Hi guys, this will be a critique of Light's L Isolation Strategy.

A little context first: Light hacked his father's PC and used information on criminals that only the NPA had access to.

Now, here's Light's own plan with his own words. (source: manga)

Ryuk asks: "But why did you deliberately do something to make L suspect people involved in the investigation?Isn't it a lot worse to have him realize you have a link to the cops, than to have him think you are a student?"

Light answers: "the answer to your question is I want to find L and eliminate him. If all I do is hide the notebook, I'm not going to find him, am I?"

Let's start with Problem 1: "Ego-Based Objective".
Point 1- If by this line he meant "I'm in danger, I *need* to get rid of L" then why would that be the case?
Strategically speaking, L has nothing on Light. Nothing. He only knows that Kira was in Kanto during the Lind L Tailor incident.
Meanwhile, Light has a notebook that lets him kill anyone simply by remembering their name and face.

So, given it would be a really strong claim to say he is in danger (or at least most definitely will be in the future), he should at least explain why that would be the case. He doesn't.

Point 2- (at least for the English translation of the manga)We don't even have to go that far into analysis: Light himself "admits" this is not his point. He *wants* to get rid of L, there is no *need*.

Point 3- Light says "If all I do is hide the notebook, I'm not going to find him am I?". This rhetorical question reveals a *desire* to find L, not a need. This is because he is implicitly stating that he *could* safely just hide the notebook (meaning he would be safe) but that by *hiding* he wouldn't be able to find L. Using the meaning of his own words.

All these 3 points considered, the most plausible explanation would therefore be that Light *wants* to get rid of L due to ego-purposes, not strategical ones.

Light: “In human society there are very few people who truly trust each other. That's true even within the police. When it comes down to the police and L they don't trust each other at all. Never have. Who'd trust someone who keeps his name and face hidden from you?”

Now let’s begin the Second Problem: “The Deep Sociological Misunderstanding”.
Institutions are regulated by “authority” not “trust”. Trust, at best, would be a variable to take into account, if the environment was revolving Institutions *horizontally* (within members of the same rank of the same organization) not *vertically* (higher power to lower power, which is exactly L's case).
Without this dynamic based on authority, society would collapse.
Not only that, but especially during emergencies that emerge based off of an external conflict (e.g. war), exactly as in this Kira case, this role of authority is even more enhanced.

In conclusion: what Light’s whole plan is based off of ignores how real dynamics within institutions actually work.

Light: “Now that L knows I have access to task force information he is going to look for me within the NPA.”

Yeah and he will most probably be on your ass, since around 500 people are suspected (calcs later).

Light: “And when that happens it'll just be a matter of time before the cops get really mad.”

Third Problem - “Second Sociological / Cognitive Empathy Non-Sense”

If anything, police men will start to “doubt” or “get mad” at each other (horizontally, as I explained before). Imagine yourself being a policeman in charge of finding out the most dangerous criminal ever, and you find out that one of your colleagues leaked information to him or even worse *is* Kira. Now, unless you lack the guts necessary for the job (and should have rationally just given up right at the beginning) you should be concerned about the situation at hand and act accordingly as your job requires (meaning finding who was responsible for the leak).

Light: “On the face of it, L and the police are working together to catch me. Well I guess they actually are working together. But behind the scenes L will be spying on the police and the police will be trying to track down L.”

Fourth Problem: “Not Taking Into Account Plenty of Variables (L POV)”

“L will be spying on the police”
Kinda (?). He is most likely going to spy on the people *around* the police men, not the police men themselves. L isn’t likely to spy on the police men for three different reasons:

Point 1- to spy on them would mean they would have had to be pro Kira or Kira himself, but committing what they did would just expose them so why would they do something so downright incriminating?

Point 2- if they were Kira or pro-Kira, why would they do something so useless?It sounds more like a bait from the real Kira if anything

Point 3- if they were Kira or pro-Kira why would they leave their jobs or the Kira mission, since the most important information would be there.

Point 4- Not only that, but L isn’t even the only one who would eventually spy on these people. CANONICALLY the FBI intervened too (Raye Penber spying on Yagami’s and another guy’s family) after this

data leak incident. And this isn't an unexpected variable. L was in charge of finding the biggest international criminal who nobody had any idea on. The FBI intervening, enforces the asymmetrical authority the NPA and the other Institutions (L, the FBI etc.) had in a blatant way.

Fifth Problem: "Not Taking Into Account Plenty of Variables (Police POV)"

"the police will be trying to track down L"
In the first place, why would the police even doubt L?Because they would think he is too incompetent (insane stretch)?Because they think he is Kira?Because they think he is supporting Kira?Why?

"Because they would think he is too incompetent?" (option 1)
Say Light based his strategy based on this foresight of the police men thinking L was incompetent causing doubt…. so what?What would it change?Virtually speaking nothing. They would still follow L's orders as usual.
And ESPECIALLY the "tracking down L" part, considering this background, would just be a non-sequitur. Why would they track down L?Because he is incompetent?Seriously?No reason at all.

