Terrorist Incidents and Attacks Against Jews and Israelis in the United States
1969-2016

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Foreword by Mitchell D. Silber
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About the Community Security Service (CSS)

Founded in 2007, the nonprofit Community Security Service (CSS) proactively protects the people, institutions, and events of the American Jewish community. Partnering with Jewish organizations, governmental authorities, and the police, CSS safeguards the community by training volunteers in professional security techniques, providing physical security, and raising public awareness about safety issues.

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Dedicated to the memory of the victims whose lives were lost in attacks and terrorism against Jews and Israelis in the United States.
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Executive Summary

This research is an attempt to catalogue violent attacks and terrorist incidents against Jews and Israelis in the United States from 1969 to 2016.\(^1\) It is important to note that this report focuses only on the most serious incidents, and that they occurred within the context of many thousands of other anti-Semitic acts. Indeed, of the 1,354 anti-religious hate crimes\(^2\) recorded by the FBI in 2015 alone, 51.3%\(^3\) - 695 incidents\(^4\) - targeted Jews. The FBI hate crimes statistics report demonstrated that Jews are the most targeted religious group in the U.S. This is a consistent finding of the FBI report over many years.

This catalogue is intended to raise awareness within the American Jewish community of the real challenges that face and continue to confront our community’s security and well-being.

This report catalogues 104 incidents whose analysis revealed:

- **The primacy of ideology:** Of the incidents where motivation can be ascertained, white supremacist and radical Islamist ideologies were a central influencing factor. Periods of increased levels of attack are also associated with the growth of extremist movements and terrorist organizations connected to white supremacy and radical Islamist terrorism.

- **Synagogues are most targeted:** The overwhelming majority of attacks (51%) were carried out against Jewish houses of worship, followed by Jewish communal institutions (14%), Jewish persons (13%), and educational institutions (10%).

- **The modality of incidents varies:** Arson, shootings, and explosive devices were used in about equal number.

- **Increase in severity, slight decrease in frequency:** Although the total number of attacks has declined slightly, recent incidents have been increasingly lethal and have, or would have, claimed many more victims.

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\(^1\) The chronology of incidents is based on open source research, including earlier reports by the International Institute for Counterterrorism, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. National Counter Terrorism Center, RAND Corporation, the Southern Poverty Law Center, American Jewish Committee, Anti-Defamation League, Community Security Trust, and Secure Community Network.


\(^3\) Ibid.

It is vital that the American Jewish community, together with our law enforcement partners, learn the lessons of the past, understand the nature of the challenges arrayed against it, and take the proper precautions to ensure that violent acts against Jews and Jewish institutions can be prevented in the future.

As a result, several lessons and recommendations are apparent:

- **Jewish targets often serve as precursors to larger attacks**: Perpetrators of well-known larger attacks, such as the 1993 World Trade Center bombing, were first involved in anti-Jewish incidents.

- **Awareness is critical**: In many of these incidents, perpetrators conducted pre-operational surveillance. Training and engagement of community members to detect suspicious activity is thus essential.

- **A need to invest in community security infrastructure**: The Jewish community can ill afford passivity and apathy against security threats. The community should broaden its understanding of what effective security entails, and invest in initiatives that provide tangible results. Foremost amongst these strategies is ensuring community members have the training and capacity to assist in securing their own communities, and partnering more closely with law enforcement agencies.

Unfortunately, much as we do not care to admit it to ourselves, the threats are real; there have been too many incidents to deny that. Now in the second decade of the twenty-first century, we find ourselves in an era where those who promote anti-Jewish rhetoric and instigation have the technical tools to reach a broader audience in less time than ever before. In fact, as recently as March 2016, the Islamic State in Iraq and Al-Sham (ISIS) publicly encouraged its followers to attack Jews and their allies, “wherever they find them.”

It is vital that the American Jewish community, together with our law enforcement partners, learn the lessons of the past, understand the nature of the challenges arrayed against it, and take the proper precautions to ensure that violent acts against Jews and Jewish institutions can be prevented in the future. In doing so, we will work towards fulfilling the vision of CSS—Making Jewish communities safer and stronger.
Foreword by Mitchell D. Silber

Violence against the Jewish people as a minority community has a long and terrible history, especially from the European experience. Threats and violence came from fellow countrymen as well as from the state. In fact, it is this very phenomenon that served as the motivating factor for Jews to immigrate to the United States, which was viewed as a haven where Jews would be protected from these types of threats.

For the vast majority of the Jewish experience in the United States, this hope has proven true. American law enforcement has served a vital role in protecting the American Jewish community, as it has for so many other minority communities as well.

However, in spite of this overwhelmingly positive experience, there have been groups and individuals, some linked to groups overseas and some homegrown, who view Jews and Israelis in the United States as legitimate targets of violence based on very disparate types of ideologies.

The groups include white extremists, Neo-Nazis, Palestinian terrorist groups, Al-Qaida and its varied offshoots and progeny, Iranian supported agents, as well as lone actors who are inspired by these groups and their various hateful ideologies.

Despite law enforcement successes, numerous violent attacks against Jews and Jewish institutions continue and the variety of groups advocating for more violence against the American Jewish community only grows.

Yehudit Barsky and the Community Security Service (CSS) have done the entire American Jewish community a significant service producing this report. Barsky, the former Director of the Division on Middle East and International Terrorism at the American Jewish Committee, is a highly regarded expert in the subjects of radicalization, anti-Semitism, and terrorism. Additionally, CSS is a pioneer in community security approaches and has transformed security practices at Jewish institutions. By documenting the entirety of the most violent attacks and terrorist incidents against Jews and Israelis in the United States between 1969 and 2016, in a way not done before, this report provides the reader with an invaluable tool for conceptualizing the nature and breadth of the threats to the Jewish community.
I strongly urge both members of the Jewish community and law enforcement to read this report, absorb its findings, and utilize it as a guidebook to help protect the Jewish community from current and future potential threats. 

Foreword by Mitchell D. Silber

Continued from previous page

Their report is comprehensive, detailed, and informative. The sheer number of attacks and attempted attacks over this time period is daunting and should give pause to both the American Jewish community, as well as American law enforcement, especially in the post-9/11 world where volatility and violence in the Middle East continues to have an impact in the United States, enabled by social media and other communication channels.

As the former Director of Intelligence Analysis at the New York City Police Department (2005-2012), where monitoring and preventing terrorist threats against all of the citizens of New York was our primary responsibility, I strongly urge both members of the Jewish community and law enforcement to read this report, absorb its findings, and utilize it as a guidebook to help protect the Jewish community from current and future potential threats.
Historical Background

This analysis and chronology is an attempt to catalogue the most serious anti-Semitic attacks and terrorist incidents against Jews and Israelis in the United States from 1969 to 2016. These incidents consist of arson, shooting attacks, and bombing attacks, and should be viewed in the context of the thousands of anti-Semitic hate crimes that have occurred in the U.S. and have been reported by both the FBI in its yearly national hate crimes reports, and by Jewish communal organizations. The statistics demonstrate, on a consistent basis, that Jews have been the target of the largest number of hate crimes directed against a religious group. Over the past 20 years, FBI hate crimes statistics consistently demonstrate that Jews are targeted more than any other religious group in the U.S.

This study is intended to raise awareness in the American Jewish community of the real challenges that face and continue to confront our community’s security and well-being.

The Jewish community does not exist in a vacuum, and is subject to the social, political, and economic forces that affect all Americans. In many cases, these forces can affect the Jewish community more intensely. The chronology begins in 1969, a significant year in American history. The 1960s was a period of civil rights achievements, societal upheaval, and urban flight. The rapid changes brought about by civil rights legislation was perceived as a threat by those more comfortable with the status quo. Against this background, a wave of violent anti-Semitic attacks against Jewish institutions ensued.

This early period was followed by subsequent phases of unsettled political eras, each bringing forth another category of hate and/or terrorist groups that targeted the Jewish community. One type of such group in the

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These groups have been able to take advantage of periods of political and economic turmoil in the U.S. in order to recruit followers to their cause.

American context are white supremacist organizations, which include neo-Nazi groups, neo-Nazi skinheads, and gangs. These groups have been able to take advantage of periods of political and economic turmoil in the U.S. in order to recruit followers to their cause.

Another category, emanating from the Middle East but appealing to U.S. supporters of the Palestinian cause, include the Palestinian terrorist organizations of the 1970s, and Palestinian radical Islamist terrorist movements such as Hamas from the 1990s through the 2000s. More recently, radical Islamist terrorist groups such as Al-Qaida and ISIS have appealed to worldwide supporters of the Palestinian cause, and the global jihad movement, to recruit their followers.

Each of these categories of groups have agitated anti-Jewish activity and used their respective ideologies to promote violent anti-Jewish acts. To this day, methodologies for spreading messages of hate flourish in the Internet age. Extremist groups continue to find ways to espouse their ideologies in order to promote anti-Jewish rhetoric.

The extremist groups described in this report use various ideologies that feature hatred of Jews to recruit supporters. In turn, the anti-Jewish attitudes of their followers are validated through their contact with or involvement in the larger group. In a significant number of cases detailed in the chronology, followers of these groups are incited further to carry out acts of violence against Jews, Israelis, and Jewish communal institutions.

To be sure, the individual perpetrators of some of the incidents described in the chronology have not been identified, so that not all of the contexts that motivated these acts have been ascertained. In the majority of cases however, one finds direct connections between the perpetrators and a broader ideology or inspiration. As a result, the nature and history of such ideologies must be first understood.
An Unceasing Hatred: The Role of Ideology

White Supremacists – The “Jewish Problem”

In reaction to the changes in society brought about by the civil rights era, white supremacist organizations experienced a period of reorganization and resurgence by the late 1970s, through the 1980s. They also began to focus their hatred more intently on Jews. Two of the most prominent white supremacist leaders, Willis Carto (1926-2015), the Holocaust denier who founded the Institute for Historical Review, and William Pierce, (1933-2002) of the neo-Nazi National Alliance, arrived at the concept that Jews are not one of the enemies of white people, but the main enemy of white people. David Duke, a younger white supremacist who is now 66, started his career as a neo-Nazi, having first adopted the stance that “there is a Jewish problem in the world today.” Due to Carto’s and Pierce’s influence on him, when Duke later founded the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, he reassessed the “Jewish problem” to be “the most important issue of our time.”

In the 1980s and 1990s, the white supremacists’ focus on Jews led to an upsurge in their publication of anti-Semitic conspiracy literature. It also contributed to the increased introduction of Holocaust denial materials, ranging from tracts, pamphlets, and newspaper articles, to the promotion of pseudo-academic articles claiming to disprove the Holocaust.

A key milestone in articulating white supremacist ideology was the publication of The Turner Diaries by William Pierce. The book became an inspiration and a blueprint for an underground radical vanguard that organized attacks against Jews. Its plotlines also became the inspiration for a white supremacist war against the U.S. government, African-Americans, and other non-white people.

Set in the 1990s, near the close of the millennium, and written in the style of a fictional diary, the Diaries described a nightmarish future United States. It is a multiracial society governed by the System and protected by “equality police.” The police oppress white people by assaulting their women and keeping white men powerless. On the horizon is their salvation: small groups of “Aryan resistance” fighters who are scattered throughout the area. The leader of the resistance is Earl Turner, previously an electrical engineer. He and several thousand members of his organization evade being captured as violators of a “Cohen Act” gun control law.

Pierce’s *Diaries* then continues: Turner and his followers mount a guerrilla war against the government. His four-person unit kills Jews and African-Americans. They decimate an FBI office using an improvised explosive device. Eventually, his organization gains enough strength to take over Southern California. African-Americans and Latinos are driven out to the desert, and all the Jews are killed. Israel and China are destroyed in a nuclear war, the Soviet Union is similarly dealt with, and the organization establishes a dictatorship in North America. Following their victory, a similar victory is won in Europe, and all non-whites on the planet are obliterated.7

The *Turner Diaries* have directly inspired several violent attacks by white supremacist groups. The neo-Nazi terrorist group, The Order, took its inspiration from the *Diaries* to stalk and kill Denver Jewish radio talk show host Alan Berg (see June 18, 1984), and an attempt to blow up a synagogue in Boise, Idaho (see April 29, 1984).

More recently *The Turner Diaries* became a source of inspiration for a plot to bomb the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. In 2001, Leo Felton and his girlfriend Erica Chase sought to organize a white supremacist cell called “Aryan Unit One,” mimicking Turner’s “Unit” in the book. They assembled a bomb and were planning to detonate it at the U.S. Holocaust Museum, but were caught before they were able to deploy it. Aspiring to the outcome of the *Diaries*, they believed that carrying out their attack would ultimately lead to the formation of an “all-white Aryan nation” (see April 19, 2001).

White supremacist groups continue to magnify Jews as responsible for what they perceive to be the significant ills the white race has suffered. The various white supremacist ideologies see whites as victims and accuse Jews of a conspiracy to control the world.

White supremacist groups continue to magnify Jews as responsible for what they perceive to be the significant ills the white race has suffered. The various white supremacist ideologies see whites as victims and accuse Jews of a conspiracy to control the world. For those who follow Christian Identity ideology, such as the neo-Nazi Aryan Nations, the teachings of mainstream Christianity are rejected. They instead teach that Anglo Saxons, Nordic people, and Germans are the true heirs of the ancient Israelites. Jews are considered to be “mud people,” created before Adam, and therefore not human. From the same perspective, Jews are alternatively considered to be the literal descendants of Satan (the snake) and Eve. Others wholly reject anything resembling Christianity as a foreign religion imposed upon whites by Jews, and seek white supremacist versions of Nordic-themed belief systems.

8 Ibid., p. 29-30.
Islamist Movements and Terrorist Organizations

The anti-Semitic motivation of radical Islamist movements and terrorist organizations is based upon radical Islamist interpretations of the Qur’an and Islamic theological sources. While these sources and interpretations date from the early confrontations that the prophet Muhammad had with Arabian Jewish tribes in the seventh century, later sources come from medieval Muslim theologians who engaged in anti-Jewish polemics in disputations with Jewish philosophers.9

The significant role played by radical Islamist clerics in the leadership of the Muslim Brotherhood movement, Hamas, Al-Qaida, ISIS, and other organizations, demonstrates the continuing ideological importance of their clerics’ radical interpretations for such groups.

Radical Islamists view Judaism through the lens of their interpretation of early Islam. They insist, based on their interpretation of the Qur’an,10 that over time Jews tampered with and corrupted the text of the Torah. This charge is known as tahrif, and is used to delegitimize Judaism as an authentic monotheistic religion. Radical Islamist clerics use this and other arguments to designate Judaism and Jews as polytheists who must be destroyed.

The Islamist radical Muslim Brotherhood movement, in addition to other radical Islamist terrorist organizations such as Hamas, Al-Qaida, and ISIS, also glorify the ghazwat, or battles, that the Prophet Muhammad and his followers fought against non-Muslim tribes in seventh century Arabia. There is a particular interest in the wars that Muhammad fought with three Jewish tribes in Arabia during that time. Among them were two Jewish tribes in Medina, the Banu Nadir and the Banu Qunayqa, which were exiled in 628. The men of the third Jewish tribe, the Banu Qurayza, were executed, their women and children enslaved, and their property distributed amongst Muhammad’s followers.

At the Battle of Khaybar, the Jews of the ancient oasis town near Medina were also defeated in 628. They were permitted to stay there afterwards on the condition that they give 50 percent of their crops to Muhammad’s followers. For radical Islamists, Khaybar is the culmination of Muhammad’s wars with the Jewish tribes. It is an exemplar guiding them towards their own anticipated total and eschatological victory of their violent jihad over Jews. Mixing the seventh century past with the present, Khaybar has become a modern slogan and battle cry for radical Islamists: Khaybar, Khaybar, ya yahud, jaysh Muhammad sawfa ya’ud! – “Khaybar, Khaybar, O Jews, the army of Muhammad will return!”

9 A notable example of such a disputation was Rad a’la Ibn Naghrila Al-Yahudi – “Refutation of Ibn Naghrila the Jew.” The disputation took place between the Muslim theologian Abu Muhammad Ali Ibn Ahmad Ibn Hazm – known as Ibn Hazm, and the noted Spanish Jewish scholar and later vizier of the kingdom of Granada, Ismail Ibn Naghrila, better known as Shmuel HaNagid.
A similar example of this theme comes from a Hadith favored by radical Islamists. A Hadith is an Islamic source that reports the actions of Muhammad and his followers. The Hadith of the Jew and the tree foretells an end of days scenario when Muslims achieve a final victory over Jews on the Day of Resurrection, which it describes as a realization of a divine promise. It is a Hadith that is promoted by radical Islamist clerics and radical Islamist terror organizations. Hamas, the Palestinian branch of the Muslim Brotherhood, quotes it in its 1987 Covenant. Al-Qaida’s Usama Bin Laden quoted it in an October 2001 interview with CNN. Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi of ISIS similarly made prominent mention of it in his address to followers encouraging them to carry out attacks against Western civilians during Ramadan of 2016.

Abu Huraira reported Allah’s Messenger (may peace be upon him) as saying: The last hour would not come unless the Muslims will fight against the Jews and the Muslims would kill them until the Jews would hide themselves behind a stone or a tree and a stone or a tree would say: Muslim, or the servant of Allah, there is a Jew behind me; come and kill him; but the tree Gharqad would not say, for it is the tree of the Jews.

The promotion of anti-Semitism in the Muslim world became an even more noxious mixture of radical Islamist theology and European-themed anti-Semitism in the years leading up to and following World War II. Shortly after Hitler came to power, an Iraqi journalist who was attracted to Hitler’s ideology translated Mein Kampf into Arabic and serialized it in Iraqi newspapers. In the 1930s, the Muslim Brotherhood founder and leader Hassan Al-Banna supported Haj Amin Al-Husseini, the mufti of Jerusalem, who worked for the Nazis to recruit Arab support throughout the Middle East for Nazi Germany. During the same period, the Nazi foreign ministry distributed official Arabic translations of Mein Kampf and the anti-Semitic tract, The Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion, throughout the Muslim world.

As the result of radical Islamists’ embrace of Western anti-Semitism, Western-themed anti-Semitic conspiracy theories have been introduced into the rhetoric of radical Islamist organizations and terrorist movements.

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13 “That they may live by proof,” An address by the official spokesman of the Islamic State, the Mujahid Shaykh Abu Muhammad Al-Adnani Ash-Shami, Al-Hayat Media Center, Sha’ban 1437 (May 2016), Pieter Van Ostaeyen research files, https://pietervanostaeyen.files.wordpress.com/2016/05/al-hayat-that-they-live-by-proof.pdf
14 Sahih Al- Muslim, Kitab al-fitan wa ashrat al-sa’ah, 41:6985. Sahih Muslim, Book 41, Number 6985, Pertaining to the Turmoil and Portents of The Last Hour, translated by Abdul Hamid Siddiqui, http://www.documentacatholicomnia.eu/03d/0834-0893,_Sahih_Muslim,_Hadith,_EN.pdf
During the cold war years of the 1970s, the Soviet Union’s KGB engaged in a disinformation campaign in Islamic countries to convince Muslims that the U.S. was “a Zionist country whose aim was to transform the Islamic world into a Jewish fiefdom.” The goal of the campaign was to incite terrorism against Israel and the U.S. A major component of the campaign was the distribution of several hundred thousand copies of an Arabic translation of The Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion in Muslim countries.18

As the result of radical Islamists’ embrace of Western anti-Semitism, Western-themed anti-Semitic conspiracy theories have been introduced into the rhetoric of radical Islamist organizations and terrorist movements. An example from the Hamas Covenant describes “Zionists,” i.e. Jews, in conspiratorial terms:

The enemies have realized [the significance of] her [the woman’s] role, and they believe that if they can educate her according to their wishes, guiding her away from Islam, they will have won the war. You find, therefore, that they continually make great efforts [to do this] by means of the media, the cinema and school curricula, through their agents who are incorporated in Zionist organizations that assume various names and forms such as the Freemasons, Rotary Clubs, espionage groups, etc. - all of which are dens of sabotage and saboteurs. 19

In 2000, Al-Qaida mentor Sheikh Umar Abd Al-Rahman issued an Islamic legal edict, or fatwa, from jail in the U.S. From the standpoint of radical Islamists, such an edict cannot be rescinded, except by the cleric who issued it. Abd Al-Rahman’s fatwa called for all of his Muslim followers to fight Jews and “kill them wherever they are,” 20 essentially continuing his part in Al-Qaida’s mission until today.

