

## Moore-Love, Karla

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**From:** Anaïs - <anaïs@350pdx.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 28, 2020 9:29 PM  
**To:** Council Clerk – Testimony  
**Subject:** testimony regarding the Joint Terrorism Task Force report  
**Attachments:** JTTF testimony.docx

Greetings,

Attached is a letter I have written regarding the Portland Police Bureau Report to City Council on the Portland Joint Terrorism Task Force. Copies were given today to the offices of Mayor Wheeler, Commissioner Fritz, Commissioner Eudaly, and Commissioner Hardesty. I would appreciate it if you could please share this with the City Attorney.

Thank you,

Anaïs



Anaïs Tuepker (she/they)

Chair, Board of Directors

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1/28/20

To the City Commissioners and Mayor:

With last week's release of the Portland Police Bureau Report to City Council on the Portland Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF), the moment is right to call your attention once again to the ways in which climate activists in Portland and around our state are increasingly monitored.

The Bureau's brief report provides some useful information, but there are areas where it would be desirable to know more. In particular, nothing is shared about the nature of the twelve cases referred to the FBI by the Portland Police Bureau. The report says nothing about the type of information given to the FBI, or what individuals or organizations were involved. Over the past six months, at least two investigative reporting articles (1,2) have documented that the FBI has collected information about activities of climate activists within Oregon. In one of those articles, an FBI officer is quoted stating that the agency cannot "initiate an investigation based solely on first amendment-protected activity." (1) It is not clear that information provided by the PPB through the JTTF mechanism is not being used to facilitate a questionable entry point into investigation.

A continuing point of concern is the lack of disclosure regarding communication between FBI and Department of Homeland Security. We know that DHS now considers some non-violent climate activists as domestic terrorists (3), and we also know that activists opposed to the proposed Jordan Cove LNG export facility and its accompanying Pacific Connector Pipeline in southern Oregon have had their activities monitored by both government and private contractors that claim to focus on terrorism (2). In case you think this southern Oregon surveillance doesn't affect Portlanders, I would like to remind you that hundreds of Portlanders travelled to Salem for a protest against this project in late 2019, and will continue to turn out against this proposal until it is defeated. In addition, Portland Police Bureau officer Andrew Hearst's specific role in support of monitoring activists against the Jordan Cove project has also been documented. Finally, the JTTF in Portland has been documented to be the provider of training in on-line surveillance of activists for groups around the state.

Climate activists in Oregon know that our activities are being watched by our opposition, and we know that information we share on social media or elsewhere will be catalogued. What we don't know is what next steps are taken, in secret, and facilitated by agencies emboldened because of a lack of oversight. Therefore, I urge you to continue to push for as much disclosure as possible from the JTTF, until we fully extricate ourselves from it and it has no place in our city.

When the media reports that climate activists are considered by the state as dangerous and deserving of surveillance, it has a chilling effect on our movement. Labelling people terrorists is a deliberate tactic to give the general public pause and draw their potential support away from causes and actions they otherwise might be sympathetic to. Even without that terrible and unjustified label, the monitoring of climate activists is visible enough to dissuade everyday people, deeply frightened and concerned about climate, from getting involved and being empowered. It especially keeps out people who have reason to be distrustful of the state's willingness to protect them: Black people, people of color, Native people, immigrants and refugees, Muslims, the poor and precariously housed. The climate issue affects these people more, not less, than it does the more secure, and less policed, members of our community. Climate is their issue, and the solutions we are going to need will often come from those for whom finding ways to live around and outside the extractive economy has been a matter of survival. So there are both morals and practicality involved when I ask you to recognize how incredibly important it is to ensure the freedom of climate activists, alongside all activists for social justice, to express their positions and do their work.

Thank you for your attention,



Anaïs Tuepker



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References:

- 1) <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2019/aug/08/fbi-oregon-anti-pipeline-jordan-cove-activists>
- 2) <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2019/oct/02/oregon-pipelines-protests-monitoring-police-anti-terror-unit>
- 3) <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/jan/13/us-listed-climate-activist-group-extremists>

*350PDX's mission is to build a diverse grassroots movement to address the causes of climate disruption through justice-based solutions by inspiring, training and mobilizing people to act.*

[www.350pdx.org](http://www.350pdx.org)



