



# Drugs and Crime

## Gang Profile

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U. S. D E P A R T M E N T O F J U S T I C E

# United Blood Nation

*United Blood Nation is one of the largest associations of street gangs in the United States. The association consists of extremely violent and aggressive street gangs, referred to as sets, that have adopted a common gang philosophy. Although there is some cultural affinity between United Blood Nation and the Los Angeles-based Bloods, United Blood Nation sets tend to be more organized, and the sets share a comprehensive philosophy, expressed in an oath, a prayer, a song, a motto, a concept of war, and 31 common rules. Law enforcement officials estimate United Blood Nation membership to be more than 7,000, with approximately 5,000 members in the New York City metropolitan area. United Blood Nation sets are most active on the East Coast, particularly in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic regions. Members use violence to protect and expand their drug distribution operations, often torturing, mutilating, and murdering rivals. Increased law enforcement pressure has forced members in many areas to conceal their gang affiliation.*

## **Background**

United Blood Nation (UBN), also known as East Coast Bloods or simply Bloods, was founded in the New York City Department of Correction in 1993 at the George Motchan Detention Center on Rikers Island. Omar "Original Gangster (OG) Mack" Portee and Leonard "Dead Eye" McKenzie formed the gang to protect African American inmates who were not affiliated with gangs from violent attacks by members of the Neta and Latin Kings gangs. Portee and McKenzie adopted a gang philosophy that espoused the antioppression

ideology of the Black Panther Party and promoted a "gangster" lifestyle.

Within a year of UBN's formation, membership had increased significantly, and the organization began to form multiple sets. The Nine Trey Gangsters, formed by Leonard McKenzie, was the first set, followed by the One Eight Trey formed by Omar Portee. An additional six sets were soon formed. They are Mad Stone Villains, Valentine Bloods, Gangster Killer Bloods, Hit Squad Brims, Blood Stone Villains, and Sex Money Murder. UBN sets rapidly spread into the community as gang members

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were released from New York City correctional facilities. They quickly began recruiting new members and taking over lucrative crack cocaine markets.

By 1997 a number of UBN sets had expanded into Upstate New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania to take advantage of increased drug distribution profits. As sets moved into these communities, law enforcement authorities and rivals were confronted with unprecedented levels of violence and intimidation. By 2000 a few UBN sets had expanded into the Southeast as members from New York City sets relocated to the region or as members who had joined in prison returned home. Local gangs that were otherwise unaffiliated with UBN sets from New York City but that emulated UBN culture have also proliferated. In other instances, UBN members expanded their geographic influence by acting as a source of supply for other gangs and transporting drugs from New York City to drug distributors in other areas.

The establishment of UBN sets in correctional facilities in various East Coast states has changed how African American inmates tend to group in prison. Before UBN was established, relatively few African American inmates in the Northeast belonged to well-known gangs, and most tended to group based on where they resided prior to their incarceration. Now, many African American inmates in East Coast prisons join UBN sets or rival gangs.

Today the predominant sets in New York City include the original eight sets as well as Five Nine Brims, Mad Dog Bloods, and Mad Stone Bloods. Additional sets, most of which are smaller, have formed in communities and correctional facilities throughout the East Coast through migration and emulation. UBN sets have become well established in many drug markets and are among the most violent gangs in the nation. UBN sets continue to expand into large and small communities along the East Coast as they seek new drug markets. The presence of UBN members has been reported in at least 10 states.

## **Alliances**

UBN members generally respect the gang alliances recognized by most street gangs in the United States. UBN sets typically ally with other Bloods gangs and with the People Nation alliance. The People Nation and Folk Nation alliances formed in the 1980s in the Illinois Department of Corrections during the time when street gangs became more influential in the prison system. Nearly all Chicago-based gangs aligned with either People Nation or Folk Nation for protection within Illinois prisons. These alliances carried over into the community, particularly in the Midwest, as Chicago-based gangs migrated to new drug markets. Although this alignment has limited influence in New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania, it is becoming more significant in the Southeast. For instance, in North Carolina many gangs are aligned with either People Nation (which includes Bloods) or Folk Nation (which includes Crips), and these groups consider each other rivals.

UBN sets also have allied with Five Percenters, Zulu Nation, Mara Salvatrucha (MS 13), and Black Guerrilla Family, as well as local gangs, for mutual financial benefit or protection. In some instances, UBN sets associate with traditional rival gangs such as Crips and Latin Kings when such associations benefit the criminal enterprises of both gangs.

## **Adversaries**

UBN's primary adversaries are Crips, Ñeta, Latin Kings, Dominican Power, Blood Catchers, and Death Before Dishonor. In addition, because UBN is part of the People Nation alliance, it is an adversary of gangs aligned with Folk Nation.

## **Organizational Structure**

UBN is an association of independent, structured sets operating in prison and on the street that share a collection of common gang characteristics. UBN does not have a central governing authority; however, UBN members generally revere Omar Portee as the founder of

UBN, and he holds the honorary title of First Superior or Godfather of UBN.

UBN sets in the community and in prison have similar structures. Sets usually have a single leader who may be called the first superior, five star general, five star superior general, or by the code word 101. The leader often is assisted by a second-in-command who may be called the second superior, four star general, four star superior general or by the code word 102. Leaders are not elected but assert themselves through their reputation for developing criminal enterprises, their ability to effectively manage a set's criminal activities, their reputation for violence, and their personal charisma, among other factors. Assisting the leaders in some sets is a group of members referred to as the Committee. Members of the Committee hold midlevel leadership positions, such as Minister of Defense, Minister of Food (in a prison), and Minister of Information. They oversee important functions for the benefit of the set within the correctional facility and, to a lesser extent, on the street. Larger sets may have additional leadership positions such as commanding officer, captain, and lieutenant. Rank-and-file members commonly are referred to as soldiers or principals. Most sets refer to senior or founding members who have earned the respect of the membership as original gangsters or OGs. OGs are usually very influential and may or may not hold an official leadership position. They often coordinate a set's criminal enterprises.

