



OFFICE of INTELLIGENCE and ANALYSIS

INTELLIGENCE IN BRIEF

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PUBLIC SAFETY & SECURITY

(U) Domestic Violent Extremist Activity Likely in Response to US Supreme Court Decision on Abortion

(U//FOUO) Scope Note: This Intelligence In Brief updates our 13 May assessment titled, "Potential for Threats to Public Safety in Response to Abortion Debate."

*(U//FOUO) Some domestic violent extremists (DVEs) will likely exploit the recent US Supreme Court decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade* to intensify violence against a wide range of targets.^a We expect violence could occur for weeks following the release, particularly as DVEs may be mobilized to respond to changes in state laws and ballot measures on abortion stemming from the decision. We base this assessment on an observed increase in violent incidents across the United States following the unauthorized disclosure in May of a draft majority opinion on the case.*

- (U//FOUO) Federal and state government officials – including judges – and facilities probably are most at risk for violence in response to the decision. In late May, a network of loosely affiliated suspected violent extremists, known as "Jane's Revenge" – which has been linked to arson attacks against the buildings of ideological opponents – shared a post online encouraging a "night of rage" following the Supreme Court announcement, stating, "we need the state to feel our full wrath" and "we need them to be afraid of us."^b An individual is now awaiting trial for a plot in June to kill a US Supreme Court Justice in response to the draft opinion. A separate incident in Michigan involved vandalism claimed by "Jane's Revenge" on a building that houses a US Representative's campaign office and a pro-life advocacy group.*

^a *(U//FOUO) NCTC joins this assessment only to the extent that it discusses domestic violent extremist threats and informs the risk of domestic violent extremism.*

^b *(U//FOUO) "Jane's Revenge" is likely a reference to the Chicago-based abortion providers known as "The Jane Collective" from the 1970s. These individuals were arrested for performing then-illegal abortions; however, charges were dropped following the US Supreme Court's ruling in *Roe v. Wade* in 1973.*

- *(U//FOUO)* **First amendment-protected events following the released decision also probably will be attractive targets for a range of DVEs to commit violence against ideological opponents.** On 22 June, an unidentified social media user posted content encouraging violence in response to the “night of rage” and told followers to “prepare to defend” themselves and “don’t lock and load either. Load then lock,” according to US Capitol Police.
- *(U//FOUO)* **Both reproductive and family advocacy healthcare facilities likely will continue to remain primary targets for criminal incidents, and violence could escalate against these facilities or personnel.** Since May, at least three arson attacks targeting pregnancy resource centers in Oregon and New York and a family advocacy group’s headquarters in Wisconsin have been claimed by “Jane’s Revenge”. In May and June, suspected DVEs opposed to abortion rights conducted arson attacks targeting a reproductive healthcare facility in Wyoming and a vacant building that was formerly a reproductive healthcare facility in Washington. Also, in June, a suspected racially or ethnically motivated violent extremist posted online calling for attacks against abortion-related targets in reaction to “Jane’s Revenge” activity.
- *(U//FOUO)* **Faith-based organizations across the United States continue to report numerous criminal incidents against religious institutions connected to abortion rights.** We are aware of at least 11 incidents of vandalism threatening violence targeting religious facilities perceived as being opposed to abortion, and one threat to “bomb” and “burn” a church in New York. These incidents of vandalism against faith-based organizations could indicate future targets of DVE attacks.

Source, Reference, and Dissemination Information

Source Summary Statement (U//FOUO) We have **moderate confidence** in our assessment based on a body of reporting that includes news media accounts, DHS open source reporting, and Department of Justice press releases. Historically, abortion-related violent extremist incidents increase surrounding legislative changes. We have high confidence in government reporting and less in media reporting – although we leveraged reliable sources. We would have higher confidence in our assessment if we were to receive more reporting related to incidents of violence, violent reactions to the decision, threats of violence being discussed online, and evidence of individuals planning specific acts of violence.

Definitions (U//FOUO) **Domestic Violent Extremist (DVE):** An individual based and operating primarily within the United States or its territories without direction or inspiration from a foreign terrorist group or other foreign power who seeks to further political or social goals, wholly or in part, through unlawful acts of force or violence. The mere advocacy of political or social positions, political activism, use of strong rhetoric, or generalized philosophic embrace of violent tactics alone does not constitute violent extremism and may be constitutionally protected. DVEs can fit within one or multiple categories of ideological motivation and can span a broad range of groups or movements. I&A utilizes this term synonymously with “domestic terrorist.”

(U//FOUO) **Racially or Ethnically Motivated Violent Extremists:** Groups or individuals who facilitate or engage in the potentially unlawful use or threat of force or violence with intent to intimidate or coerce, in furtherance of political and/or social agendas, which are deemed to derive from bias, often related to race or ethnicity, held by the actor against others, including a given population or group.

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Dissemination (U) Federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial homeland security personnel, law enforcement, first responders, and private sector partners.

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