



The Jewish Federations OF NORTH AMERICA

Risk Overview: Threats, Vulnerabilities and Potential Consequences September 13, 2013

Existential Threats to Jewish Communal Institutions:

- Since 9/11, the FBI, Department of Homeland Security and other law enforcement entities have warned the U.S. Jewish community of a number of plots by international terrorist organizations, white supremacists, prison Islamic radicals and other homegrown violent individuals across the political spectrum. While a number of prominent plots have been averted, others became operationalized.
- One regular thread among many terrorist occurrences is the symmetrical selection of targets that include both government/military facilities/personnel, and Jewish communal institutions and civilians. One large distinction, however, is that the latter category comprises soft nonprofits with limited resources and capabilities with which to harden their facilities and to train their personnel.
- Additionally, over the past decade, the FBI has reported that approximately 70% of religious-based hate crimes have been perpetrated against the Jewish community – well above the combined occurrences of all other faiths.
(Source: Annual FBI Hate Crimes Statistics Reports; Link: <http://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/2012/december/annual-hate-crimes-report-released/annual-hate-crimes-report-released>)
- **December 10, 2012:** Of the 1,480 victims of an anti-religious hate crime, 63.2 percent were victims of an offender's anti-Jewish bias – more than all other categories combined.
(Source: FBI Hate Crime Statistics, 12/10/12; Link: <http://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/2012/december/annual-hate-crimes-report-released/annual-hate-crimes-report-released>)
- **July 20, 2012:** New York police believe **Iranian Revolutionary Guards** or their proxies have been involved so far this year in nine plots against Israeli or **Jewish targets** around the world. According to NYPD analysts, "through its own Revolutionary Guard and Hezbollah, Iran had "sharply increased its operational tempo and its willingness to conduct terrorist attacks targeting Israeli interests and the **International Jewish community worldwide**".

(Source: Reuters, 07/20/12; Link: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/07/20/us-iran-hezbollah-plots-idUSBRE86J0SW20120720>)

- **June 5, 2012: According to Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano**, “Jews face special risks that require vigilance.” She also stated that, during her tenure at DHS, threats to the Jewish community came from foreign entities, homegrown extremists and domestic hate groups.
(Source: The Forward, 06/05/12; Link: <http://forward.com/articles/157280/jews-face-special-risks-napolitano-says/?p=all>)
- **February 16, 2012:** With tensions between Iran and the West running high, law enforcement officials are concerned **Iran or its surrogates could mount attacks against Jewish targets inside the United States.**
(Source: CNN, 02/16/12; Link: <http://www.cnn.com/2012/02/15/us/iran-fbi-warning/index.html?iref=allsearch>)
- **January 9, 2009:** Terrorist analysts report that throughout the world, **Jewish communities will be specifically at risk** from several “fatwas” disseminated through Arab media and jihadist websites, including one instructing that “any Jew is a legitimate target that can be struck by Muslims.”
(Source: European Strategic Intelligence and Security Center, 01/09/09)
- **March 24, 2008:** Al Qaeda’s second in command, Ayman al-Zawahiri, released an audio tape on, which called upon al Qaeda followers and **sympathizers to attack Jewish interests worldwide.** The tape, part of a string of provocative statements by bin Laden and his senior cohorts, was regarded by counter terrorism experts as a new and bold escalation by al Qaeda to link the Middle East conflict with immediate and urgent violence in the West, including against **Jewish targets** in the United States.
(Source: Associated Press, 03/24/08)
- **November 24, 2002:** In a “Letter to America” Osama bin Laden released soon after the 9/11 attacks, to explain his reasoning and intent to justify the attacks, he wrote, “The creation and continuation of Israel is one of the greatest crimes, and you are the leaders of its criminals.” “This is why the American people cannot be innocent of all the crimes committed by the Americans and **Jews** against us.” **The letter also made clear that, to bin Laden, civilian populations**, as with governments, were acceptable (equivalent) targets for retaliation.
(Source: Guardian (UK), 11/24/02; Full text of the letter: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2002/nov/24/theobserver>)
- **June 3, 2002:** Abdul Rahman Yasin, one of the terrorists in the first attack on the World Trade Center in 1993, revealed in a CBS 60 Minutes interview that the World Trade Center was not the terrorists' original target. Rather, **they initially planned to blow up Jewish neighborhoods** in Brooklyn. But after scouting Crown Heights and Williamsburg, they decided to target the World Trade Center, instead. The reasoning: rather than undertaking multiple small explosions in **Jewish neighborhoods, they figured that one big explosion in the World Trade Center would kill mostly Jews** who they believed made up a majority of the workforce there, according to Yasin’s statements.
(Source: CBS News 06/02/02; Reuters, 06/03/02)

- **February 2, 2002:** Shortly after the 9/11 attacks, Al Qaeda's training manual was translated by the Associated Press, which included a directive to followers **to attack Jewish communal organizations and institutions in every country Jews exist** and to carry out the attacks in a manner designed to cause the most casualties. It specified community centers, hospitals, places of worship and wherever there are large gathering places of Jews.
(Source: Associated Press, 02/02/02)