### Membership

As of 2001 law enforcement authorities estimated that UBN membership exceeded 7,000. Most members are African American males—usually with criminal records—although many sets have recruited members from other races and ethnic backgrounds. For example, the Bloods leader at the Rikers Island correctional facilities in 2001 was Latino. Members range from 9 to 40 years old. The most criminally active members are 14 to 25 years old. The average age of new members is 22, and the average age of the older, most respected members (OGs) is 33.

The status of female members varies among UBN sets; most women act as auxiliary or associate members. UBN female members and associates take an active role in criminal activities by holding drugs and firearms for other members, infiltrating rival gangs to obtain information, and providing alibis for members. Some female members and associates act as prostitutes to earn money for their set, and some smuggle drugs and other contraband into correctional facilities.

As with other large East Coast street gangs, UBN has a set of customs and practices. UBN's philosophy is expressed in an oath, a prayer, a song, a motto, and a concept of war, all of which must be memorized by members.

City of Warner Robins (GA) Department of Police

never oppress or kill your own blood  
we don't set trip we leave unit  
to the bloods Superior love outside  
oppression destruction  
Blood rush on the, live by the gun,  
make money to feed your family, bloods  
and your self, when bloods shove you  
mean shove two and's you heard that?  
show your blood you could shove longer  
so he/she may retain a year prison  
always use intelligence over emotions  
be one major, move major, many titers  
and smart thinkers.  
big dog (my failure to live by this...  
Death will be welcome, who dat, we  
are the old men so you can be  
peace Almighty peace love  
031 always have the sense of life  
never lose the sense of death  
oath of

That's like quick cash  
Blood are no part of me when it's  
being down when your by yourself.  
Crying, laughing and not telling, lying  
and not caring, lying and not lying,  
love for yourself, hate for your enemies  
Peace Blood  
The official oath for the triple O"  
Blood plants  
Blood is for the 100% gangsters and  
O.G.s who will die for each other. Kill  
those who go against us' quips, mechas,  
Latin kings, folks and death to those  
who go against blood. No black on  
black crime's unless that person violates  
you, your set or father's. Those who are  
Deeds of the blood we shed and our strength  
Black is for our nation  
Brown is for the money we make and the  
land we gain  
Brown is 3 da way we're preparing for

Ch.B.  
Blood Prayer  
When I die bury me 5 feet deep  
not 6 feet, with depth forks across  
my chest with a rope of a heart on my  
head with a double barrel gun guns  
down my legs with 3 barrels on my  
right arm or leg standing for the  
U.S.N.  
United Blood Nations.  
R.I.P. O.G. 192  
R.I.P. O.G. Supreme "Peace  
Blood"

Concept of war  
Bloods are supposed to be 100% gangs.  
A blood is to eat anyone who goes against  
blood so honestly true they would not  
want to retaliate. A blood is not to  
have beef with, but, race or race any  
neutral at all!!!  
Blood motto: Blood out you nearest  
Pledge  
I pledge allegiance to our flag  
United Blood Nations in the name of  
the real O.G. for what we stand. I  
Blood under one blood set, must carry  
our a banner at all times and 4 ever  
blood  
Deeds, Almighty  
Blood, Supreme  
Terrorists  
And rest in peace to O.G. 192 and O.G.  
who died defending in this U.S.A.  
031 to End of time!!

United Blood Nation oath, prayer, concept of war, motto, and pledge.

UBN sets aggressively recruit new members in the community and within correctional facilities. Adolescents often are recruited at schools, shopping malls, public parks, arcades, amusement parks, and other locations where young people congregate. Many youths are lured into joining by the belief that they will gain respect, status, money, and protection. UBN sets also appeal to youth by offering power and identity through a code of conduct based on loyalty and respect for the set. For many youth, UBN sets, like other street gangs, fulfill basic social needs. Older individuals are enticed to join UBN by the prospect of significant profits through criminal enterprises.

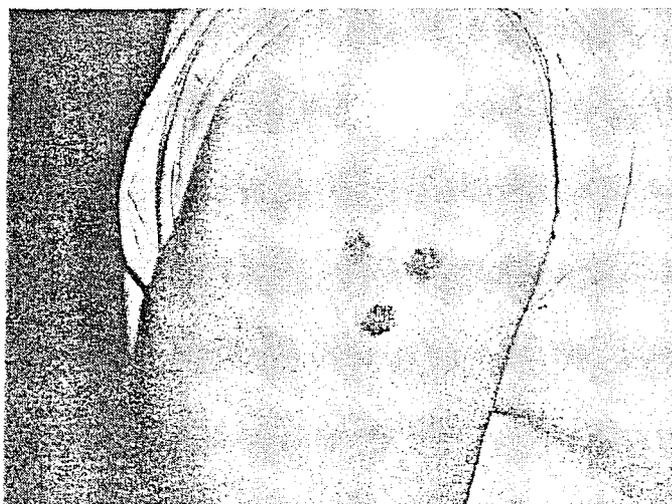
UBN sets have become the most dominant African American gangs in many correctional facilities on the East Coast. UBN members in prison commonly form one set at a given facility and either adopt the name of the most influential set or simply refer to themselves as Bloods. UBN sets in prisons form strong organizations capable of protecting members and operating prison criminal enterprises. African Americans who are not members of a UBN set are induced to join for their own protection and as an opportunity to make money. UBN members belonging to a set in the community will more than likely join a set in prison while maintaining membership in their community-based set. Individuals with specialized skills and abilities valuable to the set are aggressively recruited or are coerced into joining with threats of bodily harm or threats against their family members or friends. Members released from prison to communities that lack a UBN presence often establish a local set and conduct drug distribution operations through ties with other UBN members.

