

CIVIL UNREST

# Americans Clearly Troubled by Recent Anti-Government Activity

*Most respondents think the Hutaree plot is real and serious, and more than a third believe the Guardians of the free Republics are a security threat.*

[NEW YORK – Apr. 12, 2010] – Fifteen years after the Oklahoma City bombing, many adults in the United States believe a terrorist attack carried out by Americans is likely to happen over the next 12 months, a new Angus Reid Public Opinion poll has found.

The online survey of a representative national sample of 1,005 American adults also reveals that half of respondents describe two anti-government groups that have recently been featured prominently in the media—the Hutaree and the Guardians of the free Republics—as “terrorists.”

## A Terrorist Attack

More than two thirds of Americans (69%) think it is very likely that a terrorist attack on U.S. soil carried out by foreigners will happen in the next year. A smaller proportion, but a majority nonetheless (58%), foresee a terrorist attack on U.S. soil carried out by Americans.

## Anti-Government Activity

The survey gauged awareness about the Hutaree and the Guardians of the free Republics. About three-in-five Americans (59%) have followed the Hutaree story in the media, and less than half (43%) are aware

### KEY FINDINGS

- **58% believe a terrorist attack on U.S. soil carried out by Americans is “very likely” or “moderately likely” to happen in the next year**
- **51% describe the Hutaree and the Guardians of the free Republics as “terrorists”**

Full topline results are at the end of this release.

*From April 6 to April 7, 2010, Angus Reid Public Opinion conducted an online survey among 1,005 American adults who are Springboard America panelists. The margin of error—which measures sampling variability—is +/- 3.1%. The results have been statistically weighted according to the most current education, age, gender and region Census data to ensure a sample representative of the entire adult population of the United States. Discrepancies in or between totals are due to rounding.*

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of the letters sent by the Guardians of the free Republics. Respondents over the age of 55 are more likely to be paying attention to these stories “very closely” or “moderately closely” than younger Americans.

The Hutaree plot—which according to the United States Attorney’s Office entailed killing an unidentified member of local law enforcement and then attacking the officers attending the funeral—is regarded as “real and serious” by 61 per cent of Americans.

One third of respondents (37%) believe the Guardians of the free Republics—who sent letters to all U.S. governors warning them to leave office within three days or be removed—represent a threat to the security of the United States.

Half of respondents (51%) appear to find fault with the *modus operandi* of both organizations, and describe them as “terrorists”, while only eight per cent regard them as “freedom fighters.”

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**Civil Unrest**

How likely is it that each of the following events will happen in the next year? –

*A terrorist attack on U.S. soil carried out by foreigners*

	Age			
	Total	18-34	35-54	55+
<b>Very likely</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>35%</b>
<b>Moderately likely</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>43%</b>
<b>Not too likely</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>15%</b>
<b>Not likely at all</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>2%</b>
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>5%</b>

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How likely is it that each of the following events will happen in the next year? –

*A terrorist attack on U.S. soil carried out by Americans*

	Age			
	Total	18-34	35-54	55+
<b>Very likely</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Moderately likely</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>46%</b>
<b>Not too likely</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Not likely at all</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>9%</b>
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>5%</b>

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### Civil Unrest

As you may know, nine people thought to be members of a Michigan Christian militia group called Hutaree were arrested for their alleged involvement in a plot to kill various police officers and possibly civilians using illegal explosives and/or firearms. Have you followed this story in the media?

	Age			
	Total	18-34	35-54	55+
<b>Yes, very closely</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>Yes, moderately closely</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>30%</b>
<b>Yes, but not too closely</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>29%</b>
<b>No, I have not followed this story at all</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>31%</b>

### Civil Unrest

According to the United States Attorney's Office, the Hutaree allegedly planned "to kill an unidentified member of local law enforcement and then attack the law enforcement officers who gather in Michigan for the funeral". So far, nine people have been indicted on charges of seditious conspiracy, attempted use of weapons of mass destruction, teaching the use of explosive materials, and possessing a firearm during a crime of violence. From what you have seen, read or heard, do you think this plot was real and serious, or a fantasy and not serious?

	Age			
	Total	18-34	35-54	55+
<b>The Hutaree plot was real and serious</b>	<b>61%</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>76%</b>
<b>The Hutaree plot was a fantasy and not serious</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>5%</b>
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>20%</b>

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**Civil Unrest**

As you may know, a group called Guardians of the free Republics recently sent letters to all U.S. governors, warning them to leave office within three days or be removed. Have you followed this story in the media?

	Age			
	Total	18-34	35-54	55+
<b>Yes, very closely</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>7%</b>
<b>Yes, moderately closely</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>22%</b>
<b>Yes, but not too closely</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>29%</b>
<b>No, I have not followed this story at all</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>68%</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>42%</b>

**Civil Unrest**

From what you have seen, read or heard, do you think the Guardians of the free Republics represent a threat to the security of the United States?

	Age			
	Total	18-34	35-54	55+
<b>Yes, they represent a threat</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>51%</b>
<b>No, they do not represent a threat</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>16%</b>
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>33%</b>

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**Civil Unrest**

Which of these statements comes closer to describing your own point of view about groups like the Hutaree and the Guardians of the Free Republics?

	Age			
	Total	18-34	35-54	55+
<b>They are freedom fighters</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>7%</b>
<b>They are terrorists</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>60%</b>
<b>Neither</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>17%</b>
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>16%</b>

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*Angus Reid Public Opinion is a practice of Vision Critical—a global research and technology company specializing in custom online panels, private communities, and innovative online methods. Vision Critical is a leader in the use of the Internet and rich media technology to collect high-quality, in-depth insights for a wide array of clients. Dr. Angus Reid and the Angus Reid Strategies team are pioneers in online research methodologies, and have been conducting online surveys since 1995*

*Vision Critical is now one of the largest market research enterprises in the world. In addition to its five offices in Canada—located in Vancouver, Calgary, Regina, Toronto, and Montreal—the firm also has offices in San Francisco, Chicago, New York, London, Paris and Sydney. Its team of specialists provides solutions across every type and sector of research, and currently serves over 200 international clients.*

*Angus Reid Public Opinion polls are conducted using the Angus Reid Forum ([www.angusreidforum.com](http://www.angusreidforum.com)), Springboard America ([www.springboardamerica.com](http://www.springboardamerica.com)) and Springboard UK ([www.springboarduk.com](http://www.springboarduk.com)) online panels, which are carefully recruited to ensure representation across all demographic and psychographic segments of these populations. Panel members pass through rigorous screening and a double opt-in process ensuring highly motivated and responsive members. These premier online survey platforms present respondents with highly visual, interactive, and engaging surveys, ensuring that panel members provide thoughtful and reliable responses. Each survey is actively sampled and weighted to model that characteristics of the universe required and employs the latest in quality control techniques to ensure data validity.*

*Angus Reid, the only public opinion firm to exclusively use online methods to follow the views of the electorate during the 2008 federal campaign, offered the most accurate prediction of the results of Canada's 40th election.*

<http://bit.ly/4zxf1S>

*Since 2006, Angus Reid has covered eight provincial elections in Canada—more than any other pollster in the country—and the results have accurately predicted the outcome of each of these democratic processes.*

*More information on the way Angus Reid conducts public opinion research can be found at <http://bit.ly/3z0u1l>*

- 30 -

**For more information, please contact  
our spokesperson listed in the footnote.**

**Copies of this poll are available on our website:  
<http://www.visioncritical.com/category/global-opinions-and-trends>**

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