



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

10 November 2011

(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 homegrown violent extremism and domestic terrorism.



Homeland  
Security

Office of Intelligence and Analysis

**(U) Definitions**

<b>(U) Anarchist Extremists</b>	(U//FOUO) Groups or individuals who facilitate or engage in acts of 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.
<b>(U) Animal Rights Extremists</b>	(U//FOUO) Groups or individuals who facilitate or engage in acts of violence directed against people, businesses, or government entities perceived to be exploiting or abusing animals.
<b>(U) Anti-Abortion Extremists</b>	(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.
<b>(U) Black Supremacist Extremists</b>	(U//FOUO) Groups or individuals who facilitate or engage in acts of violence as a means to oppose racial integration and/or to eliminate non-black people and Jewish people.
<b>(U) Domestic Terrorism</b>	(U//FOUO) Any act of 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. The 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.
<b>(U) Environmental Rights Extremists</b>	(U//FOUO) Groups or individuals who facilitate or engage in acts of violence against people, businesses, or government entities perceived to be destroying, degrading, or exploiting the natural environment.
<b>(U) Facilitators</b>	(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.*

\* (U//FOUO) FBI "Counterterrorism Analytical Lexicon."

**UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY**

<b>(U) Homegrown Violent Extremist (HVE)</b>	(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.
<b>(U) Lone Offender</b>	(U//FOUO) An individual motivated by one or more extremist ideologies who, operating alone, supports or engages in acts of violence in furtherance of that ideology or ideologies that may involve influence from a larger terrorist organization or a foreign actor.
<b>(U) Militia Extremists</b>	(U//FOUO) Groups or individuals who facilitate or engage in acts of 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.
<b>(U) Racist Skinhead Extremists</b>	(U//FOUO) Groups or individuals who are a sub-category of white supremacist extremists that facilitate, support, or engage in acts of 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.
<b>(U) Radicalization</b>	(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 violence as a method to effect societal or political change.
<b>(U) Sovereign Citizen Extremists</b>	(U//FOUO) Groups or individuals who facilitate or engage in acts of 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.

UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

<b>(U) Terrorism</b>	(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.*†
<b>(U) Unwitting Co-optees</b>	(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.‡
<b>(U) White Supremacist Extremists</b>	(U//FOUO) Groups or individuals who facilitate or engage in acts of 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) Reporting Notice:**

(U) DHS and the FBI encourage recipients of this document to report information concerning suspicious or criminal activity to the nearest State and Major Urban Area Fusion Center and to the local FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force. State and Major Urban Area Fusion Center contact information can be found online at <http://www.dhs.gov/contact-fusion-centers>. The FBI regional telephone numbers can be found online at <http://www.fbi.gov/contact/fo/fo.htm> and the DHS National Operations Center (NOC) can be reached by telephone at 202-282-9685 or by e-mail at [NOC.Fusion@dhs.gov](mailto:NOC.Fusion@dhs.gov). For information affecting the private sector and critical infrastructure, contact the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center (NICC), a sub-element of the NOC. The NICC can be reached by telephone at 202-282-9201 or by e-mail at [NICC@dhs.gov](mailto:NICC@dhs.gov). When available, each report submitted should include the date, time, location, type of activity, number of people and type of equipment used for the activity, the name of the submitting company or organization, and a designated point of contact.

(U) For comments or questions related to the content or dissemination of this document, please contact the I&A Production Branch at [IA.Feedback@hq.dhs.gov](mailto:IA.Feedback@hq.dhs.gov), [IA.Feedback@dhs.gov](mailto:IA.Feedback@dhs.gov), or [IA.Feedback@dhs.ic.gov](mailto:IA.Feedback@dhs.ic.gov).

**(U) Tracked by:** HSEC-9.1

\* (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 the USIC.

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



Homeland  
Security