



Monday, March 28, 2022

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY AND INCIDENT REPORTS

No significant suspicious activity or incidents to report.

TERRORISM

The Islamic State Claims Responsibility for the Deaths of 2 People in Central Israel

NPR, 3/28/2022

The militant Islamic State group claimed responsibility on Monday after a pair of Arab gunmen killed two people and wounded four in central Israel before they were killed by police. The two killed in the Sunday night attack were Israeli police officers, authorities said. It was the second deadly attack carried out by Arab assailants in an Israeli city in less than a week ahead of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. On Tuesday, a lone attacker inspired by the Islamic State group killed four people in a stabbing rampage in southern Israel before he was killed by passersby, police said. The attacks threatened to cast a shadow over a gathering of foreign ministers in the Negev desert, where the Iranian nuclear deal was expected to top the agenda. Prime Minister Naftali Bennett rushed to the scene of the shootings late Sunday. The Islamic State group in a posting on its Amaq news agency claims responsibility for the attack, saying two IS members killed two Israeli security forces. "The heart is broken" by the attacks, Bennett said Monday. The Israeli premier issued the statement from home, after testing positive for the coronavirus. He urged people to be vigilant. Police were expected to set up checkpoints on major roads Tuesday. Ramadan is expected to begin on Saturday. Last year, clashes between Israeli police and Muslim protesters during the holy month boiled over into an 11-day war between Israel and Gaza's Hamas rulers. <https://www.npr.org/2022/03/28/1089119810/islamic-state-claims-killing-of-2-by-gunmen-in-israels-hadera>

Additional Source: Global Terrorism Index 2022, Institute for Economics & Peace <https://www.visionofhumanity.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/GTI-2022-web.pdf>

ANALYST COMMENTARY: *The Islamic State Group (ISG) has claimed responsibility for a terrorist attack that occurred in Israel over the weekend, injuring four and killing two. The shooting occurred Sunday night at a bus stop in Hadera, a city in northern Israel. BBC News stated that the attackers were "two Israeli Arab gunmen". The two individuals killed in the attack were police officers. This incident comes after a stabbing in Beersheba, Israel last week that killed four. In that incident, press reports stated that the assailant had previously been in prison for connection to the ISG. This has not been confirmed by Israeli authorities and the ISG has not claimed responsibility for that attack. BBC News explained that ISG-motivated attacks in Israel are relatively rare, with the last occurring in June 2017. The U.S. State Department stated in their 2020 Country Reports on Terrorism, released in late 2021, that Israel faces a terrorism threat from Hezbollah and other Iran-backed groups, Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, and the ISG's affiliate in the Egyptian Sinai Province (IS-Sinai). The Global Terrorism Index (GTI) reported that IS-Sinai has been operation since 2013, with 1,717 total deaths attributed to the group.*

Trial to Begin in [ISG] Killings of U.S. Journalists, Aid Workers

The Washington Post, 3/27/2022

The only trial in U.S. court for a member of an infamous terrorist cell is set to begin Tuesday, as El Shafee Elsheikh stands accused of taking part in the capture and murder of journalists and aid workers by the Islamic State. Elsheikh, 33, was one of four ISIS militants who traveled to Syria from London and whose British accents led prisoners of the terrorist group to label them the "Beatles." Some of those prisoners were released in exchange for ransom money from foreign governments. When countries would not pay, their hostages were slain — some beheaded on videos that were broadcast around the world. He is in federal court in Alexandria because of the deaths of four Americans who were reporting on or supporting victims of the Syrian civil war — journalists James Foley and Steven Sotloff and aid workers Peter Kassig and Kayla Mueller. Prosecutors say he is also implicated in the deaths of British, Japanese and Norwegian captives.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/dc-md-va/2022/03/27/elsheikh-trial-islamic-state-hostages/>