All prospective members must complete an initiation process before being accepted as a member. However, an individual born to UBN parents is considered a member at birth—this is called born in—and is not required to undergo the initiation process. In most sets, prospective members must receive the approval of the set leaders or at least the approval of several OGs to

be considered for membership. The common initiation process for most sets includes all of the following:

- Committing acts of violence, especially slashings (referred to as spilling blood), particularly against rival gang members, witnesses against the gang, other inmates, or law enforcement officers
- Committing criminal acts (referred to as putting in work)
- Being beaten by set members for 31 seconds, in a ceremony called a jump in
- Taking a pledge

Prospective female auxiliary/associate members undergo a similar initiation process. However, some sets require females to have intercourse with some or all of the set's male members, a ceremony known as being sexed in. The initiation process culminates in a ceremony attended by all set members. At the completion of the ceremony, the prospective member recites the UBN oath or pledge and receives a dog-paw mark.

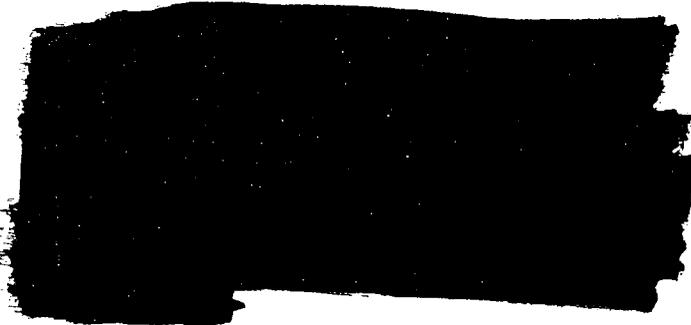


*Dog-paw mark, often burned with a cigarette.*

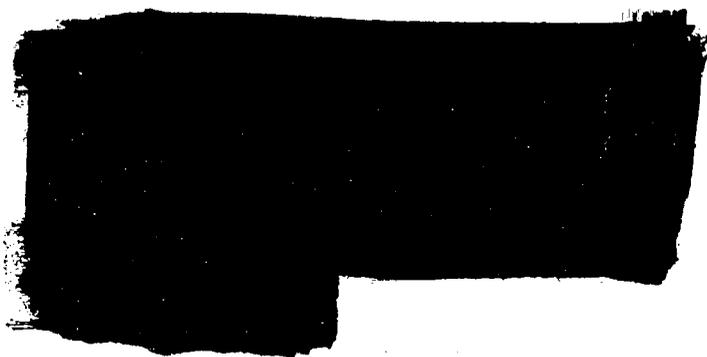
UBN members can often be identified by the symbols they display, the clothing they wear, and the hand signs they use. Members often display a five-pointed star as a symbol of their affiliation with the People Nation alliance. Other symbols include a bulldog, a bull, a dog paw (represented

by three dots), and letters such as B (Blood) or CK (Crip Killer). UBN members also distinguish themselves by wearing red clothing—Bloods gangs generally accept red as their color—although some also wear black, green, or brown clothing. UBN members often wear the apparel of professional sports teams such as the Chicago Bulls or the Boston Red Sox. They also wear items of clothing in a manner that demonstrates their affiliation with the People Nation alliance; this practice is called representing. For example, the brims of baseball caps are tilted to the left side of the head, belt tips are worn to the wearer's left side, and a red shoelace is used only in the left shoe.

UBN members use hand signs to identify their set affiliation and association with UBN, to issue warnings, and to challenge rival gang members. Hand signs are a unique combination of hand and finger gestures portraying letters of the alphabet or representing specific set-related phrases. Hand signs range from a simple "toss," displaying one hand sign, to a sequence of tosses. For example, UBN members commonly greet each other by saluting with their right hand forming a circle with their thumb and index finger and spreading the remaining fingers to form 0-3 or a lowercase b.

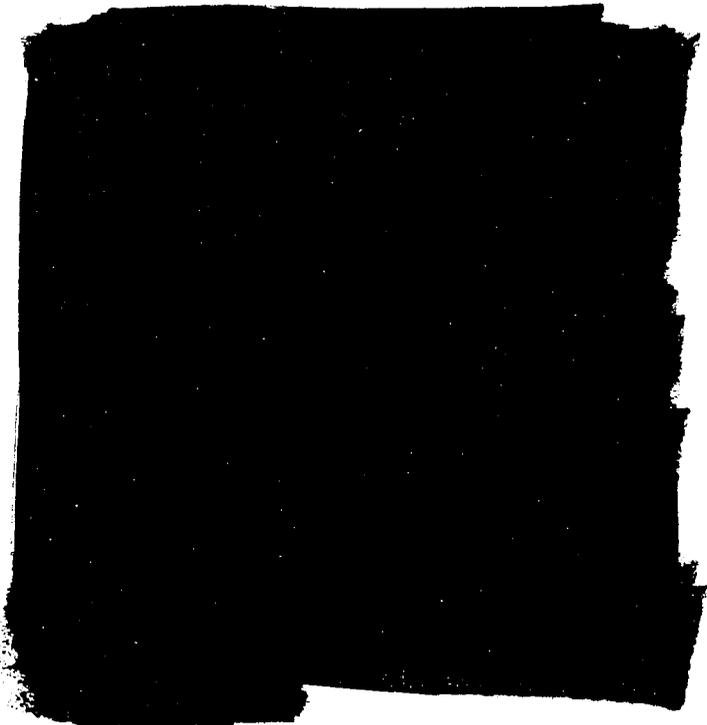


**Communication**



**Drug Trafficking**

Most UBN sets derive illicit proceeds from the distribution of powdered cocaine, crack cocaine, heroin, and marijuana. Law enforcement officials report that UBN sets transport cocaine, heroin, and marijuana into and within 10 states. Members have expanded UBN's drug distribution operations from the New York City and northern New Jersey areas to many locations in the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, and Southeast regions. They often establish new drug markets in rural areas where the profit margin is significantly greater, sometimes three or four times, than in New York City.



