



CBCF EXECUTIVE ORDER TRACKER

Countering Domestic Terrorism and Organized Political Violence

Presidential Memorandum

Date Issued: September 25, 2025

Topic: Criminal Justice, Law Enforcement

WHAT DOES THIS MEMORANDUM DO?

- This memorandum expands on President Trump's executive orders that declare Antifa as a domestic terrorist organization and create a [standing National Guard unit](#) to quell civil unrest in US cities.
- The memo instructs the National Joint Terrorism Task Force and its local offices (JTTFs) to coordinate and oversee a comprehensive national strategy for entities and individuals that suppress lawful political activity, obstruct the rule of law, encourage domestic terrorism, or aid and abet those efforts. The memo directs the JTTFs to investigate, prosecute, and disrupt the perpetrators to the fullest extent of the law.
- The memo also asserts that domestic terrorism is a national priority area of the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Department of Homeland Security and requires their Cabinet Secretaries to develop grant programs that allocate funding for law enforcement partners to detect, prevent, and protect against threats.



HOW WILL THIS MEMORANDUM BE ENFORCED?

- This memorandum is primarily enforced by the JTTFs, in coordination with federal departments and agencies.
- The memo authorizes the JTTFs to investigate potential Federal crimes related to acts of recruiting or radicalizing persons for the purposes of political violence, terrorism, or the “violent deprivation of any citizen’s rights.” The memo instructs the Attorney General (AG) and DOJ to prosecute those crimes to the fullest extent of the law.
- The memo also directs the AG to prioritize politically motivated acts like organized doxing campaigns, swatting, rioting, looting, trespassing, assault, destruction of property, threats of violence, and civil disorder, in the prosecution and enforcement of domestic terrorism laws.
- The memo directs the JTTFs to provide regular progress updates to the President through the Assistant to the President and Homeland Security Advisor.
- The memo instructs the Secretary of the Treasury to find financial capacity for federal officials to identify and disrupt financial networks that fund domestic terrorism and political violence, and to refer the perpetrators to law enforcement.
- The memo authorizes the Commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to ensure that tax-exempt entities are not directly or indirectly financing political violence or domestic terrorism.
- The memo encourages the AG to recommend entities to the President that meet the definition of domestic terrorism.
- The memo directs federal law enforcement agencies with investigative authority to prioritize the following crimes:
 - Assaulting Federal officers or employees
 - Solicitation to commit a crime of violence
 - Money laundering
 - Funding of terrorist acts or otherwise facilitating terrorism
 - Arson offenses, and
 - Major fraud against the United States.



HOW DOES THIS IMPACT BLACK COMMUNITIES?

- President Trump has deployed federal law enforcement units in Black-led and predominantly Black cities, like Chicago, Memphis, and Washington, D.C., which puts Black communities at risk of excessive force. A 2020 [study](#) found that expanding police forces in cities with the largest Black populations disproportionately increased low-level arrests without equivalent public safety benefits. From 2018–2020, Black Americans were [more than twice](#) as likely as white Americans to experience a threat or nonfatal use of force during police interactions.
- In September, federal agents took over a Chicago apartment building rumored to contain undocumented immigrants. There, they [detained](#), and zip-tied dozens of U.S. citizens. This order outlines the Trump administration's intent to expand efforts like these across the country and to punish organizations that oppose its policy agenda.
- This order continues the federal government's historical pattern of framing Black political dissidents as terrorists and/or threats to national security. In the wake of the Cold War, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) launched a surveillance campaign called [COINTELPRO](#) to address communism in the United States. It expanded the initiative in the 1960s to include investigations into anti-war organizations and civil rights advocates like the Black Panther Party, the NAACP, and Martin Luther King Jr. The FBI's expressed objective was to "expose, disrupt, misdirect, and discredit" groups and individuals deemed "Black National Hate Groups" and "Black Extremists," respectively. The FBI fabricated promotional materials, forged documents, spread false rumors, and was even linked to political violence and the death of Black activists all to curb the progress of the civil rights movement in the United States.
- During the height of the Black Lives Matter movement in 2020, the FBI issued a [warning](#) about the danger of "Black Identity" groups, including the Movement for Black Lives. This executive order continues the pattern of federal agencies targeting Black activists for their political views.



HOW DOES THIS IMPACT BLACK COMMUNITIES?

- In an executive order signed days before this memo, President Trump declared the anti-fascist movement as domestic terrorism. Because Antifa is not a cohesive organization with clear leadership, this order permits the Trump Administration to define who is a member. As a result, the White House may target Black people protesting racial injustice in a nonviolent manner as Antifa and subject them to legal penalties.
- In this memo, President Trump instructs federal agencies to prosecute entities that fund or assist protestors and political dissidents, including nonprofits and religious organizations. The organizations could be investigated for providing material support to a domestic terrorist organization, but the definition of material support is broad, and could include including small purchases like bottled water. This ambiguity, combined with the Trump Administration's ability to define Antifa and its membership, gives the DOJ unprecedented authority to bring federal charges against the President's political opponents. Since the memo was published, President Trump has stated that he is considering declaring Antifa a foreign terrorist organization, which would have significantly more severe legal ramifications for the implicated parties. While the President has expressed his wishes, the State Department is the only agency that can formally designate foreign terrorist organizations.
- The memo will have consequences for all Americans but will disproportionately impact Black communities. Over 80% of Black Americans disapprove of President Trump's performance. This false characterization of Antifa could leave Black protestors vulnerable to attacks from people who view them as a threat to the nation, potentially leading to increased political violence.



HOW ARE CBC MEMBERS RESPONDING?

- While countering claims that Antifa is a terrorist organization, members of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) recognize that this order could foment political violence, which they have condemned outright. **Rep. Yvette D. Clarke**, Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, released the following statement after the assassination of Charlie Kirk.
 - "We must unequivocally reject violence in all its forms. Too many times in our nation's history, political differences have turned to violence – violence that our community, in particular, knows too well from the assassinations of Black leaders like Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Medger Evers, and Fred Hampton, among others. At the same time, we must condemn violence without abandoning our right to speak out against ideas that are inconsistent with our values as Americans." [Full Statement](#)
- **Congressman Troy A. Carter, Sr.**, 1st Vice Chair of the CBC, released the following statement in response to President Trump's federal takeover of DC:
 - "The President's attempt to seize control of Washington, D.C.'s police force—and his suggestion that he may do the same in cities like New York, Los Angeles, or Chicago—is an alarming and dangerous overreach by the Executive Branch. [...] This sets a dangerous precedent. Allowing the federal government to override local governance erodes the very foundation of our democracy. It opens the door for politically motivated takeovers based on partisan targeting rather than public safety." [Full Statement](#)