



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION Domestic Terrorism Symbols Guide

(U) Animal Rights or Environmental Violent Extremism

(U) SUMMARY

(U) The following symbols and key terms are used by animal rights or environmental violent extremists (AREVEs). AREVEs believe criminal actions are necessary and justified to end perceived cruelty, harm or exploitation of animals, or destruction of natural resources and the environment. AREVE symbols and key terms are often found on propaganda, online platforms, memes, banners, tattoos, etc. Some common themes for animal rights violent extremists include ending the use of animals for medical and research purposes, eliminating or reducing our consumption, production, and use of animals and animal products, the inhumanity of captivity hunting or being used for entertainment. Some common themes for environmental violent extremists include reducing dependency on the use of fossil fuels, potential consequences of greenhouse gas emissions, climate change, air, land and water population, negative effects of population growth and deforestation on ecosystems.

(U) **The use or sharing of these symbols, key terms, and literature alone should not independently be considered evidence of AREVE affiliation or illegal activity. Additionally, some individuals use such references for their original, historic meaning, or other non-violent purposes and association with a non-criminal group, alone, is not evidence of extremist activity.** The FBI does not investigate, collect, or maintain information solely for the purposes of monitoring activities protected by the First Amendment.

(U) SYMBOLS AND KEY TERMS



(U) **ALF**: moniker for the Animal Liberation Front and often used when claiming responsibility for criminal actions against businesses or individuals believed to be harming or exploiting all living creatures.



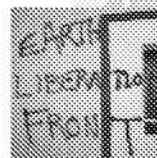
(U) Early crimes attributed to the ALF in the United States date back to the late 1970s.



(U) **"Animal Liberation"**: term used when illegally releasing or removing animals from a facility, such as a mink farm or research laboratory, perceived to be harming or exploiting them.

(U) The action is viewed as "liberating" or "freeing" the animals from oppression and is often committed covertly and is usually intended to cause significant economic losses.

(U) **"Open Rescue"**: term used to describe an often overt daytime action in which animals are illegally removed ("rescued") by unmasked individuals. "Open rescues" are often committed to publicize perceived atrocities and increase public support and awareness.



(U) **ELF**: moniker for the Earth Liberation Front and often used when claiming responsibility for criminal actions against businesses believed to be destroying or exploiting our environment and ecosystems.

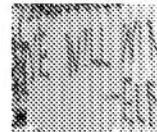


(U) It is generally believed the concept for the ELF evolved from a 1992 Earth First! gathering in the United Kingdom by individuals contending criminal acts rather than lawful ones were needed to advance political and social changes to protect the environment.



(U) **"Direct Action"**: general term referring to both legal and illegal activity, such as protests or boycotts, animal thefts, and acts of vandalism and arson.

(U) AREVEs will often use this phrase as a euphemism for criminal activity.



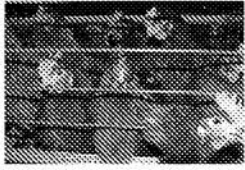
(U) For additional information, please contact the Counterterrorism Analysis Section of the FBI Counterterrorism Division via email at [REDACTED]

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(U) Sources: Previous FBI products, FBI information and open source information. This document derives from multiple sources of information collected by the FBI.

(U) AREVEs 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) SYMBOLS AND KEY TERMS (cont'd)



(U) **"CAFO"**: term when used by animal rights violent extremists to mean a "confined animal feeding operation" and often in reference to perceived extreme confinement and conditions associated with large-scale industrial meat, dairy, egg, and farming production operations.



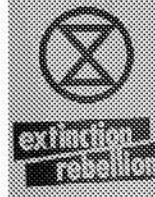
(U) **"Sleeping Dragon"**: term to describe a device often constructed of steel or PVC pipe reinforced with concrete or metal with a securing device often located within the sleeve. AREVEs may use this technique to impede, hamper, or delay law enforcement efforts to safely remove individuals illegally trespassing or obstructing businesses.



(U) **DXE**: acronym for Direct Action Everywhere, a self-described "a global network of activists working to achieve animal liberation and protection of animals."

(U) DXE was founded in 2013 in San Francisco, California.

