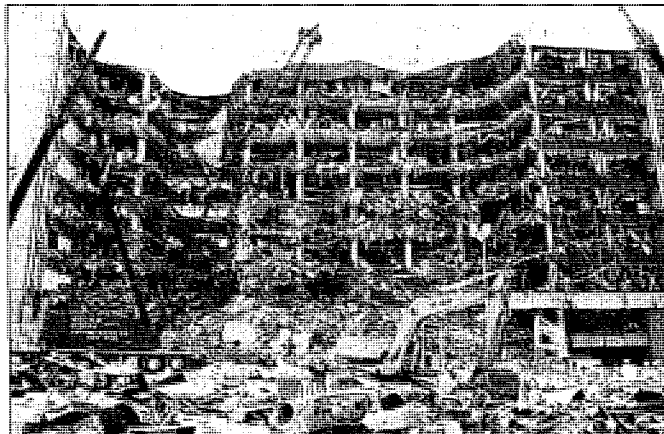
MAY/JUNE 1995

ADL Report Focused on Militia Movement Six Months Before Oklahoma

When the news broke of possible militia connections to the terrorist bombing in Oklahoma City, most Americans were puzzled . . . What militias? Where did they operate? Who were these people?

ADL had sounded the warning six months earlier with one of its on-target Fact-Finding reports, *Armed & Dangerous: Militias Take Aim at the Federal Government*. As details of the investigation began to unfold the weekend after the April 19 tragedy, telephones rang off the hook in ADL national headquarters and Regional Offices across the country with requests for information about the extremists and copies of the report. Regional Offices reported receiving hundreds of calls seeking information, both from the media and from community members, who also offered details about local militia activity.

Acting Director of Fact-Finding **Thomas Halpern** was interviewed on ABC, CBS, NBC and CNN network news and on the PBS *Charlie Rose Show* and *Dateline NBC*. League spokespersons were quoted in countless radio broadcasts and press accounts.



The Federal Building in Oklahoma City after the terrorist bombing.

Wide World

Updated report on militia activity in the U.S. See page 20 for details.

The 28-page report, released last October to government leaders, law enforcement agencies and the media, detailed the rise of bands of armed right-wing militants, most calling themselves "militias," across America. The report detailed evidence of militia activity in 13 states. Subsequent research reveals current militia activity in 37 states with indications that the number may continue to rise. (See map on page 4 indicating states with militia activity.)

The militias' aims — the ADL report said almost prophetically — involve laying the groundwork for large-scale resistance to the Federal government and its law enforcement agencies. Thousands of these extremists view America's government as the enemy, now widening its authoritarian control and planning warfare against the citizenry.

The introduction to the ADL report noted that militia ideologues view gun control legislation such as the Brady Law and restrictions on assault weapons as "major stratagems in a secret government conspir-

acy to disarm and control the American people and abolish their Constitutional 'right to bear arms.'" The introduction also relates an obsession by militia groups with the role of the Federal government in the 1993 Branch Davidian confrontation in Waco, TX, and the 1992 siege in Idaho that claimed the lives of a Deputy

Continued on page 4

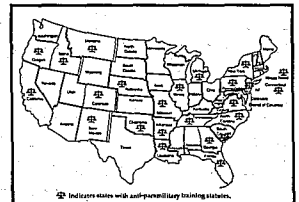
IN THIS ISSUE



3

TERRORISM, SECURITY FOCUSES OF ADL MISSION TO ARGENTINA

5



ADL URGES STATES TO PASS ANTI-PARAMILITARY TRAINING STATUTES

**This issue of ADL on the Frontline is made possible by a generous grant from The Louis and Hilda Silverstein Foundation
Bernice Silverstein Lewis
Bernard G. Segal, Esq.
Provident National Bank, Co-Trustees**

The Mainstreaming Of Extremism



Abraham H. Foxman

The principal ADL mission is to expose and fight extremism in its varied forms. We work to keep extremists on the margins of society so that they neither get legitimacy nor can have a serious impact on society.

Unfortunately, in the last year or two, the impact of extremists on segments of American life — whether through violence as in the case of Oklahoma City or the World Trade Center or through word as in the case of Khalid Muhammad and the Nation of Islam — has become much more direct and raises the need for Americans to take more seriously the struggles ahead.