More recently, the Islamic State in Iraq and Al-Sham (ISIS) published an article in its March 2016 Al-Naba weekly, describing its position concerning fighting jihad in Palestine. ISIS told its followers that they must help Palestinian Muslims to fight against the Jews. At the same time, they are also obligated to help the Palestinians from wherever they may be situated, including attacking and killing Jews throughout the world:

It is the duty of Muslims worldwide to aid [the Palestinian Muslims in their fight] by sending them whatever men and money they can send. In addition, [they must] help [the Palestinians] and target their enemies by attacking the Jews and their allies wherever they find them, [by] killing them, destroying their property, and harming their interests in any way they can. 21

19 Ibid.
In October 2015, ISIS initiated a call directed at its followers among Palestinians, and in Islamic countries and communities worldwide to kill Jews throughout the world. The campaign was in parallel with a wave of terrorist incidents occurring in Israel at that time. ISIS’ Al-Masra Foundation issued a video entitled “The Slaughter of the Jews.” The voiceover declared:

“Stab the Jew with a knife or run over him with a car, poison him, bring back explosives, the [use of] explosive belts and IEDs, burn their faces and their houses.”

The video accused Jews of having “distorted the books of Allah [i.e., the Torah] and fought against the [Muslim] believers,” and included a statement by ISIS leader Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi, who called for a violent campaign against Jews.

For radical Islamist terrorist organizations and their followers, the clock has been turned back to the seventh century. Its clerics have declared an eternal war against Jews that must only finish in a final physical and eschatological victory that signifies the destruction of Jews.

**Pseudo-Islam: Gateway to Radical Islamism**

Several of the incidents described in this study note the affiliation or religious/ideological tendency of some of the perpetrators to the Nation of Islam (NOI). The NOI, today led by Louis Farrakhan, is a pseudo-Islamic, African-American nationalist, anti-white and anti-Semitic movement. Preaching Black Nationalism and self-reliance during the Civil Rights era, it attracted African-Americans to its ranks who sought a Muslim African-American identity, perceiving it to be a recovered expression of their ancestors’ religion prior to their enslavement in the U.S.

From its inception, the NOI was considered to be beyond the mainstream of orthodox Islam due to the promotion of its late founder, Wallace Fard Muhammad, as the “Messiah, the second coming of Jesus, the Christ, Jehovah, God, and the Son of Man [a Biblical reference to the prophet Ezekiel].” Wallace Fard Muhammad is also referred to as “the Mahdi,” the Muslim redeemer who will rule the world before the Day of Resurrection, i.e., the Day of Judgment. In a similar vein, Farrakhan himself has asserted that he has had an Ezekiel-like vision. Orthodox Muslims reject these tenets of the NOI belief system as blasphemous. From orthodox Muslims’ perspective, the

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23 Ibid.
25 “Revisiting Minister Farrakhan’s vision-like experience on September 17, 1985 - the Magnificent Wheel within a Wheel, the Mother’s Wheel,” The Final Call (Nation of Islam weekly), September 23, 2013, http://www.finalcall.com/artman/publish/Columns_4/article_100797.shtml
An Unceasing Hatred: The Role of Ideology

Prophet Muhammad was the last prophet and therefore neither Wallace Fard Muhammad, nor Louis Farrakhan can claim to be a prophet or a Messiah-like figure. Radical Islamists have also called upon Farrakhan and his followers to abandon their heterodox beliefs. Both mainstream Muslims and radical Islamists insist that followers of the NOI must renounce the NOI’s teachings and convert and conform to their respective interpretations of religious teachings.

Over the period of this study a number of followers of the NOI’s ideology subsequently became further radicalized and engaged in attacks against the Jewish community. A breakaway faction of the NOI calling themselves “Hanafi Muslims” were responsible for the March 1977 takeover of the B’nai B’rith building in Washington D.C. In more recent years, some followers of NOI became admirers of Usama Bin Laden and the 9/11 attacks. John Allen Muhammad and Lee Boyd Malvo, who carried out a shooting attack at a synagogue, were adherents of the NOI. Muhammad taught Malvo the ideology of the NOI. Both of them were also sympathetic to the goals of the 9/11 hijackers (see May 1-4, 2002).

In other cases, the individuals became adherents of NOI while in prison and then gravitated towards radical Sunni Islamism. Recruiters for radical Islamist groups tell potential converts that theirs is the “true” form of Islam. Kevin James, the founder of Jami’at Al-Islam Al-Sahih (JIS), (“Association for Authentic Islam”) in a California prison was initially a follower of the NOI. He left the NOI to become a radical Sunni Islamist. James then founded JIS, a radical Sunni Islamist cell, to carry out terrorist attacks from prison. The cell intended to target the Israeli Consulate, El Al at LAX, and Los Angeles synagogues (see July 5, 2005).
Overview of Incidents and Methodologies

White Supremacists

Adherents of white supremacist ideology focused their attacks for many years on synagogues, schools, and prominent Jewish community leaders. Their attacks ranged from using firebombs, carrying out shootings, and using mail bombs to employing larger improvised explosive devices.

In 1993, a plot was foiled by the raid of a U.S. Federal task force of the Fourth Reich Skinheads and White Aryan Resistance in California. The first part of their plan was to attack a rabbi and Orange County Jewish leaders by sending them mail bombs. Their further plans were to attack a prominent African-American church with explosives and gunfire (see July 15, 1993).

The white supremacist brothers Matthew and Tyler Williams carried out a series of three arson attacks at three Sacramento area synagogues in one night. Both were followers of the neo-Nazi Aryan Nations. They also kept a hit list of prominent Jews from the Sacramento area, officers and congregational members of the three synagogues, and of Jews in Redding, California (see June 18, 1999).

In 2002, a driver alerted police to the activities of Michael Edward Smith, of both the neo-Nazi National Alliance and the Ku Klux Klan. Smith was sitting in his car and aiming an assault rifle at a Nashville area synagogue with a preschool (see January 4, 2002).

In 2009, as a security officer opened the door for him, James Wenneker von Brunn, an 88-year-old white supremacist, opened fire inside the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, killing the officer. A second security officer wounded von Brunn, and a manifesto with Holocaust denial and white supremacist stances was found in a notebook in his car (see June 10, 2009).

More recently, David Pedersen, who became a white supremacist in prison, and Holly Grigsby, who adopted a white supremacist worldview from her involvement with racist skinheads, first engaged in a series of killings to fund their larger plans. They shot and slashed Pedersen’s parents to death, shot and killed an African-American man, and shot and killed a man who they thought was Jewish because of his last name. They were arrested on their way to California with a hit list of names and locations of Jewish communal leaders from three communities (see October 5, 2011).

Another trend reflected in attacks carried out by white supremacists has been a focus, particularly since the beginning of the twenty-first century, of targeting Holocaust museums.
Several aging members of the white supremacist movement have carried out attacks on Jewish institutions in recent years. A longtime neo-Nazi and member of the terror group The Order, Frazier Glenn Miller, then 73, opened fire outside of the Greater Kansas City Jewish Community Center and the Village Shalom retirement home in 2014. Miller killed three people, although they were not Jewish. He believed their mere presence at the JCC and Village Shalom would guarantee that his victims would be Jewish. Miller described “his sole mission” that day was to “find and kill as many Jewish people as he could” (see April 13, 2014).

However, some younger white supremacists who carried out attacks trend toward affiliations with smaller organizations, such as white supremacist skinhead groups, neo-pagan groups, and prison gangs. Leo Felton was both a neo-Nazi skinhead and involved with the White Order of Thule, a neo-pagan group (see April 19, 2001). Holly Grigsby became involved in white supremacist activity after coming into contact with white supremacist skinheads at the age of 13. While he was in prison, David Pedersen joined the Aryan Soldiers, an extremely violent white supremacist prison gang (see October 5, 2011). Richard Schmidt was involved with several of the larger neo-Nazi organizations – the National Alliance and the National Socialist Movement, but also referred to himself as a Vinlander, a member of a smaller white supremacist skinhead group (see December 21, 2012).

Another trend reflected in attacks carried out by white supremacists has been a focus, particularly since the beginning of the twenty-first century, of targeting Holocaust museums. Attacks ranged from arson, such as the destruction of the CANDLES Holocaust museum in Terre Haute, Indiana (see November 18, 2003), to the murder of a security officer outside of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington (see June 10, 2009), and the bomb plot by Leo Felton and Erica Chase, who were constructing a bomb and plotting to blow up the Boston Holocaust Museum and the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington (see April 19, 2001).

Such attacks are violent actions that parallel the rhetoric of white supremacists who deny the Holocaust. Their acts are meant to serve as the “propaganda of the deed,” a violent exemplar of political action to inspire others to follow in their footsteps.

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Palestinian Extremists

During the 1970s, Fatah’s Black September Organization targeted Jews and Israelis in the U.S. as part of a worldwide terror campaign. Their attacks included a series of letter bombs sent to Jewish and Israeli officials, a foiled triple car bombing attempt in New York during a visit by then Israeli prime minister Golda Meir (see March 4, 1973), and the assassination of Yosef Alon, the deputy Israeli military attaché to the U.S. (see July 1, 1973).

Parallel to the establishment of the Islamist terrorist Hamas organization in Gaza in 1987, supporters of the Muslim Brotherhood and Hamas established a presence in the U.S., including fundraising organizations such as the Occupied Land Fund and the Holy Land Foundation. Although Hamas itself has not officially claimed to carry out terrorist acts in the U.S., ideological fellow travelers of Hamas have targeted Jews and Israelis on U.S. soil. In an unusual move, Hamas made a statement praising the 1994 Brooklyn Bridge shooting attack (see March 1, 1994).

Another example was a radical Islamist Palestinian who found common cause and inspiration with Hamas from a wave of lethal suicide bombings it carried out in 1997. He was foiled before he could carry out a suicide bombing attack on a New York subway 24 hours after a Hamas bombing in Jerusalem (see July 31, 1997).

And in another unusual case, Hamas itself planned to send a Canadian-Palestinian operative who was trained in Gaza to the U.S. His mission was to carry out attacks targeting Israeli officials visiting the U.S., and U.S. and Canadian Jews. He was told, however, that due to political sensitivities he was to claim responsibility for the attacks in the name of Al-Qaida rather than Hamas (see November 1, 2003).

Radical Islamist Terrorist Organizations

The expansion of radical Islamist movements and terrorist organizations from the Middle East and other countries to the U.S. became evident during the 1980s and 1990s. During that time, radical Islamist clerics visited the U.S. and indoctrinated and recruited some American Muslims to join their organizations. Their American followers were sent to fight for the various clerics’ groups in the Afghan jihad, and after the war many returned to the U.S.

The earliest example of radical Islamists targeting the Jewish community took place in 1989. Some of the U.S. foreign fighters were recruited by the Pakistan-based jihadist cleric Sheikh Mubarak Ali Shah Gilani of the Jama’at Al-Fuqara group to fight in the Afghan jihad. Members of the group in the U.S. targeted a JCC in Denver, Colorado (see September 16, 1989).

Al-Qaida, ISIS, ideological followers of Hamas, as well as followers of other radical Islamist terrorist organizations, have repeatedly targeted the Jewish community over the period of study of this report. Their focus in targeting Jews in the United States ranged from targeting synagogues and rabbis, and in some cases, rabbis’ homes, such as the shooting attack by Abdulhakim Mujahid Muhammad (see May 30 - June 1, 2009). They are also particularly focused on targets that officially represent Israel, namely Israeli officials, Israeli diplomatic facilities, and the Israeli airline, El Al.

Adherents of Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula attempted to target the Jewish community on two occasions, in 2009, with the May shootings at two rabbis’ homes by the self-declared operative of AQAP, Abdulhakim Mujahid Muhammad (see May 30 - June 1, 2009), and the October 2009 AQAP air cargo bomb plot that targeted Chicago synagogues (see October 29, 2010).

Individuals who have become followers of radicalized Islamist ideology without an organizational affiliation also target the Jewish community. Some of them became radicalized and organized in prison, such as the perpetrators of the foiled Riverdale synagogues bomb plot (see May 12, 2009), and the radical Islamist cell that targeted Israeli officials, the Israeli Consulate, El Al at LAX, and synagogues in Los Angeles. The latter created their own group in prison, Jami’at Al-Islam Al-Sahih, the “Association of Authentic Islam,” which became a cell outside of prison to carry out the attack (see July 5, 2005).

One example of a foiled state-sponsored terrorism attack occurred in 2011, when Manssor Arbabsiar, an Iranian American who was directed by the Al-Quds Force of Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guards, planned to carry out the bombing of the Saudi ambassador to the U.S. He also planned to follow up by bombing the Israeli Embassy in Washington (see September 24, 2011).

In recent years both Al-Qaida and ISIS have indoctrinated their followers and sympathizers, providing them with information on how to conduct more small-scale, but nevertheless lethal, attacks on their own. A recent example is that of James Medina, also known as John Mohammed. Medina is a radical Islamist convert who was arrested before he could reportedly carry out a bombing at a Florida synagogue in the name of the Islamic State in Iraq and Al-Sham (ISIS) (see April 29, 2016).
Analysis of Incidents

Targets of Attacks

During the period considered by this study, the overwhelming majority of attacks (51%) were carried out against Jewish houses of worship. For the perpetrators of attacks, synagogues continue to serve as the central representation of Jews and the Jewish community. At the same time, it should be remembered that from a numerical perspective, synagogues represent the largest number of Jewish institutions, and are more widely distributed throughout the country than other institutions.

The second most common communal targets are Jewish organizations, mostly with independent larger facilities (14%). In recent years, targeted Jewish organizations included JCCs and Holocaust museums, and a Jewish Federation.

Jewish persons (13%), both specific and non-specific, are the next most common communal targets. This category includes Jewish leaders and Jewish individuals who have been targeted. In recent years, an American adherent of Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) targeted two rabbis. Similarly, a white supremacist assembled lists of Jewish leaders as potential targets in Detroit.
Schools/Yeshivas, including adult educational institutions, (10%) follow as the next most targeted type of institution.

Israelis (7%) include Israeli officials, diplomats, and El Al representatives. It should be noted that in a significant number of cases, Jews (and by extension, Jewish institutions) are freely associated and interchanged with Israel in the ideology and rhetoric of white supremacist and radical Islamist groups. In times of political turmoil in the Middle East, Jews and/or Jewish institutions often serve as stand-ins for Israel. One relatively recent example of such behavior was the attack on the Seattle Jewish Federation in 2006 during the Hizballah-Israel war. Naveed Haq chose the Federation as his target, but before opening fire, Haq specifically announced he was angry about Israel (see July 28, 2006).

The last category, Other, (5%) refers to targets that do not fit the other categories, and targets that are considered Jewish by the perpetrators, but may not actually be Jewish. The former includes places often frequented by Jews, such as New York’s Diamond District (see April 1993 – June 23, 1993 and June – August 2000). The latter includes the New York B line train at the Pacific Avenue subway station in Brooklyn (see July 31, 1997), or other places that perpetrators view in their own minds as “Jewish.”

**Types of Attacks**

An examination of the main types of types of attacks throughout the period considered by this study indicates that the total number of arsons, shootings, and use of explosive devices are nearly equal to one another. Over the full scope of the period covered by this study however, the distribution of attacks in which spikes of activity are prominent is indicative of historical periods in which Jews and Israelis were targeted.

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**The U.S. Jewish community is at an increased risk because of its identity and history, international threats emanating from the Middle East, and the tendency of Middle Eastern-linked terrorists and radical movements to demonize and legitimize violence against both Jews and Israelis.**
White supremacists traditionally target the Jewish community during periods of social change and economic instability. They also take advantage of societal grievances in order to focus blame on Jews and Israel, and to legitimize violent action against the Jewish community.

At the same time, the U.S. Jewish community is at an increased risk because of its identity and history, international threats emanating from the Middle East, and the tendency of Middle Eastern-linked terrorists and radical movements to demonize and legitimize violence against both Jews and Israelis.

**Arson Incidents**

An examination of the frequency of arsons and attempted arsons indicates that the largest number of arsons occurred in 1969-1970, during a period of significant political and social turmoil. It dropped precipitously afterward and peaked again during a series of synagogue fire-bombings, mostly by white supremacists in California from 1989 to 1991. White supremacists experienced a period of growth from late 1980s through the 1990s.

Arson incidents peaked again beginning with the 1999 “Summer of Hate” series of attacks against synagogues by white supremacists. They dropped in 2000 and rose again with a smaller series of synagogue arsons in 2001-2002, and plateaued by 2003 with the arson of the CANDLES Holocaust Museum (see November 18, 2003). There was a small spike recently due to a series of synagogue arsons in New Jersey in 2012.

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**Shooting Incidents**

A review of shooting incidents demonstrates a number of small upturns in incidents, the first of which was in 1973, notable for the assassination of the Israeli military attaché to the U.S., Yosef Alon (see July 1, 1973).

Another spike in shooting incidents occurred from 1983-1984, with a series of four drive-by shootings targeting students at Yeshiva University starting in June of 1983 (see June 7, 1983 – September 21, 1983). The Order assassinated Denver Jewish talk show host Alan Berg in his driveway in June 1984 (see June 18, 1984). A smaller upturn occurred in 1990, reflecting two incidents: the drive-by shooting of a Nashville synagogue by the Tennessee White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan and the Aryan Nations (see June 10, 1990), and the Al-Qaida linked assassination of Meir Kahane (see November 5, 1990).

Following that was another small spike from 1993-1994, representing the shooting attack by a radical Islamist terrorist on a van of Lubavitch rabbinical seminary students that killed Ari Halberstam (see March 1, 1994), and the drive-by shooting attack on a synagogue by the neo-Nazi Volksfront skinheads on a synagogue in Oregon (see March 20, 1994).

Another upturn in activity occurred in 1999 with two incidents carried out by known white supremacists. Benjamin Nathaniel Smith of the World Church of the Creator stalked and shot six Jewish men in a Chicago Orthodox Jewish neighborhood on a Sabbath night (see July 2-4, 1999), and Buford Furrow opened fire inside a California JCC injuring three small children, a teenager, and an adult (see August 10, 1999).

A more recent small spike and slightly lower plateau in shooting incidents occurred between 2002-2006. The attacks include the 2002 shooting attack against a Tacoma, Washington synagogue by John Allen Muhammad and Lee Boyd Malvo, known as the “DC snipers” (see May 1-4, 2002); the 2002 shooting attack by a radical Islamist terrorist that killed Victoria Hen and Yaakov Aminov at the El Al counter at Los Angeles Airport (see July 4, 2002); a 2005 foiled shooting and bombing attack by a radical Islamist terrorist cell targeting El Al, the Israeli Consulate, Israeli officials, and Los Angeles area synagogues (see July 5, 2005); and Naveed Haq’s 2006 shooting attack at the Jewish Federation in Seattle.

Additionally, over the past few years, there were upturns in activity in 2009 and 2014 reflected in the foiled shooting attack at a synagogue by white supremacist Keith Luke (see January 21, 2009), and the shooting attacks at rabbis’ homes carried out by Abdulhakim Mujahid Muhammad (see May 30 - June 1, 2009), the shooting attack at the U.S. Holocaust Museum by white supremacist James Wenneker von Brunn (see June 10, 2009), and the shooting attack on the JCC in Overland Park, Kansas by the neo-Nazi Frazier Glenn Miller (see April 13, 2014).
Since 1999, the victims of shooting attacks have increased due to the brazenness of the perpetrators. In many earlier attacks, the perpetrators carried out drive-by shootings during the late night or early morning hours, such as the Volksfront skinhead drive-by shooting on a Nashville synagogue by the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan (see June 10, 1990).