**Northeast Region**

UBN members distribute multikilogram quantities of powdered cocaine, heroin, and marijuana in New York City. They also transport large quantities of these drugs via private vehicles and public transportation from New York City to other locations in New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania for distribution. In addition, UBN members have expanded distribution into Connecticut and Massachusetts. They usually obtain powdered cocaine and heroin from New York City-based Dominican criminal groups and marijuana from

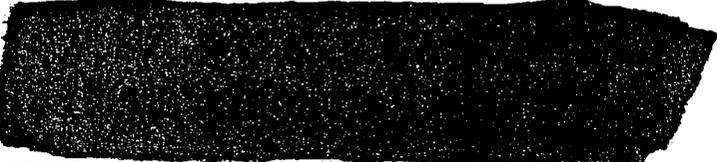
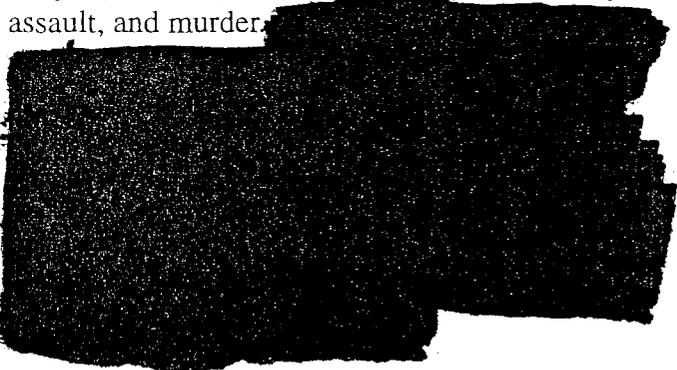
New York City-based Jamaican criminal groups. UBN members also convert powdered cocaine to crack cocaine (typically near distribution sites to avoid more stringent sentences) for distribution in most major urban areas of the Northeast region.



. Sets may control all drug distribution to the retail level or distribute to other retail distributors. UBN sets control drug distribution operations through intimidation, assault, and murder.

### Other Criminal Activity

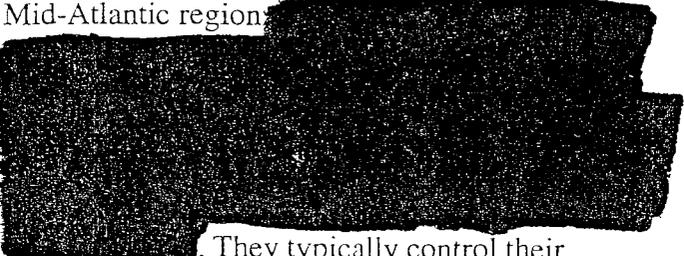
In addition to drug distribution, UBN members are involved in many other criminal activities including auto theft, identity theft, extortion, prostitution operations, firearms trafficking, burglary, robbery, carjacking, drive-by shooting, assault, and murder.



UBN sets control drug distribution through intimidation and assault, and are willing to murder anyone who interferes with their criminal enterprises. UBN members also extort money and drugs from other drug distributors.

### **Mid-Atlantic Region**

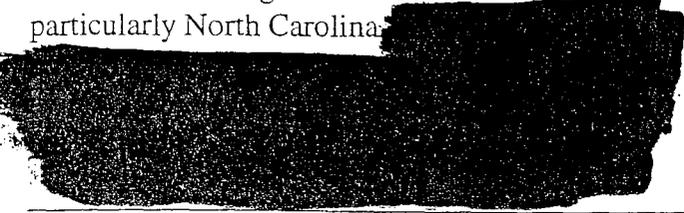
UBN members from the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic regions transport multikilogram quantities of powdered cocaine, heroin, and marijuana from New York City for distribution throughout the Mid-Atlantic region, particularly Maryland, Delaware, and Virginia. They obtain cocaine and heroin primarily from Dominican criminal groups in New York City and marijuana primarily from Jamaican criminal groups in New York City. UBN members also convert powdered cocaine to crack cocaine for local distribution in most major urban areas of the Mid-Atlantic region.



. They typically control their distribution operations through intimidation, assault, and murder.

### **Southeast Region**

UBN members from the Northeast and Southeast regions transport multikilogram quantities of cocaine and marijuana from New York City for distribution throughout the Southeast region, particularly North Carolina.



### Violence

UBN sets are among the most violent gangs in the United States. They are responsible for numerous murders, particularly in New York City. UBN members consider extortion, intimidation, assault, torture, and murder as standard practices to further or protect their criminal enterprises. Many

