

## CONTACT:

Center for Self Governance

P: (615)669-8274

E: [info@tncsg.org](mailto:info@tncsg.org)



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## CSG Solutions: Clarifying legislative intent concerning 'Terrorism' definition, prevention, and prosecution.

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To Whom It May Concern,

January 6, 2024

The Center for Self Governance (CSG) respectfully asks that the legislative bodies of Congress and the States clarify legislative intent concerning 'Terrorism' definitions, prevention, and criminal prosecution.

Commencing in 2024, in addition to its primary mission to research and teach individual, relational, and societal Self Governance, CSG will advocate for legislative solutions in search of balance between critical national security and public safety efforts (*i.e., domestic versus international 'terrorism' definitions, prevention, and criminal prosecutions, etc.*) and fundamental civil rights protections (*i.e., 1<sup>st</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> amendment protections, due process, etc.*).

CSG feels compelled to advocate for legislative solutions, beyond its non-profit mission, for the following reasons:

Since 2011, and subsequently, entering a class action lawsuit, in 2013, alleging the weaponization of the IRS against our organization and others<sup>1</sup>, CSG's concern with the political weaponization of labels and government (PWOLG) has only grown exponentially.

While processing the notion that our government was indeed weaponized against political ideologies, our organization discovered a common thread between a weaponized IRS (*hereinafter referred to as WOG (weaponization of government)*) and non-government entities, such as media<sup>2</sup>, academia<sup>3</sup>, jurisprudence<sup>4</sup>, and certain NGOs<sup>5</sup> (*i.e., SPLC, etc.*), weaponizing labels (*hereinafter referred to as WOL (weaponization of labels)*) in pursuit of, what we allege to be, politically ideological purposes. These labels include, but are not limited to: White Supremacist, Violent Extremist, Anti-government, Hate Group, Far-Rightwing, Extreme Rightwing, etc.

Building on this perceived discovery, CSG found a disturbing connection between NGO private labeling and Bureaucratic public lexicons.<sup>6</sup> WOL efforts, which are protected 1<sup>st</sup> amendment activities, included repeating their labels publicly, in relation to individuals, groups, or events (*i.e., Tea Parties<sup>7</sup> 2009, Bundy Standoff<sup>8</sup> 2014, Malheur Occupation<sup>9</sup> 2016, J6<sup>10</sup> 2021, etc.*) and citing institutions (*i.e., SPLC<sup>11</sup>, ADL<sup>12</sup>, etc.*) whose expertise centered around (1) identifying and categorizing those who fit their private labels and (2)

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<sup>1</sup> NorCal Tea Party Patriots, et al., v. Internal Revenue Service, et al., Case No. 1:13-cv-341 (2013) and Linchpins Of Liberty, et al., -vs- United States Of America, et al., Civil Action No. 1:13-cv-00777-RBW (2013)

<sup>2</sup> Johnson, T. (December 14, 2023). *Was the Boston Tea Party an act of terrorism? It depends.* Washington Post. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2023/12/13/boston-tea-party-anniversary-crime-patriot/>

<sup>3</sup> Berkeley Center for Right Wing Studies. <https://issi.berkeley.edu/crws>

<sup>4</sup> National Lawyers Guild. <https://www.nlg.org/>

<sup>5</sup> Southern Poverty Law Center. <https://www.splcenter.org/fighting-hate>

<sup>6</sup> Herr, M. (2019). "The Political Weaponization of Labels: How Americans Become Unwitting Domestic Terrorists." <https://www.centerforselfgovernance.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/201912-Extremism-Terrorism-Interconnectivity-CSG-BOARD.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> Garber, M. (2009). *Nothing but a Bunch of Tea-Bagging Rednecks.* Columbia Journalism Review. [https://archives.cjr.org/the\\_kicker/nothing\\_but\\_a\\_bunch\\_of\\_teabagg.php](https://archives.cjr.org/the_kicker/nothing_but_a_bunch_of_teabagg.php)

<sup>8</sup> McCalmont, L. (2014). *Reid: Bundy's 'domestic terrorists.'* Politico. <https://www.politico.com/story/2014/04/cliven-bundy-nevada-ranch-harry-reid-105811>

<sup>9</sup> Bernstein, M. (2021). *Armed occupation of Malheur refuge was 'dress rehearsal' for violent takeover of nations' Capitol, extremist watchdogs say.* The Oregonian. <https://www.oregonlive.com/crime/2021/01/armed-occupation-of-malheur-refuge-was-dress-rehearsal-for-violent-takeover-of-nations-capitol-extremist-watchdogs-say.html>

