



American Bridge

Trump Policy Brief: Transnational Criminal Organizations And Trafficking

2/9/17

TRANSNATIONAL CRIMINAL ORGANIZATIONS AND TRAFFICKING

President Trump signed an executive order calling for the increased enforcement of federal laws related to the prosecution of transnational criminal organizations and their members.

- ✓ Trump called for sharing intelligence with foreign counterparts to “thwart transnational criminal organizations,” including traffickers of “humans, drugs or other substances, wildlife, and weapons.”
- ✓ Trump called for prosecuting transnational criminal organizations for immigration and visa fraud.
- ✓ Trump’s order came on the heels of remarks indicating he would be willing to send military forces into Mexico to fight drug cartels.
- ✓ Trump’s comments were criticized for endangering recent improvements to U.S.-Mexico relations, while his order did nothing to improve enforcement procedures already in place.
- ✓ Trump’s order also seemingly ignored federal crime statistics, which showed downward trends in both violent and property crime.

President Trump Signed An Executive Order Targeting Transnational Criminal Organizations

TRUMP ORDERED LAW ENFORCEMENT TO “THWART TRANSNATIONAL CRIMINAL ORGANIZATIONS”

President Trump Signed An Executive Order Calling For Increased Enforcement Of Federal Law To “Thwart Transnational Criminal Organizations And Subsidiary Organizations.” According to an executive order signed by President Donald Trump, “It shall be the policy of the executive branch to: (a) strengthen enforcement of Federal law in order to thwart transnational criminal organizations and subsidiary organizations, including criminal gangs, cartels, racketeering organizations, and other groups engaged in illicit activities that present a threat to public safety and national security.” [White House, [2/9/17](#)]

- **The Order Intended To Strengthen Enforcement Of Laws Against The “Trafficking Of Humans, Drugs Or Other Substances, Wildlife, And Weapons.”** According to an executive order signed by President Donald Trump, “It shall be the policy of the executive branch to: (a) strengthen enforcement of Federal law in order to thwart transnational criminal organizations and subsidiary organizations, including criminal gangs, cartels, racketeering organizations, and other groups engaged in illicit activities that present a threat to public safety and national security and that are related to, for example: (i) the illegal smuggling and trafficking of humans, drugs or other substances, wildlife, and weapons.” [White House, [2/9/17](#)]
- **The Order Intended To Strengthen Enforcement Of Laws Against Corruption, Cybercrime, Fraud, Financial Crimes, Intellectual-Property Theft, And The “Illegal Concealment Or Transfer Of Proceeds Derived From Such Illicit Activities.”** According to an executive order signed by President Donald Trump, “It shall be the policy of the executive branch to: (a) strengthen enforcement of Federal law in order to thwart transnational criminal organizations and subsidiary

organizations, including criminal gangs, cartels, racketeering organizations, and other groups engaged in illicit activities that present a threat to public safety and national security and that are related to, for example: [...] (ii) corruption, cybercrime, fraud, financial crimes, and intellectual-property theft; or (iii) the illegal concealment or transfer of proceeds derived from such illicit activities.” [White House, [2/9/17](#)]

The Order Called For The Sharing Of Intelligence With Foreign Counterparts To Facilitate The Extradition Of Transnational Criminal Organization Members

The Order Called For Federal Law Enforcement To Prioritize The Extradition Of Transnational Criminal Organization Members To The U.S., As Well As The “Swift Removal” Of The Organizations’ Foreign Members. According to an executive order signed by President Donald Trump, “It shall be the policy of the executive branch to: [...] ensure that Federal law enforcement agencies give a high priority and devote sufficient resources to efforts to identify, interdict, disrupt, and dismantle transnational criminal organizations and subsidiary organizations, including through the investigation, apprehension, and prosecution of members of such organizations, the extradition of members of such organizations to face justice in the United States and, where appropriate and to the extent permitted by law, the swift removal from the United States of foreign nationals who are members of such organizations” [White House, [2/9/17](#)]

The Order Called For The Sharing Of Intelligence With Foreign Counterparts Against Transnational Criminal Organizations, And Provided Increased Security Assistance To Foreign Partners. According to an executive order signed by President Donald Trump, “It shall be the policy of the executive branch to: [...] enhance cooperation with foreign counterparts against transnational criminal organizations and subsidiary organizations, including, where appropriate and permitted by law, through sharing of intelligence and law enforcement information and through increased security sector assistance to foreign partners by the Attorney General and the Secretary of Homeland Security” [White House, [2/9/17](#)]

