

# Anti-Fascist (AntiFa) Briefing

## Greenville/Upstate SC

### 2018-2019



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# AntiFa – Greenville/Upstate 2018-2019

- The following information – based on an on-going investigation - indicates a cell of AntiFa is operating in upstate SC, to include Greenville, Pickens, and Anderson counties, since at least 2017.
- The identified cell has at least 8 active/inactive local members, and at least 3 associates, in addition to out of state participants.
- The group uses encrypted technology for communication, including “Signal” and “Protonmail”.
- The group works with other regional groups, including groups in Charleston, Columbia, Memphis, and Nashville.
- Nationally, AntiFa is known for violent confrontations, including Charlottesville Virginia protests, and the recent incident at an ICE Detention Center in Washington state, which involved incendiary devices and a firearm.
- Suspected crimes under investigation: petit larceny, malicious damage, conspiracy, stalking, harassment.
- The AntiFa cell works closely with “[Upstate Food Not Bombs](#)”, a food distribution group that operates at 2805 Old Buncombe Road. (Mondays, approx. 12 pm-4pm)
- The AntiFa cell participates in local protests, including officer-involved shootings, Confederate flag, and immigration protests.
- The cell engages in “Direct Action”, including theft of Confederate flags, blocking streets, and physical confrontations with ideological opponents.
- The local cell has left deceased animals with swastikas burned into them at the victims residence, as well as torn pieces of Confederate flags. A deceased cat was set on fire in the yard of a Victim.
  - Additionally, “Your next” was burned into one of the deceased animals.

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- **Targets:**

- AntiFa opposes the ideology of fascists, racists, and similar groups, including Nazis, neo-Nazis (National Socialist Movement), Proud Boys, Traditionalist Workers Party, etc.
- The government, and law enforcement, are viewed as complicit in allowing fascists/racists to operate in the US.
- In the local AntiFa group, evidence indicates the group will photograph vehicles, residences, and Facebook pages of individuals with Confederate flags, Thin Blue Line flags, and pro-law enforcement/military indicators.
  - Individuals on Facebook with law enforcement agencies listed as employers are documented for further surveillance.
  - Evidence suggests that individuals making statements of disagreement with AntiFa ideology is enough of a catalyst for AntiFa to initiate surveillance.
- Additionally, individuals who make “fascist” statements on social media have had their employers contacted, have been fired from their jobs as a result, and online threats have been directed at them.

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- **Methods:**

- AntiFa routinely engages in “doxing” individuals – which is the release of personal information with malicious intent.
  - Home addresses, names of family members, employers, telephone numbers, email addresses, etc.
- This cell leaves anti-Nazi messages on torn Confederate flags or memorabilia, and has been known to leave signs/banners around the Greenville area with similar political messages.
- They also conduct both Electronic Surveillance and Physical Surveillance in support of doxing goals.
  - Information indicates electronic surveillance of law enforcement is an on-going goal of the local cell members, but physical surveillance is less likely, although still possible.
- \*\*The local AntiFa cell is suspected to have obtained law enforcement sensitive information from at least one cooperating law enforcement source.\*\*
- Evidence suggests left-leaning groups, such as the John Brown Gun Club and AntiFa, have engaged in firearms training, and may have former military service-members participating/leading the training.
  - At least two local AntiFa members have firearms and are allowed to possess them at this time.

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- **Potential Indicators** (not all inclusive):
  - Terms such as “Smash the Fash” (Fascist), “864161”, Anti-Fascist Action (AFA), Anti-Racist Action (ARA), ACAB (All Cops Are Bastards).
    - 161 is a numeric code for AFA. The local cell calls itself “864161”.
  - Facebook groups/likes suggestive of AntiFa membership, left-wing extremism, anarchism, or environment/animal rights activism.
    - The local group is strongly affiliated with LGBTQ community, anarchists, and other far left protest groups.
  - Upstate Food Not Bombs stickers/memorabilia
    - Intelligence suggests **Upstate Food Not Bombs** is utilized to screen potential members for inclusion into the AntiFa cell.
  - Behavior may mimic Sovereign Citizen/anti-government extremists in their interactions with law enforcement.
    - Photographing/Filming of law enforcement, both during encounters and at special events.
    - May demand to speak to a supervisor or see a warrant prior to consenting to a search
  - *NOTE: Above mentioned activities may be Constitutionally-protected and should not be used solely to detain or arrest individuals. Furthermore, the phrase ACAB is used in multiple social/political groups and may or may not be indicative of AntiFa ideology.*

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Food Not Bombs logo

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## • Recommendations:

- Do not post anything online that reflects negatively upon yourself or the Sheriff's Office.
- Do not provide SC DMV/NCIC/Law Enforcement Sensitive information to **any** individual without the appropriate clearance and a need to know.
- Do not use place Thin Blue Line stickers or flags on vehicles or at your residence.
- Secure all social media accounts by utilizing available privacy measures.
- Do not accept online friend requests from subjects you have not met in person.
- Conduct self-security checks online to see what information is publically available about you (search your name through search engines, Google, etc) and request websites remove your information.
- Use physical security countermeasures such as taking alternate routes to and from work.

## • Remember:

- Greenville GIS makes your home address publically available if you are the registered owner.
- Comments and "likes" on others social media pages may not be secure and could be used against you.
- Secure applications, like "Whats App" and "Signal", are encrypted, but those countermeasures can be broken by an individual taking screenshots of conversations.
- Publically available documents, such as court cases, motor vehicle registration, and tax files, may reveal personal information about you and your family.
- Many "people finder" websites will remove your information upon request, however:
  - 1) You must submit a request to be removed
  - 2) The data sources the website obtained your information from are still public records.
- Lastly, assume you are being recorded during any interaction with a suspected AntiFa member.

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- Antifa engages in many activities which are Constitutionally protected. Membership in AntiFa is not a reason in itself to detain or arrest.
- Please report suspected AntiFa contacts to Deputy Kuppinger via the JTTF Lead Sheet located on the I: drive.
- If you believe you are being targeted or harassed by AntiFa or any other criminal group, notify your supervisor and Dep. Kuppinger.

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