



# G.A.I.N.

GANG ACTIVITY INFORMATION NETWORK



Volume 2, Issue 8

August 2006

United States  
Department  
of Justice



U.S. Attorney's  
Office  
Northern District of  
Indiana

5400 Federal Plaza  
Suite 1500  
Hammond, IN 46320  
219.937.5500

Joseph S. Van Bokkelen  
U.S. Attorney

### Inside This Issue

Headline News	
Local News	Page 1
Regional News	Page 2
National News	Page 4
International News	Page 6
	Page 8



This collection of open source information is offered for informational purposes only. It is not, and should not be, construed as official evaluated intelligence. Points of view or opinions are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice or the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Indiana.

**POLICE LINE DO NOT CROSS POLICE LINE DO NOT CROSS**

## Gangs Show Colors on the Web

Article published in the Mercury News



**07/04/2006 Los Angeles, CA** | Some of the country's most notorious street gangs have gotten Web-savvy, showcasing illegal exploits, making threats, and honoring killed and jailed members on digital turf.

Crips, Bloods, MS-13, 18th Street and others have staked claims on various corners of cyberspace. "Web bangers" are posting potentially incriminating photos of members holding guns, messages taunting other gangs and boasts of illegal exploits on personal Web sites and social networking sites.



Gangs once only roamed the streets of big cities but now can be found in 2,500 U.S. communities, according to the FBI. Police departments suddenly faced with the unwelcome arrivals are looking for help anywhere they can get it, including the gangs' own easy-to-find Web sites.

The tendency for gang members to brag about their exploits on Web pages like the popular networking site Myspace.com has in some cases helped investigators make arrests.

Chicago police recently arrested a teenager who allegedly sprayed his gang nickname on a church by tracing the moniker to his Myspace.com account. His online profile included his address, photo and real name.

A Northern California judge ruled earlier this month that two teens charged with beating a boy into a coma could be tried as adults after prosecutors showed photographs of the two from Myspace.com. In the images, they flashed the hand signs of a local gang.

**Full Story:** [www.mercurynews.com/mld/mercurynews/news/breaking\\_news/14965205.htm](http://www.mercurynews.com/mld/mercurynews/news/breaking_news/14965205.htm)

## Cops Keep Lid on Gangs after Boy Slain

Article published by The Chicago Sun-Times

**07/14/2006 Chicago, IL** | Just three hours after 14-year-old Miguel Contreras was shot to death in front of his little brother, a suspected gang member from a rival neighborhood was found three blocks away -- crouching behind cars with a TEC-9 loaded with 21 live rounds, police said Thursday.



Police said 19-year-old Jesse Lopez, believed to be a gang member, was at Fairfield and 42nd on Tuesday night, across the street from a group of other gang members standing on a corner, when Deering District tactical officers nabbed him and the weapon, which he tossed trying to escape.

About three hours later, investigators recovered yet another weapon -- this one a .22-caliber Derringer handgun -- from another alleged gang member, Ramon Ortega, 22, who was in a car at 53rd and Kedzie flashing gang signs and yelling slogans.

Police investigators said the killing of Miguel -- shot to death in front of his 10-year-old brother while riding his bicycle Tuesday night in the 2900 block of West 40th Street -- is believed to be gang-related, in part because his two assailants yelled "SD," for Satan Disciple, before they fired.

Miguel's family has said he was never involved in gangs, although his shooting -- in the heart of the "Two-Six" gang territory -- might have been enough to touch off a retaliatory shooting, Roy said.

**Full Story:** <http://www.suntimes.com/output/news/cst-nws-gangs14.html>



## Chicago PD Team up with Suburban Authorities to Reduce Gang Violence

Article published by WLS

**07/13/2006 Chicago, IL** | Chicago police are joining forces with suburban authorities in a new initiative to reduce gang violence. Those that attended the summit at Chicago police headquarters Thursday learned that gangs are not that much different from Wal-Mart. They do customer research, look at demographics, and evaluate whether or not a market is ripe, long before ever opening shop. In that analogy, law enforcement says the suburbs are ripe, and that is why they are now the battleground in the war against gangs, guns and drugs.

By some accounts, there are nearly 120,000 gang members living in the city and suburbs.