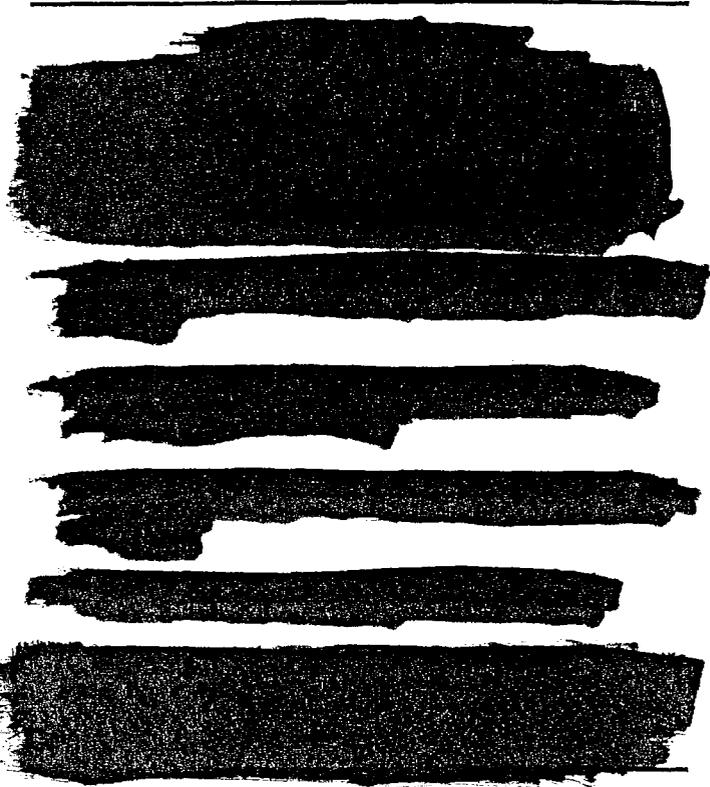
b2, b7d, b7e

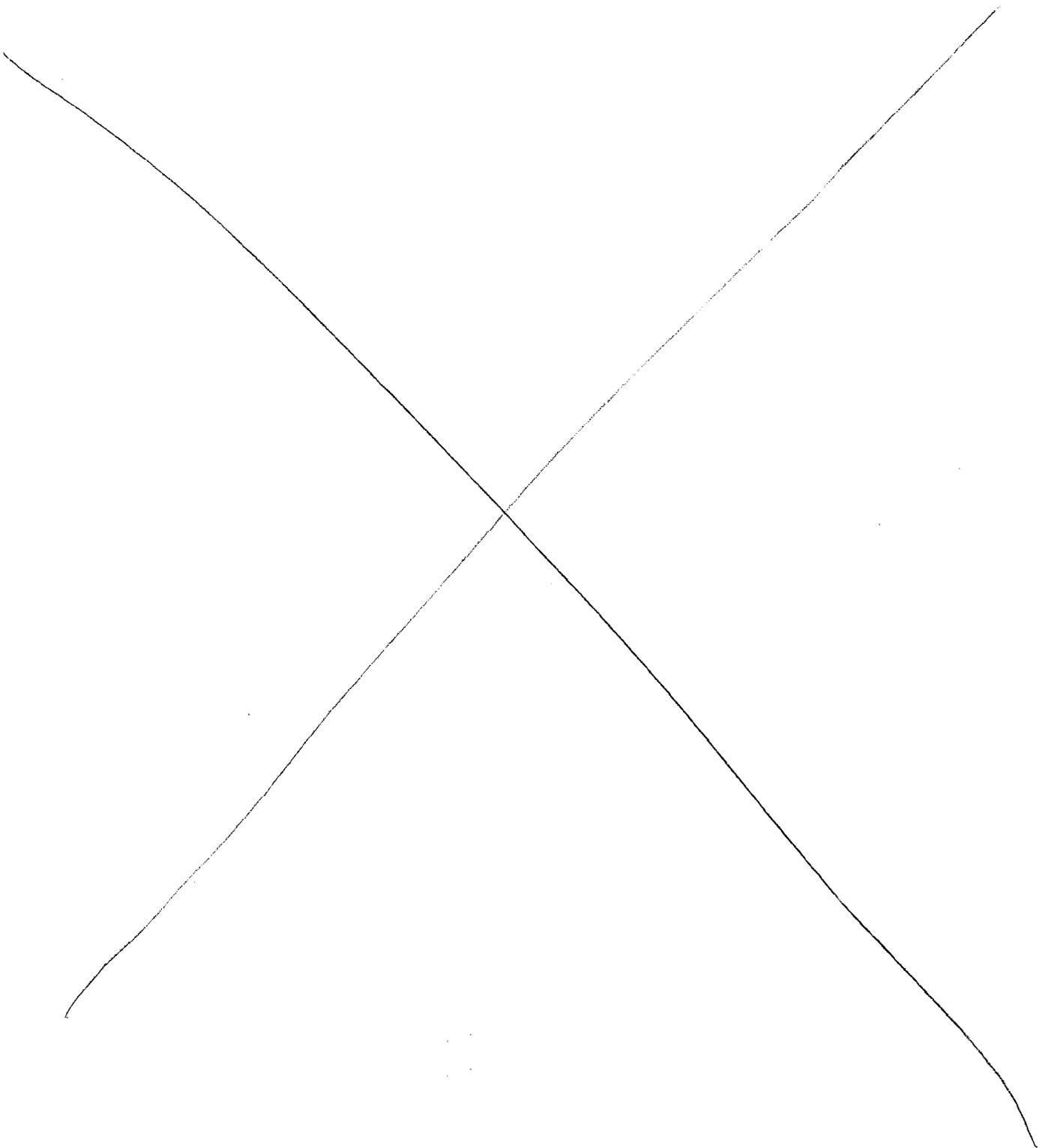
UBN members do not fear law enforcement or the judiciary and have been known to threaten police officers and court officials. In 2001 during the sentencing of a UBN member convicted of murder in Essex County, New Jersey, the member openly ordered other UBN members in the courtroom to kill the judge, the prosecutor, and his counsel. Also during 2001 UBN members in Hoboken, New Jersey, placed a "contract" on three police officers for disrupting their drug distribution operations.

