

Federal Domestic Terrorism, Historic Costs and Harms, Protection of the American People

Union of Saints

The United States has reached a point in its history where political activism, ideological organizations, foreign influence, organized crime, and transnational movements must be examined according to their effects upon the American people. Peaceful political advocacy and lawful protest remain fundamental American rights, while organizations that engage in violence, intimidation, coercion, organized harassment, arson, vandalism, stalking, trafficking, destruction of property, attacks against law enforcement, or other conduct intended to terrorize or coerce Americans should receive a formal federal designation as domestic terrorist organizations when the statutory requirements are satisfied.

This concern is particularly relevant to destructive activity associated with portions of modern left wing activism during the present period of American history. The federal government should examine documented conduct associated with the 2020 civil unrest surrounding the Black Lives Matter movement, Hispanic Federation, Abolish ICE activism, Bolshevik movements, immigration law activism, Chinese communism, Islamic organizations, portions of pro Palestinian activism and pro Israel activism, anti government and anti police movements, climate activism involving property destruction, and other organizations or campaigns where political objectives have been pursued through violence, intimidation, coercion, or substantial destruction. These activities should be evaluated through documented evidence concerning organizational responsibility, financial damage, injuries, deaths, arrests, criminal convictions, threats, and continuing activity.

Historical Damage and Documented Political Violence

The United States has already experienced substantial financial and physical damage associated with politically motivated civil unrest and destructive activism. The May 26 through June 8, 2020 civil unrest that followed the death of George Floyd spread across more than 140 American cities and involved significant losses across more than 20 states. Property Claim Services classified the 2020 event as the costliest civil unrest event in U.S. history, with insured losses estimated at more than \$2 billion.

More recent incidents demonstrate that politically motivated property destruction has continued. During a July 2024 demonstration in Washington, D.C., demonstrators pulled down flags, burned flags and other objects, sprayed graffiti on federal statues and structures, and interfered with law enforcement. The National Park Service estimated approximately \$11,282.23 in cleanup and repair costs for the damaged federal property, and federal authorities subsequently prosecuted individuals for destruction of government property.

Political activism has also resulted in substantial damage to nationally significant cultural and governmental institutions. In February 2024, climate activists attacked the display protecting the U.S. Constitution at the National Archives with red powder. The Department of Justice reported that the resulting cleanup and repairs cost approximately \$58,646.25 and required the National Archives Rotunda to close for four days. The defendants were subsequently convicted of felony destruction of property and sentenced in federal court.

Pro Palestinian demonstrations have also produced documented incidents involving property destruction. At Stanford University in June 2024, prosecutors alleged more than \$300,000 in property damage during a protest occupation involving graffiti, damaged furniture, and other destruction. The subsequent criminal case resulted in a mistrial, demonstrating the importance of distinguishing documented property damage from the separate question of criminal liability for particular defendants.

These incidents demonstrate the need for a comprehensive historical record of politically associated violence and destruction, including property losses, government losses, injuries, deaths, arrests, convictions, restitution, threats, attacks against law enforcement, and disruption of public institutions. The record should identify the organizations, individuals, financial networks, and other associations actually responsible for qualifying conduct so that political movements are evaluated according to evidence and organizational responsibility.

Where approximately 27% of people residing within the United States are immigrants or foreign born, organizations exercising substantial political power should therefore remain accountable to the laws protecting the American population. Political movements should be subject to formal examination when their activities cross into violence, intimidation, coercion, organized criminal conduct, or political terrorism. Foreign influence, international political coordination, and organizations operating across national boundaries should receive appropriate scrutiny when their activities create documented threats to public safety, national security, constitutional government, or the rights of American citizens.

Protection must extend to Americans of every anthropological population, ancestry, ethnicity, and regional heritage. Small historic populations deserve equal protection under federal law regardless of their population size. This includes historically distinct American populations such as Acadians and other communities whose population size may be comparatively small but whose history, ancestry, culture, and contributions to the United States are longstanding. Political campaigns directed against Americans because of their anthropological background, ancestry, ethnicity, or other protected characteristics should receive federal scrutiny when those campaigns involve intimidation, coercion, violence, organized discrimination, or persecution.

The same legal standard should apply across political movements and ideological organizations. Left wing, right wing, communist, racial, religious, foreign linked, anti government, or other ideological organizations should be examined when substantial evidence demonstrates *qualifying* acts of domestic terrorism. Organizations involved in organized smuggling, trafficking, cartel or gang cooperation, politically motivated violence, organized stalking, targeted intimidation, or the deliberate weaponization of territory or public institutions should likewise be subject to investigation and prosecution under applicable federal law.

Foreign financial support and taxpayer funding should receive appropriate scrutiny when an organization uses those resources to facilitate unlawful violence, intimidation, coercion, or other criminal activity. Organizations receiving foreign or taxpayer funds should maintain clear accountability for the use of those resources, particularly when evidence indicates that money, property, personnel, communications systems, or other resources have been used against the American people through unlawful activity.

Congress should establish a formal federal domestic terrorist organization designation process with a clear statutory definition, evidentiary requirements, written findings, judicial review, periodic review, and a process for removal from designation. The government should establish organizational responsibility through substantial evidence before imposing such a designation. The designation should have defined legal consequences for organizations that satisfy the statutory requirements.

Florida has already moved toward a state level designation system. Florida Senate Bill 1471, enacted in 2026, establishes procedures concerning domestic terrorist organizations, including criteria for designation and governmental review. This legislation provides a state example for consideration as Congress develops federal legislation.

[Florida Senate Bill 1471 — 2026](#)

America should return to a clear distinction between peaceful political participation and organized political violence. Americans should be able to live, work, worship, organize, protest, and participate in government without being subjected to politically motivated violence, intimidation, coercion, stalking, or organized persecution. Organizations that terrorize the American people should receive a formal designation that allows federal authorities to investigate, prosecute, restrict, and dismantle qualifying **domestic terrorist activity**.