Title
Police Watch Before & After Ferguson

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POLICE WATCH
BEFORE & AFTER
FERGUSON

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Co-Founder
Alliance Working for Asian Rights & Empowerment
Slides of presentation prepared for
University of California, Irvine
19 May 2015
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MORAL PANIC OVER ASIAN GANGS

BY DANIEL C. TSANG
“Buddhism is the Eastern counterpart to our hardworking ethic, only it seems more demanding, basically. If you do not own a Mercedes-Benz, you are impoverished. Then you have no one to blame but yourself.”

- Joseph Lowery

Police Chief of September 1984

“Yellow fever is spread by the mosquito. The symptoms are fever, headache, and vomiting.”

- Dr. Henry B. Mead

From the April 1984 issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association

“Buddhism is the yin and yang... This is the KUNG FU thing so popular among Asian organizers... The discipline and persistence is a virtue and stymies many of our traditional police methods.”

- Carlos Bomar

From the June 1984 issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association

“Told you we like our government... most police officers, too.”

- Robert F. Kennedy

From the September 1968 issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association

“Told you we like our government... most police officers, too.”

- Robert F. Kennedy

From the September 1968 issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association
Police Watching in 1993 in Orange County

STOP THE "ASIAN MUG-BOOK"

The police practice of photographing Asian youth on the street without arrest or permission as "suspicious" gang members is happening in many cities in California.

PROTECT THE CIVIL RIGHTS OF ASIAN YOUTH!

For the past year, Asian American youth (Japanese, Vietnamese, Chinese and Korean) have been detained and searched with questionable "probable cause" by the police in Fountain Valley. The police have systematically taken mugshots of youth right on the street against a wall or squad car without permission or explanation and have collected these photos in a binder, designated "AGC" (Asian Gang Investigation). Casual racist taunts and physical abuse have been used as an excuse and to stifle and stigmatize youth on the basis of their race and ethnicity. The photo mug-shot practice may be a discriminatory violation of civil and constitutional rights. What are proportionately photographed victims of civil and constitutional rights. What are discrimination andציעות are being stigmatized in the future. The effectiveness of the Asian mug-shot practice is being questioned by various law enforcement agencies across the country.

In San Jose, Ted Nguyen, mistakenly identified as a robber suspect through the Asian photo files, spent 3 months in jail plus $20,000 worth of legal fees before being tried innocent. Through the technical effort of the Asian American community, the police department in July 1992, the Asian gang photo policy was abolished in San Jose.

Law enforcement officials have placed more attention on Asian and criminal activity, random harassment of Asian youth and the mug-shot practice imperils individual civil and constitutional rights.

With the economy in a severe recession, racism is on the rise. High youth unemployment and increasingly unaffordable quality education, in turn, stigmatize youth status and gang members are being targeted through oppressive measures like the Asian mug-shot practice.

DATE / TIME: TUESDAY, JUNE 22, 1993, 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
PLACE: CITY HALL IN FOUNTAIN VALLEY, CA
10200 SLATER AVE.
(Close to Pearl St., off US 101, north of Brookhurst St.)
Asian-Americans Organize AWARE: Rights: The countywide group is an outgrowth of a dispute over photographs of gang members taken by Fountain Valley police.

September 29, 1993 | BILL BILLITER | TIMES STAFF WRITER

COSTA MESA — Angered by incidents of what they term discrimination and harassment, a group of Asian-Americans in Orange County has formed a new countywide organization to battle for civil rights.

Called AWARE, which stands for Alliance Working for Asian Rights and Empowerment, the group is spearheaded by Daniel C. Tsang, a Costa Mesa resident who is a lecturer and library staffer at UC Irvine. The 10 founding members, including Tsang, organized AWARE on Sunday.

"We're not sure if there is an increase of harassment of Asian-Americans going on in Orange County, but more instances are being reported," Tsang said in an interview Tuesday. "We want to empower Asian-Americans to keep lines of communication open and to work together on issues like hate crimes."

Asian-Americans, according to the 1990 federal census, constitute about 7.4% of Orange County's population.

AWARE is an outgrowth of a dispute over a Fountain Valley police practice of taking photos of suspected gang members. Tsang said the Asian-Americans who protested the Fountain Valley police practice are among the founding members of AWARE. The group has not yet elected officers.
Tsang cited the Jan. 9 beating of a Vietnamese-American in Laguna Beach as an example of an alleged hate crime. In that incident, the victim, Loe Minh Truong, was critically injured by youths who attacked him. Police labeled it a hate crime, saying the attackers thought Truong was gay.

But Tsang said he and other Asian-Americans believe Truong was also targeted for assault because of his race. He said AWARE will be vigilant about speaking out for Asian-American victims.

