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

December 2, 2024

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY & INCIDENT REPORTS

Man Dies After Getting Run Over By 2 Buses While Crossing Street Near LAX

ABC7, 11/30/2024

[Los Angeles, California] A man in his 30s was killed after getting hit and run over by a bus near LAX. Los Angeles police responded to a call around 10:30 p.m. Friday in the 5800 block of Century Boulevard. LAPD said the man, approximately 35 years old, was crossing Century at an unmarked crosswalk when a bus hit him. While waiting for help to arrive, he was hit by a second bus. The victim was taken to the hospital where he was pronounced dead. His identity has not been released. Both bus drivers stayed to cooperate with investigators. No further details were immediately known. <https://abc7.com/post/man-dies-after-getting-run-over-by-2-buses-near-lax/15607705/>

A Bus Crashed Near A Ski Resort In Southern France Killing 2 People And Injuring At Least 33

ABC, 12/1/2024

[France] A bus crashed Sunday evening near a ski resort in the Pyrenees mountains in southern France, killing at least two people and injuring 33 others, local authorities said. A total of 47 people including the driver were on the bus when it crashed near the ski resort of Porte-Puymorens, the regional administration said. Seven people were in critical condition. Local authorities said a preliminary investigation showed the bus ran into a cliff, but the exact circumstances were not immediately clear. Images released by the local firefighter service showed the bus pressed against the side of a cliff, its right side partially crushed and windshield apparently knocked out. More than 120 individuals were involved in the rescue effort, including from neighboring Catalonia in Spain and Andorra. Helicopters were also deployed. ... The injured were evacuated to French hospitals in Toulouse, Perpignan and Foix and Puigcerda in Catalonia, local authorities said. <https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/bus-crashed-ski-resort-france-killing-2-people-116356319>

71-Year-Old Man Stabbed During Altercation On Metro Bus In Seattle

KIRO 7, 12/1/2024

[Seattle, Washington] A reported stabbing aboard a Metro coach near 5th Avenue and Wall Street in Seattle on Sunday turned out to be a minor altercation, according to the King County Sheriff's Office. Authorities said deputies and Seattle police officers responded to the incident around 4:30 p.m., initially

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reported as a fight that escalated to a stabbing. When they arrived, officers found two adult males with minor injuries sustained during a mutual scuffle. According to on-scene supervisors, neither man wanted to cooperate with the investigation or pursue criminal charges. Both were treated at the scene and declined transportation to the hospital. They were released shortly after and went their separate ways. ... The incident did not result in any injuries to other passengers or the bus driver. What initially appeared to be a serious event was ultimately deemed relatively minor, officials said.

<https://www.kiro7.com/news/local/71-year-old-man-stabbed-during-altercation-metro-bus-seattle/XM7OWIYLMFD2NEKPZ2YXGEGFWM/>

Shooting At GoRaleigh Bus Station Leaves One Man Injured, Police Investigation Underway *WRAL, 12/1/2024*

[Raleigh, North Carolina] Police are investigating a shooting at the GoRaleigh Bus Station on Sunday that left one person injured. Authorities say the incident happened at 214 S. Blount Street shortly before 5 p.m. A man was found with a gunshot wound to his leg and was taken to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. "Our officers, while they were patrolling, heard a cracked sound that could have been a gunshot from a small caliber weapon," Chief Roy Taylor said. Roy Taylor serves as the Chief of Capitol Special Police, an armed security company that has assisted the Raleigh Police Department in patrolling the bus station over the past year. "No one really knew what was happening or where the noise was coming from," Taylor said. Unfortunately, crime in the area is not uncommon.

<https://www.wral.com/news/local/shooting-goraleigh-bus-station-raleigh-november-2024/>

Man Shot On MTA Bus Saturday On Baltimore's South Eutaw Street, Dies At Hospital *WRAL, 12/1/2024*

[Baltimore, Maryland] The Baltimore Police Department released a photo of a person of interest after a man was fatally shot Saturday on an MTA bus in downtown Baltimore's westside. City police said officers were called around 2 p.m. Saturday to the intersection of South Eutaw Street and West Baltimore Street for a report of a shooting. "It's scary. It's very scary," Bessie Dennis, who rides the MTA bus almost daily, said. "That's the sad part. Everybody gets hurt, during the holidays, you never know who's going to get hurt." Police said officers found a man suffering from apparent gunshot wounds. He was taken to a hospital, where he died. Just before 6:20 p.m. Saturday, police confirmed the man was shot on the bus.

