

# Information Sharing & Analysis Center

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## OVER-THE-ROAD-BUS INTELLIGENCE AWARENESS DAILY (OTRBIAD) REPORT

December 3, 2024

### SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY & INCIDENT REPORTS

#### **Woman Shoves Man Onto Brooklyn Subway Tracks In Random Attack**

*1010 WINS, 12/1/2024*

[New York] A woman shoved a subway rider onto the tracks at a Brooklyn subway station on Sunday morning in a random act of violence, police said. The 43-year-old victim was standing on the southbound platform at the Kosciuszko Street station on the border of Bedford-Stuyvesant and Bushwick at about 9 a.m. when he was pushed. Authorities said that the unidentified attacker was wearing a long coat and shoved him onto the J train tracks unprovoked. There was not a train coming, and the victim was able to climb back onto the platform. He was not seriously hurt and authorities took him to NYC Health + Hospitals/Woodhull in stable condition. <https://www.audacy.com/1010wins/news/local/random-attack-woman-shoves-man-onto-brooklyn-subway-tracks>

#### **Police: 17-Year-Old Killed In Shooting Near South Charlotte Light Rail Stop**

*WSOC-TV, 12/2/2024*

[Charlotte, North Carolina] Police in Charlotte are investigating a deadly shooting that happened Sunday night in the parking lot of a light rail stop. According to the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department, officers were called to the area near South Boulevard and Archdale Drive for a reported shooting. The victim was taken to the hospital and died from the shooting, CMPD says. Detectives are still looking into evidence, but no arrests have been announced. "Sometimes the smallest bit of information that may seem irrelevant to somebody --who was driving by in a car-- could be the key to providing justice to this victim and this victim's family," said Maj. Ryan Butler with CMPD. <https://www.wsoc.tv/news/local/police-investigating-deadly-shooting-near-south-charlotte-light-rail-stop/TVND6ZfV75FKDBT7OKSNSBIQYM/>

#### **Gunfire Erupts In Busy NYC Subway Station**

*FOX 5, 12/2/2024*

[Brooklyn, New York] Gunfire erupted in Brooklyn's Borough Hall subway station on Monday afternoon, police said. Police said at 12:03 p.m., two groups of young people got into some kind of dispute near the turnstiles, which was when someone opened fire. At least one shell casing was recovered at the scene. It

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is unclear how many people were involved. No arrests have been made and no injuries have been reported. <https://www.fox5ny.com/news/gunfire-erupts-busy-nyc-subway-station>

## **Man Charged With Arson Over Coach Depot Fire**

*BBC, 12/3/2024*

[United Kingdom] A man has been charged in connection with a suspected arson at a depot that saw multiple coaches and cars catch fire. Firefighters were called to the blaze at the Johnsons Coaches headquarters on Liveridge Hill, Henley-in-Arden, at about 01:40 GMT on Saturday. Christopher White, 29, of Croome Close in Redditch, Worcestershire, was arrested at the scene and has since been charged with arson, not endangering life. He was remanded in custody to next appear before Warwick Crown Court on 6 January, Warwickshire Police said. Five coaches and six cars parked in the vicinity all caught fire during the incident. Johnsons Coaches said in a post on Facebook that it was "actively working" with police and fire services. <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c20nmn38j76o>

## **TERRORISM & EXTREMISM**

### **As Antisemitism On Public Transit Skyrockets, TTC Begg Toronto Police Chief For Help**

*Toronto Sun, 11/28/2024*

[Toronto, Canada] Councillor James Pasternak says Toronto's unchallenged anti-Jewish hatred is damaging the city's worldwide reputation. Toronto's explosion of antisemitism prompted an appeal for help from the head of Toronto's transit system. In a letter from interim TTC CEO Greg Percy to Toronto Police Chief Myron Demkiw, Percy said staff are dealing with a worrying rise in hateful graffiti across the transit system targeting Jewish Torontonians. "We have noticed an exceptionally high concentration of these incidents on our subway trains at terminal stations and along surface routes like College, University and Spadina," Percy wrote in his letter. "Hundreds of customers have expressed frustration about the defacement of local stop poles, shelters and vehicles. We need your help to address these hotspots and take preventative action." <https://torontosun.com/news/local-news/as-antisemitism-on-public-transit-skyrockets-ttc-begs-tps-chief-for-help>

### **Suspected Terrorist From Jordan Arrested At US Northern Border: ICE**

*FOX News, 11/29/2024*

[Lynden, Washington] Federal authorities believe a Jordanian migrant caught trying to enter the U.S. through its northern border is a terrorist, according to ICE Enforcement Removal Operations in Seattle. Mohammed Hasan Abdellatif Albana, 41, was captured near the northern border of Lynden, Washington, the agency said in a Wednesday press release. It is unclear when or where he snuck into the country. A U.S. immigration official identified Albana as a "known or suspected terrorist," the agency said. Albana was sent back to Jordan on November 15 after immigration proceedings, per the agency.

