

CASE STUDY

HUTAREE MILITIA



Case Study: Hutaree Militia

The Hutarees are a Michigan-based, anti-government militia founded by David Brian Stone Sr. in 2008. Stone and his followers believed in an interpretation of the Bible that focused on a violent end-times prophecy. The name "Hutaree" was a creation of Stone's and supposedly meant "Christian warriors." In March 2010, nine Hutaree members, including Stone's wife and two sons, were indicted on charges of seditious conspiracy; attempt to use WMDs; teaching the use of explosive materials; and carrying, using, and possessing a firearm during and in relation to a crime of violence.

The Hutarees believed the Antichrist was former NATO Secretary General Javier Solana, and the New World Order working on his behalf included federal, state, and local law enforcement. The group practiced attacks and military maneuvers for more than a year and acquired weapons, ammunition, medical supplies, uniforms, communications equipment, and IED components.

Stone and his followers discussed plans to kill a law enforcement officer (LEO) after a traffic stop or at home, ambush a LEO with a fake 911 call, and attack a LEO funeral procession with small arms and IEDs. Following an initial strike against the government, the Hutaree would retreat to prepared "rally points," where they would defend against a government counterattack. These actions, they believed, would spark large-scale armed revolution against the government.

Michigan is believed to have the second largest population of militia members in the country, behind Texas. In some areas of the state, the sight of camouflaged groups training in the woods with firearms is not uncommon.

In December 2010, a potential recruit visited David Stone Sr. to practice survival skills. The recruit "got a bad vibe" after the Stone family joked about four officers shot and killed in a Washington state coffee shop.

The Hutarees initially had contact with, trained with, and shared their violent ideology with other militias, but their cult-like nature and secretiveness later caused other militias to reject them. One member of a local militia even infiltrated the Hutarees in order to keep an eye on them. Eventually, that witness cooperated with prosecutors against the Hutarees. When federal authorities began arresting Hutaree members, Stone's son turned to this witness for weapons, gear, and help in regaining access to his property to rearm. The witness notified law enforcement.

Stone wasn't afraid to proclaim his beliefs online. At one time, the Hutaree MySpace page had more than 350 friends, dozens of which were other militias. He maintained the

Outreach Strategy



Case Study: Hutaree Militia

Hutaree website, which described its core doctrine and featured videos of armed Hutaree members moving and shooting in the woods.

Stone lived in a rural Michigan town with a population of 303. He home-schooled both his sons. Although he rarely went to church, he studied the Bible nightly and memorized long passages of it. He hated "anyone with a badge," according to his ex-wife, and was wary of authorities driving by at night and shining lights at his trailer home. This ex-wife said she left him because he got "carried away" with heavy weapons and the end of the world.

It is not clear if Stone was facing financial problems at the time of his 2010 arrest, but he reportedly filed for bankruptcy protection in 1999.

<http://www.csmonitor.com/USA/Justice/2010/0329/Who-is-David-Brian-Stone-leader-of-the-Hutaree-militia>

<http://www.annarbor.com/2010/03/29/stone.pdf>

<http://articles.latimes.com/2010/apr/07/nation/la-na-militia7-2010apr07>

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Who is David Brian Stone, leader of the Hutaree militia?

A picture of Hutaree militia leader David Brian Stone is slowly emerging. His interest in guns and religion gradually spiraled out of control, reports suggest, leading to his arrest on charges of conspiring to kill police officers and oppose the US government by force.

By Will Buchanan, Contributor / March 29, 2010



Donna Stone, David Brian Stone's ex-wife, talks to members of the media outside the Federal Courthouse in Detroit Monday. Her son, who was legally adopted by David Stone, was among several members of the Hutaree militia charged with conspiring to kill police officers.

Jerry S. Mendoza/AP

[Enlarge](#)

HUTAREE MILITIA ARTICLES

Members called him "Captain Hutaree" or, somewhat cryptically, "RD." A federal indictment calls him the "principal leader" of the Hutaree militia – an extremist group federal authorities say was preparing to "levy war" against the US government by killing police officers.

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Hutaree militia arrests point to tripling of militias since 2008

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He is David Brian Stone, and early media accounts sketch a portrait of a man pulled increasing toward the militia movement and its radical fringe. His ex-wife said she left him because he "got carried away." Federal authorities allege that he researched how to build roadside bombs on the Internet. And at least one neighbor said the group that Mr. Stone leads had acquired a certain notoriety around town.

"You don't mess with them," she told the Detroit News.

Hutaree militia arrests: Why the number of militias has tripled since 2008

Monday morning, federal authorities released an indictment against Stone and eight other members of the Hutaree militia. They allege that Stone and his followers were planning an attack sometime in April, perhaps killing a police officer then

targeting the funeral with improvised explosive devices (IEDs) to raise the death toll. The group saw the police as the arm of a US government, which they felt was the enemy. **[Editor's note: IEDs were described incorrectly in the original version of this paragraph.]**

'Handguns to big guns'

It had not started out like this, said Donna Stone, David's ex-wife.

"It started out as a Christian thing," Donna Stone told reporters at the preliminary court hearing Monday morning.

"You go to church. You pray. You take care of your family. I think David started to take it a little too far. He dragged a lot of people with him. When he got carried away, when he went from handguns to big guns, I was done."

"He dragged a lot of innocent people down with him," said Donna Stone, whose son was legally adopted by David Stone and was among those indicted. "It started to get worse when they were talking about the world's gonna end in

HUTAREE MILITIA ARTICLES

the Bible."

According to the indictment, David Stone researched IEDs on the internet and e-mailed diagrams of the devices to someone he believed capable of manufacturing the devices. He then directed his son, Joshua, and others to gather materials necessary for the manufacturing of the bombs.

The indictment further concludes that in June 2009, "Stone taught other Hutaree members how to make and use explosive devices intending or knowing that the information would be used to further a crime of violence."

Other militia groups in Michigan distanced themselves from David Stone and the Hutaree.

"I've met him. He's an opinionated man who likes to share those opinions," Jim Gulliksen of the Lenaway Volunteer Michigan Militia told the Detroit News. "The Hutaree is a nationwide group, but I have met a couple of the members here, and I can say they all belong to one specific church. Our concern is the protection of our nation. Religion appears to be a big part of what they are doing."

A Christian survivalist

According to group's website Hutaree.com, Hutaree means "Christian Warrior." The website announces: "The Hutaree will one day see its enemy and meet him on the battlefield if so God wills it."

Heidi Beirich of the Southern Poverty Law Center, which tracks militia groups nationwide, said Monday she was aware of two Hutaree chapters: one in Utah and one in Michigan. She noted Hutaree has more than 350 friends on its Myspace page, dozens of which are other other militias, and she said David Stone was planning to attend a summit in Kentucky with other militias next month.

"Hutaree is not an isolated crew," she noted.

People in the southeastern Michigan community of Adrian, Mich., knew of the group, which would shoot guns and run around in camouflage. "Everybody knew they were militia," resident Phyllis Bruger told the Detroit News.

The Hutaree website claims the group was "preparing for the end time battles to keep the testimony of Jesus Christ alive."

Beirich suggests militia members like David Stone see "the end of times" occurring today: "They have extreme antigovernment beliefs. They have rage and hatred for the federal government. They fear being put in FEMA concentration camps. They're really paramilitary organizations."