"Any suburb that says that they don't have a gang problem is putting their head in the sand. There are gang members throughout the entire metropolitan Chicago area," said Chief Phil Cline, Chicago Police.

Information is being shared and strategies compared as police officers from around the region met in their most recent gang summit. The goal is to make it harder for criminals to use borders between the city and suburbs to their advantage.



**Full Story:** <http://abclocal.go.com/wls/story?section=local&id=4363741>

## Chicago Toughens Graffiti Ordinance

Article published by The Times

**07/04/2006 Chicago, IL** | Mayor Richard M. Daley launched an offensive in the battle against Chicago's gangs Wednesday, unleashing a crackdown on graffiti vandals and toughening the city's gang loitering laws.

"Graffiti is a persistent blight on neighborhoods in Chicago and in cities across the country," Daley said. "It's not only ugly, threatening and costly to remove, but it's also used by gangs to advertise their presence and stake out their turf."



Chicago is marred by 300 to 400 new pieces of graffiti each day, Daley said, despite the work of the city's "Graffiti Blasters" who use high-powered equipment to remove spray paint. The crews remove 120,000 to 160,000 pieces of vandalism annually and have washed off 84,000 so far this year, including graffiti on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in the Loop.

Under Daley's new plan, vandals will be assigned to community service through the Streets and Sanitation Department, forcing them to clean the neighborhoods they vandalize. The Cook County state's attorney's office will seek to recover clean-up costs from the vandals or their parents as part of the initiative, and police will make an "extra effort" to enforce curfew laws.

**Full Story:** <http://www.thetimesonline.com/articles/2006/07/04/news/illiana/37d9d625987e5059862571a0007f4546.txt>



## G.R.E.A.T. Makes Strides against Gangs

Article published by The Times

**07/19/2006 Valparaiso, IN** | A recent study indicates that local youths who've completed a Valparaiso Police Department education program have a better understanding of the dangers posed by gangs.

Valparaiso University's Community Research and Service Center surveyed hundreds of local seventh-graders who had gone through the police department's Gang Resistance Education and Training program during the past school year. During the 13-week program, a police officer talks to students about gangs, ways to avoid gangs and handle peer pressure, anger management skills, decision-making skills, awareness of the consequences of actions and related issues.

The study and survey were sponsored by the university and the Substance Abuse Council of Porter County. The survey gauged students' responses to questions about gangs. To determine how attitudes might have changed, they surveyed the students before and after completing the GREAT program.



Students were more likely to agree strongly with statements that associating with gangs can lead to trouble and that gangs are involved with criminal activities after the 13-week GREAT program, said Larry Baas, director of the Community Research and Service Center and a professor of political science.

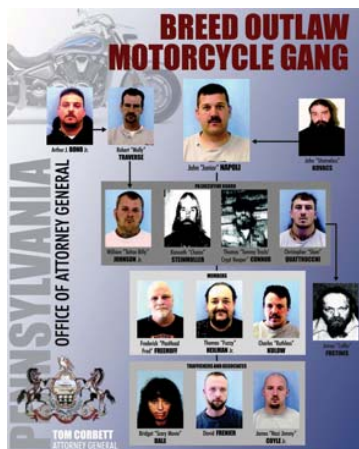
"The change in attitude appears driven by an increase in students' understanding that gangs are involved in criminal activity and that if they are involved with gangs they are more likely to get into trouble," Baas said.

**Full Story:** [http://www.thetimesonline.com/articles/2006/07/19/community/family\\_focus/1421f16e9bd80a17862571af0059b1c4.txt](http://www.thetimesonline.com/articles/2006/07/19/community/family_focus/1421f16e9bd80a17862571af0059b1c4.txt)

## Attorney General Corbett Announces the Breakup of Breed Motorcycle Gang/\$11 Million Methamphetamine Ring; 15 Suspects Charged

Article published by the Attorney General's Office, State of Pennsylvania

**07/21/2006 Bensalem, PA** | Attorney General Tom Corbett and Bucks County District Attorney Diane Gibbons, along with local law enforcement officials, today announced that agents of the Attorney General's Bureau of Narcotics Investigation (BNI), along with detectives of the Bucks County District Attorney's Office and the Philadelphia Police Department, were in the process of arresting as many as [15 suspected members](#) of a large scale crystal methamphetamine ring operating in Bucks and Philadelphia counties as well as New Jersey. The ring was run by the Breed, an outlaw motorcycle gang.



