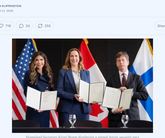
Leaked Doc: Homeland Security's Domestic Terror Obsession

Forget Greenland; the American public are the real target

KEN KLIPPENSTEIN
JAN 21, 2026

79 14 255 Share



Homeland Secretary Kristi Noem (Federal), a signed Proud Boys security pass, alleged Guardian and Patriot operative

Subscribe for more links

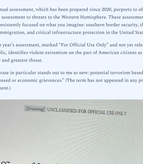
Type your email... Subscribe

Despite Donald Trump's fixation with Greenland and the suggestion that military action is imminent, the 2026 Homeland Threat Assessment, a draft of which was leaked to me, focuses instead on domestic terrorism.

The annual assessment, which has been prepared since 2020, purports to offer a holistic assessment to threats to the Western Hemisphere. These assessments have consistently focused on what you imagine: nuclear bomb smuggler, the drug trade, international criminal organizations, and Chinese penetration in the United States.

But this year's assessment, marked "For Official Use Only" and not yet released to the public, identifies violent extremism on the part of American citizens as the priority and greatest threat.

One phrase in particular stands out to me as new: potential terrorism based upon "class-based or economic grievances." (The term has not appeared in any previous assessment.)



[Drawing] UNCLASSIFIED FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Office of Intelligence and Analysis

Homeland Threat Assessment 2026

Screenshot of the leaked draft Homeland Threat Assessment 2026

(U) Table of Contents

BORDER AND IMMIGRATION SECURITY (Starts page 5)
Population Movements and Human Smuggling
Transnational Criminal Organizations
Illegal Drugs
Weapons Trafficking
Illicit finance
Unmanned Aerial Systems
CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE SECURITY (Starts page 12)
Cyber Threats to Critical Infrastructure
Physical Threats to Homeland Critical Infrastructure and Key Resources
PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY (Starts page 18)
Non-Ideological Threats
Terrorism
Hostile Nation States
THREATS TO ECONOMIC SECURITY (Starts page 22)
Economic Manipulation
Intellectual Property Theft & Technology Transfer
Definitions (Starts page 25)

Executive Summary:

SHIFTING BORDER AND IMMIGRATION THREATS: In the coming year, the United States is likely to observe significantly reduced levels of irregular migration and drug trafficking into the country, due in large part to many assertive US border policies. Migrant encounters at the US Southern Border, for example, have reached levels not seen in the past two decades, and terrorist threats from migrants are deemed by current US immigration policies and increased migrant enforcement efforts, albeit resulting from Trump administration policies, which violate international law, are likely to be reduced.

Violent terrorist groups, some newly designated as foreign terrorist organizations, appear to have reduced back their trade in Fentanyl in 2025 at least partially out of concern of heightened US and Mexican enforcement efforts. Cartel violence in Mexico has significantly dropped in 2025 compared to the previous year. This decline, coupled with a significant reduction in US overdose deaths, indicates reduced fentanyl flows across the southern border. In 2026, we expect Mexican cartels will continue to adapt their business models to maintain their profits and prioritize to increase profits from the human smuggling trade and US demand for illicit drugs. These tactics will include continued efforts to corrupt or coerce our partner nations' security forces and undermine their rule of law.

CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE THREATS MONITORING: In contrast to the protests inside US critical infrastructure facilities that occurred during the first Trump administration, there are increasingly violent threat environment, largely driven by the continued support of the often successful cyber operations of state-backed actors, particularly China. Hackers working at the behest of the Chinese Party-State have, in the past, used US critical infrastructure to launch cyber attacks against adversaries, in particularly in the case of China, it appears the latter disruptive cyberattacks. China and Russia are almost certainly capable of causing sustained disruptions to US critical infrastructure, including transportation, communications, and energy enterprises, and of doing substantially economic harm. These cyber actors are likely to take advantage of artificial intelligence to improve their operations. Meanwhile, the threat of Iranian cyber attacks against US critical infrastructure has significantly decreased since the 12 Iranian Day war, which saw Iran's cyber capabilities degraded and its leadership, unsuitable and unsuitable of and domestic issues around critical infrastructure, which remains a strong challenge for national security stakeholders.