In each case, there was a certain complacency in America that the danger posed was remote, would not affect us, need not be taken seriously.

It was in October 1994 that ADL issued a report, *Armed & Dangerous: Militias Take Aim at the Federal Government*, describing the growing militia movement in the United States. The report suggested that the combination of militia ideology—seeing the Federal Government as a real and immediate enemy—together with the stockpiling of weapons, as well as the participation in some of these groups by racists and anti-Semites, made for a dangerous mix. We distributed our report widely, but it did not get much play or interest. That is, until the tragedy in Oklahoma City.

For a long time, ADL — through its Leon and Marilyn Klinghoffer Memorial Foundation and the William and Naomi Gorowitz Institute, which combat terrorism through education, political and legal means — had been trying to raise the consciousness of Americans concerning the threat of terrorism, particularly Islamic extremist terrorism, to Americans. Too often it was said that it could not happen here, that the Middle East or Europe or Latin America were different societies with different

histories and were, therefore, more susceptible to the international terrorist onslaught. The World Trade Center ended our innocence on that score.

And for years, ADL has been exposing the racism and anti-Semitism of the Nation of Islam and Louis Farrakhan. Here, too, there was a tendency to dismiss the movement as marginal, but we noted that he was attracting large crowds on campuses. When, two years ago, a convention of the Congressional Black Caucus had Farrakhan on a panel with black establishment leaders—Jesse Jackson, Ben Chavis, Kweisi Mfume and Maxine Waters—and then announced a “sacred covenant” with NOI, the legitimizing process had reached new heights. At that point, ADL challenged America to reconsider the issue when it placed a full-page ad in *The New York Times* and other publications, exposing the virulent hatred of Farrakhan spokesman Khalid Muhammad.

These trends of extremists, whether through violence or words, intruding themselves on our life in a way we haven't seen in a long time, are worrisome. We need not overreact; we must remember that civil liberties and free speech are key ingredients that make America different, that give us all a sense of security.

What we need to do, however, is resolve to act against extremism with great commitment and consistency. For our part, ADL will further its work of monitoring and exposing extremists, of working with legislators and law enforcement to provide the strongest protection we can achieve to maintain security and liberty for Americans. The time for complacency is gone.

Abraham H. Foxman
National Director

Winner of the Mercury Award for Outstanding Achievement in Professional Communications

ADL on the FRONTLINE is published seven times annually by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, 823 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017

David H. Strassler, National Chairman, Abraham H. Foxman, National Director

Nat Kameny, Chairman of Marketing & Communications Committee

Mark A. Edelman, Director, Marketing & Communications Division

Jane R. Ornauer, Editor Mary Vasiliades, Editorial Staff Anthony J. Papale, Design

May/June 1995 Vol. 5, No. 4 & 5 ISSN-1061-5202. © Anti-Defamation League 1995

Subscriptions \$12 per year

WE GET LETTERS...

We welcome hearing from our readers. Send to:

We Get Letters...

ADL on the Frontline

823 United Nations Plaza

New York, NY 10017

In the Aftermath of Oklahoma— How Can We Feel Safe From Terrorism?

by Thomas Halpern

Since the tragedy and devastation produced by the Oklahoma City bombing, Americans have been asking what can be done to help prevent such an atrocity from happening again. How can we feel safe from terrorism? What tools do law enforcement agencies need to properly monitor and counter extremist groups while ensuring that our civil liberties are protected? Our 80-plus years of experience have convinced ADL that there are useful and effective measures to be taken.

Today's so-called militias, which many believe to have spawned the Oklahoma City bomber, are a case in point. Tracking the militia movement since its emergence last spring through published materials,

speeches, videotapes, radio programs and computer bulletin boards, ADL determined by last fall that the militias' growth, activities and bellicose message needed to be exposed to the American people.

Armed and Dangerous: Militias Take Aim at the Federal Government, the ADL report released in October 1994, detailed these groups' paramilitary activities, their stockpiling of weapons and their fanatical hatred of the Federal government. We posed the question of "what exactly the militias intend to do with their guns?"