The Order Called For The Prosecution Of Offenses Aiding Transnational Criminal Organizations, Including Immigration Fraud And Visa Fraud

The Order Called For The Prosecution Of Ancillary Criminal Offenses Aiding Transnational Criminal Organizations, Including Immigration Fraud And Visa Fraud. According to an executive order signed by President Donald Trump, “It shall be the policy of the executive branch to: [...] pursue and support additional efforts to prevent the operational success of transnational criminal organizations and subsidiary organizations within and beyond the United States, to include prosecution of ancillary criminal offenses, such as immigration fraud and visa fraud, and the seizure of the implements of such organizations and forfeiture of the proceeds of their criminal activity.” [White House, [2/9/17](#)]

- **The Order Called For The Amendment Or Increased Enforcement Of The Immigration And Nationality Act To Prevent Foreign Transnational Criminal Organization Members From “Exploiting The United States Immigration System.”** According to an executive order signed by President Donald Trump, “[T]he Secretary of State, the Attorney General, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the Director of National Intelligence, or their designees, shall co chair and direct the existing interagency Threat Mitigation Working Group (TMWG), which shall: [...] review relevant Federal laws to determine existing ways in which to identify, interdict, and disrupt the activity of transnational criminal organizations and subsidiary organizations, and ascertain which statutory authorities, including provisions under the Immigration and Nationality Act, could be better enforced or amended to prevent foreign members of these organizations or their associates from obtaining entry into the United States and from exploiting the United States immigration system” [White House, [2/9/17](#)]

The Order Named The Secretary Of State, Attorney General, Homeland Security Secretary, And Director Of National Intelligence As Co-Chairs Of The Threat Mitigation Working Group

The Order Appointed The Secretary Of State, Attorney General, Homeland Security Secretary, And The Director Of National Intelligence To Co-Chair The Threat Mitigation Working Group.

According to an executive order signed by President Donald Trump, “In furtherance of the policy set forth in section 2 of this order, the Secretary of State, the Attorney General, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the Director of National Intelligence, or their designees, shall co chair and direct the existing interagency Threat Mitigation Working Group (TMWG)” [White House, [2/9/17](#)]

- **The Order Called For The TMWG Co-Chairs To Work With State, Tribal, Local, And Foreign Governments, As Well As Public-Health And Non-Governmental Organizations, To Dismantle Transnational Criminal Organizations.** According to an executive order signed by President Donald Trump, “[T]he Secretary of State, the Attorney General, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the Director of National Intelligence, or their designees, shall co chair and direct the existing interagency Threat Mitigation Working Group (TMWG), which shall: [...] to the extent deemed useful by the Co-Chairs, and in their discretion, identify methods for Federal agencies to coordinate, as permitted by law, with State, tribal, and local governments and law enforcement agencies, foreign law enforcement partners, public-health organizations, and non governmental organizations in order to aid in the identification, interdiction, and dismantling of transnational criminal organizations and subsidiary organizations.” [White House, [2/9/17](#)]

The Order Came On The Heels Of Remarks By Trump Suggesting He Would Be Willing To Send The U.S. Military Into Mexico

TRUMP TOLD MEXICAN PRESIDENT PENA NIETO THAT THE U.S. WOULD SEND TROOPS TO MEXICO TO STOP “BAD HOMBRES”

The Associated Press Reported That Trump Told Peña Nieto That The U.S. Would Send Troops To Mexico To Stop “Bad Hombres” If The Mexican Military Didn’t Control Them. According to the Associated Press, “President Donald Trump warned in a phone call with his Mexican counterpart that he was ready to send U.S. troops to stop ‘bad hombres down there’ unless the Mexican military does more to control them, according to an excerpt of a transcript of the conversation obtained by The Associated Press. The excerpt of the call did not detail who exactly Trump considered ‘bad hombres,’ nor did it make clear the tone and context of the remark, made in a Friday morning phone call between the leaders.” [Associated Press, [2/2/17](#)]

According To The Associated Press, Trump Said That The Mexican Military Was “Scared” Of Drug Cartels, While The U.S. Military Was Not. According to the Associated Press, “‘You have a bunch of bad hombres down there,’ Trump told Peña Nieto, according to the excerpt given to AP. ‘You aren’t doing enough to stop them. I think your military is scared. Our military isn’t, so I just might send them down to take care of it.’” [Associated Press, [2/2/17](#)]

