



Dear Friend,

In San Francisco, on a Sunday in September 2003, 7 week-old Glenn Timmy Maurice Molex was shot and killed in his home by gang members attempting to kill his father. Unfortunately, this is not an isolated incident. Gang violence is once again on the rise in America. This time, however, gangs are reaching beyond our major cities.

Gangs in this country have become coordinated, criminal enterprises that operate on the national level. Indeed, over the past two decades, gangs have become far more violent, far more numerous, and far more broad in scope than they ever were previously. This is why we need a strong federal response to gang violence.

I have introduced The Gang Prevention and Effective Deterrence Act with Senator Orrin Hatch (R-UT), to stem the tide of gang violence. This legislation:

- Creates new federal crimes to enable prosecutors to target violent gang members;
- Makes changes to current law to allow for effective prosecution for violent street gang crimes;
- Authorizes \$762.5 million for law enforcement and community groups for suppression, prevention and intervention programs.

In my view, this legislation would take an important step to reduce gang violence, and it is my hope that the Senate will act quickly to approve it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dianne Feinstein". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and a long, sweeping underline.

Dianne Feinstein



An Epidemic of Gang Violence - The National Statistics

Street gangs have long been considered loosely organized thugs engaged in petty thefts and drugs on a local level. Today's gangs are very different.

A sophisticated gang operation can claim as many as 30,000 members, crossing state lines to establish syndicates in dozens of other states.

These criminal organizations engage in high-stakes narcotics and weapons trafficking, murders, sexual assaults, robberies and other equally serious crimes.

Never before have gangs been so mobile and dangerous, and the problem is spreading.

Here are the facts:

- In 2002, there were approximately 731,500 gang members and 21,500 gangs in the United States. (National Youth Gang Center)
- The F.B.I. annual report on national crime statistics found that youth-gang homicides had jumped to more than 1,100 in 2002, up from 692 in 1999. (New York Times 1/17/04)
- F.B.I. statistics show that murder rates increased slightly during the first 6 months of 2003. The reason given is that gang violence has contributed to more killings in some of the nation's largest cities. (Washington Post 12/16/03)
- In 2003, Chicago reported 599 murders, fifty percent of which were gang-related. (Chicago Tribune 1/1/04)
- The Fort Worth Police Department Gang Unit reports that, in 2003, there were 366 gangs in Fort Worth and a total of 10,000 gang members. This is a significant increase from 1997 when Fort Worth reported 2,600 gang members.
- In the state of Minnesota, in 2003, there were 2,467 confirmed gang members and 165 gangs according to the Minnesota Gang Strike Force.
- According to the Memphis Police Department, there are approximately 125 documented gangs and approximately 10,000 known gang members in Memphis – Shelby County. Most of these gangs are affiliated with nationwide gangs, such as the Gangster Disciples, Vice Lords, Crips, Bloods, and the Latin Kings.
- The Oklahoma City Police Department reports there were 2,545 confirmed gang members in Oklahoma City in 2003. There were 131 drive-by shootings in 2003. Out of the 56 homicides in the city in 2003, one-third were gang-related.

- In Montgomery County, Maryland, police estimate there are 75 to 100 gangs with 1,500 to 2,000 members. (Washington Post 2/27/04)
- In 2003, the Philadelphia Police Department identified 35 gangs operating in its city with 850 members.
- In 2003, there were approximately 2,500 active gang members in Nassau County, New York. (New York Daily News 12/2/03)
- In Milwaukee, police continue to investigate at least 22 gangs. (Milwaukee Journal Sentinel 1/6/03)

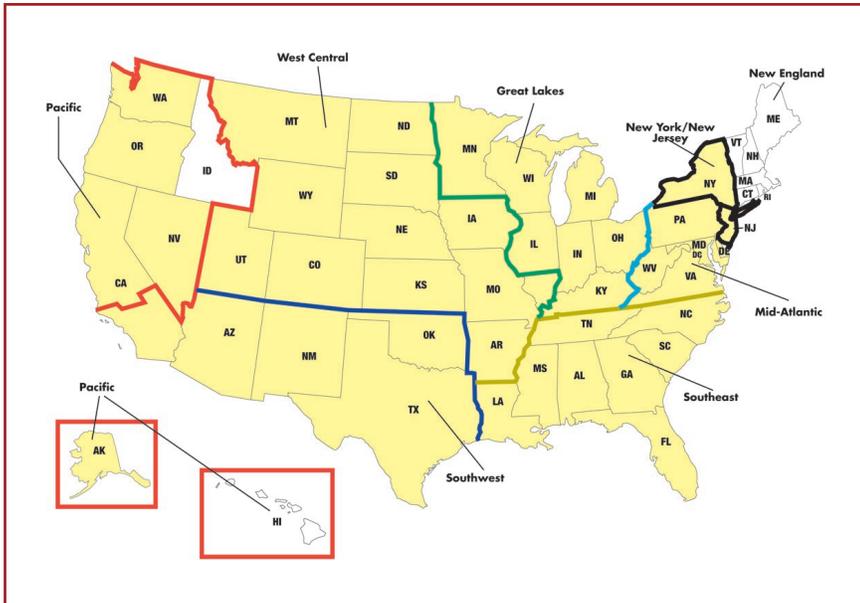


Los Angeles Police Department officers recently attempted to stop a vehicle containing four gang members. The gang members fired upon the officers and these photos depict the front and back of the police car as a result of the shooting.

An Epidemic of Gang Violence - The National Statistics -

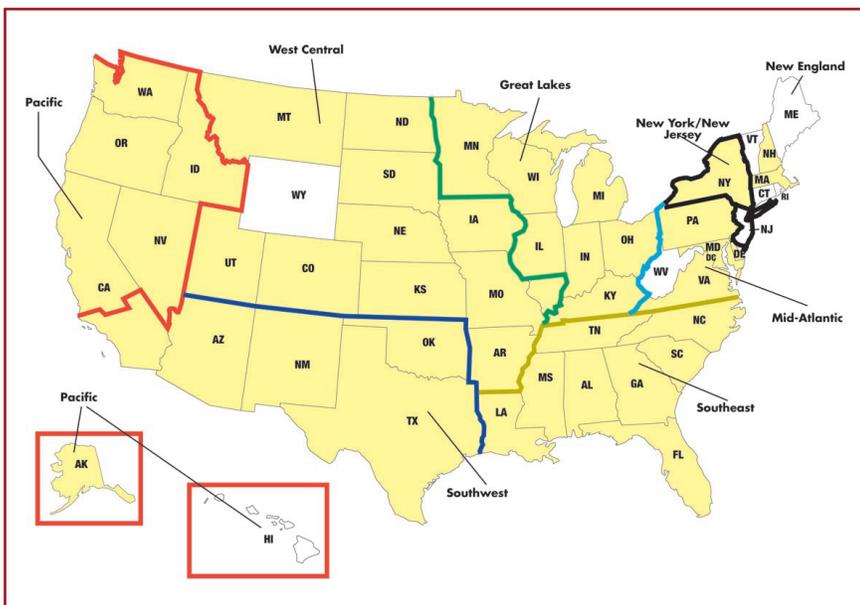


States reporting the presence of Bloods members (in yellow)



