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Police: No Evidence Of Hate Crime In Jewish Leader Samantha Woll's Slaying

Source: Detroit Free Press

(Michigan) Detroit police said Sunday the slaying of the Detroit synagogue President Samantha Woll does not appear to be a hate crime. "No evidence has surfaced suggesting that this crime was motivated by antisemitism," Detroit Police Chief James White said in a statement Sunday afternoon. White had previously urged the public not to jump to conclusions about what happened. Woll, 40, was found stabbed to death near her home in the city's Lafayette Park neighborhood Saturday morning. Woll, a political and community activist, had worked on both women's political campaigns. Numerous resources have been mobilized to solve Woll's tragic murder, White said Saturday evening, including involvement of the FBI and Michigan State Police. White said his

investigators are working with the FBI to forensically analyze evidence and create a timeline of events that led to Woll's killing. White said police are interviewing individuals with information that may be valuable to the investigation. Police did not say if any suspects have been identified. Woll was well known in metro Detroit's Jewish community and as a political and community activist. She led the Isaac Agree Downtown Detroit Synagogue and previously worked for U.S. Rep. Elissa Slotkin, as well as Chang and Nessel, all Democrats.

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2 American Hostages Held Since Hamas Attack On Israel Released: IDF

Source: ABC News

(Israel) The long nightmare in captivity for two of the hostages taken by Hamas during its deadly surprise attack on Israel has ended, Israeli authorities said. Judith Raanan, 59, and her daughter, Natalie Raanan, 17, were released by Hamas to the Red Cross and are now back in Israel, Israel Defense Forces said. Their conditions were not immediately clear. The Raanans are from Illinois. In a statement Saturday, representatives for the family thanked the Biden administration and called the release of the Raanans a "moment of extraordinary relief -- far beyond anything we can express in words." The family said eight other family members are still missing in Gaza. "We will work around the clock with the other families of those held hostage until each and every one of them is back home," said the statement issued by Ayelet, Or and Limor Sella, spokespeople for the Ranaan family, and the cousins of Judith and Natalie. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in a statement Friday that the hostages were received "at the border of the Gaza Strip" and were being taken to "a meeting point at a military base in the center of the country, where their family members are waiting for them." Ten Americans remain unaccounted for, and some of them are among the estimated 200 people being held by Hamas, Blinken said Friday.

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Germany's Scholz Vows Support For Jews At Synagogue Opening

Source: Voice Of America

(Germany) German Chancellor Olaf Scholz vowed Sunday to stamp out anti-Semitism at the opening of a new synagogue, amid a spike in anti-Jewish incidents in the wake of the Israel-Hamas conflict. "There must be zero tolerance for anti-Semitism in Germany," Scholz said at the synagogue in the eastern city of Dessau. Germany will "defend and protect" Jewish life, Scholz said, voicing his shock at anti-Semitism spreading "around the world and, shamefully, also here in Germany" since the October 7 attacks by Hamas on Israel. Germany has seen a spate of anti-Semitic incidents since the attacks and Israel's retaliatory bombing campaign. Jewish homes in Berlin have been marked with the Star of David and attackers last week hurled two Molotov cocktails at a Jewish

synagogue in the city. There must be no turning a blind eye "when Jews are not safe on Germany's streets, when Stars of David are smeared on homes, when firebombs are thrown at synagogues", Scholz said. The opening of the synagogue in Dessau came 85 years after a synagogue in the city was destroyed in the "Kristallnacht" anti-Jewish pogrom on November 9, 1938, when Nazi mobs torched and ransacked synagogues and Jewish-owned businesses across Germany in what is widely seen as the start of the Third Reich's drive to wipe out Jews.

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London Police Report 1,353% Rise In Antisemitic Hate Crimes Since Hamas Onslaught

Source: Times of Israel

(England) Antisemitic and Islamophobic hate crimes in London have soared amid the Israel-Hamas war, the British capital's Metropolitan Police force said Friday The Met, the UK's biggest police force, said there had been 218 antisemitic offenses in London between October 1 and 18, compared to 15 in the same period last year, a rise of 1,353 percent. Police boosted patrols across parts of London and deployed officers to religious schools and places of worship following Hamas's terror onslaught against Israel on October 7, the deadliest attack in the Jewish state's history. "Regrettably, despite the increased presence of officers we have seen a significant increase in hate crime across London," the Met said, adding it had made 21 arrests for such offenses. The arrests included a man detained on suspicion of defacing posters of missing Israelis. Last week, it announced £3 million ($3.7 million) of extra funding to help protect the Jewish community from antisemitic attacks.

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[Update] San Diego Neo-Nazi Gets Prison Time For Antisemitic Incident At Anne Frank House

Source: Times of San Diego

(Netherlands) Thursday, former Chula Vista resident Robert Wilson was found guilty of projecting antisemitic text onto the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam and sentenced to two months in prison. Wilson already spent three months in jail while awaiting trial and won't have to serve any additional time. A Netherlands judge concluded that Wilson, a Polish Canadian who lived in San Diego County for several years, had used a laser projector to display a message onto the exterior of the building on Feb. 6. The text said in English and Dutch: "ANN FRANK INVENTOR OF THE BALLPOINT PEN." It references a Holocaust denying conspiracy theory claiming that Anne Frank could not have penned her diary because it was written in ballpoint pen, which was not widely used until after World

War II. This claim has been disproven by scholars and researchers. The judge found Wilson guilty of coercing the employees working at the Anne Frank House by forcing them to tolerate a message that violated acceptable societal boundaries. Wilson is a public facing member of the Goyim Defense League, an antisemitic hate group that spreads false and hateful messages about Jewish people.

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