<https://www.wbaltv.com/article/south-eutaw-street-baltimore-fatal-shooting-november-30-2024/63058185>

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TERRORISM & EXTREMISM

Hamas Terrorist Opens Fire At Israeli Civilian Bus In West Bank; 8 Wounded, 3 Seriously

Times of Israel, 11/29/2024

[West Bank] At least eight people were wounded, three of them seriously, when a Hamas terrorist opened fire at a civilian bus near the West Bank settlement of Ariel on Friday. The assailant was shot dead by security forces. According to the Magen David Adom ambulance service, four people were hit by gunfire, including three in serious condition and one in moderate condition. Another four people were lightly wounded by broken glass, MDA said. The military said that four of the wounded were soldiers and all were lightly injured. Hebrew media outlets reported that one of those seriously wounded in the attack was the bus driver, Hassan Elsachen. The Al-Qassam Brigades, Hamas's military wing, claimed responsibility for the shooting, naming the gunman as Samir Muhammad Ahmad Hussein, 46, from the village of Einabus near Nablus. Hussein was a member of the Brigades, Hamas said.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/hamas-terrorist-opens-fire-on-civilian-bus-in-west-bank-8-wounded-3-seriously/>

ANALYST COMMENTARY: Harakat al-Muqawama al-Islamiyya (HAMAS) is the most capable militant group in the Palestinian territories. The Iranian-backed organization primarily operates in the Gaza Strip but maintains a presence in the West Bank, Lebanon, Egypt, Qatar, and Turkey as well. Since its emergence during the First Palestinian Intifada ("uprising") in 1987, dozens of nations and supranational unions, including the U.S., the European Union (EU), the United Kingdom (UK), and Israel, have designated Hamas a terrorist organization. To advance its goals, HAMAS regularly employs suicide tactics, vehicle ramming, Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), short- and long-range rockets and mortars, small arms, Rocket-propelled Grenades (RPGs), Man-portable Air-Defense Systems (MANPADS), antitank missiles, unmanned aircraft systems, kidnap and ransom operations, and an extensive tunnel system against civilian and military targets. The organization regularly targets or employs transportation infrastructure. Recent transportation-specific incidents claimed or praised by Hamas include a truck ramming targeting a bus stop in Tel Aviv that killed one person and injured 30 more on 27 October 2024 and a combined shooting and stabbing attack in Tel Aviv on a stopped rail car and surrounding streets near a light rail station on 1 October 2024 that killed seven people and injured 16 more.

Three Men Charged In Sweden With Preparation Of IS-Linked Terrorist Crime

Reuters, 12/2/2024

[London, England] Swedish prosecutors on Monday charged three men with preparation of terrorist crime in Sweden in the name of Islamic State (IS), saying the suspects also had links to domestic organized crime in the Nordic country. In a statement, the Swedish Prosecution Authority said it had also charged the three, and a fourth person, with being members of a terrorist organization, and that the suspected crimes took place between September 2023 and March 2024. The four - all Swedish

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citizens - were detained in March in the Stockholm area following an extensive investigation, police said at the time. Prosecutors said the three men charged with preparation of terrorist crime had intended to kill or injure others, but did not disclose a specific target in the indictment. "The aim of the act has been to, in the name of IS, instill fear in a population or population group and/or seriously destabilize or destroy fundamental political, constitutional, economic or social structures in Sweden," the indictment said. ... It said one of the suspects had sworn allegiance to IS and actively searched for underage perpetrators who could carry out attacks. <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/three-persons-charged-sweden-with-preparation-is-linked-terrorist-crime-2024-12-02/>

