

FOIA MARKER

**This is not a textual record. This is used as an
administrative marker by the William J. Clinton
Presidential Library Staff.**

Collection/Record Group: Clinton Presidential Records

Subgroup/Office of Origin: Cabinet Affairs

Series/Staff Member: Jon Jennings

Subseries:

OA/ID Number: 13612

FolderID:

Folder Title:
Arson Task Force

Stack:

S

Row:

24

Section:

3

Shelf:

11

Position:

2

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. note	The White House notepad, PII [partial] (1 page)	00/00/0000	b(6)
002. memo	From: Claire Wellington, Treasury Dept.; To: John Jennings, White House; Re: Interagency Meeting on NCATF, PII [partial] (1 page)	04/13/1998	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
Cabinet Affairs
Jon Jennings
OA/Box Number: 13612

FOLDER TITLE:

Arson Task Force

2015-0532-F

sb832

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

DRAFT
3/6/98

National Church Arson Task Force Participants

- James E. Johnson, NCATF Co-Chair
Assistant Secretary (Enforcement)
Department of the Treasury
(202) 622-0200 (phone)
(202) 622-7154 (fax)

- Bill Lann Lee, NCATF Co-Chair
Acting Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division
Department of Justice
(202) 616-7334 (phone)
(202) 514-0293 (fax)

George E. Henderson
Department of Justice
Community Relations Service
(202) 305-2964 (phone)
(202) 305-3009 (fax)

Neal Kravitz
Department of Justice
Civil Rights Division
(202) 514-4016 (phone)
(202) 514-9962 (fax)

Richard Roberts
Department of Justice
Civil Rights Division
(202) 514-3204 (phone)
(202) 514-8336 (fax)

Karla Dobinski (DOJ)
National Church Arson Task Force
Operations Team
(202) 633-1130 (phone)
(202) 786-3600 (fax)



Materials provided at
request of Ms. Steele

3/6/98
CWS

CLAIRE S. WELLINGTON
SENIOR ADVISOR

2:30-4:00
16

ASSISTANT SECRETARY (ENFORCEMENT)
DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20220

TEL: (202) 622-1162
FAX: (202) 622-7154

Owen Harris
FBI
(202) 324-5067 (phone)
(202) 324-5310 (fax)

Suzy Balliere
FBI
(202) 324-5090 (phone)
(202) 324-5310 (fax)

Barbara Wallace/Karen Mickens
FBI
(202) 324-1127/6007 (phone)
(202) 324-2020 (fax)

Donnie Carter
ATF
(202) 927-7980 (phone)
(202) 927-8283 (fax)

- Claire Wellington
Treasury
(202) 622-1162 (phone)
(202) 622-7154 (fax)

Gregory Holley
ATF
(202) 927-5837 (phone)
(202) 927-8972 (fax)

- Rachel Rowland
FEMA
(202) 646-2889 (phone)
(202) 646-4215 (fax)

- Tony Johnston
HUD
(202) 708-0614, ext. 4560 (phone)
(202) 708-1798 (fax)

Brenda Baldwin-White
EOUSA
(202) 514-6267 (phone)
(202) 514-8340 (fax)

Jackie Lawing
HUD

**Interagency Meeting
National Church Arsons Task Force Operations**

**Thursday, April 16, 1998
The White House
Roosevelt Room
2:30 p.m.- 4:00 p.m.**

1. Introduction
2. Issues for Discussion
 - Future of NCATF Operations Team
 - HUD Efforts
 - FEMA Efforts
 - Second-year Report
 - Roll-out, Including Liaison with Faith Community
3. Next Steps and Follow-up
4. Conclusion

Interim Report - Jan '97

1st Yr. Report - July '98

Possible 2nd Year Report if needed

*What if we announce at a re-built
Church w/ a principal*

Interagency Meeting

National Church Arsons Task Force Operations

Thursday, April 16, 1998

The White House

Roosevelt Room

2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

1. Introduction
2. Issues for Discussion
 - Future of NCATF Operations Team
 - HUD Efforts
 - FEMA Efforts
 - Second-year Report
 - Roll-out, Including Liaison with Faith Community
3. Next Steps and Follow-up
4. Conclusion

- Operations group until end of Sept.
at DOJ
- Possible permanent structure.
- 9 prosecutors, FBI
investigate church burnings
- Task Force - separate and freestanding
DOJ Civil Rights Division - working together going
forward. Institutionalizing what has been
learned. What need to maintain special
emphasis? Will continue for at least one
year.

- 7 applications approved 1.7 million
- 4 still to be approved possibly 3 million
- 2nd week of May is Anti Prevention Week.
opportunity to use.
- Task forces at local level

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. note	The White House notepad, PII [partial] (1 page)	00/00/0000	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
Cabinet Affairs
Jon Jennings
OA/Box Number: 13612

FOLDER TITLE:

Arson Task Force

2015-0532-F
sb832

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

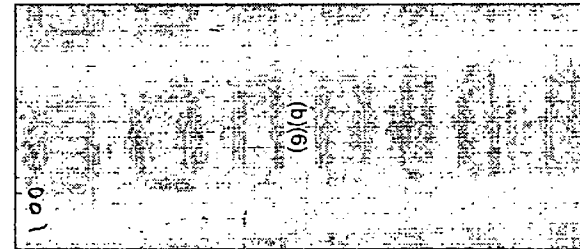
622-1162
claim

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

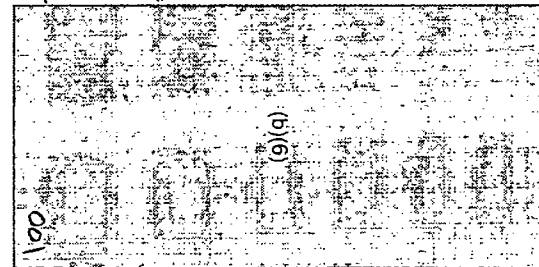
- Overview and update
- Bunnip ended
- How far along in investigations
- WH and P.R. - what should we be doing
- ITVD - rebuilding program - financial assistance - trouble spots - any stuck turned down

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Jackie Lawing



Fred Karnas



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 13, 1998

MEMORANDUM FOR WAVES

FROM: Jon P. Jennings 
Subject: National Church Arson Task Force

Please clear the individuals on the following list for the Roosevelt Room, Thursday, April 16 at 2:15 p.m.

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
002. memo	From: Claire Wellington, Treasury Dept.; To: John Jennings, White House; Re: Interagency Meeting on NCATF, PII [partial] (1 page)	04/13/1998	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
Cabinet Affairs
Jon Jennings
OA/Box Number: 13612

FOLDER TITLE:

Arson Task Force

2015-0532-F
sb832

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]



DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20220

April 13, 1998

MEMORANDUM FOR JOHN JENNINGS
WHITE HOUSE OFFICE OF CABINET AFFAIRS

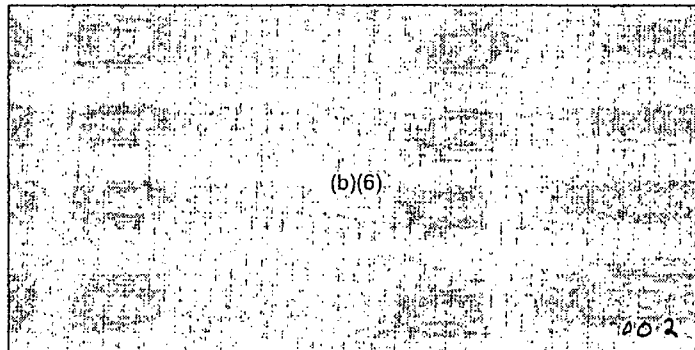
FROM: CLAIRE S. WELLINGTON *CSW*
TREASURY DEPARTMENT, OFFICE OF ENFORCEMENT

SUBJECT: Interagency Meeting on National Church Arson Task Force,
April 16, 1998, 2:30 p.m. (Roosevelt Room, The White House)

The following individuals have been invited to attend the above-referenced meeting.
This information is provided in accordance with our telephone conversation of April 6.

Name	Date of Birth	Social Security No.
------	---------------	---------------------

James E. Johnson		
Claire S. Wellington		
Bill Lann Lee		
Neal Kravitz		
Tony Johnston		
Rachel Rowland		
Tom Perez		
William Yeomans		



Thank you for taking the necessary steps to have these individuals cleared into the White House.

Also, per our discussion, I have attached an outline of topics to be covered at the meeting.
Please feel free to call me if you have any questions or require additional information.

Attachment

**Interagency Meeting
National Church Arsons Task Force Operations**

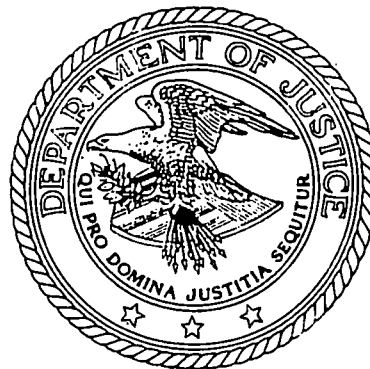
**Thursday, April 16, 1998
The White House
Roosevelt Room
2:30 p.m.- 4:00 p.m.**

1. Introduction
2. Issues for Discussion
 - Future of NCATF Operations Team
 - HUD Efforts
 - FEMA Efforts
 - Second-year Report
 - Roll-out, Including Liaison with Faith Community
3. Next Steps and Follow-up
4. Conclusion

National Church Arson Task Force

United States Department of the Treasury
United States Department of Justice
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms
Federal Bureau of Investigation

First Year Report for the President



June 1997



NATIONAL CHURCH ARSON TASK FORCE



P. O. Box 65798
Washington, D.C. 20530

June 6, 1997

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

One year ago, you declared the investigation and prevention of church arsons to be a national priority and called upon all Americans to come together in a spirit of respect and reconciliation. Your three-pronged strategy to prosecute the arsonists, rebuild burned houses of worship and prevent additional fires has produced tremendous results.

Since June 1996, the National Church Arson Task Force (NCATF) has coordinated the efforts of federal, state and local law enforcement. To get a more complete picture of the arson problem, the Task Force determined it would investigate arsons going back to January 1995. Working with Congress, which provided additional resources and enacted the Church Arson Prevention Act of 1996, governors of many states, private groups and individuals, we have achieved considerable success.

Today we are pleased to present our First Year Report of the NCATF. To date:

- The NCATF has launched 429 investigations into arsons, bombings or attempted bombings at houses of worship since January 1, 1995.
- Federal, state and local law enforcement have arrested 199 suspects in connection with 150 of the 429 investigations.
- The 35% rate of arrest in NCATF arson cases is more than double the 16% rate of arrest for arsons in general.
- Federal, state and local prosecutors have successfully convicted 110 defendants in connection with fires at 77 houses of worship since January 1995.

Under your direction, your Administration initiated and implemented a comprehensive response to these arsons. The primary mission of the Departments of Justice and the Treasury has been to investigate and prosecute the arsons. The Federal Emergency Management Agency has mounted an extensive prevention initiative, and the Department of Housing and Urban Development has joined in partnership with the National Council of Churches, the National Congress of Black

Churches and others to rebuild burned churches across the nation. Also, the Justice Department's Community Relations Service has dispatched conflict resolution experts to help ease community tensions.

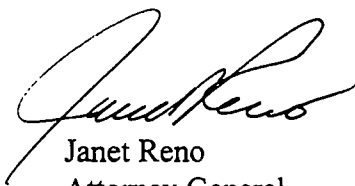
We wish to commend Assistant Secretary James E. Johnson and Acting Assistant Attorney General Isabelle Katz Pinzler, co-chairs of the Task Force, and former Assistant Attorney General Deval L. Patrick, a founding co-chair of the Task Force. The Task Force's success could not have been achieved without the dedicated work of the special agents of ATF and the FBI, prosecutors around the country, state and local law enforcement officials and others who have contributed to our efforts.

The attached report provides greater details on the progress of the Task Force's efforts. We would be pleased to brief you in more detail.

Respectfully,



Robert E. Rubin
Secretary of the Treasury



Janet Reno
Attorney General



NATIONAL CHURCH ARSON TASK FORCE



P. O. Box 65798
Washington, D. C. 20530

FIRST YEAR REPORT FOR THE PRESIDENT

"The only way we can succeed in the 21st century is if we unleash the full power of [our] convictions in... diversity and refuse to let anything divide or defeat us."

President William Jefferson Clinton, June 8, 1996

OVERVIEW

In early 1996, federal officials detected a sharp rise in the number of reported attacks on our nation's houses of worship, especially African American churches in the South. This trend troubled communities, challenged law enforcement agencies, and stirred the nation's conscience.

In June 1996, President Clinton formed the National Church Arson Task Force ("NCATF" or "Task Force"), made the investigation of these fires a top priority of federal law enforcement, and called on all Americans to come together in a spirit of respect and reconciliation.

The President directed his Administration to implement a strategy to (1) identify and prosecute the arsonists; (2) help communities rebuild the burned houses of worship; and (3) offer assistance in preventing more fires. Working with state and local law enforcement and private groups, federal officials achieved great success on these fronts. Significantly, many Americans came together as a result of these arsons, often independent of the federal effort, to lend assistance in many ways.

PROSECUTIONS

- **429 Investigations Launched** -- The NCATF has opened 429 investigations into arsons, bombings or attempted bombings that have occurred at houses of worship between January 1, 1995, and May 27, 1997.
- **199 Arrested** -- Federal, state and local authorities have arrested 199 suspects since January 1995, in connection with 150 of the 429 investigations.

- **35% Solved** -- The 35% rate of arrest in NCATF cases is more than double the 16% rate of arrest for arsons in general.
- **110 Convicted** -- Federal and state prosecutors have successfully convicted 110 individuals in connection with fires at 77 houses of worship.

REBUILDING

- The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is working closely with the National Council of Churches, the Congress of National Black Churches, Habitat for Humanity and other organizations in the rebuilding effort.
- As a result of this cooperation, 25 houses of worship have been rebuilt and 65 are undergoing construction.
- HUD is administering a \$10 million Federal Loan Guarantee Fund -- established by Congress as part of the 1996 Church Arson Prevention Act -- to assist with the rebuilding effort.

PREVENTION

- Arson prevention efforts continue across the nation. The U.S. Department of Justice awarded \$3 million in grants to counties in 13 states to intensify their enforcement and surveillance efforts around vulnerable houses of worship, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) awarded approximately \$1.5 million in arson prevention and training grants.
- FEMA established a Clearinghouse for arson prevention resources that has received over 15,000 telephone inquiries from all 50 states and the District of Columbia.
- FEMA has distributed more than 500,000 arson prevention packets, including the NCATF Church Threat Assessment Guide.
- FEMA efforts also include a four-city pilot project in Nashville, TN, Charlotte, NC, Macon, GA, and Utica, NY, to develop grass-roots arson prevention programs.

Led by James E. Johnson, Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Enforcement and Isabelle Katz Pinzler, Acting Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights, who replaced Deval L. Patrick, former Assistant Attorney General, the NCATF formalized the coordination of investigations already underway. The NCATF brought together the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Justice Department prosecutors, United States Attorneys, victim/witness coordinators, the Community Relations Service (CRS) and the U.S. Marshals Service, in partnership with state and local officers and prosecutors.

The efforts of the NCATF have been aided significantly by support from Congress, which provided additional statutory authority and resources for these investigations.

I. PROSECUTING DEFENDANTS

A. Coordinating the Investigations

In 1996, following a series of fires around the time of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, federal authorities began to focus on the sharp increase in reports of attacks on churches, particularly African American churches in the South. These church fires led officials to take steps to improve the coordination within federal law enforcement and between federal, state and local law enforcement.

In June 1996, President Clinton established the National Church Arson Task Force to better coordinate the efforts of federal, state and local law enforcement. Shortly thereafter, Attorney General Janet Reno directed U.S. Attorneys to establish local task forces focusing on arsons at houses of worship or to join an existing local task force. These local task forces include state and local law enforcement and fire prevention officials, special agents of the ATF and FBI, mediators from the Community Relations Service, and victim/witness coordinators.

In addition to the local task forces, the NCATF established an operations team in Washington staffed by special agents of the ATF and the FBI, as well as seasoned prosecutors from the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division and U.S. Attorney's Offices around the country. Working with local task forces, the operations team continues to investigate incidents, identify potential connections and prosecute cases.

Since the formation of the Task Force, hundreds of ATF and FBI investigators have been deployed to work with more than 80 federal prosecutors and state and local authorities. It is one of the largest series of arson investigations in history and is currently the largest ongoing civil rights investigation.

"It's important to remember the struggle of this country. It serves as a reminder as to how we all pulled together as a country to fight racism and hatred...the FBI, ATF and local and state law enforcement [are] all working together to solve these crimes. That is significant."

Reverend Terrance Mackey,
Mt. Zion AME Church in
North Charleston, SC.

B. Conducting the Investigations

For years, many arsons at houses of worship were handled by local authorities, and not reported to any federal agency. As a result, local law enforcement often did not benefit from the resources of the federal government in pursuing these incidents. Following the formation of the Task Force,

local law enforcement and fire authorities began regularly reporting these incidents to federal authorities. As a result, they now are receiving additional assistance in these investigations.

From its inception, the NCATF developed a protocol for investigating and prosecuting suspected arsons. The protocol sets forth procedures for facilitating the exchange of information among Task Force agencies, developing an investigative plan for each incident, and ensuring that investigators pursue all lines of inquiry, including whether the crime was motivated by race or religion, and whether any one incident is connected to any other. To gain a more complete picture of the arson problem, the Task Force determined it would investigate arsons going back to January 1995.

Once an investigation is opened, the NCATF compiles statistical information about the case in a unified database. In addition, the databases and computer systems of the ATF and FBI are used to track and analyze evidence and to generate investigative leads.

In pursuing these investigations, the FBI calls upon its experience in conducting civil rights investigations, and the ATF relies on its experience in conducting arson and explosives investigations. The NCATF also engaged in training among its constituent agencies. ATF experts trained FBI agents and Department of Justice prosecutors regarding arson investigations. Civil Rights Division prosecutors and FBI experts trained ATF agents regarding civil rights investigations and prosecutions.

As the past year has proven, arson cases are among the most difficult criminal cases to solve. Forensic evidence is often destroyed in the fire, and there are often no eye witnesses to the incidents because some of the burned churches are located in isolated, rural areas. For these reasons, the arsons can often take years to solve. Moreover, as with many criminal acts, it is difficult to discern the motive for setting fire to a house of worship.

"The law enforcement agencies and the assistance they provided was tremendous. I have worked on investigations with other agencies in the past, but I was surprised and most appreciative of the manpower that responded to the scenes."

Sgt. Buddy Oxford, Supervisor, Criminal Investigative Division, Greenville (TX) Police Department.

C. Strengthening Laws and Adding Resources

Over the past year, Congress has provided tremendous support to the efforts of the Task Force, by strengthening federal laws and providing additional resources.

When the Task Force was formalized, federal prosecutors relied on several statutes to prosecute arson cases. Among others, they had authority under the Anti-Arson Act of 1982 to prosecute

those who used fire to destroy property involved in interstate commerce (18 U.S.C. 844(i)). Under criminal civil rights statutes, they also had the authority to prosecute those who conspired to deprive persons of their civil rights or who desecrated religious property or a house of worship (18 U.S.C. 241 and 247).

On July 3, 1996, President Clinton signed the Church Arson Prevention Act of 1996, which granted federal prosecutors greater power in pursuing burnings and desecrations at houses of worship. Sponsored by Senator Edward M. Kennedy (D-MA), Senator Lauch Faircloth (R-NC), Congressman Henry J. Hyde (R-IL) and Congressman John Conyers, Jr. (D-MI), the statute was passed unanimously by both Houses of Congress.

"It is so important to us that not just Congress, but all bodies of politics in this country, not only at the national level, but at the local level, move quickly to address this issue. You have done that with dispatch."

Reverend Mac Charles Jones (1950-1997), Director of the Burned Churches Project of the National Council of Churches, testifying before the Senate Judiciary Committee, June 28, 1996.

The new law, which amended 18 U.S.C. 247, enables federal prosecutors to file charges in racially motivated arsons without having to demonstrate that the incident involved the use of interstate facilities and without showing that the resulting damage totaled \$10,000 or more. Also, prosecutors can now seek sentences of up to 20 years imprisonment for arson.

In addition, in August 1996, Congress provided more than \$12 million to support ATF's role in the Task Force, until the end of that fiscal year. The next month, Congress

appropriated an additional \$12 million for ATF's role in the following fiscal year. Additional funds for Task Force activities by the Justice Department and the FBI also were appropriated or reprogrammed.

D. Making Progress

1. Investigations

The NCATF has opened investigations into 429 arsons, bombings or attempted bombings that have occurred at houses of worship between January 1, 1995, and May 27, 1997. This number does not include vandalism and other desecration at houses of worship, which continue to be investigated and prosecuted by the FBI, the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division and U.S. Attorneys offices; nor does it include fires that the investigators have determined to be accidental.

Of these 429 incidents, 162 have involved African American churches -- more than three quarters of which are located in the southern United States. [See Appendix 1, Chart "A"; See Appendix 1, Charts "B"-"E" for a list of African American church fire investigations in the South.] While

arsons at houses of worship appeared to reach a peak in June 1996, federal authorities continue to receive reports of such arsons. For instance, the NCATF launched 17 investigations in March 1997, 21 investigations in April 1997, and 12 investigations in May 1997. [See Appendix 1, Charts "F"-"G" identifying the numbers of investigations launched each month since the Task Force began.]

The NCATF continues to launch a new investigation for every new suspicious fire. As of May 27, 1997, there were 279 investigations in which arrests had not yet been made. The Task Force remains committed to expending the necessary time, resources and effort to solving these crimes and prosecuting those who are responsible.

To expand the sources of information available to investigators, the NCATF established a toll-free tip line for citizens to report information on arsons at houses of worship.

1-888-ATF-FIRE

To date, the NCATF has received more than 1500 calls through its tip line service. The ATF and FBI also are offering rewards for information in a number of arson cases. Private organizations, including Nationsbank and an insurance industry association, are also offering rewards.

"Without the assistance of federal investigators, ...state and local officials would certainly have had a greater task at hand. The hard work and cooperation paid off...Over the last 12 months...we have developed an even stronger relationship... that I hope will continue.

G. Mike Davis, State Fire Marshal, Texas
Commission on Fire Protection.

2. Arrests

The partnership among various enforcement agencies has produced a significant number of state and federal arrests.

Since January 1995, federal, state and local authorities have arrested 199 suspects in connection with 150 of the 429 investigations that the Task Force has launched. This 35% rate of arrest is more than double the general arrest rate for arsons, which is approximately 16%, according to Justice Department statistics. [See Appendix 1, Chart "H"]

Of the 199 persons arrested, 160 are white, 34 are African American, and 5 are Hispanic. Eighty three people arrested were juveniles. Of the 81 suspects arrested for arsons at African American churches, 55 are white, 25 are African American and 1 is Hispanic. Of the 123 suspects arrested for arsons at non-African American houses of worship, 110 are white, 9 are African American, and 4 are Hispanic. Five of the white suspects were arrested for arsons at both African American and non-African American churches. [See Appendix 1, Charts "I"-"K."] More than three quarters

of all arrests were made after the formation of the Task Force. [See Appendix 1, Charts "L"-"N" identifying the number of arrests made each month since 1995.]

3. Convictions

Since January 1, 1995, 110 defendants have been convicted in federal and state prosecutions in connection with fires at 77 houses of worship. [See Appendix 2, for a list of incidents in which a conviction has been obtained.] These successes include the first convictions under provisions of the Church Arson Prevention Act of 1996. Of the 25 defendants who have been convicted of federal charges, 14 have been convicted of criminal civil rights charges.

Federal charges are also pending in a number of other cases, and grand jury investigations are ongoing as well. The Task Force has found that only a few of the fires are linked by common defendants. Conspiracy charges have been filed in a limited number of cases. These conspiracies, though, have tended to be confined to the small geographic areas where the arsons have occurred.

Investigators continue to pursue the question of whether broader conspiracies were responsible for some of the fires, but to date the evidence has not established the existence of a national conspiracy.

"It is because of the multitude of law enforcement agencies working together across jurisdictional lines....and being able to work as a team that this was such a success....It makes our goals much more obtainable."

Sgt. Terry Sult, Charlotte-Mecklenburg (NC) Police Department.

In still other cases, state prosecutions have been initiated in consultation with federal prosecutors or investigators. The NCATF actively monitors these prosecutions to ensure that any federal interest is vindicated and to ensure that accurate information is compiled regarding law enforcement's response to attacks on houses of worship.

II. HELPING TO REBUILD

A. Coordinating the Rebuilding Effort

The Department of Housing and Urban Development has forged a coalition with the National Council of Churches, the Congress of National Black Churches, Habitat for Humanity, local financial institutions and other organizations to coordinate the rebuilding effort. Together they have assessed the overall arson damage and worked to target resources to affected houses of worship as quickly as possible.

Resources available through this rebuilding coalition include grants, low interest loans, materials and in-kind donations, pro-bono legal services, architectural design services, assistance with insurance, and volunteers.

"At first I came here with the knowledge that I was to rebuild churches...What I did not realize was that I was also here to help rebuild the hopes and trust of the suffering community. "

Elisabeth Miller, a 17-year Great Falls, VA, resident who traveled to Boligee, AL, to help rebuild Little Zion Baptist Church.