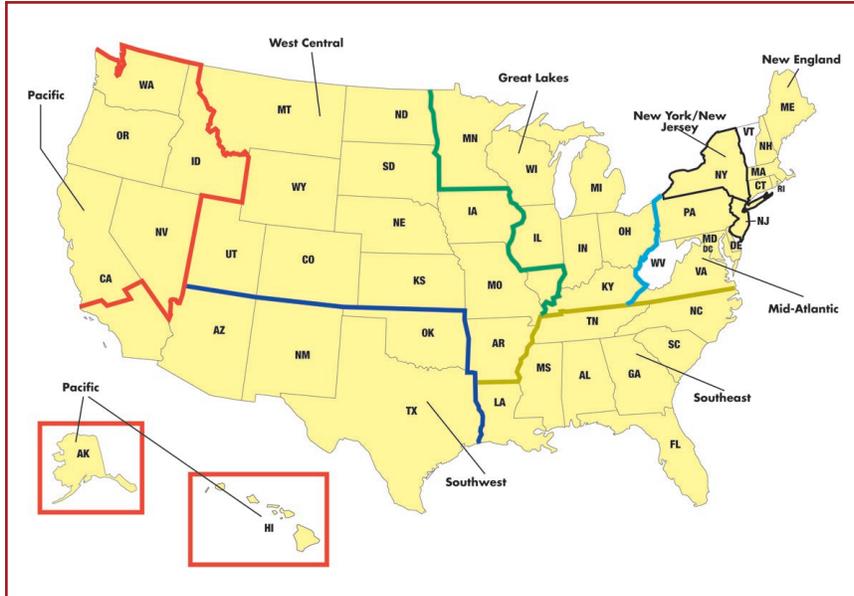
Bloods is an association of structured and unstructured gangs that have adopted a single gang culture. Bloods membership is estimated to be between 15,000 and 20,000; Bloods gangs are active in the Southwest (Los Angeles, in particular), West Central, Pacific and, to a lesser extent, the Great Lakes and Southeast regions. The Bloods' main source of income is street-level distribution of cocaine and marijuana. Bloods members also are involved in transporting and distributing methamphetamine, heroin, and PCP, but to a much lesser extent. The gangs also are involved in many other types of criminal activity including assault, auto theft, burglary, carjacking, drive-by shooting, extortion, homicide, identification fraud, and robbery. (National Drug Intelligence Center)

States reporting the presence of Gangster Disciples members (in yellow)



The Gangster Disciples street gang was formed in Chicago, Illinois, and is structured like a corporation. It is led by a chairman of the board. Gang membership is estimated to be between 50,000 and 100,000; most members are from the Chicago metropolitan area. The gang is most active in the Great Lakes, Southeast, and West Central regions. Its main source of income is the street-level distribution of cocaine, marijuana, and heroin. The gang also is involved in many other types of criminal activity. (National Drug Intelligence Center)

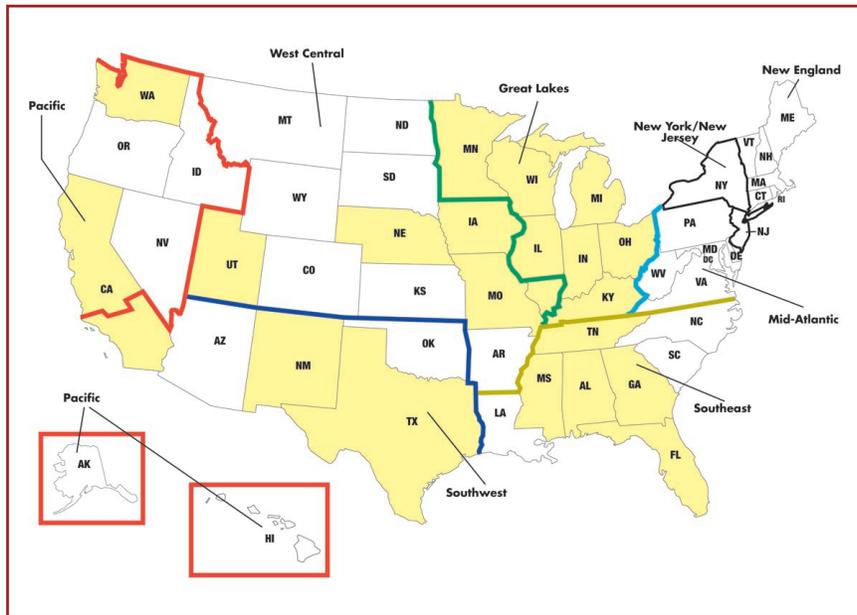
States reporting the presence of Crip members (in yellow)



Crips is a collection of structured and unstructured gangs that have adopted a common gang culture. Crips gangs are most active in the Southwest, Pacific, West Central, and Southeast regions. The main source of income for Crips gangs is the street-level distribution of cocaine, marijuana, and PCP. The gangs also are involved in many other types of criminal activity.

(National Drug Intelligence Center)

Black Peace Stone Nation chapters in the United States (in yellow)

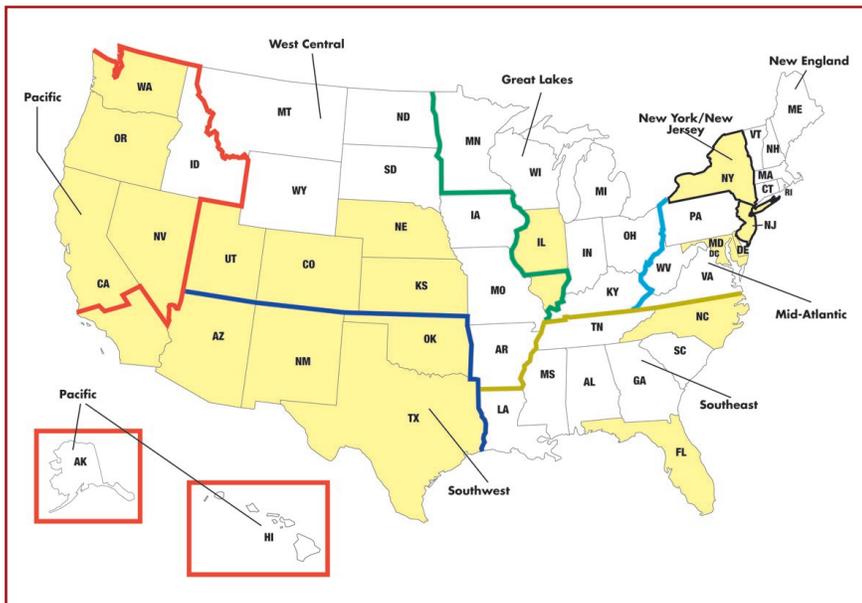


Black Peace, also a very large and violent association, consists of seven highly structured street gangs with a single leader and a common culture. It has an estimated 6,000 to 8,000 members, most of whom are from the Chicago metropolitan area. Members also are involved in many other types of criminal activity including assault, auto theft, burglary, carjacking, drive-by shooting, extortion, homicide, and robbery.