So: option 1 has little to no effect in general, the tracking down L part is non-sequitur and what happened (proving Light's foresight to be completely off if this option represented his thinking) was completely different, the police men didn't think of this at all.

"Because they think he is Kira / supporting Kira?" (option 2-3)
Which doesn't make sense too because (logical issues):

Point 1- why would L make it so downright obvious that he could be Kira / supporting Kira
Point 2- why would he risk such an important secret for such an invisible return on investment?

And mind you, not only this, but even if they truly believed this dumb line more issues arise (logical issue):

Point 1- nobody would have any idea on who Kira would be (since the Lindor L Tailor stuff was a strategy created by L, who would be Kira himself or a supporter of his, making it completely unreliable)
Point 2- no other person would have been suitable to replace L (he was canonically the best detective in the world, not close too)

Meaning that the reaction wouldn't have been of suspicion, but of complete surrender to Kira. Which is completely different from what Light spoke about.

Logically (not in the deductive meaning ofc) speaking: Light's plan would lead to "almost complete surrender" if it actually installed the doubt towards L being Kira / supporter of Kira, but Light (god knows why) comes to the conclusion that it would lead to "police tracking down L".

(Foresight issues too)
What happens canonically is just that the police men get scared of being killed and emotional about L not showing his identity and leave the case.
No "let's track L down" ever happens".
But this just proves that: the police men in the first place didn't have the guts to search for Kira, and that they relied on kid-like behaviour ("why does L get the privilege of not showing his face and I don't"). Nothing else. There is no Light genius to this.

Light "So L is not going to be found by me. The police will take care of that part for me. And then I'll eliminate him. I'm positive that the one who's going to have the police closing in on him first is L, not Kira"



Let’s head to the Calculations part.

The people suspected would go from millions (the population of Kanto) to much fewer. And precisely what would that number be?

Thankfully, we have panels that serve as proof.

Within the first panel, L says: “Watari, the FBI has started its probe. I’ve received a list of the NPA personnel working on this case.”

And following the thinking panels L says: “Just within the NPA 141 people with access to task force information, mmmh. But one of these 141 people… or someone very close to one of them is Kira, I’m sure of it.”

Key things to keep in mind:

Point A. The files L received only had the “immediate” (with “immediate” I mean spouse and kids no uncles etc.) family members contained within them. This means that most plausibly when L said “someone very close to one of them” he only meant just that (spouse

and eventual kids), especially because when he said that, he was just looking at the page with only this information.

Oh and I would also like to point out how L is *sure* of it, he doesn't think it's *somewhat probable*.

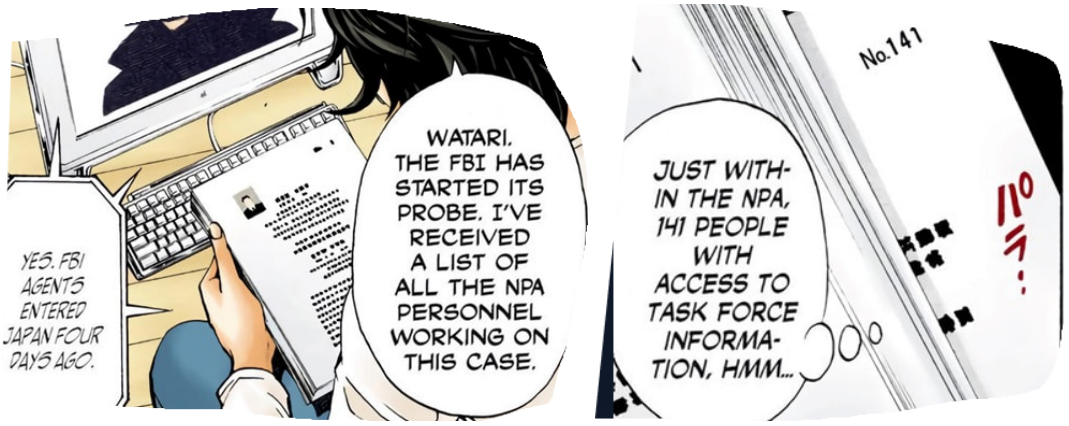
Point B. Both the FBI files and the FBI investigations (Rey Penber) *only* took place for the "immediate" family members.

These two elements put together, show that Light's foresight (if he did want to avoid this situation that is) was incredibly wrong *canonically*.

And even if we stepped outside of the narrative's logic, the most reasonable thing to do (coming from the FBI's POV) would just be to investigate people interacting with said 141 agents, tracing back past contacts, and just spying on them. Which virtually would lead to the situation it led in DN.

So considering both real life logic and canonical logic, Light's plan had major holes (again, unless his objective was to be found).

Now, where did we find out it was 500?Simply because we multiply 141 for an average of 4 family members per family, meaning 564 people suspected. And this would be accounting for the most favourable outcome, because I really doubt that every single one of these 141 agents had 2 kids and 1 spouse.