AWARE will also be a citizens' watchdog agency against police abuse, Tsang said.

"We are opposed to police taking mug shots (photos) of young people just because they're Asian-Americans," Tsang said, referring to the Fountain Valley Police Department's compilation of photos of suspected gang members.

Fountain Valley police and city officials have said repeatedly that no discrimination is involved in photographing suspected gang members.

Mayor Laurann Cook said both the city attorney and an independent attorney specializing in city litigation had found the police practice to be legal. Moreover, Cook said, photographs are taken only of youths who give written consent first.

But Tsang on Tuesday said members of AWARE believe Asian-American youths are so frightened by police that they agree, out of intimidation, to being photographed. "You can fight gangs and crime without having to violate constitutional rights."

Tsang said AWARE "wants to build good relations between young people and police. We want to help police to do a better job."

He said AWARE's goals also include the following:

* Seeking a state law to ban police from taking photos of people who are stopped but not arrested.
* Encouraging cities in Orange County to have citizens, including Asian-Americans, review and comment on police procedures.
* Conducting "youth outreach programs," such as summer job programs, for Asian-American young people.
* Pushing for more ethnic diversity, including the hiring of more Asian-Americans in city police departments.
AWARE Button
Know Your Rights

If police stop you...
You have certain rights. Police cannot stop and detain you unless there is a legally valid reason. The best option is to remain calm and be courteous. Do NOT resist the police. You have the right to ask if you can leave: If the police say no, you are being detained. You have the right to ask why. Police may try to conduct a “field interview” with you. In general, it is NOT wise to answer any questions (beyond giving your name & address), or agree to a search without your lawyer present. Remember to note the badge number and name of each police officer and time, date and place. Ask if you are under arrest.

If police try to photograph you without arresting you...
You have a right to say no to any photos. Show the other side of this card to the police (after you’ve filled it out). Police are photographing youth for gang files, whether or not you are a gang member. AWARE is fighting this practice. You can help by reporting all such incidents. We can help you file complaints. Report incidents to:

Alliance Working for Asian Rights and Empowerment
(949) 597-9766  awaredt@hotmail.com
On the back of the card

Declaration:
I do NOT give permission for police or other law enforcement personnel to take any photographs of me.

Name (sign here): .............................................

Date: ..........................................................

If under 18, have parent or guardian co-sign below:

I agree with the above statement.

Parent/guardian (sign here): .............................................

Date: ..........................................................
Annie Lee and Minh Tram Tran, 2 of the original plaintiffs

Photo © copyright Daniel C. Tsang 1993
Is ‘Innocent Until Proven Guilty’ a Lost Principle?

By DANIEL C. TSANG

Police arrest and harass young Asian Americans, many of whom are suspected of being gang members. This has fueled a backlash against Asian Americans, who live under the same roof from which they were not permitted to enter public schools. Pacifica police have detained and photographed Asian youths, mostly on suspicion that they belong to gangs or are “gang associates.” And police in Santa Ana arrested a Japanese-American family at dawn, handcuffing the whole family, while seeking to arrest one man.

The report by Rep. Dana Rohrabacher (R-Huntington Beach) and Westminster Councilman Tony Lam has called for swift implementation of any anti-gang measures to avoid any major panic.

Recently, a group of Asian-Americans—including many young people—protested at a Santa Ana City Council meeting.

‘‘Basing police work on stereotypes is hardly professional behavior. And taking photographs of innocent people is hardly cost-effective.’’

From left, Minh Tran, 14, Santa Ana; Anh Le, 14, Tustin; Pham, 15, Tustin, say police have stopped them for wearing similar to what they have on in this photo.
Suit Settlement

The ACLU and Garden Grove police have agreed to settle a lawsuit challenging the police practice of stopping suspected gang members and taking their photographs for files and mug books. Some key aspects of the settlement:

- Detainees must knowingly and voluntarily consent in writing.
- Photograph must serve a legitimate law enforcement purpose.
- Knowledge/suspicion of gang membership or affiliation, without more information, is insufficient justification for uncontested photograph; there must be factual indication detainee was involved in criminal conduct.
- If reasonable suspicion of criminal activity has been dispelled, no photograph may be taken without consent, and no detention shall be made for sole purpose of taking a photograph.
- In collecting information for its “field interview” cards, which are placed in gang-related files, officers must now:
  Enter time the stop was initiated and time it ended.
  Describe detainee’s clothing and name of affiliated gang; if gang affiliation is denied, officers cannot make further inquiry on that subject.
  State facts that gave rise to reasonable suspicion in a new five-line narrative.

Provide information relating detainee to a particular type of crime or incident, all field interview cards must be approved by supervisors.