Corbett said the ongoing investigation, known as "Operation Breed on a Wire," targeted a large scale distribution ring of crystal methamphetamine (meth) in Bucks and Philadelphia counties and New Jersey.

Corbett said, "Today's arrests are the result of a continuing investigation into the distribution of meth in southeastern Pennsylvania centering around outlaw motorcycle gangs. In today's arrests we have not only taken down the main meth dealers in the region, but we have also arrested the leaders and key members of the Breed outlaw motorcycle gang."

Corbett said the investigation began as an outgrowth of a meth investigation last year of the Warlock outlaw motorcycle gang that operated in Bucks and Philadelphia counties.

Corbett said the investigation into the Breed began with an undercover purchase of meth in 2005. As the investigation progressed, court authorized telephone interceptions were used and the case was placed before a Statewide Investigating Grand Jury, which recommended that the attorney general file criminal charges.

**Full Story:** <http://www.attorneygeneral.gov/press.aspx?id=1380>



## Six Charged with Distributing Ecstasy

Article published by the Washington Post

**07/06/2006 Milwaukee, WI** | Six people investigators say are associated with the Laotian Crips street gang have been charged in federal court with selling thousands of pills of ecstasy in and around Milwaukee. A joint investigation of the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Milwaukee Police Department that began in August 2005 resulted in the six arrests, according to court records. David Phorasavong, Viengthong Bounnavong, Viengsavanh Sengsouvanh, Andrew Boriboune, Sarah Manikham and Inthala Vannaraj have been charged with conspiracy to distribute ecstasy, which carries a prison term of 10 years to life upon conviction.

According to the affidavit of DEA Special Agent Jeremy Nissen, filed last week in support of a criminal complaint against Vannaraj, the Laotian Crips gang has several subsets in the Milwaukee area, including the 2-6 Crips, the Clayton County Gangsters and the Asian Crips. The investigation into drug dealing reached from Wisconsin into Michigan, Minnesota and Canada.



**Full Story:** <http://www.jsonline.com/story/index.aspx?id=457322>



## Woman Feels Helpless to Her Children's Gang Membership

Article published by KETV.com

**07/07/2006 Omaha, NE** | A Project Safe Neighborhoods investigation has broken up a large drug ring in south Omaha, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office, and one parent said she knows the struggles of keeping a child away from the lure of gangs.

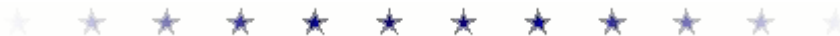


At a news conference on Thursday morning, U.S. Attorney Mike Heavican announced that 36 arrests have been made. All of the suspects have gang affiliations, Heavican said. Those arrests led to 19 federal indictments involving drug and gun charges. During the investigation, 23 weapons were confiscated along with six vehicles, \$16,000 in cash and 6 pounds of methamphetamine.

The mother of one gang member said she hopes a judge locks up her son because it is the only way she thinks she can keep him alive and away from gang members. "Jean" has a 15-year-old son and a 13-year-old daughter who she said are both gang members.

"He loves this gang," Jean said of her son. "He would die for this gang. For months they've been fighting at home. I thought it was sibling rivalry. It turns out to be gang rivalry."

**Full Story:** <http://www.ketv.com/newsarchive/9482343/detail.html>



## MS-13 Blamed in Three Prince George's County Slayings

Article published by the Washington Post

**07/02/2006 Prince George's County, MD** | Prince George's County police today identified the three young men fatally shot yesterday by assailants thought to belong to a Latino street gang. There have been no arrests in the shooting, which shattered the relative calm that followed gang-fueled bloodshed in the region last summer.

Witnesses said the gunmen yelled out the name of the gang Mara Salvatrucha, also known as MS-13, as they opened fire in the Adelphi area about midnight Friday, according to two police sources. Two other sources, also speaking on condition of anonymity because the investigation is in its early stages, confirmed that police believe that MS-13 was behind the attack.