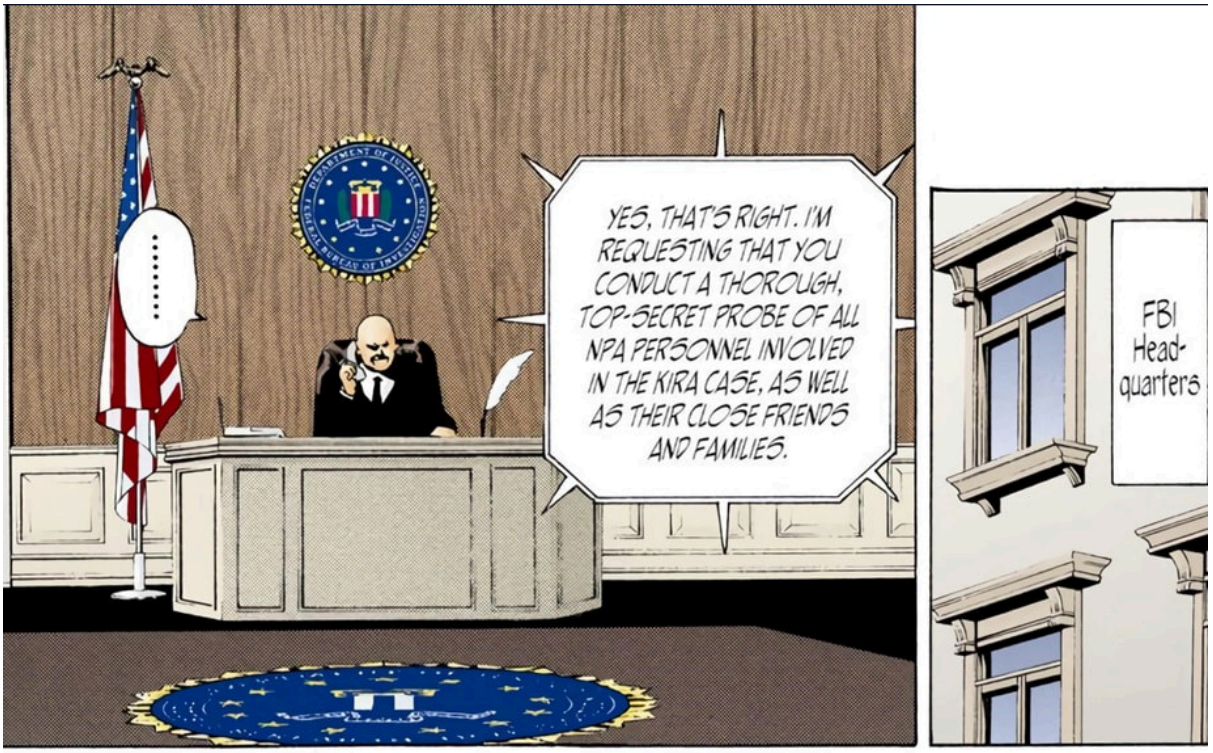

OR SOME-ONE VERY CLOSE TO ONE OF THEM...
BUT ONE OF THESE 141 PEOPLE...


ONE OF THEM...
...IS KIRA. I'M SURE OF IT.
No. 5
Soichiro Yagami
D.O.B. July 12, 1955, Age 48
Detective Superintendent,
NPA Head of Special Investigation
Headquarters for Criminal Victim Serial
Murder Case
Sachiko Yagami
D.O.B. October 10, 1962. Age 41
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D.O.B. October 10, 1962. Age 41
Housewife
Light Yagami
D.O.B. February 28, 1986. Age 17
Third Year student, Daikoku
Private Academy
Sayu Yagami
D.O.B. June 18, 1989. Age 14
Second year student, Eishu Junior
High School

Even if - somehow - the plan made sense and it actually worked out (the NPA disrupts trust with L), L - being the international entity he is - could have just asked for help from other agencies.

Canonically - right after there were problems with some NPA agents leaving the case - the FBI itself works with L, after L directly contacted the FBI head-quarters demanding intervention (using the death of 327 Americans due to Kira's killings as an excuse).



I don't even know why the FBI would operate in Japan when the CIA covers international affairs but whatever I guess. This is probably just because the CIA's aesthetic would probably not match the FBI's in terms of what the author wanted to transmit.

Mind you L could have easily used this excuse for other countries as well - especially with time passing - as Kira's victims were international.

Basically Light's international killings would easily convert into an international response.

I would even argue that in the real world it wouldn't even take L's asking for lots of international organizations to be involved.
With a mysterious entity that can somehow kill with such a wide range, with such density of crimes, every rational organization would be prone to neutralize the threat.

Which obviously never happens in the story because of the plot.
But that's a little digressing from the strategy so let's go back.

Another point is that if the NPA didn't cooperate/poorly cooperated with L, not only could he (as I previously mentioned) have had contacted other agencies, but such agencies would be even more prone to work with him as Kira's chances at becoming a world threat would increase if the problem stays untreated (or worse, helped by such NPA if the vision of distrust is as high as Light envisions it).