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SECURITY & SAFETY AWARENESS

Construction Worker Killed in Partial Collapse of Boston Parking Garage

CBS News, 3/27/2022

A construction worker was killed while working on the demolition of the Government Center Parking Garage in Boston on Saturday, officials said. The worker suffered a "substantial fall" when part of the parking garage collapsed, Boston Fire Commissioner Jack Dempsey said Saturday night. The worker was identified as 51-year-old Peter Monsini, CBS Boston reports. Monsini was working to prepare the parking garage for demolition. The cause of the collapse and the fall have not yet been determined, officials said Saturday night. Monsini was operating a piece of machinery prior to the collapse, which one official on Saturday night referred to as a crane. Boston Police Captain Kelley McCormick said Saturday night that Monsini fell "approximately eight to nine stories." McCormick clarified that the crane that was believed to have fallen was a "smaller" worker crane and not one of the large yellow cranes that could still be seen standing Saturday night. Dempsey said Saturday that he believes the rest of the building is stable, but he was waiting for a structural engineer to make an assessment. "Any building being demolished is a dangerous scene," Dempsey said. "Probably more dangerous than when they're putting them up." <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/boston-parking-garage-collapse-peter-monsini-killed/>

ANALYST COMMENTARY: *One individual has died after a crane and a parking garage partially collapsed in Boston over the weekend. The incident occurred at 1 Congress Street in Boston shortly after 5:30 p.m. on Saturday. News reports indicate that the garage collapsed while undergoing construction. John Moriarty & Associates, a construction firm, stated that the collapse occurred "when a concrete slab on the ninth floor on the east side of the Haymarket Garage collapsed onto the eighth floor". The construction worker killed was identified as 51-year-old Peter Monsini. The incident is being investigated by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and the Suffolk District Attorney's Office, according to NBC Boston. Multiple roads were closed following the incident. Boston's Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) stated this morning that both the Green and Orange lines remain impacted by the incident; "following Saturday's tragedy during the Government Center Garage demolition, T engineers are inspecting the tunnels below to ensure the integrity of our infrastructure before we allow service to safely resume in the area". The Orange Line is suspended between the North Station and Back Bay stops and the Green Line is suspended between North Station and Government Center. Shuttle buses are replacing these suspended services.*

Subway Conductor Struck in Face with Object in Lower Manhattan

ABC7, 3/28/2022

Police are searching for suspects after an MTA conductor got hit in the face with an object in Lower Manhattan. It happened about 4:30 p.m. Sunday at the Canal Street station. Police say someone threw a rubber object at the conductor as the doors of a Q train opened. The conductor reported what happened once the train reached the end of the line at 96th Street. He did not suffer visible injuries but he went to the hospital for a checkup.

<https://abc7ny.com/subway-crime-conductor-struck-mta-assaulted-assault/11687020/>

Trucking Company Facility in Suffolk Evacuated After Receiving Bomb Threat

WAVY10, 3/27/2022

A trucking company facility in Suffolk was evacuated Sunday afternoon after authorities received a bomb threat. According to Suffolk Police, the initial threat was received by Newport News police dispatch around 3:55 p.m. Sunday at California Cartage Co. in Suffolk. Newport News officials immediately notified Suffolk Emergency Communications. A preliminary investigation revealed that the unknown caller told authorities that "multiple devices were set to detonate" at 5 p.m. Emergency response officials were called including the Virginia State Police Area 5 K-9 Division. The facility was evacuated until it was cleared by the K-9 Division. The occupants were allowed to return to the building at 6:15 p.m. Police say the incident is still under investigation.

<https://www.wavy.com/news/local-news/suffolk/suffolk-trucking-company-building-evacuated-after-receiving-bomb-threat/>



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Car Slams into Oregon Homeless Encampment, Killing Four and Injuring Three

CBS News, 3/28/2022

A driver crashed a car into a homeless encampment in Salem, Oregon, early Sunday morning, killing four people and injuring three more, including the driver, authorities said. Police arrested Enrique Rodriguez Jr., 24, on Sunday evening. Rodriguez was charged with four counts of first-degree manslaughter, second and third-degree assault and six counts of reckless endangerment. In a statement, authorities said the Salem Police Traffic Team believes "alcohol may have been a contributing factor" in the crash. It wasn't immediately clear whether Rodriguez had retained an attorney. Nathan Rose tells the Salem Statesman Journal that he and his girlfriend were in their tent when they heard two loud thuds. The car just missed their tent, Rose said. Rose said he saw some of his friends pinned under the car and called 911. He said he helped pull one person from under the car but witnesses were unable to help the others. "From there, it was just chaos," Rose told the newspaper. <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/homeless-encampment-oregon-dealy-car-crash/>

