

Domestic Terrorism Symbols Guide



UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
Domestic Terrorism Symbols Guide

(U//FOUO) Militia Violent Extremism

(U//FOUO) SUMMARY

The following symbols are used by Anti-Government or Anti-Authority Violent Extremists, specifically Militia Violent Extremists (MVE). MVE symbols are often found on propaganda, online platforms, memes, merchandise, group logos, flags, tattoos, uniforms, etc. Widespread use of symbols and quotes from American history, especially the Revolutionary war, exists within MVE networks. Historic and contemporary military themes are common for MVE symbols. The use or sharing of these symbols alone should not independently be considered evidence of MVE presence or affiliation or serve as an indicator of illegal activity, as many individuals use these symbols for their original, historic meaning, or other non-violent purposes.

(U) SYMBOLS

| | | | |
|--|--|--|---|
|  | (U) Boogaloo: Alludes to the film <i>Breakin' 2: Electric Boogaloo</i> ; used by some MVEs to refer to violent uprising or impending second Civil War. Common imagery incorporates igloo and/or Hawaiian shirts/flowers. |  | (U) Anarcho-Capitalism ("ancap"): An ideology held by some MVEs advocating the State be eliminated or minimized and that public services be provided by private companies competing in a free market. Represented by a black and yellow flag. |
|  | (U) Punisher Skull: Several variations of skulls, used by riflemen and Molon Labe etc. |  | (U) Warrior Cultures: Military themes both historical and contemporary (Spartans, Valhalla). |
|  | (U) 2A: MVEs justify their existence with the Second Amendment, due to the mention of a "well regulated Militia," as well as the right to bear arms. |  | (U) "MolonLabe", "ΜΟΛΩΝ ΛΑΒΕ" and "Μολὼν ἄβει": Greek phrase, translates as "come and take it" and "come and take them." |
|  | (U) Electrical resistance symbol: A way to identify as a resistor. |  | (U) Black Flag: The black and white or all black American flag is used by some to indicate "no quarter shall be given." |

(U//FOUO) COMMONLY REFERENCED HISTORICAL IMAGERY OR QUOTES

| | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
|  | (U) Gadsden Flag: Historical American symbol, representing gun rights and limited government. |  | (U) Liberty Tree: The Liberty Tree was a famous elm tree in Boston near Boston Common. In 1765, colonists in Boston staged the first act of defiance against the British government at the tree. |
|  | (U) Revolutionary War imagery: An example of a militiaman during the Revolutionary war. |  | (U) Betsy Ross Flag: Revolutionary war imagery harkening back to the 13 colonies and calls for revolution. |

(U) For additional information, please contact the Counterterrorism Analysis Section of the FBI Counterterrorism Division via email at FBI_CTD_CTAS@fbi.gov.

(U) Sources: Previous FBI products, FBI information and open source information. This document derives from multiple sources of information collected by the FBI.
(U) FBI's employ a number of tactics, some of which may be criminal and others of which may constitute exercise of rights guaranteed by the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. The FBI may not base any investigative activity solely on the rights guaranteed by the First Amendment.
(U) FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY: The information marked (u//FOUO) in this document is the property of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and may be distributed to government (federal, state, tribal, or local) employees and contractors with a need to know. It contains information that may be exempt from public release under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552). Dissemination to the public, the media, or other personnel who do not have a need to know without prior approval of an authorized FBI official is prohibited. Precautions must be taken to ensure this information is controlled, stored, handled, transmitted, distributed, and disposed of in a manner that precludes unauthorized access.

UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Domestic terrorism symbols guide is a crucial resource for understanding the signs, symbols, and iconography associated with domestic terrorism movements. This guide is designed to provide insight into various symbols that extremist groups use to communicate their ideologies, rally support, and instill fear. Understanding these symbols is essential for law enforcement, educators, community leaders, and the general public to identify potential threats and respond appropriately.

The Importance of Recognizing Symbols in

Domestic Terrorism

Symbols serve as powerful tools for communication, particularly within extremist groups. They often convey complex ideas succinctly and can be used to foster a sense of belonging among members. Recognizing these symbols can help in several ways:

1. Preventing Radicalization: Awareness of symbols can help communities identify and intervene before individuals become radicalized.
2. Enhancing Law Enforcement: Law enforcement agencies can better understand and address the specific threats posed by domestic terrorism.
3. Educating the Public: Increased public knowledge can lead to informed discussions about extremism and its impact on society.

Types of Domestic Terrorism Symbols

Domestic terrorism symbols can be broadly categorized into several types:

1. Ideological Symbols

These symbols reflect the core beliefs and ideologies of extremist groups. They often draw from historical, religious, or cultural references.