The resources came from a wide array of participants who responded to the arsons. Volunteer and religious organizations, such as Habitat for Humanity, Christmas in April, Mennonite Disaster Services, United Methodist's Volunteers in Mission, and the Washington Quaker Workcamps, among others, organized construction volunteers; the American Institute of Architects provided volunteer architectural design services; the AFL-CIO and other unions organized union construction workers; the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law organized private law firms to provide pro-bono legal services; and the Enterprise Foundation worked with a coalition of foundations to contribute financial resources to the rebuilding effort.

People told us to be careful of some in the community. A local white farmer passed by, stopped, and slowly reversed. He signaled me to his truck and asked what we were doing. He reached into his pocket and gave me a \$100 bill to buy lunch for the volunteers. At that moment it was clear to me we were supposed to be there."

Jayna Powell, of Baltimore, who organized a group of volunteers who traveled to Chelford, AR, to rebuild St. Marks Missionary Baptist Church.

As a result of this cooperation, 25 houses of worship have been rebuilt and 65 more are currently being constructed.

We are glad to be back in our church. We were elated to have the volunteers come to the community. They were down to earth and dived right in. I have been a member of this church since I was 27 years old, and now I am 86. We seem to be closer now.

Selma Coles, congregant, Johnson Grove Baptist Church, Denmark, TN.

B. Strengthening Resources to Help Rebuild

Working with President Clinton, Congress enacted legislation that authorized a HUD loan guarantee program that can be used for rebuilding houses of worship. The Church Arson Prevention Act of 1996 made HUD responsible for administering a \$10 million Federal Loan Guarantee Fund to assist with the rebuilding of houses of worship and buildings of other non-profit organizations that have been damaged or destroyed by arson.

Through its work with local financial institutions, HUD is working actively with approximately 20% of the houses of worship identified as candidates for loan assistance.

In addition, the rebuilding coalition is awarding "rebuilding resource packages" to 79 churches in 18 states in the form of grants from the National Council of Churches, federally guaranteed loans, volunteer labor and in-kind materials. Of these 79 churches, 13 are eligible for a HUD loan, 20 have received or are eligible for a National Council of Churches grant, and 46 are eligible for a resource package including a grant and loan.

C. Reaching out to the Communities

"Nothing prepared us for what we were going to experience. The local community was so welcoming. The preacher even wondered whether the guy who lit the first match understood how many people he brought together. In a way, I think it may have done as much good as it did harm. It's ironic that we had to travel hundreds of miles to address race relations. But now we're trying to foster community awareness right here on our campus."

Rob Donahue, who traveled with fellow Northwestern University students from Chicago to help rebuild the Rising Star Baptist Church in Greensboro, AL.

The private-public partnership is continuing to identify other areas where help can be provided. The partnership conducts on-site visits and group workshops, at which technical advice and guidance is offered. HUD has organized regional workshops to bring together ministers from the burned churches with organizations and financial institutions, volunteers, and other grant-making agencies.

III. PREVENTING ARSONS

A. Coordinating Prevention Efforts

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is coordinating the federal government's efforts to enhance local and state programs to prevent fires at houses of worship and to promote arson awareness generally. The National Arson Prevention Initiative, announced by President Clinton in June 1996, has focused on coordinating public and private sector resources to support community-based grass roots efforts to prevent arsons. FEMA Director James Lee Witt met with and enlisted the support of national fire and law enforcement organizations, and religious and volunteer groups in arson prevention activities.

In June 1996, FEMA established a Clearinghouse for arson prevention resources. The toll-free number for the Clearinghouse is:

1-888-603-3100

To date, the Clearinghouse has received over 15,000 telephone inquiries from all 50 states and the District of Columbia, and has provided more than 500,000

packets of arson prevention materials. Included in those materials is the Church Threat Assessment Guide, prepared by the NCATF, that informs congregations about steps they can take to make their houses of worship safer, as well as steps to take after an incident has occurred.

In addition, following a meeting with Vice President Al Gore in June 1996, the insurance industry announced its plan to participate in the arson prevention initiative. Insurance representatives pledged to help find insurance for houses of worship destroyed by arson. The industry also established a toll-free insurance hotline and offered free site surveys to reduce the risk of arson for any interested house of worship.

B. Strengthening Prevention Resources

1. Grants

In an effort to help communities prevent future arsons, the federal government provided additional resources. For instance, with Congress' authorization, the Justice Department awarded \$3 million in grants to counties from 13 states to intensify their enforcement and surveillance efforts around vulnerable houses of worship. The states were: Alabama, Florida, Georgia,

"What started out as a negative came out extremely positive...Since the time [of the arson], law enforcement has been monitoring the churches in all rural areas and I think that is just tremendous...I believe the President has done a tremendous job...and [he] should continue doing the things he is doing."

Reverend Dennis D. Lawson, former pastor,
Canaan A.M.E. Church, Columbia, TN.

Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia.

In FY 1996, FEMA disbursed \$774,000 in arson training grants to enhance state and local arson investigations and prevention capabilities. These grants have been used to deliver National Fire Academy courses by the state fire training organizations and also to support the training of state and regional arson task forces. In FY 1997, FEMA has disbursed an additional \$635,000 to the states for arson awareness and prevention efforts.

2. Prevention Education

The NCATF updated and distributed a Church Threat Assessment Guide containing valuable information on the steps that may be taken to try to prevent fires at houses of worship and the steps to follow after an incident has occurred. Using this guide, special agents of ATF and FBI continue to conduct prevention outreach efforts in communities across the nation. Local and state fire and law enforcement leaders and members of the insurance industry have also successfully utilized the guide to conduct threat assessments of religious structures.

The NCATF is working closely with FEMA, the Bureau of Justice Assistance, the National Sheriffs' Association and Southern governors to develop a series of interdisciplinary training conferences and workshops on arson prevention that will be conducted in 13 targeted Southern states in 1997. An additional 4 regional conferences outside the Southern region are also planned.

Recognizing that arson is a local problem that must be addressed at the grassroots level, FEMA has developed a pilot community action program for arson prevention in four communities: Nashville, TN, Charlotte, NC, Macon, GA, and Utica, NY. A coalition of fire prevention personnel, law enforcement personnel and community, school and business leaders has been recruited to develop local arson prevention programs. These include: workshops on juvenile firesetters, arson risk assessment surveys, arson hot-lines, improved building and fire code enforcement and neighborhood watch programs. These demonstration programs will become the basis for a national grassroots arson prevention effort.

IV. RECONCILIATION

A. Reaching Out to the Affected Communities

Without the confidence and cooperation of the congregations whose houses of worship burned, many of these investigations, which were difficult at the outset, would have been destined to fail. Faced with criticism of law enforcement from some congregations, the NCATF took steps early on to ensure solid, working relationships between law enforcement and the affected communities.

Less than a week after being formalized, the NCATF met with FBI and ATF Special Agents in Charge and U.S. Attorneys from the Southeast region to discuss the perceptions within the

The ATF, the FBI and the Sheriff's Department are continuing to investigate [the arson at our church]...They have been very cooperative...keeping us up to date.

Walter H. Thomas, Pastor
Johnson Grove Baptist Church
Denmark, TN.

affected communities and to emphasize the critical importance of pursuing the investigations with vigilance, determination and dispatch, as well as with sensitivity to the needs of the victims. Following these meetings, the agents and prosecutors, together with representatives from the CRS, worked to improve lines of communications with the affected communities and make their commitment to these investigations clear.

President Clinton, Vice President Gore, Secretary of the Treasury Robert Rubin and Attorney General Reno have helped reach out to the affected communities, by bringing the church arsons to the nation's attention, speaking out forcefully on the commitment of the federal government to solve these arsons and meeting with ministers from the burned churches.

In June 1996, President Clinton traveled to the site of a burned African American church in Greeleyville, SC, to help dedicate a new church. Later that month, he organized an interfaith breakfast where he called on leaders of all faiths to open discussions to resolve our nation's racial and religious divisions. In August, the President and Vice President and their families traveled to Fruitland, TN, to help rebuild a church that had been destroyed earlier.

The President also convened a meeting of governors from affected states, who have worked hard to marshal resources in their states to help investigate arsons, prevent future arsons, and rebuild burned houses of worship. He also acknowledged the work of many groups which responded to these incidents, including the National Council of Churches, the Anti-Defamation League, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the National Association of Evangelicals, and the NAACP.

In addition to meeting with representatives from these groups and the Congressional Black Caucus, Assistant Secretary Johnson, then-Assistant Attorney General Patrick, and current Acting Assistant Attorney General Pinzler, have visited churches in the South to reinforce the Task Force's commitment to these investigations and view the devastation these arsons have wrought.

"I think that many black and white people...in Florence who did not previously know each other or would probably not even talk to each other became friends when they worked together to rebuild the church. It sort of brought the people together."

Michael Gutierrez, a 19-year old Montgomery College (MD) student, who traveled with county assistance to help rebuild Effingham Baptist Church in Florence, SC.

B. Dispatching Conflict Resolution Experts

The Community Relations Service (CRS) also has been an important partner in Task Force outreach efforts. Conflict resolution experts from CRS have worked in many communities across the country to identify and resolve racial conflicts and reduce racial tensions, to foster healthy relationships between law enforcement and minority communities and to facilitate communications among all parties. The NCATF also developed, with the help of CRS, a "Best Practices" guide for conducting community outreach activities.

"With the help of CRS, we were able to bring everyone together to reassure the local community that we recognized the problem and were prepared to deal with it. It gave us the opportunity to establish and improve our lines of communication. We got together before we ever had a problem, and fortunately we haven't had one yet."

Chief Joe Garcia, Brookshire
(TX) Police Department.

CRS plays an integral part in the Administration's response in local towns and cities, working with over 150 local communities in reducing racial polarization, bridging communication between law enforcement and minority communities, facilitating a biracial rebuilding effort, and training law enforcement on cultural diversity and race relations. Throughout the South, CRS convened a series of dialogues on race relations in an effort to reduce the likelihood of further church burnings.

C. Watching the Nation Respond

In addition to the efforts of Congress, federal agencies and the states, many private companies and organizations, as well as an untold number of Americans, pitched in to respond to the arsons.

Private companies offered funds and materials to help rebuild the burned churches.

Transportation companies offered reduced fares for volunteers who traveled south to lend a hand.

"We saw people working side by side of all cultures...from their teens to their 70's. It was the American Dream -- having people work together."

Jim Mechem & JeanAnne Swope, a Santa Fe, NM, couple, who spent a month in Lauderdale, MS, helping to rebuild the St. Paul Primitive Baptist Church.

And thousands of Americans donated time and money to support these efforts. Habitat for Humanity estimates that more than 15,000 individuals volunteered to help in the rebuilding process.

"It's one thing to be conscious of the problem, it's another to get up and do something about it. I witnessed an incredible outpouring of support to the community."

Rabbi Nancy Wiener, a New York resident who traveled to Boligee, AL, to help rebuild the Little Zion Baptist Church.

Seventy-three VISTA and AmeriCorps volunteers traveled to 18 rural communities in which church arsons have occurred and to over 70 other communities in Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee. In these communities, volunteers conducted community and church threat assessments, organized arson watch groups and town hall meetings on arson prevention, and engaged in community relations projects.

"The local community....saw this as a way to come out of this ordeal stronger. This was a challenge. And they were going to rise and meet the challenge. I hope whoever did this saw me hanging drywall and putting the roof on -- so they saw their act of hate backfired...it brought people together."

Earl Daniels, a Valdosta, GA, resident who traveled to Boligee, AL, to help rebuild the Little Zion Baptist Church.

In the end, Americans of all walks of life refused to let these acts of destruction tear apart our communities or our nation.

"I came down for a week and ended up staying five months. You meet so many people from so many different backgrounds and they are the most unselfish people. No one really cares whether they're arsons or not. It's just a matter of doing what needs to be done. It's an amazing experience."

Jason Horning, a 21 year-old Ann Arbor, MI, resident who traveled to Greensboro, AL, to help rebuild the Rising Star Baptist Church.

V. DRAWING PRELIMINARY CONCLUSIONS

Although the investigations of most of the fires continue, the charges filed and the convictions obtained to date enable the Task Force to offer some preliminary conclusions. These

conclusions are not based on cases that have not been completed or where evidence is not sufficient to support additional charges. As a result, the Task Force cannot answer all of the questions raised by the fires.

- **Damage**

Hundreds of houses of worship burned, congregations were temporarily displaced, and many people were left wondering how this could happen in the 1990's. These arsons destroyed rural wooden churches, ruined 100-year old Bibles, and caused tens of millions of dollars in damage. But those communities which suffered a burned house of worship came to realize that thousands of Americans really care. The arsonists may have sought to divide our communities by burning our houses of worship, but in the end they only helped bring them closer together.

- **Multiple Motives**

The arsons at African American churches raised significant fears about an increase in racially motivated crimes. As a result of our efforts to date, we have determined that the arsons -- at both African American and other houses of worship -- were motivated by a wide array of factors, including not only blatant racism or religious hatred, but also financial profit, burglary, and personal revenge. The Task Force continues to investigate many cases. When sufficient evidence of racial motive is developed, we will continue to seek and obtain criminal civil rights convictions, as we have against 14 of the 25 defendants convicted of federal charges in Alabama, Nevada, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Texas.

- **National Conspiracy**

While the Task Force continues to explore the question whether there are connections between the fires across the nation, the cases closed to date and the charges that have been filed do not support the theory that these fires were the product of a nationwide conspiracy. For instance, the Task Force has found that only a few of the fires are linked by common defendants. Conspiracy charges have been filed in a limited number of cases. These conspiracies, though, have tended to be confined to the small geographic areas where the arsons have occurred.

- **Hate Group Involvement**

While there have been a handful of cases in which members and former members of hate groups, such as the Ku Klux Klan, have been convicted for arsons at houses of worship, most of the defendants were not found to be members of hate groups. Prosecutors need not show, however, that a defendant belongs to a particular hate group in order to gain a conviction.

- **Investigations Continue**

The Task Force continues to investigate and prosecute those responsible for burning our nation's houses of worship. It is, therefore, too soon for the task force to speak conclusively about the motivation behind many of the fires at churches and other houses of worship. While it was the number of fires at African American churches that brought these crimes to national attention, the NCATF will continue to investigate and prosecute attacks on all houses of worship, regardless of their denomination or racial composition.

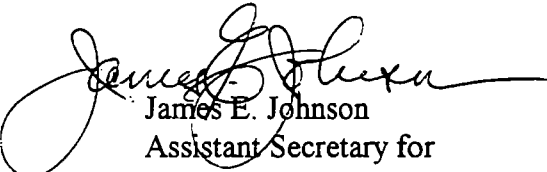
CONCLUSION

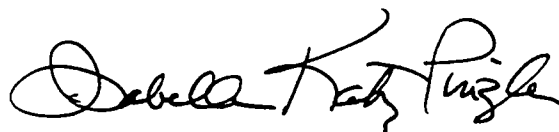
We have seen how law enforcement working together can produce tremendous successes. We have seen how government agencies and private groups can work together to help rebuild a house of worship. And we have seen how all Americans from all walks of life can come together as one. We are committed to building on the progress that we have seen to date and to eliminating the divisions in our society. The federal effort continues to prosecute the arsonists, rebuild the burned houses of worship, and prevent more fires. There is more work to be done. We are committed to seeing the task completed.

Acknowledgment

The co-chairs of the Task Force would like to thank all of the investigators, prosecutors, state and local officials and others who have worked tirelessly and so well over the course of the last year as these investigations have proceeded. We would also like to thank our partners in these efforts at the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Community Relations Service.

Respectfully submitted,


James E. Johnson
Assistant Secretary for
Enforcement
Department of the Treasury


Isabelle Katz Pinzler
Acting Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division
Department of Justice

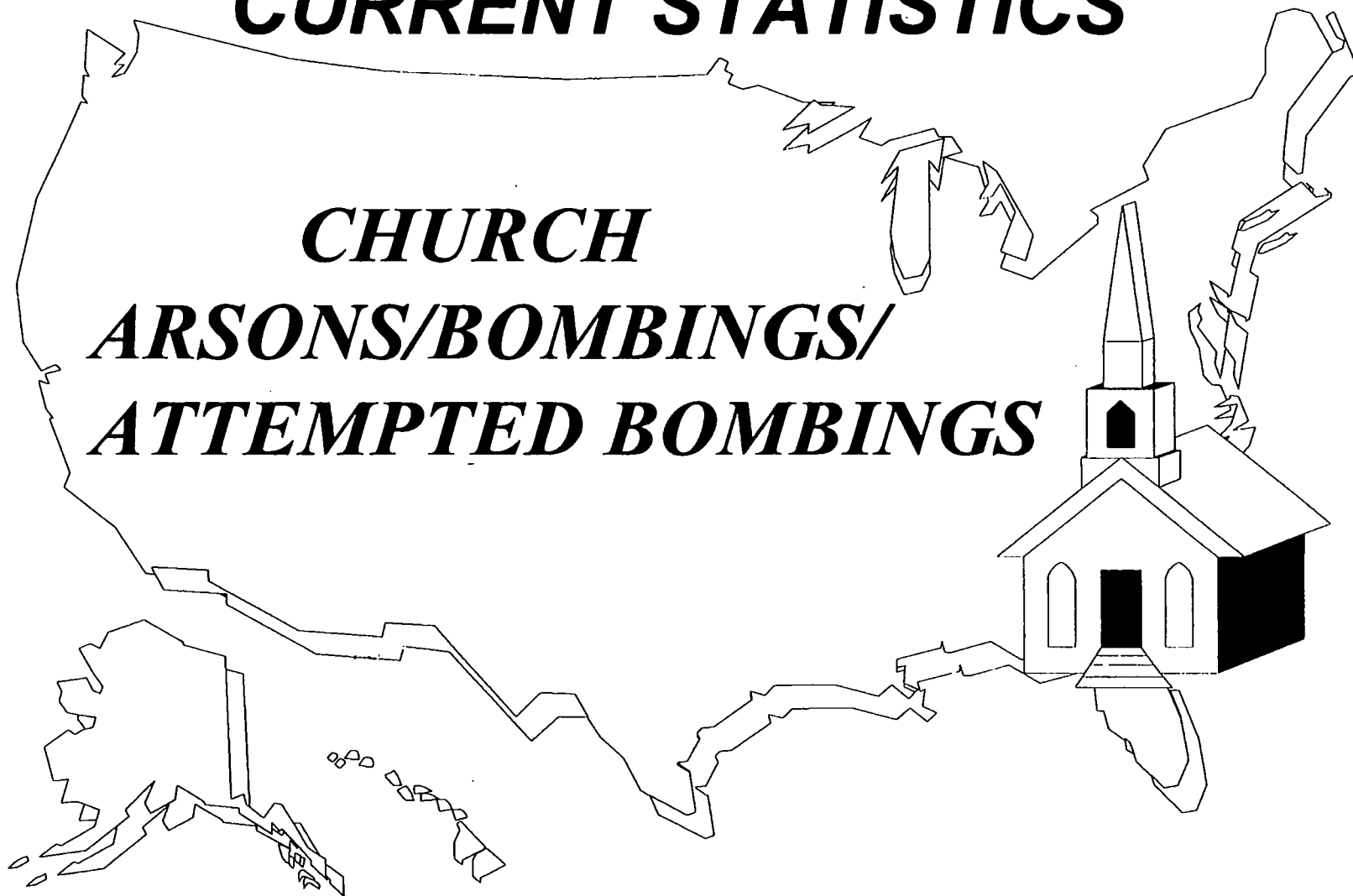
June 1997

A vertical dashed line consisting of 20 rectangular segments is located on the left side of the page.

APPENDIX 1

***NATIONAL CHURCH ARSON TASK FORCE
CURRENT STATISTICS***

***CHURCH
ARSONS/BOMBINGS/
ATTEMPTED BOMBINGS***



National Church Arson Task Force

Breakdown of House of Worship Arson/Bombing Investigations

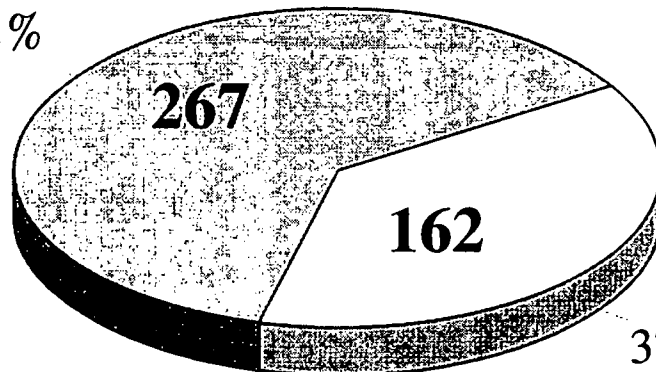
JANUARY 1, 1995 - MAY 27, 1997

Houses of Worship

Nationwide

Other Houses
of Worship

62.2%

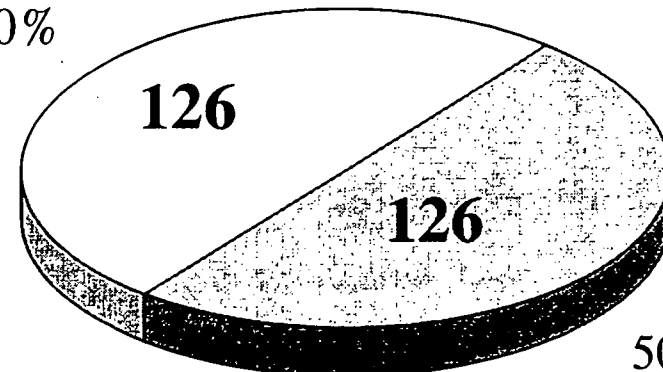


African American
Houses of Worship

50.0%

Houses of Worship

Located in the South



African American
Houses of Worship

Other Houses
of Worship

Total House of Worship Arsons/Bombings - 429

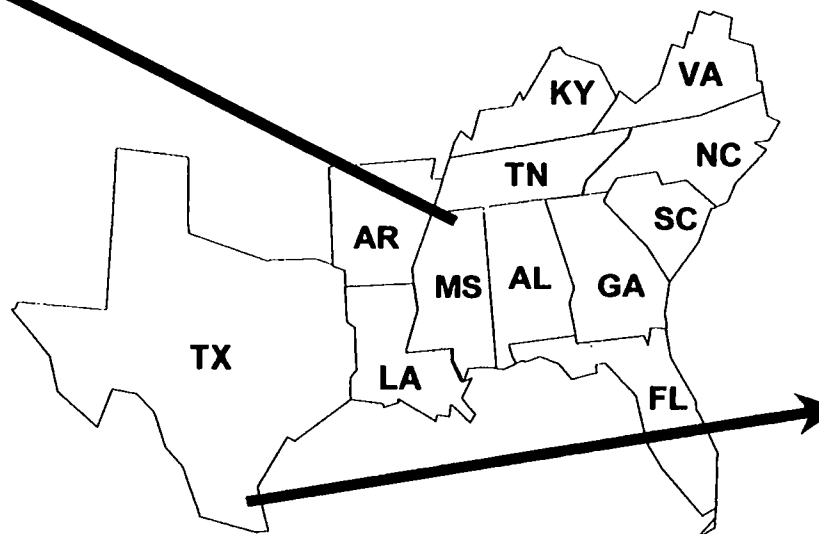
CHART A

NATIONAL CHURCH ARSON TASK FORCE

AFRICAN AMERICAN CHURCH FIRE INVESTIGATIONS IN THE SOUTH

January 1, 1995 to May 27, 1997

NOVEMBER 1, 1995
 * Lynch Chapel United Methodist - Clinton, MS
 MARCH 5, 1996
 St. Paul CME - Hatley, MS
 MARCH 20, 1996
 New Mt. Zion Baptist - Ruleville, MS
 MARCH 30, 1996
 * El Bethel Church - Sartartia, MS
 JUNE 17, 1996
 Kossuth, MS
 Mt. Pleasant Church
 Central Grove Mission
 JUNE 30, 1996
 House of Prayer - Greenville, MS
 AUGUST 4, 1996
 Beacon Baptist - Yazoo City, MS
 SEPTEMBER 6, 1996
 * First James Creek Missionary - Noxubee Co., MS
 SEPTEMBER 9, 1996
 * First Missionary Baptist - Gulfport, MS
 OCTOBER 9, 1996
 House of Prayer, Church of God - Greenville, MS
 OCTOBER 29, 1996
 Mt. Olive Church of God - Tiptersville, MS
 DECEMBER 11, 1996
 * Mallalieu Methodist Church - Meridian, MS
 APRIL 9, 1997
 Lakeview Missionary Baptist - Sledge, MS



JANUARY 29, 1995
 Miles Chapel Christian Methodist - Houston, TX
 FEBRUARY 16, 1995
 Love Fellowship Church of God - Houston, TX
 JUNE 5, 1995
 * Victory Baptist - Denison, TX
 NOVEMBER 14, 1995
 Greater Gospel Temple - Dallas, TX
 FEBRUARY 12, 1996
 Real Rock Church - Houston, TX
 FEBRUARY 16, 1996
 * Real Rock Church - Houston, TX
 APRIL 12, 1996 Bombing
 Southwest Community Baptist - Houston, TX
 MAY 14, 1996
 * Long Ridge CME - Waskom, TX
 JUNE 9, 1996
 * New Lighthouse of Prayer - Greenville, TX
 JUNE 10, 1996
 * Church of the Living God - Greenville, TX
 JUNE 18, 1996
 On Track Baptist - Houston, TX
 SEPTEMBER 10, 1996
 Church of Living God - Dallas, TX
 SEPTEMBER 26, 1996
 Soul Inspiration - Dallas, TX
 OCTOBER 17, 1996
 Garza Street Ch. of Christ - Dallas, TX
 OCTOBER 21, 1996
 God's Gospel Temple - Dallas, TX
 OCTOBER 23, 1996
 Sardis Primitive Baptist - Mexia, TX
 NOVEMBER 20, 1996
 Full Gospel Powerhouse - Wichita Falls, TX
 DECEMBER 7, 1996
 Hopewell UMC - Centerville, TX
 JANUARY 4, 1997
 Harp Baptist Church - Fairfield, TX
 MARCH 18, 1997
 Garden Geth. C.O.G. - Houston, TX
 March 22, 1997
 * Macedonia Baptist - Ferris, TX
 April 8, 1997
 * West Oakland Bapt - Beaumont, TX

