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Department  
Of Justice



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

## 'Talking Smack' on MySpace Leads to Gang Shooting

**04/07/2007 La Porte, IN** | Several alleged gang-related shots were fired in a La Porte neighborhood Friday night, according to witnesses.

La Porte City Police investigated the shooting at the intersection of Division and John streets at about 11:30 p.m. According to a police report, several witnesses said they saw a silver minivan turn the wrong way onto west Division Street at the time the shots were fired. The van later turned north on John Street and east on Ohio Street.

A man living near the area told police he got a phone call from a woman earlier in the night who told him the GD gang wanted to fight him because he was in the LTB gang. The man later stood near Ben Rees Park with a bat when the van, with several men wearing ski masks inside, drove by him and fired two shots. Police found 10 spent .45 shell casings and a car apparently hit by the van in the 400 block of Division Street.



The man told police the shooting was gang-related and that both groups had been talking "smack" on their MySpace pages.

Police detained one man for further questioning, but no arrests had been made at the time of the report.

Source: <http://heraldargus.com/archives/ha/display.php?id=374889>

## Crowd Interferes with Rescue

Article published in the Fort Wayne Sentinel

**04/24/2007 Fort Wayne, IN** | One Fort Wayne Police officer described it as "chaos." Another said it was a situation "snowballing out of control." While a shooting victim lay on the ground Sunday morning, police had to fend off a hostile mob so emergency workers and firefighters could treat him outside a house in the 3500 block of Central Drive. It was the second time that morning police had been to the home.

An Indiana Excise Police officer heard gunshots in the area around 1:30 a.m. and asked for extra units when he found the male victim apparently shot in the back outside the house, a police report said. Police had been to the same home just after midnight because someone complained of "gang members" flashing signs outside. During that run, police arrested a juvenile on a possession of a firearm without a license charge after an officer reported spotting him hiding a handgun under some old newspapers and branches, a report said.

When officers arrived to help the shooting victim, a crowd of people surrounding him refused to back up when asked. One officer released several quick bursts of pepper spray into the air, but said that helped for only a short time and was not very effective. The crowd became more agitated.

At one point, an officer said in a report the mob swelled to about 60 people, with dozens more descending on the scene by foot and car from the surrounding area. People kept running in and out of the house threatening officers, one report said. One officer wrote in a report that the people appeared to be members of a gang, all wearing red.

They interfered with rescue workers tending to the victim in the front yard, and some talked of "rushing the scene." Then several officers got out Tasers, the reports said.

*Source: The Fort Wayne Sentinel*



## Cal City Police Tracking Leads in Shooting Death

Article published by the Times

**03/10/2007 Hammond, IN** | Investigators from Calumet City continue to receive leads and information regarding last week's shooting death of a 17-year-old boy, but no suspects have emerged.

"We've looked at cameras and gone through witness statements and secondary interviews," Calumet City police Investigator Marco Glumac said in regards to the shooting of Rakim Hogan on April 2 near the intersection of 155th Street and Wentworth Avenue. A 23-year-old Calumet City man also was hurt.



"We have leads coming in every day, and we're out there talking to people every day," Glumac said. Hogan died at 11 p.m. at Advocate Christ Medical Center in Oak Lawn after the shooting.

Hogan was a "jokester" who worked at the Wendy's restaurant in Dolton and went to Thornton Fractional North High School in Calumet City, said Antonio Burton, a friend who was with Hogan before the shooting. Hogan was not in a gang, Burton said, but some of

Hogan's friends suspect an out-of-town gang is responsible.

Police haven't come up with a motive and are considering each possibility as it comes up, Glumac said. Neither Hogan nor the injured 23-year-old appear to have been armed, Glumac said. Anyone with information about the case is asked to call the Calumet City Police Department at (708) 868-2500.

*Full Story:*

<http://www.thetimesonline.com/articles/2007/04/13/news/illiana/doc30405ff214f33e8d862572bb007df96f.txt>

## Gang Graffiti Plagues Elkhart

Article published by wndu.com

**04/10/2007 Elkhart, IN** | Gang graffiti keeps making its mark in one Elkhart neighborhood.

Homeowner and parent Jessica Vazquez found her garage and car spray painted with Hispanic gang symbols.