In contrast, in the more recent attacks, individuals carried out shootings during the daytime or at community times of activity. The perpetrators walked into Jewish communal institutions or places identified with Israel and opened fire. Examples of such attacks were those carried out by Hisham Muhammad Hedayat at the El Al counter at LAX (see July 4, 2002), Buford Furrow at the North Valley JCC (see August 10, 1999), and Frazier Glenn Miller at the Overland Park JCC and Village Shalom (see April 13, 2014), and Nathaniel Smith, who stalked and shot at six Orthodox Jews in an Orthodox Jewish neighborhood as they returned from synagogue on a Sabbath evening (see July 2-4, 1999).

**Bombing Incidents**


Another upturn in the use of explosive devices was from 1983 to 1985, when white supremacist terrorists from The Order carried out a bombing attack on an Idaho synagogue (see April 29, 1984). A series of explosive device attacks by white supremacists during the next years included two attempted pipe bomb attacks by Coy Ray Phelps (see July 1, 1985 and September 16, 1985). Another small upturn occurred in 1993, reflecting a 1993 foiled plot to send mail bombs to Orange County, California Jewish leaders by the Fourth Reich Skinheads (see July 15, 1993).

More recently, two white supremacists, Leo Felton and Erica Chase, sought to construct an improvised explosive device with the intent to attack and destroy the U.S. Holocaust Museum and the Boston Holocaust Museum in 2001. In 2007, a group of radical Islamists sought to target a Jewish school or neighborhood as part of a foiled plot to bomb JFK Airport (see June 2, 2007).

Another small upturn and plateau occurred from 2009-2011. A cell of radical Islamists were foiled in their 2009 plot to bomb two Riverdale synagogues (see May 12, 2009). In 2010, a plot to ship cargo bombs via plane by Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula destined for two synagogues in Chicago was foiled by intelligence cooperation between Saudi Arabia and Western intelligence agencies (see October 29, 2010). In 2011, Manssor Arbabsiar, an Iranian American who was being directed by Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps’ Al-Quds Force, was foiled in his future plans to bomb the Israeli Embassy in Washington D.C. (see September 24, 2011). Although these latter incidents are slightly fewer in frequency, the more ambitious goals and sophisticated use of explosive devices in recent years by various terrorist organizations and perpetrators made these attacks more deadly.
A Trend Toward More Complex Attacks

Since 2000, there has been a trend among both radical Islamist terrorist organizations and white supremacists toward attempting to organize more complex and lethal terror attacks.

White supremacists modeled their cell organizations on the *Turner Diaries*, studying the trajectory of The Order. In more recent years they organized into white supremacist militia and skinhead groups. In some cases, white supremacists previously completed military service and used their experience to train others.

Al-Qaida, ISIS, and other radical Islamist terrorist organizations have had operatives with varying levels of knowledge and training. Some of the early Al-Qaida perpetrators engaged in target shooting training in the U.S. and several went abroad as foreign fighters to Al-Qaida’s early training camps, and fought in the 1980s Afghan war. Later, others learned terrorism skills from individuals who were schooled at Al-Qaida training camps prior to 9/11.

Since 1999, the relative number of overall attacks against the Jewish community and Israelis were slightly fewer in number, but at the same time, the attacks that were carried out or planned have been more deadly. This is due to the perpetrators’ investment in longer-term planning of complex attacks that may require more preparation, training, weapons, and attack planning.

The perpetrators who carry out complex attacks are also more brazen in their anticipated goals. Examples of these attacks include:

- The 2001 foiled plot by white supremacists Leo Felton and Erica Chase to bomb the U.S. Holocaust Museum in Washington.
- The foiled 2005 plot by Kevin James and his Jami’at Al-Islam Al-Sahih cell to attack Los Angeles area synagogues, Israeli officials, El Al at Los Angeles Airport, and the Los Angeles Israeli Consulate.
- The 2009 foiled Riverdale synagogues bomb plot.
In each of these cases, the perpetrators spent time studying targets and choosing venues that they considered to be both symbolic and significant. In the latter two cases, they also spent considerable time engaging in pre-operational surveillance of their intended targets prior to the dates of the impending attacks. In the Riverdale plot, the perpetrators engaged in two rounds of pre-operational surveillance prior to the foiled execution of their plot (see May 21, 2009). In the 2005 Jami’at Al-Islam Al-Sahih foiled plot, the perpetrators surveilled Los Angeles area synagogues, Israeli officials, El Al at LAX, and the Israeli Consulate. They acquired weapons, but were also seeking to acquire explosives for their planned attacks (see July 5, 2005).

**A Trend Toward Attacks by Ideologically Motivated Individuals**

In a parallel move to more recent developments, both Al-Qaida and ISIS have separately issued calls to their individual followers to **carry out attacks at places and times of their own choosing.**

The late American radical Islamist cleric and AQAP ideologue Anwar Al-Awlaki continues to serve as a resource to provide inspiration and indoctrination to potential adherents of both organizations in the U.S. and worldwide. From his AQAP base of operations in Yemen, Al-Awlaki went beyond his initial role as a source of inspiration for terrorist acts, and began to dispense practical advice on terrorist methodology. As a demonstration of this trajectory, he authored a book entitled *44 Ways to Support Jihad*\(^{30}\) whose first page asserted, “[J]ihad today is obligatory on every capable Muslim.”\(^{31}\)

Al-Awlaki recorded instructional videos for adherents who remained in the U.S. In AQAP’s *Inspire* magazine, Al-Awlaki published articles intended to incite acts of terrorism \(^{32}\) and endorsed instructions detailing how to construct explosive devices and other weapons for his English-speaking audience. An *Inspire* article called “Open Source Jihad: Make a bomb in the kitchen of your mom,” called upon AQAP followers to train at home and carry out attacks in their home countries by constructing improvised explosive devices from common ingredients in order to carry out simple, yet deadly, terror attacks.\(^{33}\)

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\(^{30}\) Anwar Al-Awlaki, 44 Ways to Support Jihad, (no city: Victorious Media, no date), previously at http://www.anwar-awlaki.com

\(^{31}\) Ibid.


For his part, Al-Awlaki was involved in a number of AQAP attacks directed against the U.S. Both U.S. and U.K. officials considered him to have been involved in sending the two inkjet printers that were converted to bombs and sent via air cargo to two Chicago synagogues in 2010.\(^{34}\) The two packages were intercepted before they reached the U.S.

At the same time, some individual adherents are still motivated to seek training abroad. In recent years, AQAP attracted American recruits to train in Yemen, such as Abdulhakim Mujahid Muhammad.\(^{35}\) Muhammad carried out shooting attacks on the homes of two rabbis prior to attacking the military recruitment center in Little Rock, Arkansas (see May 30 - June 1, 2009).

Two recent examples of individuals motivated by ideology include James Gonzalo Medina, a self-declared follower of ISIS who was a radicalized convert to Islam also known as James Mohamed. Medina was foiled in his plot to bomb the Aventura Jewish Center on the last day of Passover in 2016. He reportedly planned to carry out a bombing inside the courtyard of the synagogue during services (see April 29, 2016).

Similarly, Mahin Khan, a self-declared “American jihadi” and ISIS supporter, was arrested before he was able to carry out an attack on a motor vehicles office in Mesa, Arizona in July 2016. Khan also discussed targeting the JCC of Tucson, and was seeking information on how to build pipe bombs and pressure cooker bombs (see July 1, 2016).

\(^{34}\) “Yemen cargo bomb plot may have been targeted at Britain,” Telegraph (UK), October 30, 2010, http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/terrorism-in-the-uk/8099345/Yemen-cargo-bomb-plot-may-have-been-targeted-at-Britain.html

Pre-operational surveillance is the weak link in the planning of an attack. It is the point at which the perpetrator(s) approach their intended target for the purpose of surveillance – but at the same time expose themselves to being caught.

Lessons Learned

Analyzing the almost half a century of violent attacks and terrorist incidents included in this report provides the following important insights for Jewish community organizations and law enforcement agencies:

The Critical Role of Pre-Operational Surveillance

Pre-operational surveillance is the weak link in the planning of an attack. It is the point at which the perpetrator(s) approach their intended target for the purpose of surveillance – but at the same time expose themselves to being caught. A significant number of the perpetrators involved in the incidents examined in this research engaged in this activity:

- In 1977, for months prior to their attack and hostage standoff, the self-styled Hanafi terrorists who took over the B'nai B'rith building managed to get themselves onto a building construction job to surveil the building from within (see March 9-11, 1977).
- The white supremacist serial killer John Paul Franklin also engaged in pre-operation surveillance of a Chattanooga synagogue. He called the synagogue to find out the time of Friday night services, and was able to place explosives inside the building to carry out a bombing attack (see July 29, 1977).
- Following up on the foiled Diamond District plot in New York of 1993 (see April 1993 - June 23, 1993), Al-Qaida carried out two instances of pre-operational surveillance of the Diamond District in New York prior to 9/11. The first took place in the summer of 2000, and was carried out by two of the 9/11 hijackers (see June – August, 2000). The second was carried out by Al-Qaida's surveillance specialist operative Dhiren Bharot, who monitored surveillance of “Jewish targets” as defined by Al-Qaida in early 2001.
- More recently, neo-Nazi Frazier Glenn Miller carried out pre-operational surveillance at both of the locations that he attacked – the Overland Park JCC and Village Shalom (see April 23, 2014).

Attacks on Jews as Precursors to Larger Attacks

Prior to some well-known larger attacks, Jewish targets have been the earlier, smaller targets of terrorist organizations. This phenomenon has unfortunately been misunderstood or ignored.

- For example, at the time it occurred, El-Sayyid Nosair’s assassination of Meir Kahane in 1990 was understood to be the action of a lone gunman, unconnected to a group or ideology, and not a terrorist cell. Subsequently, two of his accomplices participated in the February 1993 World Trade Center bombing. After Nosair was sentenced to prison, a group of his friends who, like himself, were also followers of the Islamist radical cleric and Al-Qaida...
mentor Sheikh Umar Abd Al-Rahman, regularly visited him there. Together they plotted the June 1993 New York Landmarks plot. By that time that incident was understood to be an act of terrorism (see November 5, 1990).

• More recently, the 2009 attack carried out by Abdulhakim Mujahid Muhammad on the Little Rock military recruitment center in Arkansas, was preceded by his two shooting attacks on rabbis’ homes. Two days prior to the recruitment center attack, Muhammad, a self-declared AQAP operative, carried out his first attack on the house of a rabbi in Little Rock. He followed with another attack on the house of a second rabbi in Nashville, Tennessee. The Nashville attack took place the day before his larger attack on the Little Rock military recruitment center that killed two servicemen (see May 30 - June 1, 2009).

Perpetrators of “Lone Wolf” Attacks Are Not Always Lone

Similarly, investigators initially viewed a number of incidents as the actions of “lone wolves.” This term is defined as individuals who have had no outside influence on their actions, a situation that is extremely rare in our highly interconnected society. Yet further understanding of perpetrators’ social contacts and environment, both in person and online, can reveal the context and influences, particularly ideological ones, that drove that individual to commit that act.

• Examples of such incidents include the 1994 Brooklyn Bridge attack, in which Rashid Baz opened fire on a van of Lubavitch rabbinical seminary students, killing Ari Halberstam. Rather than being a “lone wolf,” Baz was a convert to radical Islamism, had a Muslim mentor, and expressed himself in Islamist radical terms (see March 1, 1994).

• Another example is Naveed Haq, who opened fire at the Seattle Jewish Federation during the 2006 war between Hizballah and Israel. Haq killed Pamela Waechter and wounded five others. Haq, who was born a Muslim, had been baptized as a Christian in the year before the attack. At some time prior to the attack, Haq reportedly experienced a change of heart, re-identified as a Muslim, and became radicalized. Significantly, before he opened fire, Haq made a declaration openly re-identifying himself as a Muslim. After his arrest, in telephone conversations with his parents from jail that were entered as evidence at his trial, Haq spoke of his actions in radical Islamist terms. Haq referred to himself as a “martyr,” insisting his parents should be proud of what he had done, and told them that as a result of his actions, he would go to heaven. (see July 28, 2006).

Prison Radicalization Plays a Role in Recruitment

An important lesson of the chronology that follows is that hatred rarely grows in a vacuum. Despite their ideological differences and attitudes towards potential adversaries, terrorist organizations learn from one another. Over the past decades, both radical Islamists and white supremacists learned to use their time in prison to recruit followers and subsequently plot attacks outside of prison.

• Kevin James established the radical Islamist terror organization Jami’at Al-Islam Al-Sahih in prison. He also directed his followers from prison and provided them with guidance on how to recruit a cell, conduct surveillance, and take the steps necessary to carry out attacks on Israeli targets and synagogues (see July 5, 2005).

• The white supremacist Leo Felton also used his time in prison to recruit two other members to his cell. He wrote letters to Erica Chase while he was still in prison. After his release, he moved into her apartment and set up his cell’s operations there. He recruited another member, Thomas Struss, a fellow prisoner who was also a white supremacist, for their plot to blow up the U.S. Holocaust Museum (see April 19, 2001).

Threat Awareness is Critical

The importance of being informed and knowledgeable about the nature of threats facing the American Jewish community cannot be overstated. The chronology of attacks in this report that follows shows the geographic, ideological, and altogether disparate nature of the perpetrators and types of attacks that occurred against Jewish targets.

Consequently, the importance of community members being knowledgeable about the nature of threats facing the American Jewish community, and being able to detect this type of surveillance, cannot be overstated. Awareness of threats by analysis of local demographics, history, and politics is critical to safeguarding Jewish institutions. Only by being aware of the challenges we face can we dialogue well with the political and law enforcement agencies that thankfully protect us. And only by being aware of such threats can we make proper decisions about the steps we need to take to ensure our safety.

Complacency is Deadly

The most important lesson is that the Jewish community can ill afford passivity and apathy against the threats it faces. Unfortunately, much as we do not care to admit it to ourselves, the threats are real; there have been too many incidents to deny that. And in the second decade of the twenty-first century, we find ourselves in an era where those who promote anti-Jewish rhetoric and instigation have the technical tools to reach a broader audience in less time than ever before.

It is vital that the American Jewish community learns the lessons of the past, understands the nature of the challenges arrayed against us, and takes the proper precautions to ensure that violent acts against Jews and Jewish institutions can be prevented in the future.
Toward a Culture of Security Awareness and Resilience: Recommendations and Conclusions

This report provides the first-ever comprehensive examination of violent attacks against Jews over the last 50 years. The nature and origination of the threats are as varied as the methodologies used to attack the communal and religious heart of Jewish communities. However, the following recommendations can be undertaken immediately to mitigate these types of attacks.

**Awareness Training for the Jewish Community**

In many cases, the first indicator of an impending attack has been pre-operational surveillance. This phase of a typical attack cycle is the most likely point for detection and thus recognizing it can avert or minimize an impending attack.

Therefore, it is critical that members of the Jewish community complete training to detect hostile, pre-operational surveillance. This surveillance may take place over a period of days and weeks, or even just a few minutes. As a result, members of the Jewish community need to be aware of what surveillants are typically looking for, what a surveillant may do to hide their true intentions, and what types of behavior a suspicious person displays while engaging in surveillance activities. Significantly, many perpetrators use the cover of night to carry out such surveillance. Jewish institutions need to also raise awareness of this larger area of concern to go beyond building entrances.

An essential complement to this capacity is training community members to report suspicious activities. Community members need to be able to systematically produce descriptions of people and vehicles to assist law enforcement agencies. These reports must also be shared with other neighboring Jewish institutions to ensure that suspicious individuals are correctly identified and apprehended before simply targeting another less secure institution.

In certain instances, perpetrators conduct Internet research to find potential targets for an attack. It is therefore crucial to train staff of Jewish institutions and organizations to detect suspicious requests for information stemming from e-mail, social media, and even phone calls. Staff must also be trained to detect suspicious packages and letters, as numerous attacks against Jews were perpetrated through the use of mail and letter bombs.

To maximize security, trained members of the community must be organized in active security postings in cooperation with Jewish community organizations.
Invest in a Comprehensive Communal Security Infrastructure

The American Jewish community needs to broaden its understanding of security and its responsibility to protect its members. In particular, investing in training community volunteers will provide a committed group of dedicated security personnel. Community institutions will receive the dividends of dedicated individuals who know the community and are deeply concerned about it.

However, simply conducting training is not sufficient, as it will not guarantee that these trained individuals are in the proper location at a given time to utilize their training. To maximize security, trained members of the community must be organized in active security postings in cooperation with Jewish community organizations. Equally important is that these teams coordinate closely with law enforcement agencies, as their unparalleled knowledge of the community enables them to also act as sophisticated “eyes and ears.”

A network of these sorts of teams at synagogues and other organizations will thus be able to deter and detect potential threats, and is the most effective way to prevent the attacks described in this report.

CSS provides a tested and proven model for this approach. Since its founding in 2007, CSS has trained and managed thousands of community volunteers who safeguard tens of thousands of people. Such an approach should not be understood as condoning or encouraging the creation of a fortress-like or alarmist mentality. Instead, by fostering a “culture of security responsibility,” CSS acts to empower those most affected and most able to contribute to their own security. As only when a parent, synagogue congregant or student notices something odd and notifies proper respondents, will the American Jewish community have fully utilized its best and most overlooked asset—its own members.
Chronology of Incidents
CHRONOLOGY OF INCIDENTS

January 3, 1969
NY: Long Island
Congregation Shaaray Tefila in Far Rockaway was destroyed in a fire. Congregants managed to rescue the Torah scrolls before the roof of the building collapsed. There were no injuries. The cost to rebuild at the time was $1 million, and the congregation was only able to rebuild the synagogue in 1981.

January 11, 1969
MD: Prince George’s County
A firebomb severely damaged Shaare Tikvah synagogue. The power of the explosion shook blocks in the vicinity. There were no injuries, but the synagogue sustained $200,000 in damage.

January 23, 1969
NY: Long Island
A fire was set at the Hebrew Institute of Long Island in Far Rockaway.

January 30, 1969
NY: Brooklyn
A fire at Yeshiva Torah VaDaath destroyed Jewish texts and school supplies.

February 16, 1969
NY: Brooklyn
The gymnasium of the United Lubavitcher Yeshiva was burned down in a three-alarm fire.

March 15, 1969
NJ: Plainfield
A Jewish day school was attacked with a firebomb.

March 1969
NH: Manchester
An attempted arson at the Jewish Community Center of Manchester was foiled when chemicals distributed throughout the corridor of the center failed to ignite.

April 29, 1969
CT: Hartford
The Hebrew Shelter Home was attacked with firebombs.

May 6, 1969
NY: Brooklyn
A firebomb was thrown into Yetev Lev D’Satmar Chasidic congregation in Williamsburg during a Lag BaOmer celebration. There were no injuries.

May 16, 1969
NJ: Newark
Firebombs were hurled through a window of the B’nai Abraham synagogue that had been forcibly opened. A part of the building’s structure was burned. The Newark police officially classified the attack as arson. They were seeking members of the left-wing extremist Black Panther Movement who were foiled in a plot earlier in the month to extort $5000 from the rabbi of the synagogue, Rabbi Joachim Prinz, a nationally known civil rights activist.

July 8, 1969
NH: Manchester
Arson destroyed the rabbi’s study at Temple Adath Jeshurun.

July 14, 1969
NY: Brooklyn
A room at the Yeshiva of Flatbush was damaged in what was described as a “deliberately” set fire.

September 12, 1969
NY: Brooklyn
As evening Rosh Hashanah services concluded, three teenagers, aged 17, 15 and 14, hurled two firebombs into the vestibule of the Kehilath Yakov Synagogue in Williamsburg. Members of the congregation extinguished the fire before it caused any damage. The 17-year-old, Cornelius Leach, was sent to Kings County Hospital for psychological evaluation. All three were later charged with arson.
October 5, 1969  
CA: Los Angeles  
On the Simchat Torah holiday, a fire was set at the Hillel Jewish students’ organization building at the University of Southern California. An estimated $10,000 in damage was reported.  