HUTAREE MILITIA ARTICLES

U.S. NEWS | MARCH 31, 2010

Militia Chief's Mistrust Festered, Friends Say

Portrait Emerges of Man Who Despised Authority; Undercover Agent Played a Role in Probe

By ALEX P. KELLOGG, LAUREN ETTER, KEITH JOHNSON and TIMOTHY W. MARTIN

The leader of a Michigan militia group charged this week with conspiring to kill law-enforcement officers was described Tuesday as a private, family-oriented man who nurtured a festering mistrust of governmental authority, according to people close to the family.

"On the inside of this man's brain, something evil lurks, and until you get to know him, you don't know it," said Andrea Harsh, who was engaged to David Brian Stone Sr. until the couple broke up last year.

She described Mr. Stone, a trim 45-year-old man who wears his whitish hair cropped short over spectacles and a bushy gray mustache, as having a "bubbly personality." But he became consumed by the Hutaree, she said, a southeastern Michigan militia group that described its members as "Christian warriors."



[Enlarge image](#)

European Pressphoto Agency

Photo of Thomas Piatek after his arrest.

[See profiles of the militia members indicted](#)

homemade bombs to attack officers who attended the funeral.

In an indictment Monday, federal authorities named Mr. Stone as leader of the Hutaree and accused him and eight members with plotting to spark an uprising against the U.S. government by killing police. Along with Mr. Stone, seven other men and one woman from Michigan, Ohio and Indiana are in being held without bond on weapons and sedition charges.

The indictment said Hutaree had practiced attacks and other military maneuvers for more than a year, and had planned to kill a law-enforcement officer, then use

HUTAREE MILITIA ARTICLES

An undercover agent played a role in the investigation that led to Monday's indictments. Grand jury testimony by a law enforcement officer referred to an "undercover FBI agent" who worked on the case. The FBI declined to comment, but infiltration is a common tactic for law-enforcement officials targeting domestic militia groups.

Those charged in the case included Mr. Stone's current wife, Tina Mae Stone, 44; as well as two sons, David Brian Stone Jr., 19; and Joshua Matthew Stone 21. Attorneys for Ms. Stone, David Jr. and Joshua declined to comment Tuesday; the senior Mr. Stone had no attorney as of late Tuesday.

The Hutaree appears based at Mr. Stone's home, a pair of dilapidated house trailers near the intersection of dirt roads in rural Clayton, Michigan—population 303—about 85 miles southwest of Detroit. The yard this week held three cars, a dog house, debris and a gun leaning on an old washing machine.

Family members and acquaintances said Mr. Stone doesn't curse, smoke or drink alcohol and was a strict disciplinarian with his sons, whom he home-schooled from a young age. While he rarely attended church, he studied the Bible nightly, memorizing long passages, said Ms. Harsh, his ex-fiance. Several scripture passages appear on the Hutaree Web site.

On his page on the MySpace social-networking site, Mr. Stone, using the alias of "(RD) Merzonik," listed his interests as "GOD, Guns and Girls." He said he liked action and science-fiction movies and writes, "only dead people are true heroes ... so I guess I don't have any." He listed his hometown as, "Wasteland, America," and 73 MySpace friends include several state and county militias.

Mr. Stone is listed as a 1982 graduate of Sand Creek High School on an alumni Web site. Donna Stone, his ex-wife, said she met Mr. Stone in the mid-1990s when she worked at a deli counter and he was a customer. She said he was charming and funny.

But Mr. Stone increasingly displayed a stubborn streak, as well as an affinity for guns. Ms. Stone, 44, said she left him after about a decade together. "When he went from handguns to big guns, I said, 'Enough,' " she said.

HUTAREE MILITIA ARTICLES



Court documents reveal an undercover FBI agent was part of the investigation of a Michigan-based Christian militia group that allegedly plotted to spark an uprising against the government by killing police officers. Plus, in a major push against the health overhaul, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce plans to spend \$50 million to sway election outcomes; and the News Hub discusses how a six-year high in the number of stocks hitting 52-week highs is not necessarily a bad sign for stocks.

Ms. Harsh, 40, said she began dating Mr. Stone in 2008 after meeting him at a plastics recycling factory where they worked. Mr. Stone showed her a Hutaree business card when they met, but otherwise said little about the group while they dated for several months.

After they moved in together, Ms. Harsh said, he spent hours on the computer, building the group's Web site and searching online for weapons. "His life was pretty much consumed by the Hutaree," she said.

Mr. Stone despised authority, Ms. Harsh said, particularly "anyone with a badge." She said his temper finally drove her away last year. Mr. Stone remarried a few months later.

Ron Gaydosh, 62, said he had known Mr. Stone for more than 15 years, and frequently invited the Stones over for barbecues. He described Mr. Stone as a "good guy," with "all-around good kids," and said the family enjoyed hunting and fishing.

He said Mr. Stone was easily upset by talk of the government. "Some of the things that upset Dave also upset me," said Mr. Gaydosh, who belongs to another militia group with no ties to Hutaree. They frequently discussed survivalist techniques and poked fun at government officials, he said, but "there was never any violence planned."

Mr. Gaydosh said Mr. Stone didn't like law enforcement officials driving by and shining lights at Mr. Stone's house, adding that he always referred to police as "feds." Mr. Stone also didn't like neighbors complaining about his target shooting, Mr. Gaydosh said.



[Enlarge Image](#)

Associated Press

It's not clear whether Mr. Stone had money troubles. Ms. Harsh said he was working at Demlow Products, an auto-industry supplier in Clayton; a person who answered the phone at the company declined to comment. Mr. Stone and his ex-wife, Donna Stone, filed for Chapter 7 bankruptcy protection in 1999.

HUTAREE MILITIA ARTICLES

Trailers on property belonging to David Brian Stone, the leader of Midwest Christian militia Hutaree.

the states have at least one group of Hutaree."

But he scared off some potential recruits. Jon Killman said he visited Mr. Stone and his sons in December because he was interested in joining a militia to practice survival skills.

He said Mr. Stone was a gracious host and offered him coffee. But soon Mr. Killman "got a bad vibe" as the Stones started joking about police officers who'd been shot in a coffee shop in Washington state.



Associated Press

Donna Stone said her ex-husband, David Brian Stone Sr., was stubborn.

Over the past couple of years, Mr. Stone attracted more Hutaree members, Ms. Harsh said: "His goal was to have all of

The family's dining room table was strewn with shotgun shells, Mr. Killman recalled. The elder Mr. Stone said the shells would be filled with gunpowder and tied to trip wires to simulate landmines.

At first "they just seemed like a down-to-earth hillbilly family," he said. "After 20 minutes into the meeting, I realized these guys are not dealing with a full deck."

Matt Savino, commander of the Lenawee Volunteer Michigan Militia near Mr. Stone's home, said in recent months Mr. Stone became "paranoid" and began asking other militia groups to join in military exercises.

Mr. Stone began talking more about how "the federal government was coming down on them" and the need to be on the offensive and retain the element of surprise, Mr. Savino said.

Ms. Harsh said Mr. Stone "always thought he could hide from the government. He thought he was invincible."

—James Oberman contributed to this article.

