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Tēnā koe,

Official information request

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request to the New Zealand Security Intelligence Service (NZSIS). We received your request for information and assessments related to "Black Lives Matter", "Antifa" and "Critical Race Theory" on 1 November 2021. My office then advised you that your request would need to be further refined so that it would not need to be refused under section 18 (f) of the OIA. You re-submitted a more specific request for the following information:

- *Any assessment with reference to "Black Lives Matter" or "black lives matter" compiled or produced by an Intelligence Analyst (or equivalent position/role) over the period of 1st April 2020 to 1st August 2020.*

Context

It may be useful to explain why the NZSIS holds information in relation to "Black Lives Matter". NZSIS hosts the Combined Threat Assessment Group (CTAG), an interagency group which provides independent assessments to inform the National Security System and wider government agencies of the physical threat posed by terrorism to New Zealanders and New Zealand interests.

CTAG is also responsible for assessing the threat from violent protest. CTAG's focus is on assessing whether protestors intend to commit violence against people or cause significant damage to public or private property as part of their protest activity. For CTAG's purposes, violent protest is not ordinarily a spontaneous act within an otherwise peaceful protest, but rather a premeditated decision or agreement by a group of people.

In mid-2020, CTAG produced threat assessments and updates about the wide-spread global protests which were taking place following the murder of George Floyd. Some of these protests turned violent, and CTAG produced assessments about the threat to New Zealanders overseas and the likelihood of violent protest activities in New Zealand. A summary of these assessments is listed on page three.

Response

A small number of documents were in-scope of your refined request.

Please find attached relevant extracts from three documents.

Date	Title	Reference
22/06/2020	Threat Assessment: Global Fortnightly Update: 5-18 June	155/20/TA
29/06/2020	Threat Insight: The Boogaloo – threat overview and New Zealand nexus	2020-153-TI
2/07/2020	Threat Assessment: Global Fortnightly Update: 19 June – 2 July	20-158-TA

Please find copies of the following reports attached. Some information has been withheld under s6(a) of the OIA to protect the security and defence of New Zealand and international relations of the New Zealand Government.

Date	Title	Reference
2/06/2020	Threatscape: Large scale protests continue across the US	147/20/TA
17/06/2020	Threatscape: Violent protests in the United Kingdom	154/20/TA

While the report issued on 2 June 2020 [147/20/TA] doesn't specifically reference the term "Black Lives Matter", it covers the protests and counter-protests following the murder of George Floyd. As such, we have considered this to be in-scope of your request.


Certain documents related to specific national security investigations include reference to the phrase "Black Lives Matter". These documents are withheld in full under section 6(a) of the OIA, as release could prejudice the national security of New Zealand.

Review

I hope you find this information useful. If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact uia.privacy@nzsis.govt.nz.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



Rebecca Kitteridge
Te Tumu Whakarae mō Te Pā Whakamarumarū
Director-General of Security

Global Threat Update: 5 – 18 June 2020

Issued by: Combined Threat Assessment Group

Reference: 155/20/TA

Date issued: 22 June 2020

Relevant extract from the report

Key judgements:

- Largescale Black Lives Matter protests around the world have continued after the death of George Floyd while in police custody in Minnesota on 25 May 2020, including across the United States, the United Kingdom and parts of Europe, such as Paris and Rome. These protests continue to attract members of numerous ideologically motivated groups, as seen in London, where White Identity Extremist (WIE) groups are forming counter protests to those supporting the Black Lives Matter movement. CTAG judges this provides WIE with opportunities to push their ideological goals, including the use of violence.

Violent Protest

- In the US, largely peaceful protests continue to occasionally involve violent incidents. For example, on 7 June a Molotov cocktail and other projectiles were thrown at police officers in Portland, Oregon resulting in 20 arrests; and in Virginia an individual claiming to be the leader of the Ku Klux Klan allegedly drove a vehicle into a group of protestors, injuring one. Extremists that encourage or expect a second civil war are seeking to exploit the protests. For example, Al-Qaeda propaganda has expressed support to the protestors and predicts the decline of US society, politics and economy; and the presence of politically motivated armed protesters wearing Hawaiian shirts symbolises their desire for what they reference as the 'Boogaloo'.
- **Analyst comment:** Related protests in New Zealand continue to be peaceful, and media and online discourse has recently centred on the appropriateness of New Zealand place names, business names and statues of individuals perceived to be at odds with the Black Lives Matter cause. Although there have been instances of vandalism against some statues in New Zealand, CTAG has not sighted any information to suggest violence has been, or is, planned for protests in New Zealand.

The Boogaloo – threat overview and New Zealand nexus

Issued by: Combined Threat Assessment Group

Reference: 2020-153-TI

Date issued: 29 June 2020

The report explains that “The Boogaloo” has emerged in some politically- and ideologically-motivated violent extremist movements in the United States as shorthand for a violent overthrow of the current government in favour of one aligned with violent extremist ideologies. Boogaloo adherents are typically motivated by a variety of extreme anti-government and racial identity ideologies, and the Boogaloo often involves a form of a ‘race war’. This report contains the following reference to “Black Lives Matter”:

- *June 2020: three Las Vegas-based individuals were arrested following a plan to take Molotov cocktails to a Black Lives Matter protest as part of a scheme to foment a revolution. Other discussed plots included firebombing power substations and disrupting a “ReOpen Las Vegas” rally to incite chaos and possibly a riot. All three men belonged to a Boogaloo Facebook group.*

Global Threat Update: 19 June – 2 July 2020

Issued by: Combined Threat Assessment Group

Reference: 20-158-TA

Date issued: 2 July 2020

The report contains the following reference to “Black Lives Matter”:

- *On 22 June, an attack took place in Reading, near London. Three people were killed and three others were seriously wounded when a lone actor conducted stabbings in a public park several hours after a Black Lives Matter protest; there is no indication the attack was related to the protest activity.*