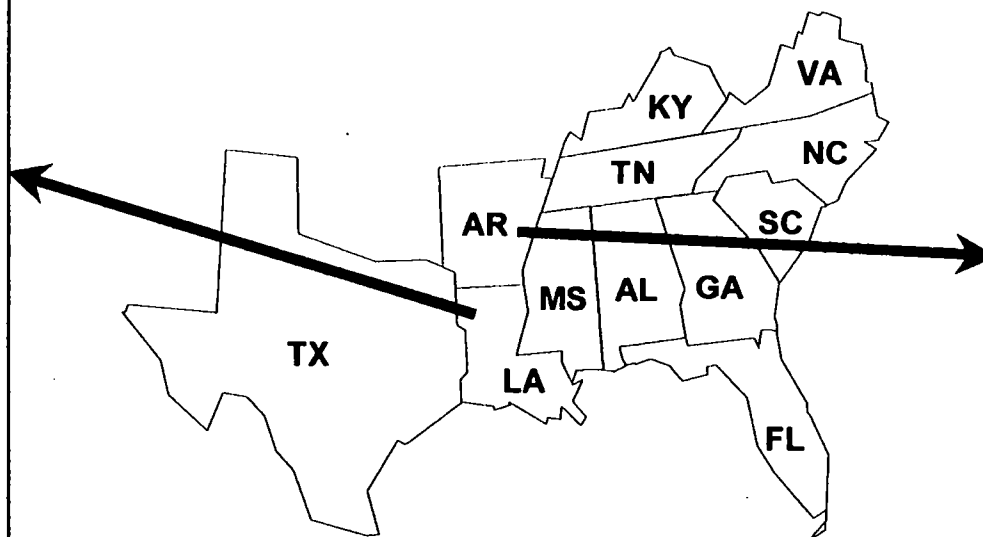
* Arrest Made

NATIONAL CHURCH ARSON TASK FORCE

AFRICAN AMERICAN CHURCH FIRE INVESTIGATIONS IN THE SOUTH

January 1, 1995 to May 27, 1997

MAY 24, 1995
 Mt. Corinth Baptist, Vivian, LA
 FEBRUARY 1, 1996
 Zachary, LA
 Cypress Grove Baptist
 Baker, LA
 Sweet Home Baptist
 Thomas Chapel Benevolent Society
 St. Paul's Free Baptist
 APRIL 8, 1996
 Oak Ridge Baptist - Calvin, LA
 APRIL 11, 1996
 St. Charles Baptist - Paincourtville, LA
 JUNE 24, 1996
 New Birth Temple - Shreveport, LA
 JUNE 28, 1996
 Greater Ebenezer - New Orleans, LA
 AUGUST 2, 1996
 St. Abraham Baptist - Shreveport, LA
 SEPTEMBER 29, 1996
 St. Johns Baptist - Haughton, LA
 DECEMBER 1, 1996
 Samuel Temple - New Orleans, LA
 DECEMBER 10, 1996
 * New Birth Miss. Bap. - Lk. Charles, LA
 FEBRUARY 2, 1997
 Vision Baptist - Baton Rouge, LA



JULY 20, 1996
 Clayborn Chapel AME - Arkadelphia, AR
 JULY 27, 1996
 New Calvary Church - Camden, AR
 AUGUST 20, 1996
 Mt. Zion Missionary - Marvell, AR
 AUGUST 21, 1996
 St. Matthews Missionary - Turner, AR
 SEPTEMBER 26, 1996
 Fredonia Missionary Baptist - Helena, AR
 NOVEMBER 17, 1996
 Princess Chapel Missionary - Luxora, AR
 APRIL 2, 1997
 El Bethel COG In Christ - Beardon, AK

*** Arrest Made**

CHART C

NATIONAL CHURCH ARSON TASK FORCE

AFRICAN AMERICAN CHURCH FIRE INVESTIGATIONS IN THE SOUTH

January 1, 1995 to May 27, 1997

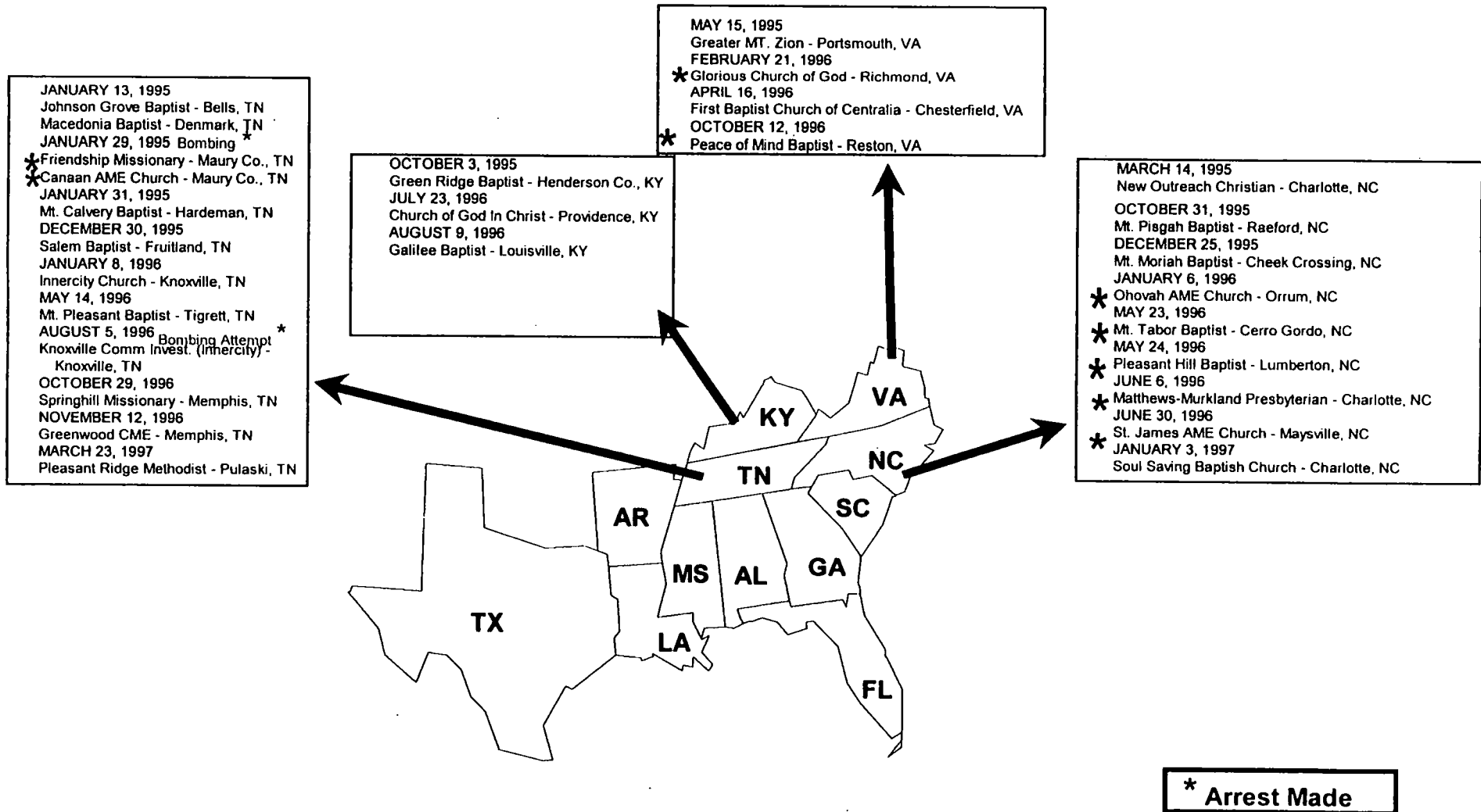


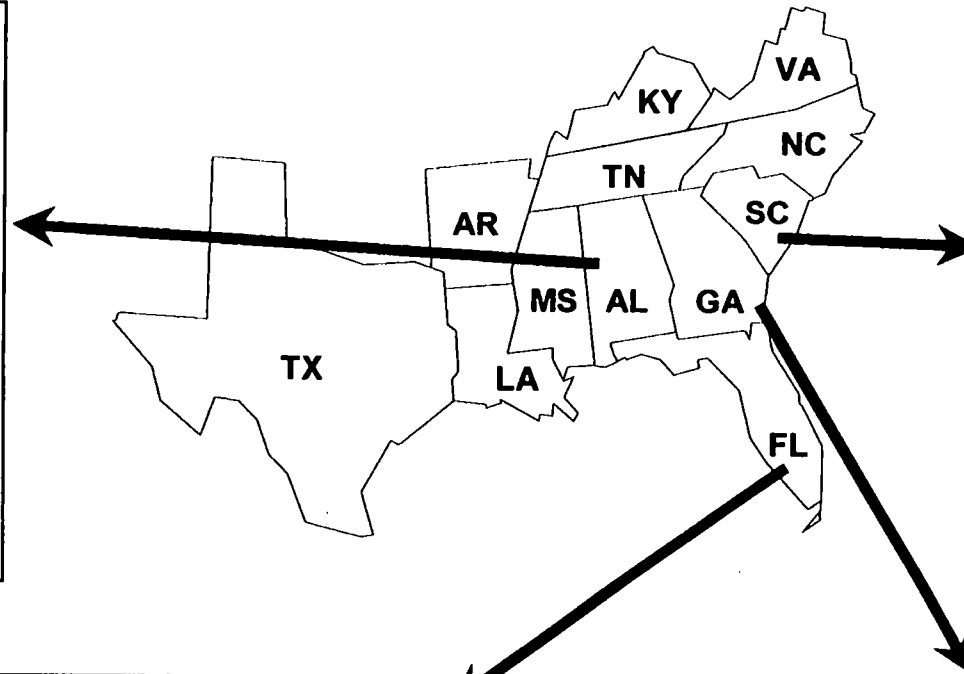
CHART D

NATIONAL CHURCH ARSON TASK FORCE

AFRICAN AMERICAN CHURCH FIRE INVESTIGATIONS IN THE SOUTH

January 1, 1995 to May 27, 1997

OCTOBER 31, 1995
 * Faith Whole Truth Holiness - Pennington, AL
 DECEMBER 22, 1995
 Mt. Zion Baptist - Boligee, AL
 JANUARY 11, 1996
 Little Mt. Zion Baptist - Boligee, AL
 JANUARY 12, 1996
 Mt. Zoar Baptist - Boligee, AL
 FEBRUARY 28, 1996
 * New Liberty Baptist - Tyler, AL
 MARCH 25, 1996
 Central Baptist - Browns, AL
 MAY 5, 1996
 * Ashbank Freewill - Nauvoo, AL
 JUNE 3, 1996
 Rising Star Baptist - Greensboro, AL
 JULY 22, 1996
 * Isabella Baptist - Tyler, AL
 JULY 28, 1996
 Emanuel Outreach - Decatur, AL
 OCTOBER 27, 1996
 Sunlight Baptist - Eastaboga, AL
 NOVEMBER 14, 1996
 * Born Again Ch of Christ - Hefelin, AL



MAY 20, 1995
 Summergrove Baptist - Aiken, SC
 JUNE 20, 1995
 * Mount Zion AME Church - Williamsburg Co., SC
 JUNE 21, 1995
 * Macedonia Baptist - Manning, SC
 AUGUST 15, 1995
 * Saint John's Baptist - Lexington Co., SC
 DECEMBER 1995
 * Mount Hill Missionary - Montmorenci, SC
 JANUARY 25, 1996
 St. Paul AME Zion - Harleyville, SC
 MARCH 31, 1996
 * Butler Chapel AME - Orangeburg, SC
 APRIL 13, 1996
 Rosemary Baptist - Barnwell, SC
 APRIL 26, 1996
 Effingham Baptist - Effingham, SC
 JUNE 11, 1996
 * New St. Paul Apostolic - Florence, SC
 JULY 16, 1996
 * Johns Island Church - Johns Island, SC
 AUGUST 1, 1996
 * Springhill AME - Flordale Community, SC
 DECEMBER 22, 1996
 Arm Oak Baptist - Jasper, SC

JUNE 12, 1996
 * Evangelist Temple - Marianna, FL
 AUGUST 7, 1996
 * Bethel Baptist - Jacksonville, FL
 SEPTEMBER 8, 1996
 New Life Tabernacle - Deland, FL
 SEPTEMBER 15, 1996
 Apostle Faith Church of Jesus - Indiantown, FL
 OCTOBER 27, 1996
 Shiloh Metropolitan - Jacksonville, FL
 JANUARY 12, 1997
 * Plantation Center Minis. - Miami, FL
 March 19, 1997
 * Covenant Missionary Bapt - Ocala, FL

MARCH 27, 1996
 Gay's Hill Baptist - Millen., GA
 AUGUST 7, 1996
 Swift Creek Missionary - Macon, GA
 OCTOBER 22, 1996
 Holy Band of Inspiration - Brunswick, GA
 NOVEMBER 30, 1996
 Greater Zion Hill Missionary Baptist - Macon, GA
 FEBRUARY 19, 1997
 Antioch Holiness Church - Savannah, GA
 FEBRUARY 22, 1997
 * Oak Grove CME Church - Elko, GA
 APRIL 1, 1997
 New Covenant Missionary - Atlanta, GA
 MAY 1, 1997
 * Graham Temple Holiness - Nashville, GA
 MAY 7, 1997
 Galilee Missionary Bapt. - Marietta, GA
 MAY 16, 1997
 Mt. Sinai Baptist - Taylorsville, GA

* Arrest Made

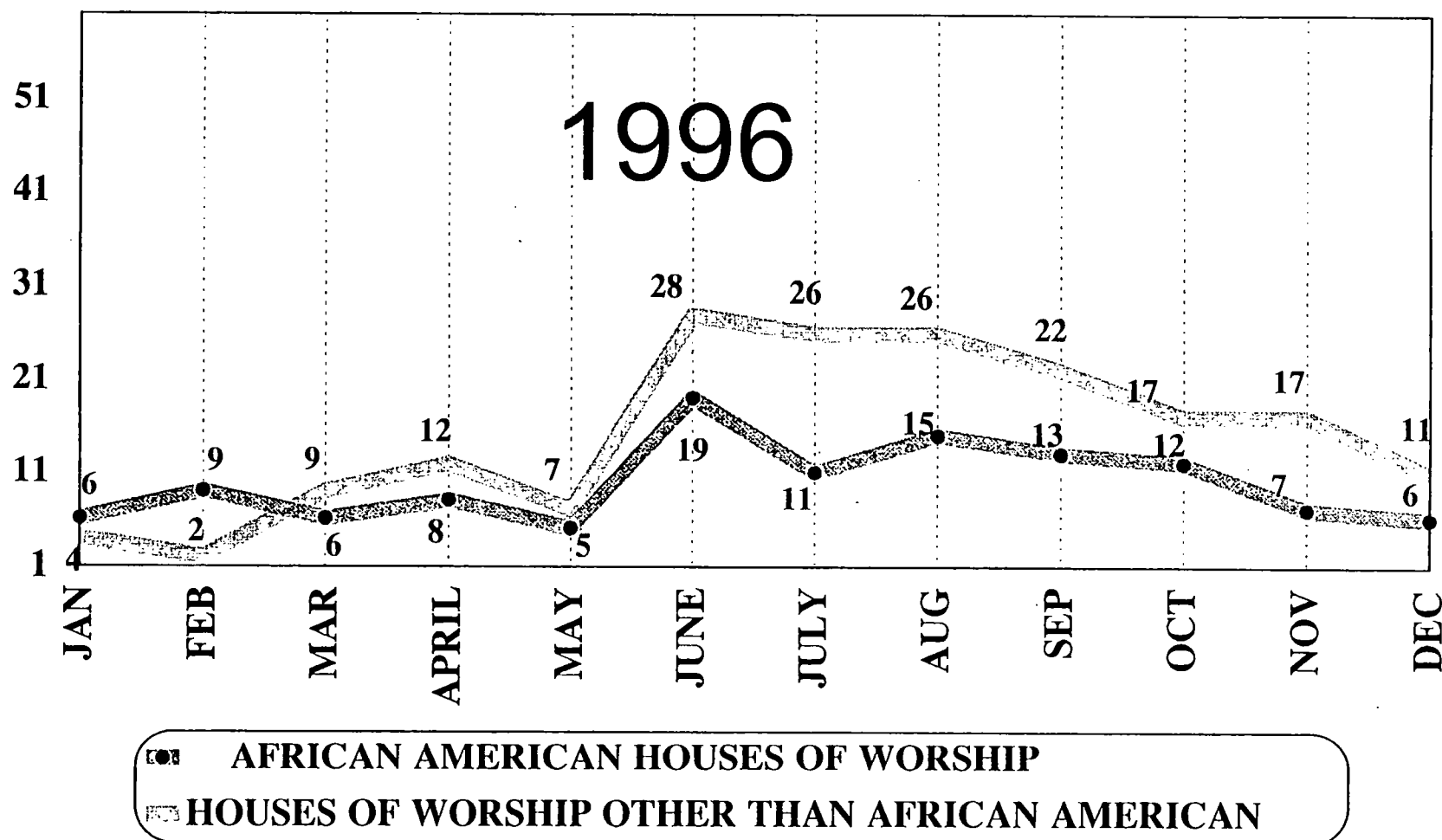
CHART E

NATIONAL CHURCH ARSON TASK FORCE
CHURCH ARSON/BOMBING/ATTEMPTED BOMBING INVESTIGATIONS

117 - AFRICAN AMERICAN HOUSES OF WORSHIP

181- OTHER HOUSES OF WORSHIP

TOTAL INCIDENTS NATIONWIDE - 298



JANUARY 1, 1996 - DECEMBER 31, 1996

CHART F

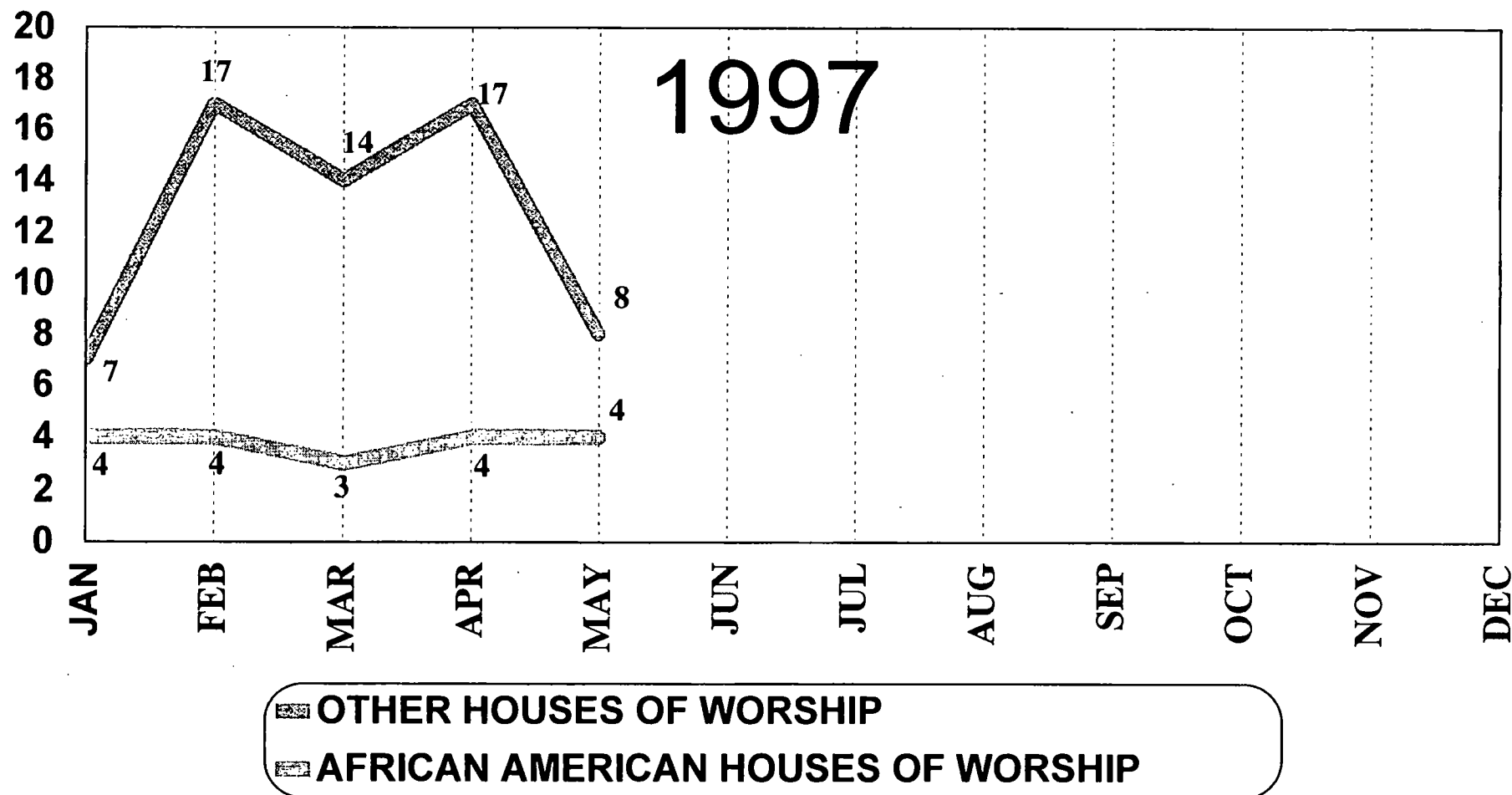
NATIONAL CHURCH ARSON TASK FORCE

CHURCH ARSON/BOMBING/ATTEMPTED BOMBING INVESTIGATIONS

19- AFRICAN AMERICAN HOUSES OF WORSHIP

63 - OTHER HOUSES OF WORSHIP

TOTAL INCIDENTS NATIONWIDE - 82



JANUARY 1, 1997 - MAY 27, 1997

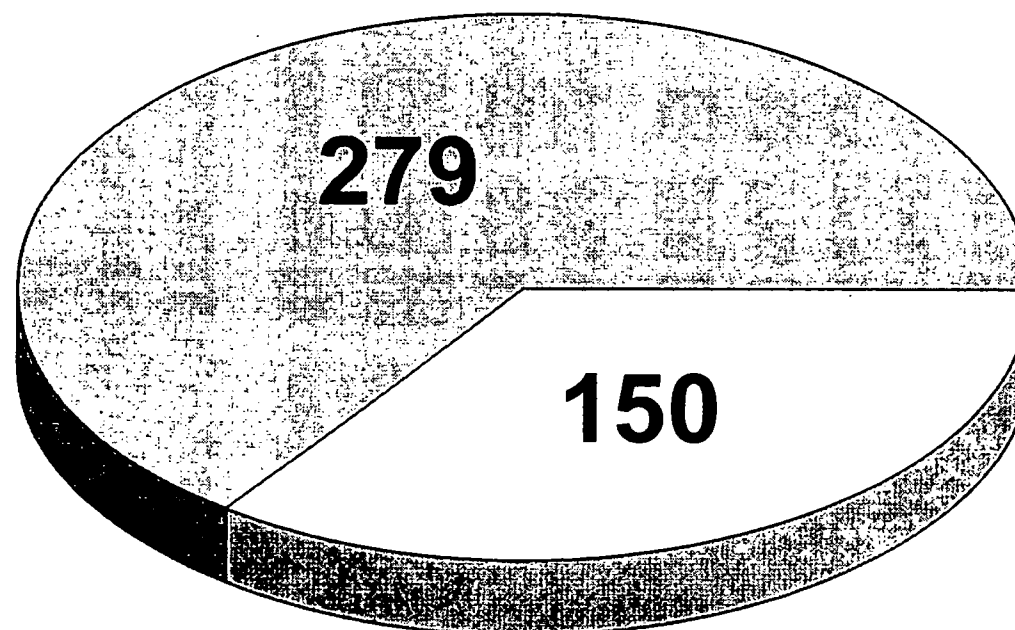
CHART G

**NATIONAL CHURCH ARSON TASK FORCE
BREAKDOWN OF
ARSON/BOMBING/ATTEMPTED BOMBING
INVESTIGATIONS**

JANUARY 1, 1995 - MAY 27, 1997

**PENDING
INVESTIGATIONS**

65.0%



TOTAL INVESTIGATIONS = 429

**35.0%
INVESTIGATIONS WHERE
ARRESTS HAVE BEEN MADE**

CHART H

**NATIONAL CHURCH ARSON TASK FORCE
SUBJECTS ARRESTED FOR CHURCH
ARSONS/BOMBINGS/ATTEMPTED BOMBINGS
IN THE UNITED STATES
JANUARY 1, 1995 - MAY 27, 1997**

