

# *Gang Commandeers Public Housing*



Chicago's Randolph Towers

(Associated Press/Chicago) A federal complaint unsealed in Chicago alleges that the Black Disciples gang effectively commandeered Chicago's Randolph Towers public housing complex. Federal authorities charged 47 Black Disciples gang members with drug conspiracy after a six-year investigation. It is believed that the drug operations have been in place since 1991, and processed and sold enough drugs to take in as much as \$300,000 in a single day.

Prosecutors claim that gang members routinely frisked building residents as they entered and would stand guard on the roof with high-powered rifles and night-vision goggles to guard against rivals.

While this is certainly an extreme case, it does show what could happen without a careful screening of rental applicants. When a criminal finds it easy to move in to a rental complex they will tell their friends how easy it is to move in to a building. As the criminals move in the good people start to leave, and pretty soon all you have left for tenants are the bad guys, and those few good people that just can't find a place to move.

The Chicago scenario could be repeated anywhere if those responsible for tenant screening don't have adequate tools for the job and then use those tools to screen each and every person that applies for residency.