<sup>10</sup> Zaru, D. (2021). *The symbols of hate and far-right extremism on display in pro-Trump Capitol siege.* ABC News. <https://abcnews.go.com/US/symbols-hate-extremism-display-pro-trump-capitol-siege/story?id=75177671>

<sup>11</sup> Ibid. Cynthia Miller-Idriss sits on SPLC Extremism Advisory Council. <https://www.american.edu/spa/faculty/cynthia.cfm>

<sup>12</sup> Simon, M & Sidner, S. (2021). *Decoding the extremist symbols and groups at the Capitol Hill insurrection.* CNN. <https://www.cnn.com/2021/01/09/us/capitol-hill-insurrection-extremist-flags-soh/index.html>

collaborating with Federal, State, and Local governments to thwart ‘threats’ of potential ‘violence’ by those privately labeled and privately listed.

Strikingly, these labels were and are not equally applied to individuals, groups, or events (*i.e.*, *Ferguson Riots*<sup>13</sup> 2014 & 2015, *Willem Von Spronson*<sup>14</sup> 2019, *Floyd riots*<sup>15</sup> 2020, *Dobbs protests*<sup>16</sup> 2022, *etc.*) that, on the surface, appeared or appear to be aligned with the political motivations behind WOL.

Additionally, bureaucratic lexicons, subject to legislative oversight, conflated NGO labels with Congressional definitions of ‘Domestic Terrorism.’ Our organization surmised that, doing so (1) created public confusion as to what is ‘terrorism’ and what constitutes a ‘domestic terrorist’, (2) produced incredible instances of civil rights violations (*i.e.*, *ensorship*<sup>17</sup>, *surveillance*<sup>18</sup>, *entrapment*<sup>19</sup>, *arrest*<sup>20</sup>, *indefinite detentions*<sup>21</sup>, *Brady & Giglio violations*<sup>22</sup>, *officer involved shooting & misconduct*<sup>23</sup>, *etc.*) in pursuit of preventing ‘terrorism’, and (3) resulted in unequal application of the law (*i.e.*, *Anthony Sargent*<sup>24</sup> - 5 year sentence (16 riots) versus *Colinford Mattis*<sup>25</sup> - 1 year sentence (Floyd riots)).

Further, we discovered a 2019 Congressional hearing exchange<sup>26</sup> that, we believe, illustrates the conflation of private labels and the confusion surrounding Federal criminal prosecution of ‘terrorists’ caused by, what our organization claims are, broad legal definitions of ‘terrorism’ or ‘domestic terrorism’ and who legally constitutes a ‘domestic terrorist’ (*e.g.*, *a US citizen who is or is not connected to a legally designated ‘terrorist’ organization, etc.*).

**Congresswoman Ocasio-Cortez:** We held hearings on WHITE SUPREMACY and its growing role in the U.S. right now...[and] whether the FBI classifies EXTREMIST VIOLENCE as domestic terrorism, or a HATE crime has major implications on resource allocation and prioritization within the Bureau.

**Cortez:** ...why wasn’t Dylan Roof charged as a domestic terrorist?

**FBI Counter-Terrorism Assistant Director McGarrity:** You are using the word ‘charged’

**Cortez:** Was the actual ‘charge’ domestic terrorism.

**McGarrity:** You are not going to find the ‘charge’ for domestic terrorism out there.

**Cortez:** But the San Bernardino shooting. They were ‘charged’ as domestic terrorist...

**McGarrity:** They were ‘charged’ [as domestic terrorists] if there was a connection to foreign terrorist [designated] organization.

**Cortez:** Why are WHITE SUPREMACISTS not ‘charged’ as domestic terrorists.

**McGarrity:** Because Congress doesn’t have a statute for us on domestic terrorism like they do on a foreign terrorist organization. The definitions we are using we are talking past each other...

While no Federal charges exist for ‘domestic terrorism’, the definitions, prevention, and prosecutorial confusion is further exacerbated by State specific ‘domestic terrorism’ definitions and charges. For example, in March 2023, SPLC attorney Thomas

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<sup>13</sup> Fenderson. (2023). *Racism, Reform & Rebellion: The Ferguson Uprising & the Rise of Black Lives Matter*. Washington University in St. Louis. <https://afas.wustl.edu/racism-reform-rebellion-ferguson-uprising-rise-black-lives-matter>

<sup>14</sup> Allam, H. (2020). ‘I am Antifa’ – One Activist’s Violent Death Became a Symbol for the Right and Left. NPR. <https://www.npr.org/2020/07/23/893533916/i-am-antifa-one-activist-s-violent-death-became-a-symbol-for-the-right-and-left>

