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Call For ‘Day Of Jihad’ Prompts Greater Vigilance By FBI, Jewish Groups

Source: Washington Times

(United States) FBI Director Christopher Wray on Thursday warned of attacks in the U.S. as security around Jewish institutions ramped up, prompted by an increase in threats against Jews and a former Hamas leader’s call for a global “Day of Jihad” against Israel on Friday. The heightened alert comes five days after Hamas terrorists stormed across the Gaza Strip’s northern border with Israel and killed hundreds, including at least 27 Americans. Hamas also took an estimated 150 Jewish hostages into Gaza. “We cannot and do not discount the possibility that Hamas, or other foreign terrorist organizations, could exploit the conflict to call on their supporters to conduct attacks here on our own soil,” Mr. Wray told a briefing organized by the Secure Community Network. “We are

seeing and anticipate an increase in hateful rhetoric and calls for violence such as the so-called worldwide day of jihad," Secure Community Network national director and CEO Michael Masters told the briefing. He said SCN is "not aware of any direct, credible threats against the Jewish community in the U.S.," but noted "the situation remains dynamic, and individuals may be motivated to action, whether protest activity or otherwise, with little to no warning."

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New Jersey Officials Urge Vigilance At Public Gatherings As Israel-Hamas War Intensifies

Source: News 12 New Jersey

(New Jersey) As the Israel-Hamas War continues, law enforcement officials want to remind New Jerseyans to stay vigilant as they gather throughout the weekend for protests, religious gatherings or sporting events. But as potential threats as a result of the war loom, particularly toward the Jewish community, what are law enforcement officials doing to keep us safe? And what should New Jerseyans be doing to stay safe? In a press conference Thursday, Gov. Phil Murphy said, "We are working not just within our administration but also with county and local officials.. we are dealing with federal agencies as well to make sure ... in communication with the FBI, state department most frequently." Michael Masters, the national director and CEO of Secure Community Network, stressed a significantly heightened threat for the Jewish community and will remain in heightened threat as long as the war continues. A former Hamas leader called Friday the "Day of Jihad," urging Muslims to take to the streets in protest. "There is extensive mis and disinformation online and our adversaries are counting on us to amplify so that our community can become scared and freshens and hide let's not help them meet their objectives," Masters says.

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Blinken Describes Images Of Hamas Attack Victims, Pledges US Support On Trip To Israel

Source: ABC News

(Israel) Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Thursday described gruesome photos and videos he reviewed depicting victims of Hamas' terrorist attack on Israeli civilians. "It's hard to find the right words. It's beyond what anyone would ever want to imagine, much less, God forbid, experience," he said at a press conference in Israel. "A baby, an infant, riddled with bullets. Soldiers beheaded. Young people burned alive. I could go on, but it's simply depravity in the worst imaginable way." Blinken said that the photos, shown to him behind closed doors by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and the Israeli government, would ultimately show exactly the horrors its people have confronted and serve to unify through "moral clarity." Blinken also said that Hamas' attacks "brought to

mind the worst of ISIS," echoing much of what Netanyahu said. The White House announced on Monday that it had already begun sending munitions and military equipment to Israel. At least 1,200 people have died and 2,900 others have been injured in Israel after Hamas launched a surprise incursion from air, land and sea on Saturday, Israeli authorities said. Twenty-seven Americans have also been confirmed dead, according to National security council spokesman John Kirby.

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UK's Sunak Boosts Funding For Jewish Security As Two Schools Close

Source: Reuters

(United Kingdom) British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak on Thursday boosted funding to protect local Jewish institutions amid a spike in reports of antisemitism, while two Jewish schools said they would close until Monday for children's safety. The Community Security Trust (CST), a Jewish charity that provides security at Jewish institutions including schools and synagogues, has recorded 139 antisemitic incidents in the last four days after the outbreak of conflict in Israel, an increase of 400% over the same period last year. The CST will receive 3 million pounds ($3.7 million) in government funding for additional security guards, above the 15 million pounds it already receives annually, Sunak's Downing Street office said. "At moments like this, when the Jewish people are under attack in their homeland, Jewish people everywhere can feel less safe," Sunak said, reiterating Britain's solidarity with Israel following last week's attacks by Palestinian militant group Hamas. "If anything is standing in the way of keeping the Jewish community safe, we will fix it. You have our complete backing," he added.

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