November 28, 1969  
NY: Brooklyn  
A fire destroyed Yeshiva Marbetse Torah, causing an estimated $100,000 in damages.  

December 7, 1969  
NY: Queens  
The Woodside Jewish Center was set on fire on the fourth night of Chanukah. Three teenagers were later arrested and charged with arson.  

January 28, 1970  
NY: New York  
A fire was set inside the lobby of the Minsker Congregation synagogue in the South Bronx using prayer books, three cans of naphtha, and rags. The lobby was smeared with a four-foot tall black swastika and a two-foot tall white swastika. The building was unoccupied at the time of the fire, and there were no injuries.  

February 6, 1970  
WA: Seattle  
An explosion caused by dynamite demolished a synagogue’s door.  

February 28, 1970  
NY: New York  
An arson damaged Congregation Ahavath Torah in the Bronx. The synagogue’s five Torah scrolls and other religious objects were severely damaged.  

March 26, 1970  
NY: New York  
Two incendiary devices were thrown at the Moshulu Jewish Center in the Bronx. There were no injuries.  

June 18, 1970  
NJ: Elizabeth  
Two firebombs were thrown through the window of Temple B’nai Israel. A neighbor who was awakened by the noise of the smashed glass immediately notified the fire department. The synagogue suffered only minor damage.  

July 7, 1970  
NY: Long Island  
Congregation Derech Emunoh in Rockaway Beach was attacked with two firebombs.  

April 18, 1971  
NJ: West Orange  
Bombing of West Orange Jewish Center. An explosive device detonated at the West Orange Jewish Center, culminating in structural damage, including blowing off its roof and tearing out the walls of its main lobby. Additional damage included the destruction of offices, furnishings and its gymnasium, and shattered windows. There was no claim of responsibility. The perpetrators were never found.  

September 20, 1971  
NY: Great Neck  
Bomb removed from Temple Israel of Great Neck. During services on the first day of Rosh Hashanah, a bomb was discovered and removed from Temple Israel in Great Neck. Police evacuated 2700 worshippers from the building and detonated it in a parking lot nearby. There was no claim of responsibility.  

September 20, 1972 – November 10, 1972  

Two weeks after the Munich Olympics massacre of 11 Israeli athletes by Fatah’s Black September Organization, a series of letter bombs were dispatched to Israeli diplomats and leaders of Jewish groups in the U.S. Fatah was and still is the largest faction of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). Fatah’s Black September Organization and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine – General Command (PFLP-GC), both PLO factions, were responsible for mailing a series of pen-sized letter bombs that originated from Europe, India,
and Malaysia. They also targeted individuals in Israel, Israeli diplomats in Europe, and prominent Jewish figures in Europe.

In the U.S., one of the letter bombs targeted U.S. Secretary of State William Rogers. Another of the letter bombs intercepted in London included a statement by Fatah’s Black September Organization that took responsibility for the Munich Olympics attack that culminated in the murder of the 11 Israeli athletes on September 5, 1972.66

**September 20, 1972**

**NY: New York**

Three letter bombs from Fatah’s Black September Organization / PFLP-GC67 were intercepted at the New York General Post Office before being delivered to Israeli diplomats in New York. One of the devices was intended for Yosef Tekoa, then Israel’s ambassador to the UN, another was addressed to Jacob Barmore, then minister plenipotentiary, and the third was addressed to Jacob Doran, then deputy chief delegate.68 All three devices originated in Amsterdam.69

**October 10, 1972**

**NY: New York**

Two letter bombs from Fatah’s Black September Organization / PFLP-GC originating in Malaysia were delivered to two New York Jewish women active in Hadassah.70 They failed to detonate.71

**October 14, 1972**

**NY: New York**

A letter bomb exploded in the hands of postal worker William Figueroa, who was seriously injured at a Bronx post office facility.72 He lost the small finger of his right hand and required surgery to remove fragments of the device from his left hand.73 The Fatah-Black September Organization / PFLP-GC device originated in Malaysia. It was addressed to a former Hadassah Organization official in New York.74

**November 10, 1972**

**NY: New York**

Letter bombs from Fatah’s Black September Organization / PFLP-GC that were to be delivered to U.S. Jewish organizations in New York were intercepted in Malaysia.

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68 “Mail bombs turn up in 7 more cities,” Los Angeles Times, September 21, 1972.
71 Mickolus, p. 352.
74 Mickolus, p. 352.
75 Ibid., p. 361.
76 Ibid.
77 “Sirhan’s brother goes on trial for threat to Golda,” Jerusalem Post, June 8, 1973.
81 “ailed for threat to Golda’s life,” Jerusalem Post, March 6, 1974.
82 Al-Jawary is also known as Khalid Muhammad Al-Jassem, and by his nom de guerre, Abu Walid Al-Iraqi. He was tasked with the mission of bombing Israeli targets in New York. Al-Jawary flew from Beirut to Montreal, made a stopover in Boston, and arrived in New York on January 12, 1973.83
After his arrival in the U.S., the FBI office in Tel Aviv received information related to a separate investigation. The FBI investigation was of another man who subsequently turned out to be Al-Jawary. The FBI interviewed Al-Jawary, who claimed he was from Baghdad, held "nonpolitical" beliefs, and was in the U.S. to study at the Teterboro School of Aeronautics in New Jersey for a commercial pilot's license. He also told the FBI agents who interviewed him that he was planning on going back to Iraq, following the completion of his flight training, in a month's time.84

In preparation for the attack, Al-Jawary sought cover for his surveillance activities. He seemingly befriended a woman with a young son and grew close to her. At the same time, he took her son with him on trips into New York to surveil potential targets without arousing suspicion.85

Al-Jawary chose the El Al terminal in Queens, the First Israeli Bank and Trust Company, and Israel Discount Bank as his targets, the latter two of which are on Fifth Avenue in New York. The two bombs intended for the banks were timed with alarm clocks, and were composed of large containers of gasoline, propane tanks, blocks of Semtex military grade explosives, batteries, and blasting caps.

The components of the EI Al device, which was twice the size of the other two, included propane tanks, plastic containers filled with gasoline, blocks of Semtex, blasting caps, batteries and fuses.86 The timer was an electro-chemical cell, or E-cell, a more sophisticated and powerful timing device. The NYPD bomb disposal expert who later dismantled the device noted that this was the first time that an E-cell was used in an explosive device in the U.S.87 Additionally, the Semtex military grade explosives used in all three devices were brought from Czechoslovakia, and were found to match the Semtex used earlier in the series of FBSO letter bomb devices sent to the U.S. (see September 20 – November 10, 1972).88

Al-Jawary, who was believed to have received assistance from two other accomplices, rented three cars: a 1973 Dodge Dart, a 1972 Plymouth Duster, and a Plymouth Fury. The first two bombs were placed inside the Dart and the Duster; the larger device, which Al-Jawary drove to the El Al terminal himself, was placed in the Fury. An Israeli newspaper with Black September and PLO propaganda materials inserted inside of each was also placed on the dashboard of all three cars.

On the morning of March 4, the day of Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir's visit to New York, Al-Jawary drove the Fury to the El Al terminal and parked it. The devices were set to explode simultaneously at 12 noon. All three devices failed to explode due to defective circuitry in each of the three fuses.89

The National Security Agency received an intercepted communication from a foreign intelligence agency on March 5 revealing the exact location of the three devices and notified the FBI.90 On the morning of March 5, the Dart on Fifth Avenue was towed away and impounded. On March 6, the Duster was also towed away. A rental car supervisor was called to the impound lot, and discovered the bombs inside the Dart, and later on, in the Duster. The New York Police Department's bomb disposal unit was called to the lot. On the night of March 6, the third device was found at the El Al terminal and was dismantled by the NYPD.91

The NYPD detonated one of the smaller devices, which produced a fireball 25 feet in diameter and between 50 and 75 feet in height. John Malone, the FBI New York office assistant director in charge, stated, "Anyone within 100 yards would have been killed. Hundreds would have been killed."92

The FBI and NYPD assessed that had the device at the El Al terminal detonated, it would have created a fireball measuring 50 yards in both height and width. It would have emitted a shock wave of 150 yards in both height and width that would have torn through the terminal and into the ground beneath it. Any planes flying in the vicinity at an altitude of 100 yards or higher would have been propelled sideways.93

Al-Jawary and two accomplices escaped from the U.S. before they could be found and arrested. A false passport, bomb making components, and his fingerprints were recovered from Al-Jawary's motel room in Queens94 and additional fingerprints were found inside the three rental cars.95 The FBI further discovered that he had received a wire transfer of $1500 from Beirut.96 A grand jury filed an indictment against Al-Jawary and any accomplices in absentia on May 22, 1973. He was believed to have made his way to Europe.97

84 Ibid.
94 Ibid.
On the first day of the 1991 US-Iraq war, Al-Jawary was arrested in Rome on January 16 for using forged documents while traveling. He was attempting to travel to Tunisia to attend the funeral of Salah Khalaf, a.k.a. Abu Iyad, a top official in both Fatah and Black September. At the time of his arrest, Al-Jawary was using his nom de guerre, Abu Walid Al-Iraqi.98 He was extradited to the U.S., and his trial began on March 5, 1993.99 Al-Jawary was convicted three days later and sentenced in April 1993 to 30 years in prison.100

After the signing of the Oslo Accords in 1993, and following the PLO’s establishment of the Palestinian Authority (PA) in 1994, Al-Jawary’s Fatah comrades actively sought his early release from prison by U.S. officials. In August 1995 Nasser Yusuf, then the PA director general of public security, made an appeal to the National Security Council of the Clinton Administration. Yusuf requested that Al-Jawary receive an early release from prison and referred to him as “Khalid Al-Jassem.” In an attempt to minimize Al-Jawary’s responsibility for the execution of the bomb plot, Yusuf asserted that Al-Jawary was simply “following orders.” Yusuf further “argue[d] that Israel-PLO peace supports his request for early release.” Yusuf’s request was denied.101

In 2000, Al-Jawary gave a sworn statement to U.S. immigration officials asserting that he is both a member of the PLO and Hamas.102 After he served 16 years of his sentence, he was released from prison in January 2009 with credit for time served and good behavior. He was deported to Sudan on March 3, 2009.103

July 1, 1973
MD: Chevy Chase
Assassination of Israeli assistant air force and naval attaché Colonel Yosef Alon, reportedly by Fatah’s Black September Organization, outside of his home in suburban Washington, D.C.

At close to 1:00 am, Colonel Yosef (“Joe”) Alon, an assistant air and naval attaché at the Israeli Embassy, was returning home with his wife Devora from a farewell party for a colleague. He parked his car in the driveway and Devora Alon exited the car and walked onto the porch. Alon exited the car, and reached for his jacket. Devora Alon suddenly heard gunfire, and she ran into the house to call emergency services, the police, and the embassy. An unidentified assassin opened fire on Alon from approximately six feet away with a .38 caliber revolver of foreign manufacture. Devora Alon came back outside to find Alon lying on his back in a pool of blood and saw a light colored car slowly drive away. She and her 17-year-old daughter Dalia tried to staunch Alon’s wounds while they waited for an ambulance. Alon died after arriving at the hospital.104

On the same day, the Cairo-based radio station Voice of Palestine (VOP) broadcast a claim of direct responsibility for the attack. Fatah ran the Voice of Palestine together with the Palestinian Affairs department of the Egyptian military’s General Intelligence Division.105 The VOP declared that Alon, whom it described as “the air attaché and deputy military attaché at the enemies’ embassy in Washington, was executed.” It continued, “This is the first execution operation carried out against a Zionist official in the U.S.” 106

Although the FBI and the Montgomery County Police never officially solved Alon’s murder, in recent years the involvement of Fatah’s Black September Organization (FSBO) has become more clear due to new histories of the period, releases of memoirs by Western government officials and PLO figures, and investigative reporting on the terrorist attacks of that time.

A recent biography of the late CIA Beirut station manager Robert Ames provided the perspective of the FSBO on the attack. Ames developed a long-term intelligence backchannel in the 1970s with the PLO’s Ali Hassan Salameh, who was also operations chief of FSBO and the architect of the Munich Olympics attack.107 Following Alon’s assassination, Ames sent an urgent message to Salameh asking if the FSBO was operating on U.S. soil. It is not known if Salameh answered him. Mustafa Zein, an associate of Salameh who also assisted Ames as a liaison to Salameh, believed that Salameh himself ordered Alon’s “execution.” 108

The account further describes that the FSBO’s original assassination target was then Israeli ambassador to the U.S., Yitzhak Rabin, who served in that post until March 1973 and was replaced afterward by Simcha Dinitz. After surveilling the security surrounding the ambassador, the FSBO

105 Correspondence with Ehud Yaari, Middle East analyst for Israel’s Channel 2 Television.
perpetrators regarded assassinating him as insurmountable and reconsidered their capabilities. Alon was chosen as their target instead. An FBSO operative using the nom de guerre “Abu Faris,” who was African in appearance, led the team of assassins.109

Additionally, as the result of a 2007 investigative project by the Associated Press, a 1977 FBI document that was partially declassified revealed the CIA received information from a PLO “senior official” indicating that the FBSO was responsible for the assassination. The document reported that two Arab students who were FBSO operatives entered the U.S. through Canada using either Lebanese or Cypriot passports.110 A recent history of the FBI indicated that two accomplices of the FBSO terrorist Khalid Al-Jawary were most likely responsible for the assassination of Alon (see March 4, 1973).111

The two FBSO operatives traveled to Washington D.C., where they contacted an Arab professor who assisted them logistically in carrying out the attack. While they were in Washington, they lodged with other students and rented a car. The professor rented a separate car, prepared their weapons, and positioned the weapons in the car before the attack. After the two FBSO operatives assassinated Alon, they disposed of the car with the weapons and drove to Dulles Airport with the car they rented. They flew to the West Coast, then to the Far East, and escaped back to the Middle East.112

**March 9-11, 1977**

**Washington, D.C.**

Hanafi Muslim takeover of B’nai B’rith’s national office building and subsequent 40-hour hostage standoff.

During the late morning and afternoon of Wednesday, March 9, 1977, 11 radicalized African-American men led by Khalifa (Caliph) Hamaas Abdul Khaalis calling themselves Hanafi Muslims attacked and took over three separate buildings in Washington D.C. The Hanafis were a self-styled extremist breakaway group from the anti-Semitic Nation of Islam.

Abdul Khaalis and his group demanded that the film The Message, also called Muhammad Messenger of God, not be shown in U.S. theaters because they asserted it depicted the Prophet Muhammad and was therefore “blasphemous”113 and offensive to Muslims. Abdul Khaalis also demanded that the government turn over five Nation of Islam members114 to him to be beheaded, in accordance with his own interpretation of Islam. The five men were convicted and sentenced for the murder of seven members of Abdul Khaalis’ family in 1973.115 He also demanded that the three Black Muslims who assassinated Malcolm X be turned over to him for similar retribution.116

Prior to the attack, members of the group conducted surveillance of the B’nai B’rith office by getting construction jobs on the building expansion project that was taking place at the time.117 In preparation for the attacks, Abdul Khaalis engaged his men in daily military-style drills at the Hanafi Muslim Center.118

Armed with guns, machetes, and hatchets, Abdul Khaalis and six of his followers drove up to the B’nai B’rith national office building in a U-Haul truck.119 They burst into the building at 11 a.m. and violently rounded up B’nai B’rith employees floor by floor, firing shots and pistol-whipping them. They took over 120 hostages.120 One of the hostages, Rae Ehrlich, recalled that Abdul Khaalis told the hostages “[i]f anyone does anything wrong, he’ll cut their head [off] and throw it out of the window.”121

Some of the hostages were beaten and stabbed.122 One of the Hanafi terrorists, Abdul Hamid, also known as Hilvan Judge Finch, struck Charles Fenyvesi in the eye with the barrel of a gun, and then punched him in the mouth.123 Another of the Hanafi terrorists struck Paul Green with his rifle barrel, breaking his cheekbone in six places.124 Green described Abdul Khaalis as being “violently anti-Semitic.” Green further recalled Abdul Khaalis telling the hostages that “the Jews are responsible for the ills of the world, that we should be prepared to die, that they [the Hanafis] were soldiers in a holy

war, that they were prepared to die and that more civilians die in a holy war than soldiers.” Abdur Khalis also cited the notorious anti-Semitic propaganda tract, “The Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion,” to the B’nai B’rith hostages.

At one point during the incident, Abdul Khalis told Hank Siegel, the B’nai B’rith press officer, to come over to him and order one of his men to aim a gun at Siegel’s head. Khalis announced, “The elevator is coming up. If there’s a cop on it, he’s dead and you’re dead.” The elevator was empty. Siegel witnessed the Hanafis attacking and stabbing one of the African-American employees of B’nai B’rith, tormenting him in particular “because he was working for the Jews.”

One of the female hostages was stabbed twice. Sandra F. Rosen, who was struck in the eye, provided first aid to the stabbed hostage. Abdul Adam, another of the Hanafis, approached her. He told her, “I see the hate in your eyes, you Yahudi [Jewish] whore, and when we go to work on you, you’ll be sorry.”

Approximately one hour after the takeover of the B’nai B’rith building, the Hanafis took over the Islamic Center of Washington and the District Building, Washington D.C.’s city hall, at Judiciary Square. Abdul Khalis was reported to be enraged at the Islamic Center over an earlier comment of one of its representatives. Following the trial of the murderers of his family, an Islamic Center spokesman stated that the Hanafis’ understanding of Islam was “superficial.”

At the District Building, Abdul Muzikir, also known as Marquette Anthony, fired double-O buckshot into the face of WHUR radio news reporter Maurice Williams, killing him. He wounded Mark P. Cantrell, a security officer who later died in the hospital of a heart attack. Muzikir also shot and wounded a Washington D.C. city council aide, Robert Pierce. Muzikir fired double-O buckshot at Pierce at point-blank range into his back as Pierce was lying on the floor with his hands tied behind his back. Pierce was described as “crippled for life” as the result of his wounds. A ricocheted bullet fired by the Hanafis wounded Marion Barry, then a Washington D.C. councilman. A total of 40 people were wounded in the three takeovers.

Three ambassadors from Muslim countries volunteered to assist in the hostage negotiations with the police: Ardesher Zahedi of Iran (then representing the Shah’s government), Ashraf Ghobral of Egypt, and Sahabzada Yaqub Khan of Pakistan. They called Abdul Khalis from the Islamic Center and spoke to him for many hours on the telephone. They also read Qur’anic passages to him focused on the theme of compassion, and asked him to be compassionate towards the hostages.

On Thursday night, March 10, the three ambassadors met Abdul Khalis in person at the B’nai B’rith building together with Metropolitan Police Chief Maurice Cullinane. They met for three hours, and concluded at 11 p.m. with an agreement that the hostages would be released the next day. At that time, the three ambassadors left the negotiations, and Abdul Khalis still had to negotiate the terms of the Hanafis’ surrender to the police. In the meantime, the Hanafis poured highly flammable liquid, reported to be paint thinner, throughout the stairwells of the building. They were preparing to set fire to the building with the hostages inside of it. Abdul Khalis told the police chief he needed to save face, and continued to make threats. One of the men who was involved in the negotiations described the B’nai B’rith building as, “literally a torch without a match.”

At approximately 1 a.m. on Friday, March 11, Chief Cullinane was ultimately successful in convincing Abdul Khalis and his men to surrender. Abdul Khalis agreed that they would put down their weapons in exchange for leniency before their trial. Abdul Khalis was allowed to go home and his followers were allowed to be released on bail.

