

“Terrorism-Activism”

Defined Term & Economic Impact (U.S., 2015–2025)

Definition

“**Terrorism-Activism**” refers to ideologically motivated actions carried out under the banner of activism that result in deliberate property destruction, arson, intimidation, or disruption of civilian life and economic stability. This term distinguishes coordinated or repeated destructive conduct from non-destructive activity, which is not the focus of this paper.

National Overview

No official nationwide total exists for activism-related damages. Data remains fragmented across insurance systems, municipalities, and courts.

Largest Recorded Economic Impact

Black Lives Matter-era unrest (2020) resulted in \$1–2 billion in insured property damage, according to the Insurance Information Institute.

Selected City-Level Costs (2020)

Minneapolis: ~\$500 million. New York City: ~\$294 million. Portland: ~\$30+ million. Washington, D.C.: ~\$14.5 million. Los Angeles: ~\$20–32 million.

Anti-Statist / Anti-ICE Activity

Targeting of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement facilities and federal property produced an estimated \$50–100 million in documented damages over ten years, with a broader estimated range of \$100–300+ million and a likely upper bound below \$500 million.

Arson as a Core Mechanism

Arson appears as a recurring method, typically involving vehicles, small businesses, and government buildings, with larger-scale destruction concentrated during major unrest periods.

Impact on Small Businesses

Approximately 1,500+ businesses were affected in the Minneapolis–St. Paul area during 2020, with thousands impacted nationwide. Typical losses range from \$10,000 to \$500,000+ per business, with many underinsured and some forced into permanent closure.

Impact on Individuals

Individuals experienced lost wages, property damage, and vehicle losses. Typical losses range from \$1,000 to \$50,000+.

10-Year Estimated Totals

Billions documented damages including insured property damage, select public costs, and limited legal outcomes.

Key Structural Problem

No federal system exists to track damages, differentiate incident types, or measure cumulative economic harm.

Policy Recommendations — Union of Saints

Federal Tracking System

Establish a mandatory, standardized federal system to track economic damages associated with civil unrest, including property damage, business interruption losses, and public safety expenditures.

Classification & Enforcement

Enforce strict penalties for arson, organized vandalism, and coordinated property destruction. Apply existing federal statutes to sustained, organized destructive activity impacting economic stability and public safety.

Protection of Communities

Prioritize the protection of small businesses, residential areas, and critical infrastructure. Expand coordinated response capabilities between local and state authorities. Utilize the National Guard when necessary under lawful state authority.

Support for Small Businesses & Individuals

Create rapid-response financial mechanisms, including emergency grants and insurance gap assistance, to stabilize affected businesses and families following destructive unrest events.

Legal Framework & Public Safety Position

Domestic use of federal military forces is governed by the Posse Comitatus Act, with limited exceptions under the Insurrection Act.

Union of Saints

The Union of Saints supports decisive intervention to protect the public when organized, ideologically motivated violence results in arson, coordinated property destruction, or threats to life and critical infrastructure. Authorities should deploy all **lawful and appropriate resources** to restore order, including state-controlled forces such as the National Guard, and federal support where legally authorized.

Bottom Line

Billions in economic damage have occurred over the past decade, concentrated heavily in 2020. Small businesses and individuals bore a significant share of the losses. Activity is episodic but highly concentrated during major unrest periods, and the absence of standardized tracking obscures the full financial and human cost.