TOTAL ARRESTS = 199

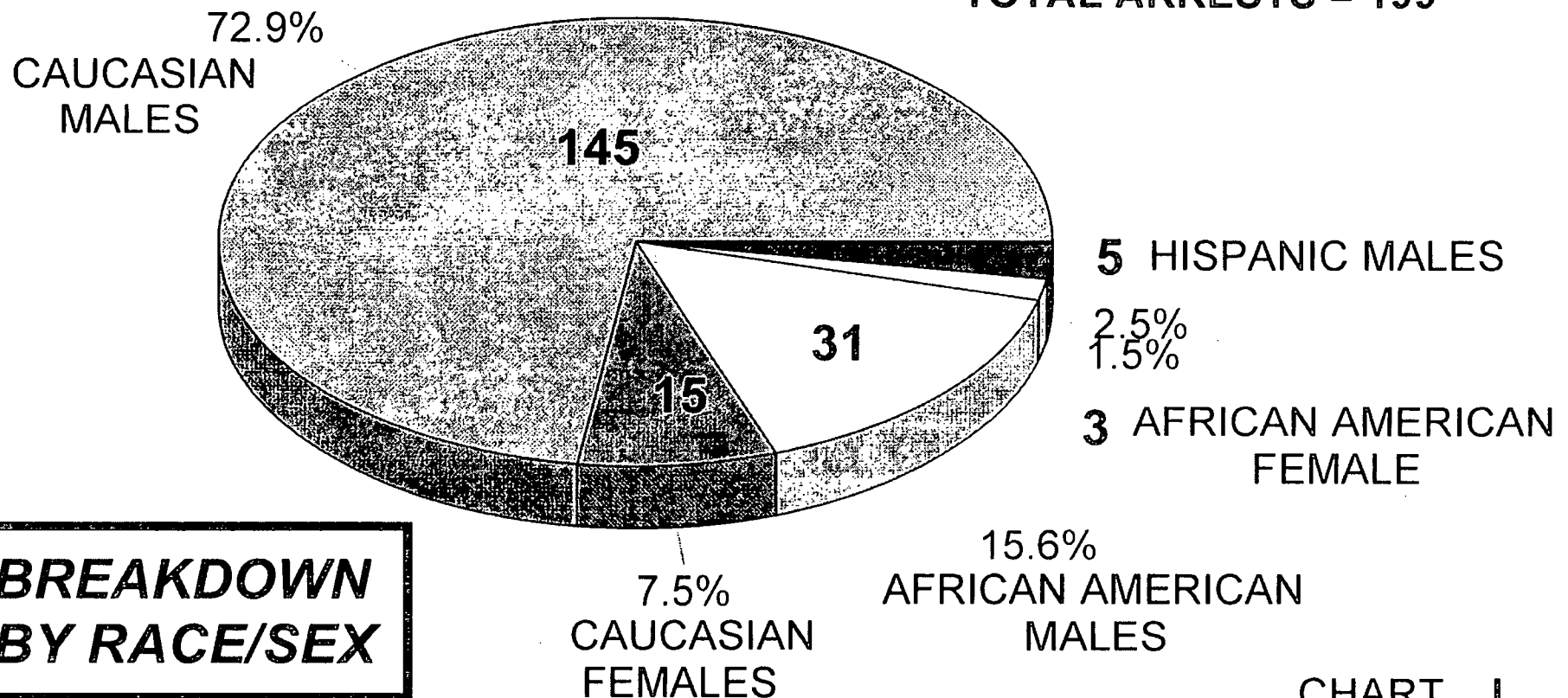
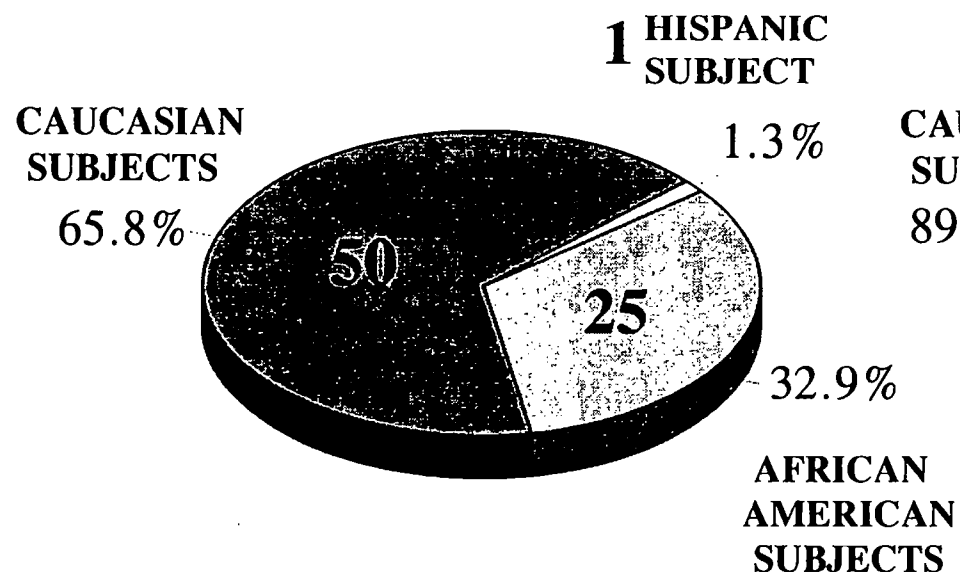


CHART I

NATIONAL CHURCH ARSON TASK FORCE
RACIAL MAKEUP OF ARRESTED SUBJECTS
HOUSE OF WORSHIP ARSONS/BOMBINGS NATIONWIDE
JANUARY 1, 1995 - MAY 27, 1997

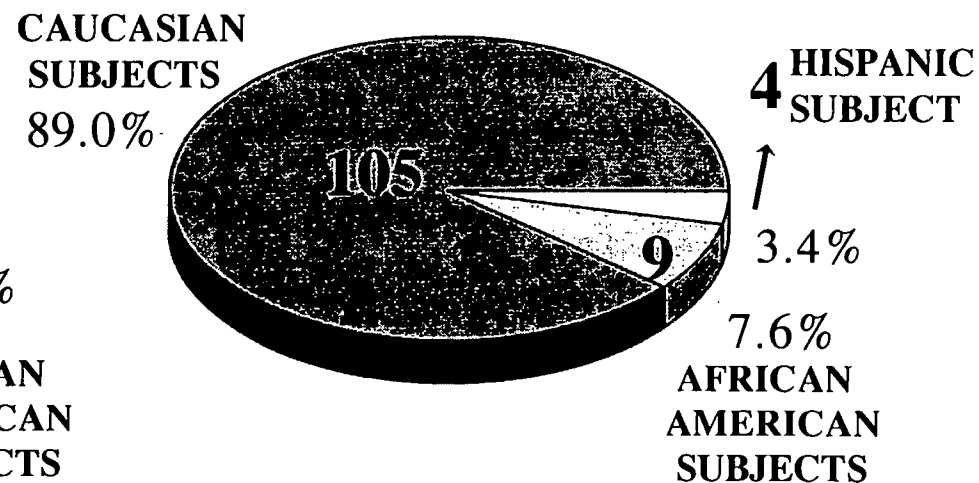
AFRICAN AMERICAN
HOUSES OF WORSHIP

ARSONS - 50
BOMBINGS - 2



NON-AFRICAN AMERICAN
HOUSES OF WORSHIP

ARSONS - 95
BOMBINGS - 3



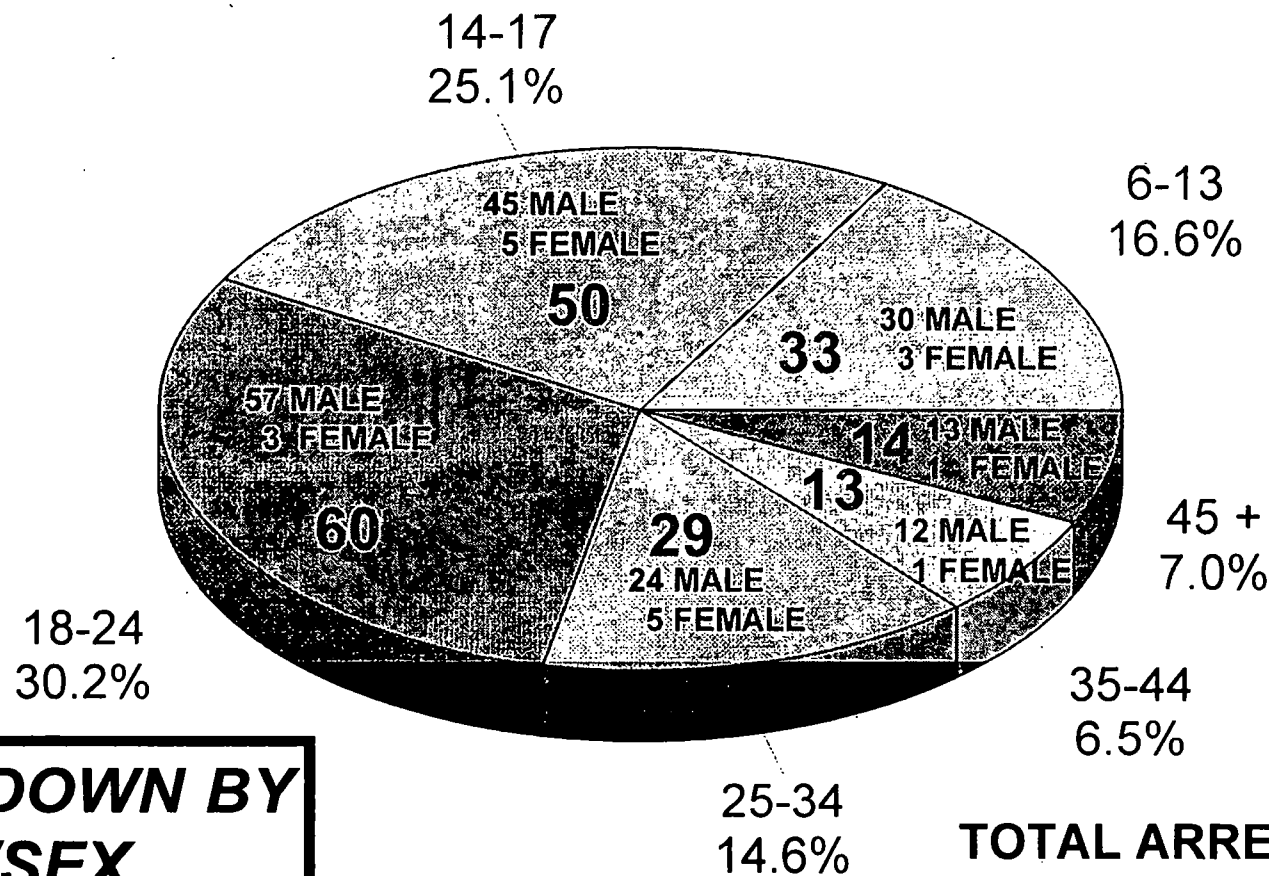
FIVE (5) ADDITIONAL CAUCASIAN SUBJECTS ARRESTED FOR ARSON/BOMBING OF AN AFRICAN AMERICAN HOUSE OF WORSHIP AND A NON AFRICAN AMERICAN HOUSE OF WORSHIP.

199 SUBJECTS TOTAL

CHART J

**NATIONAL CHURCH ARSON TASK FORCE
SUBJECTS ARRESTED FOR CHURCH
ARSONS/BOMBINGS/ATTEMPTED BOMBINGS
IN THE UNITED STATES**

JANUARY 1, 1995 - MAY 27, 1997



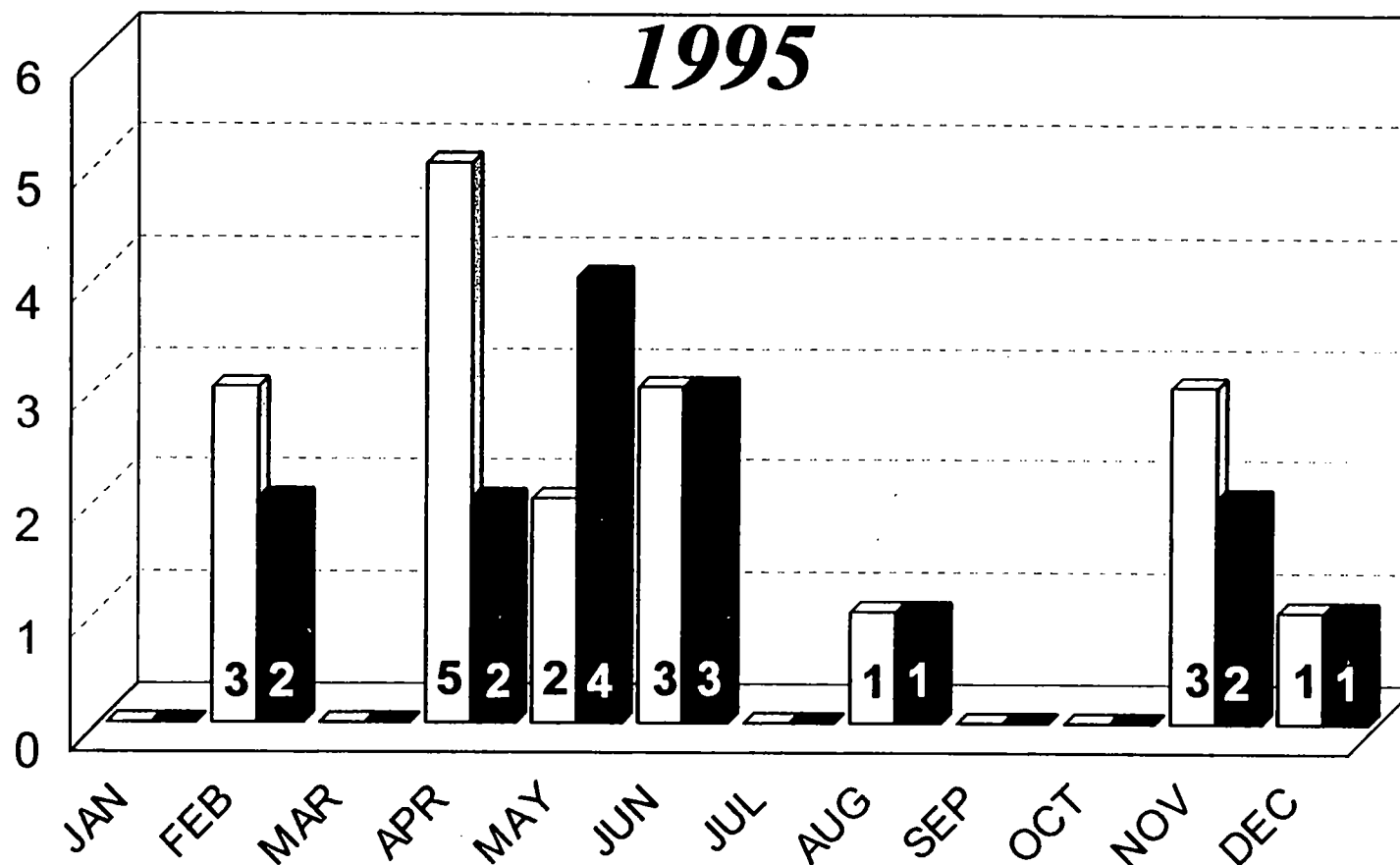
**BREAKDOWN BY
AGE/SEX**

TOTAL ARRESTS = 199

CHART K

NATIONAL CHURCH ARSON TASK FORCE

CHURCH ARSON/BOMBING/ATTEMPTED BOMBING INVESTIGATIONS RESULTING IN ARRESTS NATIONWIDE



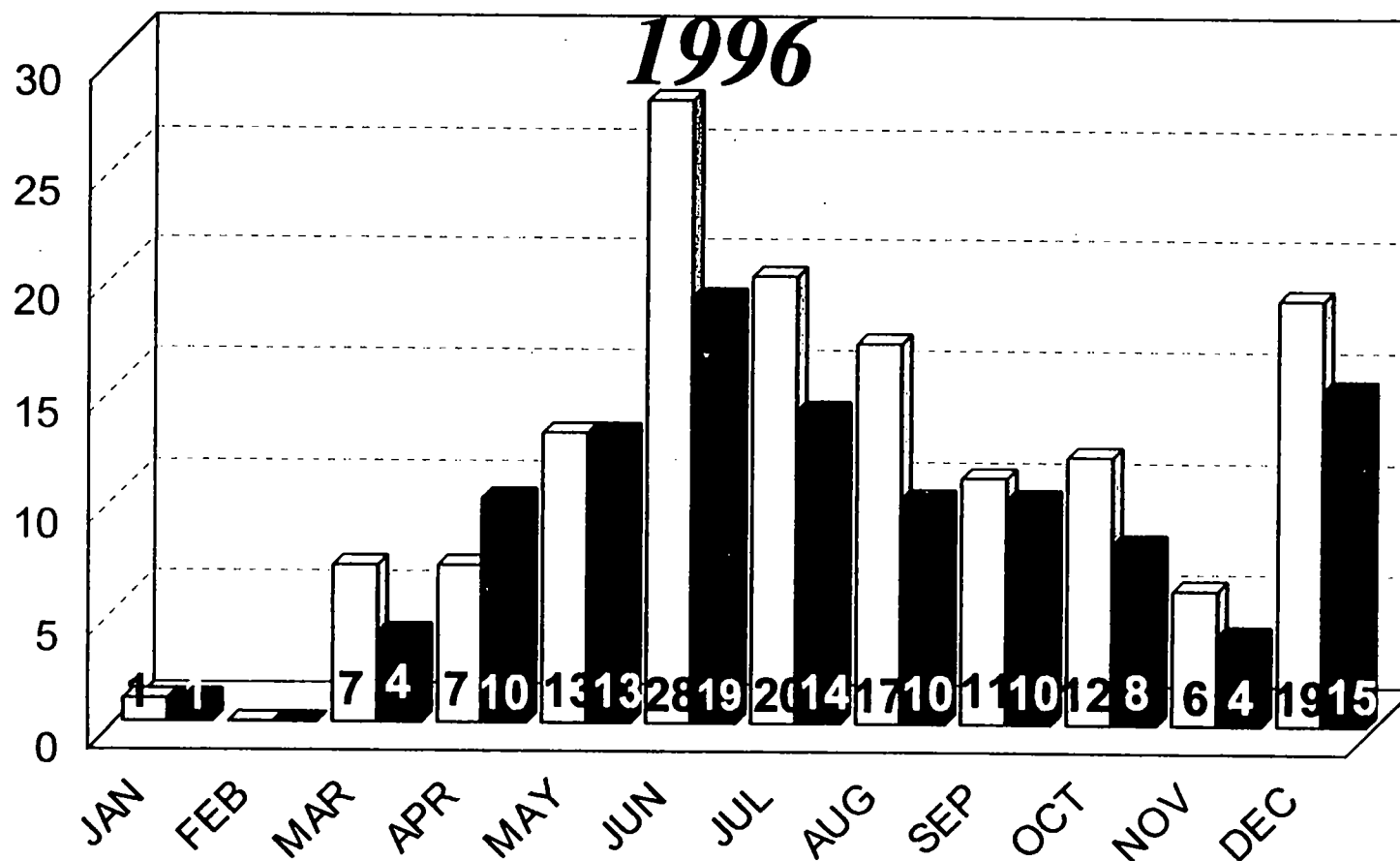
☐ INDIVIDUALS ARRESTED - 18
☒ INCIDENTS SOLVED BY THESE ARRESTS - 15

INFORMATION DISPLAYED
BY DATE OF SUBJECT'S ARREST

CHART L

NATIONAL CHURCH ARSON TASK FORCE

CHURCH ARSON/BOMBING/ATTEMPTED BOMBING INVESTIGATIONS RESULTING IN ARRESTS NATIONWIDE

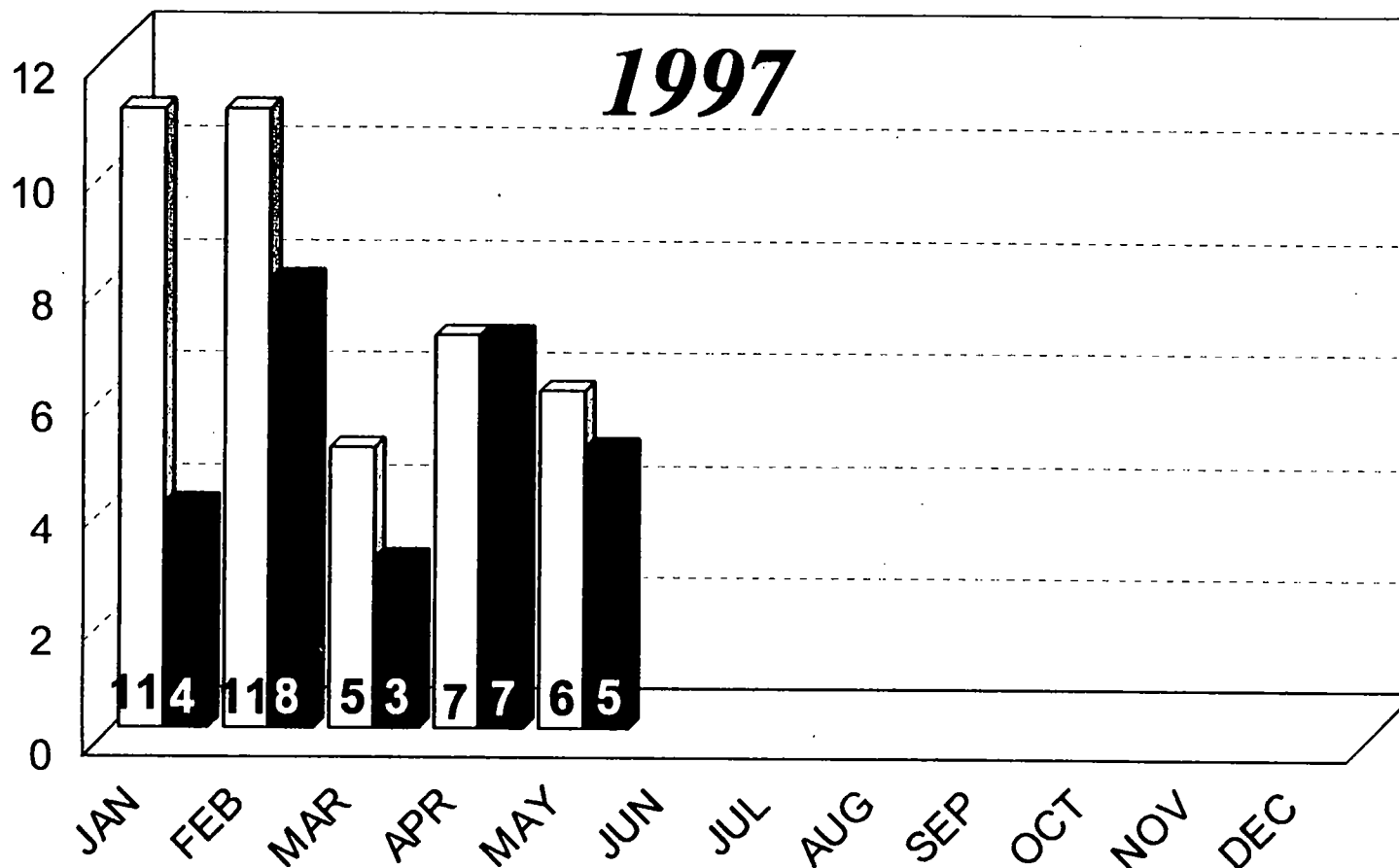


INDIVIDUALS ARRESTED - 141
 INCIDENTS SOLVED BY THESE ARRESTS - 108

INFORMATION DISPLAYED
 BY DATE OF SUBJECT'S ARREST
 CHART REFLECTS ACTIVITY
 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 1996

CHART M

NATIONAL CHURCH ARSON TASK FORCE
CHURCH ARSON/BOMBING/ATTEMPTED BOMBING INVESTIGATIONS
RESULTING IN ARRESTS NATIONWIDE



□ INDIVIDUALS ARRESTED - 40
■ INCIDENTS SOLVED BY THESE ARRESTS - 27

INFORMATION DISPLAYED
BY DATE OF SUBJECT'S ARREST
CHART REFLECTS ACTIVITY
THROUGH MAY 27, 1997

CHART N



APPENDIX 2



NATIONAL CHURCH ARSON TASK FORCE



P. O. Box 65798
Washington, D.C. 20530

CONVICTIONS FOR VIOLENCE AGAINST HOUSES OF WORSHIP REPORTED SINCE JANUARY 1995 (As of June 2, 1997)

Arsons and Bombings

ALABAMA

1. **Faith Whole Truth Holiness (Pennington) (Southern District)** - On October 31, 1995, this African-American church was burned and vandalized. The fire was started when a flag was set against the interior wall and set on fire. A 20-year-old Caucasian male, and a 15-year-old Caucasian male pled guilty to state charges. The defendant was given a three year suspended sentence and the juvenile was sentenced to a juvenile boot camp. The defendant has since violated his probation and is imprisoned.
2. **New Liberty Baptist Church (Tyler) (Southern District)** - On February 28, 1996, this African-American church was burned. A 20-year-old Caucasian male, volunteer firefighter pled guilty and was sentenced under the state Youthful Offender Act and received probation at the request of the victims.
3. **Ashbank Freewill Baptist Church (Nauvoo)(Northern District)**- On May 6, 1996, this Caucasian church was burned. The defendant, a 58-year-old Caucasian male, started the fire with paper. The defendant was angry that he was not allowed to preach at the church. He was sentenced in state court to 30 years of imprisonment and ordered to pay restitution.
4. **First United Methodist (Hartselle)(Northern District)** - On May 9, 1996, this Caucasian church was burned. Two Caucasian juveniles, 12 and 14, were playing in the basement of the church and ignited a piece of paper on a "dare". They were convicted and sentenced on state charges.
5. **Born Again Church of Christ (Heflin) (Northern District)** - On November 14, 1996, a cross was burned at this African-American church. Gasoline was poured onto two wooden beams arranged in the shape of a cross and then ignited at the front doorway of the church. Three Caucasian defendants, 26, 22, and 18, pled guilty in federal court to violating 18 U.S.C. §241(civil rights conspiracy). Sentencing is pending for all three defendants.

