



Homeland  
Security



Federal Bureau  
of Investigation

JOINT INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

## **(U//FOUO) No Specific Threat to American Jewish Community, Despite Recent World Events**

8 February 2012

### **(U) Scope**

(U//FOUO) This Joint Intelligence Bulletin (JIB) provides law enforcement and private sector safety officials with an evaluation of potential terrorist threats to Jewish organizations, facilities, and personnel in the United States. The information is provided to support the activities of DHS and FBI and to assist federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial government counterterrorism and first responder officials to deter, prevent, preempt, or respond to terrorist attacks in the United States.

IA-0081-12

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**(U) Key Findings**

(U//FOUO) DHS and the FBI have received no specific threats to Jewish organizations, facilities, and personnel in the United States as a result of recent heightened tensions with Iran. International terrorist and violent extremist groups, however, have long engaged in rhetorical attacks against both Israel and Jewish communities worldwide, to include advocating violence against Jewish targets.

**(U) Threat Overview**

(U//FOUO) Heightened tensions between Israel, Iran, and the United States—stemming from threats against Israeli or Jewish targets in Asia and Europe attacks on Iranian nuclear scientists; global economic sanctions against Iran; and press reporting of Israel's possible intent to attack Iran's nuclear facilities—have contributed to the perception of an increased threat to the Jewish community worldwide from Iran or its surrogates. Hizballah's longstanding interest in exacting retribution for the February 2008 death of Imad Mughniyah—a senior founding member of Hizballah who was killed in Syria—may also be fueling these concerns.<sup>\*</sup> We have no information, however, to indicate that these recent events have significantly increased the threat to Jewish organizations, facilities, and personnel in the United States.

- (U) On 3 February 2012, Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei publicly threatened to retaliate against economic sanctions levied on his country and to support militant groups who oppose Israel.
- (U) On 24 January 2012, the Israel Defense Forces Chief of Staff publicly remarked that terrorist groups are trying to conduct attacks against Israeli targets abroad, according to a respected Israeli newspaper, and some Israeli consulates in the United States have reportedly circulated letters warning of escalating threats to Israeli and Jewish facilities. Additionally, letters containing an unidentified, non-toxic white powder were recently mailed to various Israeli consulates in the United States, Europe, and Canada, according to open source reporting.
- (U) Three Azerbaijanis allegedly linked to Iranian intelligence were arrested for plotting to attack the Israeli Ambassador to Azerbaijan and the leader of a local Jewish school, according to late January international media reporting.
- (U//FOUO) An alleged Hizballah plot to attack Israeli or Jewish targets in Asia was reportedly disrupted in Thailand last month, although the targets and timing of the operation are unclear; press reporting suggested a similar threat existed in Europe, but we have no information to indicate that similar plots were directed at the Homeland.

(U//FOUO) Jewish organizations, facilities, and personnel in the United States have been a focus of violent extremists in the past and we assess that they will likely remain a target of violent groups and individuals in the future.

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<sup>\*</sup> (U) Hizballah is a US Department of State designated foreign terrorist organization based in Lebanon and financially and politically backed by Iran and Syria.



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- (U//FOUO) A New Jersey man was charged by the state on 24 January 2012 in connection with an 11 January 2012 attack on a Rutherford, New Jersey synagogue and a 3 January 2012 firebombing of a Paramus, New Jersey synagogue. This individual likely acted alone with no connections to either foreign terrorist or domestic violent extremist groups.
- (U) In June 2009, now-deceased James von Brunn, a self-described Holocaust denier and creator of an anti-Semitic Web site, opened fire on security guards inside the US Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC with a small-caliber rifle, killing one security guard before being wounded by another.

**(U) Outlook**

(U//FOUO) We have no specific information that Iran or its surrogates are targeting Jewish organizations, facilities, or personnel in the United States. Economic sanctions and the threat of military action against the Iranian nuclear program suggest tensions with Iran are likely to continue, and we remain concerned Iran would consider attacks in the United States, given last year's foiled plot to allegedly assassinate the Saudi Ambassador to the United States. We also assess that domestic violent extremists will continue to threaten and conduct isolated acts of violence against Jewish organizations, facilities, and personnel in the United States. We continue to urge federal, state, local, tribal, territorial, and private sector partners as well as faith-based organizations to maintain vigilance for indications of preoperational and suspicious activity.

