

Oakland Tribune

Editorial: Home-grown terror

MENTION TERRORISM AND most of us envision a threat coming from outside our borders.

Yet we sometimes forget that we've got our share of home-grown terrorists as well — sociopathic individuals who use deadly violence to scare or snuff out those who disagree with their views.

From the late 1970s to the mid-1990s, Theodore Kaczynski, the so-called "Unabomber," sent out letter bombs that killed three people and severely maimed 10 others. His reason? To draw attention to the evils of modern technology.

In 1995, Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh detonated an explosive at a federal building that killed 168 people, including a number of children who were at a day care center. Why? He wanted to get back at the federal government.

During the same period, Eric Rudolph bombed the Olympic park in Atlanta, abortion clinics and gay bars for his own warped reasons.

Now, following in that abhorrent tradition, it appears that people who call themselves animal rights activists planted firebombs that struck the home and car of two science researchers at UC Santa Cruz last weekend.

The explosions happened about three minutes apart. One of the scientists, his wife and two young children were forced to flee their home through a second-story window. It was a miracle that no one was injured or killed.

Although no one has been arrested, local and university police, as well as the FBI, which is also

These demented individuals used to be satisfied breaking into research labs on university campuses, creating havoc and destroying property.

But in a disturbing recent trend, they've begun targeting animal researchers themselves.

There have been attacks on researchers' homes and vehicles at UCLA, UC Berkeley, UC San Francisco, UC Santa Barbara and UC Davis.

Officials at UC Santa Cruz and city officials have strongly condemned the recent attacks and are offering a \$30,000 reward. The Humane Society of the United States has offered its own \$2,500 reward.

"One cannot claim to be an animal protection advocate and threaten violence against other people "... ." said Humane Society President and CEO Wayne Pacelle.

He is absolutely correct.

This is clearly a lunatic fringe, as evident by the comments of one such "activist" who claimed that one of the UC Santa Cruz researchers "put himself and his family in harm's way by continuing to abuse animals."

Preposterous. The perpetrators, once they are caught, should be charged with attempted murder. We, as a society, must send a strong message that this kind of insanity will not be tolerated.

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