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Border Patrol agents have intercepted 300 migrants whose names appear on the terror watchlist crossing the country's northern and southern borders, per Customs and Border Patrol data.

<https://www.foxnews.com/us/suspected-terrorist-from-jordan-arrested-us-northern-border-ice>

**ANALYST COMMENTARY:** On 14 September 2023, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) issued its annual Homeland Threat Assessment for 2024. Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro N. Mayorkas stated that "Sharing information with the public on the threats we face is a vital part of protecting our homeland from today's evolving security challenges." The annual assessment examined four primary areas: Public Safety and Security, Border and Immigration Security, Critical Infrastructure and Threats to the Economy. Regarding border security, the assessment indicates "As part of the overall increase in migration, we have also encountered a growing number of individuals in the Terrorist Screening Data Set (TSDS), also known as the "watchlist." Inclusion in the TSDS ranges from known associates of watch-listed individuals, such as family members, to individuals directly engaged in terrorist activity." Known or suspected terrorists (KSTs) commonly attempt to enter the U.S. through the northern and southern land borders but are often identified and detained by law enforcement. The Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) web site reports that in 2024, CBP had 2,135,005 total encounters at the southern border and 198,929 encounters at the northern border. Last month, in October of 2025, they had 106,344 encounters at the southern border and 15,361 at the northern border. Of the encounters some people are arrested, refused entry, or expelled for a variety of reasons like being on the terror watchlist. In October 2024, 505 people were detained or expelled at the northern border and 205,134 were detained or expelled at the southern border. Detailed CBP enforcement and encounter statistics can be found at: <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/cbp-enforcement-statistics>

## Houthi Attack US Cargo Ships

*Freight Waves, 12/2/2024*

[Yemen] The American military said its warships fought off attacks by Houthi militia on three U.S.-flagged merchant ships in the Gulf of Aden. Destroyers USS Stockdale and USS O'Kane successfully defeated a range of Houthi-launched weapons while transiting the Gulf of Aden Nov. 30-Dec. 1, according to a statement Monday from United States Central Command (CENTCOM). CENTCOM said the warships were escorting three U.S.-owned, -operated and -flagged merchant ships in the Gulf south of the Red Sea where Houthis have laid siege to commercial shipping they claim is linked to Israel. There were no injuries and no damage to any vessels. <https://www.freightwaves.com/news/houthi-attack-us-cargo-ships>

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## SECURITY & SAFETY AWARENESS

### Passenger Rail Chief To Discuss Possible Station Sites In Palmer

*MASS Live, 12/2/2024*

[Palmer, Massachusetts] MassDOT rail officials will meet with the Palmer community this month to discuss possible locations for a Palmer station on an expanded west-east passenger line. The public meeting will run from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 16, at the Palmer Public Library's community room at 1455 North Main St. Boosters envision Palmer as a park-and-ride location for rail passengers coming to get aboard a train from as far away as Amherst or Stafford, Connecticut — or from Hampden County residents who might want to avoid relying on a stop in downtown Springfield. Planners also hope to connect an expanded rail schedule to the University of Massachusetts Amherst through bus service. <https://www.masslive.com/westernmass/2024/12/passenger-rail-chief-to-discuss-possible-station-sites-in-palmer.html>

### New Report Reveals Half Of NYC Transit Help Point Calls Made During Six Month Period Were Mischief Calls

*Mass Transit, 12/2/2024*

[New York] A new report released by Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) Inspector General Daniel G. Cort revealed the results of an audit of the New York City (NYC) Transit Help Point system, a network of 3,016 intercoms across all 472 subway stations that allow the public to report an emergency or request information and assistance. According to the report, half of the Help Point calls made during a six-month period were deemed mischief calls. The audit also found a significant number of emergency calls were not answered or experienced long delays before being answered. Further, NYC Transit's practice is to answer calls in the order received without prioritizing emergency calls over information calls. Auditors found that NYC Transit was unaware of the extent of these issues. <https://www.masstransitmag.com/safety-security/press-release/55246587/office-of-the-inspector-general-metropolitan-transportation-authority-new-report-reveals-half-of-nyc-transit-help-point-calls-made-during-past-six-months-were-mischief-calls>

**ANALYST COMMENTARY:** New York City Transit has "Help Point" intercoms strategically located at all Transit facilities to enable the public to interact with a person and either request or report information. In recent years, wireless access points and public wi-fi have enabled riders and customers to interact with the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) via their personal devices rather than depending on older technology intercoms. There is also a greater variety of information available through cellular telephones than on the intercom. MTA decided to audit the usage of the Help Point intercoms to determine if they were being utilized effectively and were still cost effective. The MTA Office of the Inspector General (OIG) determined that it appeared the Help Point system was still being used. The OIG report stated that "During a six-month period in 2023, the OIG determined that NYC