Provide citizens opportunity to file a request with police chief to have their field interviews and photographs purged from police files. If chief declines, three-member panel of chief’s volunteers forum will review decision.
- In addition to revising procedures, the Police Department will:
  Pay $85,000 to five Asian youths who brought the lawsuit and their attorneys.
  Purge plaintiffs’ photos and negatives from files.
  Destroy all field photographs taken before Dec. 21, 1993, except those connected to a specific criminal case.
  Train all officers in new procedures within next six months.
  Make available details of review process to public secondary schools within Garden Grove.
  Allow ACLU to randomly review information taken about suspected gang members.
  Not ask juveniles to produce immigration documents such as green cards.
  Observe revised rules on wallet searches. If officer has cause to search suspect’s wallet, officers may not examine photographs of detainee’s friends or personal writing on photo backs.

Source: U.S. District Court, Los Angeles; Research by DAVID MARINELLI/ Los Angeles Times
Garden Grove’s Asian Mug File Settlement

© Daniel C. Tsang

(SANTA ANA, CALIFORNIA) – In settling a class action lawsuit against them recently, the Garden Grove Police Department has agreed to policies that no one is ethnically, or racially profiled or detained in “gang areas” or is no longer subject to searches, or being detained in “gang areas” are no longer subject to searches, or being detained for any other reason, or being detained for any other reason, or being detained in “gang areas” or being detained in “gang areas.” The settlement, for Quyen Pham at all City of Garden Grove at all was approved on August 24, 1996, by U.S. District Court Judge William Rebell of the Central District of California. This is just one of many suits of police harassment of Asian youth in southern California. Garden Grove lies between Los Angeles and San Diego in Orange County, which has the largest southeast Asian community outside Asia itself.

The 265,000 settlement came almost three years after an incident involving three Southeast Asian immigrants, two high school形 students. Alleged in flagrante, they were stopped by Garden Grove police’s Gang Suppression Unit in July 1993 in the Baldwin Park area, a street, which police later claimed was frequented by gang, Police questioned the men about gang affiliations for “field interviews,” cards and photographed them without permission. One of the girls, Thuy Thao, was arrested in a late incident for not carrying a press card, though she is a U.S. citizen and had legal, only required an alien card, one short, in many investigation papers. The civil surprised national attention back in December 1995 when CBS Evening News profiled place!! Quyen Pham for his “Eye for America” segment. The final settlement covers five claimants in all those girls plus Annie Loe, the girl� shaped with them in the mall who later joined the suit, and two others, Thuy Thao and Tina Luong, who went with Thuy in a July 1994 Lemon Run Festival when Garden Grove police deserted them.

ANALysts (Asian American Working for Asian Rights and Empowerment) were actually formed in September 1993 because of this incident. The original three girls print new newspapers in 1995, press against the

“Asian Mugshot” technique in neighboring Fullerton Valley and contacted me. The Punjabi Youth Alliance had filed 15 complaints against police for similar "photo stops," and the Garden Grove case confirmed activities that the problem was widespread enough to warrant a country-wide group. We brought support from the ACLU, which assisted the claimant in filling a complaint with City Hall and last month that a class action suit on behalf of all Southeast Asian or people appearing to be.

In settling the lawsuit, Garden Grove PD has agreed to a new "anonymity list" (which have the same legal force as its General Order) covering field identifications and photography. Officers can now only detain individuals if there is reasonable suspicion of a crime being or about to be committed, and can only take photographs with the person’s informed consent or, unless that part of repudiating a particular crime. Officers have in the background for detention in a five-line notice or a revised field interview card. If a person denies gang membership or affiliation, officers must not go further unless they have more information, and must record denial in the FI card. Officers are barred from retracing through a vehicle looking for photographs or exhibitions. They are only allowed to con- firm the individual’s identity. Officers are in the GREAT computer system that tracks gang activity in the Southeast. Police Chief Joe Kim also wrote letters of apology to the plaintiffs and consented and agreed to pause all records (including photos) relating to the fire. Many of photographs used in other disputes before December 23, 1993, will be destroyed.

For a period of one year, the ACLU will monitor records associated with field detentions. Each month, the ACLU will report to the attorney general on a list, to obtain an agreement to obtain a three-member advisory panel, the Chief’s Panel, looking over the file.

The settlement, of course, is to be strictly monitored in order to assure police compliance. Unfortunately, both ACLU attorneys, who argued the case on behalf of the ACLU of Southern California, which at that time had not assigned a new attorney (Robert Thom is now a consultant with the Los Angeles Human Relations Commission, and Nancy Silverman is now the Legal Director of the ACLU’s Denver office.) Under the settle- ment, Garden Grove PD was supposed to widely publish the appeals procedures, but there is little evidence of this occurring. The PI card will still use the standard term "Outlaw." For Asians and two other Asian groups are specifically identified — Vietnamese and Samoans — through the Southeast populations in the city is almost non-existent. Moreover, the “Outlaw” Chief’s Panel is not only an independent citizen review panel, even though only one member can be a city employee, because it is handicapped by the police and only "al-"vailable.