UNCLASSIFIED FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

PUBLIC SAFETY THREATS PERSIST: Another area of considerable concern to us is the threat posed by a variety of mass casualty attacks and targeted violence. These are most frequently conducted by individuals with personal grievances or mental health issues, but often also by violent extremists motivated by a variety of ideologies. Violent extremist threats are primarily perpetrated by lone offenders or, less frequently, small cells. Of these actors with ideological motivations, domestic violent extremists in recent years have been the most active group. They have conducted a wide range of lethal attacks against a variety of targets, including anti-government, racial and ethnic grievances, anti-Israel and anti-Semitic beliefs, and class-based or economic grievances. The threat from US-based individuals inspired by foreign terrorist organizations has also been to its highest level in five years, fanned by the ongoing Israel-HAMAS conflict and a resurgence in English-language terrorist media. Significant US public events, including the 2026 FIFA World Cup and the America 250 anniversary of the US Declaration of Independence, may present attractive targets. Advocacy status sites, meanwhile, remain a threat to public safety in the United States, especially when combined with US officials and, along with China, is harassing dissidents and dangerous communities, sometimes violently.

ECONOMIC THREATS STILL DIVERSIFYING: The US economic force challenges from adversary nation states, namely China, which influences the aggressiveness of its approach on key policies to the United States, Taiwan, and the South China Sea, and Russia, which has taken advantage of its strategically over our earth-minerals to try and force concessions of traditional US trade policies, namely restrictions on advanced microchip sales and tariffs. China also uses economic manipulation, including its control of rare earth mineral supplies, to influence US sanction evasion, and forced labor to undermine US economic growth and national security. Russia, Iran, and North Korea too many of these same tactics, typically to try and acquire US technology and to evade US sanctions. Cyber and IP theft threats from these actors will continue to threaten US companies and transnational entities to certain strength. US supply chain controlled technology and crude US and international interest. 20

Population Movements and Human Smuggling

(U) Overview: In this section, we examine the threat to US borders from irregular migration, transnational criminal organizations, illegal drug smuggling, weapons trafficking, unmanned aerial systems, and illicit money flows. During the past year, this target of threats has been the most active and dynamic, with significant changes in the threat environment and tactics, techniques and influence by US policy changes despite the complexity of the factors driving them.

The reference to first appears in the executive summary, in a section summarizing public safety threats. Per the assessment:

> "(U) Threat actors with ideological motivations, domestic violent extremists in recent years have been the most active platform. They are motivated to conduct attacks by a wide range of factors, including anti-government sentiment, racial and ethnic grievances, anti-Israel and anti-Semitic beliefs, and class-based or economic grievances. ... The threat from US-based individuals inspired by foreign terrorist organizations has also been to its highest level in five years, fanned by the ongoing Israel-HAMAS conflict and a resurgence in English-language media."

The term again appears a second time in the full section on public safety threats.

> "In recent years domestic violent extremists have been the most active terrorist attackers and plotters, and we expect this will remain the case in 2026. They are motivated to conduct attacks by a wide range of factors, including anti-government sentiment, racial and ethnic grievances, anti-Israel and anti-Semitic beliefs, and class-based or economic grievances."

(U) Terrorism

(U) In 2026, we expect terrorist attacks in the Homeland, whether inspired by foreign or domestic grievances, to primarily involve less sophisticated, small-scale attacks. We are particularly concerned about the potential for violence connected to responses to US military actions against Iran and Venezuela, the America 250 celebrations, the 2026 FIFA World Cup, the 2026 Winter Olympics, and other legislation, and cases indicating an increase in anti-US and anti-Israel public events in the United States. Attacks planned for the coming year, including FIFA World Cup matches and the 250th anniversary of the US Declaration of Independence, may present attractive targets.

- (U//FOUO) We are particularly concerned by the prospect of potential copycat attacks mimicking the New York City vehicle attack in November 2025. The tactic is likely to be attractive for aspiring attackers given the accessibility of vehicles and the low skill required to conduct an attack.

(U) The recent years domestic violent extremists have been the most active terrorist attackers and plotters, and we expect this will remain the case in 2026. They are motivated to conduct attacks by a wide range of factors, including anti-government sentiment, racial and ethnic grievances, anti-Israel and anti-Semitic beliefs, and class-based or economic grievances.

- (U) Since late October, domestic violent extremists have conducted at least 12 attacks in the Homeland that resulted in nine total deaths, including a Minnesota government official, a Minnesota lawmaker, and a Minnesota health care executive.
- (U//FOUO) Domestic violent extremists have also conducted at least two attacks against US critical infrastructure, which US law enforcement disrupted at least nine additional plots against Homeland targets during the past year. Domestic violent extremists have also conducted attacks against targets of these attacks and plots included critical infrastructure, faith-based communities and organizations, government officials and facilities, commercial facilities, and transportation.

