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"Freedom of the Press belongs to those who own one."

A. J. Liebling of the New Yorker

January 17, 2005



Commentary

Gangs ARE Terrorists

There is a deadly Latin gang (Mara Salvatrucha) in Southern California that has been approached by Al Qaeda, requesting transportation for Al Qaeda members to the United States. The news was broken last week on the largest L.A. radio station from leaked secret Homeland Security documents, and confirmed last night in an investigative report by an L.A. TV station.

(In the Los Angeles area, Mara Salvatrucha is considered to be equaled in violence only by the 18th Street Gang.)

La Mara has members from many Latin countries but it was founded by illegal immigrants from El Salvador. Many of the members fled El Salvador just one step ahead of the "death squads" who are reputed to operate in Latin countries, and who mete out "street justice" to gang members who are very visible because of their tattoos. "Death Squads" are reputed to be off-duty and retired police and military who are tired of the courts, police, and military being co-opted by the drug cartels. The Death Squads are called "Sombra Negra" (Black Shadow) – and while La Mara has killed three federal agents in the U.S., the only thing they REALLY fear is being deported into the countries where Sombra Negra operates.

(If you want a good read on how these death squads operate, read *Killing Pablo* – Pablo Escobar was killed either by U.S. Special

Forces or Sombra Negra...or possibly a combination of the two. CNN also has done an excellent hour-long report on *Killing Pablo*, but without reaching a conclusion as to who actually pulled the trigger...my money goes on a U.S. Special Forces sniper, but who knows...)

La Mara members control much of the “coyote” traffic across the Mexican border...and some members have been interviewed on L.A. TV about the potential Al Queda connection. Those interviewed indicate they have personally turned down serious Al Queda money, but they believe there are members who will cooperate with Al Queda – both in attacks in El Salvador, for support of the U.S. in Iraq, and in the U.S.

Now comes a report from Boston that La Mara, also called MS-13, is operating in conjunction with terrorists there as well. If ever there was a case to be made for RICO involvement from the federal government, this is it. Known terrorists in El Salvador have been seen meeting with La Mara in that country.

Surely, this constitutes a national conspiracy...the FBI and national intelligence agencies are all over this problem. In Boston, there are more than 100 members of this illegal alien terrorist gang, and they are known for their particularly vicious attacks, including the gang rape of two deaf girls. La Mara members have also been involved in machete attacks and home invasions, but it is their as-yet-unproven involvement in bringing fundamentalist terrorists that has finally brought them some concentrated national intelligence attention.

There are more than 100 other members of the gang in the Boston suburbs, and most of them sport very visible tattoos so they are easily spotted. Apparently, the fact that they are illegal aliens involved in criminal gang activity has not been sufficient to get them arrested, and some who have been previously arrested, convicted, jailed and deported have illegally returned without further penalty.

Boston is particularly sensitive to the potential of terrorists operating out of there because they got a black eye when the flights used in the 9/11 attack originated at Boston’s Logan Airport.

A sweep of ALL gangs in the country by local police, and the turning of all illegal aliens of all stripes to the federal authorities would go a long way toward diminishing general street crime, but the reluctance of local political entities to permit local police to involve themselves in immigration has crippled law enforcement nationwide.

Both San Diego and Los Angeles have policies of releasing illegal aliens who are not involved in felonies, rather than calling the Feds...not that the Feds have any history of picking up single individual illegal aliens, either. Rudy Giuliani cleaned up an out-of-control New York City with a policy he called the Broken Window Policy...people who see broken windows think that no one is around who cares, so they commit still greater crimes. Rudy enforced even the minor laws, and that stopped the downward spiral of the city. In 1990, homicides in New your City had reached a high point of 2,245. That fell to 1,561 homicides at the end of Rudy's first year in office (1994) with his "zero-tolerance" policy, and had fallen to 645 murders in 2002 when Rudy left office.

As politically sensitive as the immigration problem is, perhaps crime combined with terrorism will be sufficient to get local police to combine with the Feds to at least get the violent gangs off the street. Perhaps the current San Diego administration is so embroiled with legal matters of their own making that they need to have attorneys on speed dial, but if they can find time for the people's business they might consider getting control of the gang situation.

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