



(U//FOUO) Domestic Terrorism and Homegrown Violent Extremism Lexicon

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Homeland
Security

(U//FOUO) Prepared by the Office of Intelligence and Analysis (I&A), Homeland Counterterrorism Division, Homegrown Violent Extremism Branch.

(U) Scope

(U//FOUO) I&A developed this lexicon to standardize the terms used in DHS products related to domestic terrorism and homegrown violent extremism. This lexicon is intended to assist federal, state, and local government officials with the mission to detect, identify, and understand threats of terrorism against the United States by facilitating a common understanding of the terms and definitions that describe terrorist threats to the United States. The definitions in this lexicon were derived from a variety of open source materials and unclassified information, and then developed further during facilitated workshops with DHS intelligence analysts knowledgeable about domestic terrorism and homegrown violent extremism.

Office of Intelligence and Analysis

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(U) Definitions

(U) Anarchist Extremists	(U//FOUO) Groups or individuals who facilitate or engage in acts of unlawful violence as a means of changing the government and society in support of the belief that all forms of capitalism and corporate globalization should be opposed and that governing institutions are unnecessary and harmful to society.
(U) Animal Rights Extremists	(U//FOUO) Groups or individuals who facilitate or engage in acts of unlawful violence directed against people, businesses, or government entities perceived to be exploiting or abusing animals.
(U) Anti-Abortion Extremists	(U//FOUO) Groups or individuals who facilitate or engage in acts of violence directed against the providers of abortion related services, their employees, and their facilities in support of the belief that the practice of abortion should end.
(U) Anti-Government Extremists	(U//FOUO) Groups or individuals who facilitate or engage in unlawful acts of violence directed at federal, state, or local law enforcement, other government officials, critical infrastructure or government facilities in order to affect the conduct of a government or influence the policy of a government by intimidation or coercion, in response to their belief that their liberties are being taken away by the perceived unconstitutional or otherwise illegitimate actions of government officials or law enforcement. Some form of this belief is common to several violent extremist ideologies, including sovereign citizen extremism and militia extremism; anti-government extremists differ from these other categories in that they do not subscribe to these violent extremist ideologies in total, but often adopt elements of these ideologies, including the use of violence in furtherance of their ideology.
(U) Black Supremacist Extremists	(U//FOUO) Groups or individuals who facilitate or engage in acts of unlawful violence as a means to oppose racial integration and/or to eliminate non-black people and Jewish people.
(U) Domestic Terrorism	(U//FOUO) Any act of unlawful violence that is dangerous to human life or potentially destructive of critical infrastructure or key resources committed by a group or individual based and operating entirely within the United States or its territories without direction or inspiration from a foreign terrorist group. This act is a violation of the criminal laws of the United States or of any state or other subdivision of the United States and appears to be intended to intimidate or coerce a civilian population, to influence the policy of a government by intimidation or coercion, or to affect the conduct of a government by mass destruction, assassination, or kidnapping. A domestic terrorist differs from a homegrown violent extremist in that the former is not inspired by and does not take direction from a foreign terrorist group or other foreign power.
(U) Environmental Rights Extremists	(U//FOUO) Groups or individuals who facilitate or engage in acts of unlawful violence against people, businesses, or government entities perceived to be destroying, degrading, or exploiting the natural environment.

