



“Thirty-Four Alleged Aryan Brotherhood of Texas Gang Members Indicted on Federal Racketeering Charges”

McNabb Associates, P.C. (International and Transnational Criminal Defense Lawyers)

Submitted at 2:04 PM November 9, 2012

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) on November 9, 2012 released the following: “WASHINGTON— Thirty-four alleged members of the Aryan Brotherhood of Texas (ABT) gang, including four of its most senior leaders, have been indicted by a federal grand jury in Houston for allegedly conspiring to participate in a racketeering enterprise, announced Assistant Attorney General Lanny A. Breuer of the Justice Department’s Criminal Division; U.S. Attorney Kenneth Magidson of the Southern District of Texas; Special Agent in Charge Melvin D. King of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) Houston Division; and FBI Special Agent in Charge Stephen L. Morris of the Houston Field Office.

The 17-count superseding indictment was returned by a federal grand jury on October 22, 2012, and unsealed today in U.S. District Court in the Southern District of Texas. Fourteen individuals were taken into custody today, and 15 defendants charged in the superseding indictment are already in custody. Five defendants remain at large.

“Today’s takedown represents a devastating blow to the leadership of ABT,” said Assistant Attorney General Breuer. “Four ABT generals, 13 additional alleged ABT leaders, and numerous other gang members and associates are named in the indictment. As charged, ABT uses extreme violence and threats of violence to maintain internal discipline and retaliate against those believed to be cooperating with law enforcement. Through violence and intimidation, ABT allegedly exerts control over prison populations and neighborhoods and instills fear in those who come in contact with its members. As today’s operations show, the Criminal Division, working closely with its federal, state, and local law enforcement partners, is determined to continue disrupting and dismantling ABT and other violent, criminal gangs.”

“This indictment is the culmination of a joint federal, state, and local law enforcement effort targeting a large-scale prison gang involved in violent organized crime,” said U.S. Attorney Magidson. “Only when we work in partnership utilizing all our resources can we attack a criminal organization and dismantle it entirely.”

“ATF is serious about fighting violent crime. We remain steadfast in our commitment to focus on those violent criminals who illegally use firearms to prey on their victims,” said ATF Special Agent in Charge King. “Through a collective effort with our law enforcement partners, this operation was a success today.”

“This multi-year investigation and indictment clearly targets the worst-of-the-worst among the ABT,” said FBI Special Agent in Charge Morris. “This effort not only exemplifies the level of effort

the FBI and our law enforcement partners will expend to prevent prison gang racism and criminal activity from poisoning our communities. It sends a clear message that we will relentlessly pursue and prosecute the leaders and members of these criminal enterprises regardless of where they lay their heads.”

As charged, the defendants range from senior leaders to soldiers of the ABT, a “whites only,” prison-based gang with members operating inside and outside of state and federal prisons throughout Texas and elsewhere in the United States since at least the early 1980s.

According to court documents, the ABT has a detailed and uniform organizational structure, with territory divided into five regions, each run by a “general.” The superseding indictment charges four generals: Terry Ross Blake, 55, aka “Big Terry”; Larry Max Bryan, 51, aka “Slick”; William David Maynard, 42, aka “Baby Huey”; and Charles Lee Roberts, 68, aka “Jive,” with conspiracy to participate in the racketeering activities of the ABT, among other charges.

In total, the superseding indictment charges 34 alleged members of the ABT with conspiracy to participate in the racketeering activities of the ABT. Alleged members of the ABT are also charged with involvement in three murders, multiple attempted murders, kidnappings, assaults, and conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine and cocaine.

According to the superseding indictment, the ABT was established in the early 1980s within the Texas prison system. The gang modeled itself after and adopted many of the precepts and writings of the Aryan Brotherhood, a California-based prison gang that was formed in the California prison system during the 1960s. According to court documents, previously, the ABT was primarily concerned with the protection of white inmates and white supremacy/separatism. Over time, the ABT is alleged to have expanded its criminal enterprise to include illegal activities for profit.

Court documents allege that the ABT enforced its rules and promoted discipline among its members, prospects, and associates through murder, attempted murder, conspiracy to murder, arson, assault, robbery, and threats against those who violate the rules or pose a threat to the enterprise. Members, and oftentimes associates, were required to follow the orders of higher-ranking members, often referred to as “direct orders.”

According to the superseding indictment, in order to be considered for membership, a person must be sponsored by another ABT member. Once sponsored, a prospective member must serve an unspecified term, during which he is referred to as a prospect, while his conduct is observed by the members of the ABT.

Ten defendants have been charged with offenses that are eligible for the death penalty. The remaining 24 defendants face a maximum penalty of life in prison.

