



17 April 2014

(U//FOUO) **Small-Scale Anarchist Extremist Violence Likely on May 1**

(U) Scope

(U//FOUO) This Joint Intelligence Bulletin (JIB) is intended to provide information on the potential threat of anarchist extremist violence during events on May Day, a date observed annually on May 1st that has incited US anarchist extremist violent incidents in several of the past years.* This information is provided to support the activities of DHS and the FBI and to assist other federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial counterterrorism and law enforcement officials and private sector security officials in identifying protective and support measures relating to existing or emerging threats to homeland security.

(U//FOUO) Information contained in this JIB is current as of 17 April 2014.

* (U//FOUO) For the purpose of this JIB, DHS and the FBI define anarchist extremists as 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.

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(U) Overview

(U//FOUO) DHS and the FBI assess that anarchist extremists likely will engage in criminal or violent activity in one or more urban areas in the United States on 1 May 2014—a date of significance to both the wider anarchist movement and its violent subset—and may attempt to co-opt legal protest activity in carrying out such attacks, based on a body of recent and historical incidents.

(U) Threat

(U//FOUO) US anarchist extremist activity during May Day typically includes criminal acts of vandalism, rioting, and property destruction, with occasional escalation to arson and assaults on law enforcement. Anarchist extremist targets during May Day have included government entities, law enforcement, and symbols of capitalism such as commercial businesses, multinational corporations, chain restaurants, and financial institutions. DHS and the FBI have no credible reporting suggesting any particular localized threat this May Day.

(U) May Day

(U//FOUO) International Workers' Day—also known as May Day and observed on May 1st—is an international day honoring workers' rights that frequently results in anarchist extremist violence both domestically and internationally. The event in the United States commemorates the 1886 anarchist extremist-instigated Haymarket Riots in Chicago, Illinois that resulted in the deaths of numerous individuals.

(U//FOUO) Some anarchist extremists travel within the United States to participate in these events and may separate themselves from lawful protestors by using self-described “black-bloc” tactics. Such tactics include dressing completely in black or dark colors and covering faces with masks or bandanas to conceal identities from law enforcement while committing criminal or violent acts.

- » (U//FOUO) In 2013, according to open source and law enforcement reporting, several suspected anarchist extremists were arrested on various charges, including assault and felony rioting, after attacking law enforcement with rocks, bottles, metal pipes, and fireworks during an un-permitted May Day march in Seattle, Washington.
- » (U//FOUO) In 2012, criminal incidents in Seattle on May Day resulted in thousands of dollars in property damages after suspected anarchist extremists smashed windows of a federal courthouse, a local bank, and commercial businesses. A road flare was also thrown at the occupied federal courthouse and a sports store. Additionally, four individuals were arrested for assaults against law enforcement, according to media and law enforcement reporting.
- » (U//FOUO) In 2010, suspected anarchist extremists participating in a May Day rally in Santa Cruz, California, rioted in the streets, spray-painted anarchist graffiti, smashed retail store windows, and vandalized law enforcement vehicles, causing property damage estimated at over \$100,000. Additionally, a fire was set on the porch of a local restaurant and firefighters were blocked from accessing the fire, according to media reporting. In separate incidents on the same day, 20 to 30 individuals in Asheville, North Carolina—believed by law enforcement to be anarchist extremists—spray-painted graffiti and smashed ATMs, parked cars, and windows of several businesses causing an estimated \$20,000 in damages.

(U//FOUO) Although not a common tactic, anarchist extremists have previously attempted to use low-level criminal activity occurring during lawfully scheduled protests as a diversion, allowing them to commit a larger attack against critical infrastructure.

- » (U//FOUO) In 2012, five anarchist extremists were arrested and eventually convicted for plotting to blow up the Cuyahoga Valley Bridge in Cleveland, Ohio with C4 explosives. According to court documents, the group planned to use rioting occurring during May Day events to distract law enforcement from their larger planned attack and to assist them in establishing an alibi afterwards.

(U) Possible Indicators and Mitigating Factors of Anarchist Extremist Activity

(U//FOUO) There are a number of potential behaviors and indicators of planned criminal or violent activities during May Day events. Each of these behavioral indicators, taken alone, may be constitutionally protected activities and should be supported by additional facts, such as the totality of other behavioral indicators and relevant circumstances, to justify increased suspicions and when considering any law enforcement response or action.

- » (U//FOUO) Planning of criminal activity or violence related to May Day events on Internet chat rooms, message boards, and social networking sites;
- » (U//FOUO) Reports of upcoming “direct action” training camps or gatherings in preparation for May Day events that suggest planned criminal or violent activity;
- » (U//FOUO) Reports of pre-operational surveillance of government buildings, symbols of capitalism, or symbols of corporate globalization;
- » (U//FOUO) Reports of individuals collecting sharp or heavy objects, such as glass bottles or rocks, to use as projectiles;
- » (U//FOUO) Possession of spray paint for defacing signs and buildings;
- » (U//FOUO) Possession of nails or caltrops for use in disrupting traffic or law enforcement response;
- » (U//FOUO) Possession of fireworks, flares, or smoke devices for use during protests;
- » (U//FOUO) Possession of sharp or blunt objects such as knives, machetes, tire irons, sticks, or hammers during protests;
- » (U//FOUO) Possession of bolt cutters to bypass security fences;
- » (U//FOUO) Reports of protestors changing clothing after engaging in violent or criminal activity to avoid law enforcement;
- » (U//FOUO) Possession of home-made shields in preparation for engaging in criminal or violent activity against law enforcement;
- » (U//FOUO) Suspicious possession of gas masks for possible identity concealment for use against law enforcement;
- » (U//FOUO) Reports of individuals acquiring materials to construct improvised incendiary devices (IIDs) or improvised explosive devices;

- » (U//FOUO) Reports of pilfered construction sites for potential projectiles, such as rocks and pipes;
- » (U//FOUO) Pre-staging of bricks or rocks along protest routes;
- » (U//FOUO) Small groups splintering from larger protest group during protests to engage in criminal or violent activity; and
- » (U//FOUO) Movement of newspaper containers and trashcans to create barricades.

(U//FOUO) Possible factors that may mitigate the threat of anarchist extremists engaging in criminal or violent activity during May Day events include:

- » (U//FOUO) External factors, such as inclement weather and effective crowd control, may deter anarchist extremist actions;
- » (U//FOUO) Law enforcement confiscations of materials to construct IEDs or items which could be used as weapons or to destroy property or commit violence prior to May Day events;
- » (U//FOUO) Law enforcement investigations or arrests of individuals planning violence prior to May Day may deter further actions by anarchist extremists; and
- » (U//FOUO) Increased law enforcement presence during lawfully scheduled events.

(U) Report Suspicious Activity

(U) To report suspicious activity, law enforcement, Fire-EMS, private security personnel, and emergency managers should follow established protocols; all other personnel should call 911 or contact local law enforcement. Suspicious activity reports (SARs) will be forwarded to the appropriate fusion center and FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force for further action. For more information on the Nationwide SAR Initiative, visit <http://nsi.ncirc.gov/resources.aspx>.

(U) Administrative Note: Law Enforcement Response

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(U) Tracked by: HSEC-8.1, HSEC-8.2, HSEC-8.3, HSEC-8.5, HSEC-8.6, HSEC-8.8, HSEC-8.9