Just down the street other parts of the neighborhood on the southside of Elkhart are covered with similar markings or have already been cleaned up.

Police say they encourage homeowners to report graffiti because it helps them keep track of where the gangs are hanging out.

"If you get graffiti you need to keep an eye out because that means there probably is some type of criminal activity," says Corporal Terry Cochran.



"We came out here and saw it all over like this... its wrong and it shouldn't be like this. I've got kids. I think it is wrong that somebody would be doing something like this on somebody's property," says Vazquez.

Police say the best way to stop graffiti in the neighborhood is to clean it up immediately to keep other gangs from painting over it.

Recently, the Elkhart police department started cracking down on curfew. Parents face a fine if their children are out after hours.

**Source:** <http://www.wndu.com/home/headlines/6960162.html>



## Four More Schools Adopt Dress Code

Article published by the Times

**04/20/2007 Hammond, IN** | The School Board on Wednesday swiftly approved uniformity of color dress codes at four more Hammond schools. Hammond, Morton and Gavit high schools and Eggers and Gavit middle school adopted the measure for the 2007-08 school year.

School administrators will be meeting in the next week to finalize specific standards such as colors, Superintendent Walter Watkins said after the meeting. He also suggested that feeder middle schools have the same uniforms as the high schools.



Eggers Principal Barb Fleming said nearly 84 percent were in favor of the new policy.

Hammond High School Assistant Principal Cynthia Warner said about 66 percent were in favor at her school.

Morton Principal Teresa Mayerik reported 60 percent support the policy.

Hammond Police Chief Brian Miller, who attended the meeting to speak about safety issues, said he supported the policy because it would help reduce gang-related activity.

One parent said she wanted to see statistics that show school uniforms improve test scores and reduce disciplinary problems. Parent Mary Ellen Slazyk said she was against the dress code. "Uniforms punish the good kids," she said. "They're not durable, and they're ugly. They're not going to stop crime. If it passes, faculty and staff should wear uniforms also, because it would set a good example."

Board member Cindy Murphy said she was concerned some families would not be able to afford the uniforms and would have trouble finding proper sizes and appropriate shoes. "I hope our administrators use a common-sense approach and that we have an uneventful first week of school," she said.

**Source:** [http://www.thetimesonline.com/articles/2007/04/20/news/lake\\_county/doc42e02528ee94f75e862572c3000f6557.txt](http://www.thetimesonline.com/articles/2007/04/20/news/lake_county/doc42e02528ee94f75e862572c3000f6557.txt)

## Row at Biker Clubhouse Nets Charges

Article published by the Fort Wayne Journal Gazette

**04/21/2007 Fort Wayne, IN** | A Fort Wayne woman is facing battery and strangulation charges after police said she beat up another woman at the Outlaws Motorcycle Club's clubhouse on New Year's Eve.



The Outlaws are one of the nation's four largest motorcycle gangs, along with the Hell's Angels, Pagans and Bandidos. The Outlaws have chapters in 20 states, Canada, Europe, and Australia, including the one in Fort Wayne.

According to court documents, Jennifer Rainey, 32, of the 1600 block of Lakehurst Drive, was at the clubhouse on West Main Street about 4 a.m. when she called another woman "fake" and grabbed her by the throat, knocking her to the floor. The woman told officers that Rainey "choked her and that she could not breathe or see at that point," police said. The woman also told police that Rainey punched her three times in the face with a closed fist but was pulled off of her by someone else, court documents said.

The victim said she was then struck by another person before Rainey grabbed her hair, hit her in the right eye and knocked her to the floor again, where others also began kicking and hitting her, police said. At one point, someone grabbed the woman by her hair and arms and threw her out the front door of the clubhouse, police said. Rainey was arrested Thursday and booked into the Allen County Lockup where she was being held in lieu of \$12,500 bail.

