From: Secure Community Network
To: Michael deMoncada
Subject: SCN Daily Update 20 October 2023
Date: Friday, October 20, 2023 7:23:27 AM

20 October 2023

Hate Crime Protection Funding Boost Draws Bipartisan Support

Source: Bloomberg Government

(United States) Lawmakers and advocates are pushing to supercharge a federal fund aimed at safeguarding US synagogues, mosques, and other vulnerable sites as threats boil over from the Israel-Hamas conflict. Advocates are urging the White House to use a forthcoming emergency spending bill to bolster the grants, and key lawmakers are pressing the case on Capitol Hill. A coalition of Jewish groups pressed the White House for swift action this week, calling for an emergency allocation for the security grants to address the recent rise in threats. “People are looking for affirmation that they can participate in Jewish life and in religious life,” said Michael Masters, CEO of Secure Community Network, which helps Jewish groups apply for grants and assess security needs.

“Being able to walk into an institution knowing that it’s protected provides significant peace of mind.” Jewish leaders have credited past DHS security grants with saving lives. Grant-funded building access controls, for example, stopped an armed gunman from entering a Tennessee Hebrew school earlier this year, according to the Secure Community Network. Masters said his organization is committed to doing outreach to groups of other faiths even though it primarily serves the Jewish community. “The idea that you don’t have to run faster than the bear, you just have to run faster than the other guy — that doesn’t work when it comes to basic principles of religious freedoms in this country,” he said. “All of our institutions need to be safe, secure, and protected.”

Read More

Watch: ‘They Are A Reminder Of The Worst Of Humanity’: SCN CEO On Antisemitic Attacks

Source: ABC News

(Illinois) ABC News’ Alex Perez reports on the threat of antisemitism while embedding with the Secure Community Network, the official safety and security organization of the Jewish community in North America.

Read More

DHS And FBI Warn Of "Heightened" Potential For Violence Amid Israel-Hamas Conflict

Source: CBS News

(United States) U.S. intelligence analysts write that while Hamas "has not conducted or called for attacks in the United States," the "perceived success" of their terrorist attacks may motivate homegrown violent extremists. Since Oct. 7, both Al-Qaeda affiliates and Hezbollah have called on supporters to target the U.S. and Israeli interests in response to the Israel-Hamas conflict and President Biden's trip to the region. The U.S. government warned that ISIS supporters online have also encouraged similar attacks targeting Israel and its allies. "The US government has arrested or issued indictments for several individuals acting on behalf of the Government of Iran or Hizballah," the bulletin noted, adding that actors have previously "plotted lethal attacks against individuals in the United

States and conducted preoperational activities, such as surveillance indicative of planning for lethal attacks against Jewish facilities, government facilities, and Iranian dissident groups." As the conflict trudges on, the U.S. government warned that adversarial foreign actors, including Iran, will try to amplify mis- and disinformation online about the Israel–Hamas conflict to "deepen resentment," with some actors already doctoring images, mislabeling video footage and providing inaccurate translations and false information about the conflict. The bulletin identifies "possible signposts" that may indicate potential violence, including explicit praise of tactics, techniques and procedures associated with Hamas' attack in online spaces commonly associated with or used by violent extremists. "Lone offenders, motivated by a range of violent ideologies, pose the most likely threat. We urge the public to stay vigilant and to promptly report suspicious activity to local law enforcement."

Read More

Woman Punched In Face In Anti-Semitic Attack At Midtown Manhattan Subway Station: NYPD

Source: NBC 4 New York

(New York) A woman was punched in the face in an anti-Semitic attack inside a busy midtown subway station, according to police, who are now searching for her attacker. The violent incident occurred around 11:30 p.m. Saturday at the Grand Central-42nd Street station, police said. A 29-year-old was in the passageway for the 7 train when she was randomly hit in the face by a man. When she asked the attacker why he punched her in the face, the suspect said simply it was because "you are Jewish." The man then took off from the station, while the victim suffered minor injuries. The NYPD Hate Crimes Unit is investigating the incident. No arrests have yet been made.

Read More

3 Injured In Rocket Strikes On Kiryat Shmona As Lebanon Border Tensions Spike

Source: Times of Israel

(Israel) Three Israelis, including a young girl, were injured as multiple rocket, missile and gunfire attacks were launched from southern Lebanon toward northern Israel on Thursday. The attacks came amid continuing skirmishes between the Israeli military and the Hamas and Hezbollah terror groups, amid fears a new front could be opened in Israel's ongoing war in the Gaza Strip. Dozens of rockets were fired in several barrages toward northern communities in quick succession Thursday afternoon,

setting off sirens in several towns, including the cities of Nahariya and Kiryat Shmona, together home to nearly 90,000 people. Hamas claimed responsibility for the rocket launches. One projectile slammed into a home in Kiryat Shmona; The Magen David Adom ambulance service said three people were treated for blast injuries and transferred to a hospital. The attack appeared to be the most serious assault on the city since 2006, when it came under heavy attack from Hezbollah during Israel's 34-day war with the Iran-backed terror group. Many residents in northern border towns had already evacuated southward, due to the escalating attacks from Lebanon. With alert levels high, Hezbollah has said it would be "fully prepared" to join its Palestinian ally Hamas in the war against Israel when the time is right.

Read More

This Daily Update is provided for situational awareness only. It includes direct excerpts and links from open source material, which may contain typographical errors and unverified information. The views and opinions expressed in the articles contained herein are those of the authors and publications and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the Secure Community Network.

Please report all relevant information and direct all inquiries to the SCN Duty Desk:
Email: DutyDesk@securecommunitynetwork.org | **Phone: 844.SCN.DESK**

To receive the Daily Update, subscribe at scnus.org/signup-requests

Copyright © 2023 Secure Community Network, All rights reserved.
You are receiving this email because of a request for information from the Secure Community Network.

Secure Community Network | Chicago, IL 60654 USA

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can **update your preferences** or **unsubscribe from this list**.