U.S. Government May – On a Whim – Label ANY American a Terrorist

Government Blurs the Lines Between Bad Guys and Average Americans

By [Washington's Blog](#)
Global Research, August 08, 2013
[Washington's Blog](#) 7 August 2013

Region: [USA](#)
Theme: [Intelligence](#), [Terrorism](#)

Former NSA boss Michael Hayden [compared privacy advocates to terrorists](#):

> "If and when our government grabs Edward Snowden, and brings him back here to the United States for trial, what does this group do?" said retired air force general Michael Hayden, who from 1999 to 2009 ran the NSA and then the CIA, referring to "nihilists, anarchists, activists, Lulzsec, Anonymous, twentysomethings who haven't talked to the opposite sex in five or six years".

> "They may want to come after the US government, but frankly, you know, the dot-mil stuff is about the hardest target in the United States," Hayden said, using a shorthand for US military networks. "So if they can't create great harm to dot-mil, who are they going after? Who for them are the World Trade Centers? The World Trade Centers, as they were for al-Qaida."

> Hayden provided his speculation during a speech on cybersecurity to a Washington group, the Bipartisan Policy Center, in which he confessed to being deliberately provocative.

Similarly, Slate [reported](#) last year:

> If you've ever cared about privacy while using the Internet in public, you might be a terrorist. At least that's the message from the FBI and Justice Department's Communities Against Terrorism initiative. The project created flyers to help employees at several types of businesses—including military surplus stores, financial institutions, and even tattoo shops—recognize "warning signs" of terrorism or extremism. An admirable goal, perhaps, but the execution is flawed—particularly for the flyers intended to help suss out terrorists using Internet cafes.

> The flyers haven't been publicly available online, but Public Intelligence, a project promoting the right to access information, [collected 25 documents](#) that it found elsewhere on the Web. As Public Intelligence [puts it](#), "Do you like online privacy? You may be a terrorist."

[Complaining about the taste of your tap water](#) could also get you labeled as a potential terrorist.

Having "strange odors" or "bright colored stains on clothes" (what if you eat mustard or ketchup?) could get you labeled as a potential terrorist.

Indeed, *any* American could be labeled as a potential terrorist by our government on a whim.

For example, the following actions may get an American citizen living on U.S. soil labeled as a "suspected terrorist" today:

- Being young (if you live near a battle zone, you are fair game; and see this)

- Using social media

- Reporting or doing journalism (and here and here)

- Speaking out against government policies

- Protesting anything (such as participating in the "Occupy" or "Tea Party" movements)

- Questioning war (even though war reduces our national security; and see this)

- Criticizing the government's targeting of innocent civilians with drones (although killing innocent civilians with drones is one of the main things which increases terrorism. And see this)

- Asking questions about pollution (even at a public Congressional hearing?)

- Paying cash at an Internet cafe

- Asking questions about Wall Street shenanigans

- Holding gold

- Creating alternative currencies

- Stocking up on more than 7 days of food (even though all Mormons are taught to stockpile food, and most Hawaiians store up on extra food)

- Having bumper stickers saying things like "Know Your Rights Or Lose Them"

- Investigating factory farming

- Infringing a copyright

- Taking pictures or videos

- [Talking to police officers](#)

- [Wearing a hoodie](#)

- [Driving a van](#)

- [Writing on a piece of paper](#)

- ([Not having a Facebook account](#) may soon be added)

And holding the following beliefs may also be considered grounds for suspected terrorism:

- [Being frustrated with "mainstream ideologies"](#)

- [Valuing online privacy](#)

- [Supporting Ron Paul or being a libertarian](#)

- Liking [the Founding Fathers](#)

- Being a [Christian](#)

- Being [anti-tax, anti-regulation or for the gold standard](#)

- Being ["reverent of individual liberty"](#)

- Being ["anti-nuclear"](#)

- ["Believe in conspiracy theories"](#)

- ["A belief that one's personal and/or national "way of life" is under attack"](#)

- ["Impose strict religious tenets or laws on society (fundamentalists)"](#)

- ["Insert religion into the political sphere"](#)

- ["Those who seek to politicize religion"](#)

- ["Supported political movements for autonomy"](#)

- Being ["anti-abortion"](#)

- Being ["anti-Catholic"](#)

- Being ["anti-global"](#)
- ["Suspicious of centralized federal authority"](#)

- - "Fiercely nationalistic (as opposed to universal and international in orientation)"

- - "A belief in the need to be prepared for an attack either by participating in … survivalism"

- - Opposing genetically engineered food

- - Opposing surveillance

In other words, the "terrorism" label has become so ridiculously broad as to lose all meaning … and some government officials are simply using it to harass anyone they wish to punish.

The original source of this article is Washington's Blog
Copyright © Washington's Blog, Washington's Blog, 2013

Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page

Become a Member of Global Research

Articles by: Washington's Blog