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How The FBI Got Inside The Hutaree Militia

by DINA TEMPLE-RASTON

First of a two-part series



Enlarge

Dina Temple-Raston/NPR

David Stone Sr. and his wife, Tina, members of the Christian militia Hutaree, lived in these trailers in Clayton, Mich. Last month, the Stones and seven other militia members were indicted on sedition and weapons charges. Prosecutors say there was a plot to spark an anti-government uprising by killing law enforcement officials.

April 12, 2010

text size **A A A**

Read Part 2

America's New Kinder,
Gentler Militia
April 13, 2010

The two trailers where David Stone Sr. and his wife, Tina, lived in southeast Michigan look frozen in midcollapse. They sit on a patch of land on the border of two sleepy southeastern Michigan towns: Adrian and Clayton, about an hour southwest of Detroit.

The trailers sit side by side, as if they are leaning on each other for support. The sides of the structures are pockmarked. That's because they are riddled with bullet holes — not going from the outside in, but from the inside out — the result of accidental discharges from the cache of weapons the Stone family allegedly kept inside.

To hear the FBI tell it, more than just gunfire was coming from inside those trailers. Prosecutors say the trailers were ground zero for a sinister plan to spark a conflict with the government and perhaps inspire other militias to join in the battle.

Prosecutors say David Stone Sr., Tina, his son Joshua and a handful of others were members of a small, violent Christian militia they called the Hutaree. And they wanted to go out in a blaze of gunfire and glory.

"I think going back a couple of years ago, we kinda got wind of this group and there could be some issues with them," said Andrew Arena, the FBI's special agent in charge in Detroit. "Like any extremist group, I don't think in reality they believe that they're going to personally overthrow the U.S. government. The plan is to basically be the match or the spark to ignite the revolution."

Last month, David Stone Sr. and Tina were among nine people indicted on sedition and weapons charges in what prosecutors say was a plot to spark an anti-government uprising by killing police.

Militia Country

On the surface, it is not as crazy as it sounds. Although Lenawee County in southeastern Michigan is mostly farm country — all barns and flat fields that seem to go on for miles — it is also militia country.



U.S. Marshal/AP

David Stone Sr. is a member of a Christian militia called the Hutaree. According to prosecutors, he wanted to go out in a blaze of gunfire and glory.

It is not unusual to see armed men in camouflage emerge from the woods or gather in state parks. A couple of times a month, militia members gather to do everything from compass reading to sharpshooting in the nearby woods.

According to the Southern Poverty Law Center, there are dozens of militia groups in Michigan, making it second only to Texas in terms of the number of volunteer militia members it has.

"There's people out there shooting all the time and stuff, but unless you know for sure, you think they're just hunters," said Angela Chase, who lives near the Stones' trailers. "You just never know when there are people out there who are crazy."

Local militia members had their own opinions about the Hutarees. They knew them only in an arm's length way. The Hutarees had come out occasionally to practice shooting or training in the

woods with other local militia groups. But that stopped a couple of years ago when the group started getting very secretive and standoffish.

"They would always talk about putting together training sessions with other groups but they would always neglect to say when or where," said one local militia member who doesn't want anyone to know he's in a militia.

Law enforcement officials tell NPR that it may have been this low-grade concern about what the Hutarees were up to that led a member of one local militia to infiltrate Stone's group — just to keep an eye on them. That militia member ended up becoming a cooperating witness in the case.

Surveillance Tape Of Stone

An FBI surveillance tape obtained by NPR provides a glimpse into Stone's view of the vast conspiracy burbling in the shadows. In the tape, he says he could see local cops joining forces with foreign soldiers to take over the U.S.

"Do I think all the cops out here would — they would fight right alongside some Chinese trooper, heck yeah," he says on one of the tapes. "It's all about power. It's about the authority. They see us as the little people."

The tape was made in February while the group was driving to Kentucky to attend a militia rally. Stone had prepared what

**A war of this magnitude
will not be easy. But like
the rattlesnake on the
flag, we have rattled and**

he hoped would be a rousing speech for the gathering and he read it to the others in the car.

"We need to quit playing this game with these elitist terrorists and get serious because this war will come whether we are ready or not," Stone told the other members of the Hutaree as they drove back to Michigan. "A war of this magnitude will not be easy. But like the rattlesnake on the flag, we have rattled and warned the new world order. Now it is time to strike and take our nation back."

warned the new world order. Now it is time to strike and take our nation back.

- David Stone Sr., as recorded on an FBI surveillance tape

William Swor, David Stone's defense attorney, confirms his client is speaking on that tape. But he says there is nothing in what Stone said that is the least bit illegal.

"The things ... in that statement were no more radical, no more offensive or dangerous than anything any of the right-wing wackos on television and radio said the week before these folks were arrested," Swor said.

Undercover Agent And Explosives

But the FBI's Arena says the Hutarees crossed a line when they plotted to kill police. He said prosecutors will show evidence of that plan in court. This isn't about the First Amendment, Arena said.



Enlarge

Paul Sancya/AP

Andrew Arena, the FBI's special agent in charge in Detroit, says prosecutors will show evidence in court that the Hutarees plotted to kill police.

"In this country you can say just about anything you want against the government — but when you start taking action against that government, that's a problem," he says. "How you define it, in each case, it is a little different. In this case, we define it by the fact that they were starting to plan how they were going to ignite the war."

The low-grade concern about the Hutaree escalated to a new level last fall, an NPR News investigation has found. That's when the FBI says it got word that the Hutarees were building bombs and detonating them off in the woods. For the most part, the FBI says it leaves militia groups to their own devices. But when explosives are involved, officials feel a line has been crossed.

So when the Hutaree allegedly starting making improvised explosive devices, the bureau decided to infiltrate the group with its own undercover agent. As it turns out, there was a side benefit. Arena said the undercover officer who was accepted into the group was offered membership because he said he had a special skill: He knew how to make bombs. Arena said the officer offered to take over that part of the group's operation. That meant the FBI would now have some modicum of control over what it saw as the Hutarees' most dangerous asset: explosives.

"We were very fortunate to be able to insert an individual who was able to take that role, and it certainly helped me sleep a little better at night," Arena said.

Another Militia Goes To The Police

DHS-001-425-000294

There's one more twist to the story.

Four years ago, a young man named Matt Servino thought about joining the Hutaree. And he talked to David Stone about it — at length. But Servino said Stone made him a little nervous.

"You could tell he was getting really upset about anything the government was doing," Servino said. "Not to the point of, 'Let's go do this particular act or something.' But he would just say, 'Something needs to be done. These protests and things aren't cutting it anymore. ... Something serious needs to happen.' "

Rather than join the Hutaree, Servino decided to resurrect an old militia — a local unit in Lenawee, Mich. And while he and Stone would exchange pleasantries anytime they met in town, Servino tended to keep clear of whatever it was they were doing out there in the woods. And that worked just fine until the weekend before Easter. That's when federal authorities arrested Stone, his wife and six other Hutaree members. Stone's son, Joshua, was not among them, and he turned to Servino for help. He assumed, as a fellow member of a local militia, Servino would be sympathetic.

"He asked for assistance ... weapons, gear and whatnot," Servino said. "He asked us to back him up to get on his property. He knew a back way onto his property and was pretty confident in himself that he could get to weapons or supplies that were stashed on the property that the [Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives] wouldn't find."

Militias have generally been perceived as lying in wait for opportunities like this: Occasions when these small bands of private warriors could engage the government and go out fighting — like what happened in Waco, Texas, or Ruby Ridge, Idaho.

