



Statement of
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United States House of Representatives
Committee on Homeland Security
Subcommittee on Counterterrorism and Intelligence
“The Rise of Anti-Israel Extremist Groups and Their Threat to U.S.
National Security”
Wednesday, June 11, 2025

Dear Chairman Pfluger, Ranking Member Magaziner, and Members of the Subcommittee.

My name is Kerry Sleeper, and I currently serve as the Secure Community Network (SCN) 's deputy director of intelligence and information sharing. I oversee SCN's 24/7 Jewish Security Operations Command Center and lead our intelligence coordination efforts with federal, state, and local law enforcement, as well as Jewish communal security partners.

Prior to my role at SCN, I served as a Deputy Assistant Director and then Assistant Director for the FBI for seven years. My primary role was to enhance the sharing of counterterrorism threat intelligence between the FBI and its many partners. Prior to that, I served 30 years with the Vermont State Police, retiring as the Commissioner of Public Safety and State Homeland Security Advisor.

SCN was founded in 2004 under the auspices of The Jewish Federations of North America and the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations. SCN supports the safety of Jewish communities across North America. We work with 50 national Jewish partner organizations, 146 Jewish Federations, and more than 350 independent communities, in addition to hundreds of law enforcement organizations and the multifaith community, fostering security collaboration across public, private, nonprofit, and academic sectors.

I sincerely appreciate your invitation to testify on this critical matter. America's Jewish community is under attack, and we need to take decisive action to save lives and mitigate the escalating threats. My

esteemed colleague from ADL has provided you with the data to allow you to understand the scope of the threat we face from anti-Israeli extremist groups. What I would like to do now is describe how we at SCN, working with key partners, assess, manage, and mitigate the threat.

Analysts at SCN's Jewish Security Operations Center work tirelessly to identify, analyze, and communicate Threats to Life (TTLs) found online. TTLs are defined as threats to kill or maim a victim, with the perpetrator being assessed to have the intent and capability to carry out the threat. Our well-trained and talented analysts utilize state-of-the-art technology and keyword algorithms to search the surface, deep, and dark web for threats specifically targeting the Jewish/Israeli community.

Last year, SCN analysts identified approximately 500 TTLs that they shared with the FBI's National Threat Operations Center via an API (Application Programming Interface). The privileged API connection to the FBI enables real-time transfer of high-priority threat intelligence, allowing for rapid mitigation by the FBI. This year, SCN is on track to surpass 700 TTLs, a 40% increase, reflecting both the rising threat environment and the operational demand placed on our analysts and infrastructure. Our capability to protect the Jewish community is greatly enhanced by our working relationship with the FBI at both the Headquarters and Field Office levels.

SCN's comprehensive threat management process for TTLs is intentionally redundant to ensure maximum situational awareness. When our analysts can identify a named subject and/or location, we simultaneously notify the FBI, DHS, the appropriate state fusion

center, local law enforcement, as well as the appropriate Jewish Security Director or Regional Director in that area of responsibility. This multi-channeled alerting mechanism ensures comprehensive coordination across jurisdictions and agencies, and that mitigation efforts can begin immediately.

Even these efforts illustrate only a portion of the threats facing the Jewish community. Following the 21 May shooting outside the Capitol Jewish Museum in DC, SCN analysts identified approximately 6,000 violent threats targeting the Jewish community posted on social media in just a one-week period.

SCN has issued strategic warnings for over a year that the war in Gaza would have serious domestic implications, including a surge in anti-Israeli, anti-Jewish, and antisemitic attacks, many of which have now materialized as our analysts had warned. Our analysts assessed that as the conflict continued, Jewish and Israeli communities in the U.S. would face elevated threat levels from pro-Palestinian or anti-Israeli violent extremists. Over the past 20 months, every analytic brief SCN has produced has warned of this rising threat, exacerbated by online incitement from Iranian linked groups and designated foreign terrorist organizations such as Hamas, Hezbollah, and ISIS, which have promoted and justified violence against Jewish civilians globally under the banner of retaliation for Israel's military action in Gaza.

Multiple recent attacks, each with unique perpetrators, nonetheless shared the same ideological trigger, rage against Israel's military actions in Gaza channeled into violence against visibly Jewish targets domestically. The April 13 arson attack on Pennsylvania

Governor Josh Shapiro's residence in Harrisburg by Cody Balmer, the murder of Yaron Lischinsky and Sarah Milgrim by Elias Rodriguez outside the Capitol Jewish Museum on May 21, and the June 1 firebombing attack at a rally to remember Israeli hostages by Mohammed Soliman all reflect this pattern. Each attacker framed their actions as retaliation for Israel's military actions in Gaza.

These acts did not occur in a vacuum. Across these cases, SCN analysts identified online praise, glorification, and calls for replication, raising our concern about copycat attacks.

These trends are fueled by a persistent ecosystem of anti-Israel networks operating in the U.S. and online. Groups such as the Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP), Within Our Lifetime (WOL), Unity of Fields, and online propaganda hubs such as the emerging ISNAD Network consistently amplify messaging aligned with Hamas, Hezbollah, Al Qaeda, ISIS and Iranian-backed information operations. While not all are directly tied to designated foreign terrorist organizations, they help blur the lines between protest and incitement, justifying, glorifying, and promoting violence against the Jewish community in the name of Gaza.

