

COINTEL-PRO Techniques



mafwdistro.noblogs.org

Originally published by:



ACAB

Formatted by MOPW Distro
mafwdistro.noblogs.org

Assisting Paramilitary Death Squads

On the Pine Ridge reservation in S. Dakota, at least 67 members or associates of AIM were killed by BIA police, FBI, and paramilitary forces (the Guardians Of the Oglala Nation, GOONs, as they referred to themselves) from 1975-76. The GOONs, employed by a corrupt tribal president, were armed, equipped, and supported by the FBI as part of its counter-insurgency effort against Indigenous resistance. They carried out a reign of terror against AIM & traditionalists on the reserve, including fire-bombings, assaults, drive-by shootings, and killings.

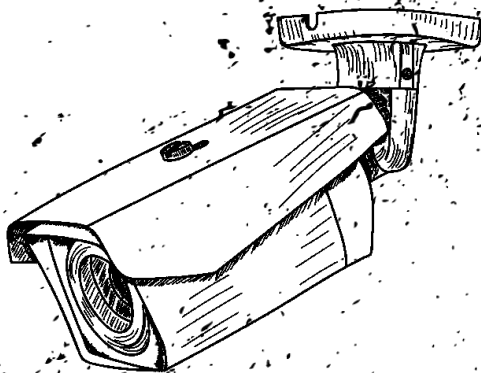
Other examples of the use of paramilitary & vigilante groups include the FBI's assistance to right-wing groups such as the Minutemen, Secret Army Organization, and the Ku Klux Klan. These and other groups were provided information, equipment and weapons to carry out assaults and lethal attacks. Some were also linked to US military intelligence units. Paramilitary death squads are common in the global south.



The goal of this counter-insurgency campaign was to destroy organized resistance movements, using any means necessary. A major focus was instilling a sense of paranoia & fear among movements, in order to neutralize them. Those who refused to submit were targeted with harsher methods, and some killed. Violent assaults & deaths contributed to over-greater paranoia & insecurity. By exploiting internal divisions during a time of intense repression, the FBI/police were successful in neutralizing this first phase of current resistance in North America (but they couldn't kill the spirit).

Surveillance

Extensive & wide-spread surveillance was used to gather information on groups & individuals, both technical (bugs, wiretaps, telephone, mail, photo & film) & physical (personal & vehicle). This info often formed the basis for further COINTEL-PRO operations. FBI & local police agencies, along with other law enforcement agencies, were involved. Surveillance itself was often used as a means to induce paranoia & fear (by surveillance being obvious & belligerent).



Lethal force

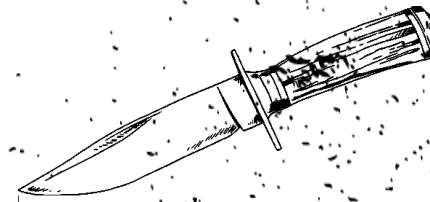
Key organizers were killed by police during raids & assaults, by vigilantes (including right-wing racists), by FBI-police infiltrators, or as a result of 'bad-jacketing'. Scores were killed during the 1950s, '60s and '70s, including:

- Fred Hampton & Mark Clark (Black Panthers) were both killed during a police raid on their Chicago home, in 1969.

- Alprentice Carter & Jon Huggins (Black Panthers) were killed in 1969 by members of a rival group in a COINTEL-PRO instigated feud.

- George Jackson, a prisoner & a prominent Black Panther, was killed during an alleged escape attempt in 1971.

- Fred Bennett, an SF Black Panther, was executed by comrades after being successfully 'bad-jacketed' by an FBI infiltrator, in 1969. One of the Panthers involved in this, Jimmie Carr, was himself 'bad-jacketed' and executed by other Panthers in 1972.





Pseudo-Gangs

False groups set up by police-intelligence agents to discredit the movement & entrap genuine movement members. In the 1960s & '70s, the FBI set up many pseudo-gangs to disrupt campaigns (i.e., among Puerto Rican independistas, anti-war groups, etc.).