Recent Jewish Security Threats:

- **May 16, 2013:** A 22-year-old Moroccan man has been convicted and sentenced to five years and four months in jail for plotting a terror attack against a Milan synagogue. The man was arrested in March 2012 after police noted that the suspect had used a Google maps application to case security at the synagogue.
(Source: The Associated Press, 05/16/13)
- **May 7, 2013:** Israeli airstrikes on Syrian missile stockpiles suspected to be destined for Hezbollah raise concern for retaliation against Jewish civilians. According to the Washington Post, "U.S. and Middle Eastern officials say any retaliation would probably come in a familiar form: attempted attacks by Hezbollah operatives on Israeli or Jewish civilian targets, perhaps far outside the Middle East."
(Source: Washington Post, May 8, 2013; Link: http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/western-officials-fear-retaliation-for-israeli-airstrikes-in-syria/2013/05/07/2989f1a4-b72f-11e2-92f3-f291801936b8_print.html)
- **May 1, 2013:** Bomb threats were phoned in to two different Houston synagogues (Congregation Beth Israel and Congregation Or Ami), causing their schools to cancel classes, so that the FBI and Houston Police Department could search the institutions for explosives. When the buildings reopen, it was reported that they will require extra security personnel and police presence. April 8, 2013: Ruben Ubiles, 35, who the police say has more than 50 prior arrests, on charges including robbery, assault, and weapons and drug possession, was arrested for the hate-crime burning of a dozen Jewish doorway adornments in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, on Holocaust Remembrance Day. The ornaments, known as mezuzot, contain scrolls with Old Testament verses that are intended to bless and protect the home.
(Source: New York Times, 04/10/13)
- **March 18, 2013:** French President Francois Hollande on Sunday paid tribute to the seven people who last year fell victim to terrorist Mohamed Merah, saying he remains committed to the fight against terrorism. A self-described Al-Qaeda sympathizer, 23-year-old Merah murdered Rabbi Jonathan Sandler, his sons Aryeh and Gavriel and Miriam Monsonego at a Jewish school, Otzar HaTorah, in Toulouse. Before that, he murdered three paratroopers.
(Source: Arutz Sheva, 03/18/13; Link: <http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/166321>)
- **March 17, 2013:** Marked the 21st anniversary of the March 17, 1992 terrorist attack that left 28 people dead and 240 wounded at the Israel Embassy in Buenos Aires. Two years later (July 1994), 85 members of the Argentine Jewish community were killed in an

attack on a community center. This was the deadliest terror attack in Argentina's history. In both cases, the attackers were never caught.

(Source: Arutz Sheva, 03/17/13; Link: <http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/166301>)

- **March 15, 2013:** An Algerian man convicted of plotting to bomb synagogues was sentenced to 10 years imprisonment. According to New York City Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly, "Ferhani posed a real threat to New York's Jewish community, eagerly purchasing a hand grenade, two guns and 150 rounds of ammunition from an undercover officer as part of Ferhani's stated intention to attack and then 'blow up a synagogue in Manhattan, and take out the whole entire building.'"

(Source: CNN, 03/15/13)

- **January 30, 2013:** A new policy paper from the Washington Institute for Near East Studies finds that Iran's elite Qods Force and Hezbollah militants pose a growing threat to the U.S., fueling worries that they increasingly have the ability and willingness to attack the U.S., and, in particular, Jewish targets. Among the most likely scenarios, stated the report, "**an attack targeting a location affiliated with a Jewish community abroad**", such as the report noted, the **1994 bombing of AMIA Jewish community center in Buenos Aires.**

(Source: WINES, January 30, 2013; Link:

<http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/uploads/Documents/pubs/PolicyFocus123.pdf>)

- **January 23, 2013:** The Congressional Research Service published a comprehensive analysis on the complex threat of American Jihadist Terrorism, including particular threats to Jewish communal security: 1) The 2005 plot by the group Jamiyyat Ul-Islam Is-Saheeh, to attack **Jewish institutions, including synagogues**, and military recruiting offices and military bases, which the report described as the "most prominent post-9/11 example of domestic violent jihadist activity inspired in prison;" 2) The 2009 Newburgh Four case, which involved a plot to trigger explosive in front of a **synagogue and Jewish community center** and to shoot down military aircraft; 3) The 2011 grenade plot by Ahmed Ferhani, an Algerian, and Mohamed Mamdouth, a naturalized US citizen from Morocco, who plotted to blow up prominent **synagogues** in New York City; and 4) The 2012 bombing plot by Amine El Khalifi, a Moroccan citizen living in the US on an expired B2 tourist visa, who targeted the US Capitol, a **synagogue**, and a restaurant that was frequented by US military personnel.

(Source: CRS, 01/23/13; Link: <http://www.fas.org/spp/crs/terror/R41416.pdf>)

- **January 16, 2013:** The FBI warned the Detroit Jewish community of potential risks after discovering in the home of a known white supremacist and convicted murderer, Richard Schmidt, 18 firearms including assault weapons, high-capacity magazines, and more than 40 thousand rounds of ammunition; Nazi paraphernalia; a "Jewish hit-list" of 500 Jewish owned businesses; and detailed information on the leadership of the **Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit** and diagrams of the facility.

