



# Anonymous

The Secretive  
Anarchist  
Association That  
Terrorizes Mighty  
World Powers

No one knows how many they number nor who their leader is. Yet, they are an incredibly effective anarchist group that functions in extreme secrecy and draws its strength from terrorizing the large and powerful. From WikiLeaks to the Arab Spring to Occupy Wall Street, there is a long list of major events in recent years where this group has played a major role. Read of their activities and how their ring was finally broken... or so everyone thinks....



First, a solemn piece of advice: If you know what is good for you, do not start up with Anonymous.

From government leaders and powerful business executives to private citizens, everyone who has gotten onto their blacklist has suffered tremendously. As its name indicates, everything about the group is shrouded in mystery. No one knows how many people they number—though membership is estimated to be in the thousands—and virtually no Anon (as individual members are known) knows any other member personally. Each member is known only by his pseudonym, minimizing the risk that one Anon who is arrested will reveal the identities of others.

Members of Anonymous disavow any form of control or law. Anonymous itself has no regulations other than three: “1) Speak to no one about Anonymous, 2) Never reveal your true identity, and 3) Don’t attack the media, as they are the messengers to spread the message.”

Followers of Anonymous argue that the organization has no hierarchy because it does not believe in any form of leadership. In reality, though, some members of the group command greater respect than others due to their capabilities, such as hackers, photographers, computer experts, writers and people with natural leadership qualities, among others.

One trait that is uniform among most Anons is their suspicion and anger toward everyone who holds any sort of leadership position. They believe that the purpose of government is to suppress the masses with the help of large corporations, and they are determined to fight back. They also believe that all information should be free and available to everyone. There is no such thing as sensitive information, and those who disagree are automatically branded as enemies of Anonymous who may be targeted for destruction.

Sometimes the group chooses a representative target to take revenge for a perceived injustice. Among the large institutions that have been the subject of cyber-attacks by Anonymous are the FBI, CIA, British police,



The Guy Fawkes symbols displayed on a building in Montreal.



Anonymous demonstrates at a protest in Los Angeles.



Anonymous demonstration in Hong Kong.

Visa, MasterCard, PayPal, Sony and more. The damages they have caused to date are estimated to be in the hundreds of millions of dollars. In addition, they have publicized tens of thousands of private documents that were stolen in order to damage government interests or shame private people.

When Anonymous issues an ultimatum, a warning or a threat, it is usually accompanied by a standard tagline: “We are Anonymous. We are Legion. We do not forgive. We do not forget. Expect us.” Their symbol is a figure in a suit in front of the framework of a globe surrounded by UN-style peace branches. In place of the head is a question mark, indicating the leaderless and nameless status of the group, as well as that “everyone is no one.”

## History of Anonymous

Anonymous did not start out as a secret society that seeks to remake the world according to its own twisted view. It actually began as a forum for young people with too much time on their hands who were looking to dispel their boredom. To allow people to speak freely, without fear of their identity being revealed, the forum instituted a system whereby no one gives their name. This eventually gave the group the title Anonymous by which it is now known.

Anonymous goes back to the summer of 2003, when some youths began using the internet to “ruin lives” by revealing people’s secrets and publicizing them. Apparently, they drew satisfaction from other people’s distress, at least for a while.

A typical example of Anonymous shenanigans in the early days was making prank phone calls, just for kicks. One 14-year-old who called himself Topiary, and later became a public promoter of Anonymous, called an Applebees restaurant in San Antonio, Texas. (The boy lived in Scotland.) He did his best to drive the manager crazy while his friends listened in live. When the manager became angry, Topiary went a step further. He called an ambulance, reporting that someone had fainted in the restaurant’s cellar.

The restaurant threatened to call the police, so Topiary beat them to it and reported to the local police that the manager of the restaurant was a terrorist. Over the coming year Topiary made dozens of orders for pizza to be delivered to and paid for by the restaurant and sent thousands of empty boxes to the address through UPS.

In another incident, Topiary broke into a store’s PA system and, using an authoritative tone, announced that for the next 20 minutes everything in the store was free. A few minutes later he called the store on the phone to enjoy a hearty laugh as he listened to the chaos he had triggered.

Members of Anonymous have issued death threats against individuals and called in bomb threats to disturb large public gatherings. When they want to put someone seriously in their place, Anons call the police with a false report that sends an FBI SWAT team to the person’s residence; a trick that proved shockingly easy to pull off. This phenomenon even has its own name: SWATing.

## The Money-Hungry Cult

Anonymous did not attract much attention until early in 2008 when the group, which by now had grown significantly, decided to take on the Church of Scientology. This is a cultish movement created by a fiction writer named L. Ron Hubbard in 1953 [see *Zman* 54 – Sivan 5774].

Since its founding the Church has grown into a veritable global empire, largely due to its success in recruiting famous figures. Although some brand the Church of Scientology (CoS) a cult, unlike most cults CoS has specifically targeted the celebrated and influential... with much success. This has allowed the organization to collect huge sums over the years in the form of annual membership fees. These funds were used to construct gigantic regional headquarters in large cities across America and the world.

After years of lobbying the government, the Church of Scientology is now officially recognized as a religion in the United States, allowing it to take advantage of significant tax exemptions. Nevertheless, it has also attracted attention from both the media and law enforcement agencies due to numerous suspicious and criminal activities.

In fact, the Church of Scientology will stop at nothing to suppress its opponents through every means possible. In one example, during the 1970s the organization launched a war against Paulette Cooper, a writer who published a critical exposé about Scientology. Members of the Church stole stationary from Cooper’s office and used it to