ARIZONA

6. Our Lady of Guadalupe Chapel (Yuma)

7. Union Baptist Church (Yuma) - On September 30, 1996 and October 1, 1996, these two churches were burned. Our Lady of Guadalupe Chapel has a Hispanic congregation and Union Baptist Church has an African-American congregation. Our Lady Of Guadalupe Chapel was completely destroyed. An accelerant, candle oil, was used to start the fire. The defendant, a 25-year-old Caucasian male, confessed to both fires. He stated the fires were set to cover up evidence of burglaries. The damage to Union Baptist Church was estimated to be \$60,000. He pled guilty to state arson charges and was sentenced to 8 years on two counts of arson to run concurrently and 9.2 years for trafficking in stolen property.

CALIFORNIA

8. Trinity Presbyterian Church - (Spring Valley) (Southern District) - On March 18, 1996, this interracial church was burned. The fire was started using gasoline and matches. Damage to this church was estimated at \$1.3 million. The defendant, a 28-year-old Caucasian male, pled guilty to state charges and was sentenced to nine years and four months of imprisonment. The court recommended that he be housed at a state mental facility.

DELAWARE

9. Saint Andrews Presbyterian (Newark) - On March 25, 1996, this Caucasian church was burned. The arson was an attempt by four Caucasian juveniles to cover up a burglary. The juveniles, who ranged in age from 12 to 14, broke in and stole cake and soda. They were convicted of state charges, and received probation and restitution.

FLORIDA

10. First Born Church of the Living God (Tallahassee) (Northern District) - On May 6, 1997, this African-American church was burglarized and burned. The defendant, a 20-year-old African-American male, poured paint thinner on the floor of church and ignited it. He pled guilty to state charges and was sentenced to 48 months of imprisonment and 24 months of probation.

11. Jacksonville Jewish Center (Jacksonville) (Middle District) - On February 22, 1997, a pipe bomb was discovered at the Jacksonville Jewish Center. Several children discovered the device near the speech podium area. The Jacksonville Sheriff's Office was called and later detonated the device safely. The defendant, a 32-year-old Caucasian male, pled guilty to one count of 18 U.S.C. § 844(h). Sentencing is scheduled for June 23, 1997.

12. **Trinity United Methodist (Saint Petersburg) (Middle District)** - On October 24, 1996, this interracial church was burned. The defendant, an 18-year-old African-American male, threw a molotov cocktail at the exterior of the Trinity United Methodist Church. Damage was estimated at \$1,000. The fire occurred during the civil disturbances over the police shooting of an African-American man. He pled guilty to a state arson charge. He was ordered to pay \$500 restitution.

ILLINOIS

13. **First Presbyterian Church (Libertyville) (Northern District)** - On October 1, 1996, this Caucasian church was burned and swastikas were spray painted on the church. The damage was estimated at \$3,000. Four Caucasian juveniles, who ranged in age from 14 to 16, pled guilty in state court to criminal damage to property and arson. The juveniles were sentenced and placed on Juvenile Intensive Probation ranging from two to five years and ordered to serve between five and 30 days in secure detention. Other conditions of the juveniles' probation included drug treatment, restitution and an order not to have any contact with each other. One juvenile was also ordered to write a 1,000 word essay to the court on anti-Semitism.

IOWA

14. **Saint Boniface (Westphalia) (Southern District)** - On July 7, 1996, this Caucasian church was burned. Minimal damage was done in the interior of the church, including damage to the carpeting and an area spoiled by defecation. A vehicle outside the church also received minor burn damage and a purse was stolen from the vehicle. Two Caucasian juveniles, 10 and 12, confessed to local authorities. They were convicted in state court and each was sentenced to a year of probation.

15. **Hickory Grove Community Church (Ottumwa) (Southern District)** - On September 2, 1996, this Caucasian church was burned. Damage is estimated to between \$150,000 and \$200,000. The defendant, a 46-year-old Caucasian male, was convicted on state charges and sentenced to 10 years of imprisonment.

KENTUCKY

16. **Methodist Church of Christ (Nicholasville) (Eastern District)** - On June 28, 1996, three Caucasian juveniles, one aged 16 and the others 17, burglarized this Caucasian church and then attempted to set the church on fire. The fire started with paper, but it self extinguished. The damage was confined to a few pews and a small area of the carpet. One of the juveniles also made a satanic drawing on the wall. All of the juveniles were convicted and sentenced in state court.

17. **Mount Zion Baptist Church (Somerset) (Eastern District)** - On March 9, 1996, this Caucasian church was burned. The fire started when weatherboard in the rear of the church was ignited by an open flame. The amount of damage was estimated at \$55,000. The defendant, a 28-year-old Caucasian male and volunteer fire fighter, was convicted on state arson charges. Sentencing is pending.

18. **Saint Therese Catholic Church (Louisville) (Western District)** - On May 1, 1996, this Caucasian church was burned. Damage was estimated to be \$100. Four white juveniles, ranging in age from 15 to 18, were convicted and ordered to perform 20 hours of community volunteer work.

LOUISIANA

19. **Assembly of God (Westwego) (Eastern District)** - On April 15, 1995, this Caucasian church was burned. A Caucasian male juvenile was convicted on state charges and sentenced to a youth ranch until the age of 21.

20. **Saint Genevieve Catholic Church (Thibodeaux) (Eastern District)** - On February 18, 1997, this interracial church was burned. Two Caucasian male juveniles, both 14, confessed to setting several small fires in the church. One of the juveniles was sentenced to two years with the Department of Corrections, all of which was suspended, and two years of probation. Sentencing is pending for the other juvenile.

21. **Saint Peter's Catholic Church**

22. **Pine Prairie First Baptist Church (Pine Prairie) (Western District)** - On March 1, 1996, and February 23, 1997, these Caucasian churches were burned. The fire at the Saint Peter's Catholic Church was started after lit matches were dropped into the money box where patrons paid for candles. Fire investigator found remnants of burned paper and carpet in the library of the Pine Prairie First Baptist Church. A Caucasian male juvenile, 12, pled guilty to setting both fires. He was sentenced to a juvenile psychiatric institution for three months.

23. **New Birth Missionary Baptist Church (Lake Charles) (Western District)** - On December 10, 1996, this African-American church was burned. Boxes of old clothing that were sitting on an exterior wall of the church were set on fire. The fire spread causing minimal damage to the exterior of the church. Two African-American male juveniles, 12 and 13, pled guilty to state charges. Each was sentenced to two years of probation.

MAINE

24. **Saint Anne's Catholic Church (Lisbon)** - On July 6, 1996, two minor explosive devices were set off in the parking lot of this Caucasian church. There was \$1,000 damage to the church. The defendant, a 22-year-old Caucasian male, pled guilty to state charges of possession and use of fireworks and received a \$25 fine.

MARYLAND

25. **Thawley's Chapel (Hillsboro)** - On September 2, 1996, this Caucasian church was burned. One defendant is a 19-year-old Caucasian male and the other defendant is a Caucasian juvenile, aged 13. The adult pled guilty to state charges and he was sentenced to three years of imprisonment. He was also ordered to pay restitution to the church. The juvenile was convicted on state charges and sentenced to supervised probation, counseling, and ordered to pay restitution.

26. **John Watters Meeting House (Bel Air)** - On March 21, 1996, this Caucasian church was burned and vandalized. Four adults, three Caucasian males and one African-American male, were convicted on state charges. One defendant, 19, was sentenced in state court on arson charges. He received a 20 year sentence, of which 13 years were suspended, five years supervised probation upon release, community service and was ordered to pay restitution. The other two defendants, 18 and 19, were ordered to pay restitution and to perform community service. The fourth defendant, 20, was sentenced to 10 years imprisonment (all suspended), placed on three years probation and ordered to pay restitution.

MICHIGAN

27. **Cass Community United Methodist Church (Detroit) (Eastern District)** - On August 25, 1996, a sofa and chair in the court yard of this Caucasian church were set on fire. The damage was \$250.00. The defendant, a 20-year-old African-American male, pled guilty to state charges. He was sentenced to two years under the Home Training Act.

MINNESOTA

28. **Brooklyn Park Evangelical Free Church (Brooklyn Park)** - On August 15, 1996, this Caucasian church was vandalized and burned. Investigators found a drawing of a five-point star and the words "Satan lives" on one of the church walls. The church had been providing counseling to juveniles and adults who are involved in satanic worship. A Caucasian juvenile, 15, confessed to starting the fire. He indicated that he felt left out of the youth group that met the previous night and committed the vandalism to get even. The defendant, who was smoking a cigarette in the storage room, claimed he was startled when someone entered and he threw the lit cigarette into a corner believing it was extinguished. He was found guilty of negligently setting the fire. Adjudication was stayed for six months pending compliance with stipulations of probation. Restitution has been made and he must now serve 150 hours of community service at the Evangelical Free Church.

29. **Grace Lutheran (Westbrook)** - On June 20, 1996, this Caucasian church was burned. Two Caucasian juveniles, 10 and 12, confessed to starting the fire with matches. Both stated that they got the idea to burn the church from watching television. One of the juveniles pled guilty to second degree arson and was sentenced to 30 days in a residential facility. The other juvenile's records have been sealed.

MISSISSIPPI

30. **Lynch Chapel United Methodist (Clinton) (Southern District)** - On November 1, 1995, this African-American church was burned. The defendant, a 19-year-old African-American male, lived next door to the church and admitted setting the fire and then notifying the fire and then notifying the fire department. The defendant pled guilty to state charges. He was sentenced to three years of imprisonment.

31. **Mallalieu Methodist Church (Meridian) (Southern District)** - On December 11, 1996, this African-American church was burned. Three Caucasian juveniles, 16, 15, and 14, forced their way into a rear door of the church and used an open flame to ignite choir robes found in the sanctuary. They also defaced the communion altar with racial epithets on the walls and doors inside the church. The juveniles pled guilty to state charges. Two of the juveniles were sentenced to an indeterminate amount of time in a training camp and sentencing is pending for the third juvenile who has been sent for a second psychiatric evaluation.

32. **Elbethel Baptist Church (Satartia) (Southern District)** - On March 30, 1996, this African-American church was burned. Firefighters were able to respond quickly and the fire was extinguished rapidly, leaving minimal damage to the outer structure. The defendant, a 37-year-old Caucasian male, pled guilty to state arson charges. He was sentenced to five years of imprisonment, four of which were suspended and to two years of supervised probation pending his release from prison.

MISSOURI

33. **Shilo Baptist Church (Kansas City) (Western District)**

34. **Ozark Primitive Baptist (Webster County) (Western District)** - On May 5, 1996, these two Caucasian churches were burned. The churches were only occasionally used. Two Caucasian defendants, 29 and 31, were each charged by the state with two counts of arson. The defendant, 29, pled guilty to both counts and was sentenced to seven years in prison on each count to be served concurrently. Charges against the other defendant were dismissed.

35. **Amity Freewill Baptist Church (Niangua) (Western District)** - On December 30, 1996, this Caucasian church was burned. The entire church was destroyed. The accelerant was determined to be charcoal lighter fluid. Two Caucasian defendants, 19 and 18, pled guilty to state arson charges. Both were sentenced to seven years of imprisonment.

36. **Greers Chapel Baptist Church (Sikeston)(Eastern District)** - On September 13, 1996, this African-American church was burned. The church was completely destroyed. Two Caucasian defendants, both 18, pled guilty and were sentenced to seven years for arson and burglary charges. The third defendant, 19, is undergoing psychiatric evaluation to determine if he is competent to stand trial.

37. **New Bethel Church (Anderson) (Western District)**- On October 16, 1996, this Caucasian church was burned. The defendant, a 27-year-old Caucasian male, admitted setting the fire with paper and his cigarette lighter, after entering the church in order to get warm. He pled guilty to a state arson charge and was sentenced to five years of imprisonment.

NEVADA

38. **Church of Christ (Henderson)** - On September 19, 1996, the siding on this African-American church was burned. The defendant, a 23-year-old Caucasian male, pled guilty in federal court to violating one count of 18 U.S.C. §247(c) (civil rights). He confessed to using a lighter to initiate the fire. Witnesses stated that he attempted to burglarize the church and failed. After the failed burglary, he stated they should burn the church because its members were African-American. He was sentenced to 63 months of imprisonment, restitution, and three years of supervised probation.

NEW YORK

39. **Temple Beth El (Rockaway) (Eastern District)**

40. **Temple Derech Emuch (Rockaway) (Eastern District)**

41. **Yeshiva of Belle (Belle Harbor) (Eastern District)** - On January 13, 1995, April 30, 1995, and May 6, 1995, respectively, these synagogues were burned. The defendant, a 41-year-old Caucasian male, pled guilty and was sentenced in state court to 18 to 55 years for six counts of arson, one count of burglary, and one of count criminal mischief in connection with arson at these synagogues and at other buildings. The defendant had asked various organizations for money, and when they began refusing him he burned their buildings.

NORTH CAROLINA

42. **Mount Tabor Baptist Church (Cerro Gordo) (Eastern District)** - On May 23, 1996, this African-American Church was burned. The defendant, a 32-year-old African-American male, pled guilty to state conspiracy and fraud charges and was sentenced to 20 months. The other defendant, 22, pled guilty to state arson charges and is scheduled to be sentenced on June 23, 1997.

43. **Matthews-Murkland Presbyterian Church (Charlotte) (Western District)** - On June 6, 1996, this African-American church was burned. The defendant, a 13-year-old Caucasian female with satanic and racist beliefs was convicted in state court and received 12 months probation and community service.

44. **Pleasant Ridge United Church of Christ (Greensboro) (Middle District)** - On June 28, 1996, this Caucasian church was burned. The defendant, a 19-year-old Caucasian male, was convicted in federal court after a bench trial of violating 18 U.S.C. §844 (i) and was sentenced to 30 months in prison, three years supervised release and ordered to pay restitution. Another defendant, 18, pled guilty in federal court to one count of 18 U.S.C. §844 (i). He received 20 months in prison, three years supervised release and ordered to pay restitution.

45. **Ohovah A.M.E. (Orrum)(Eastern District)** - On January 6, 1996, this African-American church was burglarized, vandalized and burned. The fire was set to cover up the burglary. The defendant, a 29-year-old Caucasian male, pled guilty to a state arson charge. He was sentenced to 15 to 18 months imprisonment and 36 months probation. He was ordered to pay restitution and a fine.

46. **Pleasant Hill Baptist Church (Lumberton)(Eastern District)** - On May 24, 1996, this African-American church was burned. The church sustained \$2,000 in damage. A Caucasian volunteer fireman, 17, pled guilty to state charges and was sentenced to 16 to 20 months detention which was suspended for three years of special supervised probation, 100 hours of community service work, a \$1,000 fine plus court costs and a community service fee of \$100.

47. **Beulah Land Baptist Church (Roaring River) (Western District)** - On July 1, 1996, the Fellowship Building of the Beulah Land Baptist Church was burned. The Fellowship Building is located two and one half blocks away from the main church, which has a Caucasian congregation. Damages were estimated at \$5,000. The building was also vandalized and all the windows were broken. The defendant, a 40-year-old Caucasian male, was convicted of state arson charges and injury to real property. He was sentenced to 19 to 23 months and ordered to pay \$6,500 restitution.

48. **Saint James African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church (Maysville) (Eastern District)**- On June 30, 1996, this African American church was burned. A 19-year-old Caucasian male was arrested and indicted on six federal arson charges. The defendant pled guilty to one count of 18 U.S.C. §844(i) and 844(h). Sentencing is set for July 28, 1997. Federal charges against three Caucasian juveniles remain pending.

OHIO

49. **Ebenezer Full Gospel Missionary Baptist Church (Canton) (Northern District)** - On June 18, 1996, a chair was set on fire inside this African-American church. Two Caucasian male defendants, 44 and 22, pled guilty in state court. One defendant received a sentence of two years in prison. The other defendant received six months of "shock" incarceration followed by probation if the shock sentence is successfully completed.

OREGON

50. **Immanuel Free Methodist Church (Portland)** - On June 20, 1996, this interracial church was burned. The defendant, a 21-year-old African-American male, threw two mason jar gasoline fire bombs through a church window. He pled guilty in federal court to one count of 18 U.S.C. §844(i). He received a five year sentence of imprisonment.

PENNSYLVANIA

51. **First United Methodist Church (Middle District)(Berwick)**- On November 4, 1996, this Caucasian church was broken into and napkins and literature were set on fire. Damage was estimated at \$30,000. The defendant, a 27-year-old Caucasian male, pled guilty to federal charges of 18 U.S.C. §844(i). The defendant was sentenced to 27 months of imprisonment, restitution, and three years supervised probation.

SOUTH CAROLINA

52. **Life Christian Assembly (North Charleston)** - On June 17, 1996, the shed behind this interracial church was burned. Two Caucasian juveniles, ages nine and ten, admitted to the arson and explained they were playing with matches and did not intend to burn the building. The juveniles were convicted and sentenced in state court to house arrest and restitution.

53. **Mount Zion A.M.E. Church (Greeleyville)**

54. **Macedonia Baptist Church (Manning)** - On June 20 and 21, 1995, respectively, these two African-American churches were burned. Four Caucasian ex-members of the Ku Klux Klan pled guilty to federal charges relating to these arsons. Two defendants, 23 and 24, received 234 months and 216 months of imprisonment, respectively, for violations of 18 U.S.C. 241 (civil rights conspiracy) and 18 U.S.C. 844(h). The sentencing for the remaining two defendants, 51 and 52, is pending.

55. **Rice Chapel (Buffalo)** - On May 8, 1994, this African-American church was burned. One defendant, a 22-year-old volunteer fire fighter, pled guilty to state charges and received a 10 year sentence of imprisonment, five of which were suspended.

56. **New Saint Paul Apostolic Church (Florence)** - On June 11, 1996, this African-American church was burned. Three Caucasian juveniles were convicted in state court. One juvenile, 10, received a sentence through pretrial diversion. He and his family must participate in the Family Preservation Program. The other two juveniles, 11 and 12, were sentenced to probation and community service.

57. **Johns Island Church (Johns Island)** - On July 16, 1996, this African-American church was burned. The building was still under construction at the time of the arson. The defendant, a 51- year-old African-American male, who was the pastor of the church, confessed to burning the building. The pastor was convicted on a state arson charge and he was sentenced to 10 years, with five years suspended and five years probation.

58. **Spring Hill AME Church (Dillon)** - On August 1, 1996, this African-American church was burned. The church was totally destroyed. Two 17- year-old Caucasian juveniles pled guilty to state arson charges. They were sentenced under the Youthful Offender Program. One juvenile received a five year sentence and the other received a four year sentence.

TENNESSEE

59. **Canaan A.M.E. Church (Maury County) (Middle District)**

60. **Friendship Missionary Baptist Church (Maury County) (Middle District)** - On January 29, 1995, these African-American churches were firebombed. Three Caucasian defendants, 33, 35 and 43, pled guilty in federal court to violating 18 U.S.C. §241(civil rights conspiracy). One defendant was sentenced to 57 months in prison while the other two defendants were sentenced to 46 months in prison.

61. **Church of the Nativity (Bartlett) (Western District)** - On June 29, 1996, this Caucasian church was burned. The church suffered \$10,000 in damage to the altar area. The defendant, a 46- year-old Caucasian pastor admitted setting the fire. He used a match to ignite curtains behind the altar and thereafter went to his residence until police and fire units arrived on the scene. The defendant pled guilty in federal court to one count of 18 U.S.C. §844 (i). Sentencing is pending.

62. **Saint Mary's Episcopal School (Memphis) (Western District)**

63. **Holy Communion School (Memphis)(Western District)**

64. **Shady Grove Presbyterian (Memphis)(Western District)**

65. **Colonial Park United Methodist Church (Memphis)(Western District)**

66. **Emmanuel United Methodist (Memphis)(Western District)**

67. **Calvary Baptist Church (Memphis)(Western District)** - The defendant, a 26-year-old Caucasian male, pled guilty in federal court to an information charging him with multiple counts of violating of 18 U.S.C. §844 (i) in connection with the fires at these Caucasian churches which occurred on October 16, 1995, November 30, 1995, December 1, 1995, December 5, 1995, and April 20, 1996, respectively. Sentencing is pending.

68. **Church of God of Prophecy (Dyersburg) (Western District)** - On July 22, 1996, this Caucasian church was burned. The defendant, a 20-year-old African-American male, pled guilty in federal court to violating one count of 18 U.S.C. §247(c) (civil rights). He was sentenced to 60 months in prison.

TEXAS

69. **Victory Baptist Church (Denison) (Eastern District)** - On June 5, 1995, this African-American church was burned. The defendant, a 26-year-old Caucasian male, admitted to using squirt bottles of gasoline to ignite two window sills at the church. The defendant pled guilty to eight state arson charges for several incidents, including this church, and was sentenced to 10 years probation on each charge, to run concurrently.

70. **Audubon Park Baptist Church/ New Revelation Mission (Garland)(Northern District)** - On July 11, 1996, this interracial church was burned. The defendant, a 33-year-old Caucasian male, admitted to pouring gasoline on the pulpit and igniting the accelerant. The defendant pled guilty in federal court to one count of 18 U.S.C. §844(i) and was sentenced to five years of imprisonment and ordered to pay restitution. He stated that he was angry about the failure of the church's counseling.

71. **Real Rock Church (Houston)(Southern District)**- On February 2, 1996, this African-American church was burned. A ten-year-old African-American male admitted to setting the fire by throwing an ignited piece of paper onto a rug located inside the church. He was convicted in state court and sentenced to probation. He violated his probation and was sent to a residential care facility.

72. **Church of the Living God (Greenville)(Northern District)** - On June 10, 1996, this African-American church was burned. The defendant, an 18-year-old African-American male, entered a guilty plea to one count of 18 U.S.C. §844(i) and was sentenced to eight months time served and three years supervised release.

73. **Macedonia Baptist Church (Bristol) (Northern District)** - On March 22, 1997, this African-American church was burned. Two Caucasian male defendants confessed to setting the fire using gasoline and a cigarette lighter. One defendant, 25, pled guilty to violating 18 U.S.C. §844 (i) and 18 U.S.C. §247(c) (civil rights). The other defendant, 22, pled guilty to violating 18 U.S.C. §844(i) and 18 U.S.C. §241 (civil rights conspiracy). Sentencing is scheduled for July 18, 1997.

UTAH

74. **Templo Casa De Oracion (Salt Lake)** - On March 28, 1996, this Caucasian church was burned. The defendant, a 32-year-old Caucasian female, pled guilty to state charges. After a 90 day mental evaluation, she was sentenced to a half-way house and ordered to pay \$38,000 in restitution.

VIRGINIA

75. **Green Run Baptist Church (Virginia Beach) (Eastern District)** - On June 18, 1996, this interracial church was burned. Two Caucasian juveniles, 16 and 13, were found guilty in state court of two counts of arson and one count of conspiracy. One juvenile was sentenced to five and one-half months of imprisonment and placed on probation for two years, while the other was sentenced to 10 days of detention at the same facility. Both were ordered to pay restitution.

76. **First Baptist Church of Centralia (Chesterfield) (Eastern District)** - On April 16, 1996, this African-American church was burned. A 16-year-old Caucasian female and two Caucasian adults, both 20, (one male and one female) pled guilty to state charges. One defendant was sentenced to five years of imprisonment. All but six months of the sentence was suspended.

77. **Bethany Baptist Church (Portsmouth)(Eastern District)** - On August 14, 1995, this Caucasian church was burned. The defendant, a 34-year-old Caucasian male, pled guilty to state charges. The defendant was sentenced to five years of imprisonment. All but six months of the sentence was suspended.

WASHINGTON

78. **Naval Air Station Chapel (Whidbey Island-Oak Harbor) (Western District)** - On January 21, 1996, this interracial church was burned. The defendant, a 23-year-old African-American male, was convicted on federal charges in the Whidbey Island Naval Air Station Court. He was sentenced to four years imprisonment and ordered to pay a fine.

OTHER ACTS OF VIOLENCE

NORTH CAROLINA

79. **China Grove A.M.E. Zion Church**

80. **Flora Williams Ministries (Charlotte)(Western District)**- On April 3, 1996 and May 19, 1996, these African-American churches received racially threatening messages on their telephone answering machines. Two Caucasian defendants, 22 and 21, pled guilty in federal court to violating one count of 18 U.S. C. §241(civil rights conspiracy). Sentencing is pending.

SOUTH CAROLINA

81. **Hammond Grove Baptist Church (North Augusta)** - On March 8, 1995, this African-American church was vandalized. The vandalism consisted of racial insults and swastikas being written on the walls with a magic marker and the destruction of property within the church amounting to over \$20,000 in damages. Two Caucasian juveniles, ages 14 and 16, were convicted in state court and sentenced to six months probation and restitution.

TENNESSEE

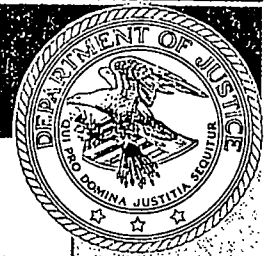
82. **Mount Ararat Missionary Baptist Church (Trezevant)** - On June 14, 1996, this African-American church was vandalized by the spray painting of racial epithets. The defendant, an 18-year-old Caucasian male, pled guilty to state charges and was sentenced to 30 days of imprisonment and supervised release for one year.