(Source: US Attorney, Ohio, 01/16/13; Link:

<http://www.justice.gov/usao/ohn/news/2013/16janschmidt.html>)

Historic Record of Threats:

- **December 4, 2012:** A man from Queens accused of plotting to blow up a synagogue in Manhattan ended on Tuesday when the man, Ahmed Ferhani, pleaded guilty to 10 charges, including conspiracy as a crime of terrorism and criminal possession of a weapon as a crime of terrorism. He was arrested immediately after making a down payment in exchange for a hand grenade, three semiautomatic pistols and 150 rounds of ammunition.
(Source: New York Times, 12/04/12; Link: <http://www.nytimes.com/2012/12/05/nyregion/ahmed-ferhani-pleads-guilty-in-plot-to-blow-up-synagogue.html>)
- **July 20, 2012:** New York police believe **Iranian Revolutionary Guards** or their proxies have been involved so far this year in nine plots against Israeli or **Jewish targets** around the world. According to NYPD analysts, "through its own Revolutionary Guard and Hezbollah, Iran had "sharply increased its operational tempo and its willingness to conduct terrorist attacks targeting Israeli interests and the **International Jewish community worldwide**".
(Source: Reuters, 07/20/12; Link: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/07/20/us-iran-hezbollah-plots-idUSBRE86J0SW20120720>)
- **June 22, 2012:** The FBI announced the 11.5 year sentence for American Jess Curtis Morton, aka Younus Abdullah Muhammed, for **running several Internet sites in the United States to solicit attacks and future threat against Jewish organizations** in the US. His co-conspirator lived in Fairfax, VA (less than 20 miles from Capitol Hill). The web sites Morton ran perpetuated al Qaeda produced propaganda and **included hit lists**.
(Source: U.S. Attorney's Office/Eastern District of Virginia, 06/22/12; Link: http://www.fbi.gov/washingtondc/press-releases/2012/leader-of-revolution-muslim-sentenced-to-138-months-for-using-internet-to-solicit-murder-encourage-violent-extremism?utm_campaign=email-lmmediate&utm_medium=email&utm_source=washington-press-releases&utm_content=108401)
- **June 20, 2012:** This week, the New York Post described a new "Crime Wave" against Brooklyn's Jewish community when it reported several synagogue thefts and anti-Semitic vandalism targeting synagogues and Jewish neighborhoods.
(Source: New York Post, 06/20/12; Link: http://www.nypost.com/p/news/local/brooklyn/anti_jewish_crime_wave_GNiQRau6jWlqBeqM7ugEBO;Forward,06/05/12;Link:http://m.forward.com/articles/157280)
- **June 5, 2012:** According to Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano, "Jews face special risks that require vigilance." She also stated that, during her tenure at DHS, threats to the Jewish community came from foreign entities, homegrown extremists and domestic hate groups.
(Source: The Forward, 06/05/12; Link: <http://forward.com/articles/157280/jews-face-special-risks-napolitano-says/?p=all>)
- **May 3, 2012:** On the anniversary of the bin Laden raid, the US Government released a sampling of documents. Only one pertained to approving funding for terrorism – the approval of a request by a militant group to purchase and manufacture weapons, and to support operations **against the Jewish community**.
(Source: CNN, May 3, 2012; Link: <http://edition.cnn.com/2012/05/03/world/osama-bin-laden-documents/index.html>)

- **April 23, 2012:** Meanwhile, the US just placed a \$10 million bounty on Hafeez Saeed, the leader of Lashkar-i-Taiba, an al Qaeda-affiliated militant group, and the mastermind behind the 2008 Mumbai, India massacre. A paramount objective of the massacre was an attack on that city's **Jewish community center** and the torture and murder of its Jewish civilians. Saeed remains at-large.
(Source: Pro Publica, 04.03.12; Link: <http://www.propublica.org/article/10-million-bounty-for-alleged-mumbai-plotter-ups-pressure-on-pakistan>)

- **March 26, 2012:** The livery driver whose two-gun attack on a group of Hasidic students on the Brooklyn Bridge shocked the city 18 years ago has finally admitted that he targeted them because they were Jewish, The Post has learned. Rashid Baz was convicted in 1995 of murdering Yeshiva student Ari Halberstam, 16, and trying to kill more than a dozen others in a van with a hail of bullets he fired on a Manhattan approach to the bridge on March 1, 1994.
(Source: New York Post, 03/26/2012; Link: http://www.nypost.com/p/news/local/killer_jews_my_target_gOgyDs9rPP92Z5irlUqK1H)

- **March 26, 2012:** According to the Associated Press this morning, French authorities are defending criticism that their counterterrorism authorities and laws failed in preventing an Islamic terrorist attack that killed paratroopers, Jewish children and a rabbi (teacher) in front of a Jewish school in Toulouse, France. The general reaction from Europol, and a growing chorus of other European terrorist authorities, is that homegrown extremists are hard to track and stop; combating individuals acting in isolation will be tough and problematic; and it will be hard for police to apprehend them before they attack.
(Source: Associated Press, 03/26/12)