- Nazi Symbols: Swastikas and SS lightning bolts are commonly used by white supremacist groups.
- Anarchist Symbols: The circled "A" represents anarchism and is often used by anti-government groups.
- Marxist Symbols: The hammer and sickle is a symbol of communism, frequently used by leftist extremist groups.

2. Group-Specific Symbols

Certain symbols are unique to specific extremist organizations and can indicate membership or allegiance.

- The Oath Keepers Logo: Features an eagle and a motto emphasizing the organization's commitment to defending the Constitution.
- Proud Boys Symbols: Include a lion and the phrase "Western chauvinism," representing their beliefs about Western culture.

3. Numeric Codes

Numbers often carry significant meaning in extremist circles, using them as codes for ideology or affiliation.

- 14: Represents the "14 Words" slogan, popularized by white supremacist David Lane.
- 88: A shorthand for "Heil Hitler," where 8 is used for the letter H (8th letter of the alphabet).

4. Graffiti and Street Art

Vandalism often serves as a canvas for extremist symbols, making them visible in urban areas.

- Tags and Stickers: Commonly used by various groups to assert territory or intimidate communities.
- Murals: Some groups create larger works that depict their ideology and heroes, often celebrating violence.

Recognizing the Context of Symbols

Understanding the context in which symbols are used is key to interpreting their meaning. The same symbol can have different implications based on the group using it or the situation in which it appears.

1. Historical Context

Many symbols have deep-rooted historical backgrounds that shape their current use.

- Swastika: Originally an ancient symbol of good fortune, it was appropriated by the Nazi Party and now stands for hate and genocide.
- Black Sun: A symbol with pagan roots that has been adopted by neo-Nazi and white supremacist groups to signify their beliefs.

2. Cultural Context

Cultural appropriation can also play a role in the use of symbols. Some groups adopt imagery from cultures they seek to exploit or demean.

- Native American Symbols: Certain extremist groups may use Native American iconography to promote a false narrative of heritage or superiority.
- Religious Symbols: Extremists may hijack religious symbols to justify their actions or paint their ideology as divinely sanctioned.

3. Geographic Context

The geographical location can influence the prevalence of specific symbols. For instance:

- Southern Pride Symbols: In the Southern United States, symbols like the Confederate flag are often used by groups advocating for white supremacy or segregation.
- Anti-Government Symbols: In certain regions, symbols of defiance against federal authority (such as the Gadsden flag) may be co-opted by militants.

How to Respond to Domestic Terrorism Symbols

Recognizing symbols is just the first step; knowing how to respond to their presence is equally important.

1. Reporting Suspicious Activities

If you encounter symbols associated with domestic terrorism, consider the following steps:

- Document the Symbol: Take photos and note the location and context.
- Report to Authorities: Contact local law enforcement or organizations that monitor hate groups.

2. Engaging in Community Awareness

Communities can take proactive steps to counter the influence of extremist symbols:

- Education Programs: Organize workshops or seminars to educate the public about domestic terrorism symbols and their meanings.
- Community Dialogues: Encourage open discussions about the implications of these symbols in your community.

3. Supporting Victims of Extremism

Victims of domestic terrorism or hate crimes often suffer long-term effects. Supporting them can take many forms:

- Mental Health Resources: Provide access to counseling services for those affected.

- Community Solidarity Events: Organize events to stand against hate and promote inclusivity.

Conclusion

The domestic terrorism symbols guide is a vital tool for understanding the complex landscape of extremist ideologies and their manifestations. By recognizing these symbols and understanding their meanings, the public can play a proactive role in preventing radicalization, supporting victims, and fostering a more inclusive society. Awareness and education are our strongest tools in combating the threat posed by domestic terrorism. Together, we can create a safer environment for all individuals, regardless of their background or beliefs.

Frequently Asked Questions

What are domestic terrorism symbols?

Domestic terrorism symbols are images, logos, or signs used by extremist groups within a country to convey their beliefs, ideologies, or affiliations.

Why is it important to recognize domestic terrorism symbols?

Recognizing domestic terrorism symbols is crucial for identifying and understanding extremist movements, which can help in preventing violence and promoting awareness.

What types of symbols are commonly associated with domestic terrorism?

Common symbols include specific flags, logos of hate groups, certain tattoos, and imagery that references violent ideologies or historical figures associated with extremism.

How can individuals educate themselves about domestic terrorism symbols?

Individuals can educate themselves by consulting resources from law enforcement agencies, non-profit organizations that track extremism, and online guides that catalog these symbols.

Are there any official guides or databases for

identifying domestic terrorism symbols?

Yes, organizations like the Southern Poverty Law Center and the Anti-Defamation League provide guides and databases that list and explain various domestic terrorism symbols.

How do domestic terrorism symbols vary across different extremist groups?

Domestic terrorism symbols can vary widely; for instance, white supremacist groups may use different symbols than militia groups, reflecting their unique ideologies and historical contexts.

