

United States Senate

October 9, 2025

The Honorable Marco Rubio
Secretary of State
Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Rubio,

I write to you today to urge you to designate the foreign networks, organizations and financiers that enable and support Antifa operations as Foreign Terrorist Organizations (FTO).

Yesterday, at a roundtable on Antifa's terrorist activities, President Trump affirmed his intent to dismantle the far-left group's international architecture, and expressed his desire to see the network designated as an FTO, saying: "Let's get it done."¹ As the President's special envoy to the Middle East, Steve Witkoff, noted at the event, Antifa possesses "extensive foreign ties," and an FTO designation "would be a very good step to take."

I enthusiastically support the administration's assessment.

On September 22, President Trump signed an Executive Order: "Designating Antifa as a Domestic Terrorist Organization."² This E.O. rightly highlighted the fact that Antifa's "organized effort designed to achieve policy objectives by coercion and intimidation is ... terrorism." However, the Antifa network is international in nature, not a collection of independent domestic actors. They are one node of a global system, which enables, funds, and provides critical operational support to Antifa activities across the West. The political violence that Antifa-linked terrorists perpetrate on American streets is inextricably tied to this broader international system. Given its international nexus, it's appropriate to explore an FTO designation that would target international affiliates.

As noted above, Antifa is a fundamentally international network, active in nations across the West.³ Its transnational 'black bloc' structure includes organized cells in the United States, Canada, the U.K., and across continental Europe. While seemingly decentralized, these cells often work in direct coordination with one another, sharing tactics and strategies, planning militant activism, utilizing shared funding streams, and even collaborating on in-person "direct actions." Time and time again, at major Antifa actions across the world, including in the U.S., this international character surfaces.

¹ Kerry Picket, *Trump ready to declare Antifa a Foreign Terrorist Organization*, THE WASH. TIMES (Oct. 8, 2025), <https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2025/oct/8/trump-ready-declare-antifa-foreign-terrorist-organization/>.

² Donald J. Trump, Exec. Order, *Designating Antifa as a Domestic Terrorist Organization*, 90 Fed. Reg. 60123 (Sept. 25, 2025), <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/09/designating-antifa-as-a-domestic-terrorist-organization/>.

³ Daveed Gartenstein-Ross, *Behind the Black Bloc*, THE FOUND. FOR DEF. OF DEMOCRACY (June 14, 2021), <https://www.fdd.org/analysis/2021/06/14/behind-the-black-bloc/>.

At the “Stop Cop City” riots in Atlanta in 2023, for example, the Georgia Attorney General noted that many of the militants arrested for throwing Molotov cocktails, hurling bricks at cops, and engaging in other forms of violence and sabotage were part of an “international group,” including foreigners from nations such as France and Canada.⁴

Similarly, the 2017 Hamburg G20 saw coordinated black bloc and Antifa violence perpetrated by militants from across the international Antifa network, so much so, in fact, that German police sought to intercept trains ferrying in crowds of potential militants at the border.⁵ During the clashes, which left nearly 500 police officers injured,⁶ the Antifa network’s real-time cross-border coordination was documented by many of the radical left-wing outlets themselves, with various Antifa outlets hailing the “international mobilization.”⁷

At the institutional level, Antifa’s operations are sustained by an interlocking web of foreign “anti-fascist” organizations, NGOs, and fiscal sponsors and even foreign governments. In Canada, for example, the Canadian Anti-Hate Network (CAHN), a group whose direct association with Antifa has been officially confirmed in Canadian court,⁸ has received funding from the Canadian government and collaborates with the government on various “anti-hate” initiatives.⁹ These international organizations include groups like the “International Anti-Fascist Defence Fund,” which boasts that it has helped fund 800+ Antifa activists across 26 different countries,¹⁰ including the U.S., since its inception in 2015. The group originated as a project from members of the “Antifa International collective”¹¹ seeking to bankroll militants “anywhere in the world.”¹²

⁴ Emily Crane, ‘*International group*’ involved in Molotov attack on Atlanta’s ‘Cop City’, N.Y. POST (Mar. 6, 2023), <https://nypost.com/2023/03/06/international-group-involved-in-attack-on-atlantas-cop-city/>.