More seriously, the settlement allows police in continuing to photograph with camer- as and without it they are not seeking particular crimes. ANOTHER is in that it gives widespread powers of photographing of youth of color in community areas. It sets a higher bar to established community relations with the po- lice, and continues to allow for as long of any such photograph. Even police asking people if they consent in a photo is prohib- ited. Who is in a position in an offi- cial with a badge and a gun, especially in

Minturn Thao and Quyen Pham at ALCU press conference announcing settlement.

Photo © Daniel C. Tsang 1996

warned before it was renewed. Muslims in any ID escape when operating a vehicle. Police eliminate a home mis- sion for removing "gang association" due in
Cont'd....

the middle of the night?

That scenario of increased harassment was highlighted when some half-dozen students at University of California, Irvine, all Asian Americans, complained in December about campus, Irvine and Newport Beach police harassing them and some city police even having their pictures. One complainant told University authorities that undercover police followed him as he left an Irvine apartment complex and subsequently two regular police cars pulled him over on the freeway. Irvine police asked about gang affiliation (he's not a gang member) and then photographed him, over his initial protests.

In documents received after making a Public Records Act request, AWARE has also discovered that the police in Irvine, south of Garden Grove, devoted a whole paragraph to AWARE in its training bulletin on photographing field detainees. The bulletin states that AWARE is “actively trying to stop police from photographing field detainees,” and criticizes AWARE’s “Know Your Rights” card as “denying” the right of police to take photographs except during an arrest. (In fact, the card allows the cardholder to sign -- with parental endorsement as well -- that he or she does not consent to be photographed. Created in 1994, over 3,000 of the cards have now been distributed.)

AWARE's appearance at a recent Irvine City Council meeting to request time on a future agenda to discuss this was met with the police chief denying he had received any complaints and councillors suggesting it would be a good time for police to show off their new Gang Suppression Unit. Two councillors, however, later privately expressed concern over police singling out AWARE in the bulletin and promised to meet with the police chief. Irvine is also currently considering not notifying parents when police seek to interview children about gang activity, a recommendation made by a special task force jointly created by the City Council and school board.

Unfortunately, the Garden Grove PD settlement only applies to Garden Grove, and there is no sign that police elsewhere in Orange County are rushing to revise their policies, even though the private attorney representing the Garden Grove police, Bruce Pratt, also represents many other police departments in the county and state. AWARE remains the only organization acting as Police Watch in Orange County.

Daniel Tsang co-founded AWARE with JoAnne Kaneshige, whose son was misidentified from a police photo and jailed for almost a year before being acquitted in a shooting case, and community organizer Q.T. Nguyen. A social science bibliographer at UCI/Irvine, he also hosts "Subversity" weekly on KUCI 88.9 FM. He's been active in anti-surveillance work for several decades, including work with the Public Eye Network in the 1980's and Covert Action Information Bulletin (now Quarterly). Reach him at AWARE. P.O. 28977, Santa Ana, California 92799-2877, (714) 750-9766 or via email at dtsang@uci.edu. AWARE's website address is: http://isun3.lib.uci.edu/~dtsang/aawaref.htm.
Community Essay

‘Asians Are Automatically Labeled Gang Members’

Critics say cultural bias figures into the case against a Vietnamese student. Propositions 187 and 184 could exacerbate the problem.

By DANIEL C. TSANG

The bobbing shaved heads in a sea of orange, for one fleeting moment, brought me back to Southeast Asia, reminding me of Buddhist monks going about their routine in their saffron robes. But reality struck. I am in the waiting room at Orange County Men’s Jail. I am here to see Tu Anh Tran, 22, who legally immigrated from Vietnam in 1988. He is charged with him with murder, attempted murder and robbery. His public defender, Jeff Lund, says Tu is a victim of being the “wrong place at the wrong time.” Tu says tattoos and cigarette burns on his arm, made during his time in Vietnam, are not gang tattoos. Others, including Li Tan Pong, Tu's math instructor at Rancho Santiago College and his mentor, firmly believe police are mistaken. Li says that without the gang connection, Tu, who was shot in the back during the incident, would not have been charged.

On April 2, Tu was a student at Rancho Santiago College in Santa Ana. It was spring break. Tu and a friend ate at a little Saigon restaurant in Westminster. As Tu was paying the bill, a fight broke out. He says that as Tu tried to break up the fight, he saw an off-duty security guard shot and killed his friend, and wounded Tu. The next thing he knew, he was taken from the hospital to jail.

