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OPINION

Black Identity Extremists Who Don't Exist

Resisting the FBI's new racial targeting

BY DR. MAULANA KARENGA

It is the wisdom of the ancestors that “if you know the beginning well, the end will not trouble you.” Therefore, when we receive news that the FBI released a so-called “intelligence assessment” pretending a threat from a group of “black identity extremists” that doesn't exist, we need not be shocked, shaken or even surprised.

For throughout history, it has been the devious way of oppressors to deny and divert attention from their own brutal oppression by constantly indicting and dehumanizing the oppressed. It is also their way to justify practices of repression already in place and to signal and drum up support for policies to be intensified and expanded to deal with black dissent, defiance and resistance.

The FBI report, issued Aug. 3, is titled “Black Identity Extremists Likely Motivated to Target Police Officers.” It claims to be a report alerting the country to an emerging threat from “black identity extremists” who are ideologically motivated to retaliate for “perceived police brutality” against black people.

Rep. Karen Bass, D-Calif.,



however, did a masterful job in questioning U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions about it at a House Judiciary Committee hearing and read it into the record.

She gave him no quarter as he hemmed, hawed and hedged, dissembled, pretended and demonstrated ignorance, and sought sanctuary in feigned confusion and mercy requests to be allowed to review and submit answers in writing later. She forced him to admit there

are unjustly labeled as extremists and subjected to surveillance and harassment. And she requested that he “essentially roll back what is listed in this report. Because it's not accurate.”

The “sad chapter of our history” reference is from the Counter-intelligence program (Cointelpro) of the 1960s and 70s. Initiated in the 50s, it became especially focused on us as a people in the 1960's when J. Edgar Hoover, director of the FBI, established it as a program to crush black resistance.

Hoover listed as his essential

tration and disruption; invasive surveillance; legal and extra-legal harassment and violence; media myth-making, attacks and disinformation.

As a result of this classification, targeting and attacks, we suffered police suppression, political imprisonment on trumped up charges, and were forced underground and in exile in other countries as other groups.

Surely, this new FBI report is a beginning variation on the Cointelpro, revived with greater technological capacity for dis-

ruption and disinformation; attack on black identity and black people, making us all suspects and offenders and subject to the harshest measures, especially activists.

It is also, then, to criminalize and discourage black resistance, an attempt to intimidate and terrorize activists and potential activists, sowing fear, doubt and heightening concern for safety, security and stigmatization for work, career and life. It is also an attempt to redefine the emerging overarching black movement for racial and social justice as extremist rather than righteous struggle against injustice and oppression. And finally, it is an attempt to shift attention from state-sanctioned white supremacist and police violence against black people and to justify increased police presence and repression in the black community.

History and hard lessons of life and struggle have taught us there is no substitute for freedom and justice with dignity. Safety and security come not from resignation, but resistance; not from conceding in silence, but confronting in audacious and effective ways; and not from surrender to evil, injustice and oppression, but from united righteous and relentless struggle on every level and every battlefield and battleline.

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“Surely, this new FBI report is a beginning variation on the Cointelpro, revived with greater technological capacity for disruption and disinformation, and in a climate of seeded and cultivated racialized fear and hatred, conducted by a man at the top of the heap addicted to name calling, dog whistles to racists and early morning twiddling and tweeting.”

is no evidence of any black identity extremist group which has targeted police; that there are white groups who do this and that the government has written no similar report on “white identity extremists”; and that “activists around the country are very concerned that we are getting ready to repeat a very sad chapter in our history where people, who are rightfully protesting” injustice,

aims “to expose, disrupt, misdirect, discredit or otherwise neutralize black nationalist organizations.” And to “neutralize” still carries with it an open-ended range of means to achieve its end. Above all, he wanted to prevent our unity, he said, because “in unity there is strength.”

Black nationalist groups were identified, targeted and subjected to various forms of assault; infil-

tration and disinformation, and in a climate of seeded and cultivated racialized fear and hatred, conducted by a man at the top of the heap addicted to name calling, dog whistles to racists and early morning twiddling and tweeting.

It might seem to be about one group, but it is actually about the black community. It is a continuation of racializing crime and criminalizing the race, and thus an

Empowering Young Adults to End Social Injustice

Tomorrow's leaders form alliance group

BY BASMA ISMAIL

Now that hate crimes are on the rise, minorities suffer the most. Although they have affected all minorities, the spike has been obvious against Muslims, Jews and LGBTQ communities in 13 major US cities including New York, Los Angeles, and Phoenix.

A national survey by the U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics found that between 2004 and 2015, there were likely a staggering 250,000 hate crimes each year in the country, the majority of which go unreported to police. If no change takes place, then our nation will

continue to suffer the loss of its young men and women.

Within 10 days of elections earlier this year, the Southern Poverty Law Center tracked 900 bias-related incidents against minorities. In 2016, the year of the presidential campaign, in what some analysts call the visible tip of the iceberg of hate, the FBI reported more than 6,000 such incidents. Only a few of them of them resulted in conviction and reporting was agency-voluntary with at least 2,000 police bureau's submitting no information.

One of the scariest days in modern US history was the white supremacist event on Aug. 12h with protestors chanting “white lives matter” and “blood and soil”. A speeding car rammed into anti-racist protestors the second

day of the event killing 32-year-old Heather Heyer and injuring 19 others. Two state troopers were killed upon a helicopter crash and the city of Charlottesville declared a state of emergency.

What is needed is empowering young adults with education, resources and the tools necessary to make the change which is overdue. By empowering them and providing them with knowledge, we are eliminating bigotry and hatred as we teach and take leadership in our communities and use these incidents as teachable moments.

We can teach our neighbors, our classmates and our families what it means to be different and eliminate fear. We can replace violence with peace and bring justice too many if directed in the

right direction.

Momentum Alliance is an organization that empowers as well as prepares youth of all races and ethnicities to realize their strengths and mentors youth to become the future's social justice leaders. Some of the practices taught at the organization are: “Diversify decision-making in the public, private and non-profit sectors; alter relations of power; and make systems more equitable, demonstrate effective, ethical leadership and ally ship, take collective action and impact individual, cultural, political and systems change.”

It's time for all young men and women in this country to learn how to make a difference in someone's life. Together we can prevent 250,000 incidents from

being repeated or a loved one from becoming another statistic.

Let's replace hate with action and knowledge instead. Knowledge is power and the more knowledge we have the better we can help as well as protect ourselves and everyone around us from bigotry.

You can make a difference. You can change laws. Contact MomentumAlliance.org for more information about their free summer camps along with other resources available to help you become tomorrow's leader.

The time for change is now. Every day that goes by without a change is another day of hate crimes being committed.

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