From: Secure Community Network
To: Michael deMoncada
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08 November 2023

FBI Investigating After UPenn Staffers Received 'Vile' Antisemitic Threats

Source: Huffington Post

(Pennsylvania) Several staff members at the University of Pennsylvania received “vile” antisemitic emails that threatened violence against the campus’ Jewish community, the university said in an email to students Monday. Liz Magill, the president of Penn, said the university had notified the FBI and local police, who launched a joint investigation after several staff members were targeted with “hateful language.” Officials conducted safety sweeps of an on-campus Jewish group and dorm, but no credible threats were found at the time. “Today, I learned that a small number of Penn staff members received vile, disturbing antisemitic emails threatening violence against members of our Jewish community,” Magill wrote in an email to students and staffers. “The perniciousness of antisemitic acts on our campus is causing deep hurt and fear for our Jewish students, faculty, and staff and shaking their sense of safety and

belonging at Penn. This is intolerable." She added the university would work with the authorities to "identify the individual or individuals who are responsible for these hateful, threatening emails and to ensure they are apprehended and punished to the fullest extent of the law."

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Jewish Schools Around New York City Are Hiring Armed Guards

Source: Curbed

(New York) On October 7, Mitchell Silber was at a hotel in Ashdod, about

25 miles south of Tel Aviv. Silber, a former intelligence official of the New York City Police Department who now works in the private sector, was attending a counterterrorism conference organized by the Israeli government, and he had invited along a delegation of law-enforcement officers from across New York State. By the time Silber landed back in New York, his phone was a stream of frenzied texts and emails: “Can you get us a security guard?” “Can you make sure the police come visit us?” “We just had a swastika carved into the sidewalk in front of our street.” “Should we be open on Friday?” Silber says, “We were out of the frying pan and into the fire.” Silber leads the Community Security Initiative, a program that tracks and responds to threats to Jewish communities and institutions in New York City and its surrounding suburbs. In the weeks since the Hamas assault that killed 1,400 people and took over 200 hostage, Silber has been handling requests to place armed security guards outside Jewish schools and synagogues using a $4.5 million fund provided by the UJA-Federation of New York. The rush to install guards in the aftermath of a terrorist attack is an exercise in target-hardening, but the appeals being made by school administrators and parents right now speak to something more existential: feeling safe when nothing really does.

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Education Secretary Says Federal Funds Are At Stake If Schools Fail To Combat Antisemitism And Islamophobia

Source: CNN

(United States) The Department of Education is reminding schools and colleges that they have a legal obligation to address incidents of discrimination – including against those who are Jewish, Israeli, Muslim, Arab or Palestinian – and that they could ultimately lose federal funding if they fail to do so. In an interview with CNN on Monday, Education Secretary Miguel Cardona said there has been an uptick in complaints filed with the department's Office of Civil Rights in the wake of the Hamas terror attacks on Israel last month. Since October 7, the office has received "eight or nine" complaints about antisemitic and Islamophobic incidents on school campuses, he said. Cardona is asking Congress for more funding "so that we can make sure we're expediting investigations against antisemitism or Islamophobia." On Tuesday, the Department of Education is sending guidance to colleges, universities and K-12 schools regarding their legal responsibility to provide all students with an environment free from discrimination under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. While the Department of Education could withhold federal funds,

Cardona said it’s not the first action he would take.

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Montreal Police Investigating Two Firebombings At Jewish Institutions

Source: Toronto Star

(Quebec) The Montreal police department is investigating overnight firebombings at two Jewish institutions in the Montreal suburb of Dollard-des-Ormeaux. Police spokesperson Sabrina Gauthier said Tuesday that incendiary devices caused minor damage to the front door of a synagogue and the back door of another nearby building that houses a Jewish

organization. Montreal police have not confirmed a motive for the firebombings, but they come amid rising tensions linked to the Israel-Hamas war. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said Tuesday on X that the "attempted arson … is deeply disturbing." "Antisemitism is completely unacceptable and must always be condemned — our government will continue to work with Jewish communities to combat this hatred." Police recorded 38 reports of hate crimes and other incidents targeting the Montreal Jewish community between Oct. 7 and Oct. 25.

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[Update] Star Of David Symbols May Have Been Painted On Paris Buildings "At The Express Request"

Of Someone Abroad, Prosecutor Says

Source: CBS News

(France) A public prosecutor in France said Tuesday that there may have been foreign influence behind people painting graffiti in and around the French capital featuring the Jewish Star of David. Prosecutor Laure Beccuau said a couple from Moldova had been accused of stenciling the stars onto the front of several buildings. A conversation that took place in Russian on a cell phone in the couple's possession was being considered as evidence of a possible motive. The pair were in police custody Tuesday, more than a week after the stars first appeared, and were facing possible deportation. Beccuau said the investigation into the graffiti had revealed a link between the Moldovans and another couple accused of painting similar graffiti a week earlier. Surveillance video showed that man and woman stenciling the stars onto a wall while a third person took photographs of the graffiti. The prosecutor said that couple left France the day after the graffiti appeared. "It could not be ruled out" that the stars were daubed on walls "at the express request of someone living abroad," Beccuau said Tuesday, adding that the investigation would continue to try to identify the perpetrators and to analyze the motive behind the operation. Investigators have said they aren't convinced the graffiti can be classed as antisemitic, but they are concerned about possible Russian meddling at such a sensitive time.

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