Abdul Khalis and his group were indicted on May 3, 1977, and were convicted of armed kidnapping and conspiracy on July 24, 1977. At the trial, Abdul Khalis asserted that there was a “Zionist Jewish conspiracy” to take over the United States and the world.
Hamaas Abdul Khaalis was sentenced to 41-123 years in prison, with a requirement to serve the full minimum term. Following his sentencing, Abdul Khaalis stated to the court, “I am not going to apologize,” and went on to assert that he was defending his religion and country when he and his group took over the B’nai B’rith building, the Islamic Center, and the District Building. Abdul Khaalis further warned, “Today America is in very, very grave trouble, and nobody seems to listen. These problems are grave problems and you need my help bad [sic].” He continued, “We’ve strayed so far that the people laugh and smile when they see homosexuals. God destroyed them – Sodom and Gomorrah … Whatever happens is the will of Allah.”

Despite the takeover of the Islamic Center, Dr. Mostafa Momen, the advisor to the Islamic Center in the United Arab Emirates, sent a cable to Abdul Khaalis’ defense attorney to be read at the sentencing attesting that, “We Arabs in the Arab world bear witness that Khalifa [caliph] Hamaas is a true Muslim leader who stood for the character and respect of Islam and he showed mercy by releasing 129 souls.” Abdul Khaalis died in prison in 2003.

The others involved in the B’nai B’rith takeover were Abdul Adam, who received a sentence of 44-132 years in prison, Abdul Latif, also known as Carl E. Roper, who received 36-108 years in prison, Abdul Shaaeed, also known as Marvin Sadler, who received 36-108 years in prison, Abdul Salaam, also known as Clarence White, who received a sentence of 40-120 years in prison, Abdul Hamid, also known as Hilvan Judge Finch, received a sentence of 36 years in prison, and Abdul Razzaaq, also known as Nelson McQueen, Jr. and Norman Lee, who received a sentence of 40-120 years in prison.

The two Hanafis who took over the District Building were Abu Muzikir, who was convicted of second-degree murder for killing Maurice Williams. He received a sentence of 77 years to life in prison. Abdul Nuh, also known as Mark E. Gibson, received a sentence of 47 years to life in prison.

The others involved in the B’nai B’rith takeover were Abdul Adam, who received a sentence of 44-132 years in prison, Abdul Latif, also known as Carl E. Roper, who received 36-108 years in prison, Abdul Shaaeed, also known as Marvin Sadler, who received 36-108 years in prison, Abdul Salaam, also known as Clarence White, who received a sentence of 40-120 years in prison, Abdul Hamid, also known as Hilvan Judge Finch, received a sentence of 36 years in prison, and Abdul Razzaaq, also known as Nelson McQueen, Jr. and Norman Lee, who received a sentence of 40-120 years in prison.

The three Hanafis who took over the Islamic Center were three brothers: Abdul Raham, also known as Clyde Young, who received a sentence of 28-84 years in prison, Abdul Raham, also known as Philip Young, who received a sentence of 28-84 years in prison, and Abdul Al-Qawee, also known as Samuel Young, who received a sentence of 24-72 years in prison. The judge asked the Justice Department that each of the 12 Hanafis, including Khaalis, be sent to a separate prison.

**July 25, 1977**

**MD: Rockville**

White supremacist and serial killer Joseph Paul Franklin bombed the home of then AIPAC Executive Director Morris Amitay.

At 3:20 a.m., the force of an explosion blasted out a door and a window and ripped a 10-foot hole into the side of the house of then AIPAC Executive Director Morris Amitay. He and his family were asleeep at the time. The family’s beagle puppy was killed in the explosion. There were not human injuries. Investigators discovered 400 feet of electrical cord leading from the house that they surmised was connected to a detonator for the bomb. Serial killer and white supremacist Joseph Paul Franklin later confessed his responsibility for the incident.

**July 29, 1977**

**TN: Chattanooga**

Bombing and destruction of Beth Sholom synagogue on a Sabbath evening.

Four days after the bombing of Amitay’s home, white supremacist Joseph Paul Franklin drove to Chattanooga and chose Beth Sholom synagogue as his next target. He placed a mixture of 50 pounds of water gel explosives and five sticks of dynamite inside a crawl space under the floor of Beth Sholom synagogue. He intended to set it off with worshippers inside. Franklin later called the synagogue to determine the time of Friday night services.

On that Friday night, eight men came for Sabbath services, but since they did not have a quorum, they completed their prayers early. Less than an hour after the congregants completed services, Franklin detonated the explosives and the building exploded. The blast utterly demolished the synagogue, but the congregation’s three Torahs were somehow unscathed. There were no injuries. Investigators discovered 100 yards of wire used to detonate the bomb.
led from the synagogue to a nearby motel.\textsuperscript{155} Franklin later confessed to police that he came to Chattanooga “to kill Jews.”\textsuperscript{156} He further stated to a detective, “I was trying to kill as many Jews as I could.”\textsuperscript{157}

**October 8, 1977**

**MO: Richmond Heights**

Gerald Gordon was killed and William Lee Ash was injured when Joseph Paul Franklin, a white supremacist serial killer, shot at worshippers leaving a bar mitzvah at Brith Sholom Kneseth Israel Congregation on a Sabbath afternoon.

On a Sabbath afternoon as they departed a bar mitzvah luncheon at Brith Sholom Kneseth Israel Congregation (BSKI), a sniper shot at three Orthodox Jewish men at shortly before 1 p.m. Gerald Gordon died from his injuries, and William Lee Ash lost a finger and was wounded in the hip. A bullet passed through the suit coat of a third man, Steve Goldman, who was not injured.\textsuperscript{158} White supremacist serial killer Joseph Paul Franklin was later arrested for a series of other attacks and confessed to the murder at the synagogue. He later told an interviewer, “I wanted to kill as many Jews as I could.”\textsuperscript{159}

During his 1997 trial, prosecutors explained that Franklin prepared for the attack by purchasing a Remington 700 hunting rifle in Texas. He then drove to Oklahoma City, a bicycle, a guitar case to hide his rifle, and 10-inch nails. Franklin ground off the hunting rifle’s serial number and placed it into the guitar case and wiped both clean of fingerprints.\textsuperscript{160} He used gloves afterward to avoid leaving fingerprints. On the morning of the attack, he parked his car close to the synagogue and rode his bicycle the rest of the way. He hid in the grass and prepared for his ambush by hammering the 10-inch nails into the telephone pole to serve as rifle rests. He fired five shots at the men leaving synagogue, then rode his bicycle back to his car and escaped to Memphis.\textsuperscript{161}

From 1977 to 1980, Franklin (born James Clayton Vaughn) carried out a three-year series of sniper shootings and bombings targeting Jews, African-Americans, and interracial couples. He confessed to having killed or tried to kill over 20 people. He also attempted to kill civil rights leader Vernon Jordan, and adult magazine publisher Larry Flynt.\textsuperscript{162} At a relatively young age, Franklin became an admirer of Hitler and by the age of 19, became involved in the American Nazi Party and subsequently the National Socialist White People’s Party.\textsuperscript{163} To evade arrest, he changed his name in 1976\textsuperscript{164} to reflect his ideological admiration for both World War II Nazi propagandist Joseph Goebbels and Benjamin Franklin.\textsuperscript{165} Franklin confessed to the murder of Gordon and was sentenced to death in 1997. He was executed in 2013.\textsuperscript{166}

William Pierce, the late leader of the neo-Nazi National Alliance, considered Franklin to be a hero. In 1989 Pierce wrote Hunter, a work of fiction based on Franklin’s murderous racist and anti-Semitic attacks. It became a best seller among followers of white supremacist groups.\textsuperscript{167}

**December 6, 1980**

**CA: Temple City**

Arson at Temple Beth David of Temple City by two local officials of the American Nazi Party.

At 3 a.m. on December 6, during the Chanukah holiday, Temple Beth David was set on fire. The fire caused extensive damage. American Nazi Party chapter commander Michael Canale was arrested on December 12, and his chapter lieutenant, Donald Neilson.\textsuperscript{168} was arrested on December 13.\textsuperscript{169} Canale confessed to investigators that he climbed through an unlocked window in order to start the fire.\textsuperscript{170} In August of 1981 Canale was sentenced to four years in prison.\textsuperscript{171}

\textsuperscript{158} “Three decades later, the effects of synagogue shooting are still being felt;” St. Louis Beacon, May 25, 2010, https://www.stlbeacon.org/#/list/AND[AUTHOR[ellen_futterman]]  
\textsuperscript{160} “State of Missouri v Joseph P. Franklin, 969 S.W.2d 743 (Mo.banc 1998),” Missouri Death Row, December 11, 2013, http://missourideathrow.com/2008/12/Franklin-Joseph/  
\textsuperscript{161} “Three decades later, the effects of synagogue shooting are still being felt;” St. Louis Beacon, May 25, 2010, https://www.stlbeacon.org/#/list/AND[AUTHOR[ellen_futterman]]  
\textsuperscript{162} Ibid.  
\textsuperscript{163} Ibid.  
\textsuperscript{170} “Two charged with synagogue fire in Temple City,” Los Angeles Times, December 4, 1980.  
May 25, 1981
TN: Nashville
Foiled bombing attempt at The Temple by members of the Ku Klux Klan and American Nazi Party.

Two KKK members and an American Nazi Party member were arrested for conspiring together in an attempt to plant dynamite at The Temple synagogue in Nashville. Law enforcement officials sought seven others for a conspiracy to bomb Jewish-owned pawn shops. In 1982, the three were sentenced. Gladys Girgenti received 15 years, and Billy Joe Norton received five years. Both were members of the Confederate Vigilantes of the Ku Klux Klan. The third perpetrator, William Foutch, of the American Nazi Party, was sentenced to 219 days in jail that he had already served, and 500 hours of community service.

October 8, 1982
NY: New York
The New York offices of the Jewish Defense League were bombed. An unnamed woman claimed responsibility in the name of Palestinians.

At 11:57 p.m. a bomb exploded outside the sixth floor offices of the Jewish Defense League (JDL). Two walls and the front door were blown out, but there were no casualties. A woman called to claim responsibility in the name of the Palestinians, declaring, "Long live the Palestinians. The JDL are the real terrorists." The perpetrators were not found.

June 7, 1983 – September 21, 1983
NY: New York
Four series of drive-by sniper shootings at Yeshiva University.

A series of four drive-by sniper shootings against Jewish targets took place in the vicinity of Yeshiva University from June to September of 1983. The first three incidents took place within the space of 15 days in June. The last incident occurred in late September. There were no claims of responsibility for any of the incidents. The sniper and his possible accomplices were never apprehended.

June 7, 1983 – Men in a car were reported to have carried out a drive-by shooting attack, spraying four bullets at the front door of Yeshiva University's Furst Hall.

June 9, 1983 - Six to nine shots were fired at the Jewish Memorial Hospital building, located in the same vicinity as the university. There were no injuries, and there was no claim of responsibility.

June 22, 1983 - In the third drive-by shooting, 20 rounds were fired into a local restaurant on the Yeshiva University campus popular with students. The injured included two rabbinical students, Abraham Weintraub and Yosef Aaron Zimmerman, and a 14-year-old high school student, Lee Needleman. They were brought to the hospital for treatment.

Shortly afterward, the New York Police Department stated that ballistics tests showed the three sniper attacks were linked, having indicated that the same high velocity weapon was used in all three incidents.

September 21, 1983 – In the fourth sniper attack at Yeshiva University, a high school student was wounded in the knee while riding in a car with other students on the highway in the vicinity of the school. It was believed that the sniper and his accomplices followed the students’ car as they departed from campus.

August 14, 1983
IN: Bloomington
Arson attack on the sanctuary of Beth Shalom synagogue by the survivalist white supremacist group, The Covenant, the Sword, and the Arm of the Lord.

A firebomb ignited a blaze at the base of the ark inside the sanctuary of Beth Shalom Jewish Religious and Community Center. One Torah scroll was significantly damaged, and prayer books were destroyed. There were no injuries. James Ellison, the founder of the survivalist white supremacist group The Covenant, the Sword, and the Arm of the Lord was indicted in April 1985 together with William Thomas, another member of the group. They were charged with conspiring to bomb the synagogue, an LGBT church in Springfield, Missouri, an interstate natural gas pipeline in Arkansas, and for mail fraud.
Ellison was convicted of federal racketeering and weapons charges in July. In August he entered a plea bargain, admitting to one count of conspiracy and one weapons charge. He was sentenced to 20 years in prison on September 5, 1985.186 Ellison received early release for agreeing to testify against members of the neo-Nazi Aryan Nations, another violent group. Upon his release from prison, Ellison went to Elohim City, a white supremacist enclave in Oklahoma.187

April 29, 1984
ID: Boise
Bombing of Ahavath Israel synagogue by The Order, a neo-Nazi terrorist group.

As part of a larger campaign of attacks by the neo-Nazi terrorist group The Order, Bruce Carroll Pierce and Richard Kemp planted a time bomb underneath Congregation Ahavath Israel. The bomb detonated shortly after children left a class they attended in the building. The kitchen was destroyed, but there were no injuries. Robert Matthews, the founder of The Order, was furious the attack caused no casualties.188 Pierce and Kemp were arrested and later tried and convicted on federal racketeering charges in December 1985. Pierce was sentenced to 100 years in prison, and Kemp received a 60-year sentence.189

June 18, 1984
CO: Denver
Drive-by shooting murder of Denver Jewish talk show host Alan Berg by The Order.

Bruce Carroll Pierce of the neo-Nazi terrorist group The Order carried out the drive-by shooting of Alan Berg, an outspoken Denver Jewish talk show host. Berg was stalked by Pierce and murdered at 9:21 p.m. in the driveway of his own home. Armed with an Ingram MAC-10 machine gun, Pierce fired 12 bullets into Berg as he was exiting his car with groceries.190 At Pierce’s trial, a cooperating witness testified that The Order drew up a list of prominent Jews, media figures, and bankers they intended to assassinate.191 Pierce was arrested in 1985 and tried in 1986 for Berg’s murder and other crimes.192 He was sentenced to a total of 252 years imprisonment, and died of natural causes at the Allenwood, Pennsylvania federal prison in August 2010.193

October 31, 1984
NY: Bensonhurst
Arson at the Mapleton Park Hebrew Institute.

An explosion and subsequent fire at 2:16 a.m. severely damaged the Mapleton Park Hebrew Institute in Bensonhurst, Brooklyn.

The explosion blew out the building’s windows and destroyed its interior, including six Torah scrolls.194 Two young men were seen running out of the building immediately prior to the explosion. Fire marshals declared the incident an act of arson. The building housed a synagogue, a kindergarten, and a junior high school. There were no casualties and no claim of responsibility.195

November 1, 1984
NY: Bensonhurst
Attempted arson at Congregation and Talmud Torah Tifereth Israel.

Arson was attempted against Congregation and Talmud Torah Tifereth Israel, a synagogue two blocks away from the Mapleton Park Hebrew Institute.196 A flammable liquid was ignited and flung against the door of the three-story synagogue. The fire was extinguished by a passer-by, and caused only minor damage.197

July 1, 1985
CA: San Francisco
A pipe bomb was wired to the door of a synagogue in San Francisco by white supremacist Coy Ray Phelps. Phelps, a neo-Nazi and white supremacist, wired a bomb to the door of the Adath Israel synagogue with a coat hanger. Its fuse was lit but it went out. There was no claim of responsibility.198

September 16, 1985
CA: San Francisco
Pipe bombs were placed at a rabbi’s home and synagogue by white supremacist Coy Ray Phelps.

A bomb wrapped in anti-Zionist and racist literature199 was placed outside the home of Rabbi Jacob Traub, rabbi of Adath Israel synagogue, and another at Congregation Beth Shalom

synagogue, both in San Francisco. No claim for responsibility was made. Coy Ray Phelps, a neo-Nazi white supremacist, was arrested on September 20, 1985 on charges of placing pipe bombs at Jewish and non-Jewish targets.200

Phelps, the self-appointed founder and only member of the Church of the Holy Brotherhood, was convicted of threatening Adath Israel, Congregation Beth Shalom, and an African-American studies program at San Francisco State University. In 1986, he was found not guilty by reason of insanity and sent to a mental hospital at the federal prison in Springfield, Missouri. He was conditionally released in 1999 after prison hospital staff determined that he did not need inpatient hospitalization. The decision was vacated and he was returned to a federal prison hospital in Butner, North Carolina in March 2002.201

September 16, 1989

CO: Denver

Surveillance documents and photographs targeting the JCC in Denver were discovered by investigators in a storage locker belonging to the radical Islamist group, Jama'at Al-Fuqara. A cache of explosives, weapons, and ammunition belonging to the organization were also found.

An investigation of the radical Islamist Jama'at Al-Fuqara organization (“The Association of the Impoverished,” also known as Al-Fuqara and Muslims of the Americas) led law enforcement officials to a storage locker in Colorado Springs. Jama’at Al-Fuqara is led by the jihadist cleric Sheikh Mubarak Ali Shah Gilani of Pakistan. Gilani provided military training and recruited his American followers as foreign fighters for the jihad in Afghanistan during the 1980s.202

Prior to the discovery of the locker, Jama'at Al-Fuqara carried out the bombing of a Hare Krishna temple in Denver, and the murder of a Muslim cleric whose teachings the group considered to be blasphemous.203 An examination of the locker's contents revealed surveillance documents and photographs targeting the Jewish Community Center in Denver.204

Other items discovered included a cache of explosives, weapons, and ammunition. They included 30-40 pounds of explosives, three large pipe bombs, improvised explosive devices, and shape charges. Among the weapons found at the site were 10 handguns, a number of them with their serial numbers removed, reloading equipment, and silencers in different stages of manufacture. The storage locker also contained bomb-making instructions, military training manuals, and blank documents to create false identities. Maps, surveillance photographs and other materials indicated the group was also preparing for future attacks by surveilling a variety of military and infrastructure targets in Colorado and Wyoming.205

Additional materials found included bullet-riddled target shooting silhouettes that were used by Jama'at Al-Fuqara members. They were marked “Zionist Pig,” “Delta Team,” “FBI Anti-Terrorist Team,” and “SAS” (UK Special Air Service).206 A large photograph of the jihadist cleric Sheikh Umar Abd Al-Rahman, then the leader of the Egyptian jihadist organization, Al-Gama'a Al-Islamiya, was also found.207 Al-Rahman is also a figure of admiration for Jama'at Al-Fuqara followers.208

June 10, 1990

TN: Nashville

Members of the Tennessee White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan and the Aryan Nations carry out a drive-by shooting attack on the West End synagogue.

Damion Patton, a juvenile skinhead, met with KKK leader Leonard William Armstrong and Jonathan David Brown, of both the KKK and Aryan Nations, in Nashville. The three met at a gathering for white supremacists on the night of July 9.209 Armstrong was the Grand Dragon of the white supremacist Tennessee White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan. Brown was both a Klan member and a member of the neo-Nazi Aryan Nations.209

At approximately 1 a.m. on the morning of July 10, Patton drove a car while Armstrong shot at the synagogue. Armstrong fired several shots at the West End synagogue with a TEC-9mm assault pistol,210 shattering a window.211 They were arrested and indicted in December 1991.212 Brown was charged with perjury and being an accessory after the fact for assisting Patton from being found and arrested. He helped Patton spray paint his car, changing the color from white to black, gave him a license plate from one of his trucks, and cash so that he could flee Tennessee. Brown was convicted in August 1992 and sentenced to two years and three months in prison; three years supervised release with special conditions, and a $10,000 fine.213 Armstrong admitted to the shooting

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and entered a plea agreement, telling the judge they wanted to intimidate the synagogue’s congregation. The court did not release his exact jail term, which could have been up to 10 years.214

**August 23, 1990**  
**CA: San Francisco**  
An attempted arson at Adath Israel synagogue left its entrance scorched.215

**August 27, 1990**  
**CA: San Francisco**  
An arson attempt at Congregation Beth Israel-Judea left the synagogue’s stained glass windows damaged by fire. The spokesman of the San Francisco Fire Department noted that the fire was started with diesel fuel.216

**November 5, 1990**  
**NY: New York**  
Assassination of Rabbi Meir Kahane by El-Sayyid Nosair, a member of what was later understood by investigators to be a nascent Al-Qaida cell in New York.