Trump Told Bill O’Reilly That Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto Would Be “Very Willing” To Accept U.S. Support To Fight Drug Cartels. According to the Fox News transcript of a Fox News interview of President Donald Trump on The O’Reilly Factor with host Bill O’Reilly, “O’REILLY: Let’s talk about Mexico. There was a report that you talk to President Nieto, and you told him that this was the report. [...] TRUMP: We have to do something about the cartels, I did talk to him about it. I want to help him with

it. I think he is a very good man. [...] We have to stop drugs from coming into our country, and if he can handle it, and maybe they can and maybe they can't or maybe he needs help, he seemed very willing to get help from us because he has got a problem and it's a real problem for us." [Fox News, [2/6/17](#)]

When Asked Whether Peña Nieto Was Open To U.S. Forces Combatting Mexican Drug Cartels, Trump Said That He Offered To “Help On Knocking Out The Drug Cartels.” According to The Hill, “Trump declined further comment when asked if Peña Nieto is open to U.S. forces helping Mexico combat drug cartels. ‘I would rather, as a very nice man that he is and somebody I respect, I’d rather have him respond to that,’ he told host Bill O’Reilly. ‘But I will tell you I certainly offered him help on knocking out the drug cartels, because we have got a problem.’” [The Hill, [2/6/17](#)]

TRUMP SAID THAT CRIMINAL CARTELS WERE “DESTROYING THE BLOOD OF OUR YOUTH”

As He Signed An Executive Order To Address The Prosecution Of Drug Cartels, Trump Said That Criminal Cartels Were “Destroying The Blood Of Our Youth.” According to The Guardian, “As Jeff Sessions was sworn in as attorney general in the Oval Office, the president also moved aggressively to smash international drug cartels and and [sic] set up a taskforce on crime reduction and public safety. [...] Trump said on Thursday: ‘I’m signing three executive actions today designed to restore safety in America.’ One would ‘break the back of the criminal cartels that have spread across our nation and are destroying the blood of our youth’, he said.” [The Guardian, [2/9/17](#)]

Days Before Signing The Order, Trump Said That Cartels Were “Poisoning The Youth Of Our Country.” According to The Hill, “President Trump says he has discussed aiding Mexico’s fight against local drug cartels with his counterpart, Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto. [...] ‘Don’t forget these cartels are operating in our country and they’re poisoning the youth of our country. And, by the way, countries all over the world, just so you understand — this is a cartel all over the world, the cartels. But I certainly would help him if he needed help.’” [The Hill, [2/6/17](#)]

Critics Panned Trump’s Comments For Harming U.S.-Mexico Relations While His Order Nothing To Improve Enforcement Procedures Already In Place

CRITICS FEARED TRUMP’S COMMENTS WERE DANGEROUS AND RISKED UNDOING THE RELATIONSHIP THE U.S. HAD BUILT WITH MEXICO OVER THE PAST TWO DECADES

Arizona Republic Columnist Elvia Díaz Called Trump’s Threat To Send U.S. Military Personnel Into Mexico “Disturbing At Best And A Dangerous Provocation At Worst.” According to an opinion by Elvia Díaz for the The Arizona Republic, “President Donald Trump may not like Mexico and its people, but media reports about threatening to send the U.S. military to combat drug trafficking are disturbing at best and a dangerous provocation at worst.” [Elvia Díaz – Arizona Republic, [2/2/17](#)]

- **Díaz Wrote That Trump Was “Displaying The Attributes Of A Strongman Who’s Unnecessarily Humiliating A Perceived Weaker Opponent.”** According to The Arizona Republic, “President Donald Trump may not like Mexico and its people, but media reports about threatening to send the U.S. military to combat drug trafficking are disturbing at best and a dangerous provocation at worst. [...] Whatever you think of Mexico, this would not be the way for the president of the United States to treat another head of state, especially of the country with a

2,000-mile shared border and is such an important economic partner. Trump is displaying the attributes of a strongman who's unnecessarily humiliating a perceived weaker opponent." [Elvia Díaz – Arizona Republic, [2/2/17](#)]