According to two police sources, investigators are developing two theories of the shooting's motive: that it erupted from a dispute over a woman or that it was connected to a possible scheme by MS-13 to extort money from residents of the complex.

The slayings marked a return of the bloodshed that shook the Langley Park area last summer but that had recently abated. Two men died in a parking lot there early in August when their throats were slit. Before the month was over, a teenage girl had suffered a knife wound to the neck during a back-to-school concert, and a man had died after being beaten and cut by bottle fragments.

Although MS-13 members have continually been blamed for routine crime in the area, the attack marked a return of the sensational violence associated with the gang, an organization established by Salvadoran immigrants in Los Angeles in the 1980s. The group's reach has since extended to this region, initially to Northern Virginia and more recently to Prince George's and Montgomery.

**Full Story:** <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/07/01/AR2006070101077.html>

## Street Gangs Using Internet for Violent Bragging Rights

Article published by the Seattle Post-Intelligencer

**07/10/2006 Seattle, WA** | The hoodlum in the photo holds a shotgun and claims to be a 17-year-old Tacoma gang member. He's draped in blue and uses "East Side Rebels" as his MySpace.com screen name, referring to a Tacoma street gang. His Web page links to numerous others depicting self-described gangbangers from Seattle and Tacoma. They display photos of young men pointing guns at the cameras and flashing hand gang signs, some hiding their faces behind rags in gang colors or hoods.



One 20-year-old Tacoma man with a blue rag tied around his neck congratulates his friend online for beating up someone in a recent fight. "I hope your hands feel a little better. I will get the video to you of what you did to that guy. Keep it up babe boy."

Street gangs nationwide are taking their turf wars online, using personal Web sites and social networking sites such as MySpace to showcase illegal exploits, make threats and honor killed or jailed members, The Associated Press recently reported. "Net banging" is the term that authorities have coined for the trend.

Gangs once only roamed the streets of big cities but now can be found in 2,500 U.S. communities, according to the FBI. Police departments suddenly faced with the unwelcome arrivals are looking for help anywhere they can get it, including the gangs' own easy-to-find Web sites.

The tendency for gang members to brag about their exploits on Web pages such as the popular networking site MySpace.com has in some cases helped investigators make arrests. Pierce County sheriff's investigators used MySpace.com earlier this year to solve an assault case involving two teens who filmed themselves pummeling a high school student. In the video footage posted online, the main suspect identified himself and faced the camera while racking a round into a shotgun, which helped investigators track him down, spokesman Ed Troyer said.

**Full Story:** [http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/local/277025\\_webgangs10.html](http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/local/277025_webgangs10.html)



## Kid's Anti-Gang Help a Call Away

Article published by the San Bernardino County Sun

**07/02/2006 Fresno, CA** | Growing up around gangs and drugs in the 1980s, Lonnie Castruita often wished he had someone he could really talk to. He never had a father around, and Lonnie was a tough guy - too shy to open up. He smoldered with anger and sadness in 1993 when his first wife was killed in a Memorial Day shooting. Now, he's ready to be the listener he never had.

Castruita and a handful of others from area churches decided Tuesday to lend their hearts and ears to a new toll-free gang-intervention hot line. The church members, many ex-gang members, hope to provide a last line of defense and a line of communication to teens wrestling with issues of violence and gang involvement.



"The hot line will be meant for any youth who is struggling with decisions, whether he might commit a crime or join a gang, so we can help them not to wind up hurt or hurting somebody else or doing prison time," Castruita said. "We are going to be there to counsel."

**Full Story:** [http://sbsun.com/news/ci\\_4003319](http://sbsun.com/news/ci_4003319)

## Gang Accused of Conspiring to Kill Blacks

Article published by the Los Angeles Times

**07/04/2006 Los Angeles, CA** | Jose Cruz is a walking testament to what happens when a member turns against the Avenues street gang.

He has 30 scars from the stab wounds he suffered in one attempt on his life — on his arms, torso and legs. In another attack, he was beaten so severely that he has a visible dent in his skull, according to court papers, "the size and shape of a pistol butt."

His street gang goes back five generations in Highland Park, which for Cruz is five miles and several lifetimes from the downtown courtroom where he is scheduled to testify as the star witness for the prosecution in the trial of a group of childhood friends.