What role do social media platforms play in the proliferation of domestic terrorism symbols?

Social media platforms can facilitate the spread of domestic terrorism symbols by allowing extremist groups to share their imagery and ideologies widely, often reaching vulnerable individuals.

Can the use of domestic terrorism symbols lead to legal consequences?

Yes, in some cases, the use of domestic terrorism symbols can lead to legal consequences, particularly if they are associated with hate crimes or other illegal activities.

What steps can communities take to combat the use of domestic terrorism symbols?

Communities can combat the use of domestic terrorism symbols by promoting education, fostering dialogue, reporting extremist activities, and supporting local initiatives that counter hate.

Find other PDF article:

<https://soc.up.edu.ph/33-gist/pdf?ID=UVS61-7446&title=introduction-to-mathematical-statistics-solutions.pdf>

Domestic Terrorism Symbols Guide

Cursos online para creativos | Domestika

Domestika es la mayor comunidad creativa. Aprende y comparte desde cualquier lugar con los cursos online impartidos por los mejores profesionales del mundo del diseño y la creatividad.

Cursos Online | Domestika

Domestika es la mayor comunidad creativa. Aprende y comparte desde cualquier lugar con los cursos online impartidos por los mejores profesionales del mundo del diseño y la creatividad.

Online courses for creative professionals | Domestika

Domestika is the largest creative community. Learn and share from anywhere with online courses taught by the best professionals in the world of design and creativity.

Kursy online dla twórców | Domestika

Domestika to największa społeczność twórców z branży kreatywnej. Bierz aktywny udział w kursach online gdziekolwiek jesteś - ucz się od najlepszych profesjonalistów z branży ...

Onlinekurse | Domestika

Domestika ist die größte kreative Community. Lerne und teile von überall aus mit den Onlinekursen der besten Experten in den Bereichen Design und Kreativität.

Onlinekurse für Kreative | Domestika

Domestika ist die größte kreative Community. Lerne und teile von überall aus mit den Onlinekursen der besten Experten in den Bereichen Design und Kreativität.

Domestika Plus | Domestika

Yearly subscription with several benefits, including access to thousands of free-to-watch courses, 12 yearly credits you can exchange for any course, and course certificates.

Online Courses | Domestika

Domestika is the largest creative community. Learn and share from anywhere with online courses taught by the best professionals in the world of design and creativity.

Cursos online para criativos | Domestika

Domestika é a maior comunidade criativa. Aprenda e compartilhe de onde estiver com cursos online ministrados pelos melhores profissionais do mundo do design e da criatividade.

New Courses | 2025 | Domestika

Domestika is the largest creative community. Learn and share from anywhere with online courses taught by the best professionals in the world of design and creativity.

Cursos online para creativos | Domestika

Domestika es la mayor comunidad creativa. Aprende y comparte desde cualquier lugar con los cursos online impartidos por los mejores profesionales del mundo del diseño y la creatividad.

Cursos Online | Domestika

Domestika es la mayor comunidad creativa. Aprende y comparte desde cualquier lugar con los cursos online impartidos por los mejores profesionales del mundo del diseño y la creatividad.

Online courses for creative professionals | Domestika

Domestika is the largest creative community. Learn and share from anywhere with online courses taught by the best professionals in the world of design and creativity.

Kursy online dla twórców | Domestika

Domestika to największa społeczność twórców z branży kreatywnej. Bierz aktywny udział w kursach online gdziekolwiek jesteś - ucz się od najlepszych profesjonalistów z branży kreatywnej i dziel się

swoimi osiągnięciami z międzynarodową społecznością twórców.

Onlinekurse | Domestika

Domestika ist die größte kreative Community. Lerne und teile von überall aus mit den Onlinekursen der besten Experten in den Bereichen Design und Kreativität.

Onlinekurse für Kreative | Domestika

Domestika ist die größte kreative Community. Lerne und teile von überall aus mit den Onlinekursen der besten Experten in den Bereichen Design und Kreativität.

Domestika Plus | Domestika

Yearly subscription with several benefits, including access to thousands of free-to-watch courses, 12 yearly credits you can exchange for any course, and course certificates.

Online Courses | Domestika

Domestika is the largest creative community. Learn and share from anywhere with online courses taught by the best professionals in the world of design and creativity.

Cursos online para criativos | Domestika

Domestika é a maior comunidade criativa. Aprenda e compartilhe de onde estiver com cursos online ministrados pelos melhores profissionais do mundo do design e da criatividade.

New Courses | 2025 | Domestika

Domestika is the largest creative community. Learn and share from anywhere with online courses taught by the best professionals in the world of design and creativity.

Explore our comprehensive domestic terrorism symbols guide to understand their meanings and implications. Stay informed and protect your community. Learn more!

[Back to Home](#)