# British man shocked to find tattoo featured in US Homeland Security document



A British man, Pete Belton, aged 44, was taken aback when he discovered a picture of one of his tattoos featured in a US Department of Homeland Security document. This file is intended to identify symbols associated with the Tren de Aragua crime organisation, which has been a focus of US law enforcement efforts regarding gang-related activities in Venezuela.

Belton found himself illustrated in a context he never anticipated when the documentation surfaced. In an interview with the BBC, he expressed his initial amusement at the situation, saying, “It was a bit funny at first, then became quite frightening as we learned more about the gangs and what they were doing.” His reaction underscores the perplexing nature of having his personal body art misappropriated in a legal document linked to criminal behaviour.

The Homeland Security document categorises various tattoo symbols purportedly linked to Tren de Aragua, which include images such as trains, crowns, and the iconic 'Jumpman' logo of former basketball star Michael Jordan. The inclusion of popular cultural symbols alongside more violent gang identifiers has raised eyebrows and drawn attention to the complexities associated with gang symbolism.

Tren de Aragua has been under heightened scrutiny, especially during the Trump administration, when the former president designated the group as a ‘foreign terrorist organisation’. The US government's actions have included the deportation of hundreds of individuals identified as members or associates of the gang, signalling a robust response to what authorities describe as a growing threat.

Belton’s unexpected association with this notorious group highlights the broader conversation surrounding gang-related imagery and the implications it carries in both local and international law enforcement contexts. As the situation continues to develop, citizens are left to navigate the intersections between personal identity and the criminal underworld.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.thedailybeast.com/trump-admin-doc-on-identifying-venezuelan-gang-members-features-random-brit-tourists-tattoo/> - This article corroborates the story of Pete Belton, a British man whose tattoo was mistakenly included in a US Department of Homeland Security document on identifying Venezuelan gang members, specifically Tren de Aragua.
* <https://www.independent.co.uk/tv/news/british-tattoo-homeland-security-b2732295.html> - This piece supports the claim that Pete Belton's tattoo was inaccurately linked to the Tren de Aragua gang and highlights the surprise and concern he felt upon discovering this.
* <https://www.instagram.com/bbcnews/reel/DIT7G5VMOXs/> - This Instagram post provides additional coverage of the situation involving Pete Belton and his tattoo being featured in US Homeland Security documents related to gang symbols.
* <https://www.noahwire.com> - Although not a direct source, this URL is mentioned as the original source of the article, thereby connecting to the topic of Pete Belton and the Tren de Aragua gang.
* <https://www.nationalimmigrantjusticecenter.org/> - This website, while not directly addressing Belton's case, provides broader context on immigration and legal processes, relevant to understanding the implications of such misidentifications in a legal context.