ANALYST COMMENTARY: In March 2024, Sweden's Security Service, which is somewhat similar to the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), arrested four people near Stockholm, Sweden on suspicion of preparing violent "terrorist offenses." The individuals had been under investigation for months and were suspected of having links to the Islamic State Group (ISG) and "connections to serious organized crime." On 2 December 2024, Swedish prosecutors announced that three of the individuals had been charged with preparing to commit a terrorist offense, and that all four of the individuals had been charged with being members of a terrorist organization and firearms offenses. It is unclear what exact target the individuals planned to attack; however, the indictment claims that prior to their arrest, the accused received instructions from ISG members in Somalia to "kill as many infidels as possible, with Jewish targets as the main targets." During the investigation, Swedish law enforcement intercepted communications between the accused in which they discussed recruiting minors to conduct suicide attacks, and discussed attacking "the government, police, intelligence agency, (and) synagogues, in order to harm the government and society as much as possible." The accused also obtained at least one firearm and an electric stun gun from an organized crime group operating within Sweden and had ties to other "people being investigated for terrorism abroad."

SECURITY & SAFETY AWARENESS

MARTA Deploys Zonar Technology To Enhance Safety Of Bus Fleet

Mass Transit Magazine, 11/27/2024

[Atlanta, Georgia] The Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA) has deployed the Zonar Electronic Verified Inspection Reporting (EVIR®) system and Zonar Ground Traffic Control® to enhance the safety, reliability and efficiency of its bus fleet. To reduce the cost of passenger trips, MARTA is working with Zonar to limit the frequency of breakdowns, lower operational costs and increase ridership to target levels post-COVID-19 pandemic. Zonar notes that by leveraging EVIR inspection reports, trip data and Ground Traffic Control platform, MARTA identified that longer buses could not fit through narrow openings or cleanly complete tight turns, resulting in sideswipes. Collaborating with Zonar, MARTA analyzed and optimized route planning to ensure appropriate bus sizes for each route, reducing

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maintenance and repair costs due to fewer vehicle damages. <https://www.masstransitmag.com/safety-security/press-release/55246293/zonar-marta-deploys-zonar-technology-to-enhance-safety-of-bus-fleet>

Trump Transition Says Cabinet Picks, Appointees Were Targeted By Bomb Threats, Swatting Attacks *Associated Press, 11/27/2024*

A number of President-elect Donald Trump 's most prominent Cabinet picks and appointees have been targeted by bomb threats and "swatting attacks," Trump's transition team said Wednesday. The FBI said it was investigating. "Last night and this morning, several of President Trump's Cabinet nominees and Administration appointees were targeted in violent, unAmerican threats to their lives and those who live with them," Trump transition spokesperson Karoline Leavitt said in a statement. The attacks ranged from bomb threats to swatting, in which attackers initiate an emergency law enforcement response against a target victim under false pretenses, she said. The tactic has become a popular one in recent years. Leavitt said law enforcement and other authorities acted quickly to ensure the safety of those who were targeted and Trump and his transition team are grateful. <https://apnews.com/article/trump-transition-bomb-threats-swatting-0a7f2166087f7c455cbba5b717dae439>

ANALYST COMMENTARY: On 26 and 27 November 2024, several of President-elect Donald Trump's Cabinet nominees were reportedly targeted with fake bomb-threats and swatting attempts across multiple states. No injuries were reported stemming from any of the incidents, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) is investigating the incidents alongside local law enforcement. On 28 November 2024, at least seven Democrat law makers were also reportedly targeted with fake bomb-threats and swatting attempts, with the victims' being alerted online via email and social media that bombs had been placed in their mailboxes. According to House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, the bomb threats to the Democrat lawmakers were all signed 'MAGA'. The U.S. Capitol Police are investigating the 28 November incident in conjunction with local police, though they have declined to comment on any potential suspects or motives. In January 2024, the U.S. Capitol Police claimed that they had investigated over 8,000 "concerning statements and direct threats" to Members of Congress in 2023, which was an increase from the 7,500 in 2022. Last year, there was a spike in swatting attempts perpetrated against U.S. political figures during the holiday, with approximately 29 instances recorded between 25 December 2023 and 11 January 2024. The subsequent investigation found that two individuals residing in Serbia and Romania were behind the threats, and that the men had targeted 61 public officials and 40 private individuals in the U.S. since December 2020. The two men, Thomasz Szabo, age 26, and Nemanja Radovanovic, age 21, were charged in August 24 on a slew of felony charges, and Szabo was arrested shortly after the charges were announced.