- **February 17, 2012:** The FBI announced the indictment of Amine El Khalifi, an illegal immigrant from Morocco, for attempting a suicide attack on the Capitol. According to the indictment, El Khalifi had first indicated his **intention to blow up a Jewish civilian target -- a synagogue**.
(Sources: FBI WFO; Link: http://www.fbi.gov/washingtondc/press-releases/2012/virginia-man-accused-of-attempting-to-bomb-u.s.-capitol-in-suicide-attack?utm_campaign=email-immediate&utm_medium=email&utm_source=washington-press-releases&utm_content=72268;
Criminal Complaint Link: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/world/documents/amine-el-khalifi-criminal-complaint.html>)

- **February 16, 2012:** With tensions between Iran and the West running high, law enforcement officials are concerned **Iran or its surrogates could mount attacks against Jewish targets inside the United States**.
(Source: CNN, 02/16/12; Link: <http://www.cnn.com/2012/02/15/us/iran-fbi-warning/index.html?iref=allsearch>)

- **February 15, 2012:** A statement by House Homeland Security Committee Chairman Peter King called attention to the **"almost imminent threat posed by Hezbollah quite possibly to Jewish houses of worship and religious institutions."**
(Source: Hearing: An Examination of the President's FY 2013 Budget Request for the Department of Homeland Security; Link: <http://homeland.house.gov/hearing/hearing-examination-presidents-fy-2013-budget-request-department-homeland-security>)

- **February 14, 2012: With Iran allegedly striking out at Israeli citizens and Jewish targets around the world, Israeli and American security officials in the U.S. are on high alert.** According to Frank Cilluffo, director of the Homeland Security Policy Institute at George Washington University in D.C., the recent incidents in India, Georgia, Thailand and Azerbaijan have "all the hallmarks of a concerted campaign" that could extend to U.S. soil. As such, the NYPD has adjusted its counterterrorism posture to include increased presence in recent weeks at Israeli government facilities and synagogues. Furthermore, around the country, private security industry officials report numerous requests for Jewish institutional security.
(Source: ABC News; Link: <http://abcnews.go.com/Blotter/heightened-security-us-iran-threat/story?id=15592451>)
- **February 14, 2012: In a lead story, the New York Times reported on the escalation of threats posed by Iran (and its proxies)** -- meaning violent actions taken against Jewish targets outside of the region. The article followed recent plots and attacks that have increased the concern of American Jewish leaders for the safety and security of Jewish community centers and synagogues within the United States, and the article reminds that an attack on the Mumbai Jewish community center led to the torture and death of a number of Jewish American civilians in 2008.
(Source: New York Times, 02/14/12; Link: http://www.nytimes.com/2012/02/14/world/middleeast/israeli-embassy-officials-attacked-in-india-and-georgia.html?_r=2&ref=world&pagewanted=print)
- **February 14, 2012: Convicted arsonist/bomber Omar Bulphred, 26, will serve his full seven-year prison term for hate crimes - including the firebombing of a Jewish school for children and attempted bombing of a Jewish community center - will remain behind bars for his entire sentence as he continues to pose a serious problem for Correctional Service Canada (CSC).** While investigating the fires, police found letters in which Bulphred and an accomplice declared jihad and demanded the liberation of their "brothers" - a group of men arrested on terrorism charges in Toronto.
(Source: The Gazette (Montreal); Link: <http://www.montrealgazette.com/news/todays-paper/Hate+crime+convict+refused+early+release/6148040/story.html>)
- **February 10, 2012: Nine extremists who "were well advanced in their terrorist planning were convicted. "The men possessed almost every famous jihadi publication, including copies of Inspire, an English language internet magazine produced by Yemen-based extremist cleric Anwar al-Awlaki's group Al Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula."** According to the prosecution, "These men were motivated to act as they did in large part by extreme jihadist propaganda circulated on the internet. Convicted for **planning a "Mumbai" style attack that included targeting the Jewish community**, one of the group's leaders and his brother, "were bugged claiming that fewer than 100,000 Jews died in the Holocaust and talking about how Hitler "had been on the same side as the Muslims" because he understood that "the Jews were dangerous".
(Source: <http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/british-terror-gang-that-plotted-to-blow-680112>)
- **February 9, 2012: The leader of "Revolution Muslim" pleaded guilty to using the Internet to solicit murder and encourage violent extremism against Jews.**
(Source: The FBI; Link: http://www.fbi.gov/washingtondc/press-releases/2012/leader-of-revolution-muslim-pleads-guilty-to-using-internet-to-solicit-murder-and-encourage-violent-extremism?utm_campaign=email-Immediate&utm_medium=email&utm_source=washington-press-releases&utm_content=69655)

- **February 1, 2012:** Four defendants inspired by al-Qaeda have admitted planning to detonate bombs – Mumbai-style – at five symbolic sites including the U.S. Embassy, the Palace of Westminster (both well-fortified institutions), **and two prominent rabbis from separate synagogues.** The men reportedly admitted to being inspired by the preachings of the radical al-Qaeda extremist Yemeni American imam Anwar Al-Awlaki and to being in possession of two editions of al-Qaeda magazine Inspire for terrorist purposes.
(Source: BBC News, Link: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-16833032>)

