



TO: SCN Member Organizations

FROM: Paul Goldenberg, National Director, Secure Community Network

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RE: SCN Notification: Security Reminder: Period of Heightened Alert

Overview

The horrific attacks in Mumbai coupled with the recent discovery of a possible terrorism plot against the New York City transit system serve as a reminder that the threat of terrorism here and abroad has not subsided even as the U.S. and its allies have stepped up and continued counterterrorism efforts around the world. Terrorist groups continue to target and assault Western Europeans, Americans, Israelis and Jewish groups throughout the Diaspora. SCN has received numerous calls and messages from its law enforcement contacts, information sharing resources and Jewish communal liaisons worldwide since the beginning of the crisis.

Analysis

The attack on the Nariman House in Mumbai is a grim reminder that Jews, Israelis and Jewish institutions around the world continue to be regarded as valuable targets by Islamic terror groups. The use of firearms and the taking of hostages signal a change in tactics from previous Islamic terrorist attacks, which have mostly consisted of vehicle bombs, suicide bombers, and other improvised explosive devices. What is significant to note here and matter of record, is the fact that Jewish institutions and individuals are being targeted by international terrorists globally.

Security Reminder

Law enforcement and intelligence agencies view the current political transition as a period of heightened alert. Historically, terrorists have staged attacks during political transitions and election periods to impose their ideologies and increase their visibility. While DHS and other law enforcement agencies are indicating that, AT THIS TIME, there is no intelligence asserting any operational specificity concerning a planned attack against the homeland or Jewish interests, experts have expressed their concern that terrorists could attempt to exploit the political transition period by staging an attack against U.S. interests overseas or possibly in the United States.

Security Recommendations

SCN encourages Jewish organizations and institutions to review their security posture and revisit their security and emergency management plans. Organizations should review and implement appropriate security measures, particularly during this period of heightened alert.

- Convene security committee, if one exists, to evaluate the need for bolstering security awareness, preparedness and human capital needs at this time
- Review and implement appropriate security measures to include access controls, perimeter security, crisis communication plans, suspicious behavior/activity (individuals, phone calls, email messages etc.)

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- Ensure CCTV cameras and other physical security measures are operating properly and being monitored accordingly
- Reevaluate the use/placement of security guards (if appropriate) Ensure security guards are properly trained for protecting Jewish institutions
- Review, test and exercise response plans to include lockdowns, evacuations, active shooter scenarios, etc.
- Implement a surveillance detection or awareness program to identify and report suspicious activity
- Review organizational website content for personal and/or organizational information that could assist adversaries in planning an attack
- Maintain periodic communication with local law enforcement agencies
- Organizations should be cognizant of travel security when travelling abroad
- Report suspicious persons/activity IMMEDIATELY

Resources

For additional resources concerning communal safety and security, please visit the Secure Community Network website at www.scnus.org .