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to the public (27.05.2013)

Animal Rights Extremism (ARE): A situation assessment on Stop Huntington Animal Cruelty (SHAC)

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- Based upon British a initiative
- Europol assessed on ARE/SHAC
- Most significant representative
- For the purpose of awareness
- Routine-Activity-Theory (RAT)

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- The "math" of RAT:
 motivated offender
 + suitable target
 + inefficient guardianship
 = crime setting
- Data gathering
- Source triangulation
- Macro perspective

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- Disregarding judicial options vs. non-conformity to legal norms
- Progression from "saving the animal" to "stalking an industry"
- SHAC criminalised itself & motives departed from the original
- Motive refers to the reasoning for delinquent or criminal behaviour
- It serves satisfactory purposes...social change...personal fulfilment
- Motives can be evident as well as hidden, i.e. to avoid detection of it
- SHAC...a group being one institutional actor of great homogeneity

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- Psychological concept of "Naming and Identity"
- SHAC declares on motive "Stop Animal Cruelty"
- SHAC declares on the prime target "Huntington"
- Identity evolved into a constant state of rebellion
- Against legal, social and economical standards

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- Social movement ... the advocate of animal rights (Jonas)
(Reinforced by past success, i.e. fox hunting in the UK)
- Social conflict...the unequal distribution of power (Marx)
(Expressed through direct action and civil disobedience)
- Social change...a result of conflict of a movement (Weber)

"A TINY GROUP OF ACTIVISTS IS SUCCEEDING WHERE KARL MARX, THE BAADER-MEINHOF GANG AND THE RED BRIGADES FAILED"

- The Financial Times as quoted on the homepage of www.shac.net (26.04.07)
- Acceptance of a label of (left-wing) ideology, extremist and terrorist predecessors
- Advantage of the intimidation factor correlated to extremism and the ideology behind

- Conceptualised belief system to gain or maintain power
- Strong correlation between left-wing ideology and SHAC
- Anti-authoritarian, anti-capitalist & anti-establishment
- Agents of social control are the traditional opponents
- They maintain order and enforce law on behalf of "HLS"
- Synonym for an empowered and privileged social class

- SHAC is a "social institution" that meets human needs
- Recognition, significance, importance, individuality, etc.
- SHAC is a "commercialised campaign" to make ends meet
- activists live of and for it, through the interdependencies
- of funding, donations, merchandising & direct action
- a "social infrastructure" supports imprisoned activist &
- Lowers internal restrictions to offend for others further

1. Saving the animal
 - assumption of ethical and moral supremacy
 - own rights are elevated above those of others
2. Generating social change
 - the way society is constructed is questioned
 - challenge of the sovereignty of the majority
3. Ideological agenda
 - manifestation of enemy pictures in a broader context
 - targeting the capital is a consequence of left-wing
4. Personal agenda
 - fulltime occupation for professional protesters
 - encouraged to disregard repression & deterrence

Today, HLS stands synonym for a horizontal range of targets!

- Value: quality targets
- Inertia: static targets
- Visibility: high public profile
- Access: virtual, electronic and physical

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- Enable the horizontal targets to conduct their business directly
- Belong to the infrastructure and business relationships below

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- Value: quantity targets
- Inertia: static targets
- Visibility: lower public profile
- Access: virtual, electronic and physical

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- victimisation shifted from horizontal to vertical targets
- to effect the quality targets via the bypass of quantity
- cut business relationships between the target levels
- gains & keeps a momentum of control and surprise
- through the quantity victimisation is unpredictable
- trend of (cross-border) quantity victimisation continues
- the internet is the "virtual battleground" of SHAC

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Thank you!