Even though he has no prior convictions, Tu faces a possible life sentence if convicted. The man who did the shooting is free, claiming self-defense, that he was attacked by a group of people in the crowded cafe.

Tu believes his predicament is due to cultural misinterpretation of his tattoos and cigarette burns. Tu has a tattoo of an eagle on his arm and the words, in Vietnamese, “bird without its flock.” He says it speaks to his loneliness after his mother’s death when he was 17 and living in Iowa. According to Tu, the police told him the tattoo is proof he is a Chino gang, even though he is Vietnamese.

Tu says the tattoo burns on his arms were also to show his pain at his mother’s passing. Dr. Hoang Van Duc, who specializes in USC says Tu’s actions have been an adaptation of old Vietnamese religious tradition—when monks walked into Buddhism, their skin was covered with burning incense to prevent handle pain through meditation. 1993 Southeast Asian Gangs: The California Commission on Standards and Training notes that tattoo burn marks are “without question the most common form of marking among Asian gang members.”
AWARE demonstrates outside Courthouse, Santa Ana, 1990s
AWARE outside Irvine PD, 1990s
UCI Ombudsman Gets Involved

February 2, 1996

Charles Brodeur
Chief of Police
1800 Center Drive
Irvine, California 92697

Subject: Irvine Police Treatment of individuals in the Asian community

Dear Chief Brodeur:

Please accept this letter as an introduction to the Ombudsman Office at the University of California, Irvine. I am writing to express concerns regarding the treatment of Asian students on the UCI campus regarding the treatment they have received from the Irvine City Police. (A copy of one student's P.E.T. Petition to the University Ombudsman is enclosed for your information.)

I do not expect you to fully understand my involvement in this matter. I shall describe our UCI Ombudsman Office as the Assistant Chancellor and Chancellor's special assistant for "advocacy for equity" and to address the resolution of the problems and concerns that affect our students, faculty, and staff who are located on the UCI Main Campus, the College of Medicine, and the Medical Center.

In addition, I have served as the advisor to the Asian Pacific Student Association (APSA) for the past 12 years. I also have mediated issues of concern that exist between the Asian American of the university community and our UCI Police Officers. Therefore, I can state unequivocally that the majority of my experiences have been that the police are not biased toward any particular ethnic group, but are simply doing their best that they can to protect the community which they serve.

However, several Asian students have recently presented their concerns to the UCI Ombudsman Office regarding the treatment they have received from the Irvine Police. (Please be assured that I always abides the Ombudsman Rules and Regulations and will continue to do so in the matter with the appropriate Director Representative. Although a few students stated that they followed this procedure to no avail, other students expressed their fears of racial and/or future "harassment.

However, I do share that belief and I will continue to advise the students who come to the Ombudsman office to go directly to the Irvine Police. Nevertheless, because of the escalation of incidents that have occurred at the UCI campus, I am writing to you.
02/02/96
p. 2

It also is noteworthy that the growth of the Asian population at UCI is
being frequently discussed and these remarks can put the Asian community
on the defensive. Although I realize that this is not the fault of one
individual, office, or department, nevertheless the attached statement
and similar grievances can create a problem or escalate an issue in a
manner that is beneficial to neither of the involved parties. Therefore,
if at all possible, I am requesting your assistance in the following
manner:

1. Could you provide me with the name of the appropriate individual to
when I can direct grievances similar to the attached document?

2. Would you consider asking a representative from your Community Liaison
Office to meet with members of the Asian Pacific Student Association
and listen to their concerns?

3. Would you consider discussing the issue with Kathleen Stanley, Chief
of the UCI Campus Police, so that a collaborative approach to this
problem might be designed and implemented?

Thank you for your consideration in this matter, and if you have any
questions, please call me at (714) 824-7256.

Sincerely,

Ron Wilson
Assistant Executive Vice Chancellor
University of California

cc: Kathleen Stanley, Chief of Police, University of California, Irvine
Example of a Grievance

[Handwritten text on a form]

Please fill out the form completely and submit it to the grievance committee.

[Address information filled out]

Date: 11/04/66

Grievance:

Outline your problem and include answers to the following questions:

1. What is the problem? How long have you had the problem?
2. What department or office was approached to resolve the problem? What was their response?
3. What action would you like the grievance committee to take?

Details of the Grievance:

As I was parking my car in the parking lot, I noticed my phone had been stolen. I went to the police department and filed a report, but they were unable to find the thief.

Action Requested:

The committee is requested to investigate the incident and take appropriate action to prevent such occurrences in the future.