83. **Parker's Chapel (Memphis) (Western District)** - On August 5, 1996, this African-American church was damaged by two gun shots. One defendant, a 19-year-old Caucasian male, pled guilty to one count of a federal firearms violation, 18 U.S.C. §922(j) and was sentenced to two years probation and ordered to pay restitution. A juvenile white male was convicted of one count of 18 U.S.C. §922(x)2 and has been sentenced to one year of probation.





National Church Arson Task Force



**United States Department of the Treasury
United States Department of Justice
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms
Federal Bureau of Investigation**

Interim Report for the President

January 1997



NATIONAL CHURCH ARSON TASK FORCE



P. O. Box 65798
Washington, D.C. 20530

JAN 17 1997

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are very pleased to submit to you the attached Interim Report of the National Church Arson Task Force (NCATF). The Task Force has been in operation for slightly more than seven months and has made significant progress in investigating and prosecuting the recent attacks on houses of worship.

Your actions have enabled us more effectively to pursue the guilty parties, prevent additional fires and help the victims rebuild. In June 1996, you declared that the investigations and prevention of church arsons would be a national priority. By calling upon the Departments of the Treasury, Justice, and Housing and Urban Development and the Federal Emergency Management Agency, you harnessed the resources and energies of your Administration for this effort. You also invited Governors from the Southern states to join in our effort to combat these crimes and encouraged religious and private organizations to help communities rebuild the churches. Your support has been vital to our success thus far.

The National Church Arson Task Force has been responsible for overseeing the law enforcement effort and ensuring a coordinated response by federal, state and local law enforcement authorities. We have been aided in our task by Congress, which provided additional resources and enacted the 1996 Church Arson Prevention Act.

We have achieved striking results:

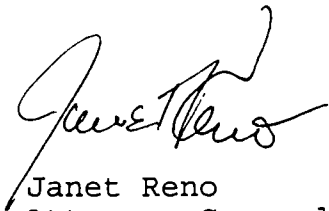
- The NCATF has opened investigations of 328 arsons, bombings or attempted bombings that have occurred at houses of worship between January 1, 1995, and January 7, 1997.
- As a result of the exceptional partnership among federal, state and local law enforcement, many of the incidents investigated have been solved, mainly by a combination of federal and state arrests and prosecutions.

The President
Page 2

- Since January 1995, arrests of 143 suspects have been made in connection with 107 fires at churches and other houses of worship. This rate of arrest is significantly higher than the general arrest rate for arsons.
- Three quarters (104) of all defendants arrested in the last two years were arrested during the seven months following the formation of the Task Force.
- Since January 1, 1995, federal and state prosecutions have resulted in convictions of 48 defendants, in connection with fires at 43 houses of worship. The remaining cases are still pending trial.

We are grateful for your leadership on this issue and the support that you have extended to the Task Force. We would also like to commend Assistant Secretary James E. Johnson and Assistant Attorney General Deval L. Patrick, co-chairs of the Task Force, as well as the men and women of the ATF and FBI, for the superlative work they have done in this effort. The attached report provides greater details on the progress of the Task Force's efforts. We would be pleased to brief you in more detail.

Respectfully,



Robert E. Rubin
Secretary of the Treasury

Janet Reno
Attorney General



NATIONAL CHURCH ARSON TASK FORCE



*P. O. Box 65798
Washington, D.C. 20530*

INTERIM REPORT FOR THE PRESIDENT

I. Overview

Over the past year, a disturbing series of arsons and violent attacks on houses of worship have traumatized the victim congregations and their communities, challenged law enforcement agencies, and stirred the nation's conscience. In response to an outpouring of national concern, President Clinton declared the investigation of these fires a top priority of federal law enforcement, and directed his Administration to implement a three-pronged strategy to (1) identify and prosecute the perpetrators; (2) rebuild the burned churches; and (3) prevent more fires.

The report released today shows striking results on all fronts:

- The rate of arrest (33%) in the church arson cases is double the general arrest rate for arsons (16%). Federal and state authorities have arrested 143 suspects since January 1, 1995, in connection with 107 fires at churches and other houses of worship. Three quarters (104) of all defendants arrested in the last two years were arrested since June 1996, when the President established the National Church Arson Task Force (NCATF or "Task Force") to oversee the investigation and prosecution of incidents of church arson. Since January 1, 1995, 48 defendants have been convicted in federal and state prosecutions in connection with fires at 43 houses of worship. Overall, the NCATF has opened investigations of 328 arsons, bombings or attempted bombings that have occurred at houses of worship between January 1, 1995, and January 7, 1997.
- The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is working closely with the National Council of Churches and the Congress of National Black Churches in the rebuilding effort. As a result of this cooperation, 10 churches have been rebuilt and 30 churches are undergoing construction. HUD is administering a \$10 million Federal Loan Guarantee Fund to assist with the rebuilding of houses of worship and other non-profit organizations that have been damaged or destroyed by arson. This fund was established by Congress as part of the 1996 Church Arson Prevention Act.
- Arson prevention efforts are now underway across the nation. The Department of Justice awarded \$3 million in grants to counties in 13 states to intensify their enforcement and surveillance efforts around vulnerable houses of worship. The Federal Emergency

Management Agency (FEMA) established a Clearinghouse for arson prevention resources that has received over 10,000 telephone inquiries from all 50 states and the District of Columbia, and has distributed over 300,000 packets of arson prevention materials, including the NCATF Church Threat Assessment Guide. FEMA efforts also include a three city pilot project in Nashville, Charlotte and Macon to develop grass-roots arson prevention programs.

Led by Deval L. Patrick, Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, and James E. Johnson, Assistant Secretary of the Treasury (Enforcement), the NCATF formalized the coordination of investigations already underway. The NCATF brought together the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF), the FBI, Justice Department prosecutors, the United States Attorneys, victim/witness coordinators, the Community Relations Service and the U.S. Marshals Service, in partnership with state and local officers and prosecutors.

As a result of this partnership, local task forces have been formed in the affected states, and federal authorities have supported every prosecution. Their efforts have been aided significantly by support from the Congress, which provided additional statutory authority and resources for these investigations.

Well over 200 ATF and FBI investigators have been deployed and are working with over 75 federal prosecutors and state and local authorities. This is one of the largest series of arson investigations in history and the largest current civil rights investigative effort.¹

II. Strengthening the Federal Effort

A. Unifying the Federal Effort

In an investigative effort of this size and scope, coordination among federal agencies and between state and federal law enforcement is essential. To that end, the Attorney General directed U.S. Attorneys either to establish a local task force focusing on church arsons or to join an existing local task force. These local task forces include state and local law enforcement and fire protection officials, as well as representatives of the ATF, FBI, the Community Relations Service and victim/witness coordinators.

The local task forces in North and South Carolina are examples of effective coordination between local and federal authorities. Where local task forces are still being developed, the NCATF co-chairs will continue to work with the U.S. Attorneys and the agencies participating in the Task Force to ensure maximum cooperation and effectiveness.

¹ This Interim Report contains only public information. The fire and arrest statistics in this Report were complete as of January 7, 1997. The investigations are continuing.

In addition to the local task forces, the NCATF has an operations team in Washington staffed by special agents of the ATF and the FBI and prosecutors on detail from the United States Attorney's Offices around the nation and from the Criminal Section of the Civil Rights Division. The director of this operations team is a senior experienced prosecutor. This team works with the local task forces to investigate incidents as well as prosecute cases and analyze potential connections among incidents. Due to the high priority of these matters, many federal cases are prosecuted jointly by an NCATF prosecutor and an Assistant United States Attorney.

The expertise of the FBI in conducting civil rights investigations and the expertise of ATF in conducting arson investigations, particularly in making cause and origin determinations, has proven highly beneficial to the success of the NCATF.

The NCATF has taken the following steps in carrying out its responsibilities:

- **Investigative Protocol.** The NCATF has established a protocol for its investigations and prosecutions. This protocol sets forth procedures for immediately exchanging information among task force agencies, developing an investigative plan for each incident, and ensuring that investigators pursue all lines of inquiry, including whether the crime was motivated by race or religion, and whether any given incident is connected to any other.
- **Unified Database.** The NCATF has created a database of statistical information about ongoing investigations. The ATF and FBI databases and computer systems are also used in Task Force operations to track and analyze evidence about attacks on houses of worship and to generate investigative leads.
- **Training.** In late summer and early fall, the NCATF conducted training among its constituent agencies. ATF experts trained FBI agents and Department of Justice prosecutors in arson investigations. Civil Rights Division prosecutors and FBI experts trained ATF agents in civil rights investigations and prosecutions.
- **Tip Line.** The NCATF established a toll-free tip line for citizens to report information on church arsons. That toll free number is 1-888-ATF-FIRE. To date, NCATF has received more than 1200 calls through that service. The ATF and FBI also are offering rewards for information in a number of arson cases.
- **Threat Assessment Guide.** The NCATF updated and distributed a Church Threat Assessment Guide containing valuable information on the steps that may be taken to prevent fires at houses of worship and the steps to follow after an incident has occurred. Working with FEMA, the Task Force has distributed over 300,000 of these booklets.

B. Outreach

Without the confidence and cooperation of the victim congregations, many of these investigations, which were difficult at the outset, would have been destined to fail. The NCATF took steps early on to ensure a solid, working relationship between law enforcement and the affected communities.

Less than a week after being formalized, the NCATF met with FBI and ATF Special Agents in Charge and U.S. Attorneys from the Southeast region to emphasize the critical importance of pursuing the investigations with vigilance, determination and dispatch, as well as with sensitivity to the needs of the victims.

The President, Vice President Gore, Secretary of the Treasury Robert Rubin and Attorney General Janet Reno have worked to bring church arsons to national attention, speaking out forcefully of the commitment of the Federal government to solve these church arsons and meeting with ministers from the churches burned. Secretary Rubin and Attorney General Reno instructed Assistant Secretary Johnson and Assistant Attorney General Patrick to remain in close contact with the affected communities. In addition to meeting regularly with representatives from the National Council of Churches, the NAACP, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and the Congressional Black Caucus, Assistant Secretary Johnson and Assistant Attorney General Patrick have both travelled on numerous occasions throughout the South to meet with church and community leaders and to view personally the devastation these arsons have wrought.

The investigators have played a crucial role in outreach efforts. As a student in Enid, Oklahoma, Dewey Webb had helped move pews into the sanctuary of the First Missionary Baptist Church. When he returned as ATF Resident Agent in Charge of the Oklahoma City Field Office, it was to solve a crime, by sifting through the ashes of the burned-out sanctuary. But he was also moved to assure the congregations that his team would proceed with compassion.

Similarly, in Boligee, Alabama, where the burning of three churches led the community to initiate a model of racial reconciliation and community relations, Robert Langford, Special Agent in Charge of the FBI's Birmingham office, met with church leaders, worshiped with the victim congregations and participated in hate crimes seminars. Most importantly, he demonstrated through his actions that his team empathized with the victims and was doing its best to bring those responsible to justice.

The Community Relations Service (CRS) also has been an important partner in Task Force outreach efforts. CRS conciliators have worked in many communities affected by church burnings to identify and resolve racial conflicts and reduce racial tensions, to foster healthy relationships between law enforcement and minority communities and to facilitate communications among all parties. The NCATF also developed and distributed to every ATF and FBI supervisor and U. S. Attorney a "Best Practices" guide for conducting community outreach activities.

C. Working with Congress to Strengthen Statutory Authority and Increase Resources

The support of Congress has been essential in responding to these crimes. When the Task Force was formed, the Federal government had authority under several statutes to investigate and prosecute suspicious fires at houses of worship. They include the Anti-Arson Act of 1982, which makes it a federal crime to use fire to destroy property involved in interstate commerce (18 U.S.C. 844(i)), and criminal civil rights statutes that make it a federal crime to desecrate religious property or a house of worship or to conspire to deprive persons of their civil rights (18 U.S.C. 241 and 247).

On July 3, 1996, the President signed the Church Arson Prevention Act of 1996, which had been sponsored by Senator Edward M. Kennedy (D-MA), Senator Lauch Faircloth (R-NC), Congressman Henry J. Hyde (R-IL) and Congressman John Conyers, Jr. (D-MI). This statute, passed unanimously by both Houses of Congress, amended 18 U.S.C. 247, to strengthen the criminal law against church burning and desecration. The new law removed a cumbersome interstate commerce requirement, eliminated a \$10,000 damage requirement, and increased the maximum sentence to 20 years imprisonment for arson.

The legislation also authorized a HUD loan guarantee program that can be used for church rebuilding, and authorized additional personnel at the Treasury Department and the Justice Department, including the Community Relations Service, to respond to the fires. Assistant Attorney General Patrick and Assistant Secretary Johnson, representing the NCATF, testified before House and Senate committees in support of this legislation, identifying the need for amending the existing statutory framework.

In August 1996, in a supplemental appropriation for fiscal year 1996, Congress provided \$12.011 million dollars to support ATF's role in the Task Force. In September 1996, Congress appropriated an additional \$12.011 million dollars in ATF's fiscal year 1997 direct funding to support arson investigations, particularly those directed toward religious institutions. Additional funds for Task Force activities by the Justice Department and the FBI were also appropriated or reprogrammed.

III. The Task Force is Producing Results

Scope of the Problem: The NCATF has opened investigations of 328 arsons, bombings or attempted bombings that have occurred at houses of worship between January 1, 1995, and January 7, 1997. This number does not include vandalism or other desecration at houses of worship, which continue to be investigated and prosecuted by the FBI and the Civil Rights Division. Nor does it include fires that the investigators have determined are accidental.

Of these 328 arson investigations, at least 138 have been fires at African American churches. Three quarters of the fires at African American churches have occurred in the southern United States. Arsons at all houses of worship continue to be reported in significant numbers.

Indeed, the NCATF opened 28 arson investigations of incidents which occurred in October 1996, 24 arson investigations of incidents occurring in November 1996, and 11 investigations of arsons occurring in December 1996.

Arrests: As a result of the exceptional partnership among federal, state and local law enforcement, many of the incidents investigated have been solved, mainly by a combination of federal and state arrests and prosecutions. Since January 1995, arrests of 143 suspects have been made in connection with 107 fires at churches and other houses of worship. This rate of arrest (33%) is significantly higher than the general arrest rate for arsons, which is approximately 16%, according to Department of Justice statistics.

Since the formation of the Task Force, the number of arrests has increased significantly. One hundred and four persons, representing three quarters of all defendants arrested since January 1995, were arrested following the formation of the Task Force.

Of the 143 persons arrested, 24 are African American, 3 are Hispanic and 116 are white. Sixty-two are juveniles. Of the 54 suspects arrested for arsons at African American churches, 36 are white, 17 are African American and 1 is Hispanic. Of the 85 suspects arrested for arsons at non-African American houses of worship, 76 are white, 7 are African American, and 2 are Hispanic. Four additional white suspects have been arrested for arsons at both African American churches and non-African American churches.

Convictions: Since January 1, 1995, 48 defendants have been convicted in federal and state prosecutions in connection with fires at 43 houses of worship. All but two of the remaining cases are still pending trial.² A list of the incidents in which a conviction has been obtained is attached as Appendix 1.³ These successes include the first convictions under the 1996 Church Arson Prevention Act, 18 U.S.C. 247, as amended. Prosecutions in connection with 31 of the 43 incidents have occurred during the seven months since the formation of the Task Force.

Federal charges are pending in a number of cases, and grand jury investigations are ongoing in many others. Conspiracy charges have been filed, and convictions obtained, in a

² There have been two acquittals. On November 21, 1996, a defendant was acquitted by reason of insanity for the June 10, 1996, arson at Our Most Sorrowful Savior Catholic Church in Soap Lake, Washington, and the June 14, 1996, arson at the Community Evangelical Church in Soap Lake, Washington. He was indefinitely committed to the Eastern State Hospital. In October 1996, a 13-year old defendant was acquitted of state arson charges stemming from a fire that caused \$500 in damage to the Slaughterneck United Methodist Church in Milford, Delaware. The fire appeared to have been caused when a pile of leaves was set on fire behind the church. All of the other prosecutions have resulted in convictions or are still pending.

³ The list in Appendix 1 also includes convictions in connection with three incidents of vandalism and a conviction in connection with one arson that occurred in 1994, but where the prosecution occurred in 1995.

number of cases involving small numbers of fires. Investigators continue to pursue the question whether broader conspiracies were responsible for some of the fires.

In still other cases, state prosecutions have been initiated in consultation with federal prosecutors or investigators. The NCATF actively monitors these prosecutions to ensure that any federal interest is vindicated and to ensure that accurate information is compiled regarding law enforcement's response to attacks on houses of worship.

Continuing Workload. Arson cases are among the most difficult criminal cases to solve. Forensic evidence is often destroyed with the fire. Moreover, because some of the churches burned are located in isolated, rural areas, there are often no eye witnesses to the incident. For these reasons, it can often take years to solve arson cases.

In addition, the NCATF has been initiating investigations as new fires have occurred. While the number of reported fires each month appears to have decreased from a peak in June 1996, there have been a substantial number of fires reported in each month since June. (See Appendix 2 for a chart of fires reported by month.) As of January 7, 1997, there were 221 pending investigations where arrests had not been made. The NCATF remains committed to expending the necessary time, resources and effort to solving these crimes and prosecuting those who are responsible.

IV. Enhancing Arson Prevention Efforts.

The NCATF, as part of the federal response to church arson, participates in a coordinated effort to enhance local and state programs to prevent fires at houses of worship and to promote arson awareness generally. The National Arson Prevention Initiative, spearheaded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), has focused on coordinating federal resources to support community-based grass roots efforts to prevent arson.

- **Arson Prevention Clearinghouse.** In June 1996, FEMA established a Clearinghouse for arson prevention resources. To date, the Clearinghouse has received over 10,000 telephone inquiries from all 50 states and the District of Columbia, and responded to requests for over 300,000 packets of arson prevention materials. Included in those materials is the Church Threat Assessment Guide prepared by the NCATF, which informs congregations about steps they can take to make their churches safer, as well as steps to take after an incident has occurred.

- **Grants to local jurisdictions.** The Department of Justice has awarded \$3 million in grants to counties in 13 states to intensify their enforcement and surveillance efforts around vulnerable houses of worship. The states were: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia. In addition, FEMA released \$774,000 in training grants to enhance state and local arson investigations and prevention capabilities. These grants have been used to deliver National Fire Academy courses by the state fire training organizations and also to support the training of state and regional arson task forces.
- **Community outreach efforts.** Forty-four VISTA and AmeriCorps volunteers have been assigned to 18 rural communities in which church arsons have occurred and to 73 other communities in Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee. In these communities, volunteers conducted community and church threat assessments, organized arson watch groups and town hall meetings on arson prevention, and engaged in community relations projects.
- **Community healing efforts.** CRS plays an integral part in the Administration's response in local towns and cities, working with over 100 local communities in reducing racial polarization, bridging law enforcement and minority communities, facilitating a biracial rebuilding effort, and training law enforcement on cultural diversity and race relations.
- **Training programs.** The NCATF is working closely with FEMA, the Bureau of Justice Assistance, the National Sheriffs' Association and southern governors to develop a series of interdisciplinary training conferences and workshops on arson prevention that will be conducted in thirteen targeted southern states in 1997. An additional four regional conferences outside the southern region are also planned.
- **Community-based coalitions.** FEMA has developed a pilot community action program for arson prevention in three communities: Nashville, Tennessee, Charlotte, North Carolina, and Macon, Georgia. A coalition of fire prevention personnel, law enforcement, community, school and business leaders will be recruited to develop local arson prevention programs. These can include workshops on juvenile firesetters, an arson risk assessment survey, an arson hot-line, improved building and fire code enforcement and neighborhood watch programs.

V. Rebuilding Efforts

As part of the 1996 Church Arson Prevention Act, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is responsible for administering a \$10 million Federal Loan Guarantee Fund to assist with the rebuilding of houses of worship and other non-profit organizations that have been damaged or destroyed by arson.

HUD has forged a strong coalition with the National Council of Churches, the Congress of National Black Churches and other organizations to assess the overall arson damage and to target resources to these houses of worship as quickly as possible. As a result of this cooperation, ten churches have been rebuilt and thirty more are under construction.

The National Rebuilding Initiative will be awarding "rebuilding resource packages" to 79 churches in 18 states in the form of grants from the National Council of Churches, federally guaranteed loans, and volunteer labor and in-kind materials. Of these 79 churches, 13 are eligible for a HUD loan, 20 have received or are eligible for a National Council of Churches grant, and 46 are eligible for a blended resource package of a grant and loan.

VI. Preliminary Conclusions

After a series of fires around the time of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday in 1996, federal authorities began to focus on the sharp increase in attacks on churches, particularly African American churches in the South. An evaluation of the pattern of church fires in the South prompted the conclusion that closer coordination between federal and local law enforcement was necessary.

The significance of the problem also prompted the Federal government to increase substantially the resources devoted to addressing it. This increased effort devoted to investigating and solving these crimes has borne fruit, in terms of arrests and convictions, coordination between federal and local law enforcement, and the investigation of racial motivations involved in these crimes.

The number and proportion of fires at African American churches have raised the possibility of racial hostility as a motive. Indeed, nine defendants have been convicted of federal civil rights charges in connection with six fires in Nevada, Tennessee and South Carolina. To date, the investigations have revealed a range of motives, from blatant racism and religious hatred to financial profit, to personal revenge or vandalism.

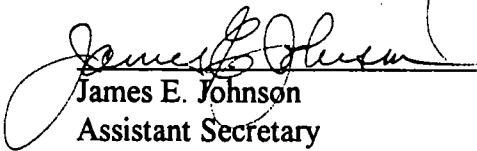
There is still much work to be done, however, before charges are filed in other cases. NCATF can then speak to the motivation behind other fires at churches and other houses of worship in the last two years. While it was the number of fires at African American churches that brought these crimes to national attention, the NCATF will continue to investigate and prosecute attacks on all houses of worship, regardless of their denomination or racial composition.

Burning a church, whether racially motivated or not, implicates federal anti-arson and civil rights laws and warrants swift and certain investigation and prosecution. The work of the NCATF continues to be vital to our efforts to prevent these heinous crimes, and to prosecute those responsible, whether they are motivated by racial hostility, religious bigotry, financial profit, revenge, or simply a desire to burn down a symbol of authority in the community. The commitment of resources and attention to this work by federal, state and local authorities has been essential to the success of the Task Force, and the Task Force remains dedicated to solving these crimes and bringing the perpetrators to justice.

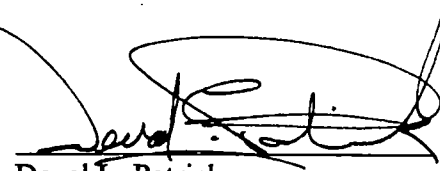
Acknowledgement

The co-chairs of the Task Force would like to thank all of the investigators, prosecutors and others who have worked tirelessly and so well in responding to the Nation's crisis and the President's call.

Respectfully submitted,



James E. Johnson
Assistant Secretary
Department of the Treasury



Deval L. Patrick
Assistant Attorney General
Department of Justice

January 17, 1997

APPENDIX 1

**CONVICTIONS FOR VIOLENCE AGAINST HOUSES OF WORSHIP
SINCE JANUARY 1995**



NATIONAL CHURCH ARSON TASK FORCE



CONVICTIONS FOR VIOLENCE AGAINST HOUSES OF WORSHIP SINCE JANUARY, 1995 (As of January 15, 1997)

ALABAMA

1. **Faith Whole Truth Holiness (Pennington) (Southern District)** - On October 31, 1995, this African-American church was burned. Donald Hurst, 20, and a juvenile male pled guilty to state charges. Hurst was given a three-year suspended sentence and the juvenile was sentenced to a juvenile boot camp. Hurst has since violated his probation and is incarcerated.
2. **New Liberty Baptist Church (Tyler) (Southern District)** - On February 28, 1996, this African-American church was burned. A juvenile male, who was also a volunteer firefighter, pled guilty and was sentenced under the state Youthful Offender Act and received probation at the request of the victims.

DELAWARE

3. **Saint Andrews Presbyterian (Newark)** - On March 25, 1996, this Caucasian church was burned. Four juveniles were convicted of state charges, and received probation and restitution.

INDIANA

4. **Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church (Fort Wayne)** - On August 3, 1996, this Caucasian church was burned. Christopher Leaman, 21, was convicted on state charges in relation to the arson at this church.

IOWA

5. **Saint Boniface (Westphalia)** - On July 7, 1996, this Caucasian church was burned. Two juveniles pled guilty to state charges. They were each sentenced to a year of probation.

KENTUCKY

6. **Church of Christ (Nicholasville) (Eastern District)** - On June 28, 1996, this Caucasian church was burned. Three juveniles were convicted in state court.

LOUISIANA

7. **Assembly of God (Westwego) (Eastern District)** - On April 15, 1995, this church was burned. A juvenile was convicted on state charges and sentenced to the Hope Youth Ranch until the age of 21.

MARYLAND

8. **Thawley's Chapel (Hillsboro)** - On September 2, 1996, this Caucasian church was burned. Michael Everett, 19, pled guilty to state charges. Sentencing is pending.

MICHIGAN

9. **Cass Community United Methodist Church (Detroit) (Eastern District)** - On August 25, 1996, this Caucasian church was burned. Mike Roland, 20, pled guilty to state charges. He was sentenced to two years under the Home Training Act.

MINNESOTA

10. **Brooklyn Park Evangelical Free Church (Brooklyn Park)** - On August 15, 1996, this Caucasian church was burned. A juvenile pled guilty to state charges. Sentencing is pending.

11. **Grace Lutheran (Westbrook)** - On June 20, 1996, this Caucasian church was burned. Two juveniles were charged. One juvenile was convicted on state charges and sentenced to a residential facility. Charges against the other juvenile remain pending.