ANALYST COMMENTARY: At least four people have been killed after a driver drove into a homeless encampment in Salem, Oregon. Enrique Rodriguez Jr., 24, was charged with four counts of first-degree manslaughter, one count of second-degree assault, one count of third-degree assault, and six counts of reckless endangerment. Rodriguez was also hospitalized after the incident. Police stated that Rodriguez might have been under the influence of alcohol at the time of the incident and confirmed he was the only one in the vehicle. The incident occurred at approximately 2:00 a.m. Sunday morning. The Salem Mayor, Chuck Bennett, stated that the encampment had been set up two weeks ago and was scheduled to be cleared this week as it was on State Department of Transportation property. This incident comes after a similar one last year when a man drove his vehicle into a homeless encampment in San Diego, killing three. The driver in that incident was also under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol.

Ukraine and Russia Prepare for Talks in Turkey as Russian Missiles Hit Cities

The Wall Street Journal, 3/28/2022

Russian forces fired a volley of missiles at several cities across Ukraine overnight as negotiators prepared to hold face-to-face talks to end more than a month of war. Russian missiles struck the Ukrainian capital, Kyiv, as well as the cities of Kharkiv, Lutsk, Rivne and Zhytomyr, according to Ukrainian officials. Russian forces continued to try to push toward Kyiv from the east and northwest, attempting to control key roadways. Ukraine's Emergencies Ministry said the strike on Lutsk hit fuel-storage facilities and authorities were still trying to extinguish the blaze. The head of the provincial military administration, Yuriy Pohuliako, said the attack had been carried out with cruise missiles launched from neighboring Belarus. There were no immediate details about casualties. Meanwhile, Russian negotiators were due to arrive in Istanbul late on Monday, followed by a Ukrainian delegation during the night, for cease-fire talks scheduled for Tuesday morning. The office of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said he urged Russian President Vladimir Putin in a phone call Sunday to accept a cease-fire with Ukraine.

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/ukraine-and-russia-prepare-for-talks-in-turkey-as-russian-missiles-hit-cities-11648464333>

CTA Worker Who Allegedly Shot Man at Red Line Station Faces Attempted Murder Charge

NBC Chicago, 3/27/2022

A Chicago Transit Authority employee who allegedly shot a man at a Red Line station on Saturday morning is now facing charges of attempted murder in connection with the incident, Chicago police say. According to authorities, 53-year-old Sylvester Adams is facing two felony charges, including one for attempted murder, in connection with the shooting, which took place at approximately 2 a.m. at the 95th Street Red Line station. Police say that Adams, a CTA customer assistant, got into an argument and then a physical altercation with Jeremy Begay. During that altercation, Adams opened fire, striking Begay three times. He was rushed to an area hospital, where he is still being treated for his injuries. Video of the incident has begun circulating on social media, and Begay's family says that they want answers as to why the altercation escalated so quickly. "My brother clearly in the video shows him trying to talk off," Begay's sister Francena Bischoff said. "But he (Adams) is pursuing and then my brother walks off and (he) follows him when he's already down the escalator."

<https://www.nbcchicago.com/news/local/cta-worker-who-allegedly-shot-man-at-red-line-station-faces-attempted-murder-charge/2792988/>



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The FDA is Expected to Authorize 2nd Boosters for People 50 and Up

NPR, 3/27/2022

Anyone 50 years and older could soon be eligible for a second booster dose of the Moderna or Pfizer-BioNtech COVID-19 vaccine. The Food and Drug Administration is expected to authorize the additional booster shots without holding a meeting of its independent vaccine advisors. The plan comes as evidence increases that protection from three shots is fading and a fourth shot would help boost immunity back up. And as BA.2, an even more contagious version of the omicron variant, continues to spread in the U.S., concern is mounting it could fuel another surge. "We have a large number of people who are at least four to six months past their third shot," says Dr. Eric Topol, founder and director of the Scripps Research Translational Institute, who supports the move. "Without protection against the omicron variant, particularly now we're confronting BA.2, there's a very high risk of hospitalization and death," he says. But others question the plan. The vaccines are still doing a good job of protecting people from getting seriously ill. Critics say there just isn't enough evidence yet that another shot is needed and that it would provide stronger protection that would last.