Infiltrators, informants & collaborators

Widespread use of infiltrators & informants was a key part of the FBI's COINTEL-PRO. Informants, usually disaffected members or associates of a group, were recruited through intimidation and/or money. They provided critical human intelligence. In the case of infiltrators & collaborators, they also actively disrupted organizations & enabled FBI/police to carry out deadly assaults, frame-ups, etc.

Infiltrators included FBI agents, undercover police, and civilians. In some police departments, 'red squads' worked with anti-gang units to prevent unity between gangs & resistance movements. They also recruited infiltrators from gang members facing jail or for money.

Infiltrators were often able to provide information & resources (via their FBI/police handlers) to the group. Because of their experience with weapons & violence, they were often promoted to high-ranking positions in the organization, with some being in charge of security for chapters or leaders.

How did the movements become so heavily infiltrated? They were completely open & public organizations, which actively recruited members from the general public. Infiltrators were easy to place. The only area in which security measures were taken was at the leadership level, and this is where some of the greatest mistakes were made.

In both the Black Panthers & AIM, infiltrators gained access to this inner circle, frequently in charge of security for the group itself. Some played the role of an 'ultra-militant', promoting violence & attempting to draw the group into carrying out illegal actions. Criminals/hustlers turned infiltrators were also sources of drugs, weapons, & anti-social violence within groups. Other activities included planting evidence, stealing funds, sabotage of equipment or organizing efforts, supplying information leading to arrests or deaths, as well as spreading disinformation, paranoia, & division.

Bad-jacket, or snitch-jacket

When a genuine movement member is portrayed as being an informant (or a thief, a rapist, etc.). Often, other informants are used to spread rumors, plant evidence, etc. In their efforts to attach a bad-jacket, police may frequently arrest a target during raids, but then quickly let him/her go (while others remain in jail). Police themselves may gossip or leave evidence indicating a person is an informant.

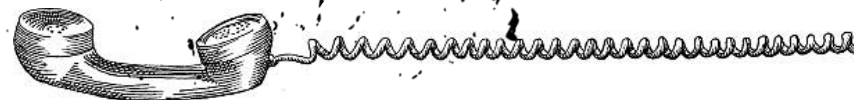
The purpose of the bad-jacket is to neutralize the target individual as an effective organizer. This technique resulted in interrogations, assaults, and even executions of suspected informants (as occurred among the Black Panthers).



Burglary, Vandalism, and Arson

FBI and local police routinely broke into offices and homes in order to steal files, copy them, and/or to destroy equipment. Offices were also set on fire, destroying valuable resources such as printing presses, files, archives, etc.





Other Harassment

Other forms of harassment used by the FBI & police included approaching members at their homes or workplaces for interviews, approaching landlords, employers or family members to exert pressure on members (i.e., having them evicted, losing their jobs, or facing ostracism by family). Agents would also cancel bus reservations on behalf of an organizing group, or announce that meetings, rallies, etc. had been cancelled.

False communications

Fake letters were sent between individuals or groups with misinformation (i.e., allegations of sexual affairs between members, death threats, etc.). When hostilities existed between groups, this was exploited to the point where assaults & even deaths occurred.

Another example of false communications was the production of fake newsletters, posters, etc. by the FBI/police, and distributed as genuine movement publications. This technique was effective in cutting funding for one Panther chapter's breakfast program after offensive comics were sent to funders.



Media disinformation

In collaboration with corporate media, the FBI & police would conduct 'smear & disinformation' campaigns against movements, organizations, & individuals, portraying them as violent, criminal, terrorist, or insane.

Arrests/false evidence/frame-ups

Petty charges & outright frame-ups were used to tie people & groups up in the court system, and to imprison many with harsh sentences. Constant or massive arrests & charges drained movements of time & resources, diverting them from resistance to legal defense. Imprisonment served to neutralize organizers while scaring away the less-committed. Scores of political prisoners & POWs remain in US prisons to this day, imprisoned in the 1970s because of COINTEL-PRO. Arrests & imprisonment also served to criminalize movements & groups.