[Additional pages if necessary]
New University Cartoon
Complaint to Irvine Police Department
AWARE Press Release 1996

Alliance Working for Asian Rights and Empowerment
406 E 29th St, Suite 400
Irvine, CA 92668
DATE: November 16, 1996

We call on the Irvine Police Department to withdraw its request for the mandatory taking of photos of persons in custody. The Irvine Police Department is attempting to force the taking of photos of all persons in custody by officers, who are in a position of authority and control, often with force, thus violating all rights and in some cases the health and safety of those being detained. This is a violation of the Irvine Police Department's own policy, which does not require such photos. This policy is included in the department's new manual, which was released in November 1996.

We are aware of several incidents where Irvine Police Department officers have taken photographs of persons in custody without proper authority or in violation of policy. These incidents have included the following:

1. On November 15, 1996, a person was detained and photographed without proper authority.
2. On November 16, 1996, a person was detained and photographed without proper authority.
3. On November 17, 1996, a person was detained and photographed without proper authority.

We believe that these incidents are not isolated and that this policy is being enforced in a discriminatory manner. We call on the Irvine Police Department to immediately withdraw this policy and to establish proper procedures for the taking of photographs.

We also call on the Irvine Police Department to establish a mechanism for the monitoring of this policy and for the investigation of any complaints.

We are committed to ensuring that civil rights are protected and that the Irvine Police Department operates in a manner that is fair and just. We call on all members of the community to support our efforts and to report any incidents of misconduct.

We are available for further comment and will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,
The Alliance Working for Asian Rights and Empowerment
Surveillance since 9/11
Source: stoplapdspying.org

The process for collecting and monitoring police surveillance on local communities under Special Order 1.

1. A police officer observes "something suspicious" and fills out a S.A.R. – Suspicious Activity Report. Under Special Order 1 this means reporting any non-criminal activity such as taking a picture of a building, drawing or painting a landmark, dressing diagnose or taking note in public, using binoculars, or inquiring about a building's hours of operation.

2. All S.A.R.s are sent to the Counter Terrorism and Criminal Intelligence Bureau (CTCIB) of the LAPD’s Major Crimes Division (MCO).

3. The S.A.R.’s information is often shared with the Joint Regional Information Center also known as the Fusion Center.

4. The J.R.I.C. information can then be uploaded onto the Information Sharing Environment (ISE) a National database.

Will we sleep or will we fight?
In March of 2008 LAPD issued Special Order 11 (SO11), which authorizes LAPD officers to gather intelligence based on “observed behavior.” These behaviors include everyday non-criminal activities such as the ones listed above. LAPD submits Suspicious Activity Reports to a national information-sharing network which links government and private collectors and users of intelligence data.

Should LAPD be authorized to spy on, profile, and violate our right to privacy?

Public Safety or Public Insecurity?
Stop LAPD Spying!!

Campaign to Rescind Special Order 11
For more information please email at hamidk@cangress.org or call 562-230-4578
www.stoplapdspying.org
Examples of non-criminal behaviors listed in
LAPD’s Special Order 11

- Engages in suspected pre-operational surveillance (uses binoculars or cameras, takes measurements, draws diagrams, etc.).

- Appears to engage in counter-surveillance efforts (doubles back, changes appearance, evasive driving, etc.).

- Engages security personnel in questions focusing on sensitive subjects (security information, hours of operation, shift changes, what security cameras film, etc.).

- Takes measurements (counts footsteps, measures building entrances, measures building entrances or perimeters, distances between security locations, distances between cameras, etc.).

- Takes pictures or photographs (of no apparent aesthetic value, i.e., camera angles, security equipment, security personnel, traffic lights, building entrances, etc.).

- Draws diagrams or takes notes (building plans, location of security cameras or security personnel, security shift changes, notes of weak security points, etc.).

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*LAPD’s Findings and Recommendations of the Suspicious Activity Report (SAR) Support and Implementation Project; March 5, 2008.*
Turning The Tide, cover
Essay on Police Watching after Ferguson

Militarized Police Counter-Insurgency Must Be Met By a Protracted Peoples’ Insurgency

by Michael Novick, Anti-Racist Action Los Angeles/People Against Racial Terror (ARA-LAPART)

It’s a new year, and perhaps a new day, in the struggle. Sustained and growing resistance to police murders with impunity, marked by creative and disruptive tactics led by a new generation of Black activists across the country, are an unexpected and overdue but welcome harbinger of a break with the politics of despair and defeatism that has gripped people in the U.S. for too long. Beginning with the uprising in Ferguson and the ongoing display of militarized police repression that greeted it, and continuing through the fall and into the early winter after grand juries in Missouri and New York refused to indict outrageous killer cops, protests have continued for months, some massive, such as the march of tens of thousands in New York City and 4–5,000 for “Millions March L.A.” (mostly Black people in their tens, 20s and 30s), some small, such as the Occupy LAPD sign by Black Lives Matter L.A., some national in scope and participation, such as a convergence to Ferguson and St. Louis, MO.

