



One Hundred Sixteenth Congress
Committee on Homeland Security
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

December 17, 2019

The Honorable Christopher A. Wray
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
935 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20535

Dear Director Wray:

We appreciate your October 30, 2019, testimony in front of the Committee on Homeland Security and commend you on your commitment to work with the Committee to better understand the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) "Black Identity Extremists" (BIEs) classification.

As you are aware, in early October 2017 news outlets reported on a FBI intelligence assessment titled "(U//FOUO) Black Identity Extremists Likely Motivated to Target Law Enforcement Officers."¹ In response, we wrote to you about this assessment, which cited six seemingly unrelated incidents and erroneously concluded that "[BIEs] are likely to target law enforcement based on 'perceptions of police brutality against African Americans'."² This unfair conflation of black political activists with domestic terrorism movements raised serious concerns about infringement on constitutionally protected civil rights.

More recently, additional reporting on FBI documents has renewed these concerns.³ Specifically, a reported fiscal year (FY) 2018 FBI Consolidated Strategy Guide (CSG) lists targeting individuals deemed "BIEs" as a top counterterrorism priority for the Bureau. The document also reveals the FBI initiated an intelligence-gathering program codenamed "IRON FIST" to target "BIEs."

To better understand the full scope of threats law enforcement faces and to ensure that the rights and privacy of community members are protected, we request that you provide to the Committee the August 3, 2017 assessment on BIEs, as well as the 2018 CSG, the 2019 CSG, the 2020 CSG, and any other intelligence assessments or products that have been created and disseminated by the

¹ Jana Winter, Sharon Weinberger, *The FBI's New U.S. Terrorist Threat: 'Black Identity Extremists,'* FOREIGN POLICY, October 6, 2017, <https://foreignpolicy.com/2017/10/06/the-fbi-has-identified-a-new-domestic-terrorist-threat-and-its-black-identity-extremists/>.

² *Letter to FBI About "Black Identity Extremists" Assessment,* CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS, October 13, 2017, <https://cbc.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=773>.

³ Ken Klippenstein, *Leaked FBI Documents Reveal Bureau's Priorities Under Trump,* THE YOUNG TURKS, August 8, 2019, <https://tyt.com/stories/4vZLCHuQrYE4uKagy0oyMA/mnzAKMpdtiZ7AcYLd5cRR>.

FBI that mention BIEs, Black Racially Motivated Extremists (BRME), Racially Motivated Extremists (RME) and/or Racially Motivated Violent Extremists (RMVE) by January 31, 2020. Additionally, per your commitment at the October 30, 2019 hearing, we look forward to scheduling a briefing with you by early next year on this issue.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



BENNIE G. THOMPSON
Chairman
Committee on Homeland Security



CEDRIC RICHMOND
Chairman
Subcommittee on Cybersecurity
Infrastructure, Protection, & Innovation