Autonomous National University Of Mexico Security Analyst Raúl Benítez Said That Trump's Criticism Of The Mexican Military's Handling Of Drug Cartels Would Lead Them To "Question Their Relationship With The U.S." According to The Wall Street Journal, "Earlier, the Associated Press reported that Mr. Trump had threatened to send U.S. troops to help fight the cartels if Mexico's army was too timid or couldn't handle the challenge. [...] The reported criticism of Mexico's handling of the war on drug cartels, which has claimed about 120,000 lives since 2006, hasn't sat well with Mexicans. Mexico's army, which has maintained a wary stance toward the U.S. since the 1846-48 Mexican-American War, has lost about 400 soldiers fighting drug gangs over the past decade, according to the Mexican government. 'The armed forces will question their relationship with the U.S.,' said Raúl Benítez, a security analyst at the Autonomous National University of Mexico." [Wall Street Journal, [2/2/17](#)]

- **Benítez Said The Trump Administration Was "Risking Throwing In The Garbage, In A Single Week, The Work Of 20 Years Building A Relationship."** According to The Wall Street Journal, "The reported criticism of Mexico's handling of the war on drug cartels, which has claimed about 120,000 lives since 2006, hasn't sat well with Mexicans. Mexico's army, which has maintained a wary stance toward the U.S. since the 1846-48 Mexican-American War, has lost about 400 soldiers fighting drug gangs over the past decade, according to the Mexican government. 'The armed forces will question their relationship with the U.S.,' said Raúl Benítez, a security analyst at the Autonomous National University of Mexico. 'The [new U.S. administration] (brackets in original) is risking throwing in the garbage, in a single week, the work of 20 years building a relationship.'" [Wall Street Journal, [2/2/17](#)]

THE U.S. ALREADY HAD LAWS IN PLACE TO FIGHT TRANSNATIONAL CRIMINAL ORGANIZATIONS, AND TRUMP'S ORDER OFFERED NO ACTUAL IMPROVEMENTS TO THE SYSTEM

Bowling Green State University Associate Professor Philip Stinson Said That The Order Amounted To "Nothing More Than Symbolic Crime Control Rhetoric." According to Vice News, "Trump's orders aim to stop crime, prevent violence against law enforcement, and crack down on drug cartels. But none of the orders implement immediate changes, and it's not clear what their ultimate impact will be. In addition, criminologists with whom VICE News spoke expressed a fair amount of skepticism. 'It sounds good, and no one wants to be against promoting public safety and reducing crime,' said Philip Stinson, associate professor of criminology at Bowling Green State University. 'But it is nothing more than symbolic crime control rhetoric.'" [Vice News, [2/9/17](#)]

- **Vox: The Order Didn't Change Existing Laws Or Concretely Create New Policy.** According to Vox, "On Thursday, the day Jeff Sessions was sworn in as Trump's attorney general, Trump signed a series of executive orders that deal with these issues. But the orders don't change laws or even really create new policy. [...] The third tasks the secretary of state, attorney general, secretary of homeland security, and director of national intelligence to co-chair and direct the existing interagency Threat Mitigation Working Group with a broad review of policies to make sure the US is adequately detecting and prosecuting international drug cartels." [Vox, [2/9/17](#)]
- **Criminal Justice Researcher John Roman Said That The Order Described Processes And Operations That Already Existed.** According to Vox, "The third tasks the secretary of state, attorney general, secretary of homeland security, and director of national intelligence to co-chair and direct the existing interagency Threat Mitigation Working Group with a broad review of policies to

make sure the US is adequately detecting and prosecuting international drug cartels. [...] Or the orders could amount to, really, nothing. 'I'm simply not clear on what problem they solve,' John Roman, a criminal justice researcher at NORC at the University of Chicago, told me. 'Most of what is in the three orders describes process and operations that exist today. All of which can of course be improved. But we are actively engaged in protecting our law enforcement, fighting violent crime, and investigating and prosecuting violent drug cartels. All that's ongoing.'" [Vox, [2/9/17](#)]

Reuters Reported That The U.S. And Mexico Already “Work Closely To Tackle Cartels.” According to Reuters, “Trump's executive order tells federal agencies to increase help for foreign partners on security and on intelligence sharing. The order was vague on details. The U.S. government and Mexico already work closely to tackle cartels.” [Reuters, [2/10/17](#)]