**(U) Suggested Protective Measures**

(U//FOUO) Terrorists and domestic violent extremists have demonstrated continued interest in attacking significant infrastructure, economic, and symbolic targets. We encourage state and local law enforcement, as well as security personnel, to consider the following protective measures:

**(U) Planning and Preparedness**

- (U//FOUO) Update or develop a comprehensive security plan and emergency response plan, and conduct regular exercises of the plans.
- (U//FOUO) Incorporate security awareness and appropriate response procedures for security situations into facility tenant and employee training.
- (U//FOUO) Maintain constant awareness of the current threat condition and available intelligence information.
- (U//FOUO) Develop procedures to deal with hoaxes and false alarms.
- (U//FOUO) Establish liaison and regular communication between local law enforcement, emergency responders, and security personnel.

**(U) Personnel**

- (U//FOUO) Be unpredictable and vary daily routines.

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- (U//FOUO) Pay attention to surroundings and report suspicious activity to local law enforcement.
- (U//FOUO) Secure personal and identity-related documents and information.
- (U//FOUO) Do not post your schedule on publicly accessible Web sites (i.e. Facebook<sup>USPER</sup> and Twitter<sup>USPER</sup>).

**(U) Access Control**

- (U//FOUO) Identify and control access by all facility tenants and employees, vendors, delivery personnel, and contractors.
- (U//FOUO) Install and regularly test electronic access control systems and intrusion detection systems in sensitive areas.
- (U//FOUO) Identify vulnerable areas in or near facilities and prohibit parking there.

**(U) Barriers**

- (U//FOUO) Use reliable locks, gates, doors, and other barriers for security areas.
- (U//FOUO) Install and inspect blast-resistant trash containers.
- (U//FOUO) Install active vehicle crash barriers at selected areas to protect facilities and populated areas.

**(U) Monitoring, Surveillance, and Inspection**

- (U//FOUO) Install closed-circuit television systems and lighting for key areas.
- (U//FOUO) Train security personnel to watch for suspicious or unattended vehicles on or near facilities; watch for repeat visitors or outsiders who have no apparent business in non-public areas of facilities; watch for abandoned parcels, suitcases, backpacks, and packages and any unusual activities; and monitor utility supplies and routine work activities scheduled on or near assets.

**(U) Communications**

- (U//FOUO) Install, maintain, and regularly test the facility security and emergency communications system.
- (U//FOUO) Provide threat-level information to facility employees and tenants.
- (U//FOUO) Take threatening phone calls, faxes, or bomb threats seriously and follow respective agency standard operating procedures.

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- (U//FOUO) The "If You See Something, Say Something" campaign is a simple and effective program to engage the public and key frontline employees to identify and report indicators of terrorism, crime and other threats to the proper transportation and law enforcement authorities.

**(U) Reporting Notice**

(U) DHS and the FBI encourage recipients of this document to report information concerning suspicious or criminal activity to the local FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force and the state and local Fusion Center. The FBI's 24/7 Strategic Information and Operations Center can be reached by telephone number 202-323-3300 or by e-mail at [SIOC@ic.fbi.gov](mailto:SIOC@ic.fbi.gov). The DHS National Operations Center (NOC) can be reached by telephone at (202) 282-9885 or by e-mail at [NOC.Fusion@dhs.gov](mailto:NOC.Fusion@dhs.gov). FBI regional phone numbers can be found online at <http://www.fbi.gov/contact/fo/fo.htm> and Fusion Center information may be obtained at <http://www.dhs.gov/contact-fusion-centers>. For information affecting the private sector and critical infrastructure, contact the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center (NICC), a sub-element of the NOC. The NICC can be reached by telephone at (202) 282-9201 or by e-mail at [NICC@dhs.gov](mailto:NICC@dhs.gov). When available, each report submitted should include the date, time, location, type of activity, number of people and type of equipment used for the activity, the name of the submitting company or organization, and a designated point of contact.

**(U) Administrative Note: Law Enforcement Response**

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(U) Tracked by: HSEC-8.1, HSEC-8.2, HSEC-9.1, HSEC-9.2