(U) While DXE, as an organization, does not officially promote illegal activity, some animal rights violent extremists in the United States associated with DXE have been involved in local criminal activity and suspected of crimes in violation of state laws.

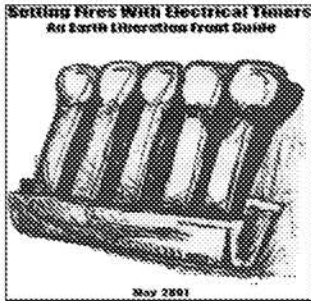


(U) **XR**: acronym for Extinction Rebellion, a self-described "decentralized, international and political non-partisan movement" to persuade governments to "act justly on the Climate and Ecological Emergency."

(U) XR originated in the United Kingdom in 2018 and is currently more active in Europe. Although XR, as an organization, does not officially promote illegal activity, some environmental violent extremists in the United States associated with XR have been involved in local activity and suspected of crimes in violation of local laws.

(U) EXAMPLES OF EARLY AREVE PUBLICATIONS

(U) The following examples encourage criminal activity and are available online.



(U) RECENT EXAMPLES OF FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

2019	2020	2021
<p>(U) September - Iowa</p> <p>(U) Federal authorities indicted two environmental violent extremists in connection with several pipeline-related incidents from 2016-2017.</p>	<p>(U) September - Idaho and Utah</p> <p>(U) In late September 2020, an anonymously posted communique on a public animal rights-related Website claimed responsibility for "two raids on fur farms" in Idaho and Utah that resulted in the release of nearly 2000 mink.</p>	<p>(U) June - Virginia</p> <p>(U) Four individuals secured themselves through the use of "sleeping dragons" to an eight foot tall wooden structure.</p> <p>(U) The four were safely removed and charged with trespassing, obstructing free passage and interfering with property rights.</p>
	<p>(U) December - Washington</p> <p>(U) Federal authorities charged two environmental violent extremists for placing an obstruction (shunt) on railroad tracks.</p>	<p>(U) June - Minnesota</p> <p>(U) Local authorities arrested more than 200 individuals as hundreds blocked access to a pipeline pumping station being built.</p> <p>(U) Some chained themselves to fences, set up barricades, and damaged equipment.</p>



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION Domestic Terrorism Symbols Guide

Anarchist Violent Extremism

(U) SUMMARY

(U) The following symbols and phrases are sometimes used by anti-government or anti-authority violent extremists, specifically anarchist violent extremists (AVEs). AVE symbols are often found on online platforms, in propaganda, and as graffiti. Some common themes for AVE symbols include images and stylized rhetoric conveying anti-capitalist, anti-fascist, or anti-government or anti-law enforcement sentiment. Although the majority of criminal activity by AVEs violates state or local laws, some crimes may be investigated and prosecuted at the federal level. **The use or sharing of these symbols or phrases alone should not independently be considered evidence of AVE presence or affiliation or serve as an indicator of illegal activity. Additionally, some individuals use such references for their original, historic meaning, or other non-violent purposes.** The FBI does not investigate, collect, or maintain information solely for the purposes of monitoring activities protected by the First Amendment.

(U) SYMBOLS

(U) The word "anarchy" comes from the Greek anarkhia, meaning "without a ruler." Anarchist theory contends all forms of government are oppressive and undesirable and should be abolished. Anarchists believe anarchy ultimately makes possible the creation of a society ordered by individual freedom and mutual cooperation and without social, political, or economic hierarchies.



(U) **Circled Letter A:** Symbol associated with anarchism worldwide.

(U) Said to represent a French anarchist's maxim "Anarchy is Order," with the letter "A" for anarchy, or "without rulers," and the circle as a symbol of order.



(U) **Individual Throwing a Molotov cocktail:** Image sometimes depicted on flyers likely to encourage criminal activity.



(U) **ACAB or 1312:** Acronym for "All Cops Are B*stards" or "All Capitalists are B*stards." Instead of letters, sometimes the numbers "1312" are used.



(U) **Black Cat:** Image often symbolizing sabotage or to encourage criminal actions.



(U) **"ANTIFA"** (short for anti-fascist): refers to individual(s) who oppose fascism.

(U) It is more an ideological concept than a single organization or group, but likeminded individuals may collectively act together or form an anti-fascist group.



