



Designating Antifa as a Domestic Terrorist Organization

Administration Policy:

President Trump issued an executive order (EO) titled [Designating Antifa a Domestic Terrorist Organization](#) which declares Antifa is a militant anarchist organization that seeks to overthrow the U.S. Government, law enforcement, and the rule of law through violence and terrorism and designates Antifa a “domestic terrorist organization.”

The EO describes Antifa’s activities including armed standoffs with federal authorities, organized riots, violent assaults on Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and other officers, doxing and threats against political figures, and recruitment and radicalization of young Americans for political violence. It also highlights Antifa concealment of its operatives and funding sources and coordination with allied groups to suppress lawful political activity.

The EO directs relevant executive departments and agencies to "utilize all applicable authorities to investigate, disrupt, and dismantle any and all illegal operations — especially those involving terrorist actions — conducted by Antifa or any person claiming to act on behalf of Antifa, or for which Antifa or any person claiming to act on behalf of Antifa provided material support, including necessary investigatory and prosecutorial actions against those who fund such operations.”

Background:

- Foreign terrorist organizations (FTO) are designated by the Secretary of State pursuant to the [Anti-Terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996](#). Specially Designated Global Terrorists are designated by the Department of Treasury pursuant to [Executive Order 13224](#) which was issued by President George W. Bush after the September 11th terrorist attacks. However, this Executive Order is the first instance of the President designating a domestic terrorist organization.
- According to the [Congressional Research Service](#):
 - “The U.S. antifa movement appears to be decentralized, consisting of independent, radical, like-minded groups and individuals. Its tenets can echo the principles of anarchism, socialism, and communism... *Some members are willing to commit crimes, some violent, to promote their beliefs...*”
- The White House factsheet can be found [here](#).