

SPLC REPORT

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FIGHTING HATE

Angry radical right catches fire

The number of extremist groups in the United States exploded in 2009 as militias and groups steeped in wild, antigovernment conspiracy theories exploited populist anger across

the country and infiltrated the mainstream, an SPLC investigation has found.

So-called "Patriot" groups — militias and other extremist organizations that see the federal

government as part of a plot to impose a one-world government — came roaring back after years out of the limelight. At the same time, the SPLC's annual count of hate groups found those organizations remained at record lev-

els in 2009. A list and interactive, state-by-state map of active hate groups can be viewed at www.splcenter.org.

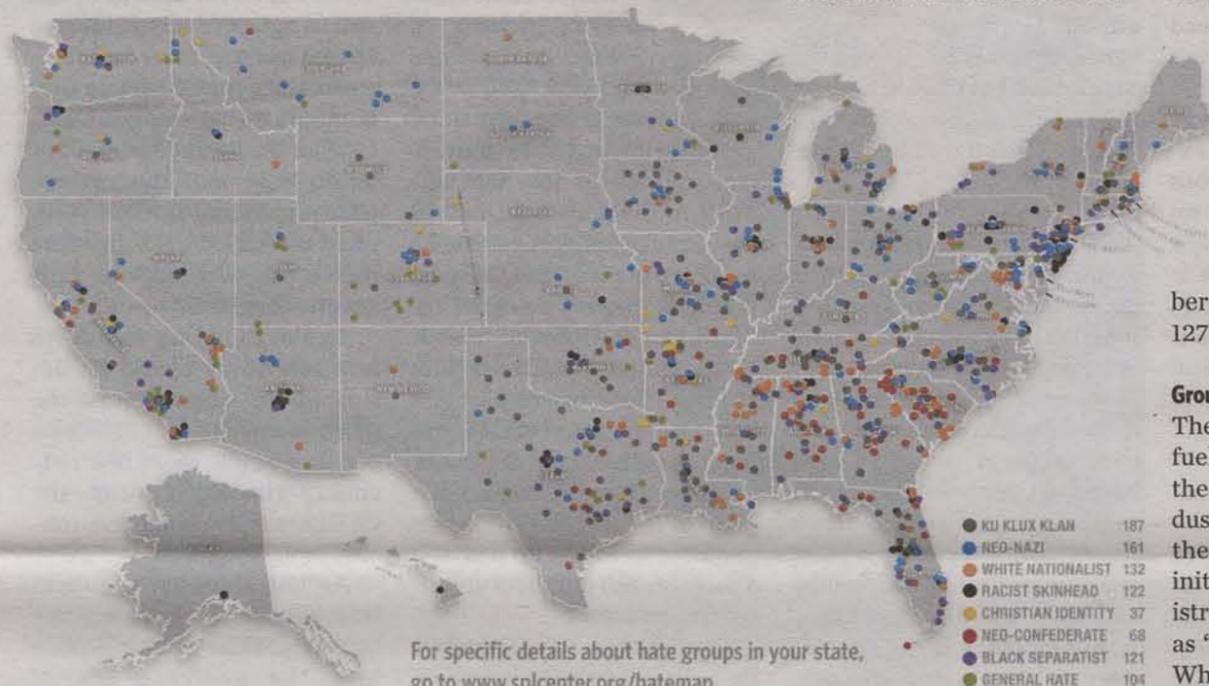
The SPLC documented an astonishing 244 percent increase in the number of antigovernment Patriot groups in 2009. Their numbers grew from 149 groups in 2008 to 512 groups in 2009. Militias — the paramilitary arm of the Patriot movement — were a major part of this increase, tripling in number from 42 militias in 2008 to 127 in 2009.

are not the same as racist hate groups, their rise is noteworthy.

"This extraordinary growth is a cause for grave concern," said Mark Potok, director of the SPLC's Intelligence Project, which tracks hate and extremist activity. "The people associated with the Patriot movement during its 1990s heyday produced an enormous amount of violence — most dramatically the Oklahoma City bombing that left 168 people dead."

The militias and the larger Patriot movement peaked in the 1990s, when they appeared as an angry reaction to what was seen as a tyrannical government bent on crushing all dissent. Although the Patriot movement included people formerly associated with racially based hate groups, it was mostly driven by a view of the federal government as the enemy and a propensity for antigovernment conspiracy theories. These groups had largely

Continued on page 3



For specific details about hate groups in your state, go to www.splcenter.org/hatemap

Groups fueled by growing anger

These Patriot groups have been fueled by a growing anger over the economy, bank and auto industry bailouts, racial changes in the population and an array of initiatives by the Obama administration that have been branded as "socialist" or even "fascist." While these extremist groups

IN THIS ISSUE



SPLC wins settlement for workers
PAGE 4

President's View
PAGE 2



New film addresses bullying in schools
PAGE 5

SEEKING JUSTICE

SPLC suit seeks justice in police shooting of elderly Louisiana man

HOMER, La. — Many African Americans in this town figured a racially charged tragedy was inevitable, given what they say has been a long history of racial profiling and harassment by the local police.