Surely, our law enforcement agencies ought to have the legal authority and the necessary resources to answer such questions. Furthermore, there should be improved coordination among the various agencies involved. In this regard, President Clinton's call for the creation of an interagency domestic counterterrorism center headed by the FBI is welcome.

Another step can be taken. Our research on extremist groups over the years has convinced us that paramilitary training by organizations intent on fostering civil disorder should be outlawed altogether. We see no reason why a society such as ours, which affords every opportunity for freedom of expression and peaceful change, should permit any group to acquire, and train its members to use, lethal weapons for the purpose of getting its way by shooting or bombing.

When the last wave of paramilitary activity occurred in the late '70s, ADL produced a report documenting the proliferation of training centers operated by the Ku Klux Klan and other racist groups in Alabama, California, Connecticut, Illinois, North Carolina and Texas. Using such names as The White Patriot Party and the Christian Patriots Defense League, these

Continued on page 8

Thomas Halpern is Acting Director of the Fact Finding Department of the ADL Civil Rights Division.

Terrorism, Security Focuses Of ADL Mission to Argentina

Seventeen lay and professional leaders traveled to Argentina April 22-26 for an ADL mission, headed by David H. Strassler, the League's National Chairman; Abraham H. Foxman, ADL National Director, and Glen A. Tobias, Chairman of the International Affairs Committee. The visit grew out of conversations with leaders of the Argentinean Jewish community and was intended to show solidarity of American and Argentine Jews,

following the bombing of the main Jewish community structure in Buenos Aires last year. The group also assessed the government's investigation of the tragedy and



Glen A. Tobias, Chairman of the International Affairs Committee.

steps being take to reinforce security and intelligence and explored ways to further working relations between ADL and Argentine Jews.

During the visit, the group met with Argentine President Carlos Saul Menem; Justice Minister Rodolfo Barra; Interior Minister Carlos Corach; Mayor of Buenos Aires Jorge Domínguez; American Ambassador James Cheek; Israeli Ambassador Yitzhak Aviram, and DAIA President Ruben Beraja, as well as other government leaders and representatives of B'nai B'rith and other members of the Jewish community.

The issue of terrorism was on everyone's mind — not only because of the bombings in Argentina but also since the group arrived in Buenos Aires only days after the Oklahoma City bombing.

The mission provided an opportunity for ADL leaders to see the new democracy of Argentina evolving, to raise concerns about the issue of terrorism as well as to learn about the positive approaches of the government. It also strengthened the League's ties with the leadership of the Argentine Jewish community and offered closer working relationships on matters of mutual concern. □



In Buenos Aires, from left, Ruben Beraja, President, DAIA, the Argentine Jewish community's political arm; Abraham H. Foxman, ADL National Director, and Argentine President Carlos Saul Menem.

ADL Reveals McVeigh Offered Weapons for Sale

An ADL press release revealing that Oklahoma City bombing suspect Timothy McVeigh — using the alias “T. Tuttle” — advertised for sale a military-style launcher in *The Spotlight*, the publication of the extremist and anti-Semitic Liberty Lobby, received wide coverage in the media. The ad, which appeared in the August 16, 1993 and two subsequent issues, offered for sale a “LAW launcher replica” which “fires 37 mm. flares” as well as the flares themselves, which can be modified for explosive use. [LAW stands for “light antitank weapon.”]

According to *The Wall Street Journal*, an FBI affidavit on McVeigh indicates that he has used the names of “Terry Tuttle” and “Tim Tuttle” as aliases. The ad listed an address in Kingman, AZ, where the

responses could be sent — the same address McVeigh used as a mail drop when he resided in Kingman.

ADL also revealed that McVeigh oper-

ated a booth offering weapons for sale at a September 1993 gun show in Phoenix, AZ.

The Spotlight regularly features articles sympathetic to the militia movement and its claims of a plot by the Federal government to take away the rights of Americans. The paper promotes right-wing extremist conspiracy theories including the use of “black helicopters,” Russian tanks and United Nations troops to take over the United States and create a “New World Order.” A September 1994 *Spotlight* supplement on these themes has been widely distributed among militias. *The Spotlight* also features Holocaust-denial propaganda as well as meeting notes for such groups as Aryan Nations and self-styled “patriot” organizations. □

ADL Report Focused on Militia...