Starting in 1989, a New York group of radical Islamist followers of Sheikh Umar Abd Al-Rahman, a spiritual leader of Al-Qaida, coalesced into a “jihad army.”217 They and other members of Al-Qaida who formed such groups referred to themselves as an “Islamic Army.”218 El-Sayyid Nosair was one of its members in New York, and coordinated the group’s activities with Abd Al-Rahman, both prior to Al-Rahman’s arrival in New York and afterwards.219

On November 5, 1990, after delivering a speech at the Marriott East Side hotel, Rabbi Meir Kahane stood speaking with members of the audience. Nosair was accompanied by two other members of the cell, Bilal Al-Kaisi and Muhammad Salameh.220 Armed with a .357 Magnum revolver and wearing a yarmulke, Nosair approached Kahane and shot him in the neck and chest, fatally wounding him. As Nosair fled the room, his path was impeded by one of the audience members and Nosair shot him in the leg. On the street, Carlos Acosta, a postal police officer, tried to stop Nosair. Nosair shot Acosta twice, but Acosta managed to wound Nosair and detain him.221 Bilal Al-Kaisi and Muhammad Salameh escaped the room separately. The two men later carried out the 1993 World Trade Center bombing.

In 2005 Nosair admitted that his first assassination target was then Israeli Minister of Housing and Construction Ariel Sharon. Nosair had gone to surveil a hotel where Sharon was scheduled to speak, but decided against the attack.222

Following Nosair’s arrest, a hit list of six Jewish Americans he compiled was discovered. It included then Rep. Gary Ackerman of Queens, two New York federal judges - Edward Korman, and Jack Weinstein; former U.S. Assistant Attorney Jacques Semmelman, and an unnamed individual. The judges and former U.S. assistant attorney were involved in the New York extradition case of Mahmoud Abed Atta, an Abu Nidal terrorist. The sixth was Howard Adelman, a columnist for the Jewish Press of New York.223

A search of Nosair’s home yielded a case of 1,440 rounds of 7.62-millimeter military grade ammunition, and literature on combat and weapons, covering bomb-making, hand grenades, and guns. Materials indicating that Nosair stalked Kahane were discovered, including an advertisement for the lecture and a future event, and a yarmulke. Additionally, a vial of the poison sodium cyanide was found inside Nosair’s work locker at the Centre Street courts building.224

In order to mount a legal defense, a cousin of Nosair, Ibrahim El-Gabrowny, reportedly traveled to Saudi Arabia and received $20,000 for Nosair’s legal expenses from Usama Bin L aden.225 In 1992, Nosair was convicted on weapons charges but was acquitted of second-degree murder. He was sentenced to the maximum of 7½ to 22 years.226 In early 1993, U.S. officials were reported to have asserted that Sheikh Umar Abd Al-Rahman, the jihadist cleric who was a mentor of Usama Bin Laden, made arrangements for Nosair’s wife and family to receive financial support until his release.227

In 1995, Nosair tried for his involvement from prison in the 1993 New York Landmarks plot. During the trial, prosecutors noted that a wave of terrorism was launched starting with Nosair’s assassination of Kahane in 1990. Nosair was convicted of strategizing targets in the New York Landmarks plot by using coded messages and communicating with the co-conspirators during visits to him in prison. Included in Nosair’s plans was a plot to kidnap and murder then New York Supreme Court Justice Alvin Schlesinger, the Jewish judge who presided over Nosair’s first trial, and the murder of the Jewish

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assemblyman from Brooklyn, Dov Hikind. Nosair was sentenced to life imprisonment in January 1996.  

November 15, 1990  
CA: San Francisco  
Arson attempt at San Francisco Jewish Community Center. A firebomb was thrown into an office window of the San Francisco Jewish Community Center at 3 a.m. There was minor damage but no injuries.

November 15, 1990  
CA: San Francisco  
Arson at Congregation Beth Israel-Judea in San Francisco.

Shortly prior to dawn, the back door of Congregation Beth Israel-Judea was doused with an unidentified flammable liquid and set ablaze. The door was charred and windows of the synagogue were damaged as well.

November 20, 1990  
CA: San Francisco  
During the night, two bullets were fired into Congregation Beth Israel-Judea, leaving holes in the synagogue's stained glass windows.

November 20, 1990  
CA: Lakeshore  
A fire was set at Congregation Beth Israel-Judea in Lakeshore.

November 20, 1990  
CA: Oakland and San Leandro  
Fire bombings of two synagogues in Oakland and San Leandro.

The early morning times of the attacks, combined with their close proximity to one another, the use of similar materials for the firebombs, and the synagogues' close proximity to the freeway, caused law enforcement officials to surmise that the two incidents were connected. Similar attacks in the San Francisco area took place from November 15 to 20. There were no injuries.

November 26, 1990  
CA: Oakland  
Firebombing of Temple Beth Abraham  
At Oakland's Temple Beth Shalom between 2 and 3 a.m., a firebomb was thrown into the window of a room adjacent to the synagogue's sanctuary.

November 26, 1990  
CA: San Leandro  
Firebombing at Temple Beth Shalom  
At 3 a.m., a firebomb was thrown into the window of Temple Beth Shalom's auditorium.

April 1, 1993  
MO: St. Louis  
A cell of the Abu Nidal Organization (ANO), which plotted to bomb the Israeli Embassy in Washington and to kill Jews, was arrested in St. Louis.

In earlier conversations intercepted by the FBI, Zein Issa declared that if their cell indoctrinated and trained a group of young followers in the U.S. and Europe, they could kill 3,000 Jews. “Let’s teach them how to hit people and slaughter,” he said. In 1988, Luie Nijmeh agreed to a plan to blow up the Israeli Embassy and requested a bomb. His brother, Saif Nijmeh, after having acquired a rocket-propelled grenade launcher and other weapons, boasted of his cache and discussed its uses. The fourth member of the group, Tawfiq Musa, told Issa to destroy any record of their meeting with Atta, the North American coordinator of the ANO.

In 1987, Luie Nijmeh agreed to a plan to blow up the Israeli Embassy and requested a bomb. His brother, Saif Nijmeh, after having acquired a rocket-propelled grenade launcher and other weapons, boasted of his cache and discussed its uses.

Zein Issa did so at the demand of Tawfiq Musa and Saif Nijmeh, who were concerned Issa’s daughter overheard their plans. Issa was convicted of the murder and sentenced to death in 1991. He died in prison in 1997.

231 Ibid.
232 Ibid.
In 1994, Musa and the Nijmeh brothers pleaded guilty to federal racketeering charges, including plotting terror attacks, buying weapons, recruiting members, illegally obtaining passports, and obstructing investigations. Further charges against Issa were dropped, due to his death sentence. Musa and the Nijmeh brothers were sentenced to 21 months in prison in November 1994.243

**April 1993 - June 23, 1993**

*NY: New York*

Foiled Diamond District Plot as part of the New York Landmarks Plot: Foiled plot to bomb the New York Diamond District.

Followers of the jihadist Egyptian cleric and Al-Qaida mentor, Sheikh Umar Abd Al-Rahman, planned to simultaneously bomb New York City landmarks. Their targets included the Lincoln and Holland Tunnels, the George Washington Bridge, the Statue of Liberty, the United Nations, the New York Federal Building, and the Diamond District. Their intent in bombing the Diamond District was to inflict severe casualties among the large concentration of Jewish businessmen who worked there. One of the eight plotters, Amir Abdelgani, described the notion of bombing the Diamond District as “being like hitting Israel itself.”244 Another of the plotters was reported to have said, “Boom – broken windows. Jews in the streets.”245

On May 29, 1993, two of the plotters, Amir Abdelgani and Siddig Ibrahim Siddig Ali, conducted surveillance and drove near the Diamond District on West 47th Street and discussed bombing it.246

The plot was foiled on June 23, 1993, when FBI agents raided the warehouse where the chemicals for constructing the multiple bombs for the attacks were being prepared by the perpetrators.247 Eight radical Islamist followers of Sheikh Umar Abd Al-Rahman, the jihadist cleric and mentor of Usama Bin Laden, were arrested and later convicted in 1996 in the New York landmarks trial. Amir Abdelgani was sentenced to 30 years in prison.248 Others received sentences ranging from 57 years to 25 years.249 Siddig Ibrahim Siddig Ali cooperated with the Department of Justice investigation of the plot, and was sentenced to 11 years in 1999.250

Later, Sheikh Umar Abd Al-Rahman himself was arrested and tried together with the other perpetrators. Abd Al-Rahman was convicted of involvement in the landmarks plot in October 1995 and was sentenced to life in prison in January 1996.251

El-Sayyid Nosair was also charged in the case for aiding the perpetrators of the plot from prison. He was convicted in October 1995 and sentenced in January 1996 to life in prison.252 The plot was later understood by investigators to be directed by Al-Qaida.

**July 15, 1993**

*CA: Orange County*

A U.S. federal task force arrested eight white supremacists of the Fourth Reich Skinheads before they could initiate a series of attacks. The group was preparing to send a mail bomb to a rabbi and prominent members of the Orange County Jewish community, bomb an African-American church, and assassinate African-American leaders.253

In a series of federal raids in four California counties, six adults and two minors affiliated with the Fourth Reich Skinheads (FRS) group were arrested. The FRS was affiliated with the neo-Nazi White Aryan Resistance. The group was planning to launch a “race war” by sending letter bombs to a rabbi and to Orange County Jewish community leaders.254

It also planned to blow up the First African Methodist Episcopal Church in Los Angeles by placing pipe bombs beneath the pews and attacking worshippers using machine guns. They had additional plans to assassinate prominent African-American leaders throughout the U.S., and Rodney King, a well-known Los Angeles victim of a police beating.255

Following their arrests, law enforcement officials displayed pipe bombs, semi-automatic weapons, paramilitary uniforms, and a poster of Adolf Hitler that had either been purchased or confiscated from the perpetrators.256

The leader of the group, Christopher David Fisher, admitted to having attempted to carry out a failed firebomb attack at Temple Beth David in Westminster in January 1993, and plotting to attack a rabbi and prominent members of the


Jewish community in Orange County. The night before his arrest he was preparing a bomb to mail to a rabbi, and was targeting members of the Orange County Jewish community with a series of mail bombs. Fisher pleaded guilty to those acts and to other arson and weapons charges. He was sentenced to 97 months in prison.

March 1, 1994
NY: Brooklyn

Brooklyn Bridge Attack – Rashid Baz, a convert to radical Islamism, opened fire with a machine gun and semi-automatic pistol on a van of Lubavitch Hasidic rabbinical students as they traversed the Brooklyn Bridge. They were returning from a prayer vigil for the late Lubavitcher Rebbe. Ari Halberstam was mortally wounded, Nachum Sasonkin was severely wounded, and Levi Wilhelm sustained abdominal injuries.

At 10:30 a.m., Rashid Baz, a Brooklyn livery cab driver and convert to Islamist extremism of Lebanese Druze origin, stalked a van of Lubavitch seminary students as it traveled over the Brooklyn Bridge. As he drove, Baz first held a Cobray 9mm machine gun outside his driver's side window and directed his fire at the rear and right side of the van. He strafed the van of seminary students with the machine gun, aiming at the driver's side of the van, until it jammed. Baz then shot out his own passenger window so he could continue shooting. He fired with a second weapon, a Glock 9mm semi-automatic pistol, until it, too, jammed.

Ari Halberstam was shot in the back of his head and died four days later. Nachum Sasonkin was shot in the back of his head and was critically wounded, but was able to substantially recover after a very long period of physical and speech therapy. A third student, Levi Wilhelm, was wounded in the abdomen, and a fourth student, Yaakov Shapiro, was wounded superficially on his head and hand.

Baz was arrested on March 2. When police questioned him, he bizarrely claimed that his actions – following the van and opening fire on it with multiple high-powered weapons - were not premeditated. Instead, he claimed they were due to a traffic dispute between himself and the seminary students' van.

At the trial, Baz's psychiatrist testified about his motivation for the shooting. The psychiatrist stated that before the attack, Baz's employer, Bassam Reyati, described Baz as being enraged over the February 25 Hebron massacre carried out by Baruch Goldstein. Reyati stated that Baz told him, “We should kill all the Jews who did this.” Further testimony revealed that on February 25, Baz met with the man he described as his “Palestinian uncle,” his friend and mentor, Muafaq Askar. In a discussion at Askar’s pizza shop, Askar told Baz he would be eager to “make jihad” against the Israelis. Later on, Askar took Baz to the Islamic Society of Bay Ridge, where they heard an anti-Semitic sermon by an imam, who declared, referring to the attack in Hebron, “This takes the mask off of the Jews. It shows them to be racist and fascist as bad as the Nazis.” Askar was suspected of providing Baz with the weapons he used in the attack.

After hearing the sermon, Baz prepared for the attack by taking weapons he usually kept in the trunk of his car and moving them to the front of his car. He took his Cobray machine gun and Glock pistol into the front of the car and left a 12-gauge Streetsweeper in the trunk.

Ten days after the shooting, the terrorist organization Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement in Palestine, issued a communiqué. Hamas embraced Baz’s act and honored him as a mujahid, or “holy warrior,” and praised him as an ibn Islam, a “son of Islam.” The term refers to one who serves as a role model and inspires others:

Only Islam is the legitimate and exclusive representation of our people and its predicament; and the living proof of this is namely the holy warrior and Lebanese immigrant Rashid Al-Baz, the son of Islam who took action against the souls of the evil dregs of the Jews in Brooklyn in America. His deed proclaims that you [i.e., the Jews] do not have the ability to tear Palestine away from our hearts, may a curse be on your heads.

271 People v Baz, 2017: 2-19.
273 People v Baz, 1975: 2-12.
At Baz’s trial, his psychiatrist testified that Baz thought of himself as an “Arab soldier crusader,”276 the equivalent in Western terms of a mujahid, an individual who engages in violent jihad as understood by radical Islamists. Additionally, Baz showed the psychiatrist a poem he wrote about a mujahid during the time of the Crusades. Baz’s poem was described by the psychiatrist as being about a mujahid who is “going off and fighting the infidels” on the side of the Muslim forces during the Crusades. He further described Baz’s verse as “a heroic, heroic poem.”277

Baz was convicted of one count of second-degree murder and 14 counts of attempted murder. He was sentenced to 141 years imprisonment in January 1995.278

Two other men, Bassam Reyati and Hilal Mohammed, were arrested for hindering prosecution and weapons possession.279 Both men assisted Baz in disposing of the shattered windows of his car after the attack. Reyati entered a plea bargain and pleaded guilty to hindering prosecution. He was sentenced to pay a $1,000 fine and five years of probation.280 Hilal Mohammed, an illegal immigrant, pleaded guilty to altering evidence and hindering prosecution by assisting Baz. He was ordered to leave the U.S. by September of 1997 or face deportation to Jordan.281

In December 2000, the U.S. Department of Justice designated the attack as an act of terrorism.282 In 2007 media reports disclosed that at an earlier date, Baz confessed, after his conviction and sentencing, that he saw the rabbinical seminary as “very angry because of what happened between Jerusalem and Palestine.” He described Abu Mezer as showing him a black bag containing pipe bombs. Abu Mezer additionally told Al-Mossabah that he was planning to take the bombs to a crowded subway station or bus terminal to detonate them.283 Al-Mossabah provided the police with his keys to the apartment, a description of the interior, and a drawing of the apartment’s internal layout.284

March 20 1994
OR: Eugene
Drive-by shooting attack by two neo-Nazi Volksfront skinheads on Temple Beth Israel synagogue.

At 7 p.m., Volksfront member and neo-Nazi skinhead Christopher Vertrice Lord drove his car while his accomplice, George Dennis Smith, a Volksfront member and a member of the Southeast Boot Boys, a Portland skinhead gang, fired 11 shots from an assault rifle into the Temple Beth Israel synagogue. The building was empty at the time, and some of the synagogue’s stained glass windows were damaged.285 There were no injuries. Lord admitted his participation in the shooting and entered a plea bargain. He was sentenced to 4½ years in prison.286 Smith also admitted guilt and entered a plea bargain. He was sentenced to four years and nine months imprisonment.287

July 31, 1997
NY: Brooklyn
Foiled suicide bombing of the Atlantic Avenue subway station by two Palestinians, Ghazi Ibrahim Abu Mezer and Lafi Khalil.

At 10:45 p.m. on the night of July 30, 1997, Abd Al-Rahman Al-Mossabah, an Egyptian who recently arrived in the U.S., approached a Long Island Railroad police car and urgently attempted to tell the officers inside in broken English that his two roommates, Ghazi Ibrahim Abu Mezer and Lafi Khalil, assembled bombs in their apartment and were planning to carry out an imminent attack. The officers brought him to the 88th Precinct in Fort Greene and found an interpreter.288 Al-Mossabah told the police his roommates were “going to follow up on Jerusalem,”289 referring to a Hamas double suicide bombing that took place a day earlier.

Al-Mossabah further described Abu Mezer as having told him that he was “very angry because of what happened between Jerusalem and Palestine.” He described Abu Mezer as showing him a black bag containing pipe bombs. Abu Mezer additionally told Al-Mossabah that he was planning to take the bombs to a crowded subway station or bus terminal to detonate them.283 Al-Mossabah provided the police with his keys to the apartment, a description of the interior, and a drawing of the apartment’s internal layout.284

In a pre-dawn raid launched by the New York Police Department (NYPD) early on the morning of July 31, Abu Mezer, Khalil, and a third roommate in the front room were awakened from their sleep. As police arrived in the back room where Abu Mezer and Khalil were located, one of the men tried to grab a police

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276 People v Baz, 206: 21-25.
277 Ibid., 2107: 2-14.
288 Ibid.
290 Ibid.
The other rushed toward one of the explosive devices, and he was able to throw one of its switches in an attempt to set off one of the devices before police fired at him. The police officers opened fire, wounding both men. Five explosive devices were retrieved from the apartment and defused by police. In a joint statement following the raid, the FBI and NYPD stated that Abu Mezer and Khalil planned to "target U.S. and Jewish interests worldwide." In an August 3 statement, Hamas denied any connection to the foiled attack.

In early July, Abu Mezer and Khalil traveled to North Carolina to procure the materials necessary to build an explosive device. They purchased gunpowder, pipes, nails, and other components from a Wal-Mart and hardware stores in Greenville, North Carolina.

In Jerusalem at 1:15 p.m. on July 30, Hamas carried out a double suicide bombing in the Mahane Yehuda open-air market. The bombers dressed in white shirts and ties and each carried a 22-pound bomb packed with nails in a briefcase. They stationed themselves 90 feet away from each other, and detonated their explosive devices 15 seconds apart. A total of sixteen Israelis were killed on the scene or later succumbed to wounds sustained in the explosions.

After hearing the news of the Jerusalem suicide bombing attack by Hamas, Al-Mossabah later testified that Abu Mezer was "happy" and decided to carry out his own attack, announcing to Al-Mossabah that he (Abu Mezer) would "do the same." In another conversation with Al-Mossabah, Abu Mezer was igniting gunpowder in the apartment. As he did so, he told Al-Mossabah, "I will burn them like this." Al-Mossabah asked, "Who will you burn?" Abu Mezer replied, "The Jews." He planned to board the B line train at Pacific Avenue where the line travels through the Borough Park section of Brooklyn, a large Orthodox Jewish neighborhood. When asked if he intended to detonate the explosive device as a suicide bomber, Abu Mezer simply responded, "Poof."

Abu Mezer was planning to carry out his attack during the rush hour commute of July 31 within 24 hours of the Hamas attack in Jerusalem.

A suicide note draft threatening a series of bombings of sites in New York, including Jewish targets, also demanded the release of Sheikh Umar Abd Al-Rahman. It demanded the release from prison in the U.S. of Ramzi Ahmad Yusuf, the architect of the explosive device constructed inside a van employed in the 1993 World Trade Center bombing. The note also demanded Sheikh Ahmad Yassin, the founder of Hamas, be freed from prison in Israel.