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Transit received 140,698 Help Point calls, for an average of 23,450 calls a month. 70% of those calls were on the emergency line and 30% were on the information line. A deeper dive into the calls themselves revealed that 50% of the calls were labeled ‘mischief,’ due to people playing on the intercoms with no real need. 22% of calls were from MTA employees testing the Help Point system. Only 28%, or 39,742 calls over the six-month period were legitimate requests for help or information. The OIG also discovered that 1,198 calls made on the “emergency line” were never answered. 2,762 calls on the information line were not answered. Finally, the OIG determined that there was no triage and emergency calls were handled with the same routine as calls on the information line. The OIG recommended that going forward, the MTA place a priority on emergency calls, work to reduce unnecessary call traffic and reevaluate the continued cost effectiveness and benefit of the Help Point system. The entire audit can be viewed at: <https://mtaig.ny.gov/Reports/2024-11%20NYC%20Transit%20Can%20be%20More%20Responsive%20to%20Help%20Point%20Calls%20by%20Improving%20Operations.pdf>

## CYBERSECURITY

### Managing Transportation Data And Keeping It Safe

*School Transportation News, 11/25/2024*

The New York Times referred to the major IT outage in July involving Microsoft and CrowdStrike as the “glitch felt around the world.” In today’s digital age amid an increased presence of artificial intelligence tools, it’s no surprise that keeping sensitive data safe is a rising concern for the transportation industry. Transportation departments are handling large amounts of data, including but not limited to onboard video camera footage, student ridership verification, telematics, and transportation employee information. With these large amounts of data, it’s also important that districts and vehicle contractors are equipped to effectively use and analyze the data, which could increasingly incorporate the application of AI. <https://stnonline.com/special-reports/managing-transportation-data-and-keeping-it-safe/>

### Russia-Linked APT TAG-110 Uses Targets Europe And Asia

*Security Affairs, 11/25/2024*

Russia-linked threat actors TAG-110 employed custom malware HATVIBE and CHERRYSPY to target organizations in Asia and Europe. Insikt Group researchers uncovered an ongoing cyber-espionage campaign by Russia-linked threat actor TAG-110 that employed custom malware tools HATVIBE and CHERRYSPY. The campaign primarily targeted government entities, human rights groups, and educational institutions in Central Asia, East Asia, and Europe. The researchers pointed out that the campaign’s tactics, techniques and procedures align with the historical operations of UAC-0063, attributed to Russian APT APT28 (aka Fancy Bear, Pawn Storm, Sofacy Group, Sednit, and STRONTIUM). The APT used HATVIBE loader to deliver malware like CHERRYSPY, threat actors often rely on malicious emails or exploited web vulnerabilities. HATVIBE uses obfuscation (e.g., XOR encryption) and persists via scheduled

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tasks with *mshta.exe*. The loader communicates with C2 servers via HTTP PUT, sharing system details.  
<https://securityaffairs.com/171343/apt/tag-110-targets-asia-europe.html>

**ANALYST COMMENTARY:** Insikt Group's discovery of TAG-110's ongoing cyber-espionage campaign emphasizes Russia's continued use of advanced custom malware, such as HATVIBE and CHERRYSPY, to target critical sectors like governments, NGOs, and educational institutions. This campaign reflects a sophisticated strategy typical of APT28 (Fancy Bear), leveraging phishing and vulnerable web services for initial access. HATVIBE, with its use of obfuscation techniques and HTTP PUT communications, facilitates stealthy delivery of CHERRYSPY, a Python-based backdoor capable of encrypted data exfiltration. The alignment of TAG-110's operations with Russia's geopolitical priorities—especially in Central Asia and Eastern Europe—demonstrates the calculated nature of these attacks, supporting intelligence collection for military and strategic objectives. The scale of TAG-110's activity since July 2024, affecting 62 victims across 11 countries, indicates a well-resourced effort to exploit regional instability. The focus on Central Asia highlights Moscow's intent to maintain influence in post-Soviet states amid strained global relations due to the Ukraine conflict. The campaign's integration of tools like LOGPIE and STILLARCH further broadens its capability to harvest sensitive information. For defenders, the inclusion of IoCs, Snort, and Yara rules in the report provides actionable intelligence to mitigate these threats, underscoring the importance of proactive monitoring and hardening email and web-facing systems against exploitation. Organizations in targeted regions should prioritize patching vulnerabilities and educating users about phishing risks to counter this persistent and evolving threat.

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