MISSISSIPPI

12. **Lynch Chapel United Methodist (Clinton) (Southern District)** - On November 1, 1995, this African-American church was burned. Roosevelt Freeman Denson, 19, pled guilty to state charges. He was sentenced to three years in prison with remission.

MISSOURI

13. **Shilo Baptist Church (Kansas City) (Western District)**

14. **Ozark Primitive Baptist (Webster County) (Western District)** - On May 5, 1996, these two Caucasian churches were burned. Timothy Erwin Robb, 29, and his cousin, Johnny Lee Robb, Jr., 31, were each charged by the state with two counts of arson. Timothy Robb pled guilty to both counts and was sentenced to seven years in prison on each count to be served concurrently. Charges against Johnny Lee Robb remain pending.

NEVADA

15. **Church of Christ (Henderson)** - On September 19, 1996, this African-American church was burned. Richard Morrison, a 23-year-old Caucasian man, pled guilty in federal court to violating one count of 18 U.S.C. §247(c). Sentencing is pending.

NEW YORK

- 16. **Temple Beth El (Rockaway) (Eastern District)**
- 17. **Temple Derech Emuch (Rockaway) (Eastern District)**
- 18. **Yeshiva of Belle (Belle Harbor) (Eastern District)** - On January 13, 1995, April 30, 1995, and May 6, 1995, respectively, these synagogues were burned. Brian Bebeck, 41, pled guilty and was sentenced in state court to 18 to 55 years for six counts of arson, one count of burglary, and one of count criminal mischief in connection with arsons at these synagogues and at other buildings.

NORTH CAROLINA

- 19. **Mount Tabor Baptist Church (Cerro Gordo) (Eastern District)** - On May 23, 1996, this African-American Church was burned. Curtis Gilbert, 32, pled guilty to state conspiracy and fraud charges and was sentenced to 20 months. Rodney Devon Bullock, 22, has also been charged by the state in connection with the arson and is awaiting trial.
- 20. **Matthews-Murkland Presbyterian Church (Charlotte) (Western District)** - On June 6, 1996, this African-American church was burned. A juvenile was convicted in state court and received 12 months probation and 200 hours of community service.
- 21. **Pleasant Ridge United Church of Christ (Greensboro) (Middle District)** - On June 28, 1996, this Caucasian church was burned. Oliver Pilgrim Hinds, 19, was convicted in federal court after a bench trial and was sentenced to 30 months in prison, three years supervised release and ordered to pay restitution. Jason Thomas Morgan, 18, pled guilty in federal court to one count of 18 U.S.C. §844 (i). Morgan received 20 months in prison, three years supervised release and has also been ordered to pay restitution.
- 22. **Ohovah A.M.E. (Orrum)(Eastern District)** - On January 6, 1996, this church was burned. Larry Jackson, 29, pled guilty to a state arson charge. He was sentenced to 15 to 18 months imprisonment and 36 months' probation.

OHIO

- 23. **Ebenezer Full Gospel Missionary Baptist Church (Canton) (Northern District)** - On June 18, 1996, a chair was set on fire inside this African-American church. Timothy Scott Stevens, 44, and Michael Crowley, 22, pled guilty in state court. Stevens received a sentence of two years in prison. Crowley received six months of "shock" incarceration followed by probation if the shock sentence is successfully completed.

OREGON

- 24. **Immanuel Free Methodist Church (Portland)** - On June 20, 1996, this inter-racial church was burned. Antoine Jamar Dean, 21, pled guilty in federal court to one count of 18 U.S.C. §844(i). He received a five-year sentence.

SOUTH CAROLINA

25. **Life Christian Assembly (North Charleston)** - On June 17, 1996, this inter-racial church was burned. Two juveniles, ages 9 and 10, were convicted and sentenced in state court to house arrest and restitution.

26. **Mount Zion A.M.E. Church (Greeleyville)**

27. **Macedonia Baptist Church (Manning)** - On June 20 and 21, 1995, respectively, these two African-American churches were burned. The following four ex-members of the Ku Klux Klan pled guilty to federal charges relating to these arsons: Gary Cox, 23, Timothy Welch, 24, Arthur Haley, 51, and Hubert Rowell, 50. Sentencing is pending.

28. **Rice Chapel (Buffalo)** - On May 8, 1994, this African-American church was burned. In August, 1995, James Isaac Mitchell, a 22-year-old volunteer fire fighter, pled guilty to state charges and received a 10-year sentence.

29. **Hammond Grove Baptist Church (North Augusta)** - On March 8, 1995, this African-American church was vandalized. Two juveniles, ages 14 and 16, were convicted and sentenced to six-months' probation and restitution.

TENNESSEE

30. **Canaan A.M.E. Church (Maury County) (Middle District)**

31. **Friendship Missionary Baptist Church (Maury County) (Middle District)** - Mark Jett, 33, Michael Jett, 43, and Robert Johnson, 35, all Caucasian men, pled guilty in federal court to conspiring to firebomb and either burn or erect crosses at these two African-American churches in February, 1995. One defendant was sentenced to 57 months in prison while the two other defendants were sentenced to 46 months in prison.

32. **Church of the Nativity (Bartlett) (Western District)** - On June 29, 1996, this Roman Catholic church was burned. It had a predominantly Caucasian congregation. Father Frederick Sauer, 46, pled guilty in federal court to one count of 18 U.S.C. §844 (i). Sentencing is pending.

33. **Saint Mary's Episcopal School (Memphis) (Western District)**

34. **Holy Communion School (Memphis)(Western District)**

35. **Shady Grove Presbyterian (Memphis)(Western District)**

36. **Colonial Park United Methodist Church (Memphis)(Western District)**

37. **Emmanuel United Methodist (Memphis)(Western District)**

38. **Calvary Baptist Church (Memphis)(Western District)** - Henry Wayne Aden, 26, pled guilty in federal court to an information charging him with multiple counts of violating of 18 U.S.C. §844 (i) in connection with the fires at these churches which occurred on October 16, 1995, November 30, 1995, December 1, 1995, December 5, 1995, and April 20, 1996, respectively.

39. **Church of God of Prophecy (Dyersburg) (Western District)** - On July 22, 1996, this Caucasian church was burned. Brian Lamont Johnson, a 20-year-old African-American man, pled guilty in federal court to violating one count of 18 U.S.C. §247(c). Sentencing is pending.

40. **Mount Ararat Missionary Baptist Church (Trezevant)** - On June 14, 1996, this African-American church was vandalized. Daniel Newbill, 18, pled guilty to state charges and was sentenced to 30 days imprisonment and supervised release for one year.

41. **Parker's Chapel (Memphis) (Western District)** - On August 5, 1996, this African-American church was damaged. Charles Powell, 19, pled guilty to one count of a federal firearms violation, 18 U.S.C. §922(j) and was sentenced to two years' probation and the payment of \$800.66 in restitution. A juvenile was convicted of one count of 18 U.S.C. §922(x)2 and has been sentenced to 1 year probation.

TEXAS

42. **Victory Baptist Church (Denison) (Eastern District)** - On June 5, 1995, this African-American church was burned. Joseph Wayne Martin, 26, pled guilty to eight state arson charges for several incidents, including this church, and was sentenced to ten years' probation on each charge, to run concurrently.

43. **Audubon Park Baptist Church/ New Revelation Mission (Garland)(Northern District)** - On July 11, 1996, this inter-racial church was burned. Eric Henry Crowson, 33, pled guilty in federal court to one count of 18 U.S.C. §844(i) and was sentenced to five years in prison and ordered to pay \$332,000 in restitution.

VIRGINIA

44. **Green Run Baptist Church (Virginia Beach) (Eastern District)** - On June 18, 1996, this inter-racial church was burned. Two juveniles were found guilty in state court of two counts of arson and one count of conspiracy. One juvenile was sentenced to five and one half months in the Tidewater Detention Center, Chesapeake, Virginia, and placed on probation for two years, while the other was sentenced to ten days of detention at the same facility. Both were ordered to pay restitution totaling \$5,000.

45. **First Baptist Church of Centralia (Chesterfield) (Eastern District)** - On April 16, 1996, this African-American church was burned. Three juveniles were arrested. One has pled guilty in state court and state charges are pending against the other two.

UTAH

46. **Templo Casa De Oracion (Salt Lake)** - On March 28, 1996, this Caucasian church was burned. Patsy Tovar, 32, pled guilty to state charges. She was sentenced to 3 years' probation and ordered to pay \$38,000 in restitution.

WASHINGTON

47. Naval Air Station Chapel (Whidbey Island-Oak Harbor) (Western District) - On January 21, 1996, this mixed race church was burned. Kenneth Jerome Burton was convicted in the Whidbey Island Naval Air Station Court. He was sentenced to four years imprisonment and ordered to pay a \$7,000 fine.

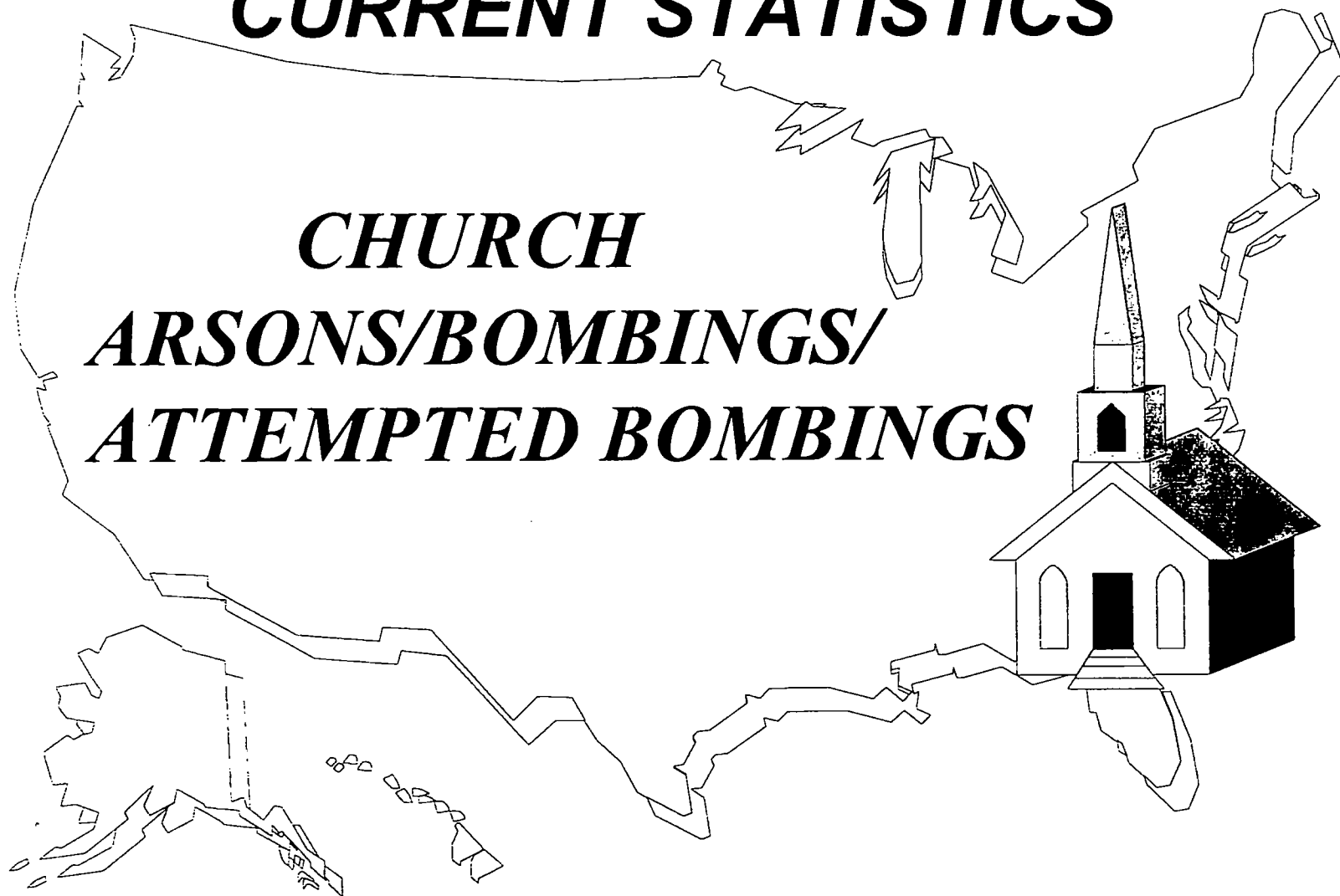
APPENDIX 2

NATIONAL CHURCH ARSON TASK FORCE CHARTS AND STATISTICS (As of January 7, 1997)

1. African American Church Fire Investigations in the South
2. Breakdown of House of Worship Arson/Bombing Investigations
3. Church Arson/Bombing Incidents by Month for 1996
4. Church Arson/Bombing Arrests by Month for 1995 and 1996
5. Composition of Arrested Subjects

***NATIONAL CHURCH ARSON TASK FORCE
CURRENT STATISTICS***

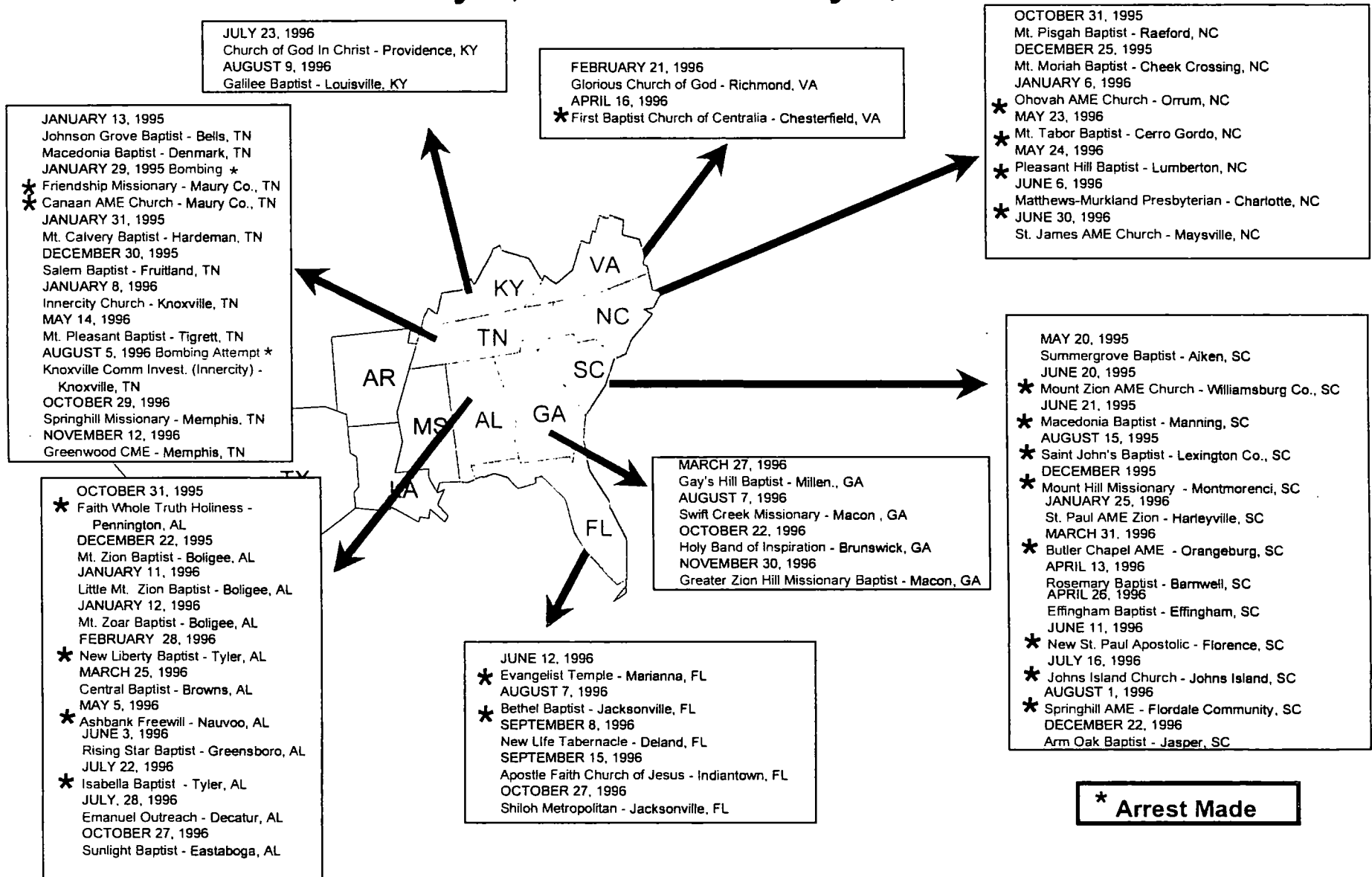
***CHURCH
ARSONS/BOMBINGS/
ATTEMPTED BOMBINGS***



NATIONAL CHURCH ARSON TASK FORCE

AFRICAN AMERICAN CHURCH FIRE INVESTIGATIONS IN THE SOUTH

January 1, 1995 to January 7, 1997

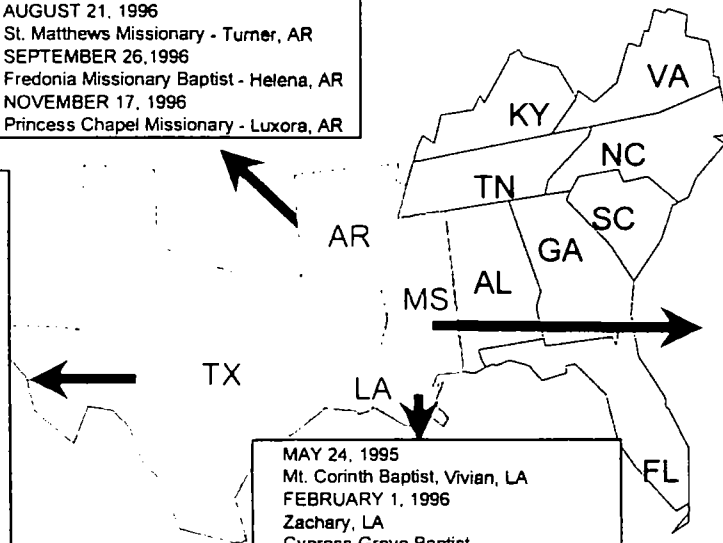


NATIONAL CHURCH ARSON TASK FORCE

AFRICAN AMERICAN CHURCH FIRE INVESTIGATIONS IN THE SOUTH

January 1, 1995 to January 7, 1997

JULY 20, 1996
Clayborn Chapel AME - Arkadelphia, AR
JULY 27, 1996
New Calvary Church - Camden, AR
AUGUST 20, 1996
Mt. Zion Missionary - Marvell, AR
AUGUST 21, 1996
St. Matthews Missionary - Turner, AR
SEPTEMBER 26, 1996
Fredonia Missionary Baptist - Helena, AR
NOVEMBER 17, 1996
Princess Chapel Missionary - Luxora, AR



JANUARY 29, 1995
Miles Chapel Christian Methodist - Houston, TX
FEBRUARY 16, 1995
Love Fellowship Church of God - Houston, TX
JUNE 5, 1995
* Victory Baptist - Denison, TX
NOVEMBER 14, 1995
Greater Gospel Temple - Dallas, TX
FEBRUARY 12, 1996
Real Rock Church - Houston, TX
FEBRUARY 16, 1996
* Real Rock Church - Houston, TX
APRIL 12, 1996 Bombing *
Southwest Community Baptist - Houston, TX
MAY 14, 1996
* Long Ridge CME - Waskom, TX
JUNE 9, 1996
* New Lighthouse of Prayer - Greenville, TX
JUNE 10, 1996
* Church of the Living God - Greenville, TX
JUNE 18, 1996
On Track Baptist - Houston, TX
SEPTEMBER 10, 1996
Church of Living God - Dallas, TX
SEPTEMBER 26, 1996
Soul Inspiration - Dallas, TX
OCTOBER 17, 1996
Garza Street Ch. of Christ - Dallas, TX
OCTOBER 21, 1996
God's Gospel Temple - Dallas, TX
OCTOBER 23, 1996
Sardis Primitive Baptist - Mexia, TX
NOVEMBER 20, 1996
Full Gospel Powerhouse - Wichita Falls, TX
DECEMBER 7, 1996
Hopewell UMC - Centerville, TX

MAY 24, 1995
Mt. Corinth Baptist, Vivian, LA
FEBRUARY 1, 1996
Zachary, LA
Cypress Grove Baptist
Baker, LA
Sweet Home Baptist
Thomas Chapel Benevolent Society
St. Paul's Free Baptist
APRIL 8, 1996
Oak Ridge Baptist - Calvin, LA
APRIL 11, 1996
St. Charles Baptist - Paincourtville, LA
JUNE 24, 1996
New Birth Temple - Shreveport, LA
JUNE 28, 1996
Greater Ebenezer - New Orleans, LA
AUGUST 2, 1996
St. Abraham Baptist - Shreveport, LA
SEPTEMBER 29, 1996
St. Johns Baptist - Haughton, LA
DECEMBER 1, 1996
Samuel Temple - New Orleans, LA
DECEMBER 10, 1996
New Birth Miss. Bap. - Lk. Charles, LA

NOVEMBER 1, 1995
* Lynch Chapel United Methodist - Clinton, MS
MARCH 5, 1996
St. Paul CME - Hatley, MS
MARCH 20, 1996
New Mt. Zion Baptist - Ruleville, MS
* MARCH 30, 1996
El Bethel Church - Sartoria, MS
JUNE 17, 1996
Kossuth, MS
Mt. Pleasant Church
Central Grove Mission
JUNE 30, 1996
House of Prayer - Greenville, MS
AUGUST 4, 1996
Beacon Baptist - Yazoo City, MS
SEPTEMBER 6, 1996
First James Creek Missionary - Noxubee Co., MS
* SEPTEMBER 9, 1996
First Missionary Baptist - Gulfport, MS
OCTOBER 9, 1996
House of Prayer, Church of God - Greenville, MS
OCTOBER 29, 1996
Mt. Olive Church of God - Tiptonsville, MS
* DECEMBER 11, 1996
Mallalieu Methodist Church - Meridian, MS

* Arrest Made

National Church Arson Task Force

Breakdown of House of Worship Arson/Bombing Investigations

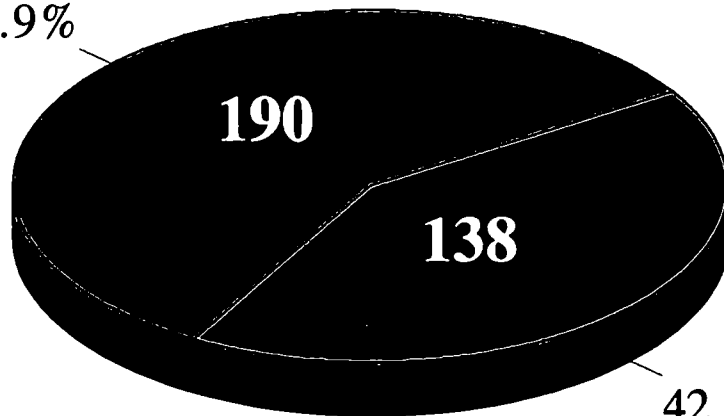
January 1, 1995 - January 7, 1997

Houses of Worship

Nationwide

Other Houses
of Worship

57.9%



African American
Houses of Worship

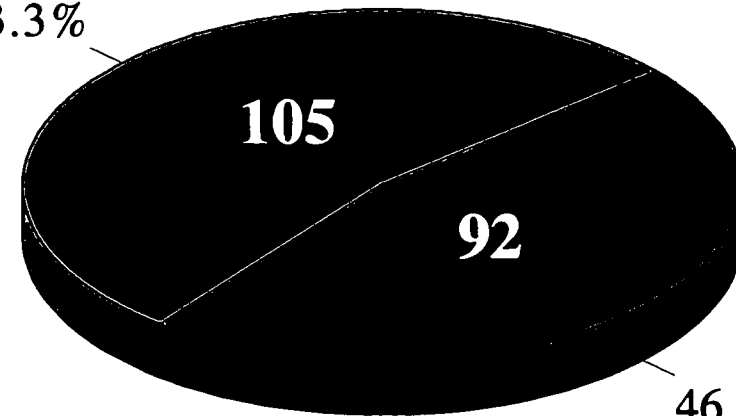
42.1%

Houses of Worship

Located in the South

African American
Houses of Worship

53.3%



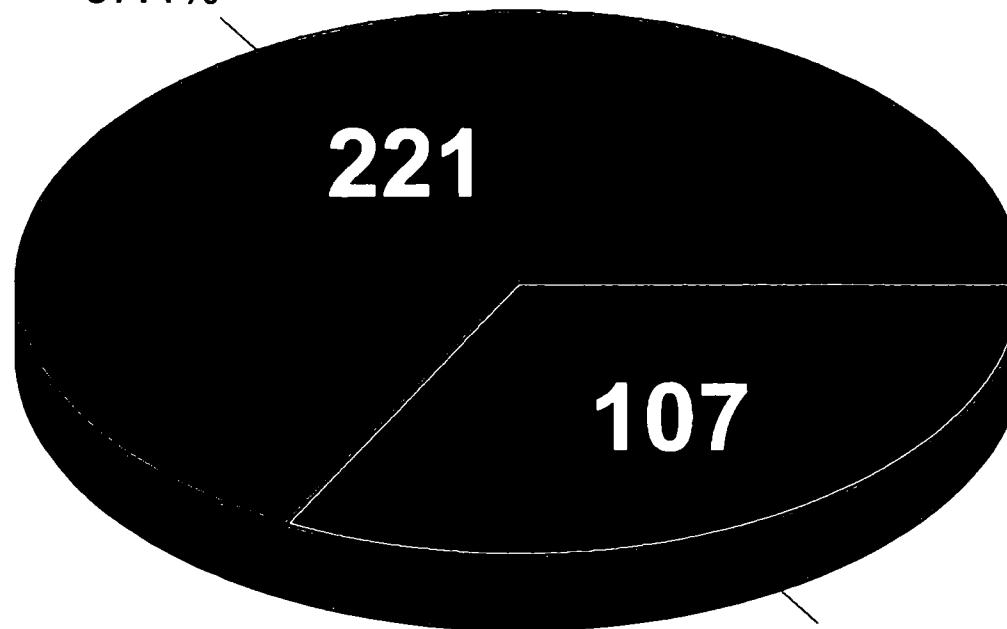
Other Houses
of Worship

46.7%

Total House of Worship Arsons/Bombings - 328

**NATIONAL CHURCH ARSON TASK FORCE
BREAKDOWN OF
ARSON/BOMBING/ATTEMPTED BOMBING
INVESTIGATIONS
*JANUARY 1, 1995 - JANUARY 7, 1997***

