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

Person Of Interest In Custody For Antisemitic Threats To Cornell's Jewish Students

Source: ABC News

(New York) A person is in custody Tuesday in connection to antisemitic threats made against students at Cornell University, according to New York Gov. Kathy Hochul. "When I met with Cornell students yesterday, I promised them New York State would do everything possible to find the perpetrator who threatened a mass shooting and antisemitic violence on campus," Hochul said in a statement. "Earlier today, law enforcement identified a person of interest as part of the investigation and this individual is currently in custody of the New York State Police for questioning." The FBI said Monday it was investigating a potential antisemitic hate crime at the university, as President Joe Biden told ABC News he was "very concerned" about the rising antisemitism in the

country. Over the weekend, numerous threats to the Jewish community at Cornell were posted on a website "unaffiliated" with the university, Cornell University President Martha Pollack wrote in a letter to the community Sunday.

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FBI Arrests Palestinian Asylum Seeker In Case Tied To Guns, Shooting Ranges In Houston Area

Source: KHOU 11

(Texas) The FBI confirmed Friday that it had arrested a Jordanian citizen, seeking asylum in the United States, on federal gun charges following a

months-long multi-agency investigation into social media videos involving firearms and shooting ranges in the Houston area. Sohaib Abuayyash, 20 was taken into custody as part of a court-authorized law enforcement operation on Thursday, according to FBI spokesperson Connor Hagan. He's been charged with unlawful possession of a firearm by an alien who has been admitted to the U.S. under a nonimmigrant visa. A federal criminal complaint, unsealed Friday, alleges that Abuayyash came to law enforcement's attention in the summer of 2023 after posting social media videos of himself firing guns, including an 'AR-style' rifle and handguns. The videos, posted on TikTok as well as Instagram, prompted a wider investigation and led agents to a pair of Houston-area gun ranges. The videos, presented as evidence in the court filing, show Abuayyash firing weapons at two different indoor ranges, which agents allege shows he broke federal law, which prohibits most people visiting the U.S. from possessing or using firearms. Investigators said that follow-up interviews with workers at both gun ranges linked Abuayyash's videos to purchase records and surveillance images, confirming his identity. Agents also alleged that despite claiming that the firearms were AirSoft weapons, in his postings, firearms experts determined the weapons were, in fact, real guns.

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Michigan Man Agrees To Plead Guilty After Threatening To Attack Synagogue

Source: Michigan Live

(Michigan) An Upper Peninsula man accused of making violent threats against an East Lansing synagogue reached an agreement to plead guilty to one federal charge. Seann Patrick Pietila, 19, agreed to plead guilty to “transmitting a threatening communication in interstate or foreign commerce,” according to court documents filed Monday, Oct. 30 in the U.S. District of Western Michigan. A grand jury indicted Pietila in June after he allegedly used Instagram messages to talk about planning a mass shooting at Shaarey Zedek Congregation. Investigators also said Pietila expressed Neo-Nazi ideology, antisemitism and glorified mass shooters including a New Zealand mosque shooter who killed 51 people and injured 40 more in 2019. The federal indictment charged Pietila with two counts of interstate threatening communication and one count of threatening to kill or injure by means of fire. In exchange for the guilty plea, the U.S.

Attorney's office agreed to drop the other counts, which brought up to a 10-year prison sentence. With the guilty plea, Pietila faces up to five years in prison and $250,000 fine.

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Paris Prosecutor Opens Investigation After Stars Of David Found Tagged On Buildings

Source: Le Monde

(France) Paris prosecutors opened an investigation on Tuesday, October 31, into dozens of Stars of David daubed on buildings around the city and its suburbs, seen as threatening Jews amid the war between Israel and

Hamas. The Jewish symbol was painted in multiple spots across several building fronts in a southern district of Paris. French Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne condemned "the despicable acts," saying they will not go unpunished. Similar tags appeared over the weekend in suburbs of the city including Vanves, Fontenay-aux-Roses and Aubervilliers. In another nearby suburb of Saint-Ouen they were accompanied by inscriptions such as "Palestine will overcome." The French government says more than 800 incidents of anti-Semitism were registered in France in the three weeks after the Hamas assault. That is equal to the number of incidents over two or three years previously, says the Representative Council of French Jewish Institutions.

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