

LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE
SYMBOL INTELLIGENCE GROUP
Officer Awareness Bulletin
Intelligence on Trending Symbols

30 March 2016



(LES) DEMOCRACY SPRING PROTEST SIGNS & SYMBOLS

(LES) Democracy Spring March & Protest: Democracy Spring is an organized demonstration that begins on April 2 with a protest rally at the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia, followed by a 10-day 140-mile march to Washington, D.C. culminating in a sit-in protest at the U.S. Capitol April 11-18. Organizers are threatening “civil disobedience on a historic scale” which they warn will result in the arrest of thousands of their own activists. Organizers claim that they have established Regional Organizing Hubs in over 40 cities and states, to recruit, train, mobilize, and transport people from cities, towns, and regions across America to the protest. On April 16-18 Democracy Spring is merging with another coalition ‘Democracy Awakening’ to combine two large demonstrations.

- **(LES) Pledge to Risk Arrests:** The Democracy Spring website reads; “Over 2,000 people have already pledged to risk arrest between April 11th-18th in what will be one of the largest civil disobedience actions in a generation.” “We will demand that Congress listen to the People and take immediate action to save our democracy. And we won't leave until they do — or until they send thousands of us to jail.” One of the options on their website sign up form reads; “I pledge to be one among thousands who will risk arrest to save democracy in DC between April 11-16.” Organizers stated on their website that they have acquired legal support for all protesters who are arrested, “We have hired a lawyer with decades of experience with civil disobedience cases as our lead attorney. He is leading a team of pro-bono lawyers who will provide legal counsel and representation for all participants who risk arrest as part of this campaign.”
- **(LES) Symbolism of the Name:** Democracy Spring does not just signify the Spring April calendar date of the protests but may also allude to the Arab Spring. The Arab Spring was a series of violent and non-violent anti-government protests, uprisings and armed rebellions that spread across the Middle East beginning in Tunisia in December 2010. The goal of the Arab Spring was to replace authoritarian corrupt regimes with stable democratic systems across the region.



YES, I'LL BE THERE

Name Email

Mobile Phone Zip code

I pledge to be one among thousands who will risk arrest to save democracy in DC between April 11 - 16

I pledge to come to Washington DC to support the sit in through legal protest but cannot risk arrest

I want to join the march from Philadelphia to Washington DC, sometime between April 2 - 11

I want to volunteer to help organize this campaign

2919 PLEDGES Let's get to 3,000 pledges!



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(LES) DEOMCRACY SPRING GRIEVANCES

(LES) Democracy Spring Grievances: Primary grievances are campaign funding and voter rights in regard to the 2016 Presidential election. Subsequent grievances include economic inequality, racial inequality, climate change, police brutality and ending mass incarceration. Their website reads, "American elections are dominated by billionaires and big money interests who can spend unlimited sums of money on political campaigns to protect their special interests at the general expense. Meanwhile, as the super-rich dominate the "money primary" that decides who can run for office, almost half of the states in the union have passed new laws that disenfranchise everyday voters, especially people of color and the poor. ... the 2016 election already set to be the most billionaire-dominated, secret money-drenched, voter suppression-marred contest in modern American history — will likely yield a President and a Congress more bound to the masters of big money than ever before." Although organizers posted a statement of nonviolence and rules for protesters, they employ potential incendiary coded language on their website "The stage is set for a bold intervention to turn the tinder of passive public frustration into a fire that transforms the political climate in America, that sparks a popular movement that can't be stopped."

- (LES) Participating Group Emblems: Many of the same groups that participated in Occupy Movement protests and helped organize protest rallies in Ferguson and Baltimore have organized the Democracy Spring and Democracy Awakening protests. Democracy Spring is also comprised of many of the same groups that protested presidential candidate Donald Trumps scheduled Chicago rally that was postponed due to security concerns. Hundreds of organizations are participating in these protests. The following are some of their emblems. Inclusion of organization emblems in this bulletin does not imply that these organizations are criminal or violent. Complete list of Democracy Awakening emblems can be found at democracyawakening.org/who-we-are/. A complete list of Democracy Spring endorsing organizations can be found at democracyspring.org/



Democratic Socialists of America



East Coast Cannabis Coalition



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(LES) PROTEST SIGNS & SYMBOLS: Democracy in the context of the Democracy Spring protest in general refers to a variety of leftist, socialist and democratic socialist ideologies. Many of the groups that are participating maintain socialist, Marxist, anarchist, communist, environmental and animal rights ideologies and their flags and protest signs may reflect this. The following are examples of common anarchist and socialist protest identifiers and expressions associated with their grievances.



Guy Fawkes Mask signifies anti-government in general



'99%' signifies wealth inequality in the U.S.



Most common Anarchist flag, Black is the color of anarchism, and red is the color of socialism



Circle-A is the most recognizable symbol for anarchy Often seen on anarchist flags and used in protest vandalism



Red Flag is a symbol of socialism, communism and left-wing politics often signifies non-communist variants of socialism. Traditional symbol of workers rights in May Day protests



Che Guevara, Argentine Marxist revolutionary, counter culture icon Symbol of struggle, civil disobedience and student revolution



Antifascist Action aka Antifa, AFA is a global collective of left-wing activist groups whose goal is to 'smash fascism in all its forms' specifically sexism, racism, homophobia, govt. corruption & Islamophobia. Some European ANTIFA groups advocate aggressive tactics and use violence against nationalists and police.



American flag with Corporate logos instead of stars is often used by Occupy, Originated by Adbusters.org, symbolizes protest against perceived takeover of U.S. govt. by multinational corporations. Variations include different logos.



'Corporations Are Not People' and 'Corporate Personhood' are popular expressions that refer to overturning Citizens United which signifies getting big money and global corporations out of the election process. Other protest gestures involve stamping red slogans on dollars and money taped over the mouth symbolizing 'money where your mouth is' or taking action.

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