

June 21, 2013



[Glenn Beck's Attacks on Frances Fox Piven Trigger Death Threats](#)

If **anyone** thinks that the vitriol that Glenn Beck spews on his radio and TV shows can't sometimes stir people to aggressive and hateful action, they should take a look at the [postings on his website](#), The Blaze, about Frances Fox Piven.

For two years Beck has targeted the political science professor as a Marxist Machiavelli whose writings constitute a manifesto for a radical revolution.

But in recent months Beck has escalated his hate campaign against Piven, a professor at the City University of New York, former vice president of the American Political Science Association, and former president of the American Sociological Association. He labeled Piven one of the "nine most dangerous people in the world," and "an enemy of the Constitution."

Not surprisingly, this has led to a dramatic rise in ugly threats to the 78-year-old Piven.

Some of Beck's followers have emailed Piven directly. One of the anonymous emailers simply wrote "DIE YOU CUNT" in the subject line. Another wished that she would get cancer.

Since September, The Blaze has published eight articles about Piven with headlines like "[Frances Fox Piven Rings in the New Year by Calling for Violent Revolution](#)" and "[Piven: Violence is Okay If It's Part of Your Strategy](#)."

In the wake of the Tucson massacre, Beck exhorted his audience to take a pledge to denounce "violent threats and calls for the destruction of our system -- regardless of their underlying ideology -- whether they come from the Hutaree Militia or Frances Fox Piven."

The Blaze also posted an audio recording of remarks Piven made at a meeting of faculty retirees in early December. She had been invited to comment on the 2010 election. In the course of the discussion, people asked about the sociological causes of the Tea Party movement. Piven discussed what is known about the demographic characteristics of Tea Partiers. She added that she suspected that older Tea Party sympathizers were also reacting against changes in family and sexual norms triggered by the women's and gay rights movement. Piven suspects that a conservative colleague used a cell phone to record the comments featured on The Blaze article titled, "[Frances Fox Piven: The Tea Party is All About Sex](#)."

These Blaze articles, in turn, have triggered hundreds of incendiary reader comments, some of which have included death threats (and some of which have since been removed). Here's just a sample:

- "[Maybe they should burst through the front door of this arrogant elitist and slit the hateful cow's throat](#)"
- "[We should blow up Piven's office and home](#)"
- "[I am all for violence and change Frances: Where do your loved ones live?](#)"
- "Another Idiot here who needs to be Euthanized!"
- "Dear Frannie, Trotsky got his in Mexico with a well applied icepick."
- "[I would not be upset at all if she got hit by a car sliding in the snow during a winter storm.... yeah, i wouldn't be upset at all. i don't even consider her human.](#)"
- "Hey Frances and your "unruly mobs"! I'd like you to meet bullets! Our friendly neighborhood riot police can help you make their acquaintance!"
- "Hey Frances. Please get sick and die quickly!"
- "That old woman is nothing more than bile coming from a rabid animal. put it out of its misery."
- " The time for talk is over ! i stand with free people and my Lord Jesus, he has the ability to forgive. I do not. It will be ugly".
- "Here's hoping that this Piven hag is the first one killed in her "Grand Socialist Revolution"!"

- "Bring it B*TCH, Bring it.... You are all just future moving targets."
- "Somebody tell Frances I have 5000 roundas ready and I'll give My life to take Our freedom back. Taking Her life and any who would enslave My children and grandchildren and call for violence should meet their demise as They wish. George Washington didn't use His freedom of speech to defeat the British, He shot them."
- "Big Lots is having a rope sale I hear, you buy the rope I will hang the wench."
- Hey Frances and your "unruly mobs"! I'd like you to meet bullets!
- "I say they should vent their frustration by stringing up the old hippy revolutionaries like Piven."
- "Isn't it time we schedule Ms. Piven's end-of-life counseling session?"
- "OK! If it is violence she wants I think we should start with Ms. Piven."
- "I have at least 400 rounds ready for those freaking communist's when ever they are ready"

Some of these bullies have posted links to documents that reveal Piven's home address and phone numbers.

On Thursday (January 20), the Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR), a public interest law firm, issued a written appeal to Beck's boss -- Fox News chairman Roger Ailes -- to put a stop to the increasing threats against Piven incited by Beck tirades. The letter, written by CCR Legal Director Bill Quigley and Executive Director Vince Warren, asked Ailes to distinguish between First Amendment rights, of which they are "vigorous defenders" and an "intentional repetition of provocative, incendiary, emotional misinformation and falsehoods [that place that Piven] in actual physical danger of a violent response."

The letter states that the "threats must be taken seriously by Fox News," and that "Professor Piven's life could well be at stake." It further asks that Ailes "order an immediate investigation into this, and insist on a speedy and fair resolution which will stop the Fox and Beck generated threats on Professor Piven."

