
From: Spencer, Lashawna
To: Weinstein, Jason
Sent: 6/8/2011 9:37:13 PM
Subject: AG News Brief Wednesday June 8, 2011

US Charges Latino Gang Members With Targeting Black Residents. The AP (6/8) reports from Los Angeles, "A Latino gang conspired to rid a Southern California city of its black residents through intimidation, threats and violence dating back to the early 1990s to exert its influence and show its loyalty to the Mexican Mafia prison gang, according to a federal racketeering indictment unsealed Tuesday." The AP continues, "More than 50 people were charged as authorities made early morning raids targeting the Varrio Azusa 13 gang. Federal prosecutors said the gang, which has about 400 members or associates, engaged in a host of crimes ranging from drug trafficking to hate crimes that have hobbled Azusa, a city of about 45,000 residents near Los Angeles."

The Los Angeles Times (6/8, Quinones, 657K) reports, "According to the indictment, the gang also allegedly taxes drug dealers in the Azusa area, passing some of the proceeds on to members of the Mexican Mafia prison gang, a practice common among many Latino street gangs in Southern California. The Azusa gang paid taxes to a man the indictment identified only as 'Mexican Mafia Member #1' until his death in December 2008. Since then, the gang has allegedly paid drug taxes to three other members of the Mexican Mafia that the indictment does not identify."

The Wall Street Journal (6/8, Audi, Subscription Publication, 2.02M) quotes US Attorney André Birotte Jr. as saying, "The Azusa 13 gang waged a campaign of hate during a two-decade crime spree in which African-Americans were harassed and attacked. We hope that this federal case will signal the end of this racist behavior and will help vindicate all of the victims who have suffered over the years."

Issa Calls Hearing On DOJ's Inaction On Gun-Tracking Subpoenas. The Daily Caller (6/8, Boyle) reports that Rep. Darrell Issa (R-CA), who chairs the House Oversight Committee, "has called a hearing to look at the possibility" that the Justice Department "may be committing obstruction of justice by ignoring a subpoena." On April 1, Issa "subpoenaed all documents pertaining to two Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) programs, Project Gunrunner and Operation Fast and Furious," specifically "looking for documents and communications 'relating to the genesis' of the programs and any information related to the death of Border Patrol Agent Brian Terry. The Obama administration still hasn't complied with Issa's requests for documents or his subpoena."

Main Justice (6/8, Ramonas) reports, "Experts on congressional investigations and constitutional law--not on guns and smuggling--will take center stage Monday at the first House Oversight Committee hearing on a controversial Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives gun smuggling program." Main Justice continues, "Charles Tiefer, a former chief litigator for the House; Morton Rosenberg, a former expert at the Congressional Research Service, who studied congressional oversight privileges; and Todd Tatelman, a Congressional Research Service legislative attorney, are slated to testify in the hearing on Operation Fast and Furious, which allowed guns to fall into the hands of Mexican drug cartels in an effort to track them."

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