Their worst fears turned into reality when 73-year-old Bernard Monroe was shot down on his own front porch by a white police officer who had intruded on a family gathering.

Gone in a flash of gunfire was "Mr. Ben," a friendly, well-liked retiree with a wife of 49 years and a small army of children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

"It was bound to happen," said Gary Daniels, one of Monroe's nephews. "[Police] have been a force of intimidation for as long as I can remember."

Monroe was killed on Feb. 20, 2009, outside the humble wood frame house he and his family called home for nearly 25 years. As many as 20 family members

and friends, including young children, were socializing in the front yard on a mild winter day. They saw and heard parts of the incident from different vantage points. Some told a local grand jury what they saw.

But almost a year after the shooting, on Feb. 4, the grand jury of eight whites and four

blacks declined to issue criminal indictments in the case.

On Feb. 10, the Southern Poverty Law Center filed a wrongful death lawsuit against the town of Homer and two officers on behalf of Monroe's widow and children, alleging that the officers' negligence and "failure to

exercise reasonable care" led to Monroe's death.

"These officers were out of control when they stormed onto Mr. Monroe's property," said Morris Dees, chief trial counsel for the SPLC. "It ended in a devastating tragedy for the Monroe family."

Racial profiling or preventative policing?

Initially, the Homer Police Department maintained that the officers saw what appeared to be a drug transaction in progress, and when the two suspects ran, they followed them to Monroe's home, according to media accounts. The scenario would later change to one person — Monroe's son, Shaun — being pursued for reasons that aren't clear. There were no criminal warrants for Shaun when he parked in the driveway of his parents' house and went

Continued on page 8



Police shot Bernard Monroe, 73, outside his home of nearly 25 years. He and his wife, Marie (inset), were married for almost half a century.

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The Southern Poverty Law Center is dedicated to fighting hate and bigotry and to seeking justice for the most vulnerable members of our society. Using litigation, education, and other forms of advocacy, the Center works toward the day when the ideals of equal justice and equal opportunity will be a reality. The Center also sponsors the Civil Rights Memorial, which honors the memory of individuals who died during the Civil Rights Movement.

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A MESSAGE FROM SPLC PRESIDENT RICHARD COHEN

Politicians, pundits reinforce extremist ideas

It didn't take long for tax-protesting suicide bomber Joseph Stack to attract a following. Shortly after he slammed his private airplane into an IRS building in Austin, Texas, on Feb. 18, white supremacists began hailing him as a hero who stood up to a tyrannical federal government.

"This was quite heroic," wrote someone on Stormfront.org, a neo-Nazi web forum with 141,000 registered users. "There is a gradual awakening underway. I wonder how racially conscious he was."

On the neo-Nazi website Vanguard News Network, another hate monger wrote: "Only bad I see about this is that he didn't kill enough."

Of course, we expect this type of reaction from the kind of extremists who wear white robes or Nazi uniforms. But what we don't expect is for supposedly mainstream political leaders to give aid and comfort to domestic terrorists and their sympathizers.

At the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) in February, U.S. Rep. Steve King of Iowa told the crowd of conservative activists and politicians that he could "empathize" with the man who killed an IRS employee and injured 13 other people. He later told the political blog Think Progress that the IRS is "unnecessary and when the day comes when that is over and we abolish the IRS, it's going to be a happy day for America."

Were it to come true, King's wish would be good news for the person on Stormfront who asked, in the wake of the IRS attack, "Are there ANY innocent IRS employees???"

U.S. Sen. Scott Brown, who was elected to fill the Massachusetts seat vacated by the late Sen. Edward Kennedy, suggested that the attack might have been the product of the public's frustration with political gridlock. "I don't know if it's related, but I can just sense, not only in my election but since being here in Washington, people are frustrated," Brown told Fox News' Neil Cavuto.

Violence not answer to problems

People are frustrated with their government. Millions have lost jobs. Retirement accounts have been decimated by two major economic shocks over the past decade. Health care costs are skyrocketing, and banks that were bailed out yesterday are paying their executives giant bonuses today. While the middle class and poor are hurting, the wealthy elite seem to be doing just fine.

But violence is not the answer to Washington gridlock, and all our leaders of whatever political persuasion should unequivocally condemn Stack's

murderous last act and any other threats of violence.

The problem is not that the inability of a polarized Congress to solve our problems is fueling a populist rage. The public has good reasons to be angry. It's that this anger is being successfully exploited by those on the radical right and channeled into the sort of antigovernment fear and extremism that led Stack to fly his plane into an IRS building.

The fury is reflected in the stunning growth of extremist groups over the past year (see story, page 1.) Hate groups remained at record levels despite the collapse of a major neo-Nazi network. At the same time, radical anti-immigrant groups rose by nearly 80 percent. But the most dramatic surge came in the antigovernment "Patriot" movement, which includes militia groups. These groups harbor a deep-seated, irrational fear of federal authority and believe the government is their enemy. Many think the government is planning to round up political dissenters and put them in concentration camps.