<sup>15</sup> Groppe, M & Phillips, K. (2021). *From coastal cities to rural towns, breadth of George Floyd protests – most peaceful – captured by data*. USATODAY. <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2020/06/10/george-floyd-black-lives-matter-police-protests-widespread-peaceful/5325737002/>

<sup>16</sup> Swann, S. (2022). *Fact-check: Is it illegal to protest outside justice’s homes? The law suggests no*. Austin American Statesman. <https://www.statesman.com/story/news/politics/politifact/2022/05/23/fact-check-legal-protest-outside-justices-homes-abortion-protests-roe-v-wade/9862085002/>

<sup>17</sup> House Judiciary. (2023). *New Report Reveals CISA Tried to Cover Up Censorship Practices*. <https://judiciary.house.gov/media/press-releases/new-report-reveals-cisa-tried-cover-censorship-practices>

<sup>18</sup> Goitein, E. (2019). *How the FBI Violated the Privacy Rights of Thousands of Americans*. Brennan Center. <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/analysis-opinion/how-fbi-violated-privacy-rights-tens-thousands-americans>

<sup>19</sup> Aaronson, T. (2021). *Gretchen Whitmer kidnapping case mirrors post 9/11 FBI sting operation*. Rising (Hill TV). <https://www.facebook.com/HillTVLive/videos/gretchen-whitmer-kidnapping-case-mirrors-post-911-fbi-sting-operations-defendant/827305314841279/>

<sup>20</sup> Anderson, M & McMillan, N. (2023). *1,000 people have been charged for the Capitol riot. Here’s where their cases stand*. NPR. <https://www.npr.org/2023/03/25/1165022885/1000-defendants-january-6-capitol-riot>

<sup>21</sup> Siefert, T. (2016). *No bail urged for New Hampshire man in Bundy standoff*. Reuters. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-nevada-bundy-new-hampshire-idINKCNOW92KY/>

<sup>22</sup> Childress, S. (2017). *In Blow to Government, Judge Declares Mistrial in Bundy Case*. Frontline. <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/article/in-blow-to-government-judge-declares-mistrial-in-bundy-case/>

<sup>23</sup> Shepherd, K. (2017). *Sheriff: FBI Failed to Suspend Agents Accused of Lying About Shooting of LaVoy Finicum*. Willamette Week. <https://www.wweek.com/news/2017/06/28/sheriff-fbi-failed-to-suspend-fbi-agents-accused-of-lying-about-shooting-at-lavoy-finicum/>

<sup>24</sup> Murdock, S. (2023). *Proud Boy Who Threw Rock at Capitol Doors on Jan. 6 Sentenced To 5 Years*. Huffington Post. [https://www.huffpost.com/entry/man-who-said-he-was-helping-cops-on-jan-6-by-throwing-rocks-at-capitol-sentenced-to-5-years\\_n\\_657c70d8e4b036ecab44c359](https://www.huffpost.com/entry/man-who-said-he-was-helping-cops-on-jan-6-by-throwing-rocks-at-capitol-sentenced-to-5-years_n_657c70d8e4b036ecab44c359)

<sup>25</sup> Kallingal, M & Syla, Z. (2023). *Second lawyer who participated in Molotov cocktail attack during George Floyd protests sentenced to over a year in prison*. CNN. <https://www.cnn.com/2023/01/27/us/george-floyd-protests-second-lawyer-prison/index.html>

<sup>26</sup> House Oversight Committee. (2019). *Hearing on Federal Response to White Supremacy. AOC questioning FBI’s McClarity*. <https://www.c-span.org/video/?c4801423/user-clip-aoc-questioning-fbis-michael-mcgarrity-white-supremacist-violence-treated-domestic&start=3960>

Jurgens<sup>27</sup> was arrested and charged with ‘domestic terrorism’ based on Georgia State legal definitions and criminal code<sup>28</sup>. Additionally, in 2023, Washington State Attorney General Bob Ferguson tried to inspire the Washington State Legislature to create a ‘Domestic Violent Extremism’ commission<sup>29</sup>, relying on a “2022 Domestic Terrorism” study<sup>30</sup> with the help of an SPLC expert<sup>31</sup>.