During Abu Mezer and Khalil's trial, Al-Mossabah testified that Abu Mezer justified attacks against Americans because of the United States' support of Israel. He described Abu Mezer as having expressed opposition to the Israel-Palestinian Authority peace process, and believed that the only way for Palestinians to return to their land was through violence. Although he had no direct ties to Hamas, Abu Mezer's position on the peace process and the Palestinians' use of violence to regain territory paralleled those of Hamas.

Abu Mezer declared at his trial that he came "to the United States because I feel that the United States is supporting the Jewish state and the United States should be punished for supporting Israel." He also testified he planned to use the

292 “A tip leads to finding explosive devices as 2 are arrested.” New York Times, August 1, 1997.
293 “Intent to blow up subways alleged, possible Mideast terrorist tie probed;” Washington Post, August 1, 1997.
299 “Defendant told of plan to use bomb, agent says.” New York Times, July 15, 1998. Academic OneFile, http://go.galegroup.com/ps/i.do?i=d%3AGALE%7C150175475&v%3D2.1&s%3DAN%7C656457614&u%3Dnypl&it%3Dr&p%3DAONE&sw%3Dw&asid%3Dac2d30ba82ab3ba00e54baf2563b5714
302 “Defendant told of plan to use bomb, agent says.” New York Times, July 15, 1998. Academic OneFile, http://go.galegroup.com/ps/i.do?i=d%3AGALE%7C150175475&v%3D2.1&s%3DAN%7C656457614&u%3Dnypl&it%3Dr&p%3DAONE&sw%3Dw&asid%3Dac2d30ba82ab3ba00e54baf2563b5714
303 “Mezer, 25, plead not guilty in subway bombing plot.” New York Times, August 3, 1997. Academic OneFile, http://go.galegroup.com/ps/i.do?i=d%3AGALE%7C150175475&v%3D2.1&s%3DAN%7C656457614&u%3Dnypl&it%3Dr&p%3DAONE&sw%3Dw&asid%3Dac2d30ba82ab3ba00e54baf2563b5714
305 “Lawyer says defendant is a cheat, but not a terrorist, as trial starts in subway bomb plot;” New York Times, July 7, 1998.
307 “Defendant told of plan to use bomb, agent says.” New York Times, July 15, 1998. Academic OneFile, http://go.galegroup.com/ps/i.do?i=d%3AGALE%7C150175475&v%3D2.1&s%3DAN%7C656457614&u%3Dnypl&it%3Dr&p%3DAONE&sw%3Dw&asid%3Dac2d30ba82ab3ba00e54baf2563b5714
308 “Lawyer says defendant is a cheat, but not a terrorist, as trial starts in subway bomb plot;” New York Times, July 7, 1998.
bomb, “blowing myself up,” and wanted to take “as many Jews as I could take” with him when he would carry out the suicide bombing attack on the subway. He further stated that he “always dreamed to be a martyr.”

Abu Mezer was convicted of conspiring to use a weapon of mass destruction on July 24, 1998. Following the jury’s pronouncement of his conviction, Abu Mezer jumped from his chair, raised a Qur’an over his head and shouted “Allahu Akbar!” “God is great!” He was returned to his chair by federal marshals, but followed up with pointing his index fingers skywards, an Islamist gesture.

At his sentencing, Ghazi Abu Mezer launched a litany of complaints against the Jewish people, beginning with Biblical times through the present, and asserted that the murder of six million Jews during the Holocaust was “a lie.” He was acquitted to life in prison in March of 1999. Khalil was acquitted of the bombing charges, but was convicted of immigration fraud and sentenced to three years in prison.

June 18, 1999
CA: Sacramento
Followers of the neo-Nazi Aryan Nations attacked three synagogues in one night in the Sacramento area.

Three synagogues in Sacramento, California were attacked by arsonists who were adherents of the Aryan Nations. At two of the synagogues, leaflets were left claiming Jews were responsible for the war in Kosovo that was occurring at the time.

The first attack took place at 3:24 a.m. at Congregation B’nai Israel, which suffered the most damage. Its library was destroyed in the attack. At 3:48 a.m., arsonists set a small fire inside of Congregation Beth Shalom in Carmichael. A third fire was started at 3:58 a.m., at the Knesset Torah Center.

In early July 1999, two brothers, Benjamin Matthew Williams and James Tyler Williams, were arrested for the horrific shooting murder of a gay couple, the synagogue arsons, and an abortion clinic arson. Matthew Williams was an adherent of anti-Semitic Christian Identity ideology. Both were also followers of the neo-Nazi Aryan Nations.

One of the brothers kept a hit list of Sacramento area Jews, including officials and congregational members of the three attacked synagogues, and several prominent Jews from Redding, where the brothers murdered the couple. In a television interview from jail, Matthew Williams admitted his involvement in the synagogue arsons, declaring, “I mixed up all the, all the Jewish cocktails, so to speak.” He added, “I was part of an organization that was involved in that.”

Both Matthew and Tyler Williams formally admitted to the synagogue arsons and pleaded guilty in 2001. They were to be sentenced to 30 and 20 years, respectively. Other sentences related to the other crimes that they had engaged in were pending against them as well. While awaiting sentencing, Matthew Williams committed suicide in prison.

July 2–4, 1999
IL: West Rogers Park
Six Orthodox Jews were wounded by gunfire when Benjamin Nathaniel Smith, a neo-Nazi, went on a shooting rampage.

Benjamin Nathaniel Smith was a follower of Matt Hale, the “Pontifex Maximus,” or supreme leader, of the neo-Nazi World Church of the Creator (now known as the Creativity Movement). Armed with a .22 caliber semi-automatic pistol and a .380 semi-automatic pistol, he embarked on a murderous three-day spree of shooting attacks from July 2–4. Seven months earlier, Smith received the WCOTC’s highest award of recognition from Hale.

From 8:20 p.m. to 8:35 p.m. on Friday night, July 2, Smith drove his car and stalked and shot six Orthodox Jews as they walked home from Sabbath evening services in West Rogers Park. The five injured men and a teenager included Hillel Goldstein, 34, who was shot five times, Eric Yates, 31, who...
was wounded in the upper leg,328 Dean Bell, 31, who was shot five times, 329 Gidon Sapir, 34, who was wounded in the lower back,330 Ian Hupert, 31, who was shot twice,331 and Ephraim Wolfe, 15, who was shot in the leg.332

Later that night, Smith killed Ricky Byrdsong, an African-American basketball coach formerly at Northwestern University, and shot at an Asian couple. Over the weekend he also killed Won-Joon Yoon, a Korean doctor, and wounded two African-Americans, one of them a minister. Smith committed suicide in his car as police closed in on him.333

August 10, 1999
CA: Granada Hills
Buford Furrow, an adherent of the neo-Nazi Aryan Nations group, carried out a shooting attack against the North Valley Jewish Community Center. A five-year-old child was seriously wounded. Two six-year-old children, a teenage counselor, and a receptionist were also wounded. After he fled the JCC, Furrow killed a Filipino-American postal worker.

Buford O’Neal Furrow, a longtime member of the neo-Nazi group Aryan Nations,334 drove from Washington state to Los Angeles on August 8 in order to carry out a shooting attack on a Jewish institution. Before setting out on his way to the attack, he purchased a van in Tacoma the week before and stocked it with arms and supplies. They included: an AR-15 assault rifle, an Uzi type submachine gun, several hand guns,335 four boxes of high-powered military grade ammunition, including 9mm magazines and boxes of assault weapon ammunition, a web belt for additional ammunition, smoke grenades, a flak jacket, a knife, pre-packaged freeze-dried food, a canteen, and a first aid kit.336

Furrow first surveilled three prominent Jewish sites: the Museum of Tolerance, the Skirball Cultural Center, and the University of Judaism. Furrow decided the security at each of the sites was too strong for him to execute his attack. After driving further on the freeway to refuel, he came upon the North Valley Jewish Community Center, which he judged to be a softer target.337

At 10:50 a.m., Furrow walked into the lobby of the JCC and opened fire with the Uzi-type submachine gun, spraying from right to left. His barrage of gunfire, which totaled 70 rounds, wounded five people: Isabelle Shalometh, 68, a receptionist, Mindy Finkelstein, 16, a counselor, and three boys - Benjamin Kadish, 5, Joshua Stepakoff, 6, and James Sidell, 5.338

Of the five victims, Kadish was the most seriously wounded. He was shot in his left leg and abdomen and lost a great deal of blood.339 Stepakoff was wounded in his left leg, and Sidell was shot in his foot. Finkelstein was injured in her right thigh and shin, and bullets grazed Shalometh on her arm and back.340

Fifteen minutes after the attack, Furrow abandoned his van and stole a woman’s car near the Van Nuys airport. Soon afterward he arrived in Chatsworth and saw Joseph Ileto, a Filipino American postal worker, and stopped him. Furrow asked if Ileto would mail a letter for him. Furrow pulled out a 9mm pistol and shot and killed Ileto. Furrow abandoned the stolen car and fled California in a taxi, heading for Las Vegas.341

When he arrived in Las Vegas, Furrow researched the names of several local synagogues and contemplated attacking one of them. However, he reconsidered the idea because his name and picture were being broadcast all over the media. Instead, on the morning of August 11, he decided to turn himself in to the Las Vegas office of the FBI. He told the FBI upon his surrender that he carried out the shooting at the JCC in order to send “a wake-up call for Americans to kill Jews.”342 He told the FBI that he targeted Joseph Ileto because he was a U.S. government employee and non-white, and referred to Ileto as a good “target of opportunity.”343

Prior to the shooting attacks, Furrow was a longtime adherent of the neo-Nazi Aryan Nations. He previously served as an official of the group’s security force in 1995.344 Furrow was also briefly married to Debra Matthews, the widow of Robert Matthews, the founder of the neo-Nazi terrorist group The Order.345 Richard Butler, the leader and ideologue of the Aryan Nations, performed their wedding ceremony.346

333 “The kids got in the way,” Time, August 23, 1999
In the year before the attacks, Furrow served eight months in prison and at a mental health care facility after he violently confronted a mental health care worker with a knife in 1998. In the wake of that incident, he was arrested and told police he was a white supremacist with homicidal thoughts. In June 1999 he was released on probation.347

Due to Furrow’s previous history of psychiatric problems, in 2001, prosecutors decided to permit Furrow to enter a plea agreement to plead guilty and receive a life sentence in order to avoid the death penalty.348 In March 2001, Furrow was sentenced to five life terms.349

Following the shooting, prison officials reviewed the circumstances of Furrow’s 1999 release from prison. They concluded his parole officer was unaware that Furrow was a domestic terrorist with longstanding ties to white supremacist groups, and had been improperly classified as only a moderate risk upon his release on parole.350

**August 15, 1999**  
**NY: Hauppauge**  
Central office damaged in arson at Temple Beth Chai in Long Island.

At 2:55 a.m., an arsonist broke a rear office window at Temple Beth Chai, poured an inflammable liquid inside, and set it ablaze. The fire activated the synagogue’s fire alarm and was extinguished quickly by the fire department. Fire damage was contained in the synagogue’s central office. The Suffolk County Police Bias Crime Unit designated the arson as a bias crime.351

**November 30, 1999**  
**NV: Reno**  
Failed arson attack carried out by five neo-Nazi skinheads against Temple Emanu-El in Reno.

Five neo-Nazi skinheads initially tried to break a synagogue window at Temple Emanu-El with a plastic liter bottle filled with cement. The window shattered but did not break. They then attempted to hurl a firebomb through the window to start a fire inside the building. The firebomb fell to the ground and damaged only the sidewalk.352 It was the third arson attempt against Temple Emanu-El that year, and the FBI investigated the incident as both a hate crime and arson.353

Four skinheads, including a 17-year-old girl, were arrested for the arson on December 5. Two others were arrested near McClellan Air Force Base on December 8 in the Sacramento area.354

The five skinheads who were charged included Carl DeAmicis, 25, Christopher Hampton, 22, Scott Hudson 23, Daniel McIntosh, 19 and Joshua Kudlacek, 18, all of whom pleaded guilty to the firebombing.355 In December 2000, DeAmicis, Hampton, Hudson, and McIntosh each received a 14-15 year sentence. Kudlacek received a five-year sentence.356

**June – August 2000**  
**NY: New York**  
Future 9/11 Al-Qaida operatives surveil the Diamond District and “Jewish areas” to plot an attack.

One year before the 9/11 attacks, Al-Qaida operations chief Khalid Sheikh Muhammad directed several Al-Qaida operatives, including Muhammad Atta and Marwan Al-Shehhi, to look for symbolic places in New York to execute future terrorist attacks. They were instructed to carry out surveillance on “Jewish areas” such as the Diamond District and the NY Stock Exchange.357 A year later, Atta and Al-Shehhi each led a group of suicide hijackers in executing the 9/11 attacks, piloting and crashing planes into both of the World Trade Center towers.

**October 13, 2000**  
**NY: Syracuse**  
Two Palestinian American men set fire to Temple Beth El in Syracuse, New York.

At 11 p.m. a fire severely damaged the building of Temple Beth El in Syracuse, NY. There were no injuries.358 The arson took place on a Sabbath evening that began the holiday of Sukkot, the Feast of Tabernacles. The FBI, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms and the local police investigated the incident as a hate crime.359

In March of 2003, Onandaga County District Attorney William Fitzpatrick announced that the arsonist, Ramses “Ramzi” Uthman, a Palestinian American who was born in Venezuela, was arrested in California.360 Uthman carried out the arson with the assistance of his longtime friend Ahed Shehadeh.
Shehadeh, also a Palestinian American, drove Uthman to the site of the synagogue on the night of the attack. In June 2003, Shehadeh was serving a 2-4 year prison sentence for unrelated burglary charges.361 He became a state witness at Uthman’s trial.

Uthman injured himself during the arson as he ignited a substantial amount of gasoline and was burned. He initially escaped to Dearborn, Michigan where he entered a hospital for medical treatment. He was located after a search for him that lasted more than two years and encompassed Michigan, Florida, and California. Uthman evaded capture by making use of numerous aliases and addresses, family connections, and different passports.362

During Uthman’s trial, Shehadeh testified that Uthman dedicated the synagogue arson to God, declaring, “I did this for you, God!”363 Uthman was convicted of burglaring and setting fire to Temple Beth El in November 2003.364 He was sentenced to 25 years in prison and ordered to pay $856,278 in restitution.365

January 2, 2001
NV: Reno
Arson attempt at Temple Emanu-El of Reno, Nevada.

The door of Temple Emanu-El of Reno was doused with flammable liquid and set on fire. The incident was designated as both arson and a hate crime by law enforcement agencies.366 Neo-Nazi skinheads previously attacked the synagogue in November 1999.

Early 2001
NY: New York
Al-Qaida dispatches a surveillance operative to New York to surveil economic and Jewish targets.

In the early part of 2001, Al-Qaida leader Usama bin Laden tasked Khalid Sheikh Muhammad to send Dhiren Barot (a.k.a. Isa Al-Britani), an Al-Qaida surveillanceoperative, to New York. Barot was directed to surveil economic and Jewish targets in New York to plan future attacks.367

April 19, 2001
MA: Boston
Foiled plot by Leo Felton and Erica Chase, two white supremacists in Boston, to bomb the Holocaust museums in Boston and Washington.

Leo Felton, a neo-Nazi skinhead and member of the neo-pagan White Order of Thule, and Erica Chase, a member of the neo-Nazi World Church of the Creator, were arrested as they were organizing a five-person underground cell called “Aryan Unit One” to initiate a “racial holy war.”368

Chase became acquainted with Felton via correspondence before his release from prison. Upon his release, Felton moved into Chase’s apartment. The cell members studied and were inspired by The Order.369 Using an explosives mixture similar to Timothy McVeigh’s device in the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing, Felton was assembling the components of a fertilizer bomb. It was composed of 50 pounds of ammonium nitrate, the wiring, heating and timing elements of a coffee maker, 10 “bird bombs,” and fuel.370 Material found in a search of the pair’s apartment indicated that they intended to target the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, the Holocaust Museum in Boston, and the Lenny Zakim Bunker Hill Memorial Bridge in Boston.371 The latter site was named after the late director of the Boston Anti-Defamation League. The pair believed that the execution of their attack would ultimately lead to the formation of an “all-white Aryan nation.”372

Additionally, Felton spoke with Thomas Struss, a fellow white supremacist from prison and another cell member, about his desire to murder Jews and African-Americans, such as Steven Spielberg and David Gefen, the heads of the DreamWorks studio; prominent African-Americans, including Jesse Jackson and Al-Sharpton,373 and civil rights activist Morris Dees of the Southern Poverty Law Center.374

Chase and Felton were arrested when they attempted to pass a counterfeit $20 bill at a local doughnut shop.375 They were convicted in July 2002. Felton was sentenced to 22 years and 10 months in December 2002,376 and Chase was sentenced to 57 months. In 2006, an appeals court reinstated gun charges against them, which resulted in Felton receiving five more...
At 12:42 a.m., a small fire was started at Temple Beth El by using two fire-starting logs. At the back wall of the synagogue, one log was placed under a gas line and the second was placed next to it. A neighbor alerted emergency services and the fire was extinguished before any serious damage could occur. The incident took place during the Jewish High Holiday season between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. The Tacoma Police, FBI, and the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms investigated the attempt as a hate crime.

**September 23, 2001**  
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**WA: Tacoma**  
Attempted synagogue arson started under a gas line at Tacoma’s Temple Beth El.

At 12:42 a.m., a small fire was started at Temple Beth El by using two fire-starting logs. At the back wall of the synagogue, one log was placed under a gas line and the second was placed next to it. A neighbor alerted emergency services and the fire was extinguished before any serious damage could occur. The incident took place during the Jewish High Holiday season between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. The Tacoma Police, FBI, and the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms investigated the attempt as a hate crime.

**December 22, 2001**  
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**NY: New York**  
Matthias Gueldner, a German UN employee, was arrested after he admitted setting the door of his Jewish neighbor on fire, and scratching anti-Semitic graffiti into it. The fire spread into the apartment, but was extinguished by a neighbor.

Matthias Gueldner was a press officer of German background at the UN headquarters in New York. Starting in mid-December of 2001, Gueldner harassed his Jewish neighbor across the hall from his own apartment. He scratched anti-Semitic slurs into the door, including "Jew Pig. You Kill Arab Children. We Kill You. Auschwitz [sic]," and "Killers of Iraqee [sic] Babies Will Be Killed in Cold Blood." Gueldner also wrote in Arabic: "Death to Jews." On December 22, he set the door on fire using newspapers and rubbing alcohol. The door was charred and the fire entered the apartment, but was extinguished by a neighbor. Police confiscated neo-Nazi literature, an Arabic grammar book, and a notebook with writing in Arabic.

Guelndner was indicted on arson and hate crimes charges and was convicted and sentenced to eight years in prison. He died in prison from a drug overdose that was under investigation by prison authorities.

**January 4, 2002**  
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**TN: Nashville**  
Foilied shooting attack on a Nashville area synagogue by white supremacist Michael Edward Smith of the neo-Nazi National Alliance and the Ku Klux Klan.

The FBI arrested white supremacist Michael Edward Smith on January 4 after he threatened a synagogue with a preschool by aiming an assault rifle at it. Additionally, he amassed an arsenal of explosives and weapons in a shed outside of Nashville. An accomplice, Jack Spores, was arrested in Oklahoma City on January 8, for procuring the explosives and weapons for Smith.

Smith, a follower of the neo-Nazi National Alliance and the Ku Klux Klan, was arrested in Nashville after a passing driver saw him sitting in his car aiming a rifle at a synagogue. The driver contacted police and provided a license plate number. Smith subsequently led police on a car chase while intermittently holding a gun to his own head. After his arrest, police found an assault rifle, a 9mm pistol, and numerous rounds of ammunition in his car.

Smith told police he stockpiled a small arsenal of weapons. Some weapons were stored in, and others were buried near, a riverside shed outside of Nashville. Police found a shoulder-fired anti-tank rocket, 13 pipe bombs, and chemicals for bomb-making. White supremacist literature from the Ku Klux Klan, the National Alliance, and similar groups were found together with the weapons.