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(U) Facilitators	(U//FOUO) Groups or individuals who knowingly provide one or more of a wide array of services to other operatives that enable the execution of terrorist plots, training, travel, or financing. Such activity might include setting up bank accounts, acquiring or producing false identification or travel documentation, aiding travel, disbursing funds, procuring materials, or enabling communications via electronic means or couriers. A facilitator who participates in a conspiracy without knowing the final object of the conspiracy, or even knowing that a conspiracy exists, should be referred to as an unwitting co-optee. ¹
(U) Homegrown Violent Extremist (HVE)	(U//FOUO) A homegrown violent extremist (HVE) is a person of any citizenship who has lived and/or operated primarily in the United States or its territories who advocates, is engaged in, or is preparing to engage in ideologically-motivated terrorist activities (including providing support to terrorism) in furtherance of political or social objectives promoted by a foreign terrorist organization, but is acting independently of direction by a foreign terrorist organization. HVEs are distinct from traditional domestic terrorists who engage in unlawful acts of violence to intimidate civilian populations or attempt to influence domestic policy without direction from or influence from a foreign actor.
(U) Lone Offender	(U//FOUO) An individual motivated by one or more violent extremist ideologies who, operating alone, supports or engages in acts of unlawful violence in furtherance of that ideology or ideologies that may involve influence from a larger terrorist organization or a foreign actor.
(U) Militia Extremists	(U//FOUO) Groups or individuals who facilitate or engage in acts of unlawful violence directed at federal, state, or local government officials or infrastructure in response to their belief that the government deliberately is stripping Americans of their freedoms and is attempting to establish a totalitarian regime. These individuals consequently oppose many federal and state authorities' laws and regulations, (particularly those related to firearms ownership), and often belong to armed paramilitary groups. They often conduct paramilitary training designed to violently resist perceived government oppression or to violently overthrow the US Government.
(U) Racist Skinhead Extremists	(U//FOUO) Groups or individuals who are a sub-category of white supremacist extremists that facilitate, support, or engage in acts of unlawful violence directed towards the federal government, ethnic minorities, or Jewish persons in support of their belief that Caucasians are intellectually and morally superior to other races and their perception that the government is controlled by Jewish persons. Racist skinheads consider themselves to be the frontline soldiers of white supremacist extremists, and frequently distinguish themselves from other violent white supremacist extremists by a distinctive style of dress.

¹ (U//FOUO) FBI "Counterterrorism Analytical Lexicon."¹

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(U) Radicalization	(U//FOUO) The process through which an individual changes from a non-violent belief system to a belief system that includes the willingness to actively advocate, facilitate, or use unlawful violence as a method to effect societal or political change.
(U) Sovereign Citizen Extremists	(U//FOUO) Groups or individuals who facilitate or engage in acts of unlawful violence directed at public officials, financial institutions, and government facilities in support of their belief that the legitimacy of US citizenship should be rejected; almost all forms of established government, authority, and institutions are illegitimate; and that they are immune from federal, state, and local laws.
(U) Terrorism	(U//FOUO) Any activity that involves an act that is dangerous to human life or potentially destructive to critical infrastructure or key resources, and is a violation of the criminal laws of the United States or of any state or other subdivision of the United States and appears to be intended to intimidate or coerce a civilian population to influence the policy of a government by intimidation or coercion, or to affect the conduct of a government by mass destruction, assassination, or kidnapping. ^{*,†}
(U) Unwitting Co-optees	(U//FOUO) Groups or individuals who provide support to terrorism without knowing that their actions are contributing to terrorism. Such individuals may suspect that they are being used. Not all unwitting co-optees are engaging in criminal behavior. [‡]
(U) White Supremacist Extremists	(U//FOUO) Groups or individuals who facilitate or engage in acts of unlawful violence directed at the federal government, ethnic minorities, or Jewish persons in support of their belief that Caucasians are intellectually and morally superior to other races and their perception that the government is controlled by Jewish persons.

(U) Report Suspicious Activity

(U) To report suspicious activity, law enforcement, Fire-EMS, private security personnel, and emergency managers should follow established protocols; all other personnel should call 911 or contact local law enforcement. Suspicious activity reports (SARs) will be forwarded to the appropriate fusion center and FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force for further action. For more information on the Nationwide SAR Initiative, visit <http://nsi.ncirc.gov/resources.aspx>.

(U) Tracked by: HSEC-8.1, HSEC-8.2

^{*} (U) Homeland Security Act of 2002, Sec.2(16), 6 USC Sec 101.

[†] (U) There is no one definition of terrorism accepted by the federal government, the definition may vary even within theUSIC.

[‡] (U//FOUO) FBI "Counterterrorism Analytical Lexicon."