Joel Cheatwood, Fox News vice president, [told the New York Times](#) that the company would not order Beck to stop criticizing Piven. He had no knowledge of any threats against Piven, he said.

After news outlets reported CCR's letter to Ailes, *The Blaze* removed some of the incendiary comments from its website. But the following day (Saturday, Jan 22), Beck's website continued its attack on Piven. It published an article entitled, "[Globalization Destruction: Piven Gleefully 'Hopes' and Explains How Countries Like China Can Shut Down USA and Bring Revolutionary Transformation.](#)"

This article provoked another wave of angry comments, including this one from an anonymous writer using the name "MILIG":

- "The cemeteries are half empty and this witch is still running around living?"

And this post from "Cylone:"

- "I'll pay up for the bullet....!m \$1.07 bid....I'll just have to let Glenn shoot her though.... he's the best shot out there... :-)"

[1](#) [2](#) [3](#) [Next](#) [Last](#) »

-

76 people are discussing this article with **184 comments**

Comments are closed on this entry.

[Highlighted](#) [Most Recent](#) [Oldest](#) [Most Faved](#)

WesfromGA

3 10

1 Fan

Professor Piven is a distinguished scholar and lecturer. She has been threatened repeatedly and personally for her views. It is the responsibility of her university and her fellow scholarsto protect her right to free speech. More importantly, it is the responsibility of the university and the City of New York to offer her protection and to see that no harm comes to her from the misguided people who have found their way to her door. Professor Piven should not have to pay a dime of the costs of securing herself, her family, her colleagues, and her students from people who have promised to do her harm.

Fave Share [23 Jan 2011 5:55 AM](#) [Flag](#)

[In reply to: WesfromGA](#)

wckoko

SUPER USER · 192 Fans · It's been real.Real what, we're not saying...

F & F !

Fave Share [23 Jan 2011 8:31 AM](#) [Flag](#)

[In reply to: WesfromGA](#)

visualgirl

SUPER USER · 491 Fans · don't stop thinking about tomorrow

But, you will see on this thread, there are those who support Beck's right to free speech. They will cry "1st amendment rights" goes both ways. And that he never called for violence against her. And that it isn't wrong to assert these things because "they are true", etc, etc. Just wait – they'll be here before long.

Fave Share [23 Jan 2011 11:34 AM](#) [Flag](#)

4 COMMENTS BY 4 PEOPLE

[Read Conversation →](#)

Jdaddy1951

13 9

POLITICAL PUNDIT · 810 Fans

Beck should pray every day for Ms. Piven's safety and that when she does pass away, it will be of natural causes in her bed. He also would be wise to discontinue mentioning her on the air and in his writings. He obviously has been urging violence against her.

Fave Share [23 Jan 2011 2:19 AM](#) [Flag](#)

Jdaddy1951

8

POLITICAL PUNDIT · 810 Fans

First: How has she been "inciting violence for decades"? Please provide neutral links.

Second: If she has been "inciting violence for decades." why is it appropriate for Glenn Beck and his followers to do the same in retaliation? "Monkey see,. monkey do" is not an appropriate response.

Third: How did she "start all of this?" Please provide appropriate neutral links. Even if she did, how do you justify threats against her?

Fave Share [23 Jan 2011 5:16 AM](#) [Flag](#)

[In reply to: Jdaddy1951](#)

M Cubed

1

POLITICAL PUNDIT · 2,233 Fans · The most interesting poster in my tree

Vadum obviously did not take the time to read this well-researched and well-written article. Pity too, because it was aimed for the likes of him--the people most likely to be led around by the nose on the end of Beck's leash.

Fave Share [23 Jan 2011 7:33 AM](#) [Flag](#)

14 COMMENTS BY 7 PEOPLE

[Read Conversation →](#)

ProudMilVet

1,143 Fans

14 8

After reading all the comments addressed to Professor Piven by Beck's followers, i can finally & honestly say that this is not my country anymore. This is not the country whose Military i served in for 20 years. I am absolutely sick to my stomach after reading those comments. This is straight out of 1930's Germany & it makes me absolutely Ashamed to be an American. Goodbye America, land that i once loved & served. Canada or Europe, here i come.

Fave Share [23 Jan 2011 5:20 PM](#) [Flag](#)

[In reply to: ProudMilVet](#)

BluePhantom2

407 Fans

1

The Blacksmith & the Artist reflected in their art

Read her book it will make you sick that you have been misinformed by these people.

Fave Share [23 Jan 2011 6:07 PM](#) [Flag](#)

[In reply to: ProudMilVet](#)

tnnishi5

131 Fans

10 7

I have three degrees in American History and when I tell some of these folks how for the GOP has turned to the right, they don't want to hear it. But then again, I know they don't respect academics.

I think you, on the other hand, are exactly the kind of person who should be speaking out. They might just listen to you.