(National Drug Intelligence Center)

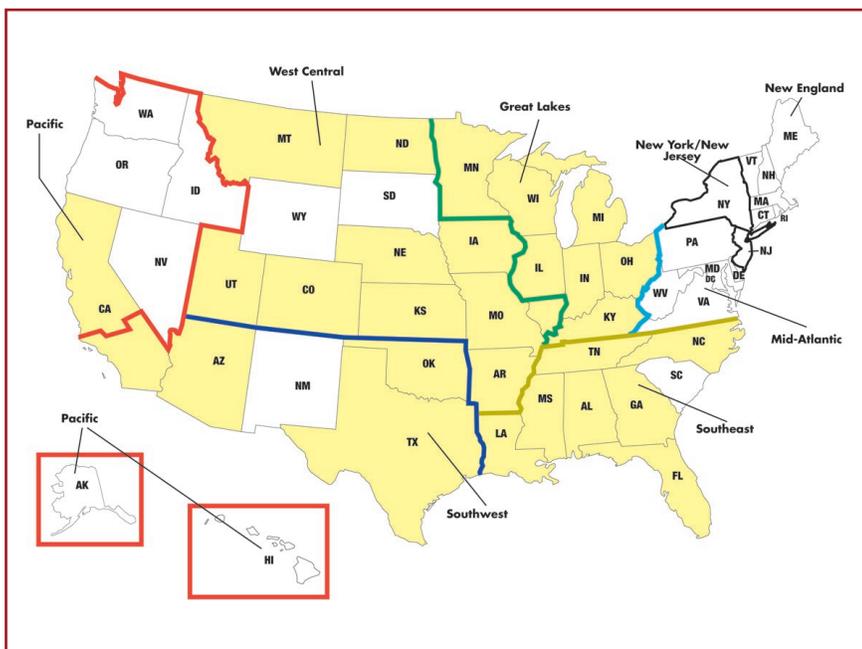
An Epidemic of Gang Violence - The National Statistics -

States reporting 18th Street gang activity (in yellow)



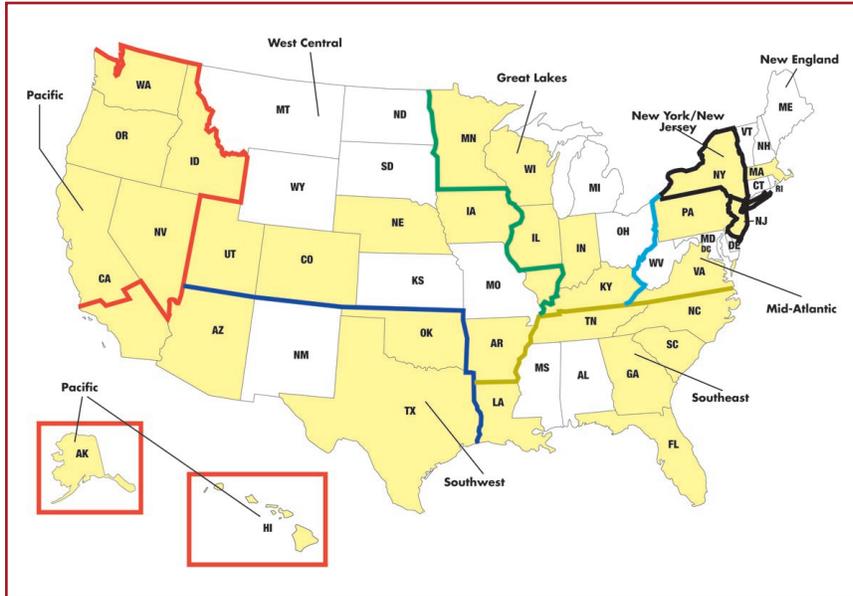
The 18th Street gang, which was formed in Los Angeles, is a collection of loosely associated sets or cliques, each led by an influential member. Membership in the gang is estimated to be 30,000 to 50,000. In California an estimated 80 percent of the gang's members are illegal aliens from Mexico and Central America. The gang is most active in the Southwest and Pacific regions and is expanding in the New York/New Jersey and West Central regions. Its main source of income is street-level distribution of cocaine and marijuana and, to a lesser extent, heroin and methamphetamine. Gang members also commit auto theft, assault, carjacking, drive-by shooting, homicide, identification fraud, robbery, and extortion. (National Drug Intelligence Center)

States reporting the presence of Vice Lords Members (in yellow)



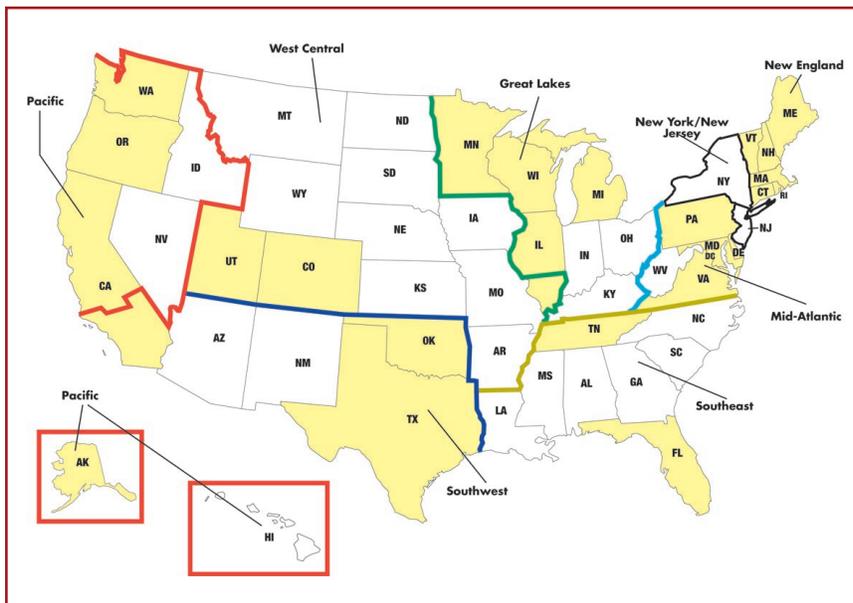
Vice Lord Nation, based in Chicago, is a collection of structured gangs located in 28 states, primarily in the Great Lakes, Southeast, and West Central regions. Led by a national board, membership in the various gangs is estimated at 30,000 to 35,000. Most members are African American males. The main source of income is street-level distribution of cocaine, heroin, and marijuana. (National Drug Intelligence Center)

States reporting the presence of Mara Salvatrucha Members (in yellow)