But that isn't what happened here.

Instead of helping Joshua Stone, Servino told him his group was staying out of it. And Servino went a step further. He brought his militia together.

"We talked about it, and we decided as a group to go to the state police department, local here, and talk to them and tell them what little information we had," Servino says.

A day later, the FBI arrested Joshua Stone in a neighboring county — without incident. Servino says what the Hutarees are accused of doing is precisely the kind of thing that gives militias a bad name. And he says militias have changed. "You use the terminology 'old school' militia and 'new age' militia and it kinda is," Servino said. "The way you look at things — they way you approach them — is a lot different than it used to be."

Arena agrees that most militias aren't like the Hutaree.

"I think their reaction to this latest incident, to the Hutaree, kinda shows what their mind-set is right now," Arena said. "I think they were appalled, to say the least, at the planning and what these people were trying to do."

That's what makes this story is so unusual: Militia groups and authorities worked together to break this case.

Related NPR Stories

Growth Of Militia Groups 'Astounding' March 30, 2010

DHS-001-425-000295



Hutaree Militia Fact Sheet

The Hutaree Militia

The indictment of nine members of a small Michigan militia on conspiracy, weapons and other charges once again has shined a spotlight on the shadowy world of anti-government militia groups.

According to the indictment, the arrests stem from a militia plot to commit a violent act against a law enforcement officer in order to set off a broader confrontation between the government and militia groups. The plot was spearheaded by a small Christian militia group calling itself the "Hutaree Militia" and based in southwestern Michigan and northwestern Ohio.

The Anti-Defamation League's Center on Extremism has compiled the following fact sheet on the group and its leaders:

The Hutaree Militia is a small militia group based primarily in Lenawee County, Michigan. On March 28, eight members of this group were arrested by federal agents on seditious conspiracy, weapons of mass destruction, and other charges. A ninth person, also charged, remains at large.

Formed: Late Winter/Spring 2008

Leader: David Brian Stone

Size: Approximately 20 members

Organization: Paramilitary structure, including ranks, with sub-units led by sons of David Stone.

Location: Most members are based in Southeastern Michigan (a traditional hub of militia activity), but some members and associates are from northwestern Ohio, as well as Indiana. In late 2008, a Texas unit formed and organized training exercises in Teague, Texas.

Ideology: A combination of the "standard" militia ideology centered around a desire to defend against the "New World Order," believed to be a massive conspiracy to establish a totalitarian one-world government, and a religious ideology that focuses on prophetic Christian notions of the "end times," the Anti-Christ, and the second coming of Christ.

Activities: Primarily paramilitary training. However, in early 2010, a Bridgewater Township supervisor, Jolea Mull, twice reached out to local anti-government militia members to help find missing people. At least three Hutaree members took part in these efforts.

Hutaree Members Indicted: David Brian Stone, David Brian Stone, Jr., Joshua Matthew Sonté, Tina Mae Stone, Joshua John Clough, Michael David Meeks, Thomas William Piatek, Kristopher T. Sickles, Jacob J. Ward.

Charges: A federal grand jury charged all nine Hutaree Militia members arrested with seditious conspiracy, attempting to use weapons of mass destruction (in this case, primarily improvised explosive devices), and using a firearm in relation to a crime of violence. David Brian Stone and David Brian Stone, Jr., were also charged with teaching/demonstrating the use of explosive materials. These two, as well as Joshua Stone, Joshua Clough, Michael Meeks, Kristopher Sickles, and Jacob Ward were all charged with a second count of the same violation.

DHS-001-425-000296



The Hutaree Militia logo, as displayed on their web site, is a patch with the letters "CCR," which stands for Colonial Christian Republic.

Seditious conspiracy is a serious charge, rarely invoked, involving two or more persons conspiring to overthrow, put down, or to destroy by force the government of the United States; or to levy war against the U.S. or oppose by force to prevent the execution of U.S. law or seize property of the U.S.

Nature of the Alleged Plot: According to the federal indictment against the nine Hutaree Militia members, the accused plotted to commit some sort of violent act against law enforcement, such as ambushing and killing an officer during a traffic stop, or killing an officer and his or her family at home. These acts would ostensibly intimidate and demoralize law enforcement. The indictment alleges that after such an action, Hutaree members would retreat to prepared "rally points," where they would wage war against the government and defend themselves with improvised explosive devices. Such a confrontation, the indictment claims, would, in the minds of Hutaree members, serve as a "catalyst" for a widespread uprising against the government.

The Militia Movement in 2010: A Snapshot

Size: The militia movement has roughly 3,000-6,000 members nationwide, with a significant additional number of adherents who self-identify as part of the movement without belonging into any specific group. The number of militia groups has increased sharply since 2008, from around 50 in early 2008 to nearly 200 today.

Organization: The militia movement primarily consists of a collection of paramilitary groups, most of them small (in the range of 10-30 members). Militia umbrella groups have traditionally failed, but the movement nevertheless is well-networked, and members from different groups meet together to share ideas and expertise. In the past two years, the movement has made a concerted effort to use the new social media of the Internet in order to recruit; one result has been the influx of a number of younger people into the movement (the original militia movement was primarily a middle-aged movement).

Reason for Growth: The primary reason for the rapid resurgence of the militia movement was the election of Barack Obama as president. His election re-ignited a number of longstanding anti-government conspiracy theories about gun confiscation, FEMA concentration camps, and martial law, all to enslave Americans as part of the New World Order. Conspiracy theories rather than race was the dominant factor. The resurgence of the militia movement was part of an overall growth of anti-government animosity in the United States over the past 18 months.

Association with Criminal Activity: Since its inception in late 1993/early 1994, many members of the militia movement have been arrested on a variety of charges, most of them involving illegal weapons or explosives and/or conspiracies to use them. Militia members have also been involved in several murders, including murders of police officers. In the past four years, a number of militia members have been arrested for amassing large arsenals of illegal weapons. However, the Hutaree Militia indictments represent the first arrests of militia members for an alleged terrorist plot since the militia resurgence really began a year and a half ago.

The Anti-Defamation League, founded in 1913, is the world's leading organization fighting anti-Semitism through programs and services that counteract hatred, prejudice and bigotry.

The New York Times

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March 29, 2010

Militia Charged With Plotting to Murder Officers

By NICK BUNKLEY and CHARLIE SAVAGE

CLAYTON, Mich. — David B. Stone Sr. and his wife, Tina, made no secret about the fact that they were part of a militia, neighbors say. The couple frequently let visitors in military fatigues erect tents in front of their trailer home at the intersection of rural dirt roads, and the sound of gunfire was routine.

“In Michigan, I don’t think it’s that big of a deal to be in a militia,” said Tom McDormett, a neighbor.

He added: “They would practice shooting, but that’s not a big deal. People do that all the time out here.”

But last Saturday night, Mr. McDormett watched through binoculars as the police raided the Stones’ home, tearing off plywood from the base of their two connected single-wide trailers to search under the floors. By Monday, the Stones were in green prison garb in a federal courthouse in Detroit, two of nine defendants facing sedition and weapons charges in connection with what Attorney General [Eric H. Holder Jr.](#) called an “insidious plan.”

In an indictment against the nine unsealed on Monday, the Justice Department said they were part of a group of apocalyptic Christian militants who were plotting to kill law enforcement officers in hopes of inciting an antigovernment uprising, the latest in a recent surge in right-wing militia activity.

