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FBI Investigating 6 Juveniles in Connection with Wave of Bomb Threats Against Historically Black Colleges

Howard University was among several historically Black colleges and universities across the country that received bomb threats Tuesday

By [Christine Pelisek](#) February 03, 2022 04:25 PM

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Howard University

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The FBI has identified six juveniles as persons of interest in a nationwide series of bomb threats to historically Black colleges, universities and houses of worship, [NBC News](#), the [Wall Street Journal](#) and the [New York Times](#) reported.

A law enforcement official said the six juveniles from around the country were considered "tech savvy," NBC reports.

The juveniles are believed to have made the calls using a disguised phone number, the Wall Street Journal reported, citing officials.

The FBI declined to comment about the persons of interest to PEOPLE.

In a Feb. 2 statement, the FBI said the threats were being "investigated as racially or ethnically motivated violent extremism and hate crimes."

More than a dozen of historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) were on lock down after receiving bomb threats on Tuesday, the first day of Black History Month.



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[Howard University](#) in Washington, D.C., is among several HBCUs to have reported bomb threats beginning Tuesday morning, sending emergency alerts to students and faculty for a campus-wide lockdown.

"We don't know who's behind this, but we do know it's motivated by hate," Howard University President Wayne Frederick said [Tuesday](#). "We've had these challenges before but definitely since I've been here [as a student] in 1988, it has not been this widespread and also, I think, this overt."

The FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Forces is leading the investigation into the bomb threats.

"This investigation is of the highest priority for the Bureau and involves more than 20 FBI field offices across the country," the statement said. "Although at this time no explosive devices have been found at any of the locations, the FBI takes all threats with the utmost seriousness, and we are committed to thoroughly and aggressively investigating these threats."

Along with Howard, the [University of the District of Columbia](#), [Morgan State University](#), [Coppin State University](#), [Fort Valley State University](#), [Kentucky State University](#), [Xavier University of Louisiana](#), [Edward](#)

[Waters University](#), [Alcorn State University](#), [Mississippi Valley State University](#), [Rust College](#), [Spelman College](#), [Jackson State University](#), and [Tougaloo College](#) all received bomb threats Tuesday, according to social media alerts from university officials.

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School officials nationwide issued lockdowns or shelter-in-place directives followed by proper investigation of the threats. Many schools have already released "all clear" updates on social media for students and faculty to return to normal campus routines.

Additionally, at least six HBCUs — Howard University, [Bethune-Cookman University](#), [Southern University](#), [Albany State University](#), [Bowie State University](#) and [Delaware State University](#) — also received bomb threats on Monday. No real threats were found after investigation.

[Jen Psaki](#), White House press secretary, [told reporters that the recent bomb threats at HBCUs are "disturbing" and President Biden is aware of the](#) issue and is "working closely" with law enforcement during this time.

The NAACP also announced that the organization is "monitoring" the incident before urging local, state, and national officials to "remain vigilant" as investigations continue.

"The Black community has long been plagued by threats of domestic terrorism against them in their schools, homes, and houses of worship," the organization said in a [release](#). "As we enter Black History Month, it is all too concerning that we are seeing a resurgence of these threats."