Overall, these three strands of the radical right — the hate mongers, the nativist extremists and the Patriot groups — increased their numbers by more than 40

percent from 2008 to 2009, rising from 1,248 groups to 1,753.

What makes these increases even more alarming is the degree to which the ideas of the radical right are being so casually accepted in mainstream politics and political punditry. We now have politicians and media figures on the hard right who are, day in and day out, legitimizing and validating the most bizarre conspiracy theories, beliefs and racism of the lunatic fringe, further stoking fear and hatred.

Long history of terror attacks

There's been a long and bloody history of terror attacks by the radical right. We've documented 75 plots, conspiracies and rampages since the Oklahoma City bombing killed 168 people in 1995, at the height of the 1990s militia movement. Most of these plots, including five previous plans to attack the IRS, involved individuals with extreme anti-government views.

In the rambling manifesto left behind by Stack, he described his anger against the government and said, "Nothing changes unless there is a body count." Timothy McVeigh, the Oklahoma City bomber, probably thought so, too.

As long as we have political leaders and radio personalities who empathize with or explain away the murderous acts of people who blow up or fly planes into buildings, we're likely to see more bodies.



Richard Cohen

MICHELLE LELAND

MAILBOX

I am a [SPLC] member. Times are hard for me now, but I will continue to contribute when I can. I can't tell you how happy I was when I read in your latest issue of the *SPLC Report* that, because of your truth in reporting, Lou Dobbs was forced to resign. You have done a remarkable job. Dobbs was and still is an old right-wing, radical, racist, narrow-minded, greedy extremist. Now his big fat humorless mouth is shut for good.

This organization is so very necessary. You have so often upheld morality and the laws that support man's humanity to man. There is no price to pay for such an accomplishment. I bow to you and I thank you. I will continue to give my support.

L. H.

Rocklin, California

Several years ago, I wrote to you to defend CNN's Lou Dobbs. I was wrong about him, at least in his later years, and you were so right. Just wanted to let you know that I recognize the effort to get him off

the airwaves, as well as all the other terrific work you have done and will do. I'm retired now, and I can't make the kind of donation I'd like to, but I'm sending you a special year-end contribution to support your outstanding work.

S. H.

Bronxville, New York

I have been a proud member of SPLC since 1981, and I want to thank you for the work you have all done, despite great personal danger, and for your many outstanding efforts and successes. What you do is not done by any other organization that I'm aware of, and it is absolutely necessary to the well-being, safety and ethical authority of the country. Thank you.

A. E.

Murphy, North Carolina

I tell everyone, while we have our favorite local causes to support, there are a few national organizations everyone ought to support. The SPLC is on the top of my list for the tireless

work you do to free our nation of hatred. For many, the crimes are unnoticed, but their elimination is essential for the protection of human dignity — the basis of our democracy.

Thank you so much for doing this vital work to teach tolerance and seek justice, because without these, we will have nothing else.

A. N.

Rockland, Maine

I sincerely thank you for your Teaching Tolerance kits that were sent to my school. They are a wonderful addition for our teachers. Children react to the attitudes of adults, and our parents will definitely benefit from the lessons learned through these kits. Thank you for all your courage and work.

K. L.

Montebello, California

I am a high school guidance counselor and my wife is a retired health and PE teacher. Thank you for the work you do. We teach in a small school in

the mountains of Pennsylvania, and we use your *Teaching Tolerance* magazine to promote the message of harmony among people. We sent a \$100 donation and wish it could have been more. Keep up the great work, and thank you.

D. C.

Portage, Pennsylvania

I enjoyed reading your Winter 2009 Report, and it was nice to see your part in getting rid of [Lou] Dobbs.

Your piece on "winning justice for children" really touched a nerve in a different way. I am referring to the fact that we as a nation are making career, lifetime criminals out of little children. How many thousands of innocent children have been brought to this country to grow up with no hope of ever being legal? The parents may be to blame for bringing them, but we are to blame for taking away any hope for a normal productive life.

J. B.

Hickory, North Carolina

Radical right catches fire in 2009

Continued from page 1
disappeared from public view by the early 2000s.

Radical and resurgent

The astonishing growth of Patriot groups in 2009 came during the same year that the number of hate groups rose slightly — from 926 in 2008 to 932. The expansion of hate groups in 2009 would have been much greater if not for the demise of the American National Socialist Workers Party, a key neo-Nazi group whose founder was arrested in October 2008.

The SPLC first disclosed the dramatic resurgence of the Patriot movement in "The Second Wave: Return of the Militias," a report issued in August.

Anger on the radical right — and among Americans in general — has continued to grow. A Rasmussen Reports poll released in February showed that 75 percent of likely American voters were "angry" or "very angry" at the policies of the federal government, up from 66 percent in September.

The numbers hearken back to the period around the 1995 bombing of the Oklahoma City federal building, when the Patriot movement was peaking. A few days after that attack, a *USA Today* poll found that 39 percent of Americans agreed with the proposition that the federal government was "so large and powerful that it poses an immediate threat to the rights and freedoms of ordinary citizens."