Mara Salvatrucha is a Hispanic street gang with more than 8,000 members in 31 states and the District of Columbia. The gang is active in the Southwest, New York/New Jersey, Mid-Atlantic, Southeast, and West Central regions. The gang also has more than 20,000 members in foreign countries, particularly El Salvador. Also known as MS 13, the gang transports and distributes cocaine and marijuana and, to a lesser extent, heroin and methamphetamine throughout the country. Members of Mara Salvatrucha often commit violent acts, principally against members of rival gangs. Traditionally, the gang was composed of loosely affiliated groups known as cliques; however, increased coordination of criminal activity among Mara Salvatrucha cliques in Los Angeles, Washington, D.C./ Northern Virginia, and New York City may indicate that the gang is attempting to develop a national command structure. (National Drug Intelligence Center)

States reporting the presence of Tiny Rascal Members (in yellow)



Tiny Rascal Gangsters is one of the largest and most violent Asian street gang associations in the United States. It is composed of at least 60 structured and unstructured gangs, commonly referred to as sets, with an estimated 5,000 to 10,000 members and associates who have adopted a common gang culture. Most members are Asian American males. The sets are most active in the Southwest, Pacific, and New England regions of the United States. The street-level distribution of powdered cocaine, marijuana, MDMA, and methamphetamine is a primary source of income for the sets. Members also are involved in many other types of criminal activity including assault, drive-by shooting, extortion, home invasion, homicide, robbery, and theft. (National Drug Intelligence Center)

Gang Violence in California

The gang problem is especially acute in California where there are approximately 300,000 gang members and 6,120 different street gangs. Of the 2,392 murders in California, 732 were gang related in 2002. (CA DOJ, 2002)

Los Angeles is what is known as a “source city” for both illegal narcotics and gangs, meaning that Los Angeles-based gangs have migrated to other communities across the country. For example, members and cliques of the Los Angeles-based 18th Street Gang have migrated all over California, the Southwest Border and Pacific Northwest states, and New Jersey.

The problem is not limited to Los Angeles. Gangs operate in every large city in California, as well as dozens of smaller ones. This is a major problem, which requires a coordinated response among local, state, and federal officials.



On March 22, 2002, at approximately 10:30 pm, a fifty-five-year-old man was escorting his sister home for the evening, accompanied by his twelve-year-old nephew. The man and his nephew were riding bikes at a slow pace while his sister walked. As they approached the corner of Coco Avenue and Pinafore Street in Los Angeles, the suspect, a “Black P Stone” gang member, approached them on foot.

The suspect pulled out a semi-automatic handgun and asked the man, “Where you from?” a common gang challenge. Before he could answer, the suspect allegedly shot the man in the chest. The victim fell to the ground at the feet of his nephew and subsequently died of the gunshot wound.

- The San Diego District Attorney’s office reports 147 gangs in San Diego County and 11,000 total members.
- The San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department reports 1,237 gangs with 17,651 members active in San Bernardino and Riverside.
- In 2003, over one-half of Los Angeles’ murders were gang-related. (LA Police Department)
- In Los Angeles County, of the 1,124 murders committed, 556 were gang-related in 2003. (LA Sheriff’s Dept.)
- In Los Angeles County, there are approximately 1,108 gangs with 95,000 members (LA Sheriff’s Dept).
- There were 49 homicides during 2003 in Ventura County, compared with 24 the year before. The numbers are the highest since 1979, when 59 homicides were reported. (LA Daily News, 1/1/04)
- In Palmdale from 2001 to 2002, serious crimes increased by 25%. Sheriff Lt. Bobby Denham attributed the surge to gang violence. (LA Times 1/1/04)

- The Antelope Valley experienced a record number of homicides in 2003, a fact law enforcement officials attribute largely to gang activity that has spread from Los Angeles County's urban core to its most removed suburban reaches. The rise in the number of killings – 43 in 2003, up from 26 in 2002 – mirrors unsettling developments in neighboring Ventura County where officials also cited increased gang activity as a factor in the doubling of homicides in 2003. (LA Times 1/1/04)
- Law enforcement believes there are approximately 55 gangs and 6,000 gang members in the Fresno area. (Fresno Multi-Agency Gang Enforcement Consortium 1/04)
- In Orange County total gang membership is 13,801, making up 340 street gangs. (Cal-Gang 9/12/03)
- The Long Beach Police Department reports 164 gang-related incidents in 2003 and 27 gang homicides. (Long Beach Police Department)
- Registered gang members in Monterey County in 2003 were estimated at 1,160. Law enforcement estimates that unregistered numbers are at least 3 to 4 times higher than the numbers of registered members. (Monterey County Sheriff's Department)



Trinity Park (pictured) is located in south central Los Angeles and stands between the territory of "Primera Flats" and "Ghetto Boyz." An argument broke out between gangs over who could use the park. A short time later, while a "Ghetto Boyz" gang member was playing basketball, a rival gang member appeared with a shotgun pointing at him.

When the "Ghetto Boyz" member fled, the suspect allegedly fired the shotgun and a second assailant fired a semi-automatic handgun. The bullets missed the intended rival gang member, but did hit innocent citizens. One of the rounds hit an eight year old boy who was playing tag in the park. The boy died as a result of a gunshot wound to his chest. A second innocent bystander was also wounded but survived. That victim, a male adult standing in front of his house across from the park, was hit in the arm by one of the stray bullets.

Ending Gang Violence

The Gang Prevention and Effective Deterrence Act is a comprehensive bill to increase gang prosecution and prevention efforts.



On August 5, 1999, a mother and her three children (including her eight-year-old son, "Sunny") went to a friend's house on Adair Street in Los Angeles to help prepare for a baby shower. While there, Sunny helped his mom clean the house. After vacuuming, he went down the stairs and stood in the front doorway. While Sunny was standing in the doorway, a drive-by shooting took place. "Ghetto Boyz" gang members drove by and saw rival "Primera Flats" gang members in front of the home on Adair Street. Ten or more shots were allegedly fired by the Ghetto Boyz, which missed their intended "Primera Flats" targets. Instead, the eight year old Sunny was hit in the head by the gunfire and died.

The bill authorizes \$762.5 million over the next five years. \$500 million of that money would be used to support federal, state and local law enforcement efforts against violent gangs including the funding of witness protection programs. \$262.5 million would be used for intervention and prevention programs for at-risk youth.

In support of this effort, the bill increases funding for federal and local prosecutors as well as federal and local law enforcement agents to increase coordinated enforcement efforts against violent gangs.

The Act also creates new criminal gang prosecution offenses, enhances existing gang and violent crime penalties to deter and punish illegal street gangs, proposes violent crime reforms needed to effectively prosecute gang members, and proposes a limited reform of the

juvenile justice system to facilitate federal prosecution of sixteen and seventeen-year-old gang members who commit serious acts of violence.



Targeting Gang Members

The following pages summarize S. 155, the Gang Prevention and Effective Deterrence Act:

Gang members who commit violent crimes force law abiding citizens to live in fear. This cannot be tolerated. We need to go after gang members who engage in what can only be described as domestic terrorism. This bill does that.

Makes recruiting minors to join criminal street gangs a crime.