**Full Story:** <http://www.fortwayne.com/mld/fortwayne16933802.htm>



**Regional** 

## Wanted for Two Years, Alleged Gang Member Is Arrested

Article published by the Chicago Tribune

**04/06/2007 Chicago, IL** | An alleged member of a Chicago gang wanted for more than a year on charges including murder was arrested Thursday in Oswego, authorities said.



Juan Juarez, 31, was found on the 200 block of Hickory Street about 3:30 p.m. and was arraigned Friday in U.S. District Court. Juarez was indicted along with 15 other men in September 2005, accused of being a member of the Insane Deuces gang that led a racketeering enterprise, trafficked drugs and committed murders and attempted murders in Aurora in 2002 and 2003.

Fourteen of those indicted were arrested in 2005, but Juarez and Miguel Martinez, 25, eluded capture, Aurora police said. Martinez remains a fugitive, police said.

Juarez allegedly was part of a highly structured gang in which younger members were required to carry out criminal acts and older members did less work. Juarez is alleged to have been a "regional seat" in the organization, responsible for overseeing the factions of the gang in the suburbs, including Aurora and Elgin.

Juarez pleaded not guilty to the charges Friday and was ordered held without bail.

**Source:** *Chicago Tribune*

## Police Charge 17 After Breaking Up West Side Drug Market

Article published by ABC 7 Chicago

**04/20/2007 Chicago, IL** | Chicago Police shut down an open-air drug market in the Austin neighborhood on Friday, though the conspirators thought they had outsmarted police by moving the operation half a block west to avoid a Police Operation Disruption camera.

Sixteen of the 17 gang members charged in the operation face criminal drug conspiracy charges following the conclusion of the Narcotics and Gang Investigation Section's "Operation H&L Blues" investigation, according to a release from police. A juvenile is charged with delivery of a controlled substance, and investigators will seek the seizure of a vehicle and two houses used by the criminal conspiracy.

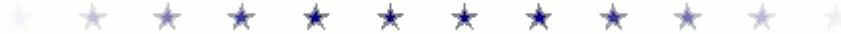
The three-month long undercover investigation began on Jan. 17 after community residents complained that drug sales were taking place less than two blocks from San Miguel School, Sweet Clover Park, Temple of Spiritual Truth Church and Mt. Pilgrim Church, the release said. The investigation began in the area of Huron Street and Leamington Avenue, but later expanded to include 700 N. Laramie Ave., the release said.

Near the end of the investigation, officers made several arrests at the target location and a search warrant was conducted in the 600 block of North Laramie, prompting gang members to begin making drug sales from inside a car, the release said.

Officers conducted 22 undercover controlled narcotic purchases, with 11.6 grams of heroin purchased, 3.4 grams of heroin seized and \$751 recovered, the release said.

Of the 17 individuals charged, 11 have been arrested, the release said. Still wanted for drug conspiracy are Brandon Davidson, 22; Ricky Lewis, 27; Elmer Singleton, 28; James Jackson, 25; and Bakari Williams, 27, along with the 15-year-old wanted for delivery.

**Source:** <http://abclocal.go.com/wls/story?section=local&id=5230241>



## Youth Slain in NW Side Drive-by Shooting

Article published by the Chicago Sun-Times

**04/22/2007 Chicago, IL** | George Luis Carrasquillo's life was supposed to be looking up with his acceptance Friday into the Job Corps training program, relatives said. Now they are making funeral arrangements for the 15-year-old, who was gunned down at 7:30 a.m. Friday in a drive-by shooting as he rode his bike with a cousin at Fullerton and Pulaski.



"He just got accepted -- the day he got in [Job Corps] was the day he died," said his cousin Daniella Rivera. Friends and relatives wept Friday morning as they lifted Carrasquillo's blue Diamondback bicycle from the sidewalk outside the CVS drugstore where he collapsed.

The murder weapon was not recovered. However, detectives found a gun that they think was carried by the victim, police said. Tests were being conducted to see whether it was fired. Shell casings from two different weapons were found at the scene, police said. "Right now, we think it's a gang conflict where both sides are shooting," Police Supt. Phil Cline said.