Signs of violence

There are already signs of radical right violence reminiscent of the 1990s. On Feb. 18, a software engineer furious over federal tax policies flew his small plane into an IRS building in Austin, Texas. Right-wing extremists have murdered six law enforcement officers since Barack Obama's inauguration. Racist skinheads and others have been arrested in alleged plots to assassinate the president. In recent months, a rash of individuals with antigovernment, survivalist or racist views

have been arrested in a series of bomb cases.

But unlike the 1990s, the movement's central ideas are being promoted by media and political figures with large audiences, such as FOX News' Glenn Beck and U.S. Rep. Michele Bachmann of Minnesota. Beck, for instance, reinvigorated a key Patriot conspiracy theory — the charge that the Federal Emergency Management Agency is secretly running concentration camps — before finally "debunking" it.

The Tea Party and similar groups that have sprung up in recent months cannot fairly be considered extremist groups, but they are laced with extreme-right ideas, conspiracy theories and racism, also thanks in part to certain ostensibly mainstream commentators and politicians.

Tom Tancredo, a former Republican congressman from Colorado and possibly the most rabid anti-immigrant politician in America, told a Tea Party convention in Nashville, Tenn.: "People who could not spell the word 'vote' or say it in English put a committed socialist ideology in the White House — [his] name is Barack Hussein Obama."

The problem, Tancredo explained, is that "we do not have a civics, literacy test before people can vote."

Literacy tests were long used to prevent African Americans from voting but were finally outlawed by the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Here are a few other signs of growing radicalization across the country:

- Armed men have come to Obama speeches bearing signs suggesting that the "tree of liberty" needs to be "watered" with "the blood of tyrants."

- The Conservative Political Action Conference held this

February was co-sponsored by groups such as the John Birch Society, which believes President Eisenhower was a Communist agent.

- Oath Keepers, a Patriot outfit formed last year, suggests in thinly veiled language that the government has secret plans to declare martial law and intern Americans in concentration camps.

- Politicians pandering to the antigovernment right in 37 states have introduced "Tenth Amendment Resolutions," based on the constitutional provision keeping all powers not explicitly given to the federal government with the states.



Extreme anti-President Obama fervor permeates Tea Party protests, where posters, like this one held aloft in Atlanta last summer, demonstrate growing radicalization.

- At the "A Well Regulated Militia" website, a recent discussion of how to build "clandestine safe houses" to stay clear of the federal government included a conversation about how mass murderers like Timothy McVeigh and Olympics bomber Eric Rudolph were supposedly betrayed at such houses.

Nativist extremist numbers surge

There also has been a surge in "nativist extremist" groups — organizations that go beyond advocating a more restrictive immigration policy and actually confront and harass suspected immigrants. These groups grew by nearly 80 percent — from 173 groups in 2008 to 309 in 2009.

At the same time, nativist extremist groups have increasingly adopted ideas from the Patriot movement — demonstrating a level of cross-pollination between different segments of the radical right not seen in years. Nativist activists are adopting the ideas of the Patriots, racist rants against Obama and others are coursing through the Patriot movement, and government conspiracy theories are appearing in an array of right-wing venues.

"We are witnessing a remarkable phenomenon," Potok said. "The radical right has truly caught fire."

INTELLIGENCE BRIEFS

Major police cover-up alleged in hate murder of immigrant

SHENANDOAH, Pa.— In December, a federal grand jury indicted three Shenandoah police officers, including the chief, on charges of orchestrating a complicated cover-up and obstructing justice to protect two white teenagers who killed a Latino man while yelling racial slurs. A jury acquitted the pair of the most serious charges.

One of the officers was dating the mother of a teen charged in the crime. The grand jury also indicted the two acquitted teens for a federal hate crime, a charge that carries a potential life sentence.

According to the December indictment, the mother of one teen was told hours after the assault by her boyfriend, officer Jason Hayes, that the victim might die. The woman allegedly told the teens that they needed "to get their stories straight" and to make no mention of attacking the victim, Luis Ramirez, because of his ethnicity. The other officers — Chief Matthew Nestor and Lt. William Moyer — allegedly joined in the conspiracy and, like Hayes, falsified police reports.

At press time, all the officers had resigned from the police department and were confined to their homes by court order.

Holocaust museum shooter dies before trial

WASHINGTON, D.C.— The long and bitter life of James von Brunn came to an uneventful end in January when he died in a federal prison while awaiting trial for the slaying of security guard Stephen T. Johns at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. Von Brunn, who was being treated for chronic medical problems, was 89.

In June of last year, the violently anti-Semitic, anti-black von Brunn double-parked his car in front of the Holocaust Museum here, approached the crowded facility and shot Johns as he opened the door for him, authorities said. Two other guards returned fire, and von Brunn was wounded in one ear and immediately arrested.

Von Brunn's neo-Nazi and antigovernment views dated back decades, including an arrest and conviction here in 1981 after carrying weapons into the Federal Reserve.