Current federal law contains no penalty for recruiting minors to participate in illegal gang activity. This legislation makes the recruitment or solicitation of minors to participate in criminal gang activity a federal offense and requires offenders to pay the costs associated with housing and treating any recruited minor who is prosecuted for their gang activity.



Graffiti-covered street sign, near the park where the eight year old was hit by gunshots.

Makes illegal participation in a criminal street gang a federal crime.

A “criminal street gang” is defined to mean a formal or informal group, club, organization or association of 3 or more persons who act together to commit gang crimes.

This legislation makes it a crime for a member of a criminal street gang to commit, conspire or attempt to commit two or more predicate gang crimes; or to get another individual to commit a gang crime. One of the crimes must be a crime of violence or a drug dealing offense.

The term “gang crime” is defined to include violent and other serious state and federal felony crimes such as:

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Murder | Manslaughter |
| Maiming | Assault with a dangerous weapon |
| Kidnapping | Robbery |
| Extortion | Arson |
| Obstruction of justice | Tampering with a witness, victim, or informant |
| Carjacking | Distribution or intending to distribute controlled substances |
| Certain firearm offenses | Money laundering |

Targeting Gang Members cont.

Criminalizes violent crimes in furtherance or in aid of criminal street gangs.

Racketeering laws (RICO) were designed to prosecute organized crime, with Mafia-style organizations in mind.

One such law prosecuted violent crimes committed in furtherance of the racketeering enterprise. This legislation would create a similar crime for violent street gangs so that gang members who commit violent crimes such as murder, kidnapping, sexual assaults, maiming, assaults with a dangerous weapon, or assaults resulting in serious bodily injury, which are committed in furtherance or in aid of a criminal street gang would be punished.



Business building covered in gang-related graffiti, at the perimeter of Trinity Park, where a gang dispute erupted in deadly violence.

Makes a new criminal offense for murder and other violent crimes committed in connection with a drug trafficking crime.

Drug crimes are often intimately intertwined with criminal street gangs. This provision creates a new criminal offense for murder, kidnapping, sexual assaults, maiming, assaults with a dangerous weapon, or assaults resulting in serious bodily injury, which are committed during and in relation to drug trafficking crimes.

Creates a new offense of multiple interstate murders.

When any individual crosses state lines and intends to cause the death of two or more people, this bill would make that a federal offense.



Prosecuting Gang Members

Allows for prosecution of gang members who cross state lines to obstruct justice, intimidate or retaliate against witnesses, jurors, informants, or victims.

The Travel Act, passed in 1961, makes it illegal to cross state lines to commit such crimes as extortion, bribery and narcotics trafficking. The legislation expands the list of unlawful activities to include efforts to obstruct justice, intimidate or retaliate against witnesses, jurors, informants or victims.

Creates tougher laws for certain federal crimes such as assault, carjacking, manslaughter, and for specific types of crimes occurring in Indian country.

- This legislation would eliminate barriers which limit the abilities of prosecutors to charge individuals who commit serious crimes like assault and carjacking.
- Penalties for manslaughter are increased to reflect the seriousness of that offense.
- Subjects an individual committing an offense in Indian country for which the maximum statutory term of imprisonment is greater than five years to the same law and penalties as all others committing any such offense.

Eliminates ability for someone simply to be fined if he or she is convicted for hiring another person to commit murder.

Current law allows a fine to be imposed instead of a criminal sentence if someone is convicted of hiring another person to commit murder. This legislation would require that if someone is convicted of this crime, imprisonment be imposed.

Makes sexual assault a predicate act under RICO.

To apply federal racketeering laws (RICO) against criminal organizations, an organization must have engaged in at least two or more than 25 criminal activities listed under the RICO statute. This legislation adds the modern gang activity of sexual assault to the RICO list and increases the maximum sentences for these RICO crimes.



Prosecuting Gang Members - cont.

Allows for pre-trial detention of persons charged with firearm offenses who have been previously convicted of crimes of violence or serious drug offenses.

Current law does not allow a prosecutor to ask that a person who is charged with possession of a firearm and is prohibited from possessing a firearm be held without bail even if the person has previously been convicted of a crime of violence or a serious drug offense. This bill would allow prosecutors to make that request of a judge but would allow a criminal defendant the right to argue why he or she should not be held.

Makes clear where death penalty cases can be tried.

This bill makes it clear that in a death penalty case, the case can be tried where the murder, or related conduct occurred.

Extends the time within which a violent crime case can be charged and tried.

Violent crime cases often take years to uncover and solve. The nature of these cases makes it difficult to locate and identify witnesses and pursue an investigation. This bill extends the time within which a case can be brought. For violent crime cases, the time is extended from 5 years to 10 years after the offense occurred or the continuing offense was completed, and from 5 years to 8 years after the date on which the violation was first discovered.

Permits wiretaps to be used for new gang crimes.

The use of wiretaps – which are approved and monitored by judges – has proven widely successful in racketeering (RICO) and narcotics cases. This bill would extend the same accepted wiretap process to the new gang crimes created by this bill.

Allows for murdered witness statements to be admitted at trial.

The obvious reason that witnesses sometimes are harmed by gang members is to prevent them from speaking with law enforcement and testifying in court. This bill makes clear that the statements of a murdered witness can be introduced against the defendant who caused a witness's unavailability and the members of the defendant's gang if the murder of the witness was foreseeable to the other members of the gang.

Makes clear where a case can be tried involving retaliation against a witness.

Current law does not make clear where a case can be tried when a witness who is testifying in one state is retaliated against in another state.

This provision makes clear that for crimes involving the retaliation against a witness, prosecution may be brought in the district where the witness testified or where the act of retaliation occurred.

Increased penalties for criminal use of firearms in crimes of violence and drug trafficking.

This section increases the penalty for the use or discharge of a firearm in a crime of violence or a drug trafficking crime from five to seven years.

Modified juvenile provisions.

The problem of youth gang violence requires tough responses. Current law allows prosecutors to charge sixteen and seventeen year-olds as adults in federal court; however, the complicated and time-consuming procedure that is required to allow prosecutors to use this law results in prosecutors often times foregoing this tool in appropriate cases.



This bill will allow prosecutors to more easily charge sixteen and seventeen year-olds who are charged with serious violent felonies, which include murder, abusive sexual contact, kidnapping, robbery, carjacking, extortion, arson, and certain firearms offenses. A judge will still review every decision made by a prosecutor to charge a juvenile as an adult.



Prevention and Intervention

Creation, designation of and assistance for “High Intensity” Interstate Gang Activity areas.

Suppression and intervention are both necessary tools to stop gang violence. This legislation provides support for both.

Law enforcement has successfully used task forces to fight criminal drug activity by creating High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas which team up local, state and federal law enforcement to investigate and prosecute drug cases in areas that have high incidence of drug activity.

This legislation copies that successful model and requires the Attorney General to designate certain locations as High Intensity Interstate Gang Activity Areas and provides assistance in the form of criminal street gang enforcement teams made up of local, state and federal law enforcement authorities to investigate and prosecute criminal street gangs in each high intensity interstate gang activity area.

