

Extremists Don't Respect First Amendment Rights Either

John Boch ■ September 8, 2016



Betsy Riot, a new group of gun-hating vandals has popped up just in time for the elections. Their mission: trying to bully [gun](#) owners into the closet and to surrender our God-given rights. Their claim to fame so far lies a series of criminal acts of vandalism gleefully logged on their [Facebook page](#).

Their most notable act? Vandalism at an NRA election office.
[RawStory.com](#) is on it:

A “neo-suffragette” group called The Betsy Riot is promoting pranks, and apparently vandalism, against the National Rifle Association and other pro-gun groups.

*The group, whose lobby is “F*ck Yer Guns,” is being blamed for anti-gun graffiti spray-painted outside the NRA’s rented office in Roanoke, Virginia — where a disgruntled former employee gunned down two former WDBJ-TV colleagues a year ago this week.*

*A local lawyer, Mel Williams, rented a spare office in his building to the NRA two weeks ago as an election field office, and the [gun](#) manufacturer lobbying group held an open house Saturday, when the vandals struck, reported *The Roanoke Times*.*

Two women painted “murder lobby” in foot-tall letters on a retaining wall outside the group’s office, and The Betsy Riot posted a photo of the vandalism along with an approving message.

Police are investigating the incident, which was apparently recorded on video, and charges are possible.

Betsy Riot [signed up for their web domain](#) in late July 2016. Like most bullies, they are really cowards who love to conceal their true identities, anonymously registering their domain. They hide their identities behind masks to rob us of our rights, just like the Ku Klux Klan did decades ago to bully African-Americans into ceding their rights.



While the Betsy Rioters probably don't wear sheets fashioned into hoods with eyeholes, their cause is no less insidious or repugnant. They flirt with fascism in their often vulgar efforts to suppress [gun](#) owners' First Amendment free speech rights – in addition to our Second Amendment rights.

Yes *Fascism*, as defined by Webster's:

often capitalized : a political philosophy, movement, or regime (as that of the Fascisti) that exalts nation and often race above the individual and that stands for a centralized autocratic government headed by a dictatorial leader, severe economic and social regimentation, and forcible suppression of opposition

... "and forcible suppression of opposition."

If their cause was noble, they wouldn't need to hide their identities while trying to take our liberties!

My day job is the Executive Director at [Guns Save Life](#), a regional [gun](#) rights group based in Central Illinois. Locally, we're known for our six monthly upbeat grassroots gun rights meetings across Illinois. We publish *GunNews Magazine*, our monthly journal with a circulation averaging about 20,000 per month. People travelling through Illinois know us best for our thought-provoking highway sign program that uses about two dozen Burma Shave-style sign sets along highways and Interstates in Illinois.

These pro-gun messages are seen by about 600,000 people a day, as calculated using Department of Transportation traffic census maps. We share slogans like this:

*DIALED 9-1-1
AND I'M ON HOLD
SURE WISH I HAD
THAT [GUN](#) I SOLD
[GunsSaveLife.com](#)*

About a dozen years ago we had a rash of vandalism attacks, akin to what Betsy Rioters have done in the top photo. We kept repairing the vandalism and the vandals kept returning – for weeks.



Finally, after about three attacks in one week, we came up with a new idea. We erected a second tier of sign panels. Leaving the vandalized panels up, the second set of panels read:

*AS YOU CAN SEE
THUGS SPRAY LIES
HARD AS THEY TRY
FREEDOM WON'T DIE
GunsSaveLife.com*



We didn't have another spray paint vandalism attack for many years.

One thinks freedom-loving people could similarly shame these hoplophobes at Betsy Riot.

Here are some of the often vulgar criminal acts publicized at the [Betsy Riot Facebook page](#):