Neo-Nazi convicted for threats

ROANOKE, Va.— Bill White, founder of the neo-Nazi American National Socialist Workers Party, was arrested

in 2008 for making threats against several people, including a popular newspaper columnist and a Canadian human rights lawyer. White often posted the threats on his virulently racist website, Overthrow.com, which went down after he was arrested.

During an eight-day trial in federal court here, jurors heard testimony from victims who said they were terrified by the blog posts, telephone calls and emails that White used to target them. The defense, which did not call any witnesses, argued that White's communications were protected as free speech under the First Amendment.

In December, a federal jury, after deliberating for less than four hours, agreed with some but not all of the government's allegations.

White's arrest destroyed his American National Socialist Workers Party, which had 35 chapters in 28 states in 2008 and now has none. White could be sent to prison for up to 40 years.

Anti-Semitic psych professor now running racist political party

LONG BEACH, Calif.— California State, Long Beach, psychology professor Kevin MacDonald has made the leap from academia to activism, signing on recently as director of the American Third Position (ATP), a new white supremacist political party established "to represent the unique political interests of White Americans." The party plans to run candidates for office nationwide.

ATP was the brainchild of Freedom 14, an Orange County racist skinhead group. Freedom 14 reached out to MacDonald after its own Golden State Party reportedly collapsed when its leader was exposed as a two-time felon.

The chairman of ATP is hard-line racist William D. Johnson, a Los Angeles-based lawyer and white supremacist who has long advocated deporting non-whites from the U.S. In 1985, Johnson penned an infamous book, using the pseudonym James O. Pace, called *Amendment to the Constitution*. The amendment Johnson proposed would only have allowed whites "in whom there is no ascertainable trace of Negro blood" to be American citizens.

Until ATP was established, MacDonald was better known for his anti-Semitic "research" purporting to prove that Jews are driven by a genetically programmed group evolutionary strategy to undermine Western civilization.



SPLC updates website, adds new features

In early February, the SPLC updated its website to represent its work in a fuller, more integrated and dynamic fashion. It is easier to use than the former website and offers significant new features, such as the Intelligence Files, a database containing profiles of various prominent extremists and extremist organizations. It also examines the histories and core beliefs of the most common types of extremist movements.



Experienced educator Maureen Costello takes the helm of Teaching Tolerance.

TEACHING TOLERANCE

Experienced educator selected to lead Teaching Tolerance

An educator who has directed several national programs and has extensive experience in the academic, publishing and business worlds has been named the new director of the SPLC's Teaching Tolerance program.

Maureen Costello, who has served as director of *Newsweek's* education program and project director for Scholastic Inc.'s Census in Schools program, will guide Teaching Tolerance, one of the nation's leading providers of anti-bias classroom resources. She became director Jan. 19.

'Teaching Tolerance at forefront'

"I am honored by the opportunity to lead Teaching Tolerance into a new decade," Costello said. "Teaching Tolerance has been at the forefront of providing teachers with the tools they need to promote a respect for differences and an appreciation of diversity. I look forward to continuing that tradition."

As the director of *Newsweek's* education program, Costello developed news-related programs to meet the needs of high school and college educators. As project director for Scholastic Inc.'s Census in Schools program, she designed and implemented a program that educates students about the 2010 census.

"Maureen brings a rich background to Teaching Tolerance that will help ensure it remains a

trusted and valuable resource for teachers," said SPLC President Richard Cohen. "We're delighted she is taking the helm of Teaching Tolerance."

Costello also served as an academic dean and history teacher at Notre Dame Academy High School in Staten Island, N.Y. She was the educational service director for the *Staten Island Advance* newspaper in New York where she created and managed an award-winning Newspaper in Education program.

Costello earned a bachelor's degree in liberal arts at The New School in New York and a master's degree in American civilization at New York University. She replaces Lecia Brooks, who had served as interim director for the past year. Brooks currently serves as director of the SPLC's Civil Rights Memorial Center.

Teaching Tolerance was founded in 1991 to provide K-12 teachers and other educators with free, anti-bias resources to promote an appreciation for diversity. Its award-winning magazine, *Teaching Tolerance*, is distributed twice each year, free of charge, to 400,000 educators nationwide.

Teaching Tolerance also has produced award-winning educational films about the civil rights movement and, most recently, the farmworker strike and grape boycott of the 1960s.

SEEKING JUSTICE

Exploited workers get back pay under \$2.75 million settlement

Hector Ortiz was one of 2,200 foreign guestworkers recruited from Mexico and Central America to plant pine seedlings across the South for one of the country's largest forestry companies.

From 2000 to 2006, guestworkers like Ortiz would regularly work more than 40 hours a week, but they said their paychecks from Superior Forestry Service Inc. simply didn't reflect what they were owed.

Ortiz and his fellow guestworkers were in a position that has become familiar for too many people in the nation's H-2B guestworker visa program.

"I knew that there were people that help others, but I did not know that I was going to meet someone that would offer us help," Ortiz said. "We do not know our rights and [the Southern Poverty Law Center] guided us."