# PORTLANDJACL

SUPPORTING CIVIL RIGHTS SINCE 1928

January 28, 2020

The Portland JACL is the oldest Asian American civil rights organization in the nation. When the Japanese first immigrated to the United States in the early part of the 20th century, no Asian was allowed to become a citizen. We faced structural and institutional racism that led to our forced removal from the West Coast during World War II because of military necessity. We were denied our due process because we looked like the enemy. As it turns out not one Japanese or Japanese American was found guilty of espionage or giving sensitive military information to the Japanese military. The argument of military necessity turned out to be a lie. The wartime military leadership had attempted to destroy its "Final Report on Japanese Evacuation from the West Coast", which explicitly stated that intelligence sources agreed Japanese Americans posed no threat to U.S. security. There were ten copies made of this report. There was a concerted effort to destroy all of those copies but the single remaining copy of the "Final Report" was discovered. It turned out that this was the editor's proof copy that somehow got misplaced. So, even when the government's own investigation found no threat, this information was kept hidden and the media spread false information about the danger the Japanese were to the security of the west coast.

We are speaking out today because even though it is 78 years later, the FBI is continuing to use a flawed theories to determine who is dangerous. The FBI investigated Buddhists as a potential threat to national security. They considered people who were Buddhist or Shinto to be potentially less loyal than the Japanese American Christian counterparts. Similarly people who studied Japanese or traveled to Japan were looked upon with the same suspicion. We need only exchange this fear of potential national security threat from the Japanese to Middle Easterners and followers of Islam to understand that we are still stuck with the biases and stereotypes of the past.

In the aftermath of 9/11, the Patriot Act was passed. This Act gave increased powers of investigation to the FBI. It violates American citizens' Constitutional rights and allows our government to spy on us without due process, search our homes without consent and increase the risk of ordinary citizens being accused of crimes without just cause. Again we have let fear, guide how we treat our citizens rather than our rights under the constitution.

We have worked with local community groups to encourage the City Council to stop assigning Portland Police Officers to the Joint Terrorism Task Force. We were concerned about the lack of local government oversight into its operations. The Portland Police has a severe shortage of officers and our public safety is better served by having our officers engage and develop relationships within our community to provide a safe environment.

We applaud the Portland City Council for standing up for the rights of our citizens. We must continue to be vigilant





Portland Democratic Socialists of America  
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The 2020 JTTF report describes 9 closed cases referred to Portland Police. All those cases were investigations of threats made by white people, and 3 were classified as racially-motivated. Nationally, 2019 saw an increase in racist violence, including a deadly attack on a California synagogue, and mass shooting of 22 in El Paso, Texas by a white nationalist. In the 2019 report, the Bureau justified JTTF cooperation using fear of unlikely attacks by ISIS or Al Qaeda in Oregon, but the 2020 report shows that these were Islamophobic, racist biases.

Meanwhile, anti-fascist activists have been exposing international white supremacist organizing. Last August, Eugene Antifa revealed that an organization called “The Base” had purchased land in Washington State to use as a paramilitary training ground for establishing a white ethnostate. Rose City Antifa has reported that a member of The Base had been active in Portland far-right rallies. Three members of The Base were arrested in Georgia this month for a plot to murder anti-fascists, and another 3 were arrested for threats related to the gun rights rally at the Virginia legislature.

When far-right groups promoted a national descent on Portland in August last year, the Mayor implied that violent white nationalists and those willing to defend our city were somehow equivalent, and on the day of the rally, Portland Police offered a helping hand to the far-right by providing safe passage away from the confrontation that they came to create. Anti-fascists came out anyway, and Portland Police arrested at least 15 likely anti-fascists who were there for defense.

What are the real threats to public safety? In 2019, U.S. law enforcement shot and killed almost 1,000 people, more than those killed by mass shooters. Nationally, police have killed about 5,000 since 2015. The L.A. Times reported that killings by police are one of the leading causes of death for young men of color. Portland Police killed 5 people in 2019, and a total of 26 people since 2010. In the current contract negotiations, the police union President claims that demands for community oversight of use of deadly force threatens constitutional bargaining rights, and City Council tied its own hands with previous contracts that made oversight toothless.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is a member of the JTTF and is itself a threat to public safety. It's ICE that breaks up families, traumatizes children, and feeds concentration camps. Missing from the 2020 report is the JTTF offer of assistance for illegal surveillance of Jordan Cove environmental activists.

The threat of mass violence around us is real, but when law enforcement is part of that threat, it can't be the solution. Therefore, the City of Portland must remain outside the JTTF and end cooperation.



