# British man's tattoo mistakenly linked to Venezuelan crime gang



A British man, identified as Pete Belton, has expressed astonishment upon discovering that a picture of one of his tattoos was mistakenly included in United States government documentation related to identifying symbols associated with the Tren de Aragua crime organisation in Venezuela. The revelation came to light when Belton, 44, encountered the image while reviewing files from the US Department of Homeland Security that catalogue various symbols employed by the gang.

The document in question details numerous tattoo symbols that are reportedly linked to Tren de Aragua, which has gained notoriety for its criminal activities across Venezuela and beyond. Among the symbols listed are variations of trains, crowns, and a representation of the famous Michael Jordan ‘Jumpman’ logo.

Initially, Belton described his reaction to the inclusion of his tattoo in this serious context as amusing. However, as he delved deeper into understanding the operation and the extent of the gang's activities, his sentiments shifted to concern. "It was a bit funny at first, then became quite frightening as we learned more about the gangs and what they were doing," he told the BBC.

Under the administration of former President Donald Trump, the Tren de Aragua group was notably designated as a ‘foreign terrorist organisation’. This classification led to significant enforcement actions, with claims of deporting hundreds of individuals purported to be affiliated with the organisation.

The incident highlights not only the complexities of misidentification but also the broader implications of government surveillance and recording of gang-related symbols, showcasing a unique intersection of personal identity and international criminal classification.

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 reports on how Pete Belton's tattoo was mistakenly included in a US government guide for identifying Tren de Aragua gang members. It highlights Belton's initial amusement turning to concern due to the gang's activities.
* <https://www.independent.co.uk/tv/news/british-tattoo-homeland-security-b2732295.html> - The Independent confirms that Pete Belton's tattoo was wrongly linked to the Tren de Aragua gang in a US Department of Homeland Security document, despite his lack of connection to the group.
* <https://www.intelligence.senate.gov/sites/default/files/documents/report_volume5.pdf> - Although this document doesn't specifically mention the Tren de Aragua case, it pertains to broader concerns about security and intelligence, referencing the challenges and complexities of identifying and addressing criminal or terrorist organizations.
* <https://mcac.maryland.gov/2025/04/british-mans-tattoo-wrongly-linked-to-venezuelan-gang-in-us-government-document/> - This reports Pete Belton's reaction to finding his tattoo in a US government document related to the Tren de Aragua gang, highlighting his growing concern about potential implications.
* <https://www.txcourts.gov/media/1457525/texas-rules-of-civil-procedure.pdf> - While not directly related to the specific case of Pete Belton or the Tren de Aragua gang, this document provides insight into legal procedures that could be relevant to cases involving misidentification or gang affiliation.