Settlement one of largest

The SPLC and other immigrant advocates filed a class action lawsuit on behalf of the workers in 2006. In February, the Arkansas-based forestry company agreed to pay \$2.75 million to settle the legal claims brought by the guestworkers — one of the largest settlements of its kind. The settlement received preliminary approval from U.S. District Judge William J. Haynes Jr. It is subject to final approval following a fairness hearing in March. Once finalized, the settlement will end the lawsuit.

"Guestworkers are too often seen as disposable workers who can be cheated and exploited," said Jim Knoepp, an attorney with the SPLC's Immigrant Justice Project. "This settlement sends a powerful message that these workers have rights

and that their employers will be held accountable."

Joining the SPLC in representing the workers were Farmworker Justice, the Legal Aid Justice Center and attorneys from two Chicago-based private law firms: Willenson Law, LLC and Hughes, Socol, Piers, Resnick & Dym.

Superior also agreed to abide by the Fair Labor Standards Act and the Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act to ensure workers are not cheated out of future wages. Guestworker Jose Rosiles said he hopes the lawsuit will ensure fair treatment of foreign guestworkers in the future.

"When I met the representative of SPLC, I saw the opportunity to report and clarify many things that we did not think were right at the Superior company," he said.

During the lawsuit, Superior was held in contempt of court three times. The contractor was most recently held in contempt in July 2009 after a company

labor recruiter showed up at a meeting in Mexico between plaintiff lawyers and workers interested in the lawsuit — violating a court order and intimidating workers who might join the lawsuit.

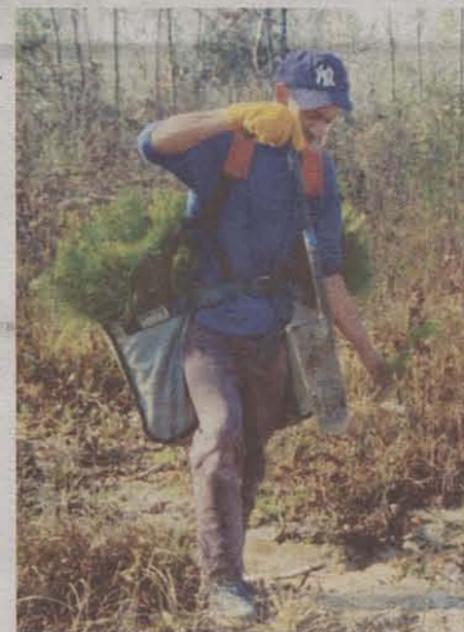
That incident led the court to punish Superior by barring it from presenting evidence to dispute the workers' claims for damages.

SPLC documents abuses, wage violations

The SPLC's 2007 report *Close to Slavery* documents rampant wage violations, recruitment abuses, seizure of identity documents and squalid living conditions in the H-2B program. Guestworkers, whose visas do not allow them to change jobs, typically have little recourse if they are exploited. The SPLC discovered that workers in the forestry industry faced systematic abuse.

The SPLC has settled two previous forestry industry lawsuits filed on behalf of workers, spurring reforms in the industry. The prospect of a lawsuit and the ensuing bad publicity has served as a deterrent for some companies. Some forestry contractors said they have used SPLC litigation as leverage to demand higher payments from giant paper companies so they can raise worker wages.

"I congratulate the founders and leaders of SPLC for thinking about poor people — like immigrants who come here to work and are not treated right," Ortiz said. "Thank you for all your achievements."



Guestworkers do the backbreaking job of planting pine trees throughout the South.

SARAH REYNOLDS

Endowment supports SPLC's future work

The SPLC's work would not be possible without the financial and moral support of caring individuals across the nation. Because of their consistent generosity, the SPLC has enjoyed great success in fighting for justice in the courts, tracking hate groups and teaching tolerance in classrooms across America.

But the SPLC has long been convinced that the day will come when nonprofit groups will no longer be able to afford to garner support through the mail. That's why, in 1974, its

board of directors began setting aside a certain amount each year to build an endowment. Today, the endowment stands at \$194 million.

SPLC recognizes need for saving

The SPLC was one of the first social action organizations to recognize the importance of saving for the future. Although colleges have long understood the wisdom behind building endowments, most organizations like the SPLC — groups that often touch many more lives than the typical college — have not.

As a result, some groups have not been able to sustain themselves and continue their valuable work.

Today, many nonprofit organizations — including the ACLU, the Anti-Defamation League and the Sierra Club — have come to recognize the critical nature of building endowments. Like the SPLC, they understand that programming commitments they make today will create future financial obligations.

In this new century, America remains a nation of great prom-

ise. In communities across the country, thousands of people are seeking to tear down racial, social and economic barriers that still sometimes divide us. But there are others who try to use those same divisions to sow seeds of hatred. And there are many more whose apathy in the face of intolerance allows hatred to grow.

Challenges continue

As the nation's diversity increases in the coming years, so will the challenges of promoting tolerance and acceptance.

To help ensure that the SPLC is ready to meet those challenges, it needs a significant endowment.