This Act authorizes funding of \$500 million for 2005 through 2009 to meet the goals of suppression and intervention.

Fifty percent, or \$50 million a year, will be used to support the criminal gang enforcement teams.

Fifty percent, or \$50 million a year, will be used to make grants available for community-based programs to provide for crime prevention and intervention services for gang members and at-risk youth in areas designated as High Intensity Interstate Gang Activity Areas.

Enhancement of Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative to improve enforcement of criminal laws against violent gangs.

The Department of Justice’s Project Safe Neighborhoods is a nationwide commitment to reduce gun crime in America by networking existing local programs that target gun crime and providing those programs with additional tools necessary to be successful.

This bill expands the Project Safe Neighborhoods program to require United States Attorneys to identify and prosecute significant gangs within their district; coordinate such prosecutions among all local, state, and federal law enforcement; and coordinate criminal street gang enforcement teams in designated High Intensity Interstate Gang Activity Areas.

The bill also authorizes the hiring of additional Assistant United States Attorneys and support staff and funding of \$7.5 million for each fiscal year 2005 to 2009 to carry out the goals of this program.

Requires funding for the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Safe Streets Program.

Safe Streets Task Forces attack street gang and drug-related violence, as well as seek the most significant fugitives wanted for crimes of violence through the establishment of long-term, proactive and coordinated teams of federal, state, and local law enforcement officers and prosecutors.

This bill requires the Department of Justice to increase funding for the Safe Streets Program and to support the criminal street gang enforcement teams in designated High Intensity Interstate Gang Activity Areas.

The bill authorizes \$5 million for each fiscal year 2005 to 2009 to expand the FBI's Safe Streets Program.

Provides critical funding for local prosecutors and law enforcement to combat violent crime and to protect witnesses and victims of crime.

Witness intimidation and a lack of prosecutors are major obstacles to investigating and prosecuting criminal street gangs. And with statistics showing that gang members migrate within states and across the country, there is a serious need for funding to allow local law enforcement officers and prosecutors to track gang members and gang activity.

In all, this bill would provide critical funding to local law enforcement and prosecutors – \$100 million over five years – to create and expand witness protection programs, allow for the hiring of additional state and local prosecutors, for gang prevention and community prosecution programs and for purchasing technological equipment to increase the accurate identification and prosecution of violent offenders.

Reauthorizes funding for the Gang Resistance Education and Training (G.R.E.A.T.) Program.

The G.R.E.A.T. Program is a school-based, life-skills program taught by police officers. Through G.R.E.A.T., law enforcement provides a wide range of structured community-based activities and classroom instruction for children. Class topics include crime and victimization, prejudice and cultural sensitivity, conflict resolution skills, drugs and neighborhoods, personal responsibility, and others. G.R.E.A.T. helps children develop the “sense of competency, usefulness, and personal empowerment needed to avoid involvement in youth violence, gangs, and criminal activity.”

The legislation authorizes \$20 million for each fiscal year 2005 to 2009 to support this program.

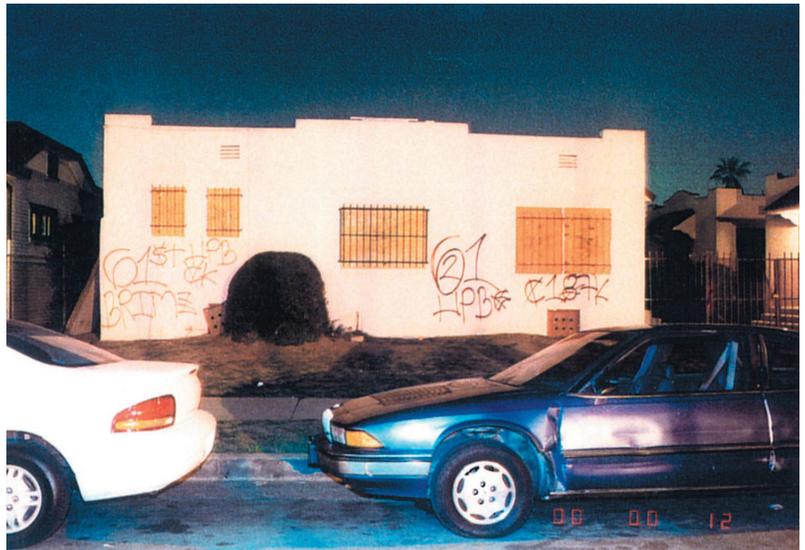
What Law Enforcement is Saying

“The Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department is proud to support your United States Senate Bill 155, known as the ‘Gang Prevention and Effective Deterrence Act of 2005.’... In January 2003, the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department was forced to end its popular at-risk youth intervention program known as ‘VIDA’ (Vital Intervention and Directional Alternatives) due to severe cuts to the Department’s budget. Recently, however, this program has been rejuvenated in a limited capacity at the cost of reducing services and resources in other areas. United States Senate Bill 155 could be a fiscal vehicle to expand this program and other much needed programs in Los Angeles County.”

-Los Angeles County Sheriff Leroy D. Baca, 3/17/2005

“As president of the Northern California Gang Investigators Association and on behalf of the Executive Board and the entire membership I would like to offer our support for Senate Bill 155, ‘The Gang Prevention and Effective Deterrence Act of 2005.’ This legislation not only provides for new laws to protect our communities from one of the country’s biggest threats, the domestic neighborhood terrorist, otherwise known as ‘street gangs,’ but makes available funding to support and enhance local law enforcement in this arena.”

*-Lawrence E. Rael, President,
Northern California Gang
Investigators Association, 3/1/2005*



“[We] are strongly in support of your ‘Gang Prevention and Effective Deterrence Act.’ This legislation is a comprehensive strategy that increases gang prosecution and enforcement resources and also addresses prevention efforts. This bill not only authorizes additional resources to support law enforcement efforts against gangs (including important witness protection programs), but it also allocates important funding to intervention and prevention programs for at-risk youth.”

-Sam Spiegel, California Police Chiefs Association, 2/28/2005

“This legislation will give law enforcement increased tools to combat gang violence by not only increasing penalties, but by also focusing enforcement efforts on gangs who recruit children. The reality is that gangs are no longer neighborhood crime problems, but cross state lines, which makes the federal approach you have tailored singularly appropriate.”

-Jerry Adams, President, California Peace Officers’ Association, 2/28/2005

“In this era of tight budget resources, it is imperative that our law enforcement agencies at every level of government have the ability to maximize their efforts and share resources in order to combat gang crime and violence that is plaguing our cities. The Gang Prevention and Effective Deterrence Act of 2005, S. 155, that you have introduced, will increase and enhance law enforcement resources committed to investigation and prosecution of violent gangs, and will revise and enhance criminal penalties for violent crimes, in order to give law enforcement and prosecutors additional tools to combat this urban cancer.”