(U) **3 Downward Left Arrows Inside a Circle:** Symbol associated with anti-fascist anarchists with the arrows representing unity, activity, and discipline. Originally designed to cover over swastikas.

(U) **Colored Flags or Banners:** Anarchists may use different colors, often seen on flags and banners, to convey different anarchist constructs:



(U) The color black may be used to illustrate revolution, opposition to the notion of nation-states, or rejection or defiance of authority.



(U) The colors red and black together often represent anarchist schools of thoughts such as anarcho-communism or anarcho-syndicalism and the notion the working class will not submit to any master.



(U) The colors green and black often illustrate anarcho-primitivism or green anarchy.

(U) For additional information, please contact the Counterterrorism Analysis Section of the FBI Counterterrorism Division via email at [REDACTED]

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(U) COMMON PHRASES OFTEN DEPICTED AS GRAFFITI



NO BORDERS

BE UNGOVERNABLE



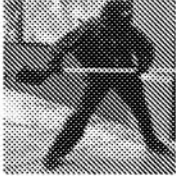
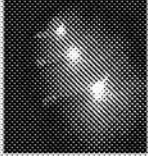
NAZIS GO HOME

NO GODS NO MASTERS

NO WAR BUT CLASS WAR *EAT THE RICH*

SMASH FASCISM

(U) EXAMPLES OF OPERATIONAL TECHNIQUES AVEs EMPLOYED TO ILLEGALLY DISRUPT POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC EVENTS, AND EVENTS RELATED TO SOCIAL ISSUES

(U) Targets	(U) Political and economic events, and events related to social issues; Perceived racists and fascists; Law enforcement; and Property (commercial, government, law enforcement, and personal)
(U) Objectives	(U) Event disruption; Confrontations; Challenging and attempting to undermine law enforcement authority; To cause an economic impact
(U) Tactics 	<p>(U) Black Bloc: tactic often used during mass mobilizations to hide one's identity during criminal activity by dressing in black or dark clothing and covering one's face with bandanas, balaclavas, costume masks, or gas masks.</p> <p>(U) Grey Bloc: a means to blend into a crowd by dressing in or donning street clothing before or after criminal activity. AVEs often break away from the main group to participate in criminal activity.</p> <p>(U) "Be Water" or "Be Like Water:" phrase to encourage others to move quickly and fluidly to evade law enforcement detection.</p> <p>(U) "No Cameras/No Press:" used as a reminder to avoid or limit the chance for photographic or video evidence of criminal activity that may later be used in arrests or for prosecution.</p> <p>(U) Doxing: is the research and public release of personal identifiable information obtained through social media or open sources. (Note: Some doxing may be legal, and may be First Amendment protected-speech, depending on the specific communication and context.)</p>
(U) Weapons 	<p>(U) Improvised incendiary devices (IIDs) and improvised explosive devices (IEDs) including flares, fireworks (legal and illegal), and Molotov cocktails, etc. Some may carry lawfully owned firearms.</p> <p>(U) Improvised or Weapons of Opportunity: Baseball bats, bear or pepper spray, bike racks, brass knuckles, bricks, construction materials, edged weapons or knives, flag poles, frozen water bottles, hammers, makeshift shields with protruding screws, lead pipes, metal chains with locks, rocks, umbrellas, wooden dowels with bolts, wooden sticks, and bottles filled with irritants, such as bleach and urine, etc.</p>
(U) Communication	<p>(U) Encrypted applications, code words, flags, hand held radios, hand signals, in-person meetings, megaphones, private messaging, etc.</p> <p>(U) Monitoring of police radio frequencies to determine areas to avoid or redirect others away from law enforcement.</p>
(U) Criminal Activity	<p>(U) Physical assaults, property damage, vandalism, arson, inciting riot, etc.</p> <p>(U) Some potential applicable federal statutes include: Title 18 USC 33; Title 18 USC 111; Title 18 USC 115; Title 18 USC 231; Title 18 USC 372; Title 18 USC 844; Title 18 USC 1361; Title 18 USC 1951; Title 18 2101; Title 26 USC 5861; Title 26 USC 5845</p>



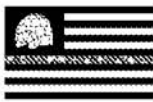
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(U) Militia Violent Extremism

(U) SUMMARY

(U) 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 *Breakin' 2: Electric Boogaloo*; used by some MVEs to refer to violent uprising or impending second Civil War. Common imagery incorporates igloo and/or Hawaiian shirts/flowers.