The court filing said the group, which called itself the [Hutaree](#), planned to kill an unidentified law enforcement officer and then bomb the funeral caravan using [improvised explosive devices](#) based on designs used against American troops by insurgents in Iraq.

“This is an example of radical and extremist fringe groups which can be found throughout our society,” Andrew Arena, the [F.B.I.](#) special agent in charge in Detroit, said in a statement. “The F.B.I. takes such extremist groups seriously, especially those who would target innocent citizens and the law enforcement officers who protect the citizens of the United States.”

The Hutaree — a word Mr. Stone apparently made up to mean Christian warriors — saw the local police as “foot soldiers” for the federal government, which the group viewed as its enemy, along with other participants in what the group’s members deemed to be a “New World Order” working on behalf of the Antichrist, the indictment said.

Eight defendants were arrested over the weekend in raids in Michigan, Ohio and Indiana, the Justice Department said. The authorities arrested the Stones' eldest son, Joshua M. Stone, 21, shortly before 9 p.m. Monday in Pittsford, Mich., about 20 miles west of his family's home, an F.B.I. spokeswoman, Sandra Berchtold, said.

A grand jury had secretly returned the indictments against the nine last Tuesday.

A law enforcement official said the plot appeared to be unconnected to recent threats against Democratic lawmakers who voted for legislation overhauling the nation's health care system. According to the indictment, the group — apparently centered in Lenawee County, about 70 miles southwest of Detroit — has been meeting regularly since at least August 2008.

The group's Web site suggested that it was motivated by apocalyptic religious scenarios more than any secular political fears. A rare mention of earthly politics on the site is a page devoted to discussion of efforts to unite Europe, with a suggestion that one high-ranking European official, [Javier Solana](#), might be the Antichrist.

Chip Berlet, a senior analyst at [Political Research Associates](#), a liberal-leaning nonprofit group that tracks far-right networks, said the Hutaree's philosophy was drawn from a populist strand that fuses fear of a conspiracy to create a one-world government with a belief that a war is imminent between Christians and the Antichrist, as described in the Bible's Book of Revelation.

In April 2009, the [Department of Homeland Security](#) produced a [report](#) warning of a rising threat of right-wing terrorism, citing factors like economic troubles, the election of a black president and perceived threats to United States sovereignty.

Mark Potok, who leads a program that tracks right-wing groups for the [Southern Poverty Law Center](#), said it first took note of the Hutaree last year amid a surge in new "Patriot" movement groups, race-based hate groups, extremist anti-immigrant groups, Christian militants and other variations.

"We're seeing all kinds of radical right-wing groups grow very rapidly, especially in the militia world," Mr. Potok said.

The indictment said the Hutaree, in anticipation of a war against its enemies, had been engaging in "military-style training," from weapons proficiency drills to "close quarter battle drills" and the use of "ambush kill zones." The small group had acquired guns, ammunition, medical supplies, uniforms, communications equipment and "explosives and other components for destructive devices," it said.

After attacking the police, the members planned to retreat to several planned "rally points" and wait for the authorities to come after them. They were preparing fighting positions as well as "trip-wired and command-detonated" bombs, it said.

"It is believed by the Hutaree that this engagement would then serve as a catalyst for a more widespread uprising against the government," the indictment said.

In addition, Mr. Stone had announced “a covert reconnaissance exercise” in April, during which “anyone who happened upon the exercise who did not acquiesce to Hutaree demands could be killed,” the indictment said.

The United States attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan, Barbara McQuade, said the government raided the group this past weekend because that exercise would have “had the potential of placing an unsuspecting member of the public at risk.”

The Hutaree Web site features the motto “Preparing for the end time battles to keep the testimony of Jesus Christ alive” and a video showing rifle-toting men in camouflage running through woods and firing weapons.

“Jesus wanted us to be ready to defend ourselves using the sword and stay alive using equipment,” the Web site says, adding, “The Hutaree will one day see its enemy and meet him on the battlefield if so God wills it.”

By Monday, the Stones’ house stood empty, its front door ajar and two dogs still tied up in the muddy yard, which was littered with dilapidated furniture, a washing machine and tires.

The Stones’ two sons were among those arrested. Joshua, the eldest, left the local school system after the fifth grade in 1999 to be home-schooled, and the younger son, David B. Stone Jr., 19, had never been enrolled, an official said.

Also charged were Joshua J. Clough, 28, of Blissfield, Mich.; Michael D. Meeks, 40, of Manchester, Mich.; Thomas W. Piatek, 46, of Whiting, Ind.; Kristopher T. Sickles, 27, of Sandusky, Ohio; and Jacob Ward, 33, of Huron, Ohio.

They could face a maximum penalty of life in prison if convicted of the most serious charge, attempted use of a weapon of mass destruction.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN
SOUTHERN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

vs.

Case:2:10-cr-20123

Judge: Roberts, Victoria A

MJ: Komives, Paul J

Filed: 03-23-2010 At 04:26 PM

INDI USA V SEALED MATTER (EB)

VIOLATIONS:

18 U.S.C. § 2384

18 U.S.C. § 2332a(a)(2)

18 U.S.C. § 842(p)(2)

18 U.S.C. § 924(c)(1)

D-1 DAVID BRIAN STONE, a.k.a. "RD,"

a.k.a. "Joe Stonewall," a.k.a. "Captain Hutaree,"

D-2 DAVID BRIAN STONE, JR., a.k.a. "Junior,"

D-3 JOSHUA MATTHEW STONE, a.k.a. "Josh,"

D-4 TINA MAE STONE,

D-5 JOSHUA JOHN CLOUGH, a.k.a "Azzurlin,"

a.k.a. "Az," a.k.a. "Mouse," a.k.a. "Jason Z. Charles,"

D-6 MICHAEL DAVID MEEKS, a.k.a. "Mikey,"

D-7 THOMAS EDWARD PIATEK, ^{collected} ^{ca}

D-8 KRISTOPHER T. SICKLES, a.k.a. "Pale Horse,"

D-9 JACOB J. WARD, a.k.a. "Jake," a.k.a. "Nate,"

a.k.a. "Guhighllo,"

Defendants.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is
a true copy of the original on file in this
Office.

CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN


Deputy

INDICTMENT

THE GRAND JURY CHARGES THAT:

GENERAL ALLEGATIONS

At all relevant times described herein, there existed an organization known as the "HUTAREE", based in Lenawee County Michigan, which is an anti-government extremist organization which advocates violence against local, state, and Federal law enforcement.

The defendants, DAVID BRIAN STONE, a.k.a. "RD," a.k.a. "Joe Stonewall," a.k.a. "Captain Hutaree," DAVID BRIAN STONE, JR., a.k.a. "Junior," JOSHUA MATTHEW STONE, a.k.a. "Josh," TINA MAE STONE, JOSHUA JOHN CLOUGH, a.k.a. "Azzurlin," a.k.a. "Az," a.k.a. "Mouse," a.k.a. "Jason Z. Charles," MICHAEL DAVID MEEKS, a.k.a. "Mikey," THOMAS ^{William} EDWARD PIATEK, KRISTOPHER T. SICKLES, a.k.a. "Pale Horse," JACOB J. WARD, a.k.a. "Jake," a.k.a. "Nate," a.k.a. "Guhighllo," and others known and unknown to the Grand Jury, are members of the HUTAREE. Some HUTAREE members are identifiable by their tiger stripe camouflage uniforms with a distinct shoulder patch which contains a black cross, two brown vertical pillars which form the letter "H" in combination with the black cross, two red spears, a brown V shape at the base of the cross symbolizing the supporting hands of the HUTAREE, and the initials "CCR."

