



## **(U//FOUO) Sovereign Citizen Group Calls for Removal of U.S. Governors**

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*(U) Prepared by the DHS Regional Trends Analysis Branch, Domestic Threat Analysis Division, and the FBI Counterterrorism Analysis Section.*

### **(U) Scope**

(U//FOUO) This product is intended to provide perspective and understanding of the nature and scope of potentially emergent threats and to assist federal, state, local, and tribal government agencies and authorities, the private sector, and other entities to develop priorities for protective and support measures relating to an existing or emerging threat to homeland security. In reporting on this development, DHS and FBI is not seeking to encourage the collection of purely First Amendment protected activity.

For the purposes of this product “sovereign citizen extremists” are defined as individuals engaged in a movement known as the sovereign citizen movement who believe they are emancipated from all other responsibilities associated with being a U.S. citizen, such as paying taxes, possessing a driver’s license and motor vehicle registration, or holding a social security number. They generally reject the legitimacy of U.S. citizenship, all forms of government authority and believe they are immune from the federal, state and local laws, and advocates change through the use, support or facilitation of violence or other illegal conduct.

### **(U) Plan to Replace Governors**

(U//FOUO) According to recent FBI reporting, an identified sovereign citizen extremist group is advocating a plan to remove state governors from office. This organization authored a “Restore America Plan” that consists of a multi-step process beginning with notices issued to state governors demanding they vacate their positions within three days. As of 31 March, over 30 governors have received such notices. The plan calls for the removal of any governor who fails to comply. DHS has no specific information that this removal refers to a specific plan to use violence; however, law enforcement should be aware that this could be interpreted as a justification for violence or other criminal actions. According to the group’s plan, other steps involve establishing bogus courts, calling of “de jure” grand juries, and issuing so-called “legal orders” to gain control of the state. The plan notes that this call to action depends on the participation of identified sovereign citizens or other unidentified violent antigovernment extremists whose

IA-0XXX cooperation is not assured.<sup>1</sup>

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## **(U) Sovereign Citizen Violence Limited**

(U//FOUO) A small number have of sovereign citizen extremists have armed themselves and resorted to violence to defend their perception of the rights of freedom and citizenship to which they believe that they are entitled. Occasionally, these groups have engaged in violent confrontations with government officials, particularly law enforcement, to help promote their goals. Sovereign citizen extremists have been implicated in the deaths of several police officers, including one in which a sovereign citizen extremist shot to death three officers in two separate incidents. In general, however, they have pursued nonviolent means to meet their goals. Specific tactics include issuing phony tax filings, form 1099s or other bogus financial documents designed to intimidate or defraud targeted individuals, private institutions, or government entities. They often draw up “criminal indictments” against publicly elected officials, file fraudulent property liens, print bogus checks and counterfeit money orders, and issue “declarations of sovereignty.”

(U//FOUO) DHS/I&A and FBI are not aware of any immediate threats to specific governors from sovereign citizen and antigovernment extremist groups. We are concerned however, that unidentified individuals could attempt to follow through with this call to action through violent and criminal means.

### **(U) Reporting Notice:**

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The nearest state and local fusion centers' contact information can be found online at [http://www.dhs.gov/files/resources/editorial\\_0306.shtm](http://www.dhs.gov/files/resources/editorial_0306.shtm). The FBI regional phone 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.

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(U) The DHS Office for Bombing Prevention provides counter-IED information requirements and capabilities, and promotes IED information sharing, awareness and vigilance. Additional information on explosives can be found at the DHS TRIPwire and DHS TRIPwire Community Gateway websites, respectively located at <http://www.tripwire.dhs.gov> for law enforcement personnel and at <http://cs.hsin.gov> for the private sector. For access to either system, contact [tripwirehelp@dhs.gov](mailto:tripwirehelp@dhs.gov). For further information on TRIPwire and bombing prevention contact the DHS Office for Bombing Prevention at [obp@dhs.gov](mailto:obp@dhs.gov).

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