<https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2022/03/27/1089072803/the-fda-is-expected-to-authorize-2nd-boosters-for-people-50-and-up>

Bad News for Metro: No Quick Fix for 7000-Series, Silver Line Opening Delayed Again

NPR, 3/25/2022

Metro delivered two major news items Thursday that rail riders won't want to hear. The transit agency says it has no quick fix for the beleaguered 7000-series trains. They've been out of service since an October derailment and that has meant reduced service across the system for five months — that's expected to continue through summer. It has also proposed a plan to gradually bring the trains back with daily inspections paired with ongoing in-track monitoring. Meanwhile, the extension of the Silver Line to Dulles Airport and Ashburn will not open before July 1, missing yet another target. The problems ailing the wheels of the 7000-series trains, which make up 60% of the fleet, are multi-faceted and have no "near term solution," General Manager Paul Wiedefeld said during Thursday's board meeting. Metro will attempt to bring back eight more of the older 6000-series trains by May, which is expected to help with reliability and add more trains on the crowded Yellow and Green lines, bringing service levels to every 15 minutes instead of every 20 minutes.

<https://www.npr.org/local/305/2022/03/25/1088752223/bad-news-for-metro-no-quick-fix-for-7000-series-silver-line-opening-delayed-again>

Denver RTD Implementing Security Measures at Union Station Bus Concourse to Thwart Unwanted Activities

Mass Transit Magazine, 3/25/2022

A timeline for implementation of enhanced security measures at the Denver Union Station (DUS) bus concourse was outlined by Denver Regional Transportation District (RTD) General Manager and CEO Debra A. Johnson. RTD is collaborating with the city and county of Denver, Denver Police Department and local stakeholders on a Reclaiming Union Station steering committee to address unwanted behaviors in the bus concourse and surrounding area. The facility has become a site for illegal activities including the sale and use of illegal drugs, and the violence and criminal behavior this activity invites. RTD says the situation is increasingly unsafe for customers, employees, businesses and neighbors.

<https://www.masstransitmag.com/safety-security/press-release/21261795/regional-transportation-district-rtd-denver-rtd-implementing-security-measures-at-union-station-bus-concourse-to-thwart-unwanted-activities>

Colorado Wildfire Scorches Nearly 190 Acres and Prompts Evacuations

The New York Times, 3/27/2022

A fire near Boulder, Colo., that had burned nearly 190 acres as of Sunday morning prompted the authorities to evacuate 19,000 people over the weekend, officials said. About 1,600 people and nearly 700 homes remained in an evacuation zone on Sunday. The wind-fueled wildfire, which was named the NCAR fire because it started near the National Center for Atmospheric Research, was 21 percent contained, the authorities said at a news conference on Sunday. No damage or injuries were reported. More than 200 firefighters were in the air and on the ground trying to keep the fire away from neighborhoods. "We're going to continue to try and corral this fire up into the rocks, into the snow, which is really one of our big holding features right now, and one of the reasons that we're having really, again, good success," Michael Smith, the incident commander in Boulder County, said on Sunday. The cause of the wildfire, which began at about 2 p.m. local



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time on Saturday, was unclear. Investigators identified the origin area near Bear Creek Canyon on Sunday, officials said.
<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/03/27/us/boulder-fire-ncar.html>

CYBER SECURITY

Ransomware Attacks Soar by 100% in 2021

Infosecurity Magazine, 3/28/2022

The number of ransomware attacks reported to the UK's data protection regulator more than doubled between 2020 and 2021 as the pandemic raged, according to a new analysis. The study from international law firm RPC found that the number of incidents handled by the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) rose from 326 in 2020 to 654 in 2021. The verticals most frequently impacted by attacks in 2021 were: finance, insurance and credit (103), and education and childcare (80). Organizations that handle sensitive financial data are most at risk of being singled out by ransomware threat actors, RPC warned. <https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/news/ransomware-attacks-soar-100-2021/>

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