- **In February 2017, Mexican Marines Used A Black Hawk Helicopter Sold To Mexico By The U.S. Under The Anti-Cartel Plan Merida To Kill Eight Alleged Gang Members.** According to Reuters, “The U.S. government and Mexico already work closely to tackle cartels. For example, on Thursday, Mexican marines used a Black Hawk helicopter to kill eight alleged gang members including the head of the Beltran-Leyva gang, a rival of El Chapo. The United States sold Black Hawks to Mexico under the anti-cartel Plan Merida.” [Reuters, [2/10/17](#)]
- **Mexico Received At Least \$2.5 Billion From The U.S. Congress Under The Merida Initiative To Fight Organized Crime Since The 2008 Fiscal Year.** According to the U.S. Department of State, “The Merida Initiative is an unprecedented partnership between the United States and Mexico to fight organized crime and associated violence while furthering respect for human rights and the rule of law. [...] The U.S. Congress has appropriated \$2.5 billion since the Merida Initiative began in Fiscal Year 2008.” [U.S. Department of State, accessed [3/2/17](#)]

Immigration Attorney David Leopold Criticized The President Trump’s Orders On Crime For Putting Illegal Immigration “On Par” With Drug Trafficking. According to a series of tweets by David Leopold, “On Trump's EO on crime: The insidiousness is putting illegal #Immigration on par with drug trafficking & violent crime.” [David Leopold – Twitter, [2/9/17](#)]

Crime Statistics Did Not Indicate A Need For Trump’s Order In The First Place

FEDERAL STATISTICS SHOW THAT CRIME RATES ARE AT THEIR LOWEST POINT SINCE THE 1960S, AND HAVE FALLEN STEADILY SINCE THE 1990S

The Hill: “Trump Has Repeatedly Said That Crime Is Rising In The United States, Though Federal Statistics Indicate Crime Rates Are At The Lowest Point Since The 1960s.” According to the Hill, “‘We have a crime problem,’ Sessions said at his swearing-in. ‘I wish the rise that we’re seeing in crime in America today were some sort of aberration or blip,’ he continued, calling it a ‘dangerous permanent trend that places the health and safety of the American people at risk.’ Trump has repeatedly said that crime is rising in the United States, though federal statistics indicate crime rates are at the lowest point since the 1960s.” [The Hill, [2/9/17](#)]

According To The Brennan Center For Justice, The Violent Crime Rate In The 30 Largest U.S. Cities Was “Near The Bottom Of The Nation’s 30-Year Downward Trend” In 2016. According to a report by the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University School of Law, “The overall crime rate in the 30 largest cities in 2016 is projected to remain roughly the same as in 2015, rising by 0.3 percent. If this

trend holds, crime rates will remain near historic lows, driven by low amounts of property crime. The violent crime rate is projected to increase slightly, by 3.3 percent, driven by increases in Chicago (17.7 percent increase) and Charlotte (13.4 percent increase). This is less than the 5.5 percent increase initially projected in the September report. Violent crime still remains near the bottom of the nation's 30-year downward trend." [Brennan Center for Justice, [12/20/16](#)]

- **The Brennan Center Called Concerns About A National Crime Wave “Premature.”** According to a report by the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University School of Law, “Concerns about a national crime wave are still premature, but these trends suggest a need to understand how and why murder is increasing in some cities.” [Brennan Center for Justice, [12/20/16](#)]

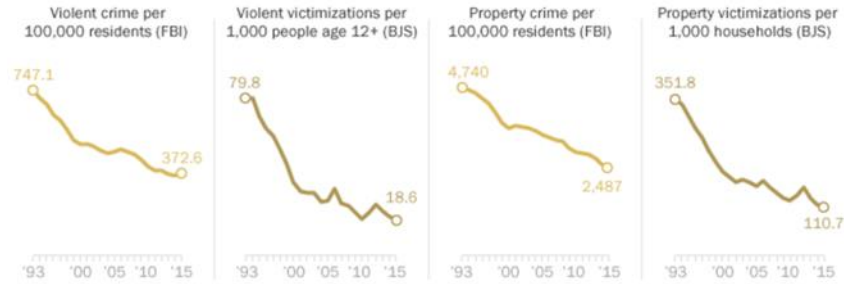
Since 1993, The Violent Crime Rate Has Fallen 50% - 77% According To Measurements From The FBI And Bureau of Justice Statistics. According to the Pew Research Center, “There are two commonly cited measures of the nation's crime rate. One is an annual report by the FBI of serious crimes reported to police in approximately 18,000 jurisdictions around the country. The other is an annual survey of more than 90,000 households conducted by the Bureau of Justice Statistics, which asks Americans ages 12 and older whether they were the victims of crime in the past six months (regardless of whether they reported those crimes to the police or not). Both the FBI and BJS data show a substantial decline in the violent crime rate since its peak in the early 1990s. Using the FBI numbers, the rate fell 50% between 1993 and 2015, the most recent full year available. Using the BJS data, the rate fell by 77% during that span.” [Pew Research Center, [2/21/17](#)]

