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"Prepared And Vigilant": U.S. Jewish Security Group Ramps Up Operations

Source: CBS

(United States) The Secure Community Network, a security group for Jewish institutions in North America, has increased its preparedness and expanded its footprint since Saturday, when Hamas militants launched a deadly surprise attack on Israel from the Gaza Strip. Authorities say there have been no credible threats to the public related to the ongoing Israel-Hamas war, but U.S. law enforcement officials and Jewish leaders say the threat environment remains "incredibly dynamic." "In many communities, news broke early Saturday morning. Many people were in synagogue, they were at services, and they weren't using electronics and they walked out and there were police squad cars there," said Michael Masters, the director of the Secure Community Network. "It's absolutely critical that we

recognize how dynamic the environment is and that we stay prepared and vigilant." "Certainly, in the last several days, we have seen [online rhetoric] increase," Masters said, "and we believe it's going to continue to increase, not only increase but potentially become more violent."

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Biden Calls Hamas Attacks In Israel The Deadliest Day For Jews Since The Holocaust

Source: Associated Press

(Washington, D.C.) President Joe Biden says the weekend attack by Hamas militants on Israel was the deadliest against Jews since the

Holocaust and called it a “campaign of pure cruelty.” Biden made the remarks while speaking Wednesday with Jewish leaders as the U.S. said the number of U.S. citizens killed during the Hamas-Israel war had risen to 22. The number of U.S. citizens confirmed to have been killed in the Israel-Hamas war has risen to at least 22 with at least 17 more Americans unaccounted for, the State Department said Wednesday. That’s an increase in the death toll from 14 the day before, in a war that has already claimed more than 2,200 lives on both sides. A “handful” of U.S. citizens are among the estimated 150 hostages captured by Hamas militants during their shocking weekend assault on Israel, White House national security spokesman John Kirby said Wednesday. In a further sign of U.S. support for Israel, Secretary of State Antony Blinken left for meetings with officials there and the U.S. military is moving a second aircraft carrier toward the Mediterranean Sea as part of efforts to prevent the war from spilling over into a more dangerous regional conflict.

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Texas DPS Warns Residents of Possible Attacks Against Jewish Community

Source: San Antonio Current

(Texas) As fighting escalates following Saturday's attack on Israel by Hamas militants , the Texas Department of Public Safety is warning residents to be on the lookout for threats against members of the Lone Star State's Jewish community. In a written statement, DPS officials said they're unaware of specific or credible threats. Even so, they're concerned the conflict could "inspire homegrown violent extremists and foreign terrorist organizations in the United States to target the Jewish community and institutions associated with Israel outside the Middle East.” On Monday, Texas Gov. Greg Abbott issued an order expediting distribution of $4 million in taxpayer funds to secure Jewish schools, synagogues and organizations across the state. At least 175,655 Jews currently reside in

Texas.

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IDF Spokesperson: Hamas Terrorists Planned Prolonged Invasion Of South

Source: i24 News

(Israel) Israel Defense Forces Chief Spokesperson, Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari, revealed on Wednesday that Hamas terrorists had planned to maintain a force within Israeli territory after the infiltration on Saturday. Hagari gave a briefing on the situation in and near the Gaza Strip, saying about 5,000 rockets were launched toward Israel. In response, the IDF

struck several targets in the enclave, including an anti-aircraft system and high-ranking Hamas officials. "We counted a thousand bodies inside the Gaza Envelope region and hundreds more on the fence," Hagari said about the number of terrorists that infiltrated Israeli territory, as well as later attempts, as an indication of its “order of magnitude." "They had weapons for an invasion and not just for raiding,” the IDF spokesperson disclosed about the weapons and plans that were found on the Hamas terrorists. “We still find them in hiding places or in the points where they built fortifications.” “We killed 18 terrorists in the last 24 hours within our territory, including in Kibbutz Kfar Aza, still in jeeps, in Kibbutz Mefalsim, in Zikim, in Kibbutz Re'im, and in the city of Ashkelon.”

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European Countries Increase Synagogue Security As Jews Brace For Antisemitism After Hamas Attack

Source: Jewish Telegraphic Agency

(Madrid/Paris/London) As the bloody war in Israel and Gaza continues to escalate, many European Jews are bracing for reverberations far from the frontlines. On Saturday, Hamas launched a surprise attack by land, air and sea, killing at least 900 Israelis, wounding more than 2,000 and taking more than 100 captive. Israel has responded with airstrikes that have killed close to 700 Palestinians. Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant has ordered a complete siege on the Gaza Strip, while Hamas has threatened to execute its civilian hostages. But in cities across Europe, crowds have celebrated just streets away from vigils for the dead. Groups cheering the Hamas assault as “Palestinian resistance” to the Israeli occupation have danced on the street in London and handed out sweets in Berlin. In

France, far-left movements called the terror attack “heroic.” Jewish communal officials in Europe anticipate that the fighting in Israel will ignite antisemitic threats in their communities. Police have increased surveillance around synagogues, Jewish schools and other institutions in Germany, Britain, France and Spain.

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