And gratifyingly, there is no sign of stopping — indeed, New Year’s Eve and New Year’s Day actions in dozens of cities across the country are being followed by a host of actions to mark the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday on January 19. A specific and vocal rejection of the old guard pacifying self-appointed “leaders” has marked most of these efforts, not out of disrespect for their age but from a recognition that pacification and breaking of the masses’ outrage for personal advancement is worse than pointless. There are a variety of programmatic and policy proposals being put forward, such as Community Control over the police through elected boards with the power to hire, fire, and fire, but to call for dismantlement of the police and repurposing of spending on law enforcement and “criminal justice” programs to meet community needs for social and economic integration and development.

At the same time, other elements within the Black liberation struggle, such as the Black Riders, are speaking out about the need for self-defense if anything is to change, recognizing that the problem of racist police murders is not one of the police alone, but is rooted in the larger conditions of oppression and exploitation, of colonialism and capitalism, that the police are hired to enforce. There is a clear and growing recognition that the issue is not one of a “few bad apples,” or police “misconduct.”

It is the conduct of police and policing, the change they are given by the political and economic elite and elected officials, the function they fulfill as an occupying army in communities of color and as an internal border guard in more privileged areas, that is coming into question. The slogan “Black Lives Matter” asserted and defended, has made a lasting impact on the assumptions of white supremacy and unexamined privilege, even within the so-called white left and progressive movements.

Neither the color of the skin nor the content of the character of individual police officers.

Detail from Turning the Tide, Jan-March 2015, p2
stands as a barrier against the role of the police as an instrument to protect and serve wealth, white supremacy and the empire.

“Good cop” and “bad cop” is a tactic of police interrogation, a role play used to break down the resistance of “suspects,” to get them to waive their right to silence, try to cut a deal and snitch on each other. It is not a matter of separating the “good cops” from the “bad” ones. Neither the color of the skin nor the content of the character of individual police officers or even chiefs stands as an effective barrier against the role of the police, sheriffs, prison guards, private cops, and the rest of the garrison state apparatus as an instrument to protect and serve wealth, white supremacy and the empire.

They form a “domestic” army whose militarization parallels that of the globally-deployed troops of the US as gendarmes enforcing US domination in 170 countries, or the Border Patrol whose operations extend hundreds of miles inland from the militarily imposed borders and to the environs of every international airport in the US (including Alaska and Hawaii), indigenous areas and nations appended illegitimately to the US.

Many are familiar with the roots of policing in the US in slave patrols, and many date the establishment of formal urban police agencies to the need to suppress the early industrial working class. Fewer are aware that one of the first policing agencies in the current US, established initially as a vigilante operation by settlers, were the Texas, Arizona and California Rangers in the territories conquered from Mexico as the US sought to expand slavery and carry out its “manifest (white supremacist) destiny” to rule the continent “from sea to shining sea.” The role of the police later was based on the imperial state taking on the powers previously exercised by the plantation owners and planters and their hired hands.

Their use against European immigrant workers was a double-edged sword, reflected by the incorporation of immigrant ethnicities into the new “white” nation — including particularly into the ranks of law enforcement. Part of how “the Irish became white” is how the Irish became cops (and the same is true for Italians, Jews and other immigrants grudgingly admitted to the ranks of “whiteness”).

George Jackson prophetically taught that “reform” is the new name for fascism. The reforms proposed as beginning to see mass understanding of and resistance to this.

Cop-watching and “watch-a-pig” programs are primarily effective, not in the change observation makes in police behavior — the brutal actions of cops against people who video tape them, as well as the video taped killings of Oscar Grant in Oakland, Kelly Thomas in Fullerton and Eric Garner in New York, make clear that the cops have no shame and no fear of exposure. That’s because of the guarantee of impunity they have received from the civil authorities, who make sure that criminal prosecution in the few cases it is pressed on them results in a slap on the wrist at worst, and that civil liabilities penalties are treated as a “cost of doing business” for the city and state, and no individual cop has to pay.

“Community policing” is counter-insurgency described by its advocates as the “domestic equivalent of psychological operations (PSYOPS) in the military.”

No, the point of cop-watching and “Watch-a-pig” patrols is the impact they have on the behavior and consciousness of the people in the community, the growing recognition that people have to move beyond fear, and to come out and observe, not hide away, when the police are in action outside their homes, shops or laundromats. People have learned that the worst thing you can do in a mental health crisis or domestic dispute is to call the cops, and the community must begin to take responsibility for its own harmony, defense and collective interests.

There is also a growing awareness that police killings are the tip of the iceberg not only of racial profiling and stops, but of the constant criminalization of Black and Brown people who are confined in massive numbers, as a means of social control as well as a profit center, in the prisons, jails and detention centers of the carceral state.