In April of this year, SCN hosted a nationwide Passover threat brief in conjunction with the National Fusion Center Association and Jewish security organizations, highlighting our growing concern that the Gaza conflict was further inflaming domestic radicalization, asking for enhanced vigilance by law enforcement in light of the increased likelihood of a targeted violent attack against the community.

One month later, SCN facilitated another nationwide threat brief in conjunction with the FBI, Major Cities Police Chiefs Association,

and Jewish security organizations after the shooting outside the Capitol Jewish Museum in DC. We expressed our concerns that the shooting had the potential to inspire other like-minded violent extremists to mobilize to violent action against the Jewish community, a term we refer to as a copycat. Our analysts quickly observed widespread online praise of the shooter and the framing of the attack as a justified act of revenge, and messages encouraging others to replicate the attack.

Last week, after the fire-bombing attack in Boulder, SCN again hosted a nationwide post-critical incident conference call with the FBI, Major Cities Police Chiefs, Major County Sheriffs of America, the National Fusion Center Association, and Jewish Security Directors. We expressed our concern that this was the second targeted attack against the Jewish/Israeli community in a little over a week. Online rhetoric again praised the attacker, further amplifying copycat concerns. Again, our primary concern was that of copycats inspired by the latest act of targeted violence against the Jewish-Israeli community.

Since October 7, SCN has produced and disseminated nearly 200 threat bulletins and intelligence situation reports and has coordinated numerous national or regional briefings with law enforcement and Jewish security leaders. These efforts have helped prevent attacks, mobilize resources, and inform law enforcement. But the pace, scale, and complexity of the current threat environment are not sustainable without a robust and sustained federal partnership.

SCN's analysts recognized shortly after the 10/7 attacks in Israel that the Jewish and Israeli community in the U.S. faced a rapidly escalating threat from violent extremists inspired by the war in Gaza. SCN recognized that help from DHS I&A in understanding, assessing, and managing the complex threat actors that included Iran, Foreign Terrorist Organizations, Homegrown Violent Extremists, and Domestic Violent Extremists, all coalescing around a common vision of terrorizing the Jewish and Israeli community, could significantly improve the safety and security of the community.

On April 1, 2024, SCN requested senior I&A leadership develop a Current Intelligence Operations Strategy focused specifically on protecting the Jewish/Israeli community in the Homeland in a post 10/7 threat environment. Little materialized from that request. DHS I&A is a critical component of our domestic intelligence enterprise, we need I&A to work closely with us to mitigate the threat we are discussing today. The intelligence strategy we proposed over a year ago would have specifically focused on protecting the Jewish community with the development of an analytic cell that would have performed six (6) analytic functions:

1. Develop and communicate timely awareness from all available sources of intelligence, those threats, foreign and domestic, that could have an impact on Jewish-Israeli safety and security in the homeland.
2. Rapidly assess those threats for domestic Jewish security implications.
3. The timely communication of those threats to the appropriate federal, State, and local law enforcement, as well as Jewish security organizations.

4. Based on threats, timely dissemination of products, bulletins, or advisories should include collection emphasis messages to ensure our federal, State, and local law enforcement, as well as Jewish security partners, are collecting against the appropriate threats.
5. A renewed emphasis on Suspicious Activity Reporting and collection directed to Federal, State, and local law enforcement, recognizing the vulnerability of the Jewish community.

The threat of targeted violence being faced by the Jewish-Israeli community is complex and continues to evolve; this threat will likely persist for at least the next decade. This threat facing the Jewish-Israeli community involves nation-state adversaries (Iran), foreign terrorist organizations, as well as violent extremists with mixed ideologies, and requires a comprehensive all-of-government strategy. The essential work being done by groups like SCN, the Center for Internet Security (CIS), ADL, and several other Jewish communal security organizations plays a crucial role in safeguarding Jewish communities across North America, but we are filling a void left by the federal government's lack of comprehensive focus on this rapidly emerging threat. Our key law enforcement partners, like the FBI, fusion centers, and State and local law enforcement, are working hand in hand with us to protect their Jewish communities, but we all lack a national strategy. We need a clearly defined and comprehensive national strategy to protect the Jewish community from acts of targeted violence. That strategy should be developed with input from federal, state, and local law enforcement as well as non-governmental agencies like SCN, CIS,

the ADL, and our Jewish security partners. Finally that strategy should be managed by a task force comprised of the above representatives with the specific focus of identifying and clarifying the threat regardless of its origin, analyzing the threat for context in the Jewish community, communicating the threat to law enforcement to law enforcement, providing suggestions on protective actions to protect the community based on intelligence, and coordinating strike teams across the country to arrest individuals threatening the Jewish community with acts of targeted violence.

I would respectfully suggest that this committee, with your focus on intelligence and counterterrorism, and your demonstrated interest in protecting the Jewish-Israeli community, would be well-positioned to drive the development of a strategy and implementation of a task force to protect the Jewish community.

Thank you.