The HUTAREE's enemies include state and local law enforcement, who are deemed "foot-soldiers" of the Federal government, Federal law enforcement agencies and employees, participants in the "New World Order," and anyone who does not share in the HUTAREE's beliefs.

Since at least 2008, the HUTAREE has been meeting regularly to conduct military-style training in Lenawee County, located in the Eastern District of Michigan, and elsewhere. The purpose of this training has been to plan and prepare for the impending war with the HUTAREE's enemies.

As used herein, the term "weapon of mass destruction" has the meaning set forth in Title 18, United States Code, Section 2332a(c)(2), including any destructive device as defined in Title 18, United States Code, Section 921.

COUNT ONE

(18 U.S.C. § 2384 – SEDITIOUS CONSPIRACY)

D-1 DAVID BRIAN STONE, a.k.a. "RD," a.k.a. "Joe Stonewall,"
a.k.a. "Captain Hutaree,"

D-2 DAVID BRIAN STONE, JR., a.k.a. "Junior,"

D-3 JOSHUA MATTHEW STONE, a.k.a. "Josh,"

D-4 TINA MAE STONE,

D-5 JOSHUA JOHN CLOUGH, a.k.a. "Azzurlin," a.k.a. "Az,"
a.k.a. "Mouse," a.k.a. "Jason Z. Charles,"

D-6 MICHAEL DAVID MEEKS, a.k.a. "Mikey,"

D-7 THOMAS ^{WILLIAM} EDWARD PIATEK, ~~EDWARD~~

D-8 KRISTOPHER T. SICKLES, a.k.a. "Pale Horse,"

D-9 JACOB J. WARD, a.k.a. "Jake," a.k.a. "Nate,"
a.k.a. "Guhighllo"

From on or about August 16, 2008, and continuing thereafter up to and including the date of the filing of this indictment, in the Eastern District of Michigan, Southern Division, and elsewhere, the defendants, DAVID BRIAN STONE, a.k.a. "RD," a.k.a. "Joe Stonewall," a.k.a. "Captain Hutaree," DAVID BRIAN STONE, JR., a.k.a. "Junior," JOSHUA MATTHEW STONE, a.k.a. "Josh," TINA MAE STONE, JOSHUA JOHN CLOUGH, a.k.a. "Azzurlin," a.k.a. "Az," a.k.a. "Mouse," a.k.a. "Jason Z. Charles," MICHAEL DAVID MEEKS, a.k.a. "Mikey," THOMAS ^{WILLIAM} ~~EDWARD~~ PIATEK, KRISTOPHER T. SICKLES, a.k.a. "Pale Horse," and JACOB J. WARD, a.k.a. "Jake," a.k.a. "Nate," a.k.a. "Guhighllo," acting as a militia group known as the HUTAREE, did knowingly conspire, confederate, and agree with each other and other persons known and unknown to the Grand Jury, to levy war against the United States, to oppose by force the authority of the Government of the United States, and to prevent, hinder, and delay by force the execution of any United States law.

THE MEANS AND METHODS USED TO FURTHER
THE OBJECTS OF THE CONSPIRACY

At all relevant times described herein, the defendant DAVID BRIAN STONE, a.k.a. "RD," a.k.a. "Joe Stonewall," a.k.a. "Captain Hutaree," has been the principal leader of the HUTAREE and he has organized the HUTAREE into two operational units led by himself and one his sons, defendant JOSHUA MATTHEW STONE, a.k.a. "Josh." Another son, defendant DAVID BRIAN STONE, JR., a.k.a. "Junior," served as an explosives instructor and demonstrator, and participated in operational planning and training. The defendant DAVID BRIAN STONE, a.k.a. "RD," a.k.a. "Joe Stonewall," a.k.a. "Captain Hutaree," also established a HUTAREE rank structure, assigned HUTAREE names to members of the organization, and created HUTAREE words for various military formations and maneuvers.

The general concept of operations provided that the HUTAREE would commit some violent act to draw the attention of law enforcement or government officials and which would prompt a response by law enforcement. Possible such acts which were discussed included killing a member of law enforcement after a traffic stop, killing a member of law enforcement and his or her family at home, ambushing a member of law enforcement in rural communities, luring a member of law enforcement with a false 911 emergency call and then killing him or her, and killing a member of law enforcement and then attacking the funeral procession motorcade with weapons of mass destruction. These acts would intimidate and demoralize law enforcement diminishing their ranks and rendering them ineffective.

The general concept of operations further provided that, once such action was taken, HUTAREE members would then retreat to one of several "rally points" where the HUTAREE would wage war against the government and be prepared to defend in depth with trip-wired and command detonated anti-personnel Improvised Explosive Devices (IED), ambushes, and prepared fighting positions. It is believed by the HUTAREE that this engagement would then serve as a catalyst for a more wide-spread uprising against the Government.

The conspirators planned for and trained for the armed conflict against local, state, and Federal law enforcement by engaging in the following means and methods, among others, within the Eastern District of Michigan and elsewhere:

- a. Conspirators acquired firearms, magazines, and ammunition, explosives and other components for destructive devices, uniforms, communications equipment, supply and ammunition vehicles, and medical and other supplies.

- b. Conspirators engaged in military-style training in anticipation of the planned for military operations to include firearms and explosives training, weapons proficiency drills, patrolling and reconnaissance exercises, close quarter battle drills, and "man-down" drills, and prepared defensive fighting positions, ambush kill zones, and storage bunkers. During these training sessions, each conspirator in attendance carried and used at least one firearm. This training has also included instruction and demonstrations regarding the manufacturing and use of destructive devices and weapons of mass destruction.

c. DAVID BRIAN STONE, a.k.a. "RD," a.k.a. "Joe Stonewall," a.k.a. "Captain Hutaree," planned the killing of an unidentified member of local law enforcement. As a consequence of this act, law enforcement officers from throughout the nation would be drawn to and gather in the Eastern District of Michigan for the funeral. According to the plan, the HUTAREE would then attack law enforcement vehicles during the funeral procession with Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) with Explosively Formed Projectiles (EFP). Subsequently, and in furtherance of this plan, DAVID BRIAN STONE, a.k.a. "RD," a.k.a. "Joe Stonewall," a.k.a. "Captain Hutaree," obtained information about such devices over the internet and emailed diagrams of such devices to a person he believed capable of manufacturing the devices. Also, in furtherance of this plan, JOSHUA MATTHEW STONE, a.k.a. "Josh," and others provided materials necessary for the manufacturing of such devices at the direction of DAVID BRIAN STONE, a.k.a. "RD," a.k.a. "Joe Stonewall," a.k.a. "Captain Hutaree."