This is incredibly disconcerting to our organization considering that (1) in 2020 the DHS and the FBI, in a joint memorandum conflated the label ‘Domestic Violent Extremism’<sup>32</sup> with the legal term “Domestic Terrorism,” (2) in 2022, Amazon Smile cancelled<sup>33</sup> our organization’s charity status due to placement on placed on SPLC’s Hate, Extreme, Anti-government list, and (3) in 2023, shocking revelations that:

- (a) SPLC’s list was being used by the FBI to surveil U.S. citizens<sup>34</sup>,
- (b) SPLC was intimately involved with the BLM & FBI concerning the 2014 Bundy Standoff<sup>35</sup>,
- (c) SPLC was/is providing training to Federal, State, and Local law enforcement<sup>36</sup>,
- (d) SPLC’s list was allegedly being used by TSA<sup>37</sup>,
- (e) SPLC directors met with the Biden Administration National Security Team on multiple occasions<sup>38</sup>,
- (f) SPLC listed hundreds of thousands of moms as Hate, Anti-government, Extremists, etc.<sup>39</sup>,
- (g) SPLC employees were intimately involved with ANTIFA coercion & intimidation of U.S. civilians, based on SPLC listings<sup>40</sup>,
- (h) SPLC was allegedly directing the FBI according to a 2007 whistleblower<sup>41</sup>,
- (i) SPLC’s silence concerning **legally** designated foreign terrorist organization – HAMAS<sup>42</sup>,
- (j) SPLC’s Learning for Justice organization allegedly teaching in publicly funded institutions that Palestinians are less terrorist than Israel<sup>43</sup>, and
- (k) SPLC’s *Intelligence Report* editor-in-chief, Mark Potok stated in 2007, concerning SPLC’s ‘Hate List,’ “We really try and tackle these groups. Let me say that our aim, and sometimes the press describes us as monitoring hate groups, so **I want to say plainly that our aim in life is to destroy these groups, to completely destroy them.**”<sup>44</sup>

Consequently, our organization feels that varying Federal and State ‘terrorism’ terms, prevention, and prosecutions that are conflated with NGO private labels, lists, and lobbying, are becoming, or have become political weapons more so than national security and public safety instruments. And to be clear and to succinctly reiterate, CSG is not an ‘enemy of the United States’ – it is not ‘Anti-Government’ nor a ‘Hate Group’ secretly working to ‘sanitize racism.’ It is not our organization’s intention, by bringing our concerns to Congress, to

<sup>27</sup> Colton, E. (2023). *Southern Poverty Law Center lawyer arrested, charged with domestic terrorism amid Atlanta ‘Cop City’ attack*. Fox News. <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/southern-poverty-law-center-lawyer-reportedly-arrested-domestic-terrorism-atlanta-cop-city-attack>

<sup>28</sup> Georgia State Law. (2022). *Domestic Terrorism. O.C.G.A. Title 16, Ch. 11, Art. 6*

<sup>29</sup> Washington State Legislature. (2023). *An act establishing the Domestic Violent Extremism Commission*. House Bill 1333. <https://lawfilesexet.leg.wa.gov/biennium/2023-24/Pdf/Bill%20Reports/House/1333%20HBR%20APP%2023.pdf?q=20230226185849>

<sup>30</sup> Washington State Attorney General. (2022). *2022 Domestic Terrorism Study*. <https://agportal-s3bucket.s3.amazonaws.com/2022%20Domestic%20Terrorism%20Study.pdf>

<sup>31</sup> Miller-Idriss, C. (2023). *Professor, School of Public Affairs and School of Education Department of Justice, Law and Criminology. American University*. <https://www.american.edu/spa/faculty/cynthia.cfm>

<sup>32</sup> DHS & FBI. (2020). *Domestic Terrorism Definitions, Terminology, and Methods*. <https://www.fbi.gov/file-repository/fbi-dhs-domestic-terrorism-definitions-terminology-methodology.pdf>

<sup>33</sup> CSG Board. (2023). *CSG Statement: SPLC (Southern Poverty Law Center)*. <https://www.centerforselfgovernance.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/2-CSG-Statement-SPLC.pdf>

<sup>34</sup> O’Neil, T. (2023). *The FBI’s Targeting of “Radical-Traditional Catholics” Bodes Ill*. The Heritage Foundation. <https://www.heritage.org/religious-liberty/commentary/the-fbis-targeting-radical-traditional-catholics-bodes-ill>

<sup>35</sup> CSG Board. (2023). *SPLC coordinating with Federal Government resulting in violations of Due Process*. <https://www.centerforselfgovernance.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/44-CSG-Concern-32-SPLC-Coordinating-wFederal-Govt.pdf>

<sup>36</sup> CSG Board. (2023). *Local Government solicited by retired Federal Agent to hire SPLC “Police Trainer” and “Intel Analyst.”* <https://www.centerforselfgovernance.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/43-CSG-Concern-31-Local-Govt-Solicited-By-Retired-Fed-Agent-To-Hire-SPLC.pdf>