⁵ Ben Knight, *Who’s who in Hamburg’s G20 protests*, DEUTSCHE WELLE (July 7, 2017), <https://www.dw.com/en/whos-who-in-hamburgs-g20-protests/a-39495922>.

⁶ *G20 clashes prompt German call for database of leftist militants*, B.B.C. (July 10, 2017), <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-40555972>

⁷ CrimethInc., *Don’t Try To Break Us, We’ll Explode*, THE ANARCHIST LIBRARY (Aug. 8, 2017), (<https://theanarchistlibrary.org/library/crimethinc-don-t-try-to-break-us-we-ll-explode>; <https://crimethinc.com/2017/07/05/announcing-continuous-live-coverage-of-the-g20-in-hamburg-with-an-update-from-the-clashes-of-july-4>

⁸ Jamie Sarkonak, *Jon Kay’s Legal Victory Exposes Canadian Anti-Hate Network’s Anti-Conservative Agenda*, NATIONAL POST (Nov. 24, 2022), <https://nationalpost.com/opinion/jon-kays-legal-victory-exposes-canadian-anti-hate-networks-anti-conservative-agenda>.

⁹ Press Release, Department of Canadian Heritage, Government of Canada and the Canadian Anti-Hate Network launch Anti-Hate toolkit for Canadian schools (June 29, 2022), <https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/news/2022/06/government-of-canada-and-the-canadian-anti-hate-network-launch-anti-hate-toolkit-for-canadian-schools.html>; Containing and Countering Canadian Hate Groups, GOVERNMENT OF CANADA, <https://search.open.canada.ca/grants/record/pch,016-2020-2021-Q3-1332386,current> .

¹⁰ *2024–2025 Annual Report*, INTERNATIONAL ANTI-FASCIST DEFENCE FUND (June 2, 2025), <https://intlantifadefence.wordpress.com/2025/06/02/the-international-anti-fascist-defence-fund-2024-2025-annual-report/>.

¹¹ *2022–23 Annual Report*, INTERNATIONAL ANTI-FASCIST DEFENCE FUND (May 27, 2023), <https://intlantifadefence.wordpress.com/2023/05/27/the-international-anti-fascist-defence-fund-2022-2023-annual-report/>.

¹² *The International Anti-Fascist Defense Fund*, https://fundrazr.com/defendantifa?ref=ab_1oXrOzt45P61oXrOzt45P6.

Notably, European security services track the same ecosystem. Europol's 2023 "Terrorism Situation and Trend Report" explicitly treats left-wing and anarchist terrorism as a transnational problem, writing: "Left-wing and anarchist extremists see themselves as part of an international movement and international contacts are a key feature of the scene. They connect through social media as well as physical attendance at various events and demonstrations," operating via "wider international contacts" in the U.S. and elsewhere. The report notes that this international collaboration goes above and beyond mere information-sharing, pointing to "the creation and use of squats, so-called free autonomous spaces," which are used by Antifa and other left-wing extremists "as hide-outs as well as operations bases, and are also utilised to host left-wing and anarchist terrorists and extremists from abroad."¹³

We must stand firm against the foreign promotion of political violence. We must target the funding of violent conduct. We must recommit ourselves to the virtue of free, peaceful speech. And let's be clear: what Antifa is engaged in is not 'speech.' It is coordinated, organized political violence.

For these reasons, among many others, I urge you to identify and designate the organizational backers of the Antifa network as Foreign Terrorist Organizations and I stand by ready to assist however possible in completing this designation and opposing this dangerous network.

Sincerely,



Eric S. Schmitt
United States Senator

¹³ *European Union Terrorism Situation and Trend Report 2023*, EUROPOL (Dec. 12, 2024), <https://www.europol.europa.eu/publication-events/main-reports/european-union-terrorism-situation-and-trend-report-2023-te-sat>.