-Art Gordon, National President, Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association, 2/20/2005

“This legislation... is a comprehensive, national approach to the problem of gang violence... This bill will enable law enforcement to fight gangs and gang-related activity more effectively by amending Federal law to create a new anti-gang section, similar to that of the current Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations (RICO) statute, to penalize those who commit or conspire to commit crimes in furtherance of a criminal gang.”

-Chuck Canterbury, National President, Fraternal Order of Police, 1/25/05

“This legislation will help stem gang violence by increasing criminal penalties and targeting the most pernicious aspects of gang activity, including the recruitment of children to join street gangs... I wholeheartedly support the legislation and feel it will help to curb the dangerous epidemic of illegal gangs in this country and community.”

-Paul M. Walters, Chief of Police, Santa Ana, California, 1/6/05

“Drive-by shootings, an out-of-control auto theft problem, drug manufacturing and dealing, thefts, beatings, pervasive graffiti, threats against police officers, and the take-over of parks and other public places are common gang activities... They are adversely affecting our sense of security, they are damaging the economy and, if left unchecked, will eventually destabilize our society. Your bill... is an important attempt to help bring the problem of gangs under control.”

-Art de Werk, Chief of Police, Ceres, California, 3/18/05

“The purpose of this letter is to add my name to the list of supporters for the Gang Prevention and Effective Deterrence Act. Gang membership and activity is responsible for a disproportionate number of crimes and homicides in Los Angeles County. I have a story to share that directly affected the City of Burbank and the Burbank Police Department. On November 15, 2003, Burbank Police Officer Matthew Pavelka was killed during a traffic stop of two gang members who were enforcers for their gang’s drug trade. The gang members were each armed with two handguns. They ambushed the officers without warning, and together fired a total of 30 rounds. In the suspects’ car, investigators later found methamphetamine and an assault rifle. Officer Pavelka was struck 14 times. Officer Gregory Campbell was struck twice and paralyzed at the scene. He is still struggling to regain his life functions... This is only one story of the impact of gangs. Unfortunately, there are many. I strongly support your efforts at deterring gang membership and seeking accountability for gang-related activity.”

-Thomas Hoefel, Police Chief, Burbank, California, 3/11/05



For More Information

U.S. Department of Justice Office of Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

810 Seventh Street NW
Washington, DC 20531
Phone: (202) 307-5911
Web Site: <http://www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org/>

Juvenile Justice Clearinghouse

P.O. Box 6000
Rockville, MD 20849-6000
Phone: (800) 851-3420
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California Attorney General's Office; Crime and Violence Prevention Center

1300 I Street, Suite 1120
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Senator Feinstein cannot get this bill passed without your help and the support of the House and Senate Judiciary Committees.

Please take a moment and call or write to as many members as possible to urge them to support the The Gang Prevention and Effective Deterrence Act.

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Senator Patrick Leahy, Ranking Member [D-VT]	(202) 224-4242
Senator Orrin G. Hatch [R-UT]	(202) 224-5251
Senator Chuck Grassley [R-IA]	(202) 224-2744
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Senator Jon Kyl [R-AZ]	(202) 224-4521
Senator Herbert Kohl [D-WI]	(202) 224-5653
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Congress must address upsurge in gangs

Bill would help tighten screws on increasing societal scourge

By Dianne Feinstein

ON Sept. 10, 2003, two students at Manual Arts High School in South Los Angeles, Demario Moore and Quinesha Dunford, were standing on a sidewalk with a group of friends when a car full of gang members drove by and started firing bullets at the crowd.

Within hours, the two teenagers — neither of whom was involved with gangs — were dead.

Innocent young people like Demario and Quinesha are killed nearly every day in the United States by gangs who terrorize their communities. These senseless attacks are usually targeted at competing gang members, but gangs are increasingly becoming more brazen.

Just last month, Los Angeles police Officer Ricardo Lizarraga was shot while responding to a domestic-violence call in the Leimert Park neighborhood. A short time later, he died at a nearby hospital, the victim of a reputed gang member's bullet.

In recent years, gangs have become more sophisticated and more violent criminal enterprises. What were once loosely organized groups centered around dealing illegal drugs within a particular neighborhood are now complex criminal organizations whose

activities include weapons trafficking, gambling, smuggling, robbery and, of course, homicide.

In 2002, over half of the 1,228 homicides committed in Los Angeles County were gang-related. Similarly, over half of the 499 murders committed in the city of Los Angeles during 2003 were the result of gang violence.

Conservative estimates put the number of separate street gangs in L.A. County at approximately 1,000 and the number of gang members at around 150,000. To the south, Orange County has an estimated 20,000 gang members and comparable numbers of gang members exist in Ventura and San Bernardino counties.

The reach of gangs, however, extends far beyond Southern California.

Indeed, Los Angeles serves as a "source city" whose gang members migrate to other communities across the country and set up new criminal entities.

One such operation, the L.A.-based 18th Street Gang, is known to have initiated gang activities all over California, in Southwest border and Pacific Northwest states, and in East Coast states including New Jersey and New York.

In Virginia, a 22-year-old California man was recently charged with recruit-

ing minors into a gang after being arrested at a high school for possession of a loaded gun. The man, a convicted sex offender, had been talking to a 15-year-old student in the school's parking lot when a school security officer called police.

Gang members successfully lure young recruits with offers of protection and easy money. But the gang recruiters have another goal in mind — more young gang members who, if arrested, will face lighter sentences for drug trafficking, assault and other serious crimes.

The result of these aggressive recruitment efforts is a dramatic increase in gang membership nationally, rising from a 1980 estimate of 100,000 to more than 750,000 today. And even as Americans have enjoyed decreases in overall crime for a decade now, gangs have taken a stronger grip on our cities and even many rural communities. Gangs have never been more common, more dangerous or more mobile than they are today.

To address the gang problem nationwide, Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, and I have introduced the Gang Prevention and Effective Deterrence Act. The bill:

- Authorizes \$650 million over the next five years — \$450 million to support federal, state and local law enforcement efforts against violent gangs, and \$200 million for intervention and prevention programs for at-risk youths.*

- Increases funding for federal prosecutors and FBI agents to strengthen

coordinated enforcement efforts against violent gangs.

- Creates new criminal gang prosecution offenses to prohibit recruitment of minors in a criminal street gang, and to punish violent crimes related to gangs.

- Enhances existing gang and violent crime penalties to deter and punish illegal street gangs, and proposes violent crime reforms needed to prosecute gang members effectively.

- Enacts a limited reform of the juvenile justice system to facilitate federal prosecution of 16- and 17-year-old gang members who commit serious acts of violence.

Recently, Los Angeles Police Chief William Bratton likened gang violence to a sleeping tiger. At a two-day gang-violence summit held in January, Bratton warned, "When this tiger awakens it's going to explode, and many communities aren't prepared for it. And we have a national government, a Congress, that is not focused on the problem."

As we've seen from the recent shootings of Demario Moore, Quinesha Dunford and Officer Lizarraga, this sleeping tiger is already lashing out at innocent victims. Gangs present a lethal threat to communities across California and across the nation. And Chief Bratton is right — it is time for Congress to focus on this problem and address it at the national level.