An indictment is not evidence of guilt. All defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

This case is being investigated by a multi-agency task force consisting of the ATF; Drug Enforcement Administration; FBI; U.S. Marshals Service; Federal Bureau of Prisons; U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Homeland Security Investigations; Texas Rangers; Texas Department of Public Safety; the Montgomery County, Texas Sheriff’s Department; Houston Police Department-Gang Division; Texas Department of Criminal Justice-Office of Inspector General; Harris County, Texas Sheriff’s Office; Tarrant County, Texas Sheriff’s Office; Atascosa County, Texas Sheriff’s Office; Orange County, Texas Sheriff’s Office; Waller County, Texas Sheriff’s Office; Fort Worth, Texas Police Department; San Antonio Police Department; Baytown, Texas Police Department; Carrollton, Texas Police Department; Alvin, Texas Police Department; Montgomery County District Attorney’s Office; Atascosa County District Attorney’s Office; Harris County District Attorney’s Office; and the Kaufman County, Texas, District Attorney’s Office.

The case is being prosecuted by David Karpel of the Criminal Division’s Organized Crime and Gang Section and Assistant U.S. Attorney Jay Hileman of the Southern District of Texas.”

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The author of this blog is Douglas C. McNabb. Please feel free to contact him directly at mcnabb@mcnabbassociates.com or at one of the offices listed above.

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“France’s Ballestrazzi becomes first female President of INTERPOL”

McNabb Associates, P.C. (International and Transnational Criminal Defense Lawyers)

Submitted at 3:23 PM November 9, 2012

INTERPOL on November 8, 2012 released the following:

“New members appointed to Executive Committee as landmark General Assembly shapes global response to contemporary violence

ROME, Italy – INTERPOL’s 81st General Assembly has closed with delegates electing as the new President of INTERPOL Mireille Ballestrazzi, Deputy Central Director of the French Judicial Police.

Mrs Ballestrazzi said she felt a great sense of pride and joy to have been elected as the President of INTERPOL and looked forward to serving all of INTERPOL’s 190 member countries in ‘an unflinching spirit to promote mutual assistance and solidarity’.

“I am wholly committed to the fundamental role INTERPOL must play in global police cooperation. By establishing the INTERPOL Global Complex for Innovation and leading other recent initiatives, INTERPOL has placed itself at the forefront of innovation which I will continue to fully support. There is no doubt that this direction will open up drastically new perspectives for INTERPOL and its member countries worldwide as we face together the challenges of today and tomorrow.”

The President of the Organization heads its Executive Committee and is elected by the General Assembly for a period of four years.

INTERPOL Secretary General Ronald K. Noble welcomed President Ballestrazzi’s appointment as another example of INTERPOL’s evolution, reflecting the active role of both men and women in the international law enforcement community.

“As the world’s largest police organization, it is essential that INTERPOL’s leadership offers the best policing and expertise to its 190 member countries in order to meet their needs,” said Mr Noble.

“Mireille Ballestrazzi’s appointment as President of INTERPOL comes at a time when countries are adapting to the realities of the changing nature of

transnational organized crime in the 21st century. “She brings invaluable experience in cross-border police collaboration to her role, as well as proven leadership abilities, and I look forward to working closely with her to ensure that INTERPOL continues to provide innovative responses to meet the needs of our member countries,” added the INTERPOL Chief.

Paying a warm tribute to outgoing President Khoo Boon Hui of Singapore, Mr Noble said Mr Khoo would be remembered as ‘a champion and driving force of international law enforcement cooperation’.

Also elected to the Executive Committee were Alan Bersin, Assistant Secretary of International Affairs for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (Vice President for the Americas), Nobuyuki Kawai, Director of the Organized Crime Department of the National Police Academy of Japan (Vice President for Asia), Algeria’s Abdelkader Kara Bouhadba, Commissaire Divisionnaire de Police, Directeur de la Police Judiciaire (Delegate for Africa), Bob Paulson, Commissioner of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (Delegate for the Americas), Jong Yang Kim of the Korean National Police Agency and Head of INTERPOL’s National Central Bureau in Seoul (Delegate for Asia), Brigadier General Saoud Abdallah Al-Mahmoud, Director of the International Cooperation Department of Qatar’s Ministry of Interior (Delegate for Asia), and Filippo Dispenza, Brigadier General of the Italian National Police (Delegate for Europe).

The four-day conference (5 – 8 November) in Rome was launched with a Ministerial meeting attended by close to 100 global leaders who endorsed a joint declaration recognizing the need to identify viable strategies to effectively address the changing modes of contemporary criminal violence.

During the conference, more than 1,000 delegates from some 170 countries endorsed a series of resolutions to build a modern framework for collective action, including on maritime piracy, illicit trafficking in cultural property, the INTERPOL Programme to Combat Trafficking in

Illicit Goods launched earlier this year, the INTERPOL Travel Document and cybercrime.

A groundbreaking initiative by INTERPOL to support the safety and security of the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar and other major sporting events over the next 10 years was also launched following an agreement with the Qatar 2022 Supreme Committee worth USD 10 million.