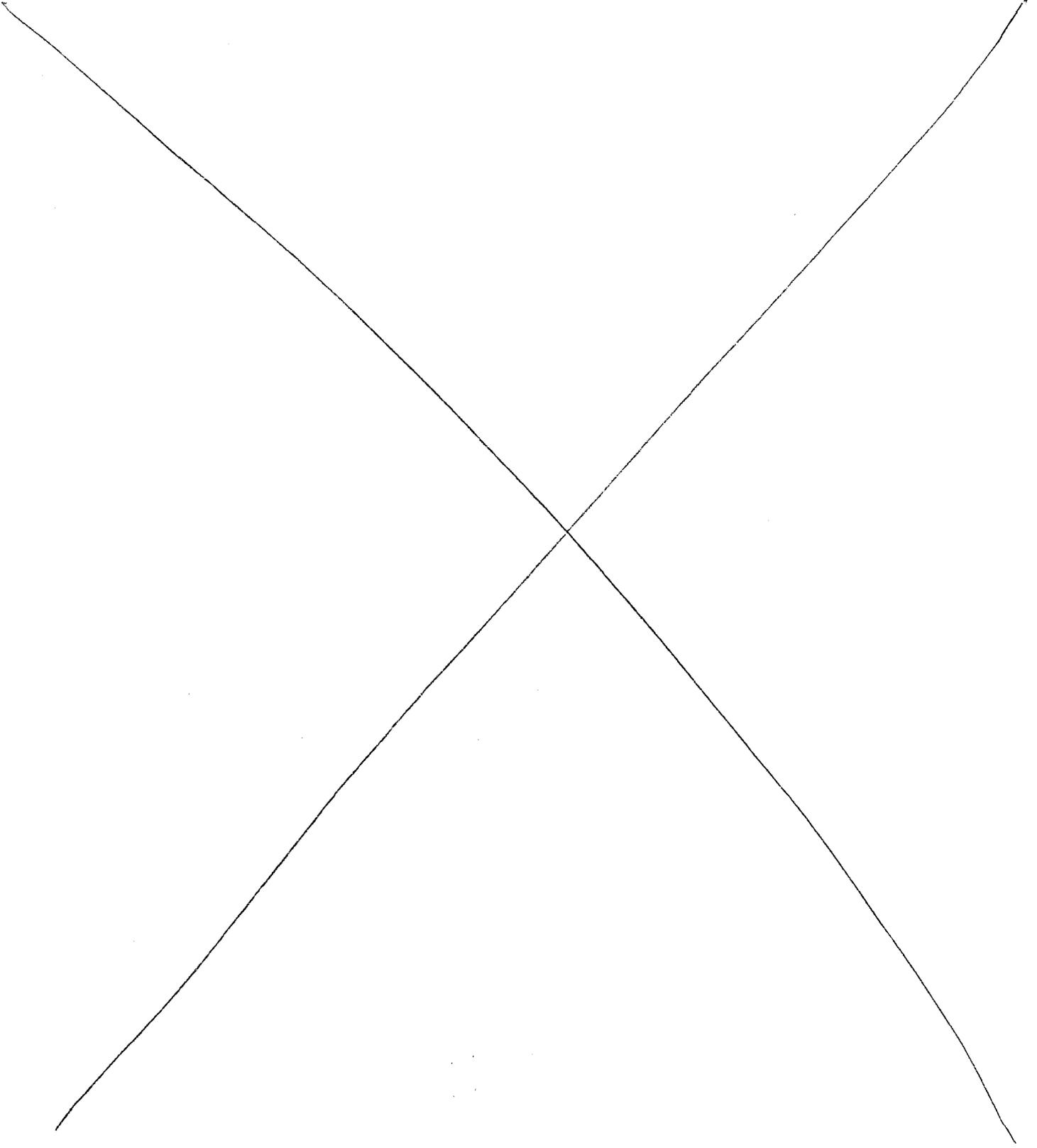
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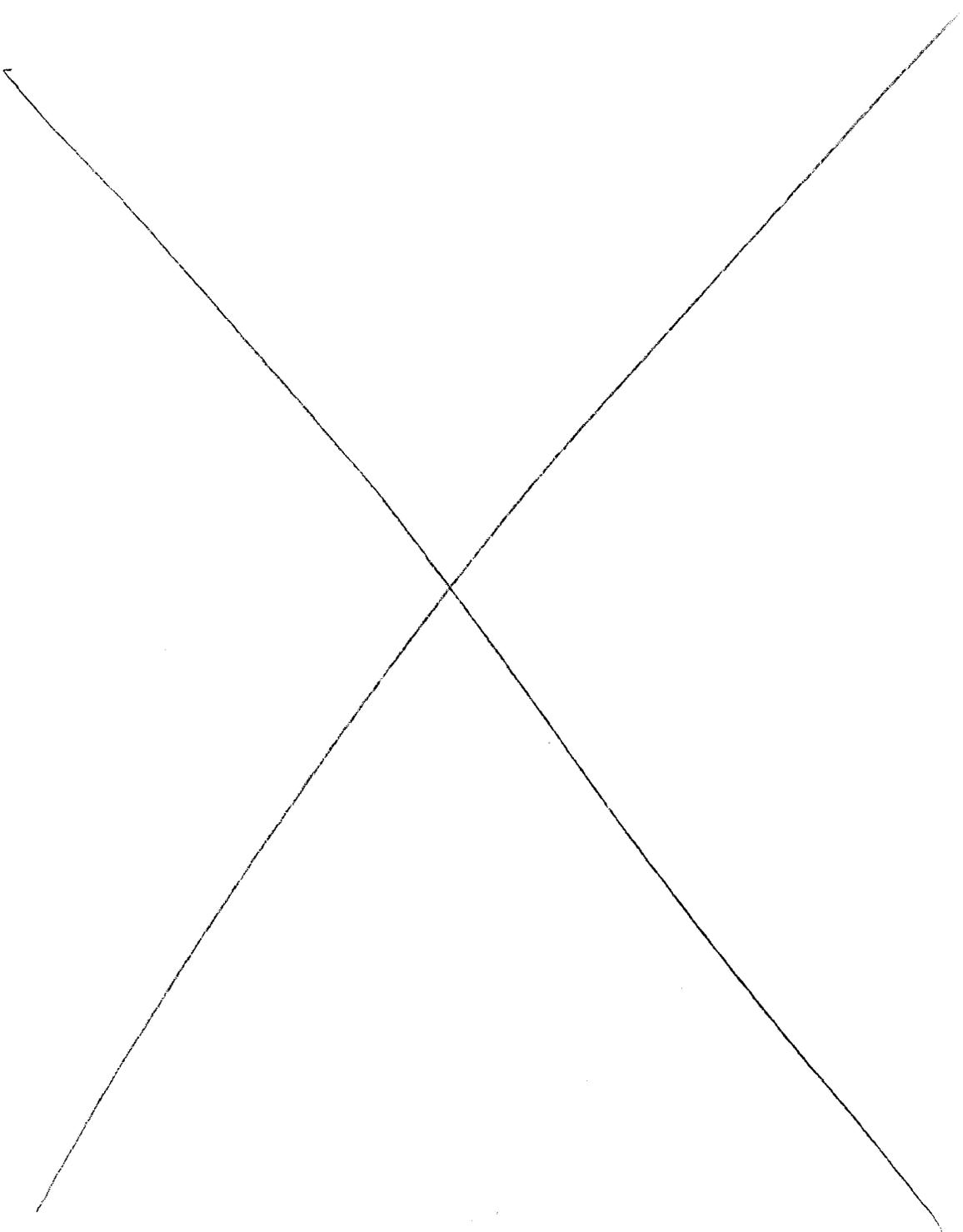