## The League of Women Voters of Portland

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January 26, 2020

To: Mayor Wheeler, Commissioners Eudaly, Fritz, and Hardesty

From: League of Women Voters of Portland,  
Debbie Kaye, president

Re: **2020 Joint Terrorism Task Force Annual Report**

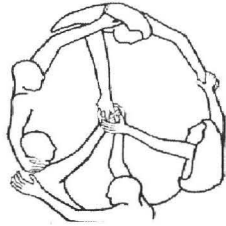
The League of Women Voters of Portland “promotes an open governmental system that is representative, accountable, and responsive... and that protects individual liberties established by the Constitution.” It further “promotes political responsibility through informed and active participation in government.”

We first testified on this issue in 2001 because we value the protections afforded by Oregon law (ORS 181A.250) to individuals engaging in political and other non-criminal First Amendment activities. City Council made the right decision when it withdrew Portland from membership in the FBI’s Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF) and agreed to make annual reports to the community.

Community concerns about the JTTF have been reinforced by recent news about surveillance of activists protesting the proposed Jordan Cove LNG project and revelations about San Francisco police officers’ inappropriate work with the FBI. The League believes that our democracy is strengthened and sustained by the public’s active participation in government. That involvement is threatened when individuals feel they have to look over their shoulders because they fear they are targets of government surveillance and file keeping.

Finally, we are troubled by the prohibition on oral testimony on reports presented to the Portland City Council. In our experience, when given the opportunity to comment, community members often provide valuable insights and raise important questions. We urge Mayor Wheeler to reconsider this policy and resume accepting public testimony on the reports presented to City Council.

To promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government.



Peace and Justice Works  
PO Box 42456  
Portland, OR 97242  
503-236-3065

## PEACE AND JUSTICE WORKS/PORTLAND COPWATCH TESTIMONY ON THE JOINT TERRORISM TASK FORCE January 28, 2020

Mayor Wheeler and Commissioners Eudaly, Fritz and Hardesty:

Peace and Justice Works and Portland Copwatch continue to have deep concerns about cooperation between the Portland Police and the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF).

A report on the JTTF activities from 2018 released last year revealed that Portland Police worked on 29 "assessments." The FBI can open such cases on speculation, a standard which does not necessarily include reasonable suspicion of criminal conduct as required by Oregon law. The officers from the Bureau's Criminal Intelligence Unit (CIU), who have special security clearance to work on the JTTF, told the Mayor on record at a Council hearing they had not violated Oregon law. There is no way for the community to find out whether working on those assessments means that the officers (a) violated state law and (b) were untruthful when they stated otherwise.

The new report shows that the FBI asked for PPB assistance in 10 cases, nine of which were resolved as not involving criminal offenses and one which is still open. The report is, again, not clear what the PPB's role was in these investigations. Three of them only allege that people were affiliated with white supremacist political philosophies, one of whom talked to another person in a bar. While these political views are disturbing, expressing them is not criminal. If the PPB helped conduct investigations in these cases with no allegations of crimes being committed, they violated the law.

The other incidents include direct or vague threats of violence including toward the British Royal Family, and Portland Police. Those cases were also resolved without criminal charges, with two referred to the PPB's Behavioral Health Unit indicating the "suspects" had mental health issues. One was determined to be the work of an artist, not a terrorist.

In addition, the report cites 12 cases where the PPB contacted the FBI about various issues including bomb threats and threats against public officials. There is no report on the outcome of these cases, though it is likely that one of them was the case where the JTTF seized guns from Shane Kohfield as reported by the *Oregonian* last August. Kohfield threatened to kill Antifa members and made other violent threats during an action in front of Mayor Wheeler's house. As with other Portland Police Reports, it seems strange not to include such publicly available information, since it would promote transparency and build community trust.

There is no mention about information revealed in August by the *Guardian* which showed the Portland Police CIU coordinating with the FBI, state law enforcement, and private industry making attempts to criminalize and disrupt people engaged in lawful activity opposing the Jordan Cove pipeline. PPB CIU Officer Andrew Hearst told the South West Oregon Joint Task Force he would let them know when Portland folks head south to protest against the pipeline, even though protesting is not a criminal activity.

As many as 19 of the 22 cases noted in the Report may line up with the City policy allowing cooperation on "suspected cases of terrorism and/or threats to life, including hate crimes." However, it is not clear why most of these cases, which seem to be vague, non-criminal in nature, and in some cases the result of mental health issues, would require the pooling of local law enforcement with the FBI and a dozen or so other agencies involved in the JTTF.

The City's policy is too broad, allowing investigations into people and incidents that have nothing to do with terrorism. The reporting policy is too narrow, only requiring the PPB to report on cases sent by the FBI to the police, rather than also including ones the police turned over. The reports also need to be very clear whether the Portland Police conducted investigations when there was no suspected criminal behavior.