The caring individuals who help the SPLC continue its crucial daily work are helping to establish the SPLC as an organization poised to carry on the struggle for tolerance and justice — for as long as it is needed. The SPLC's educational and legal efforts have affected the lives of millions of people. With the help of the SPLC's endowment, millions more will benefit in the future.

TEACHING TOLERANCE

New SPLC film to address anti-gay bullying in schools

The SPLC's Teaching Tolerance program is beginning work on its eighth documentary film and teaching kit — a project aimed at ending anti-gay bullying in schools.

Tentatively titled *Hate Goes to School*, the film will tell the story of a student who stood up to his anti-gay tormentors and filed a federal lawsuit that led to

forms of bigotry that can go unchecked on school campuses," said Maureen Costello, Teaching Tolerance director. "Too often, homophobic remarks made in classrooms and hallways aren't corrected. This kit is aimed squarely at stopping anti-gay abuse in our schools."

The kit will include information for school administrators

these remarks because they don't understand their obligations or know how to help.

A 2002 study from the National Mental Health Association found that 50 percent of youths said that gay students are bullied most or all of the time in their schools. When LGBTQ students were asked directly in the GLSEN survey, 86 percent said they experience verbal bullying and 22 percent said they are assaulted in a typical school year.

Hate Goes to School will feature the story of Jamie Nabozny. Nabozny, like many LGBTQ youths, suffered vicious verbal and physical abuse at the hands of his classmates in Ashland, Wis. What started as verbal abuse in the 7th grade became kicks and punches in later years. Once, a group of boys surrounded him and performed a mock rape in front of a class. Another time he was shoved into a urinal and urinated on. He was once kicked so hard he required abdominal surgery.

School officials blamed Nabozny, saying he should expect such treatment

if he planned on being gay. He fought back with a federal lawsuit accusing the school district and several administrators of failing to protect him from years of anti-gay abuse and harassment.

The case led to a federal court holding a public school accountable for not stopping anti-gay abuse — a first in the nation's history.

"Schools that address gay issues are safer for all students," Costello said. "This kit is the resource that's needed to help curb the devastating realities facing these students."

Teaching Tolerance's most recent documentary and teaching kit was *Viva La Causa*, which documented the farmworker strike and grape boycott led by Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta in the 1960s. The film's depiction of one of the nation's great social justice movements has been shown to profoundly affect students' attitudes about Latinos, immigrants and economic justice at a time of burgeoning anti-Latino sentiment in the country.



Unchecked anti-gay bullying makes gay students feel unsafe and more likely to skip class.

the creation of the nation's first legal protections for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning/queer (LGBTQ) students. The SPLC expects to begin distributing teaching kits to educators in the fall.

Left unchecked, anti-gay abuse has devastating consequences. Research has found gay students feel unsafe at school because of their sexual orientation, are more likely to skip class, have lower grade point averages and are less likely to express interest in college than other students. They are more likely to have suicidal thoughts and more prone to behaviors such as smoking, drug and alcohol abuse and sexual risk.

Hate Goes to School will offer a powerful lesson for students and educators that anti-gay bullying is wrong. It will help youths recognize the harm caused by bullying and prompt educators to understand the important role they can play in ending anti-gay bullying.

"Anti-gay bullying and prejudice is one of the few remaining



After suffering severe harassment, Jamie Nabozny won a landmark lawsuit.

SEEKING JUSTICE

SPLC sues to protect rights of expelled teen

The SPLC has sued a Mississippi school district for violating the constitutional rights and derauling the promising academic and athletic career of a high school student over a tossed penny on a school bus.

School officials in Hinds County suspended, then expelled, a Terry High School 10th grader and reassigned him to an alternative school where he receives instruction from a teacher for only half his classes. The other half of his schedule he spends alone, in front of a computer, teaching himself the course material.

'Life chances cut short'

"The Hinds County School District has inexplicably cut short the life chances of this young man for tossing a penny on a school bus," said Courtney Bowie, director of the SPLC's Mississippi Youth Justice Project (MYJP) and lead attorney in the case. "The district's determination to throw this young man away was reflected throughout the disciplinary process, during which the district repeatedly violated its own rules."

Filed Dec. 14 in Hinds County Chancery Court in Jackson, the lawsuit claims the school district failed to follow its own rules as it targeted the 16-year-old boy, identified as A.H. in the complaint, and coerced a false confession through threats and intimidation.

The school's actions stemmed from an incident that occurred while A.H. was riding the school bus home from Terry High this past September. During the ride, A.H. and five other students were tossing coins back and forth. A penny landed on the bus driver, who was not injured.

The school district subjected A.H. to a nearly hour-long

interrogation during which the school's assistant principal threatened to pursue delinquency charges and call police unless he confessed, according to the lawsuit. Though A.H. said he did not throw the coin that landed on the bus driver, the school official pressured him to provide a false confession without notifying his parents or explaining his rights, according to the complaint.