- **January 25, 2012:** A joint attack by **Iran and Hezbollah against Jewish targets in Bangkok,** Thailand, had been stopped, where the operative in custody reportedly confessed to having intended to blow up a synagogue and the Israeli Embassy. Moreover, the New York Times story reported that Iran and Hezbollah have also planted some 40 terrorist sleeper cells around the world, **ready to attack Jewish targets if Iran deems it necessary to retaliate against efforts to thwart its nuclear ambitions.**
(Source: The New York Times Magazine, 01/25/12; Link: <http://www.nytimes.com/2012/01/29/magazine/will-israel-attack-iran.html?scp=1&sq=six%20key%20strikes%20thought%20to%20be%20made%20by%20the%20mossad&st=cse>)

- **January 13, 2012:** Federal elected officials from North Jersey and across the state pledged resources in the investigation into the **firebombing of a Rutherford synagogue** at a meeting convened to discuss safety at Jewish temples Thursday night.
(Source: New Jersey On-Line; Link: http://www.nj.com/bergen/index.ssf/2012/01/officials_pledge_federal_resources_for_investigation_into_temple_firebombing_bias_crimes.html)

- **December 2, 2011:** Homeland Security Director Janet Napolitano and Attorney General Eric Holder met with their counterparts from Britain and other European partners to discuss issues of points of cooperation in fighting terrorism. In seeking this meeting to improve the U.S.-EU partnership to combat global terrorism, **the Secretary pointed to the success of shared efforts in aiding the investigation and prosecution of American David Headley, the mastermind behind the deadly attack on the Mumbai Jewish Community Center** just over 3 three years ago – November 27, 2008.
(Sources: Associated Press; Link: http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-201_162-57336080/napolitano-lone-wolf-terror-threat-growing/)

- **December 2, 2011:** Jubair Ahmad, 24, a native of Pakistan and resident of Woodbridge, Va., pleaded guilty of providing material support to Lashkar-e-Tayyiba (LeT), a designated foreign terrorist organization. “By preparing and posting a graphic video that glorified violent extremism, Mr. Ahmad directly supported the mission of a designated terrorist organization,” said FBI Assistant Director in Charge McJunkin. “The FBI will track down and disrupt those who communicate with terrorist groups for the purpose of recruiting others to inflict harm on the U.S. and its interests overseas.” **Ahmad considered including images of the Mumbai attack to show the power of LeT. This is a reference to LeT’s operation against the city of Mumbai, India, on Nov. 26, 2008, which resulted in the death of over 160 people, including a number of Jewish Americans killed at the targeted Jewish Community Center.**
(Source: U.S. Attorney, Eastern District of Virginia; Link: <http://www.fbi.gov/washingtondc/press->

[releases/2011/virginia-man-pleads-guilty-to-providing-material-support-to-terrorist-organization?utm_campaign=email-lmmediate&utm_medium=email&utm_source=washington-press-releases&utm_content=53207](http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/hate-crime/2010))

- **November 14, 2011:** The FBI released hate crimes data for 2010. As has been the case since the FBI first began reporting incidents of hate crimes, approximately 70% of all **religious bias crimes are committed against Jewish institutions and civilians** in the US. (Source: FBI Hate Crime Statistics: <http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/hate-crime/2010>)
- **November 9, 2011:** The Cold War's most notorious international terrorists, Ilich Ramirez Sanchez (aka "Carlos the Jackel"), went on trial in France, on charges of instigating four attacks in 1982 and 1983. Sanchez's first terrorist strike was **an assassination attempt against major British philanthropist of Jewish charities, Joseph Sieff. Sanchez gained entrance into Sieff's home by gunpoint, and shot the past vice-president of the British Zionist Federation at point blank range in the face.** (Sources: Associated Press; Link: <http://m.ctv.ca/topstories/20111107/carlos-ilich-ramirez-sanchez-jackal-terror-trial-france-111107.html> and TruTV; Link: http://www.trutv.com/library/crime/terrorists_spies/terrorists/jackal/1.html)
- **January 17, 2011: Five synagogues and a Jewish school in a Jewish enclave in Montreal were attacked** in a single night. Condemning the attack, the Liberal Leader, Michael Ignatieff, remarked, "Our thoughts and prayers are with Jewish communities across Canada that once again have been made to feel that their congregations and the children in their schools have cause to fear for their safety." (Sources: The Globe and Mail (Canada), 01/17/11)
- **October 29, 2010:** Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula attempted to **ship air cargo bombs addressed to Chicago-based synagogues.** (Source: MSNBC, 10/29/10)
- **January 20, 2010:** FBI Director Robert Mueller testified before the Senate Committee on the Judiciary **that al Qaeda; self-directed groups linked to terror organizations; and self-radicalizing, self-executing homegrown terrorists** remained determined to strike the country and the threat has not diminished. (Source: <http://judiciary.senate.gov/pdf/10-01-20Mueller'sTestimony.pdf>, 01/20/10)
- **December 28, 1009:** The FBI Year in Review chronicled the U.S. top terror cases, including: the arrest of David Coleman Headley, a U.S. citizen, for his role in planning the 2008 Mumbai attacks, **where six Americans (4 Jewish) were killed**; the arrest of four radicalized individuals for attempting to blowup a Riverdale, **New York synagogue and Jewish community center**; the deadly shooting at the Holocaust Museum in Washington, DC; and the attack on an Army recruiting center in Little Rock, Arkansas, by an assailant who was also found to be **targeting Jewish sites in Little Rock, Philadelphia, Atlanta, New York, Louisville and Memphis.** (Source: FBI Release, 12/28/09; Link: http://www.fbi.gov/page2/dec09/review_122809.html)
- **December 15, 2009:** the House Homeland Security Subcommittee on Intelligence, Information Sharing and Terrorism Risk held a hearing on the emergence of violent extremism and domestic terrorism in the U.S. In her opening remarks, **Chairwomen Jane Harman (D-CA) focused on two infamous plots and attacks against Jewish**