Fave Share [23 Jan 2011 6:25 PM](#) [Flag](#)

15 COMMENTS BY 9 PEOPLE

[Read Conversation →](#)

Sagadahoc County

9 Fans

7

She has done more to help improve the lives of the people who threaten her than Genn Beck or any of his cohorts ever will. Greed and gullibility are quickly ruining this country.

Fave Share [23 Jan 2011 7:18 PM](#) [Flag](#)

kmackenz

69 Fans

2 7

I watched Piven's interview with Amy Goodman on 'Democracy Now.' She has received death threats and has people waiting outside of her work and home. She is an incredible advocate for the vulnerable and this assault on her is an assault on an entire progressive agenda.

The letter is a prelude to a lawsuit which I am sure Ailes is well aware. 'Cease and Desist' comes right before 'See you in court.'

Fave Share [23 Jan 2011 5:15 AM](#) [Flag](#)

[In reply to: kmackenz](#)

oldpol2

521 Fans

One can only hope!!! The only way to get through to those people is through their wallets.

Fave Share [23 Jan 2011 5:42 PM](#) [Flag](#)

[In reply to: kmackenz](#)

CaraTaylor

SUPER USER · 2,330 Fans · Is that true or did you hear it on Fox News?

We can only hope.

Fave Share [23 Jan 2011 6:54 PM](#) [Flag](#)

2lib4oh

487 Fans

2 7

Beck doesn't know it but he has made many of aware of someone who has the right prescription for today's problems.Piven is right about civil disobedience.It is probably the only thing that will turn this country around at this point.

Thanks Beck for calling attention to Piven.

Fave Share [22 Jan 2011 11:18 PM](#) [Flag](#)

[In reply to: 2lib4oh](#)

nellpost

SUPER USER · 304 Fans

4

I'm sure his defense will be he was only trying to make us aware of her wonderfulness. I mean, isn't that what he does? Totally hope it goes to court and his downfall begins. PLEASE!

Fave Share [23 Jan 2011 8:20 AM](#) [Flag](#)

[In reply to: 2lib4oh](#)

Anpan

93 Fans

1

I share this exact sentiment. I'm thrilled to be made aware of Frances Fox Piven. I would give my eye teeth for an interview with her.

Fave Share [26 Jan 2011 9:27 PM](#) [Flag](#)

Ace of Spades

119 Fans

6

I can't tell you how frightening it is that the far right now has the capability to easily destroy the reputations and lives of people at will whenever they need a new "bogeyman" to beat up on.

This well-funded and well-organized interlocking network of think tanks, websites, radio programs and magazines ALL latch on to the same paranoid harebrained theories, beat them into the ground, and then broadcast them into the wider media using the Drudge Report, and before you know it, the target has been smeared run off the national stage.

This is REALLY scary.

Fave Share [23 Jan 2011 7:32 PM](#) [Flag](#)

DixieDoodle

47 Fans

6

Beck has every right to criticize anyone he wants to. However, when it becomes known that your listeners are taking the extreme stance of making death threats, you should stop. I don't care if he has stated that he doesn't condone violence, his followers are hearing something all together different.

There are plenty of people I can't stand and it has never once occurred to me to send them a hateful death threat. If someone actually harms this woman, it is on Beck's head.

Fave Share [23 Jan 2011 3:53 PM](#) [Flag](#)

JerryLevy

673 Fans

20 5

Glenn Beck told the truth about this professor, all one has to do is read her work and records of her speeches. He simply told the truth.

Fave Share [24 Jan 2011 3:48 AM](#) [Flag](#)

[In reply to: JerryLevy](#)

M Cubed

POLITICAL PUNDIT · 2,233 Fans · The most interesting poster in my tree

9 2

No, he mischaracterizes her writings. Go to page three of Professor Dreier's blog and reread it--he explains what Piven writes about. better yet, read Piven and come back with the precise page numbers of her writings that advocate the use of violence as a political tool. Not the passages where she describes and attempts to explain riots, but where she says this is what people should do.

Fave Share [24 Jan 2011 4:15 AM](#) [Flag](#)

[In reply to: JerryLevy](#)

nia122

920 Fans · "Truth crushed to the earth will rise again."

9 3

Actually, you know not of which you speak. As a student at the Columbia University School of Social Work, I read quite a bit of her work. So all I can say is "You Lie" and so does Glenn the Beckster.

Fave Share [24 Jan 2011 6:15 AM](#) [Flag](#)

21 COMMENTS BY 9 PEOPLE

[Read Conversation →](#)

hackerblaster

SUPER USER · 1,134 Fans · I did not mean that to be a factual statement.

5

Incredible article! Does anyone know if those public death threats have been investigated by law enforcement?

Fave Share [23 Jan 2011 8:45 AM](#) [Flag](#)

[Load 10 more conversations](#)

1-10 of 35