Continued from page 1

U.S. Marshal and the wife and son of Randy Weaver, a white supremacist wanted on a gun charge. The Oklahoma City bombing occurred on April 19, precisely two years after the Waco standoff ended in flames. (Timothy McVeigh, the prime suspect in the bombing, was allegedly motivat-

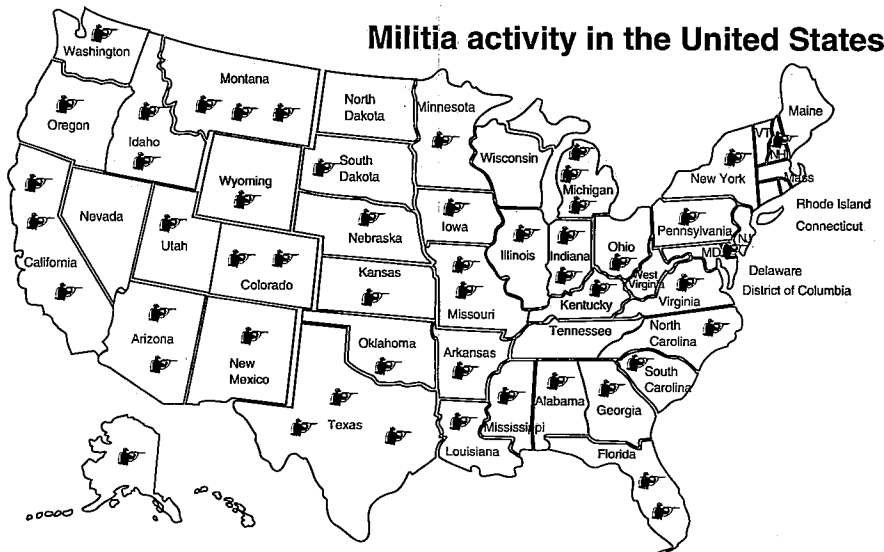
ed to commit the atrocity by his fury over the Waco conflagration. McVeigh reportedly attended meetings of a militia group in Michigan.)

According to the ADL report, a number of people in the militia movement, including some in leadership roles, have histories

of racial and religious bigotry and political extremism. Some have backgrounds in the Aryan Nations, the Ku Klux Klan and other racist and anti-Semitic movements.

The ADL report includes a breakdown of militia groups state-by-state. There are details of considerable activity in Michigan, where much of the law enforcement investigation into the Oklahoma bombing has been centered. Gun control fuels the movement in Michigan (as it does elsewhere), where extremists view this as but a prelude to a complete ban on firearms ownership in the country, setting the stage for Federal tyranny over the people.

Another state linked to the militia movement is Idaho, which was the scene of the Randy Weaver siege in 1992. Samuel Sherwood has energetically recruited Idaho residents into his United States Militia Association by portraying the Federal government as the enemy of the American people. At a 1994 meeting in Blackfoot, ID, Sherwood reportedly spread the myth that President Clinton’s crime bill authorized the government to hire 100,000 former Royal Hong Kong police to come to America to enforce gun control.



Continued on page 5

ADL Report Focused on Militia...

Continued from page 4

Another Idaho activist is Bo Gritz, whose projects closely parallel the militia movement. Gritz, the 1992 Populist Party candidate for President, conducts training throughout the country in weapons and survival techniques. Gritz is creating a community on a 200-acre site in central Idaho known as "Almost Heaven." He plans to live in the armed community with 30 other families, who, according to Gritz, will obey all laws "unless they go against the laws of God or common sense."

Says Gritz: "I want a community where,

if the FBI looks at us, they'll end up saying it's more trouble than it's worth."

Gritz was present at the Weaver standoff and recently wrote in his newsletter: "The tyrants who ordered the assault on the Weavers and Waco should be tried and executed as traitors." In his book, *Called to Serve*, he peddles the anti-Semitic myth that Jewish families control the Federal Reserve System.