When asked about the attack happening in daylight at such a busy corner, Cline said: "It's gangs -- when they see members of rival gangs and they're armed, they're going to shoot at each other, no matter what time of day it is."

"This is something that escalated the day before," said Angel Ramirez of the Gangs to Grace Ministry, who visited the corner. "The day before yesterday, they [gang members] were going at it at Kostner and Armitage, Cobras and Eagles. They were fighting."

**Full Story:** <http://www.suntimes.com/news/metro/353171.CST-NWS-teenshot22.article>

## Gangs, Terrorists and Trade

Published by Foreign Policy in Focus

**04/12/2007** | While most Americans are familiar with al-Qaida, they're less knowledgeable about a group spreading terror within U.S. inner cities: Mara Salvatrucha. Also known as MS-13, the Maras have 20,000 North American members. Mara cadres have set up in many American cities, creating the beginnings of a national command hierarchy, with some Maras on the East and West coast reporting directly to and paying gang dues to leaders in Central America. As these cadres grow and learn, they become more dangerous, and already they have begun to actively target law enforcement officers. Although the FBI and law enforcement agencies have tried to contain them using anti-racketeering statutes, which allow prosecutors to attack the structures of organized crime, the real problem lies beyond the border.



MS-13 is the product of the vicious Central American civil wars of the 1980s. Thousands fled north, many of them veterans of both sides. Unable to find work because of a lack of education, some of these refugees decided to leverage their combat skills to survive, forming Mara Salvatrucha. As a result of toughened immigration polices, U.S. officials deported MS-13 members to their countries of origin. However, this solution proved facile and politically expedient. After their return home, MS-13 members ruthlessly destroyed the local gangs and took control of huge swathes of Central American cities.

There are 70,000 Maras in Latin America. Like al-Qaida, they operate loose, autonomous cells that form a broad transnational network. Individual cells are surprisingly sophisticated. Some are devoted to intelligence gathering, propaganda, recruitment, and logistics, as well as their more common activities of drug trafficking, extortion, prostitution, and murder. In the cities and provinces they control, the Maras have carved out zones of autonomy, parasite structures within the larger state where they provide a rudimentary system of patronage and protection to the people in return for allegiance and tribute.

**Full Story:** <http://www.fpif.org/fpif.txt/4144>



## FBI, Local Cops make Over 100 Arrests of Street Gang Members

Article published by the Conservative Voice

**04/02/2007 Washington, DC** | Last Friday, the FBI culminated a targeted, two-week nationwide initiative involving federal, state and local law enforcement to disrupt neighborhood gangs and their criminal activity.

This effort is directed to address the ongoing threat of violent crime and drug trafficking across cities of all sizes in the U.S. The result was a total of 108 federal arrests and 47 state arrests across twelve FBI Field Offices, including El Paso, Detroit, St. Louis, Houston, San Juan, San Antonio, New Haven, Cleveland, Omaha, San Diego, Sacramento and Charlotte. The majority of these individuals are charged with conspiracy to distribute narcotics and various weapons violations.

"People should not have to live in fear of gang members and the violence they perpetrate," said Assistant Director Chip Burrus, FBI Criminal Investigative Division. "We will continue to work with our partners in federal, state and local law enforcement to aggressively address this threat through our Safe Streets Task Forces. This approach creates a 'force multiplier' effect to investigate and eradicate violent street gangs and their criminal activity. Our joint efforts have helped to return some measure of safety and security to our neighborhoods."



"Law enforcement agencies at all levels of government are determined to work together to combat the increasing problem of drug trafficking and violent crime by street gangs," said Assistant Attorney General Alice S. Fisher of the Justice Department's Criminal Division. "I'm proud of these efforts by federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies to investigate and apprehend these defendants. Our prosecutors will continue to assist through prosecution in this comprehensive, national effort at reducing violent crime and making our streets safer."

**Full Story:** <http://www.theconservativevoice.com/article/23985.html>

## New Wave of Gang Violence Worries Cities

Article published by the Kansas City Star

**04/10/2007 Kansas City, MO** | In cities as small as Moline, Ill., and as large as Kansas City, the memories of gang violence in the early 1990s linger. Police can't forget the neighborhood gang wars, drive-by shootings and fears of letting children play outside.