communal interests at home and abroad: 1) The plot by Jami'yyat Ul-Islam Is-Shaheeh, a prison-founded radical Muslim group, to attack prominent synagogues and other Jewish iconic sites in the Los Angeles area; and 2) The massacre in Mumbai, India, where American David Headley is now accused by federal law enforcement officials of having helped to identify and surveil for attack, among others, the Chabad House Jewish community center, whose director, Rabbi Gavriel Noach Holtzberg, his wife, unborn child, and four others were tortured and killed.

(Source: House Homeland Security Subcommittee on Intelligence, Information Sharing and Terrorism Risk, 12/15/09; Link: <http://homeland.house.gov/Hearings/index.asp?ID=229>)

- **September 13, 2009:** Osama bin Laden warned the American people over their government's **close ties with Israel**. In the tape, bin Laden warned, "If you stop the war, then fine. Otherwise we will have no choice but to continue our war of attrition on every front."
(Source: Washington Post, 09/13/09)
- **August 17, 2009:** A man was sentenced to 70 months in prison today for his role in a domestic terrorism plot to wage war on the United States by attacking **Jewish synagogues** and military bases. Hammad Riaz Samana is the fourth member of Jami'yyat Ul-Islam Is-Shaheeh, or JIS, a prison-founded radical Muslim group that wanted to make a political statement that also had plans to attack the Israeli consulate in Los Angeles and El Al Israel Airlines at the Los Angeles International Airport.
(Source: The Orange County Register, 08/17/09)
- **June 16, 2009:** Critical aspects of the nonprofit sector are particularly vulnerable and regular targets of terrorist groups and radicalized homegrown individuals. A number of incidents make this point clear. In remarking on the June 10, 2009, attack at the **U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum by a radical rightwing fanatic, Secretary Napolitano stated that the attack underscored the need for the Nonprofit Security Grant Program**, so that high risk nonprofits can take their own security measures.
(Sources: Remarks by Secretary Napolitano Announcing Fiscal Year 2009 FEMA Preparedness Grants, Release, 06/16/09)
- **June 3, 2009:** The Arkansas man convicted of killing an Army recruiter and wounding another had used the popular Google Maps application to investigate recruiting centers in at least five states, as well as **Jewish institutions in Little Rock, Philadelphia, Atlanta, New York, Louisville and Memphis**.
(Source: ABC News, 06/03/09)
- **April 7, 2009:** Two accusatory tactics associated with the current rise in rightwing radicalization and the **potential for violence are aimed at the Jewish community**. The first is a belief in anti-government conspiracy theories related to a **Jewish-controlled "one world government."** The second is a prevalence of rightwing extremist chatter on the Internet that focuses on the perceived loss of U.S. jobs in the manufacturing and construction sectors, and home foreclosures they **attribute to a deliberate conspiracy conducted by a cabal of Jewish "financial elites**.
(Source: Rightwing Extremism: Current Economic and Political Climate Fueling Resurgence in Radicalization and Recruitment, Office of Intelligence Assessment and Analysis, Department of Homeland Security, April 7, 2009.)