The conclusion of the ADL report emphasizes that the right of the militias to promote their extremist views — loathsome

though they may be — is inviolate under the Constitution. There is no right, however, it goes on to say, to use force or violence either to impose one's views on others or to resist laws properly enacted. That is the crux of the problem presented by the rise of the militias.

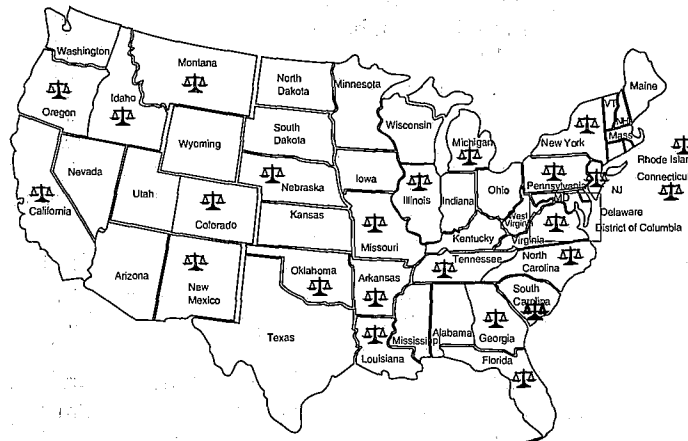
Editor's note: Copies of the ADL report, *Armed & Dangerous: Militias Take Aim at the Federal Government*, may be obtained by using the order form on page 20. The report can also be accessed on Nexis/USNWR. □

ADL Urges States to Enact Anti-Paramilitary Training Statutes

ADL has written to the governors of the 26 states that do not have anti-paramilitary training statutes on their books urging them to enact such laws. Twenty-four states (see map) already have such legislation based on or similar to ADL model legislation, which was drafted more than a decade ago by the League's Legal Affairs Department. These laws would prohibit systematic instruction in exercises comparable to military training, including the use of advanced weaponry, for the purpose of fostering civil disorder.

An ADL report, *The ADL Anti-Paramilitary Training Statute: A Response to Domestic Terrorism*, issued in the aftermath of the Oklahoma bombing, provides a legal analysis of the ADL model legislation and the full text of the state laws already enacted.

The League has also called upon state law enforcement agencies



⚖️ indicates states with anti-paramilitary training statutes.

to use these laws vigorously against militias such as those now under investigation in connection with the tragic bombing in Oklahoma City.

"These statutes typically provide criminal sanctions for individuals who teach, demonstrate or assemble with others to engage in paramilitary training activities with the intent to cause or further a civil disorder," said a joint statement issued by David H. Strassler, ADL National Chairman, and Abraham H. Foxman, the League's National Director.

The letters sent by ADL to the governors of the 26 states which do not have such statutes, enclose the ADL model language and urge prompt action.

Copies of the ADL report may be obtained by using the order form on page 20. It is also available on Nexis/USNWR. □

ADL Calls on Congress to Pass Counterterrorism Bill

In the aftermath of the devastating car bomb attack in Oklahoma City, ADL called on Congress to swiftly pass the currently pending Omnibus Counterterrorism Act of 1995 with appropriate constitutional safeguards.

"A tragedy such as this reinforces the need for expanded legislation to combat the growing terrorist threat on American soil," said a joint statement released by David H. Strassler, ADL National Chairman, and Abraham H. Foxman, the League's National Director.

"Reminiscent of the World Trade Center

bombing," the statement went on, "this brutal act against a U.S. Federal building brings home again the reality that Americans are not immune from terrorist attacks on our shores. Terrorists have the will and capability to strike anywhere at any time."

ADL also commended Defense Secretary William Perry's decision to reissue regulations forbidding members of the armed forces from participating in groups that "espouse supremacist causes."

"Your action," said a letter from Mr. Strassler and Mr. Foxman, "demonstrates once again that prejudice and intolerance

are incompatible with military service."

On several occasions over the past decade, ADL has provided information to the Defense Department concerning the participation of military personnel in organized hate groups. In 1986, in the face of evidence that military personnel based at Camp Lejeune, NC, had participated in paramilitary training exercises with a racist extremist group, the White Patriot Party, the Defense Department dismissed three members of the U.S. Marine Corps. □