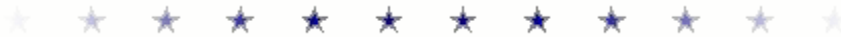
That is why a recent surge in gang activity has some cities across the nation — Topeka, Wichita and Springfield among them — worried about what would happen if gangs again gained a foothold. “A lot of people don’t remember how it was 10 years ago,” said Tom Stolz, Wichita’s deputy police chief. “It was the OK Corral around here. We had drive-by shootings every night.”

In the past two years, the shootings, assaults, burglaries and robberies committed by suspected gang members have returned to some cities. Though the violence may not have reached the levels of the 1990s, police are resurrecting gang units and communities are working with law enforcement. Lawmakers in at least 13 states want new legislation to improve gang laws and slap members with heftier prison sentences. They say it is time to stop gangs as they resurface in small and rural communities as well as big cities.

In Moline, police told residents at a neighborhood meeting last week that they needed to work with them to prevent more gang-related crimes in their city of about 43,000 residents. In Tallahassee, Fla., residents of the state capital packed a town hall meeting to discuss their gang concerns with police.

“All the ingredients are there for the perfect storm we had 12-14 years ago,” said Steve Nawojczyk, a national gang and violence expert. “I think it’s just trending back around again. ... I hope the country learned from the history we suffered.”

**Full Story:** <http://www.kansascity.com/105/story/64867.html>



## Three Gang Members Charged in Triple Murder

Article published by the Los Angeles Times

**04/23/2007 Los Angeles, CA** | Prosecutors charged three black gang members today with killing two Latino boys and an adult as they talked in the frontyard of their South Los Angeles home last year, *saying the assailants picked the victims at random because they could not find any gang rivals to shoot*. The charges cap a nearly one-year investigation, with detectives concluding that the members of the Rollin' 30s gang fired on the victims -- who had no gang ties -- while driving around the neighborhood looking for members of another gang, the Eastside Treys.

The shooting stirred concerns about race-related violence in South L.A., especially at a time when the LAPD says that race-motivated gang crimes are on the increase. But the Los Angeles Police Department insists that the shooting was not race-motivated, rather it was fueled by a gang feud.

The gunmen -- identified as Ryan T. Moore, Lawrence William Island Jr. and Charles Ray Smith -- fired more than 30 rounds from two AK-47 assault rifles on a June 30 afternoon after climbing out of a vehicle. David Marcial, 10; his 22-year-old uncle, Larry Marcial; and a neighbor, Luis Cervantes, 17, were fatally shot outside their families' homes in the 1100 block of East 49th Street. David's brother, Sergio Marcial Jr., 12, was wounded but survived the shooting described by investigators as an "execution."

The Rollin' 30s is one of the top 11 gangs being targeted by the LAPD as part of a wider push against gang violence in the city. Dubbed the "49th Street massacre" by Chief William J. Bratton last summer, detectives determined that what at first looked like a drive-up shooting now appeared to be a calculated, execution-style slaying. They concluded that the gunmen got out of a car and approached each of the victims, firing from point-blank range with AK-47 assault-style rifles.

**Full Story:** <http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-triple23apr23.0.6478830.story?coll=la-home-local>

## 8-Year-Old Admits to Gang Involvement

Article published by WKRN Nashville

**04/25/2007 Nashville, TN** | An eight-year-old has admitted to his dad that he's joined an infamous gang and the trend is not uncommon. Gangs are now recruiting new members from elementary schools and children as young as seven or eight.



According to police, children looking for respect and power or the feeling of belonging they miss in a family, could make them want to join a gang. Others join for self-protection because they're picked on by gangsters in their neighborhood.

In south Nashville, parents are scared their children, who walk home from Napier Elementary School through the J.C. Napier housing projects, are being targeted by gang members in that community. According to parents like Sterling Wright, as early as first grade, kids are learning gang signs and in turn, bringing that activity into the schools. "The teenagers is turning to these young kids and turning them into little soldiers," said Wright.