- **April 4, 2009:** The New York Police Department beefed up security at the city's synagogues and other Jewish sites amid escalating tensions between Israel and Iran. Concerns that Muslim extremist groups might retaliate against civilians in the city's Jewish community if Israel were to attack Iran's nuclear facilities prompted the NYPD to put together a response plan that includes deploying extra officers, including heavily armed "Hercules Teams," **to synagogues, Jewish community centers** and Israeli diplomatic offices.
(Source: Jerusalem Post, 04/04/09)
- **March 24, 2009:** A British terrorist cell with alleged links to Al-Qaeda discussed bombing revelers at a large central London nightclub as well as targeting **several synagogues** in London and one in Manchester, according to prosecutors. One of the defendants, Salahuddin Amin, even discussed trying to buy a radio-isotope "dirty bomb" from the Russian mafia.
(Fox News, 03/31/09; European Jewish Press, 03/24/09)
- **February 23, 2009:** FBI Director Robert S. Mueller III warned that extremists "with large agendas and little money can use rudimentary weapons" to sow terror, raising the specter that recent attacks in Mumbai that killed 170 people (**including victims at the Chabad House Jewish community center**) could embolden terrorists seeking to attack U.S. cities. Mueller said that the bureau is expanding its focus beyond al-Qaeda and into splinter groups, radicals (who come in through the visa waiver program) and "home-grown terrorists." He warned that "melting-pot" communities in Seattle, San Diego, Miami or New York were of particular concern.
(Source: Washington Post, 02/23/09)
- **February 2, 2009:** According to Michael J. Heimbach, assistant director of the FBI's Counterterrorism Division, Al-Qaida and like-minded individuals are still the country's No. 1 concern in 2009, and that there is significant intelligence out there that indicates their focus remains on the U.S. Threats from Hamas and Hezbollah are quite concerning to the U.S. as well, he stated. In addition, he acknowledged that homegrown extremism is still a significant focus of the FBI, and that we **can't lose sight of the domestic terrorism issues, such as White supremacists and neo-Nazi group**, who need to remain on the FBI's radar.
(Source: WTOP (New York), 02/02/09)
- **January 9, 2009:** Terrorist analysts report that throughout the world, **Jewish communities will be specifically at risk** from several "fatwas" disseminated through Arab media and jihadist websites, including one instructing that "any Jew is a legitimate target that can be struck by Muslims."
(Source: European Strategic Intelligence and Security Center, 01/09/09)
- **January 6, 2009:** al Qaeda's second-in-command, Ayman al-Zawahiri, called on Muslims to strike at **Jewish targets in the West and around the world.**
(Source: Reuters, 01/06/09)
- **January 5, 2009:** Hamas leader, Mahmoud Zahar, called on Palestinian sympathizers to **target Jews abroad** (including their children) in response to Israel's incursion into Gaza.
(Source: Associated Press, 01/05/09)

- **May 21, 2009:** The Federal Bureau of Investigation and other cooperating law enforcement agencies arrested four Muslim men as they attempted to carry out a plot **to bomb a synagogue and Jewish community center** in Riverdale, New York. Law enforcement sources are calling it a homegrown terrorist plot.
(Source: NBC News; Los Angeles Times, 05/21/09)
- **January 1, 2009:** For the third time in a year, a **Jewish pre-school was defaced by swastikas and hate speech**. Investigators are exploring whether they might be related to Israeli's conflict with Hamas militants in Gaza.
(Source: Ventura County Star, 01/01/09)
- **January 1, 2009: Jewish day schools in Chicago received a bomb threat** in the mail. The letter was sent to the Chicago offices of the Associated Talmud Torahs and the Ida Crown Jewish Academy.
(Source: WBBM newsradio 780; JTA World Report, 01/01/09)
- **September 15, 2008:** Top counterterrorism officials at the U.S. Department of State reiterated a growing refrain among American intelligence agencies that Hezbollah is emerging as an increased threat to the United States (Associated Press, September 15, 2008). The story followed reports in August 2008 that deepening ties between Iran and Venezuela may lead to the establishment of a new Hezbollah front in the western hemisphere to carry out **abductions and attacks against Jewish targets** (Source: Los Angeles Times, August 27, 2008). Similar reports in June 2008 pointed to warnings raised by intelligence agencies in the United States and Canada that Hezbollah sleeper cells are operating along the U.S. border with Canada, and are **poised to mount terror attacks against Jewish targets in the West**
(Source: ABC News, June 19, 2008).
- **April 9, 2008:** The U.S. House of Representatives Select Committee on Intelligence held a hearing on "Assessing the Fight Against al Qaeda." On the subject of tactics and targeting al Qaeda will use in the future, counterterrorism experts testified that since 9/11 al Qaeda and its affiliated groups have directed an **"intensified campaign" against Jewish targets**. Moreover, since 2004, Osama bin Laden has moved the Israeli-American alliance to the center of his justification for al Qaeda's attacks against the west.
(Source: U.S. House of Representatives Select Committee on Intelligence, 04.09/08; Link: <http://intelligence.house.gov/Media/Word/Bergen040908.doc>)
- **March 4, 2008:** Al Qaeda's second in command, Ayman al-Zawahiri, released an audio tape on March 24, 2008, which called upon al Qaeda followers and **sympathizers to attack Jewish interests worldwide**. The tape, part of a string of provocative statements by bin Laden and his senior cohorts, was regarded by counter terrorism experts as a new and bold escalation by al Qaeda **to link the Middle East conflict with immediate and urgent violence in the West, including against Jewish targets in the United States**.
(Source: Associated Press, 03/04/08)
- **February 16, 2008:** With known Hezbollah fundraisers and supporters in the United States, U.S. counterterrorism authorities have been particularly concerned about the **threat of Hezbollah sleeper cells against synagogues and other potential Jewish**