As UBN sets expand their geographic influence and drug distribution activities, communities will experience dramatic increases in violent crime rates, witness intimidation, extortion, and other gang-related crimes. As a result, jails and prisons along the East Coast will house increased numbers of UBN members.

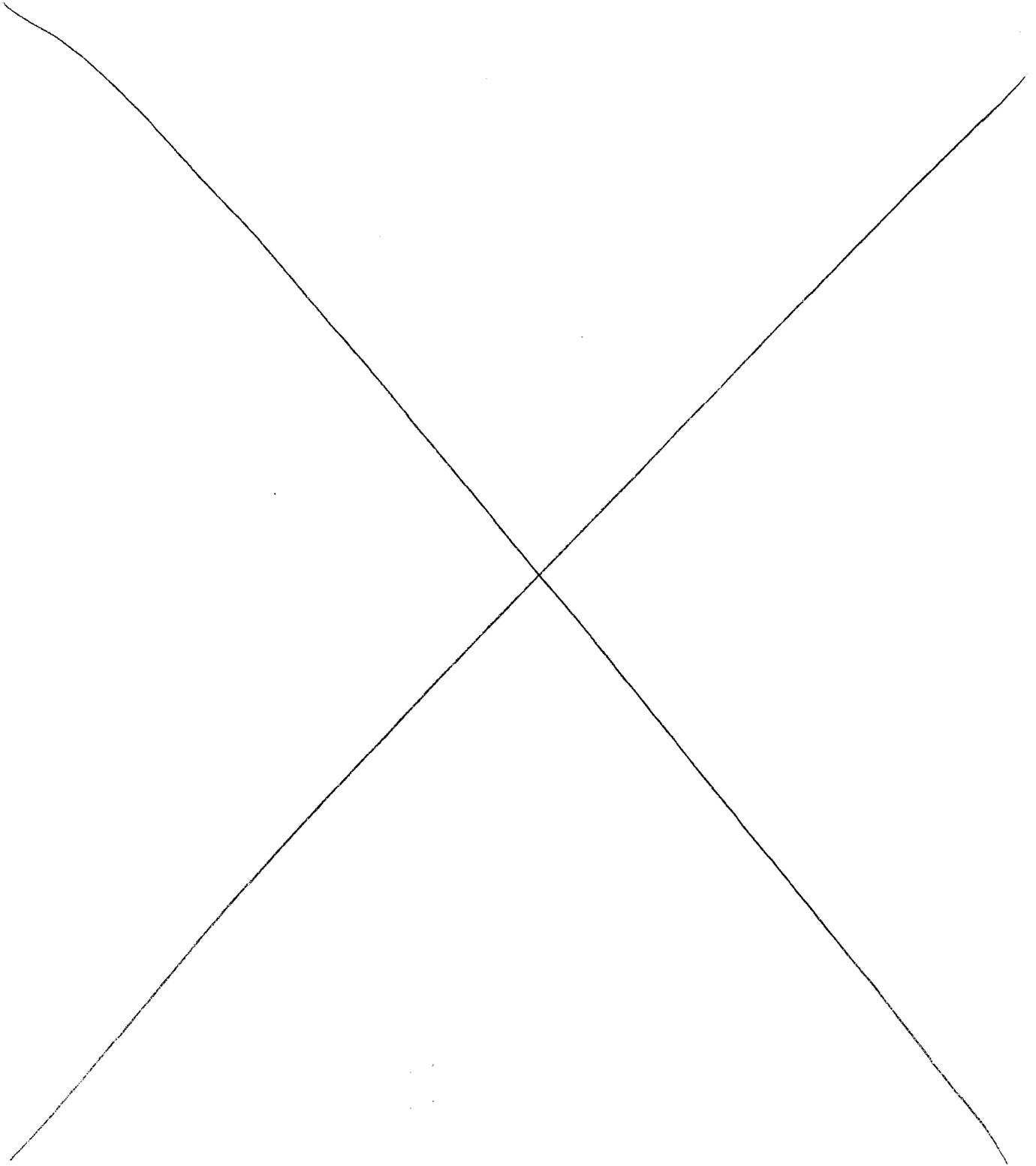


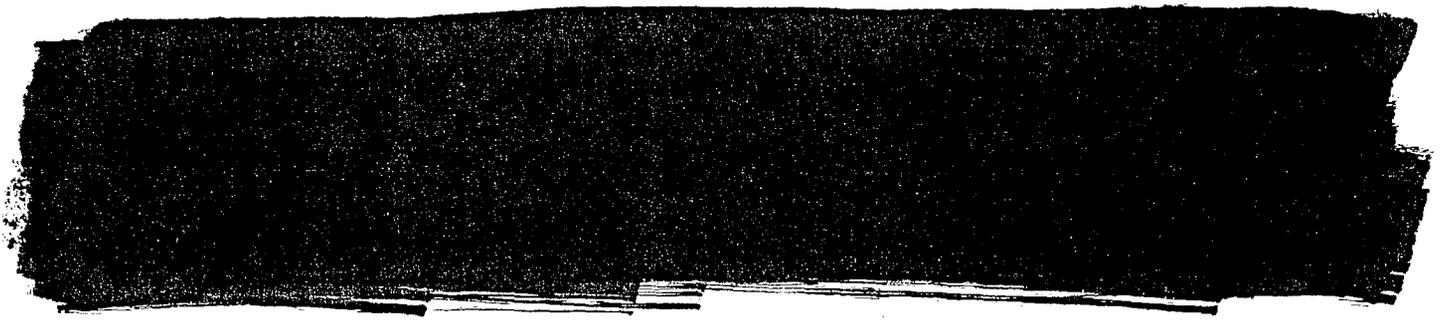




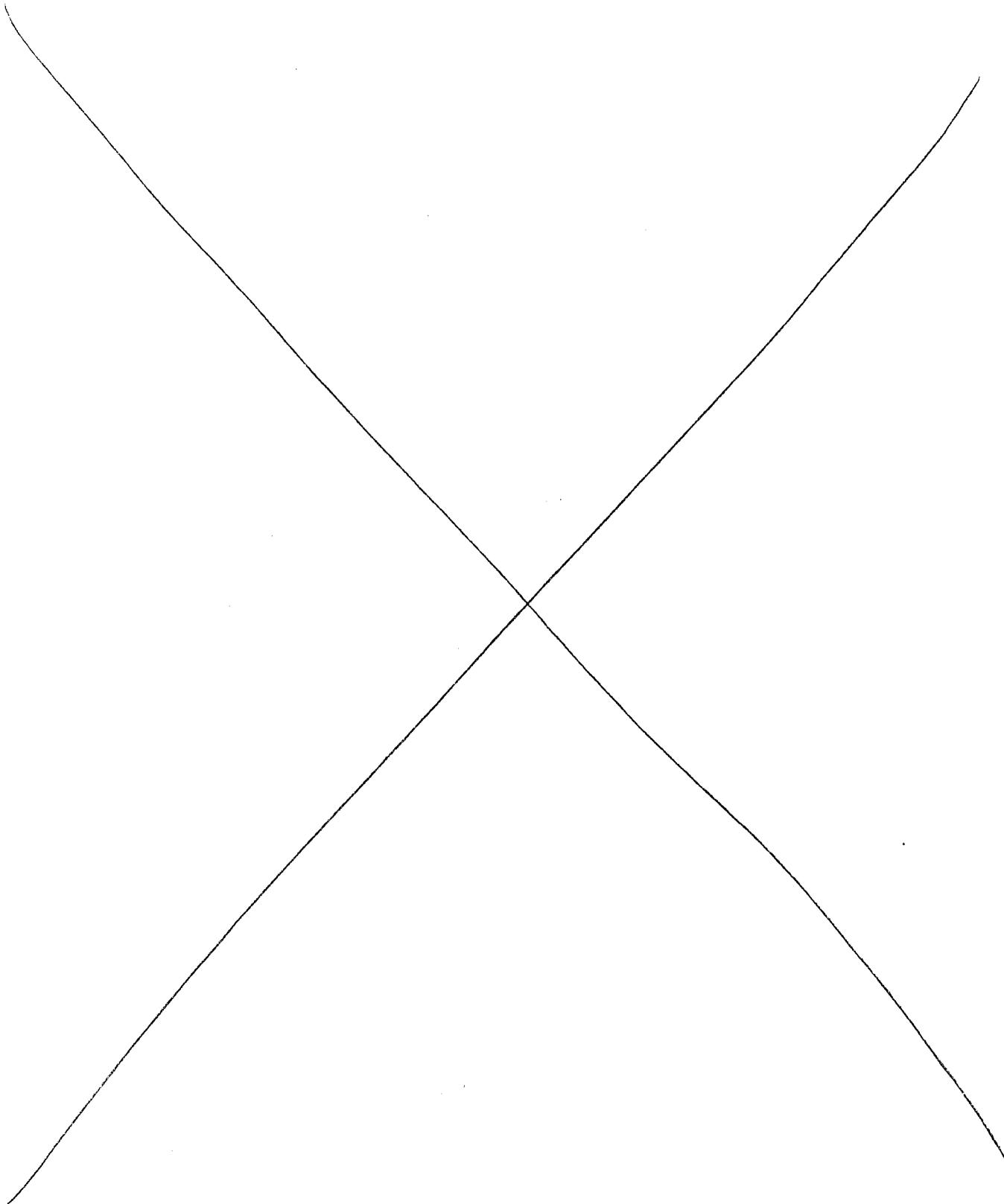


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## Federal

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High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area  
New York/New Jersey

U.S. Department of Justice  
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives  
Drug Enforcement Administration  
Washington Division

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Albany Field Office  
Binghamton Resident Agency  
Baltimore Field Office  
Charlotte Field Office  
Greensboro Resident Agency  
Raleigh Resident Agency  
Columbia Field Office  
Criminal Investigative Division  
Violent Crimes & Major Offenders Section

Executive Office of Weed and Seed  
Executive Fellowship Program

Intelligence Division  
Racketeering Records Analysis Unit

Newark Field Office  
New York Field Office  
Philadelphia Field Office  
Allentown Resident Agency

Safe Streets and Gang Unit  
Washington Office

Federal Bureau of Prisons  
Metropolitan Correctional Center, New York (NY)

## Other

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