Wright said the J.C. Napier public housing projects is Crip territory and believes the infamous gang has lured his eight-years-old son to become a member. He said, "This morning when I looked in his face and he couldn't tell another lie and he broke down and he told me, 'Dad, I'm crippling.'" Crippling, or being an active member of the Crips gang, is something Wright never expected in his son.

Ralph Thompson with Metro Schools said gang activity is minimal in elementary schools, but points out young kids are an attractive asset to gang members. He said, "It is becoming more of a concern for us that students are being recruited. One of the biggest things is they're less likely to be arrested, they can be runners for drugs or messages to other gangs, or be used as runners in other ways."

**Full Story:** <http://www.wkrn.com/nashville/news/8yearold-admits-to-gang-involvement/91570.htm>



## New Code: Kick Gangs to the Curb

Article published by the Atlanta Journal-Constitution

**04/11/2007 Snellville, GA** | Snellville has hung out the "No Vacancy" sign for gangbangers. By passing the street gang terrorism and prevention ordinance Monday night, the City Council also served notice that suspected gang members will find it very difficult to keep a rental roof over their heads within the city limits. Landlords can streamline evictions in cases where three or more suspected gang members are living together, using a civil court process that can take a few weeks or even days, as opposed to four to six months under the existing criminal court process.



Police Chief Roy Whitehead, who pushed for the ordinance, said Tuesday it is a preventive measure, as opposed to a reaction to an existing widespread problem. "We want to prevent it [gang-related activity] from coming here," Whitehead said. Whitehead said his effort to get the ordinance passed was partly as the result of one recent case, where four brothers suspected of being gang members were arrested and then evicted. They are still suspects in an investigation that could involve charges of burglary, robbery, statutory rape and holding a teenage girl against her will for four days, he said. The family has denied the siblings were part of a gang.

Under the new law, the police will work in partnership with landlords who believe they've rented to gang members, he said. Police will go to Magistrate Court along with the landlord and help present evidence to a magistrate, who, if convinced, can issue an eviction notice.

"There's a possibility this could be seen as displacing a crime problem," Whitehead said, acknowledging that evicted gang members might just move to a nearby community with less stringent ordinances. But if enough cities pass similar ordinances, they'll have nowhere to go, he added.

**Full Story:** <http://www.ajc.com/gwinnett/content/metro/gwinnett/stories/2007/04/11/0411gwngxgangs.html>



## Senate Votes to Let Prosecutors to Sue Gang Members

Article published by the wcco.com

**04/10/2007 St. Paul, MN** | The Minnesota Senate gave preliminary approval Tuesday to a bill that would define criminal gangs as a public nuisance and let prosecutors sue gang members. According to the Minnesota Gang Strike Task Force, in 2006, 527 gang members were arrested for crimes ranging from murder to robbery to drug offenses.

The new state strategy is aimed at sweeping gang members out of neighborhoods. "One bad house on a block can chase everyone away. It's making our lives miserable," said Minneapolis block club leader Debbie Wagner.

Block Clubs in the metro area welcome the proposed law because it would allow police to bust gang members in one place which has been declared a public nuisance. "This tool will allow us to return to the public the places that have been taken over by the criminal gang elements," said State Senator Mee Moua.

Moua, a DFL Senator from St. Paul, is sponsoring the bill and said instead of arresting one gang member at a time, this law would let police target multiple gang members in one action. The proposed law would also target landlords who allow gang activity on their property.

The bill would let the courts impose limits on gang activity, with violations carrying fines of up to \$10,000 and misdemeanor charges. The bill awaits a formal Senate vote. A similar version is pending in the House. Similar laws are already in affect in Texas and California and have proven to be successful.

**Full Story:** [http://wcco.com/local/local\\_story\\_100162102.html](http://wcco.com/local/local_story_100162102.html)



*International* 

## Mexican Gangs Spread Fear Through Internet, Ads

Article published by the Dallas Morning News

**04/12/2007 Mexico City, Mexico** | Drug traffickers are waging a highly effective publicity campaign in Mexico that began with a chilling show of brutality in Acapulco: two police officers' heads, streaming with blood, were stuck on metal spikes outside a downtown building with a fluorescent cardboard sign. "So that you learn to respect," it read in thick black letters.

