



CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

OFFICER SAFETY BULLETIN

April 16, 2012

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(U//FOUO) Sovereign Citizen Visual Indicators

(U//FOUO) This Officer Safety Bulletin is designed to alert law enforcement officers to visual indicators normally associated with Sovereign Citizens.^a It offers examples of illegal license plates, identity documents, and vehicle displays law enforcement personnel have encountered throughout the United States. The STAC encourages California law enforcement officers to submit a Suspicious Activity Report (SAR) to their respective Regional Threat Assessment Center on any observed instances of Sovereign license plates, documents, or displays.

(U//FOUO) **Bogus License Plates:** Some Sovereigns make or buy self-identifying license plates, and others operate vehicles with no license plates or plates with expired tags. Below are examples of the types of plates law enforcement personnel have encountered across the United States.



(U//FOUO) Sovereigns think foreign bankers subverted the original Constitution to create a corporate entity called the UNITED STATES. This plate also references a section in the U.S. Code that defines money--a monetary system Sovereigns believe ended when the U.S. abandoned the gold standard.



(U//FOUO) Sovereigns believe writing words such as “without prejudice,” or “under protest” on a document (such as a traffic citation) preserves their personhood. By doing so, they believe they are not entering into “commerce” with UNITED STATES Inc., as codified under the Uniform Commercial Code. They believe the UCC applies only to “artificial persons” belonging to the corporation.



(U//FOUO) The Washitaw, Yamassee, or Moorish American Nation are largely groups of black Americans who claim an indigenous form of Islam not subject to U.S. law; however, Caucasians claim membership as well. They may take Muslim names, or add the suffix “El” (god) and/or “Bey” (lord) to their given name. Alternatively, Washitaw adherents may claim to be descendants of blacks who came to the Americas (“Turtle Island”) 75,000 years ago. They claim the Louisiana Purchase denied their indigenous sovereign rights, since restored by United Nations declaration.

^a The FBI describes Sovereign Citizens as anti-government extremists who believe that even though they physically reside in this country, they are separate or “sovereign” from the United States. As a result, they believe they do not have to answer to any government authority, including courts, taxing entities, motor vehicle agencies, and law enforcement.”



(U//FOUO) The Little Shell Pembina claims to be a sovereign Native American tribe not subject to U.S. law. Their plates have been spotted around the country.



(U//FOUO) A number of people have purchased “BWI” (British West Indies) plates and other materials as part of a Sovereign Citizen package that is supposed to make one exempt from traffic laws and state registration requirements. There is no country called the British West Indies--it is a geographic term for a group of islands in the Atlantic Ocean. This plate includes “TC” in an attempt to add an air of legitimacy by suggesting it is from the Turks & Caicos island group.



(U//FOUO) Sovereign Citizens may display plates purporting to be non-U.S. ambassadors in an effort to claim diplomatic immunity from U.S. laws. This plate identifies the vehicle as operated by personnel from “The United Nations of Turtle Island.” The U.S. Department of State must recognize nations and their embassy personnel to be legitimate.



(U//FOUO) Sovereign Citizens may display plates from The Republic of “State X.” They believe the American War of Independence created people as sovereign citizens in their respective states who are bound only by common law. Under common law, one is free to do anything provided it does not infringe on someone else’s life, liberty or property; there must be a damaged party; no victim--no crime.



(U//FOUO) Some Sovereigns believe they are citizens of heaven; not the subjects of a earthly government. They believe they have been granted the privilege to drive on the roads to preach the gospel without interruption.

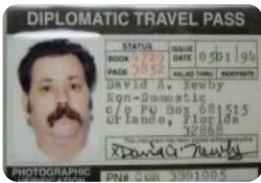


(U//LES) Sovereigns have more recently started to display plates with U.S. DOT numbers, often with words such as “PRIVATE: NOT FOR HIRE” or “US DOT Exempt.” The two graphics in the upper corners of the plate indicate membership in the “World Government of World Citizens,” meaning a citizen of the world and immune from U.S. law.

(U//FOUO) **Invalid driver's licenses and identification cards:** Sovereigns have been known to produce invalid identity documents and driver's licenses in an attempt to claim immunity as non-U.S. citizens.



(U//LES) International driving permit (purportedly from the United Nations--these have been seen in various colors)



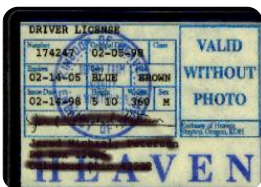
(U//LES) Diplomatic Travel Pass (this one describes his diplomatic status as 'Non-domestic.')



(U//LES) Moorish American Nation diplomatic ID (Note the "Right to Bear Arms," the "Non-domestic" status, the references to the UCC, and the "EI" suffix)



(U//FOUO) "State Republic" or "American National" identification warrants and travel warrants are sold on the internet and used to claim freedom to travel without restriction. Ironically, one must provide proof of identity with SSN or state DL numbers to obtain the warrants--identifications Sovereigns believe acts as "adhesion contracts" to UNITED STATES Inc.)

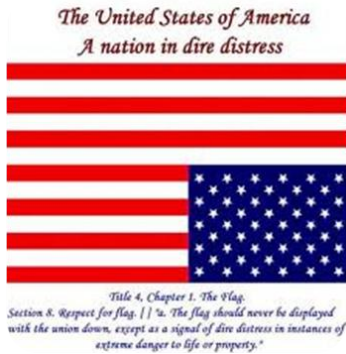


(U//FOUO) A Kingdom of Heaven DL



(U//LES) Some Sovereigns will identify themselves as law enforcement officers such as a U.S. Constitution Ranger. They may also show they are officers of a "Civil Rights Task Force" or a "Civil Rights Investigator."

(U//FOUO) **Vehicle Decorations:** Other indicators that a Sovereign Citizen may be operating a vehicle are sovereign-themed bumper stickers and anti-government displays, warning notices, and official-looking badges.



(U//FOUO) According to the U.S. Code referenced, displaying the colors upside down signals extreme danger to life or property. This display suggests the nation is in distress, likely due to the rise of the corporate UNITED STATES.



(U//FOUO) The U.S. Code reference defines a national as "a person who, though not a not a citizen of the United States, owes allegiance to the United States."



(U//FOUO) A display suggesting the United States is a corporation--a common belief among Sovereign Citizens.



(U//LES) A sticker affixed to a vehicle window referencing U.S. Code which describes the penalty for hindering one's free exercise or enjoyment of privileges secured by the Constitution--such as being detained for a traffic stop. This warning claims an extra "use fee" of \$5,000 per person per day for violations.



(U//FOUO) An example of a U.S. Constitution Ranger vehicle door insignia

(U) **Administrative Note:** For comments or questions related to the content or dissemination of this document, please contact the STAC at (916) 874-1100 or STAC@calema.ca.gov

(U) **Tracked by:** HSEC-14-02000-ST-2009

(U) **Feedback:** The STAC encourages your feedback using the survey found at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/GNZSDZH>.