Dianne Feinstein is a Democratic U.S. senator from California.

* The bill now authorizes \$762.5 million over the next five years - \$500 million to support federal, state and local law enforcement efforts against violent gangs, and \$262.5 million for intervention and prevention programs for at risk youths.



Man Killed by Gunfire in South-Central L.A.

Police are seeking the public's help in finding out who shot two men and a 15-year-old boy.

By MICHAEL KRICKORIAN
Times Staff Writer

Residents near 87th Place and McKinley Avenue reported at least two rapid bursts of gunfire, police said.

When Los Angeles Police Department officers arrived, they found two men dead in the cab of a white Chevrolet pickup

"The biggest question is the motive," said Capt. Terry Hara, commanding officer of the LAPD's Southeast Division.

Detectives believe the incident began in an alley between 87th Place and 88th Street, just off McKinley Avenue. "We found some shell casings in the alley," said Det. Chris Baring.

AK-47, were found in the alley and the street and on the sidewalk, police said.

Neighbors said they do not know the victims, and were not familiar with the truck. "I was quiet around here," said a woman who would identify herself only as "Linda." "All those shots woke me up."

Brutal Conviction

By NEELY TUCKER
Washington Post

Robert Smith was sentenced to die, with a 15-year reprieve, for the slaying of a man and a woman on O Street in Washington. And yet the man played a series of roles, one of them as a Chinese in a film crew, as if

juana gang... out across... nearly a... es.

The... cent we... sentence... Judge... as it w... tifying... least... An

dolla... clim... ruth... wo... co... th... a... c...

'Doesn't Make Sense' 14-year-old innocent victim of gang violence

By Zachary R. Dowdy
STAFF WRITER

Rhonda White would like to look into the eyes of the man who authorities said gunned down her 14-year-old nephew, and ask him a simple question: "I would ask him why he did it."

White's nephew, Jose White, 14, of Freeport, was cut down by a bullet as he rode his bicycle on West Fulton Avenue in Roosevelt on Sept. 23, 2001. "I have no idea who he is or why he did this but that's what I need for closure."

She may get her chance. In a sweeping roundup of alleged gang members, federal authorities announced yesterday that Laval Farmer, who they say fired a gun whose bullet pierced White's heart and lungs, is one of 30 area men who they arrested and

charged over the past several months with a host of federal crimes.

The crimes include five murders and several assaults, stabbings, robberies, shootings and drug dealing occurring in both Long Island counties between August 2000 and October 2003.

They all allegedly were committed by members of three gangs, the Bloods, MS-13 and Murder Unit, whose operations stretch 80 miles, from Hempstead in Nassau to Greenport on Suffolk's North Fork.

"These gangs are ruthless and highly organized," Andrew C. Hruska, chief assistant U.S. attorney, said at a news conference in Central Islip yesterday, adding that the gangs were responsible for a "wave of barbaric violence."

Hruska said federal prosecutors will

invoke the harsher federal laws, on top of the state charges that some already face, because they can impose longer terms and, as punishment for the gang-related homicides, may include the death penalty. He said prosecutors will use federal racketeering laws originally crafted to nab organized crime figures in the mob.

In addition to White's killing, the homicides also include the Sept. 13 killing of Edgardo Sanchez in North Massapequa; the killing of Jesus Valentin on July 3 in Central Islip; the killing of Jaime Figueroa on Feb. 23 in Freeport; and the killing of Jose Alberto Cruz Sr. on July 31, 2001, in Roosevelt.

"It's about time that they did some-

See GANGS on A41

Gang Sweep on LI Across counties, 30 members charged in violent crimes

By Robert E. Kessler
STAFF WRITER

Thirty members of three street gangs on Long Island were charged yesterday with "a chilling catalog" of violent crimes, including five murders, a firebombing and numerous assaults and robberies, federal authorities said.

Officials said the suspects included some leaders of the Bloods gang in Nassau, MS-13 in both counties and a lesser-known gang calling itself "Murder Unit" on the North Fork. They said seven of those charged face a possible death penalty, and many others life imprisonment.

The investigation, dubbed Operation Streetsweeper, included agents of the FBI, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and Long Island law enforcement agencies, and covered crimes going back as far as the year 2000. Many of the suspects had been arrested earlier on lesser or related charges, to get them off the streets, and now face the stiff

murder, attempted murder, use of explosives in the commission of a felony, assault and drug dealing.

Suffolk District Attorney Thomas Spota praised the efforts of Mauakopi office, saying the "arrests and charges are clear-cut examples of the success we can have when we work together as a team to tackle the problem."

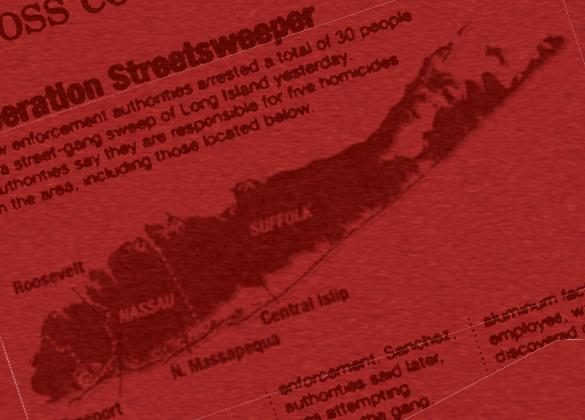
Those arrested, for the most part, face multi-year sentences if convicted in federal court than in state courts.

In two cases that were solved by joint effort by the FBI, Nassau Police and the district attorney's office, Hruska said, members of the Bloods murdered two people they wrongly thought were members of rival gangs who were members of the Bloods.

In one of those cases, a 14-year-old boy was killed while bicycling in Roosevelt in September 2001. Jose White was

Operation Streetsweeper

Law enforcement authorities arrested a total of 30 people in a street-gang sweep of Long Island yesterday. Authorities say they are responsible for five homicides in the area, including those located below.



Freeport
On Date: Feb. 23, 2003
Victim: Jaime Figueroa
Circumstances:
Arrested MS-13

enforcement. Sanchez authorities said later, was attempting to leave the gang

aluminum factory employee, was discovered on the

- M...
- Sam...
- William...
- Sean C...
- Jerome...
- Vincent H...
- Gary Price,

in everything from a pickup truck to an apartment, filmed even neighborhood locals picking up \$20 "baggies" containing four grams of pot.

The low-key entrepreneur, who was innocently with cocaine trafficking, made history of violence.

Larry Wright, a small-time dealer, was shot to death in 1989. Maurice Holman and Leonard Hyson, two others caught up in the lifestyle, were killed in a Thomas and Lucas, the two sisters, were shot to death March 22, 1991. A drug dealer named Anthony Fortune was slain Aug. 6, 1991. Christaunna Gladden, a bystander who witnessed a slaying, was charged to a member of the gang, she left a party in October 1996—four days before she was to