The spectacle a year ago in the Pacific resort set off a ghoulish trend among the drug lords battling for billion-dollar smuggling routes into the United States. They've since left a trail of bodies and bloodstained notes across Mexico, with a goal of spreading fear – a sense of dread so deep that rivals, police, witnesses and even President Felipe Calderon won't dare cross them.

Regular citizens used to be left out of this calculation as organized crime groups quietly settled scores between themselves. No longer. The drug gangs now publish newspaper ads, and tack threatening notes to corpses with ice picks or tape them to trash bags filled with body parts for public display. They're even using the Internet, posting a video on YouTube that showed the apparent beheading of an alleged hitman.

Drug-related killings using corpses as message boards have been carried out in a dozen Mexican states in the past year – an indication, experts say, that Mexico's rival Gulf and Sinaloa cartels hope they can frighten the population to the point that Calderon will retreat from his nationwide military crackdown. In many areas, it's working: Police are resigning in record numbers, newspapers are censoring themselves, and witnesses rarely expose themselves to a justice system seen as inefficient and corrupt.

**Full Story:** <http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/news/world/mexico/stories/041307dnmexdeadly.2d56a4f.html>



## Indianapolis Chosen for Expansion of Anti-Gang Initiative

U.S. Department of Justice

**04/26/2007 Rochester, NY** | Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales today announced the expansion of the Justice Department's Comprehensive Anti-Gang Initiative to include four additional sites targeting dangerous street gangs and promoting prevention efforts to keep communities and neighborhoods safe. Attorney General Gonzales made the announcement during a visit to Rochester, N.Y., one of four sites that will receive \$2.5 million in additional grant funding to combat gang violence. Oklahoma City, Indianapolis and Raleigh-Durham, N.C. were also selected to receive funding as part of the Department's Comprehensive Anti-Gang Initiative.

"Helping law enforcement, state and local leaders, and parents combat gang violence so that our nation's youth can grow up in safe communities is one of the Justice Department's top priorities," stated Attorney General Gonzales. "The Comprehensive Anti-Gang Initiative provides federal, state and local law enforcement with additional resources to increase law enforcement and prevention efforts in targeted areas across the nation. Today's announcement reinforces the Department's commitment to keeping America's neighborhoods safe."

In February 2006, Attorney General Gonzales announced the creation of the Justice Department's Comprehensive Anti-Gang Initiative, designed to support law enforcement combating violent gang crime, while also promoting prevention efforts that discourage gang involvement. As part of the initiative, in May 2006 the Department provided anti-gang resources for prevention, enforcement and offender reentry efforts to six sites across the nation: Los Angeles, Tampa, Cleveland, Dallas/Ft. Worth, Milwaukee and the "222 Corridor" that stretches from Easton to Lancaster in Pennsylvania. The Comprehensive Anti-Gang Initiative has already made strides in the original six sites. For example, in Cleveland one of the most violent gangs operating in the target area has been dismantled through both federal and state investigations and prosecutions that have resulted in 63 federal and state indictments. Fifty-five defendants have pled guilty and the remainder are awaiting trial.

The four additional sites were selected to receive these grant funds based on a variety of factors, including the need for concentrated anti-gang resources, established infrastructure to support the envisioned prevention, enforcement and re-entry components, and existing partnerships prepared to focus intensely on the gang problem. U.S. Attorneys in the four sites selected today will be responsible for coordinating federal, state and local efforts under this initiative.

**Full Story:**

[http://news.yahoo.com/s/usnw/20070426/pl\\_usnw/attorney\\_general\\_alberto\\_r\\_gonzales\\_announces\\_expansion\\_of\\_justice\\_department\\_s\\_comprehensive\\_anti\\_gang\\_initiative](http://news.yahoo.com/s/usnw/20070426/pl_usnw/attorney_general_alberto_r_gonzales_announces_expansion_of_justice_department_s_comprehensive_anti_gang_initiative)

## 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:

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