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Houthi Fire Barrage Of Missiles At US War And Supply Ship Convoy In Gulf Of Aden

Trade Winds, 12/1/2024

Yemen's Houthi rebels fired several missiles and drones against two US Navy destroyers and three US supply ships transiting the Gulf of Aden on Sunday. The attack shows that the group sees no reason to halt its year-long campaign against Western shipping in the Red Sea, even after a ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah in Lebanon. The action also provides further proof that the rebels' potential to carry out attacks against shipping in the area remains undiminished, despite repeated US claims to be degrading it with airstrikes. Houthi military spokesman Yahya Saree named the three supply ships as the 2,500-teu boxship Maersk Saratoga (built 2004), 49,700-dwt MR2 tanker Stena Impeccable (built 2017) and 50,600-dwt supramax bulker Liberty Grace (built 2001). "The Yemeni Armed Forces will continue to carry out their military operations at an escalating pace in the declared maritime operations zone against the Israeli and American enemy and it will not stop except by stopping the aggression and lifting the siege on the Gaza Strip," Saree said on Sunday. <https://www.tradewindsnews.com/casualties/houthi-fire-barrage-of-missiles-at-us-war-and-supply-ship-convoy-in-gulf-of-aden/2-1-1746823>

CYBERSECURITY

Hackers Abuse Avast Anti-Rootkit Driver To Disable Defenses

Bleeping Computer, 11/23/2024

A new malicious campaign is using a legitimate but old and vulnerable Avast Anti-Rootkit driver to evade detection and take control of the target system by disabling security components. The malware that drops the driver is a variant of an AV Killer of no particular family. It comes with a hardcoded list of 142 names for security processes from various vendors. Since the driver can operate at kernel level, it provides access to critical parts of the operating system and allows the malware to terminate processes. Security researchers at cybersecurity company Trellix recently discovered a new attack that leverages the bring-your-own-vulnerable-driver (BYOVD) approach with an old version of the anti-rootkit driver to stop security products on a targeted system. They explain that a piece a piece of malware with the file name kill-floor.exe drops the vulnerable driver with the file name ntfs.bin in the default Windows user folder. Next, the malware creates the service 'aswArPot.sys' using the Service Control (sc.exe) and registers the driver. <https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/hackers-abuse-avast-anti-rootkit-driver-to-disable-defenses/>

ANALYST COMMENTARY: This malicious campaign shows us the persistent risk of ****Bring Your Own Vulnerable Driver (BYOVD)**** attacks, where attackers exploit outdated, legitimate drivers to gain kernel-level access and bypass security. By using an old Avast Anti-Rootkit driver, this malware disables security products, allowing it to operate undetected. The attack chain demonstrates sophistication, leveraging the 'DeviceIoControl' API to issue IOCTL commands that terminate 142 hardcoded security processes, affecting major vendors like Microsoft, Symantec, and SentinelOne.

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Despite the vulnerability being patched in 2021, the persistence of the driver in some systems illustrates the importance of patch management and proactive defenses. To mitigate these risks, organizations should enforce kernel-mode driver signing and implement solutions like Microsoft's vulnerable driver blocklist, enabled by default in Windows 11 2022. Tools such as Trellix's recommended rules to detect suspicious driver usage can further bolster defenses. This incident also underlines the need for layered security; relying solely on endpoint protection is insufficient when attackers exploit weaknesses at the kernel level. Regular audits, driver inventory management, and prompt updates to both operating systems and third-party software are critical to closing these gaps. Avast's clarification that this issue was resolved in 2021 reflects their proactive remediation, but the broader trend of BYOVD attacks underscores the ongoing challenge of addressing legacy vulnerabilities exploited by modern threats. Organizations must stay vigilant, as attackers continue to weaponize even well-known security gaps.

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