If there is increasing awareness of the role of militarized police in counter-insurgency, there still needs to be a greater awareness of and strategy for building a popular insurgency capable of sustaining itself against such operations and eventually prevailing. The idea that the police are an occupying army is not merely a rhetorical flourish, but a recognition that the imperial system is in a continuing state of war against the people it living beings on the planet.

We have a plan or project that will chart the way forward so that in five years time, by 2020, we can see the forces of racism, repression, and exploitation on the run, or at least clearly on the defensive, and the powers and capacity of the peoples’ forces on the rise, or at least clearly on a strategic offensive? What organizational forms are needed to carry out such a plan if we develop it?

Do we really understand that the corporate Empire state has agents working around the clock, on police forces, in the military, at the NSA and in corporate enterprises, devising strategies for blunting and reversing the current popular offensives and resistance? Can we figure out how to turn their own initiatives against them and to our advantage? How can we develop the popular will and power to enforce decolonization, demilitarization, decriminalization, decarceration, decentralization and economic democratization?

There are no easy or fore-ordained answers to those questions, though there are lessons that may be learned from the study of past and current revolutions, liberationists and freedom fighters in the US and internationally. But they must be tested in practice under today’s conditions and circumstances, and then honed and corrected through criticism, self-criticism and above all through accountability to the communities and masses who have the power to make and shape history.
Empty Reform: Body-Worn Cameras

Body-Worn Cameras: An Empty Reform to Expand the Surveillance State

In 2014, body-worn cameras for police became the subject of public discussion across political and media landscapes following the non-indictments handed down to the officers involved in the killings of Ezell Ford, Michael Brown, Eric Garner, and countless other people of color. With conflicting narratives surrounding many of these high profile cases of unarmed black and brown as well as mentally ill, transient, and homeless individuals being killed at the hands of law enforcement, body-worn cameras have been advocated as one technological remedy toward fostering greater police accountability and transparency by providing what proponents hold is objective documentation of community-police interactions.

However, body-worn cameras should not be perceived as the end-all solution to fostering greater police accountability and oversight and mitigating officers’ deadly use of force. Analyzing body-worn cameras through the financial details surrounding them in the context of the Los Angeles Police Department’s (LAPD) contract with Taser International raises serious allegations of conflicts of interest as well as concerns stemming from the lack of substantive community input and debate on the deal. Research as to the efficacy of body-worn cameras is also virtually non-existent, which leads the Stop LAPD Spying Coalition to contend that marketing hype and the pursuit of more effective means of surveillance and intelligence gathering, not empirical data, are driving the push toward adoption of body-worn cameras by police departments across the nation. This was facilitated in the case of Los Angeles by its Civilian Police Commission, which functions through legitimating an unwavering pro-law enforcement perspective while other, more critical, community voices are marginalized and framed as outside the boundaries of respectable discourse.
Our police department ranks among the worst in the nation.
Experts say Copwatch.com’s ‘Crucial Reforms’ MUST be adopted.
Most cops are poorly educated and dangerously undertrained.
Cops have more in common with criminals than with normal citizens.
The cops’ ‘Blue Wall of Silence’ is like the Mafia’s code of ‘Omerta’.
The Police Union fights against police accountability.
We need, but do not have, a REAL ‘Citizen’s Review Board’.
According to Federal statistics, policework is NOT very dangerous.
High IQ applicants are rejected by the Police Academy.
Cops habitually lie to, deceive, and mislead innocent citizens.
Copywatch incident report form
Videotaping Police during Political Demonstrations

Purpose of this Manual

This manual is meant to provide a basic overview of proven tactics for videotaping police at demonstrations. This information is presented with the hope of having as many people as possible attending these demonstrations carrying video cameras and having knowledge of how to use them effectively. It is hoped that you the reader will become one of these people.

Why Videotape Police

Video cameras are, if properly employed, one of the most effective tools for documenting what occurs and containing excesses by the police.

The majority of arrests are usually a form of control and harassment. During a typical demonstration they are usually for trivial things like "jaywalking or "offensive littering" (i.e. throwing a cigarette butt down in the street.) Other times, there may be blatantly over the top behaviors, even involving the use of chemical agents and projectile weapons, or circling hundreds of demonstrators followed by mass arrests. In any case, letting the police know that there's a record being made and that they are accountable is one of the best ways for law-abiding citizens to control and prevent these harassing tactics.
The Police

7 Myths


Seven Myths about the Police

“Find out just what any people will quietly submit to and you have found out the exact measure of injustice and wrong which will be imposed upon them, and these will continue till they are resisted with either words or blows, or both.”

— Frederick Douglass
Defend the Territory!

Source: Warriorpublications.wordpress.com
The Answer


Thanks!

AWARE is currently in hiatus....

For more information, contact:

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