With Cartagena, Colombia, hosting INTERPOL’s next General Assembly in 2013, conference delegates closed the event by selecting Monaco as the venue for INTERPOL’s 83rd General Assembly in 2014, which will mark the 100th anniversary of the first International Criminal Police Congress.”

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“Obama to pick new FBI director in second term”

McNabb Associates, P.C. (International and Transnational Criminal Defense Lawyers)

Submitted at 1:10 PM November 9, 2012

USA Today on November 9, 2012 released the following:

“Kevin Johnson, USA TODAY

Beyond the reshuffling of President Obama’s Cabinet, another key personnel decision is looming in the administration’s second term.

In the coming months, Obama will decide a successor to Robert Mueller, the longest-serving FBI director since J. Edgar Hoover.

Mueller, the only top national security official remaining in government since the 9/11 attacks, is set to leave office in 2013, after Congress took the unprecedented action of extending his 10-year term. Obama requested the extension last year to preserve some continuity in the national security structure, at a time when he was naming new executives to lead the Pentagon and CIA.

But Congress is not likely to provide another extension for one of the most fraught jobs in

government.

“This is an unusual step by the president, and is somewhat of a risky precedent to set,” Iowa Sen. Chuck Grassley, the Judiciary Committee’s ranking Republican said in May 2011 at the time of the request, adding that he would seek to “ensure that this is not a more permanent extension.”

Until Mueller was granted an additional two years, which Grassley also ultimately voted for, the administration’s search team had considered a list candidates — many drawn from Democratic and Republican administrations.

Federal law enforcement analysts, including Tom Fuentes, a former FBI assistant director, said the names represent a vast array of experience for an agency whose reach continues to extend throughout the globe.

Fuentes, who once directed the bureau’s international operations, said terrorism, organized crime and the growing threats to cybersecurity have required the agency to expand its international presence.

“On any given day, you have more than 1,000

agents (of the bureau’s 14,000 agents) working outside the country,” Fuentes said.

“Any new director has got to have some understanding of the international nature of crime and the value of intelligence,” he said.

While endorsing Michael Mason, former chief of the FBI’s D.C. field office for the post last year, the FBI Agents Association referred to a similar need for leadership that spans the agency’s many areas of jurisdiction, “from Bloods street gangs to mortgage fraud to Russian sleeper cells.”

Don Borelli, a former assistant agent-in-charge of the FBI’s New York division, said the most critical need is “organization.”

“The biggest challenges facing the next director are organizational,” he said. “It’s how you direct a large organization, provide it the resources it needs to function. Obviously, you need someone who knows the nuances of politics and could be confirmed (by Congress).”

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“Pope receives global law enforcement leaders: Commends INTERPOL efforts in combating crime”

McNabb Associates, P.C. (International and Transnational Criminal Defense Lawyers)

Submitted at 3:31 PM November 9, 2012

INTERPOL on November 9, 2012 released the following:

“VATICAN CITY – The Vatican City State has welcomed police officials from across the world with Pope Benedict XVI receiving delegates and INTERPOL officials who attended the Organization’s 81st General Assembly in Rome.

Pope Benedict received the visitors at a special audience in his capacity as the head of state of one of the world’s smallest independent nations.

The secular visit also included interior and justice ministers from some of INTERPOL’s 190 member countries who had earlier in the week approved a joint declaration recognizing the need to identify viable strategies to effectively address the changing modes of contemporary criminal violence through greater shared intelligence and increased use of international police tools and services.

Addressing the delegates, Pope Benedict said violence of any kind was unacceptable and commended the work of law enforcement officers around the world.

“In this regard, the function of INTERPOL, which we may define as a bastion of international security, enjoys an important place in the realization of the common good, because a just society needs order and a respect for the rule of law to achieve a peaceful and tranquil coexistence in

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“No matter who gets the job, though there is going to be skepticism, because agents by nature are skeptical,” Borelli said. “But what you need is someone who can take over like a CEO of a big corporation.””

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society.”

The Pope said that ‘the Holy See encourages all those working to combat this scourge of violence and crime at a time when our world is increasingly becoming a global village.’

“Thus it is necessary to safeguard individuals and communities by a constant renewed determination and by adequate means,” added Pope Benedict.

Speaking on behalf of the world police body’s 190 member countries, INTERPOL Secretary General Ronald K. Noble said: “Members of the INTERPOL family may speak different languages, wear different uniforms and be of different faiths or colours but we remain firmly bound together by our shared commitment to respect and protect the dignity of persons, their fundamental rights, and the rule of law.

“Police take great pride in their work because they know they are making a difference: the difference between security and danger, between order and chaos, between hope and despair, between health and happiness and pain and suffering,” concluded the INTERPOL Chief.

INTERPOL’s 81st General Assembly (5 – 8 November), which was launched with a Ministerial meeting, was attended by more than 1,000 delegates from 171 member countries and addressed the challenges faced by the police in tackling contemporary criminal violence.

The Vatican City State became INTERPOL’s 187th member country in October 2008 at the 77th General Assembly in St Petersburg, Russia.”

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