- targets in the United States.** On February 14, 2008 the FBI put 101 nationwide Joint Terrorism Task Forces on alert for potential threats against the Jewish community by Hezbollah operatives. (AP, February 14, 2008) A day later, the FBI and the Department of Homeland Security sent out a rare joint bulletin to state and local law enforcement authorities advising them to watch for strikes by Hezbollah **against Jewish targets**, as well.
(Source: Los Angeles Times, 02/16/08)
- **January 15, 2008:** the Wall Street Journal reported a policy shift within the White House (and among its allies) to place greater pressure on the Iranian regime through an investigation that centers on the **1994 bombing of the AIMA Jewish Community Center in Buenos Aires, Argentina.** In an effort to redefine its Iran policy, the Administration's focus on the JCC bombing, "Serves as a model for how Tehran has used its overseas embassies and relationships with foreign militant groups, in particular Hezbollah, to strike at its enemies.
(Source: Wall Street Journal, 01/15/08)
 - **May 1, 2007:** Convicted British homegrown Islamic terrorists with links to the 2005 London subway bombings were in advanced stages of planning, and were **targeting synagogues for attack** when they were arrested.
(Source: CNN.com, 05/01/07)
 - **February 13, 2007:** Osama Bin Laden's last known personally authorized terror attacks were made against two **Jewish synagogues in Istanbul.** The simultaneous attacks, in 2003, killed 27 people and injured more than 300.
(Source: Washington Post, 02/13/07)
 - The FBI warned Jewish community leaders that Hezbollah operatives were conducting surveillance on numerous **synagogues and Jewish community centers** for possible terrorist attacks in the United States.
(Source: New York Post, 07/19/06)
 - **October 10, 2006:** Homegrown Islamic militants were convicted of plotting terrorist attacks against prominent **synagogues and other Jewish iconic sites in Los Angeles.** FBI Director Mueller reported that the group was ready to strike when they were brought down. The plot is considered by counterterrorism officials to be the closest to operationalization since 9-11. Of particular concern, the groups' clandestine terrorist activities were discovered serendipitously during a police investigation into a string of gas station robberies that only later were connected to the funding of the terrorist operation.
(Source: Department of Justice Releases, 7/24/08; 12/14/07; International Herald Tribune 10/10/06)
 - **July 28, 2006:** Naveed Haq was found guilty of murder and hate crimes in his second trial for a 2006 **shooting spree at the Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle.** On July 28, 2006, Haq, a Muslim American, attacked the Federation, a center of Jewish communal life and supporter of social welfare, youth and adult education programs. Of the six women he gunned down, one was 17 weeks pregnant and another, Pamela Waechter, died of her wounds. At trial evidence was presented that "he railed against Jews and U.S.-Israeli policies as he opened fire in the Jewish Federation," and that in telephone calls recorded by the King County Jail, Haq told his mother he was "a soldier of Islam."

(Source: Associated Press, 12/15/09; The Seattle Times, 12/15/09; Seattle Post-Intelligencer, 08/06/08; 2008; The Seattle Times, 02/21/08; 07/29/06)

- **May 31, 2005:** Department of Justice convicted an Iraqi-American who had obtained illegal machine guns and **targeted Jewish communal sites in Nashville, Tennessee.**
(Source: Department of Justice Release, 10/08/04; Associated Press, 05/31/05)
- April 13, 2004: Terrorists responsible for the Madrid train bombings in March 2004 also were planning additional attacks on a **Jewish community center outside of Madrid,** home to the largest Jewish population in Spain, according to evidence gathered in the investigation.
(Source: New York Times; CNN.com, 04/13/04)
- November 24, 2002: In a “Letter to America” Osama bin Laden released soon after the 9/11 attacks, to explain his reasoning and intent to justify the attacks, he wrote, “The creation and continuation of Israel is one of the greatest crimes, and you are the leaders of its criminals.” “This is why the American people cannot be innocent of all the crimes committed by the Americans and **Jews** against us.” **The letter also made clear that, to bin Laden, civilian populations,** as with governments, were acceptable (equivalent) targets for retaliation.
(Source: Guardian (UK), 11/24/02; Full text of the letter: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2002/nov/24/theobserver.>)
- **June 3, 2002:** Abdul Rahman Yasin, one of the terrorists in the first attack on the World Trade Center in 1993, revealed in a CBS 60 Minutes interview that the World Trade Center was not the terrorists' original target. Rather, **they initially planned to blow up Jewish neighborhoods** in Brooklyn. But after scouting Crown Heights and Williamsburg, they decided to target the World Trade Center, instead. The reasoning: rather than undertaking multiple small explosions in **Jewish neighborhoods, they figured that one big explosion in the World Trade Center would kill mostly Jews** who they believed made up a majority of the workforce there, according to Yasin’s statements.
(Source: CBS News 06/02/02; Reuters, 06/03/02)
- **January 2, 2002:** Al Qaeda’s training manual, translated by the Associated Press, directed followers **to attack Jewish organizations and institutions in every country Jews exist** and to carry out the attacks in a manner designed to cause mass casualties.
(Source: Associated Press, 02/02/02)

Point of Contact: Rob Goldberg, Senior Director, Legislative Affairs, at:
rob.goldberg@jewishfederations.org.

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