- **The Murder Rate Declined By 42 Percent Between 1993 And 2014, Even As The U.S. Population Rose By 25 Percent Over The Same Period.** According to the Miami Herald, “Trump said in remarks at a White House meeting with sheriffs earlier this week that the murder rate is the highest it has been in ‘45 to 47 years.’ Politifact has rated that statement false, pointing out statistics show the murder rate in the U.S. is considerably lower than it was in the early 1990s. ‘Specifically, the number of murders declined by 42 percent between 1993 and 2014, even as the U.S. population rose by 25 percent over the same period,’ Louis Jacobson wrote. ‘So while homicides have recently risen — a legitimate concern, experts say — they are far below their high levels of the early 1990s, when the nation's population was much smaller.’” [Miami Herald, [2/9/17](#)]

Since 1993, The Property Crime Rate Has Fallen 48% - 69% According To Measurements From The FBI And Bureau of Justice Statistics. According to the Pew Research Center, “Property crime has declined significantly over the long term. Like the violent crime rate, the U.S. property crime rate today is far below its peak level. FBI data show that the rate fell 48% between 1993 and 2015, while BJS reports a decline of 69% during that span. Both the FBI and BJS reported a decline in the property crime rate between 2014 and 2015, even as the violent crime rate went up in the FBI's data. Property crime includes offenses such as burglary, theft and motor vehicle theft and is generally far more common than violent crime.” [Pew Research Center, [2/21/17](#)]

Crime rates have fallen since the early 1990s

Trends in violent crime and property crime, 1993-2015



Note: FBI figures include reported crimes only. BJS figures include unreported and reported crimes. 2006 BJS estimates are not comparable with other years due to methodological changes.

Source: FBI, Bureau of Justice Statistics

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

[Pew Research Center, [2/21/17](#)]

TRUMP CALLED FOR ADDRESSING A TREND THAT DIDN'T EXIST...

The Order Claimed That There Had Been A “Rise In Violent Crime Related To Drugs” Due To The Actions of Drug Cartels. According to an executive order signed by President Donald Trump, “Transnational criminal organizations and subsidiary organizations, including transnational drug cartels, have spread throughout the Nation, threatening the safety of the United States and its citizens. [...] In particular, the trafficking by cartels of controlled substances has triggered a resurgence in deadly drug abuse and a corresponding rise in violent crime related to drugs.” [White House, [2/9/17](#)]

Crime Analysts Disputed Claims By Sessions And The Trump Administration That Rising Crime In The U.S. Was A “Permanent Trend.” According to Roll Call, “President Donald Trump signed three executive actions Thursday that he said directed the Justice Department and Homeland Security to crack down on crime, even as critics contend his administration has exaggerated the nation’s crime problems. [...] Sessions, in his comments after taking the oath of office, said the country has a crime problem. ‘I wish the rise we’re seeing in crime in America today were some kind of aberration or blip,’ Sessions said. ‘This is a dangerous permanent trend that places the health and safety of the American people at risk.’ Crime analysts generally disagree with that assessment.” [Roll Call, [2/9/17](#)]

ACLU Deputy Legal Director Jeffery Robinson: “President Trump Intends To Build Task Forces To Investigate And Stop A National Trend That Doesn’t Exist,” As The Country’s Crime Rate Is At Historic Lows. According to the ACLU, “Jeffery Robinson, Deputy Legal Director of the American Civil Liberties Union and Director of the Trone Center for Justice and Equality, had this response: ‘President Trump intends to build task forces to investigate and stop national trends that don’t exist. We have seen historic lows in the country’s crime rate and a downward trend in killings against police officers since the 1980s.’ [ACLU, [2/9/17](#)]