d. DAVID BRIAN STONE, a.k.a. "RD," a.k.a. "Joe Stonewall," a.k.a. "Captain Hutaree," also announced to conspirators a covert reconnaissance exercise scheduled for April 2010, during which exercise anyone who happened upon the exercise who did not acquiesce to HUTAREE demands could be killed. DAVID BRIAN STONE, a.k.a. "RD," a.k.a. "Joe Stonewall," a.k.a. "Captain Hutaree," further advised his conspirators that HUTAREE training scheduled for February and March would be devoted to preparing for this exercise.

e. On or about February 6, 2010, several conspirators attempted to travel to Kentucky to attend a summit of militia groups convened by DAVID BRIAN STONE, a.k.a. "RD," a.k.a. "Joe Stonewall," a.k.a. "Captain Hutaree." The purpose of the summit of militia groups was to facilitate better communications, cooperation, and coordination between the various militias. In anticipation of the summit, DAVID BRIAN STONE, a.k.a. "RD, " a.k.a. "Joe Stonewall," a.k.a. "Captain Hutaree," solicited a person he believed capable of manufacturing destructive devices to provide him with four anti-personnel Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) to take with them to the summit. Although weather conditions prevented them from reaching their destination, DAVID BRIAN STONE, a.k.a. "RD," a.k.a. "Joe Stonewall," a.k.a. "Captain Hutaree," identified law enforcement officers in a specific community near his residence, and one officer in particular, as potential targets of attack.

f. On or about February 20, 2010, conspirators gathered in Lenawee County in the Eastern District of Michigan and engaged in training devoted to preparing for the planned covert reconnaissance exercise describe above. Each of the conspirators in attendance carried and used at least one firearm.

The General Allegations are incorporated by reference, as if set forth in full herein, all in violation of Section 2384 of Title 18 of the United States Code.

COUNT TWO

**(18 U.S.C. § 2332a(a)(2) – ATTEMPT TO USE
WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION)**

**D-1 DAVID BRIAN STONE, a.k.a. "RD," a.k.a. "Joe Stonewall,"
a.k.a. "Captain Hutaree,"**

D-2 DAVID BRIAN STONE, JR., a.k.a. "Junior,"

D-3 JOSHUA MATTHEW STONE, a.k.a. "Josh,"

D-4 TINA MAE STONE,

**D-5 JOSHUA JOHN CLOUGH, a.k.a. "Azzurlin," a.k.a. "Az,"
a.k.a. "Mouse," a.k.a. "Jason Z. Charles,"**

D-6 MICHAEL DAVID MEEKS, a.k.a. "Mikey,"

D-7 THOMAS ~~EDWARD~~ PIATEK, ^{WILLIAM} ~~EDWARD~~

D-8 KRISTOPHER T. SICKLES, a.k.a. "Pale Horse,"

**D-9 JACOB J. WARD, a.k.a. "Jake," a.k.a. "Nate,"
a.k.a. "Guhighllo"**

From on or about August 13, 2009, and continuing thereafter up to and including the date of the filing of this indictment, in the Eastern District of Michigan, Southern Division, and elsewhere, the defendants, DAVID BRIAN STONE, a.k.a. "RD," a.k.a. "Joe Stonewall," a.k.a. "Captain Hutaree," DAVID BRIAN STONE, JR., a.k.a. "Junior," JOSHUA MATTHEW STONE, a.k.a. "Josh," TINA MAE STONE, JOSHUA JOHN CLOUGH, a.k.a. "Azzurlin," a.k.a. "Az," a.k.a. "Mouse," a.k.a. "Jason Z. Charles," MICHAEL DAVID MEEKS, a.k.a. "Mikey," THOMAS ~~EDWARD~~ ^{WILLIAM} PIATEK, KRISTOPHER T. SICKLES, a.k.a. "Pale Horse," and JACOB J. WARD, a.k.a. "Jake," a.k.a. "Nate," a.k.a. "Guhighllo," without lawful authority, did knowingly attempt to use one or more weapons of mass destruction, specifically, explosive bombs, explosive mines, and other similar explosive devices against persons and property within the United States, to wit: local, State, and Federal law enforcement officers and vehicles, and facilities of interstate commerce, to wit:

email, the internet, and telephones, were used in furtherance of the offense, such property was used in interstate commerce and in an activity that affected interstate commerce, the defendant DAVID BRIAN STONE, a.k.a. "RD," a.k.a. "Joe Stonewall," a.k.a. "Captain Hutaree," traveled in, and caused others to travel in, interstate commerce in furtherance of the offense, and the offense and the results of the offense would have affected interstate commerce.

The General Allegations are incorporated by reference, as if set forth in full herein, all in violation of Section 2332a(a)(2) of Title 18 of the United States Code, Section 2 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and *United States v. Pinkerton*, 328 U.S. 640 (1946).

COUNT THREE

(18 U.S.C. § 842(p)(2) – TEACHING/DEMONSTRATING USE OF EXPLOSIVE MATERIALS)

D-1 DAVID BRIAN STONE, a.k.a. "RD," a.k.a. "Joe Stonewall," a.k.a. "Captain Hutaree,"
D-2 DAVID BRIAN STONE, JR., a.k.a. "Junior"

On or about June 13, 2009, in the Eastern District of Michigan, Southern Division, defendants DAVID BRIAN STONE, a.k.a. "RD," a.k.a. "Joe Stonewall," a.k.a. "Captain Hutaree," and DAVID BRIAN STONE, JR., a.k.a. "Junior," acting without lawful authority, did teach and demonstrated the making or use, and distributed information pertaining to the manufacture or use, of destructive devices and weapons of mass destruction to other persons, and the defendant did so with the intent that the teaching, demonstration or information be used for, or in furtherance of, an activity that constituted a Federal crime of violence, to wit: seditious conspiracy; and knowing that

the persons intend to use the teaching, demonstration, or information for, or in furtherance of, an activity that constitutes a Federal crime of violence, to wit: seditious conspiracy, as alleged in Count One of this indictment.

All in violation of Section 842(p)(2) of Title 18 of the United States Code.

COUNT FOUR

(18 U.S.C. § 924(c)(1) – CARRYING, USING, AND POSSESSING A FIREARM DURING AND IN RELATION TO A CRIME OF VIOLENCE)

**D-1 DAVID BRIAN STONE, a.k.a. "RD," a.k.a. "Joe Stonewall,"
a.k.a. "Captain Hutaree,"**
D-2 DAVID BRIAN STONE, JR., a.k.a. "Junior,"
D-3 JOSHUA MATTHEW STONE, a.k.a. "Josh,"
D-4 TINA MAE STONE,
**D-5 JOSHUA JOHN CLOUGH, a.k.a "Azzurlin," a.k.a. "Az,"
a.k.a. "Mouse," a.k.a. "Jason Z. Charles,"**
D-6 MICHAEL DAVID MEEKS, a.k.a. "Mikey,"
D-7 THOMAS ~~EDWARD~~ PIATEK,
D-8 KRISTOPHER T. SICKLES, a.k.a. "Pale Horse,"
**D-9 JACOB J. WARD, a.k.a. "Jake," a.k.a. "Nate,"
a.k.a. "Guhighllo"**

On or about August 22, 2009, in the Eastern District of Michigan, Southern Division, defendants DAVID BRIAN STONE, a.k.a. "RD," a.k.a. "Joe Stonewall," a.k.a. "Captain Hutaree," DAVID BRIAN STONE, JR., a.k.a. "Junior," JOSHUA MATTHEW STONE, a.k.a. "Josh," TINA MAE STONE, JOSHUA JOHN CLOUGH, a.k.a "Azzurlin," a.k.a. "Az," a.k.a. "Mouse," a.k.a. "Jason Z. Charles," MICHAEL DAVID MEEKS, a.k.a. "Mikey," THOMAS ^{WILLIAM ST} ~~EDWARD~~ PIATEK, KRISTOPHER T. SICKLES, a.k.a. "Pale Horse," and JACOB J. WARD, a.k.a. "Jake," a.k.a. "Nate," a.k.a. "Guhighllo," did knowingly carry and use firearms during and in relation to a crime

of violence for which they may be prosecuted in a court of the United States, that is, seditious conspiracy and attempted use of weapons of mass destruction, as alleged in Counts One and Two of this indictment, and did knowingly possess firearms in furtherance of such crimes.