With his transfer to the Main Street Alternative School in Bolton, A.H. will not graduate with his class and is not permitted to set foot on the Terry High School campus. A.H. is a good student who has worked diligently to pursue his dream of attending college on a basketball scholarship. Before the school district wrongfully reassigned A.H., he was slated for a spot on the varsity team. Now, with the move to the alternative school, he will not be allowed to play basketball this year or in the 2010-11 school year, putting a collegiate career in jeopardy.

School officials violated rules

Among the various violations of their own standards and rules, school district officials repeatedly failed to provide A.H., his parents and his attorney with video surveillance footage they claimed showed A.H.'s guilt.

The lawsuit says that A.H. will suffer serious repercussions because of the expulsion.

"Students who are warehoused in Mississippi's alternative schools frequently suffer a lifetime of adverse consequences, including a denial of educational services and challenges earning a high school diploma," said MYJP policy specialist Meigan Thompson.



SPLC leaders speak at CIA

SPLC leaders Morris Dees (second from left) and Richard Cohen (right) stand with CIA officials at the agency's headquarters in Langley, Virginia. The two were invited to serve as keynote speakers at the CIA's 2010 Martin Luther King Celebration on Jan. 13.

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Tribute Gifts continued on page 8

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The Center accepts gifts in memory of someone who has died or in honor of a special occasion such as a birthday, anniversary or graduation. Donors may also give a gift just to say "thank you." The Center will send a card to the person honored or the family of the deceased. Complete this form and mail it with your contribution.

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'Partner' had special bond with SPLC's goals, work

Selma R. Siege was a New Yorker, but her heart had a special bond with the South at the Southern Poverty Law Center.

Raised in Brooklyn, the primary threads of Siege's life reflected the SPLC's goals: Fighting hatred and bigotry, seeking justice for the most vulnerable and promoting equal justice and opportunity for all.

"[She] looked for ways to live her values," said Emily Siege, her daughter.



Selma Siege

An English and reading teacher, Selma fought to include lessons dealing with racism and diversity even when administrators were uncomfortable with the topics. Not surprisingly, arming teachers with the SPLC's Teaching Tolerance resources was important to her.

Partners are special SPLC donors

She also became one of the SPLC's Partners for the Future. Partners are special donors who include the SPLC in their estate plans, thereby extending their support for the SPLC's work beyond their lifetimes. Selma had four gift annuities with the SPLC

when she died in October — two days before her 94th birthday.

"Although she was a child of the Great Depression and frugal for herself, [she] was a generous supporter of organizations whose work she respected," her daughter said.

Selma had an affinity for the SPLC's immigrant justice cases and the work of the Intelligence Project. She also worried about the constant security threats faced by the SPLC staff. As a regular donor, she built long-term relationships with staff members, chatting on phone calls and sending notes with her gifts.

Her name appears in the donor credits for Teaching Tolerance's award-winning documentary, *The Children's March*, and on the Wall of Tolerance at the Civil Rights Memorial Center.

Selma's commitment to teaching went beyond the classrooms where she taught. She was a member of New York City's first teacher's union, a community of dedicated and socially conscious educators she embraced as "the best of the best."

After years of teaching, she earned a master's degree in library science and promoted her love of books as a public librarian, a career she pursued until age 85. A lifetime subscriber and contributor to *Jewish Currents* magazine, she was known for her reviews of Jewish children's literature. Among the many articles she wrote was a feminist perspective on her mother's life.

"She expressed her love practically, offering her time, a willingness to listen, her money and her skills," her daughter said.

Scroll of Remembrance

The Southern Poverty Law Center pays tribute to the memory of deceased supporters who included the Center in their wills or other planned gifts. The Center gratefully acknowledges their bequests, received from January 1, 2009, through January 31, 2010.

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There are several ways to join Partners for the Future. You may include a bequest to the Southern Poverty Law Center in your will or living trust. You may provide for the eventual distribution of assets, such as those held in retirement fund ac-

counts or life insurance policies, potentially gaining tax or financial benefits.

After planning for the financial security of your family and loved ones, we hope you will consider joining Partners for the Future by making a planned gift to the Center.

For information about the many planned giving opportunities available at the Center — with no obligation — please contact our planned giving department by calling toll-free 1-888-414-7752 or by mailing the form below. You can also visit us online at

www.SPLCenter.org/donate or e-mail us at plannedgiving@splcenter.org.

If you have already included the Center in your will or estate plan, please contact us so we can update our records. We want to officially welcome you as a Partner for the Future!

YES! I want information about Partners for the Future

- The Center is already included in my will or estate plans. Please welcome me as a Partner for the Future.
- I'm interested in receiving general information about wills and planned giving. Please send me information on the following specific planned giving opportunities:
 - Wills Charitable Gift Annuities Insurance Policies Real Estate
 - Living Trusts Charitable Remainder Trusts Retirement Plans Securities

Name(s) _____ Date(s) of birth: _____
 Address _____
 City/State/Zip _____
 E-mail Address _____ Telephone _____

MAIL TO: PARTNERS FOR THE FUTURE SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER • P.O. BOX 548 • MONTGOMERY AL 36101-0548



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