**PENDING
INVESTIGATIONS
67.4%**



**32.6%
INVESTIGATIONS WHERE
ARRESTS HAVE BEEN MADE**

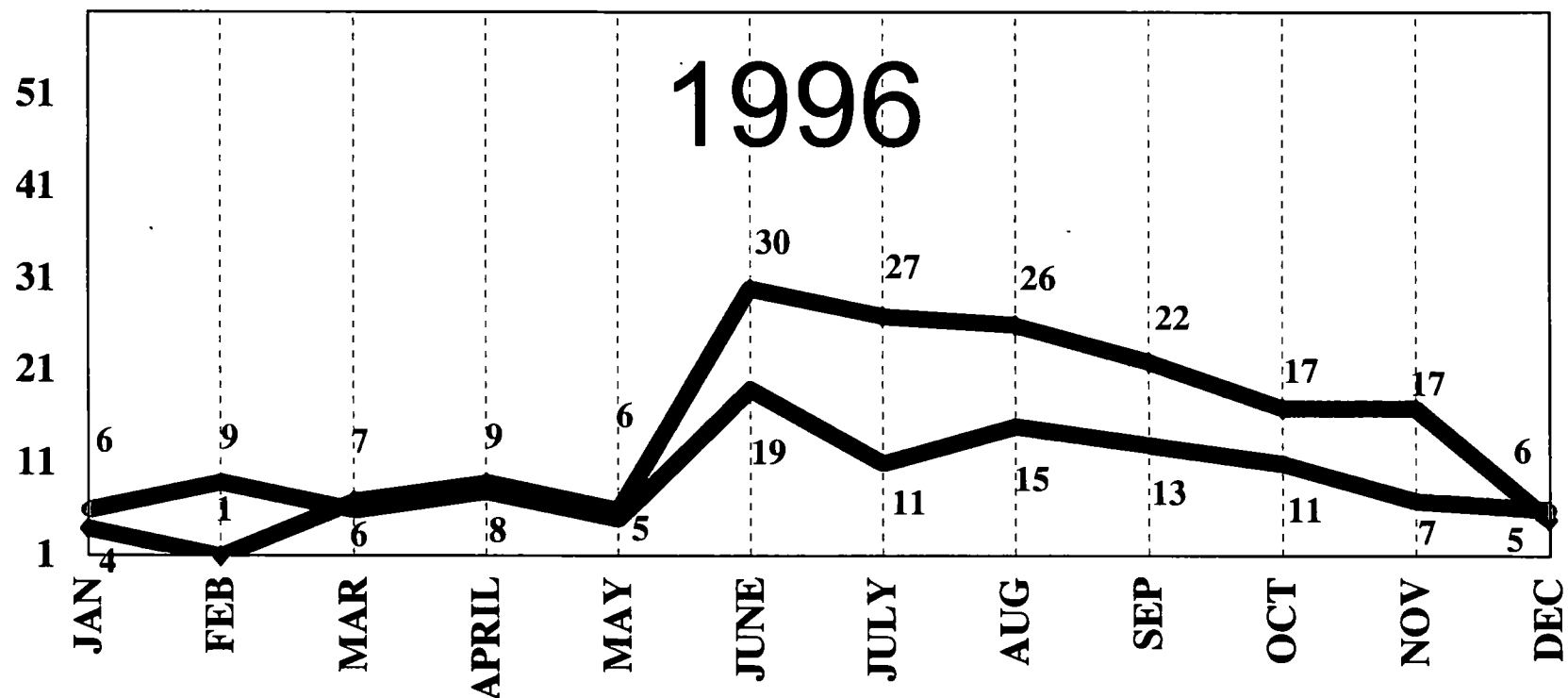
TOTAL INVESTIGATIONS = 328

NATIONAL CHURCH ARSON TASK FORCE
CHURCH ARSON/BOMBING/ATTEMPTED BOMBING INVESTIGATIONS

116 - AFRICAN AMERICAN HOUSES OF WORSHIP

171 - OTHER HOUSES OF WORSHIP

TOTAL INCIDENTS NATIONWIDE - 287

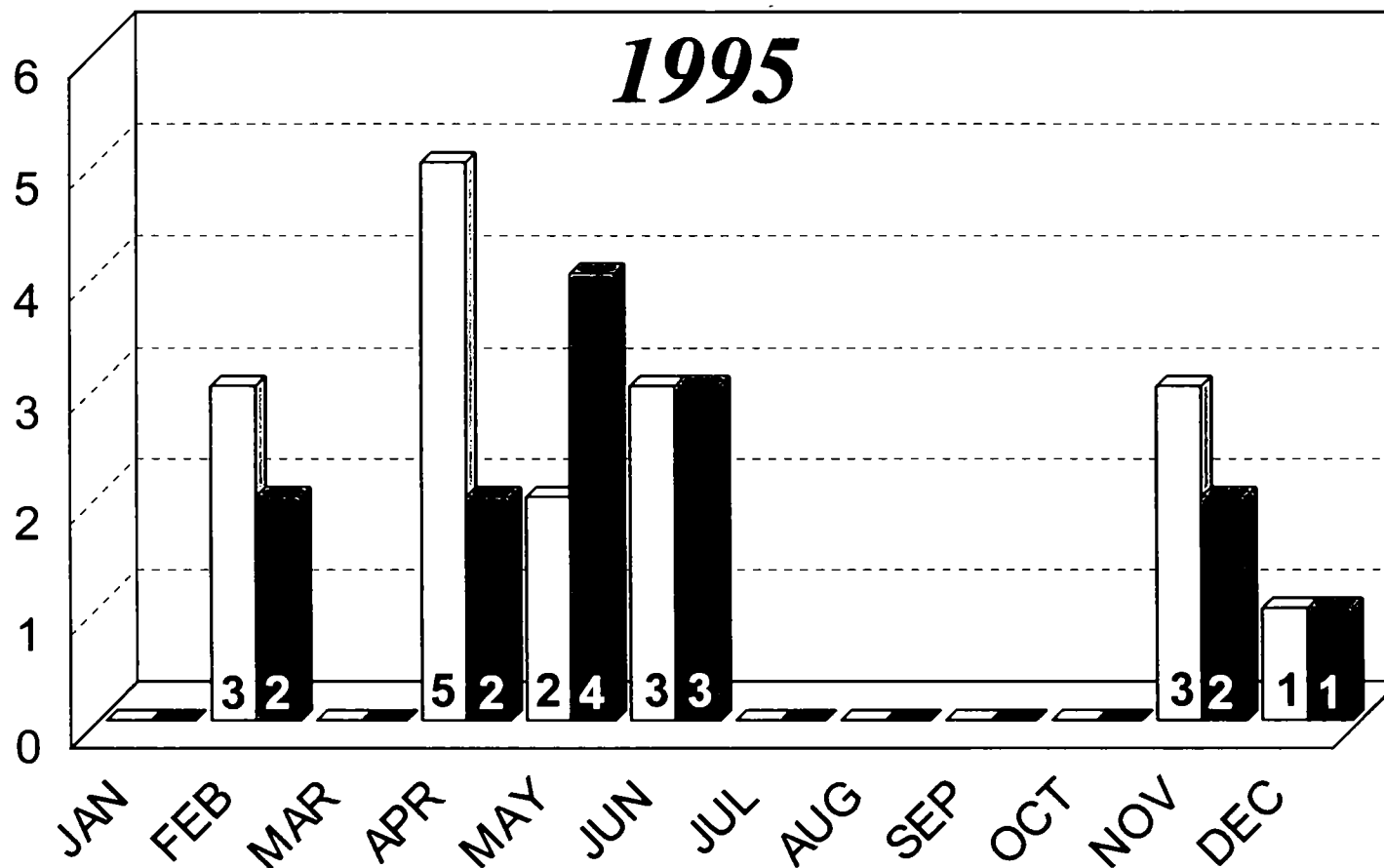


■ AFRICAN AMERICAN HOUSES OF WORSHIP
■ HOUSES OF WORSHIP OTHER THAN AFRICAN AMERICAN

JANUARY 1, 1996 - JANUARY 7, 1997

NATIONAL CHURCH ARSON TASK FORCE

CHURCH ARSON/BOMBING/ATTEMPTED BOMBING INVESTIGATIONS RESULTING IN ARRESTS NATIONWIDE

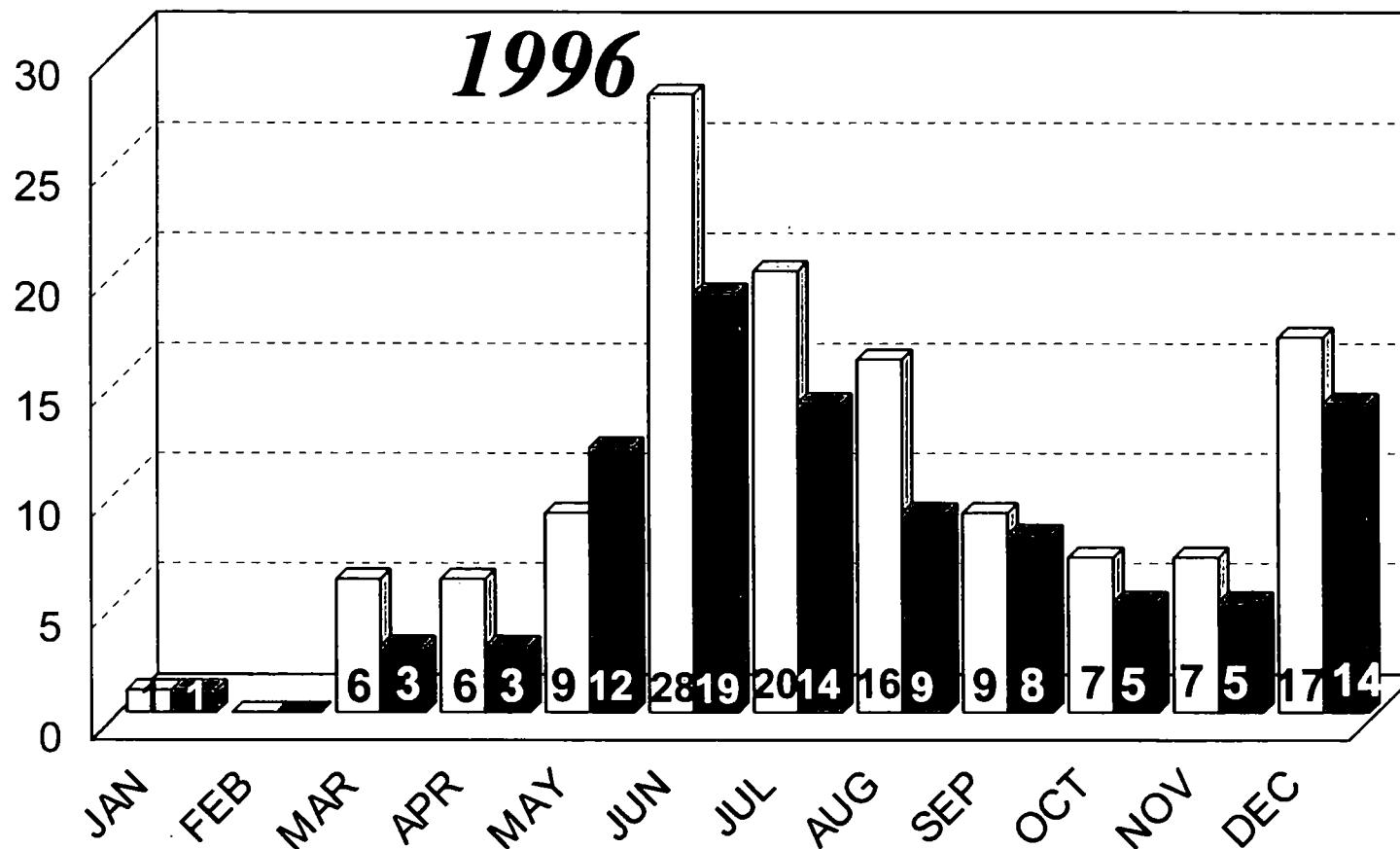


☐ INDIVIDUALS ARRESTED - 17
☒ INCIDENTS SOLVED BY THESE ARRESTS - 14

INFORMATION DISPLAYED
BY DATE OF SUBJECT'S ARREST

NATIONAL CHURCH ARSON TASK FORCE

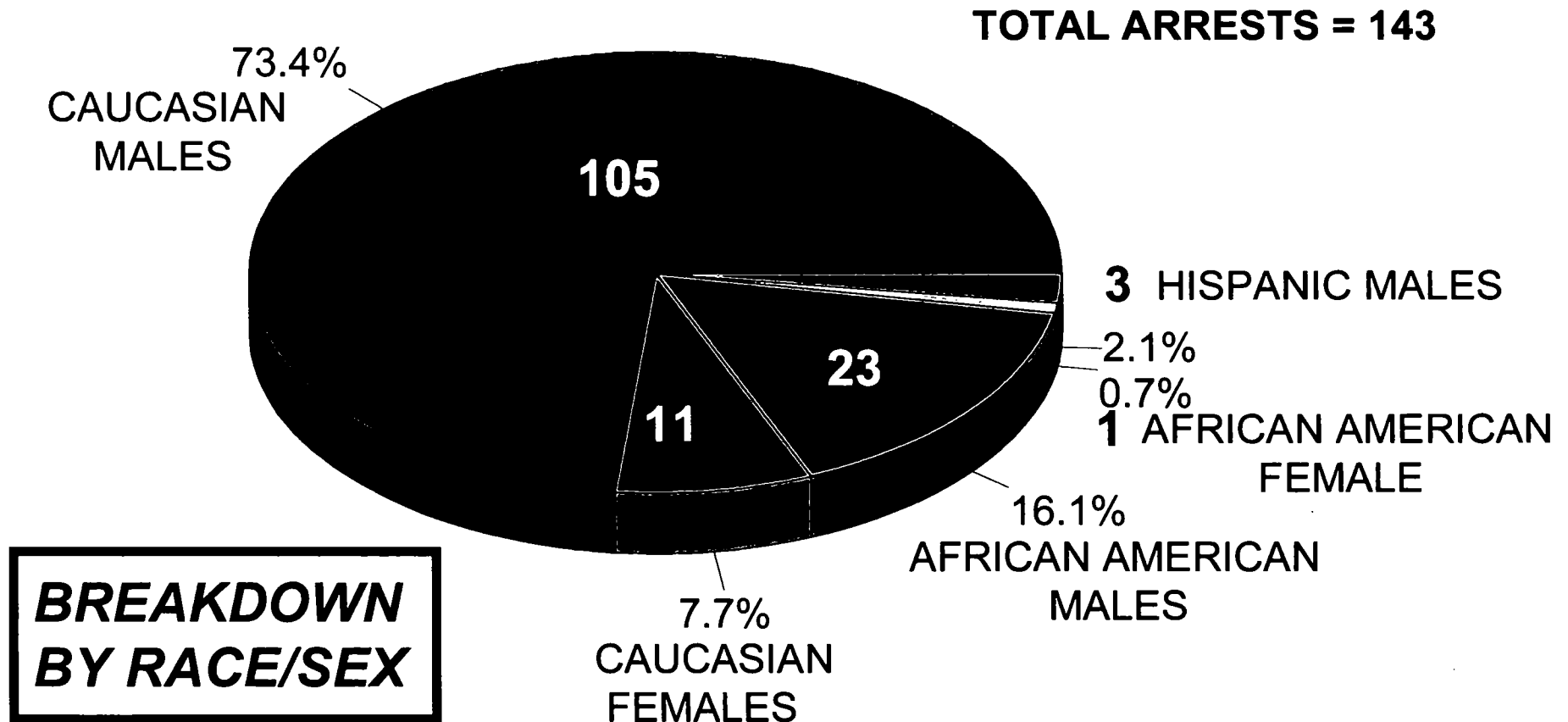
CHURCH ARSON/BOMBING/ATTEMPTED BOMBING INVESTIGATIONS RESULTING IN ARRESTS NATIONWIDE



INDIVIDUALS ARRESTED - 126
 INCIDENTS SOLVED BY THESE ARRESTS - 93

INFORMATION DISPLAYED
 BY DATE OF SUBJECT'S ARREST
 CHART REFLECTS ACTIVITY
 THROUGH JANUARY 7, 1997

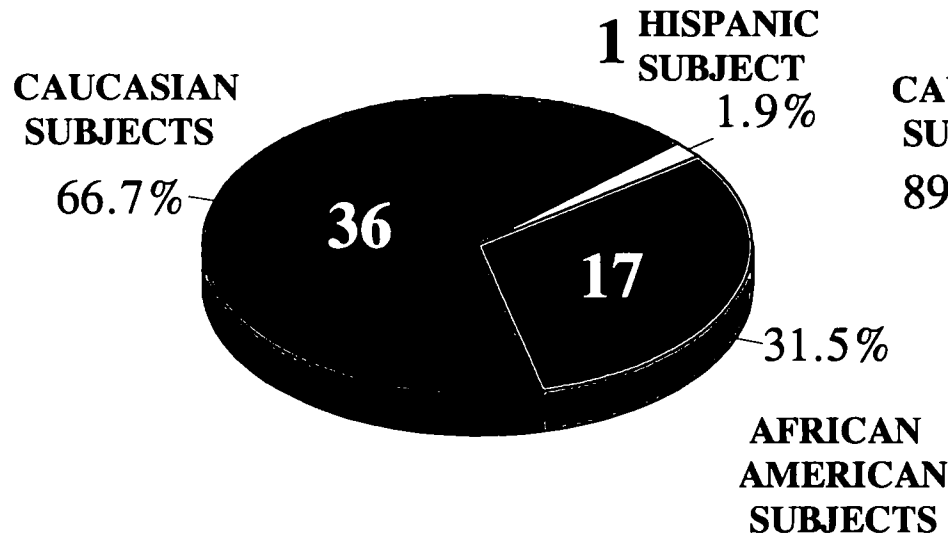
**NATIONAL CHURCH ARSON TASK FORCE
SUBJECTS ARRESTED FOR CHURCH
ARSONS/BOMBINGS/ATTEMPTED BOMBINGS
IN THE UNITED STATES
JANUARY 1, 1995 - JANUARY 7, 1997**



NATIONAL CHURCH ARSON TASK FORCE
RACIAL MAKEUP OF ARRESTED SUBJECTS
HOUSE OF WORSHIP ARSONS/BOMBINGS NATIONWIDE
JANUARY 1, 1995 - JANUARY 7, 1997

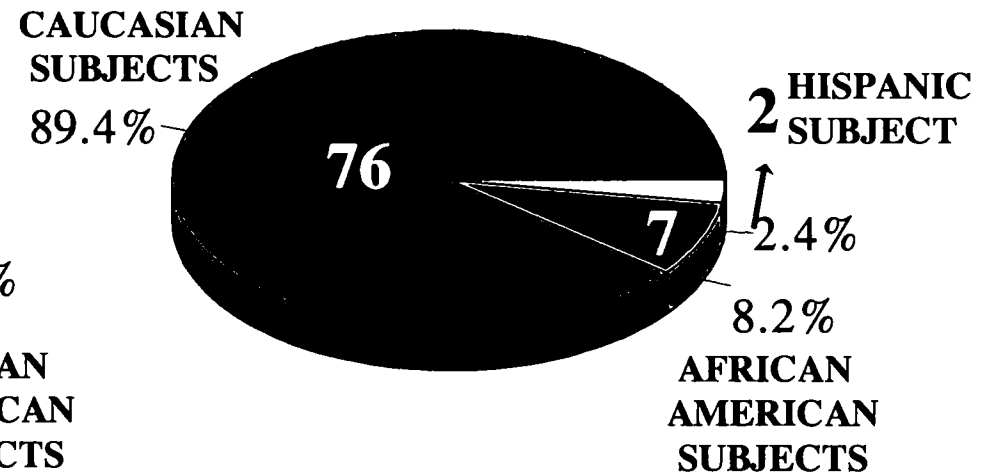
AFRICAN AMERICAN
HOUSES OF WORSHIP

ARSONS - 34
BOMBINGS - 3



NON-AFRICAN AMERICAN
HOUSES OF WORSHIP

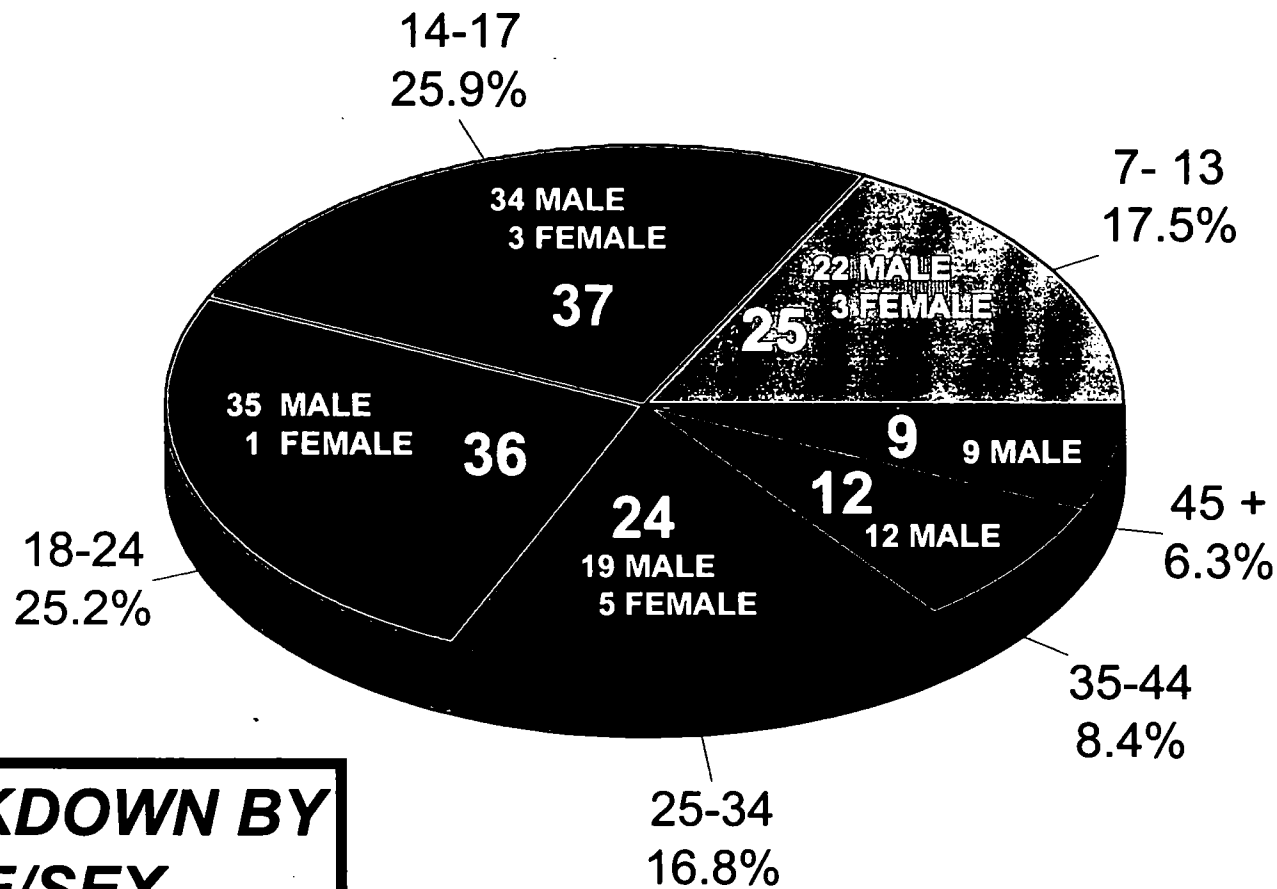
ARSONS - 67
BOMBINGS - 3



FOUR (4) ADDITIONAL CAUCASIAN SUBJECTS ARRESTED FOR ARSON/BOMBING OF AN AFRICAN AMERICAN HOUSE OF WORSHIP AND A NON AFRICAN AMERICAN HOUSE OF WORSHIP.

143 SUBJECTS TOTAL

**NATIONAL CHURCH ARSON TASK FORCE
SUBJECTS ARRESTED FOR CHURCH
ARSONS/BOMBINGS/ATTEMPTED BOMBINGS
IN THE UNITED STATES
JANUARY 1, 1995 - JANUARY 7, 1997**



**BREAKDOWN BY
AGE/SEX**

TOTAL ARRESTS = 143