- **Robinson: “Task Forces Premised On Misinformation, And Looking In The Wrong Places For The Wrong Problems, Are Not The Answer.”** According to the ACLU, “There are some cities that have had recent rises in violent crime, and they deserve help. And every locality in America wants to further reduce crime and violence. But task forces premised on misinformation, and looking in the wrong places for the wrong problems, are not the answer.” [ACLU, [2/9/17](#)]

- **University Of South Carolina School Of Law Associate Professor Seth Stoughton: “I Find It Rather Ironic That The Administration Is Emphasizing The Need For Reliable Data Given Both The Relatively Robust Crime Data That We Already Have.”** According to Vice News, “I find it rather ironic that the administration is emphasizing the need for reliable data given both the relatively robust crime data that we already have and the president’s unwillingness to accept the validity of data that doesn’t confirm his positions,” Stoughton said. [Vice News, [2/9/17](#)]

...WHILE IGNORING THE REAL ISSUES OF POLICE BRUTALITY AND RACIAL PROFILING

Robinson: “The President Not Only Doesn’t Acknowledge These Facts About Our Nation’s Safety, He Persists In Ignoring The All-Too-Real Deaths Of Black And Brown People At The Hands Of Law Enforcement.” According to the ACLU, “The president not only doesn’t acknowledge these facts about our nation’s safety, he persists in ignoring the all-too-real deaths of Black and brown people at the hands of law enforcement.” [ACLU, [2/9/17](#)]

Washington Post: “Black Americans Are 2.5 Times As Likely As White Americans To Be Shot And Killed By Police Officers.” According to the Washington Post, “According to the most recent census data, there are nearly 160 million more white people in America than there are black people. White people make up roughly 62 percent of the U.S. population but only about 49 percent of those who are killed by police officers. African Americans, however, account for 24 percent of those fatally shot and killed by the police despite being just 13 percent of the U.S. population. As The Post noted in a new analysis published last week, that means black Americans are 2.5 times as likely as white Americans to be shot and killed by police officers.” [Washington Post, [7/11/16](#)]

- **From January 2015 – July 2016, Police Shot And Killed 175 Young Black Men (Ages 18 To 29) Compared To 172 White Men, Despite Black Men Making Up Just 6% Of The Nation’s Population.** According to the Washington Post, “Police have shot and killed a young black man (ages 18 to 29) — such as Michael Brown in Ferguson, Mo. —175 times since January 2015; 24 of them were unarmed. Over that same period, police have shot and killed 172 young white men, 18 of whom were unarmed. Once again, while in raw numbers there were similar totals of white and black victims, blacks were killed at rates disproportionate to their percentage of the U.S. population. Of all of the unarmed people shot and killed by police in 2015, 40 percent of them were black men, even though black men make up just 6 percent of the nation’s population.” [Washington Post, [7/11/16](#)]
- **Washington Post: In 2016, A Black Person Shot And Killed By Police Was Nearly Twice As Likely To Have Been Unarmed Than A White Person.** According to the Washington Post, “And, when considering shootings confined within a single race, a black person shot and killed by police is more likely to have been unarmed than a white person. About 13 percent of all black people who have been fatally shot by police since January 2015 were unarmed, compared with 7 percent of all white people.” [Washington Post, [7/11/16](#)]
- **Washington Post: In 2016 “Unarmed Black Americans Were Five Times As Likely As Unarmed White Americans To Be Shot And Killed By A Police Officer.”** According to the Washington Post, “U.S. police officers have shot and killed the exact same number of unarmed white people as they have unarmed black people: 50 each. But because the white population is approximately five times larger than the black population, that means unarmed black Americans were five times as likely as unarmed white Americans to be shot and killed by a police officer.” [Washington Post, [7/11/16](#)]

- **Washington Post: In 2015, “Black Men Were Seven Times More Likely Than White Men To Die By Police Gunfire While Unarmed.”** According to the Washington Post, “Those 24 cases constitute a surprisingly small fraction of the 585 people shot and killed by police through Friday evening, according to The Post database. Most of those killed were white or Hispanic, and the vast majority of victims of all races were armed. However, black men accounted for 40 percent of the 60 unarmed deaths, even though they make up just 6 percent of the U.S. population. The Post's analysis shows that black men were seven times more likely than white men to die by police gunfire while unarmed.” [Washington Post, [8/8/15](#)]