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Homeland Security Officials Warn Of Rising Threats Following Recent Hamas Attack

Source: Jerusalem Post

(Washington D.C.) In a testimony delivered before the Committee on Homeland Security of the United States House of Representatives, top officials from the US Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Bureau of Investigation sounded the alarm on increased security threats following the vicious Hamas terrorist attack on innocent civilians in Israel on October 7, 2023. National Director and CEO of Secure Community Network (SCN) Michael Masters issued the following statement after the testimony, “Today’s testimonies should be cause for vigilance, preparation, and communication, not fear or retreat. We have seen historic increases in antisemitic threats and incidents. But this does not mean we will accept them. We will not tolerate hate, violence, or terror — nor should

we resign ourselves to living less Jewish lives. Instead, we have the tools in place to empower the Jewish community in safety and security. These tools — from training to intelligence tracking to resources and guidance — are designed precisely to serve Jewish institutions in times like these." In addition, SCN reported an unprecedented uptick in incident reports. "The 772 incident reports SCN logged in October marks the highest of any month in our nearly 20-year history, a 192% increase from October 2022," SCN said in a statement. SCN has already surpassed 2022's incident totals (2,551), logging nearly 3,500 incident reports between January and October 2023. SCN is on pace to refer over 800 individuals to law enforcement, outpacing last year's total of 770, with 148 referrals in October alone. SCN has monitored more than 900 events in the US for escalation and violence.

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Law Enforcement Has "Multiple Investigations Into Individuals Affiliated" With Hamas, FBI Director Tells Congress

Source: CBS News

(Washington D.C.) The head of the FBI told Congress Wednesday that federal law enforcement officials have launched "multiple investigations into individuals affiliated" with Hamas since the terrorist group attacked Israel last month, but they have not seen evidence of a specific credible threat. The most immediate concerns, he said, include "homegrown violent extremists" inspired by terrorist groups and "domestic violent extremists targeting Jewish Americans or other faith communities." "In a year where the terrorism threat was already elevated, the ongoing war in the Middle East has raised the threat of an attack against Americans in the United States to a whole 'nother level. Since Oct. 7, we've seen a rogue's

gallery of foreign terrorist organizations call for attacks against Americans and our allies," Wray told the committee in his opening remarks. Still, over the last month, the FBI and Justice Department — alongside other federal, state, and local law enforcement partners — have operated with heightened vigilance for any potential threats from inspired lone wolf actors and individuals motivated by antisemitism, Islamophobia or anti-Arab hate. Earlier this month, a 20-year-old Jordanian national living in Texas was indicted on allegations he illegally obtained firearms and trained with others of a "radical mindset" to "possibly commit an attack." The man was arrested in Houston on Oct. 19 after investigators said he had been "conducting physical training," and "trained with weapons to possibly commit an attack," according to earlier court documents.

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[Update] Sayreville Man Sentenced To 15 Months For Posting Online Threats Against Jews

Source: My Central Jersey

(New Jersey) A Sayreville man was sentenced Tuesday to 15 months in federal prison for posting on the internet a manifesto with threats to attack a synagogue and Jewish people, U.S. Attorney Philip R. Sellinger announced. Omar Alkattoul, 19, pleaded guilty to transmitting a threat in interstate and foreign commerce on or about Nov. 1, 2022. On Nov. 1, 2022, Alkattoul used a social media application to send an individual a link to a document entitled “When Swords Collide” and admitted that he wrote the document and targeted a synagogue, court papers say. Alkattoul stated in the document, “It’s in the context of an attack on Jews," court papers say. According to a second individual, Alkattoul also sent the document to at least five other people using another social media

application. Alkattoul was also sentenced to three years of supervised release. Newark FBI Special Agent in Charge James E. Dennehy said. “Alkattoul admitted to breaking the laws we enforce to protect our communities from hate and threats of violence. Now more than ever, the FBI and our law enforcement partners need the public's help reporting anything they see, so the threats don't turn into physical attacks.”

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Man Charged For Assault And Anti-Semitic Statements At Kanata Gas Station

Source: CTV News Ottawa

(Ontario) A 50-year-old Carleton Place man has been charged with assault and making anti-Semitic statements at a gas station in Kanata. The Ottawa Police Hate and Bias Crime Unit says that the incident occurred on Oct. 18 at about 6:15 a.m. on the 500 block of Terry Fox Drive. The suspect, while at a gas pump at the station, engaged in an altercation with another client, assaulted the victim, and made anti-Semitic statements. The victim sustained minor injuries. Police did not provide further details on the incident. Ottawa police have said they are concerned about a rise in hate-motivated incidents. On Nov. 6, police said a 29-year-old man was charged with various hate-motivated offenses after an Ottawa rabbi received a threatening phone call.

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