(U) **Punisher Skull:** Several variations of skulls, used by III%ers and Molon Labe etc.



(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) **Electrical resistance symbol:** A way to identify as a resistor.



(U) **Anarcho-Capitalism ("anacp"):** 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) **Warrior Culture:** Military themes both historical and contemporary (Spartans, Valhalla).



(U) **"MolonLabe", "ΜΟΛΩΝΛΑΒΕ" and "Μολον Λαβε":** Greek phrase, translates as "come and take it" and "come and take them."



(U) **Black Flag:** The black and white or all black American flag is used by some to indicate "no quarter shall be given."

(U) COMMONLY REFERENCED HISTORICAL IMAGERY OR QUOTES



(U) **Gadsden Flag:** Historical American symbol, used by some self-identified militia violent extremists to represent support for 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.

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(U) COMMON PHRASES AND REFERENCES

- (U) "When tyranny becomes law, rebellion becomes duty," and variations.
- (U) "We are everywhere" and "expect us," "I will not comply," and "All enemies foreign and domestic."
- (U) "The tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time with the blood of patriots and tyrants."
- (U) "I became unreasonable"
- (U) "His name was Duncan Lemp"
- (U) "Well Regulated American Militia"

(U) MVEs consider the following individuals to be Martyrs:

- (U) Vicki Weaver (Ruby Ridge 1992)
- (U) Marvin Heemeyer (Killdozer 2004)
- (U) LaVoy Finicum (MNWR 2016)
- (U) Duncan Lemp (2020)
- (U) Ashli Babbitt (Capitol Siege 2021)

(U) SYMBOLS OF MILITIA NETWORKS SOME MVEs MAY SELF-IDENTIFY WITH



(U) **Three Percenters, III%ers, 3%ers, Threepers:** A US ideology based on the myth that only 3% of Americans fought back against the British during the Revolutionary war. Often represented by the roman numeral "3" surrounded by 13 stars to represent the original 13 states.



(U) **Oath Keepers:** A US-based, loosely organized militia group consisting of current and former military, police, and first responders who pledge to fulfill the oath that all military and police take to "defend the Constitution against all enemies, foreign and domestic."

(U) SIGNIFICANT EVENTS MVEs MAY REFERENCE

(U) Ruby Ridge:	(U) 21 August 1992, 11-day armed siege at the Weaver residence, Naples, Idaho.
(U) Waco:	(U) 28 February 1993, Armed siege at the Branch Davidian Compound, Waco, Texas.

(U) NOTABLE ATTACKS OR CRIMINAL ACTIVITY THAT INSPIRE MVEs

(U) Timothy McVeigh:	(U) 19 April 1995, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah building. Targeting the US government, killed 168, several hundred injured.
(U) The Crusaders:	(U) October 2016, three MVEs were arrested for planning to conduct an IED attack on an apartment complex in Garden City, Kansas, where Muslim immigrants from Somalia lived and worshipped.
(U) Steven Carrillo:	(U) In late May and early June 2020, two ambush-style attacks by alleged MVE occurred against security personnel and law enforcement officers. 2 were killed and 3 injured.

(U) TIMELINE OF KEY EVENTS IN MVE HISTORY 2014 - PRESENT

2014	(U) April	2016	(U) January-February	(U) June	2017	(U) August	2019	(U) April	2020	(U) March	(U) June	2021	(U) January
	(U) Bunkerville, Nevada standoff at Bundy Ranch between LEOs and Bundy supporters over unpaid cattle fees		(U) 41-Day occupation of Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in Princeton, Oregon after armed MVEs seized and occupied the building	(U) Plot to bomb a Bureau of Land Management cabin		(U) Minnesota mosque bombing		(U) MVEs misrepresent themselves as law enforcement, detain migrants at the southern border illegally		(U) Duncan Lemp killed during a no-knock warrant in Maryland	(U) An MVE is arrested after a shootout with LEOs; writes "BOOG" on a car		(U) Individuals, including some MVEs, participate in a siege of the US Capitol Building