All in violation of Section 924(c)(1) of Title 18, United States Code.

COUNT FIVE

(18 U.S.C. § 924(c)(1) – CARRYING, USING, AND POSSESSING A FIREARM DURING AND IN RELATION TO A CRIME OF VIOLENCE)

**D-1 DAVID BRIAN STONE, a.k.a. “RD,” a.k.a. “Joe Stonewall,”
a.k.a. “Captain Hutaree,”**
D-2 DAVID BRIAN STONE, JR., a.k.a. “Junior,”
D-3 JOSHUA MATTHEW STONE, a.k.a. “Josh,”
**D-5 JOSHUA JOHN CLOUGH, a.k.a “Azzurlin,” a.k.a. “Az,”
a.k.a. “Mouse,” a.k.a. “Jason Z. Charles,”**
D-6 MICHAEL DAVID MEEKS, a.k.a. “Mikey,”
D-8 KRISTOPHER T. SICKLES, a.k.a. “Pale Horse,”
**D-9 JACOB J. WARD, a.k.a. “Jake,” a.k.a. “Nate,”
a.k.a. “Guhighllo”**

On or about February 20, 2010, in the Eastern District of Michigan, Southern Division, defendants DAVID BRIAN STONE, a.k.a. “RD,” a.k.a. “Joe Stonewall,” a.k.a. “Captain Hutaree,” DAVID BRIAN STONE, JR., a.k.a. “Junior,” JOSHUA MATTHEW STONE, a.k.a. “Josh,” JOSHUA JOHN CLOUGH, a.k.a “Azzurlin,” a.k.a. “Az,” a.k.a. “Mouse,” a.k.a. “Jason Z. Charles,” MICHAEL DAVID MEEKS, a.k.a. “Mikey,” KRISTOPHER T. SICKLES, and JACOB J. WARD, a.k.a. “Jake,” a.k.a. “Nate,” a.k.a. “Guhighllo,” did knowingly carry and use firearms during and in relation to a crime of violence for which they may be prosecuted in a court of the United States, that

is, seditious conspiracy and attempted use of weapons of mass destruction, as alleged in Counts One and Two of this indictment, and did knowingly possess firearms in furtherance of such crimes.

All in violation of Section 924(c)(1) of Title 18, United States Code.

THIS IS A TRUE BILL.

s/Grand Jury Foreperson
GRAND JURY FOREPERSON

BARBARA L. MCQUADE
United States Attorney
Eastern District of Michigan

s/Joseph L. Falvey, Jr.
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[← Back to Original Article](#)

Hutaree arrests are a gut-check moment for militia movement

Some are sympathetic to the group, accused of plotting to kill police, but many shun what they see as a cult-like religious fringe.

April 07, 2010 | By Nicholas Riccardi and Richard Fausset

Reporting from Atlanta and Denver — Even in the extreme world of the militia movement, the Hutaree — eight men and one woman in southeastern Michigan accused of plotting to kill police to foment a revolution — stood out.

They trained with other survivalist groups and attended at least one militia conference in Kentucky, according to court papers filed by federal prosecutors. But their neighbors in the militia movement were suspicious of the Hutaree's Christian ideology and obsession with a coming apocalypse.

"It's just sad," said Lee Miracle of the Southeast Michigan Volunteer Militia, which included some of the men who later joined the Hutaree. "They kind of drifted away and ended up more with a kind of cult-like group."

To experts who follow militias, the existence of the Hutaree — and the cool reaction it generally received from other militia groups — is a reminder that the movement is far from monolithic.

The best-known militias are mainly concerned with perceived violations of constitutional protections against government power, but there has long been a minority that, like the Hutaree, took a more religious view, said Robert H. Churchill, a University of Hartford history professor and author of "To Shake Their Guns in the Tyrant's Face," a history of the 1990s militia movement.

The Hutaree uses uniforms emblazoned with CCR, for Colonial Christian Republic, and believes that former NATO leader Javier Solana could be the antichrist.

On Friday, a federal judge ordered the nine Hutaree members to remain jailed until trial, calling evidence against them "very disturbing."

They face charges of sedition and use of weapons of mass destruction. Authorities said they planned to act in the coming weeks; their defense lawyers counter that the group was guilty only of swagger.

The militia movement has been mostly out of the public eye since the late 1990s, but it began to regain strength during George W. Bush's presidency and has experienced a renaissance under the nation's first black president.

Since President Obama's inauguration last year, the number of militias in the country has tripled, according to a recent report from the Southern Poverty Law Center, which monitors extremist groups. The center identified 512 active "patriot" groups in 2009.

Churchill said the Hutaree's alienation from some of its militia brethren corresponds to a split in the movement that was also evident during its last time in the limelight, in the 1990s. The Hutaree, he said, appeared to be part of a "millennialist" militia movement largely concerned with end times prophecy and full-blown, new-world-order-type anti-government conspiracy theories.

After the recent arrest, some militia groups were sympathetic to the Hutaree, while stopping short of endorsing violence. But several militias distanced themselves from the Hutaree.

Michael Vanderboegh, a former militia member who is prominent in the anti-government constitutionalist movement, called it "nuttery."

This separation reflects an earlier pattern. In the 1990s, Churchill said, the constitutionalist groups also made serious efforts to distinguish themselves from the millennialists.

Miracle, the Michigan militia member, said that one of his group's affiliated organizations, called the Lenawee Brigade, was contacted by a Hutaree member seeking help when federal heat was becoming evident. Miracle said Lenawee turned the Hutaree down.

Mark Potok of the Southern Poverty Law Center contended that the Hutaree had plenty in common with the mainstream militia movement.

He said many groups fear a new world order and globalist conspiracy against the U.S., but lack the Hutaree's overt Christian rhetoric. He also pointed to the group's MySpace page, which he said had more than 300 friends listed from other wings of the movement.

"They weren't viewed as the lunatic fringe two weeks ago," he said.

Potok acknowledged that only a tiny minority of militia members seek violence.

Aitan Goelman, who was part of the team that prosecuted the Oklahoma City bombing, said that when people start to act on violent rhetoric, it frequently produces divisions.

"It goes beyond fantasy and your purported ideals and becomes a real gut-check moment," he said.

The distinctions among militia groups may hark back to the President Clinton era, but Churchill notes one new trend in the age of Obama: the increased use of patriot-style rhetoric in mainstream discourse.

Referring to the angry vocabulary used by lawmakers and media pundits such as Glenn Beck, Churchill said the wall between the patriots' sphere of conversation and that of mainstream conservatives "is starting to break down, is starting to erode."

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