

# Police State USA: Counterterrorism Unit Eyed “Vegan Potlucks,” Documents Reveal

Animal rights activists targeted by Homeland Security-created Fusion Center

By [Mikael Thalen](#)

Global Research, May 08, 2015

[Infowars](#) 7 May 2015

Region: [USA](#)

Theme: [Police State & Civil Rights](#)

A Facebook event page created by animal rights activists last September was monitored by a Texas counterterrorism unit, recently uncovered emails show.

According to news site [MuckRock.com](#), which obtained the [documents](#) through a public records request, a counterterrorism specialist with the Texas Department of Public Safety alerted fellow employees to the “[National Weekend of Action](#)” shortly after discovering the page.

Hosted by the Institute for Critical Animal Studies, the event’s description called for activists to set up film viewings, workshops, protests and vegan potlucks to “educate the public about federal laws that specifically target animal advocates.”

Information regarding the event was shared widely throughout Texas agencies, even making its way to the Austin Regional Intelligence Center (ARIC).

**From:** Crowe, Jennifer  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 03, 2014 8:48 AM  
**To:** Jordan, James (CD); Perry, Rhonda; Dudley, David  
**Subject:** National Weekend of Action 5-7 September

Good Morning –  
New event just posted:

“National Weekend of Action Against the AETA!”  
[https://www.facebook.com/events/803468656341400/?ref\\_newsfeed\\_story\\_type=regular](https://www.facebook.com/events/803468656341400/?ref_newsfeed_story_type=regular)  
#AgainsttheAETA  
(AETA = Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act)

This event is hosted by animal rights activists (possibly involving some of the same persons who participated in the anti-circus protest in Austin on 20 August).  
Rallies are posted for Houston and Dallas; no specifics yet referencing Austin.  
Will monitor through the week for any reference to an Austin rally.

Thanks!

**Jennifer Crowe**

*Research Specialist – Region 7 Support  
Texas Department of Public Safety  
Intelligence and Counterterrorism Division  
Main: 512-424-7981  
Direct: 512-424-2624  
Fax: 512-424-7418  
[TXJCIC@dps.texas.gov](mailto:TXJCIC@dps.texas.gov)  
[jennifer.crowe@dps.texas.gov](mailto:jennifer.crowe@dps.texas.gov)*

*CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This is a CONFIDENTIAL LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNICATION. If you have received this message in error, do not disseminate, distribute, use, or copy this communication if you are not an intended recipient. Please CONTACT the sender by reply e-mail or call the JCIC (toll free at 866-786-5972) and DESTROY all copies of the original.*

“We will be monitoring as well,” an ARIC officer wrote in a [response email](#).

Despite [ARIC policy](#) forbidding the collection of information on individuals and groups unrelated to terrorism, an Austin police spokesperson seemingly defended the action after being pressed by MuckRock.

“The ARIC is tasked, from an all-crimes perspective, with keeping the citizens of Austin and the surrounding communities safe,” the spokesperson wrote. “As part of this mission, the ARIC will examine unrestricted, publicly available social media solely with the intent of looking for bad actors that would cause harm.”

The incident remains somewhat unsurprising given the findings from a [2012 bi-partisan Senate report](#) on fusion centers such as the ARIC, which found the centers to be a “useless and costly effort that tramples on civil liberties.”

Last January a similarly benign group known as “The Rainbow Family” was also [targeted by law enforcement](#) for their radical advocacy of “peace and love.” Police requested a quarter of a million dollar grant from the Department of Homeland Security to create a mobile command unit to spy on the “extremist” group.

A New Hampshire police chief also requested cash from DHS in 2013 in order to obtain an armored military vehicle, [citing the threat](#) posed by “Occupy activists and libertarians” as justification.

Facebook @ <https://www.facebook.com/mt.examiner>  
Follow Mikael Thalen @ <https://twitter.com/MikaelThalen>

The original source of this article is [Infowars](#)  
Copyright © [Mikael Thalen](#), [Infowars](#), 2015

---

[Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page](#)

[Become a Member of Global Research](#)

Articles by: [Mikael Thalen](#)

**Disclaimer:** The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: [publications@globalresearch.ca](mailto:publications@globalresearch.ca)

[www.globalresearch.ca](http://www.globalresearch.ca) contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: [publications@globalresearch.ca](mailto:publications@globalresearch.ca)