(U) In response to recent US international actions, domestic threat actors have conducted attacks against government facilities and law enforcement personnel. In September 2025, a domestic violent extremist attacked the Dallas ICE Field Office and ICE transport vehicles in Dallas, Texas, resulting in the death of one ICE officer and injuring another. Domestic violent extremists have also been targeting individuals attacked by ICE, including a shooting facility in Alvarado, Texas, shooting and injuring a local law enforcement officer. (U//FOUO)

(U) US newly equal concern is the threat from US-based individuals inspired by foreign terrorist organizations, which for years has reached its highest level in five years. This resurgence threat has been fanned by the ongoing Israel-HAMAS conflict and a resurgence in English-language media. These groups, seeking to surpass US pressure to mobilize to violence. While these groups

UNCLASSIFIED FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

[Drawing] UNCLASSIFIED FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

have a demonstrated capability to steal operations to the Homeland to conduct attacks, individuals associated with them and other terrorist groups still periodically try to enter the United States to engage in terrorism-related activity.

- (U) Since October 7, 2023, US-based individuals engaged in foreign terrorist organizations have conducted three attacks, including the 2025 Boulder, Colorado, and the 2025 Washington, DC, Capitol Hill attacks. Some have also been at least five other disrupted plots in the Homeland linked to foreign terrorist organizations during the past year, including a plot to attack a Jewish community in Minnesota. Some of these suspects who sought to travel to the United States to attack Jewish centers in New York City, but was disrupted by Canadian law enforcement. (U//FOUO) Many of these plots, individuals or activities, often in youth-oriented online platforms (U//FOUO)
- (U//FOUO) Attackers have taken on a greater role in conducting or enabling operations on behalf of the group. For example, in October 2024, the FTO attacked a US-based Afghan National Guard member in Washington, DC, with a knife, and attempted an unspecified attack on US citizens. (U//FOUO) Some of these actors have also been arrested for attempting to provide material support or conduct or inspire an attack in the United States. In collaboration with the world at some online companies, has leveraged the Israel-HAMAS conflict to encourage violence against the Homeland and abroad.

Further bolstering the government's new obsession with "domestic" terrorism, the assessment also says that foreign terrorists are attempting to cross the border at the lowest rate in decades. And when it comes to migrants, the number of "encounters" with foreign terrorists at the border are said to be at an historic low.

As the Department of Homeland Security seen it, 2026 is a year when southern border immigration as an issue takes a back seat to Trump administration's national security focus on North America and the Western Hemisphere.

But not Greenland. The closer the Trump administration's 2026 assessment comes to even mentioning the Arctic nation and other northern "threats" to the Western Hemisphere is one reference to China's "stranglehold of rare earth minerals," the very stone age war that Donald Trump has become so obsessed with.

The assessment does mention the ongoing aggressive actions against alleged drug boats, Venezuelan tankers and the usual kitchen sink list of perennial threats — gangs, human smuggling, weapons trafficking, transnational criminal organizations, small drones, money laundering, small drones, cyberattacks, technology transfer, intellectual property theft, and on and on.

But what makes this still secret assessment really stand out is the certainty with which it states that the greatest "area of considerable concern to us in the coming year is the threat of mass casualty attacks and targeted violence." From the World Cup to the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, homeland security is preparing for the "threat."

That threat is you.

Subscribe to you don't miss a big story we're working on about the Pentagon's imaginary plans for Greenland.

Subscribe if you think the Department of Homeland Security needs to try some breathing exercises

Type your email... Subscribe

Leave a comment

Share

— Edited by William M. Arkin

79 Like · 255 Restacks

79 14 255 Share

Discussion about this post

Comments Restacks

Write a comment...

NFFD · 3d
Liked by Ken Klippenstein
"The threat is you."
The paranoid style of American politics is a long-standing tradition.
As in the Red Scares of the past, and earlier witch hunts.
It was inevitable that the apparatus built up for a global war on terror would be turned on nations and citizens, legal or not, given the capability and stupidity of its proponents.
Reply · Share

Jay in MN SFF Ex · 1w
Liked by Ken Klippenstein
This assessment assumes that the American people have finally come to realize it's time to throw off their shackles. Is anyone else seeing any sign of this?
Reply · Share

23 more comments...

Top Latest Discussions

Exclusive: Luigi's Manifesto
Read the manifesto the media refused to publish
DEC 18, 2024 · KEN KLIPPENSTEIN

Exclusive: Leaked Messages from Charlie Kirk Assassin
Accused shooter's "petitioner" to sell inner government and media spy
SEP 16, 2025 · KEN KLIPPENSTEIN

Read the JD Vance Dossier
We're publishing the supposed Iran-hacked document. Here's why.
SEP 19, 2024 · KEN KLIPPENSTEIN

See all 3

Ready for more?

Type your email... Subscribe

© 2026 Kenneth Klippenstein · Privacy · Terms · Collection notice
Start your Substack · Get this app
Substack is the home for great culture