Federal prosecutors, who launched their case last week, contend that the Avenues gang between 1994 and 2000 conspired to kill African Americans on their turf.

Men, women and children were harassed, terrorized, assaulted and slain as gang members sought to force black residents out of Latino neighborhoods, prosecutors said.



Authorities are using a federal hate-crime law based on the amendment to the U.S. Constitution that outlawed slavery, and another law created in the civil rights era, to go after four gang members. Barbara Bernstein, deputy chief of the criminal section of the civil rights divisions of the U.S. Department of Justice in Washington, is part of the prosecution team.

**Full Story:** <http://www.cnn.com/2006/WORLD/americas/06/19/mexico.violence.ap/index.html>



## N.J. Gang Targeted in Statewide Sweep

Article published by CNN

**07/25/2006 West Trenton, NJ** | Officers arrested more than 60 members of a notoriously violent street gang in a series of raids across New Jersey early Tuesday that also turned up drugs and guns and led to the arrests of four leaders accused of directing operations from prison.



More than 60 people connected with the Nine Trey Gangsters, part of the Bloods gang, had been arrested by noon Tuesday, and many as 40 more arrests were expected in cities across the state, including Newark, Trenton and Atlantic City, authorities said. The targets represent more than a third of the gang's membership in the state, including several top leaders. "The aim was to dismantle this set of the Bloods gang," said Anne Milgram, First Assistant Attorney General.

State Police Superintendent Col. Rick Fuentes called the operation the biggest in state history, both in the number of gang members arrested and the impact on the gang. A similar operation targeting the Latin Kings a couple of years ago took up to 60 gang members off the streets, "and they still haven't recovered," Fuentes said.

Fuentes described the Nine Treys, also known as 9-3, as the "most violent and fear-invoking" of the state's street gangs. The gang dealt in narcotics and weapons trafficking, extortion and assault, and its members are believed responsible for an unspecified number of murders and drive-by shootings, he said.

**Full Story:** <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2006/07/25/ap/national/mainD8J369480.shtml>

# International

## 8 Die in Suspect Gang War Massacre

Article published by CNN

**07/04/2006 Rio De Janeiro, Brazil** | Brazilian police found eight bodies inside two abandoned cars on the outskirts of crime-ridden Rio de Janeiro on Tuesday and suspected a turf war between drug gangs was behind the massacre. The corpses of young people apparently aged between 20 and 25 had signs of torture and bullet wounds typical of executions.



"According to the information we have, they are drug traffickers involved in a local turf war," Rio police Sgt. Luis Bensaba told Reuters. Police believe the slain belonged to a gang from a slum known as Monkeys' Hill, which has been fighting a rival criminal group from the Sao Joao slum over drugs sales territory. Police said they reinforced security in the area fearing new clashes between the gangs.

Execution-type killings are typical not only of gang wars, but also of many death squads active in Rio de Janeiro. In March 2005, a death squad comprising off-duty police officers slaughtered 29 innocent people in Rio's worst massacre.

**Full Story:** <http://www.cnn.com/2006/WORLD/americas/07/04/brazil.massacre.reut/index.html>

**Related Story:** Gang violence spreads fear in Sao Paulo

**07/14/2006 San Paulo, Brazil** | Gang members torched buses and attacked police, banks and other civilian targets in Sao Paulo before dawn Friday, wounding two people in a violent crime wave that has sowed fear across Brazil's most populous state for the last three days.

<http://www.cnn.com/2006/WORLD/americas/07/14/brazil.crime.reut/index.html>

## From the Editors

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter.  
We are always trying to improve the quality and effectiveness of our products

If you have any comments, suggestions or articles that can be used in the "G.A.I.N." Newsletter please send them to:

L.E.C.C. Program  
C/O U.S. Attorney's Office  
5400 Federal Plaza, Suite 1500  
Hammond, IN 46320  
Phone: (219) 937-5666  
Fax: (219) 937-5537

E-mail: [jesse.rodgers@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jesse.rodgers@sbcglobal.net) or  
[ryan.holmes@usdoj.gov](mailto:ryan.holmes@usdoj.gov)

