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ANTI-AFRICAN AMERICAN HATE CRIMES **IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY IN 2020**

Hate crimes targeting African Americans rose 35% from 125 to 169 in 2020. Forty-two percent of racial hate crimes targeted African Americans, compared to 46% the previous year. Black persons constitute 9% of the total population of Los Angeles County, but each year are grossly overrepresented as victims of racial hate crime.

Sixty-four percent of anti-black hate crimes were of a violent nature, compared to 71% the previous year. The most common criminal offense was vandalism (27%), followed by aggravated assault (25%), simple assault (20%), intimidation (17%), and disorderly conduct (7%).

Crimes targeting African Americans occurred most often in public places (33%), followed by businesses (28%), residences (23%), and schools, electronic communication, and government/public buildings (5% each).

Anti-black crimes were most frequently committed by whites (52%), followed by Latino/as (42%), Asian Americans (4%), and Middle Easterners (1%). This is the second time in 20 years that the majority of anti-black crimes were committed by white suspects, not Latino/as.

Historically, large numbers of anti-black crimes have been committed by Latino/a gang members. In 2020, 40% of the suspects in Latino/a-on-black crimes were identified as gang members compared to 15% the previous year.

African Americans were again also over-represented as victims of sexual orientation (19%) and anti-transgender crimes (28%).

The following are examples of anti-African American hate crimes reported in 2020:

May 2, El Sereno

Two African American men were chatting in a parking lot. One was seated in his car and the other was standing nearby. Three Latino males approached, asking, "What are you laughing at?" The first suspect spit in the standing victim's face and shouted, "Fuck you, nigga!" He then punched him repeatedly in the face and head. Another suspect reached through the car window and grabbed the seated victim's cell phone. The driver quickly reversed out of the parking lot and fled. The three suspects continued to strike and kick the other victim, but he managed to break free. Surveillance video confirmed the victims' story. One of the suspects had an "El Sereno" gang tattoo on his abdomen.

June 15, Exposition Park

Two Latino males approached a black male victim and pointed handguns at him. They told him, "Ya'll got a problem with us?" One of the suspects aimed his gun and yelled, "Fuck you Niggers. This is our 'hood. The suspect then fired two shots, striking the victim and causing him to fall to the ground. Witnesses told police that the two suspects then fled in different directions.

July 15, Van Nuys

A black woman and her son were at a post office. When she returned to the parking lot, she found a van blocking her vehicle. She entered the building again and asked to whom the van belonged. A Latino male identified himself as the owner. She asked him to move the van, but he refused. The suspect followed her back to the lot and shouted, "Fuck you, bitch! I'll shoot you and that nigger!" Startled, the victim turned around and saw the suspect retrieving a handgun from his van. He pointed the weapon at her with his finger on the trigger. The victim escaped by maneuvering her car around the van and driving away. Later, both victims were able to identify the suspect out of a photo line-up, leading to his arrest.

The full report is available at our website: www.hrc.lacounty.gov