<sup>37</sup> CSG Board. (2023) *Affidavit: former airline agent alleges TSA used SPLC list*. <https://www.centerforselfgovernance.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/7-CSG-Concern-3-SPLC-Consulted-on-NO-FLY-List.pdf>

<sup>38</sup> Collier, B. & O’Neil, T. (2023). *The Company You Keep: White House Logs Show Biden Meeting with Far-Left Smear Factory Tied to Terrorism*. The Daily Signal. <https://www.dailysignal.com/2023/07/05/white-house-records-biden-personally-met-splc-staff-6-times-foreshadowing-renewed-attacks-parent-groups/>

<sup>39</sup> Kornick, L. (2023). *Parent’s rights groups are the newest addition to Southern Poverty Law Center’s ‘Hate and Extremism’ report*. <https://www.foxnews.com/media/parents-rights-groups-newest-addition-southern-poverty-law-centers-hate-extremism-report>

<sup>40</sup> CSG Board. (2023). *ANTIFA intertwined with SPLC to violate 18 USC 2331 (5)*. <https://www.centerforselfgovernance.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/36-CSG-Concern-24-ANTIFA-Intertwined-wSPLC-To-Violate-18USC2331.pdf>

<sup>41</sup> Grassley, C (U.S. Senator). (2018). *Grassley seeks information about FBI raid of whistleblower’s home*. Committee on the Judiciary. <https://www.grassley.senate.gov/news-releases/grassley-seeks-information-about-fbi-raid-whistleblower-s-home>

<sup>42</sup> Watrobski, K. (2023). *Southern Poverty Law Center refuses to call Hamas a terrorist group despite invasion of Israel*. The National Desk. <https://thenationaldesk.com/news/americas-news-now/southern-poverty-law-center-refuses-to-designate-hamas-as-terrorist-group-after-invasion-of-israel-splc-palestine-gaza-middle-east-conflict-terrorism-hate-discrimination-human-rights>

<sup>43</sup> Watrobski, K. (2023). *Resource calling Israelis terrorists shared with teachers in Massachusetts school district*. KHQA News. <https://khqa.com/news/nation-world/resource-calling-israeli-terrorism-worse-than-that-of-palestinians-shared-with-massachusetts-teachers-israel-palestine-hamas-invasion-middle-east-conflict-revere-public-schools-crisis-in-the-classroom>

<sup>44</sup> Staver, M. (2023). *Stopping the SPLC’s Hate Mission*. Liberty Counsel.

disrupt or undermine (1) legitimate 1<sup>st</sup> amendment protections of individuals, groups, or organizations, (2) the lawful and necessary national safety and security concerns of the United States, or (3) the rule of law.

Consequently, to prevent the propagation of the weaponization of labels and government, our organization has crafted solutions as recommendations to present to legislative bodies throughout 2024, beginning with the following:

1. Amend 18 USC 2331 (5) and 6 USC 101 (18) definitions of Domestic Terrorism to clarify who is a 'domestic terrorist.'
2. Do not pass the 'Domestic Terrorism Prevention Act' that is endorsed by SPLC.
3. Introduce a Joint Resolution, Law, and/or Constitutional Amendment to reject ALL forms of racial supremacy and ANY violence in furtherance of racial supremacy.

In light of our (1) research and documented perceived incidents of PWOLG, (2) public statements relating to civic intentions concerning PWOLG (3) contacting alleged PWOLG victims, (4) collecting evidence of alleged NGO weaponization of labels, government, and violent individuals & groups, (5) bringing both PWOLG victims and evidence to Congress, beginning March 6, 2023, and (6) compiling our previous and current concerns at [www.CenterforSelfGovernance.com/PWOL](http://www.CenterforSelfGovernance.com/PWOL), we ask that Federal, State, and Local investigations, hearings, and reforms are vigorously pursued to ensure civil rights are safe-guarded, political discourse and education is respected and protected, law enforcement and criminal prosecution are not politically weaponized, and that a 'government of more stability,' one that balances 'dual' and 'cooperative' federalism, is guaranteed for all partisans, religions, races, sexes, etc., for many generations to come.

Thank you for your prompt attention to our important concerns. We look forward to your urgent response and immediate resolutions. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Zoe Warren (CSG PWOL-G coordinator) at [Info@TNCSG.org](mailto:Info@TNCSG.org) or (615)669-8274.

**Yours Most Humbly and Mutually Pledged,**

**Ben Clymer, Board Member - Chairman**

**Lex Howard, Board Member**

**Bill Norton, Board Member**

**Mila Wood, Board Member**

**Matt Brown, Board Member**

**Zach Brooks, Board Member**

**Mark Herr, Board Member**

**Pamela Leslie, Executive Director**