



RHODE ISLAND STATE FUSION CENTER



Bulletin 2023-12 | October 12, 2023 | fusion@risp.gov | Desk: 401-444-1117 | Fax: 401-458-1173

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Israel / Hamas Conflict Highlights Possible Opportunity for Threats in Rhode Island

(U//LES) On October 10, 2023, the Providence Police responded to and investigated a telephonic bomb threat to Temple Beth-El, a Jewish center of worship in their city. Their immediate actions led to the arrest of one local suspect. Additional information about the motivation behind this threat is pending further investigation; however, speculation around the timing of the threat and the current conflict in Israel leads to the belief that there is a situational motivation to act.

(U//LES) Threat Level in the Short Term: The RISFC assesses the ongoing conflicts in Israel and Palestine will continue to motivate individuals in the homeland to execute local threats and actions against communities opposing their ideological beliefs. Threat levels in the short term have increased while the conflict is ongoing and will remain high against the Jewish and Muslim communities. The threat picture remains complex due to the numerous positions from which extremist groups or individuals can view this situation to construct localized targets of opportunities. Suspicious activities might include online threats, swatting, surveillance, rehearsal or practicing tactics, moving or acquiring equipment, and potential cyber-attacks. **All RI Law Enforcement and Public Safety Partners are encouraged to remain vigilant and aware of the ongoing situation in Israel and Palestine and the possibility for homegrown violent extremists to view this situation as a motivation to commit violent acts within the homeland.**

(U//LES) Expectations for protests, civil demonstrations, and other First Amendment-protected activities raise concerns about the potential of violence and civil unrest due to the sensitive nature of the conflict and deeply rooted beliefs.

(U//LES) Any local encounters, incidents, or information related to this crisis are encouraged and requested to be shared with the Rhode Island State Fusion Center at fusion@risp.gov or 401-444-1117. RISFC shares a direct relationship with the Providence FBI-JTTF and can assist with liaison for the potential elevation of state incidents into federal jurisdiction if appropriate.

(U//LES) Attached to this RISFC Bulletin are several resources for consideration for law enforcement and public safety partners to increase awareness and promote information sharing in their jurisdictions.

- **(U//FOUO)** RISFC Bulletin 2023-10 Jewish Holy Days
- **(U//FOUO)** DHS – IWCC Israel Hamas Conflict Update (10 October 2023)
- **(U//FOUO)** JCAT – Threats Against Houses of Worship Highlight Importance of Religious Community Outreach (July 2022)

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