At Smith’s apartment, police found 11 hand grenades, a rifle, a pistol, military fuse igniters, electronic blasting caps, and thousands of rounds of ammunition. Smith told FBI and ATF agents he procured his explosives, weapons and ammunition.

On January 8, Jack Ray Spores was arrested by the Joint Terrorism Task Force of Oklahoma City. When they searched his residence, federal agents discovered a pipe bomb, ammunition cans, and a home “cluttered” with bomb making components. They also found neo-Nazi literature, a Nazi flag, and a framed quote from Adolf Hitler.
Spores pleaded guilty to possessing two pipe bombs, one assembled, and another disassembled. Smith pleaded guilty to possessing a firearm in a school zone, possession of unregistered firearms, unlawful manufacture of a firearm, and transporting unregistered firearms.

March 22, 2002
CA: San Francisco

Arsonist attempt at Congregation Beth Israel-Judea.

On a Sabbath night, synagogue members reported that they smelled gasoline. A janitor went up to the synagogue roof and discovered several cans of gasoline. At 7:30 p.m., firefighters arrived and discovered empty cans of gasoline and propane on the roof, along with what they described as “wick material.” There were no injuries.

May 1-4, 2002
WA: Tacoma

John Allen Muhammad and Lee Boyd Malvo, who later became infamous on the East Coast as the “D.C. snipers,” fired two shots into Temple Beth El.

Two shots were fired into Temple Beth El by John Allen Muhammad and Lee Boyd Malvo, the serial killers who later that year became known as the “D.C. snipers.” There were no injuries. One round tore through an outside wall, through a meeting room and continued through the wall of the chapel, and the door of the ark, lodging into its back wall. The Torah scrolls were undamaged. Tacoma police and the BATF connected the bullets to the snipers in October 2002.

Muhammad and Malvo went on a rampage of murders, starting in Tacoma, continuing in California, Florida, Texas, Alabama, and Louisiana. The two then carried out a series of sniper shootings focused on the Washington DC area. Muhammad was originally a follower of the anti-Semitic Nation of Islam led by Louis Farrakhan, but in recent years, attended a mosque not affiliated with it.

Muhammad expressed extremist beliefs, including approval of the 9/11 attacks, stating, “America got what it deserved.” Muhammad indoctrinated Malvo in the ideology of the Nation of Islam and trained him as a sniper. Additionally, both he and Malvo were sympathetic to the goals of the 9/11 hijackers.

Muhammad was convicted of the shootings in 2003 and sentenced to death. He was executed in 2009. Malvo was convicted in 2003 and was sentenced to life imprisonment in 2004.

July 4, 2002
Los Angeles Airport

Hisham Muhammad Ali Hedayet opened fire at the El Al counter at LAX, killing Victoria Hen and Yaakov Aminov.

Armed with a .45-caliber and a 9mm handgun, a 6-inch knife and additional ammunition clips, Hisham Muhammad Ali Hedayet entered Los Angeles International Airport and headed for the El Al counter. Ten El Al customers were waiting to be checked in at 11:30 a.m. as he approached the ticketing counter. Hedayet came up to Victoria Hen, an Israeli American ticket agent standing behind the counter. He pulled out a gun and shot her. Hedayet started shooting in the direction of the 80 to 90 people who were standing in line. Yaakov Aminov, an Israeli American diamond trader who drove a friend to the airport, was killed.

An unarmEd El Al security officer and a private citizen, Aryeh Golan, tackled Hedayet and pushed him to the floor. As the security officer struggled to wrest the gun from Hedayet’s grip, Hedayet pistol-whipped the security officer in the forehead. Haim Sapir, El Al’s chief security officer, jumped over the counter and ran over to try to subdue Hedayet. In the commotion and fight that followed, Hedayet shot and stabbed Sapir. Sapir then shot Hedayet. Hedayet died at the scene of the attack. By the end of the struggle, Hedayet fired 10 shots, but the two security officers engaged him and prevented him from reloading his semi-automatic gun with a fresh clip of ammunition and attempting to kill more people.

Following the attack, one woman was wounded, and three others were treated for stress related to the incident. At the time of the attack, Hedayet was carrying two California drivers’ licenses, one with the name “Hesham Mohamed Hedayat,” and the other with “Hesham Mohamed Ali.” Each had a different birth date and year.
Hedayet was described by one of his former employees as having a vehement hatred of Israel. Abd Al-Latif Abdul Zahab, a former driver for Hedayet's limousine company stated, “He had hate for Israel, for sure.” Hedayet also promoted two of the many anti-Semitic conspiracy theories circulating in the Arab world. As Zahab recounted, “He told me that the Israelis tried to destroy the Egyptian nation and the Egyptian population by sending prostitutes with AIDS to Egypt. He said the two biggest drug dealers in New York are Israeli.”

The origins of Hedayet's possible connections to radical Islamists are more opaque. Hedayet grew up in Egypt in a Muslim upper class family described as “pious,” and his father served as a brigadier general in the Egyptian air force. He studied at Saint George's College, a private preparatory school run by Christians, and was exempted from military service in Egypt due to the fact that he was an only son. For his college degree he studied at Ain Shams University, where he received a degree in commerce. Hedayet began working at the Misk-Iran (Egypt-Iran) Bank, and in an unusual trajectory for someone of his age in Egypt, he became chief of the securities division and credit division by the age of 30. Hedayet later claimed that he was “framed” and forced out of his job at the bank. Afterward he came to the U.S. on a six-month visitor’s visa in 1992 and violated its terms by working. He then applied for political asylum.

In his 1992 request for political asylum in the U.S., Hedayet asserted to Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) officials that the Egyptian government arrested him and accused him of being a member of the Egyptian jihadist organization Al-Gama’a Al-Islamiya. Al-Gama’a Al-Islamiya was then led by Sheikh Umar Abd Al-Rahman, who was already living in the U.S. and sending his directives to the organization in Egypt from abroad. At that time, Al-Gama’a Al-Islamiya was carrying out a series of murderous terrorist attacks against Coptic Christians, Egyptian government officials, members of parliament, intellectuals, and Western tourists, with the declared goal of overthrowing the Egyptian government and replacing it with an Islamist state.

Hedayet claimed that the Egyptian government would persecute him for his religious beliefs if he were sent back, and denied being a member of the group. However, following an interview with him, the INS determined that Hedayet was inconsistent in his answers on his asylum application. A five page letter of asylum denial that was sent to him in 1995 stated, “Each of these inconsistencies is suggestive of concealment, and call into question your assertion that all you wish for the government of Egypt is that it be overthrown by peaceful means.”

Hedayet did admit to INS officials to being involved in another organization in Egypt that promoted the Islamist goal of pursuing the application of Islamic law throughout society. He claimed involvement in the Assad Ibn Furat Mosque Association, whose goals, as Hedayet described them, were to “understand truly and apply Islamic law in the twentieth century under any circumstances.”

Hedayet moved to a new address in California and never received the letter, and the INS did not follow up on deportation proceedings. His wife won a U.S. diversity visa lottery in 1997, which granted her citizenship and also made him eligible to apply for citizenship. Hedayet re-applied for citizenship, stating that his asylum request was pending. An INS investigation following the attack determined that the information from his asylum interview and the rejection letter were never sent to the FBI and CIA for their security review of his citizenship request.

In September 2002, federal investigators concluded the shooting was a terrorist act carried out by a lone gunman and determined that Hedayet intended to become a martyr.

The Department of Justice and FBI designated the attack as an act of international terrorism in April 2003. They further determined Hedayet’s “political and religious beliefs” were his primary motivation.
FBI investigators determined that Hedayet became radicalized in his beliefs in the years leading up to the attack. An indication of Hedayet’s radicalization was his assertion to individuals who were close to him of his belief in violent jihad, and the targeting of innocent civilians.427

Additionally, investigators found that Hedayet’s motivation for the attack was his anger over Israel’s treatment of the Palestinians, and he chose El Al as his target viewing it as a representation of the Israeli government. Prior to the incident, Hedayet was found to have methodically planned for the attack, and liquidated several of his bank accounts. He then purchased one of the weapons he used in the attack, and sent his wife and two sons out of the country to vacation in Egypt prior to carrying it out.428

October 25, 2002
OR: Eugene
During Sabbath night services, Temple Beth Israel in Eugene was attacked by members of the neo-Nazi skinhead Volksfront group armed with rocks.

As 80 congregants worshipped inside Temple Beth Israel, Jacob Albert Laskey, his brother, Gabriel Doyle Laskey, Jesse Lee Baker, and his brother, Jeremy Allan Baker, and Gerald Anthony Poundstone, all members of the extremely violent neo-Nazi skinhead group Volksfront, hurled rocks etched with swastikas through its stained glass windows. All five fled.429

Jacob Laskey was arrested and entered a plea bargain admitting his responsibility for the synagogue attack and a series of other hate crimes. He was sentenced to 11 years and three months imprisonment in April of 2007.430 Poundstone pleaded guilty and received a 15-month sentence in September 2006. After his arrest, Gabriel Laskey renounced his anti-Semitic beliefs and attempted to make amends. He wrote letters of apology to the synagogue, met with some of its members, and studied Jewish history with a rabbi and his wife.431 In November 2007, he pleaded guilty, and received six months imprisonment with work release, six months of home detention, and five years of probation.432

November 1, 2003
US and Canada
Foiled attacks by Hamas operative Jamal Aql against Israeli officials and U.S. and Canadian Jews.

Jamal Aql, a Gaza-born Hamas operative, was arrested by the Israel Security Agency at the Rafah crossing for planning attacks on Israeli officials while they were visiting the U.S., and on U.S. and Canadian Jews. Aql left Gaza for Canada four years prior and became a Canadian citizen. While in Canada, Aql spoke with Muhammad Bashir Abu Matar, a recruiter from Hamas’ military wing.433 He reportedly asked Aql to carry out attacks on Jews in the U.S. and Canada. In preparation for doing so, Aql returned to Gaza for training.434

Aql reportedly arrived in Gaza in October. Ahmad Wahbeh, a senior Hamas terrorist trained him as a sniper and in bomb-making skills. Aql was tasked to assassinate an Israeli official traveling in the U.S. via criminal networks in the Detroit area. Wahbeh also directed Aql to raise funds by contacting Islamic charitable organizations that raised funds for the families of suicide bombers. Aql stated that because of the unusual and politically sensitive nature of the attack, he was required to await the approval of the Hamas leadership.435 Subsequently Aql received an answer: he was directed to carry out the attack claiming responsibility in the name of Al-Qa’ida rather than Hamas.437

Aql was charged with conspiracy to commit murder, receiving illegal training to take part in a Hamas plot to “assassinate a senior Israeli official in the U.S., and attack members of the U.S. and Canadian Jewish communities.”438 He was sentenced to four years in prison and returned to Canada upon his release in August 2007.439
November 18, 2003
IN: Terre Haute
CANDLES Holocaust Museum was destroyed by arson.

Arson carried out by unknown assailants destroyed the Children of Auschwitz Nazi Deadly Experiments Survivors (CANDLES) Holocaust Museum. A brick was thrown through a window of the museum at 12:12 a.m. It was followed by a firebomb, which ignited a fire inside the building. Scrawled on an outside wall of the museum was the slogan, “Remember Timothy McVeigh.” McVeigh was a white supremacist terrorist who was convicted of the 1995 bombing of the Oklahoma City federal building. There were no injuries. The FBI investigated the incident as domestic terrorism and a possible hate crime. The museum was rebuilt and reopened in April 2005. The arson remained under investigation by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and the Terre Haute police.

April 1, 2004
OK: Oklahoma City
White supremacist Sean Gillespie attempts arson at Temple B’nai Israel in Oklahoma City.

Using a Molotov cocktail, Sean Michael Gillespie, a self described racist skinhead, and previously a follower of the neo-Nazi Aryan Nations, attempted to set Temple B’nai Israel on fire. The firebomb caused smoke damage. Gillespie video-recorded himself in the act of throwing the firebomb onto the synagogue. Upon throwing the lit Molotov cocktail, Gillespie declared on video, “I will film it for your viewing pleasure, my kindred. White power!”

Gillespie was arrested on April 16, 2004. In April 2005 he was found guilty on charges of possessing and using an explosive device. In August 2005, Gillespie was sentenced to 39 years in prison.

October 7, 2004
TN: Nashville
Ahmed Hassan Al-Uqaily was arrested by the FBI for illegal possession of weapons. Al-Uqaily had discussed “going jihad” and targeting two Jewish institutions in the vicinity of Nashville.

Ahmed Hassan Al-Uqaily, a radicalized Iraqi American Muslim immigrant, expressed anger over the situation in Iraq and declared to an acquaintance of his that he was, “going jihad” and that he was going to blow up something. The acquaintance told federal law enforcement Al-Uqaily wanted to purchase weapons, and Al-Uqaily was introduced to an undercover informant. In discussions with the undercover informant, Al-Uqaily “expressed animosity toward the Jewish community,” and discussed targeting two Jewish institutions in the Nashville area.

Al-Uqaily was arrested following his purchase of two disassembled M-16 machine guns, components for four hand grenades, and hundreds of rounds of ammunition for machine guns from an undercover law enforcement agent posing as a weapons dealer. Al-Uqaily pleaded guilty to weapons charges, and was sentenced to 57 months in prison, followed by deportation from the U.S.

October 12, 2004
TN: Knoxville
Former National Guards soldier and neo-Nazi Ivan Duane Braden left his home armed with weapons and explosives he intended to use against a National Guard armory, and to carry out a suicide attack at a synagogue. He reconsidered his plans as he set out to commit the attack, and turned himself in at a mental health care facility.

Ivan Duane Braden, a former National Guards soldier and neo-Nazi, departed from home with the intent of carrying out an attack but changed his mind and turned himself in at a mental health facility. At that moment he decided, “Jewish people were not worth dying for.”

Braden confessed he was plotting to blow up a National Guard armory, and kill a retired captain and a sergeant. He further described his intent to suicide bomb a synagogue by wearing a trench coat filled with explosives and to “get as close to children and the rabbi as possible.” Braden assembled a “war bag” that he took on the day of the incident that included sword-like knives, the components of a small explosive device, dark clothing, and rope. Braden was sentenced to 15 years in prison.
July 5, 2005

CA: Los Angeles and Orange County

Foiled plot of a homegrown Islamist extremist terror organization called Jami‘at Al-Islam Al-Sahih to carry out terrorist attacks at El Al at Los Angeles Airport, the Israeli Consulate, and LA-area synagogues.

After a series of 11 gas station robberies in the Los Angeles and Orange County area, police found a cell phone at the scene of one of the robberies in Torrance. It led to the arrest on July 5 of Levar Washington and Gregory Patterson, two members of a Sunni Islamist extremist terror organization called Jami‘at Al-Islam Al-Sahih (JIS), the “Association of Authentic Islam.” A search of their apartment revealed that their activities, along with those of a third member, Hammad Riaz Samana, were being directed from prison.

Kevin James established JIS in 1997 while he was serving time in prison. James was previously a follower of the anti-Semitic Nation of Islam, but left it to become a Sunni radical Islamist. Members of JIS were required to pledge an oath of loyalty to James “until death by martyrdom,” and to swear to keep the existence of the group secret. James recruited Levar Washington as a follower before Washington was released on parole. He instructed Washington to recruit a cell outside of prison that would be able to prepare for attacks. James subsequently continued to direct the group’s activities from prison, requiring that Washington keep in contact with him at least every 90 days.

Washington recruited Gregory Patterson and Riad Samana, who each pledged a loyalty oath to him. An individual who Washington had failed to recruit described Washington as having “regarded Usama Bin Laden very highly.” Washington and Patterson rented an apartment together that became the group’s base of operations. Washington and the other group members purchased weapons and practiced martial arts in preparation for their activities. Days before they were arrested, Patterson purchased a .223 caliber rifle.

Members of the group conducted surveillance of El Al at Los Angeles International Airport, the Israeli Consulate, and of Israeli officials. Additionally, they conducted surveillance, collected weapons, and plotted attacks on Los Angeles area synagogues. The attacks were planned to coincide with the Jewish high holidays in October that year. They were particularly interested in attacks on Yom Kippur, with the intent of maximizing the number of victims. They also carried out surveillance of military targets in the Los Angeles area, including recruitment centers and military bases, and prepared various means of attack in order to cause the maximum number of victims. They intended to carry out an attack on a military target on September 11, 2005.

In order to fund their attacks, they carried out the series of 11 gas station robberies. Documents retrieved from their apartment included a list of targets, a poster of Usama Bin Laden, and instructions on recruiting and indoctrinating five-man “special operations cells” outside of prison. One of the five would be tasked to find explosives or to learn bomb making.

Commenting on this incident in December 2007, Los Angeles Police Department Deputy Chief Michael Downing stated, “This cell was closer to going operational at the time than anyone since 9/11.”

James pleaded guilty to having plotted “to levy war against the United States through terrorism” in 2007. In March 2009 he was sentenced to 16 years in prison. Washington was sentenced to 44 years in total. He entered a plea agreement for the JIS plot together with James, and received 22 years, and another 22 years for the 11 gas station robberies.

Patterson also entered a plea agreement and in July 2008, received 151 months (over 12.5 years) in prison. Samana pleaded guilty in 2009 and received 70 months in prison.

July 7, 2006

CA: Tarzana

Arson and anti-Semitic graffiti at Beith David Educational Center Synagogue.

An arson was carried out two days prior to the dedication of a new synagogue building at the Iranian Jewish community’s Beith David Educational Center. The fire was started at 3 a.m. using carpet scraps and cardboard boxes that were placed underneath the front door of the synagogue. The wooden
door of the synagogue was charred, but further damage was prevented by the building’s fire-suppression system. In addition to the fire, the synagogue’s retaining wall and a window were defaced with anti-Semitic graffiti that included a satanic symbol. There were no injuries.475 The cost of damage to the synagogue was estimated to be $9,000.476 The Los Angeles police designated the incident as a hate crime.477

July 28, 2006
WA: Seattle
During the 2006 war between Hizballah and Israel, Naveed Afzal Haq, a radicalized Muslim with a history of psychological issues, forced his way into the Jewish Federation of Seattle by taking a 13-year-old girl hostage. Once inside the building, Haq killed one woman and wounded five others.

Two weeks after the start of the 2006 war between Hizballah and Israel, Naveed Afzal Haq, a radicalized Muslim with a history of psychological issues, spent several days planning his attack targeting a Jewish institution. He purchased weapons and ammunition, and chose the Seattle Jewish Federation as his target by randomly researching for Jewish institutions on the Internet. He drove over 200 miles from his home in Pasco, Washington to the Seattle Federation building to carry out the attack. Waiting for an opportunity to force his way in, he hid behind a potted plant. Haq was armed with two semi-automatic pistols – one a .45 caliber and the second a .40 caliber, and additional ammunition.478

At 4:03, Haq took a 13-year-old Jewish girl hostage by holding a gun to her head and forcing her to open the security door. Before opening fire inside the building he announced, “I am a Muslim American, angry at Israel.”479 He approached the receptionist Layla Bush and asked for a manager. As he walked with Bush towards Cheryl Stumbo, the marketing director, Stumbo told Carol Goldman, who was sitting nearby, to call emergency services. Before Goldman could do so, Haq proceeded to shoot at Goldman, wounding her in the knee, and shot Bush in the abdomen and left shoulder. Continuing on his rampage, he shot both Stumbo and Christina Rexroad in the abdomen. He then shot Pamela Waechter, the Federation’s assistant director, in the chest. In an attempt to flee, Waechter ran to the stairs, but Haq followed her there and shot her fatally in the head.480

After shooting Waechter, Haq arrived at the door of Dayna Klein’s office. He shot Klein, who was pregnant at the time, in her arm. Haq told her if she called 911 he would kill her.481 During Haq’s trial, Klein testified that he went on to declare to her, “that the Jews ... need to get out of Lebanon and Iraq. This is his Hezbollah; this is his personal statement.”482 Despite Haq’s threat, Klein called emergency services. Haq aimed his pistol at Klein’s head and told her, “Because you were too [expletive] stupid to listen, you are my hostage now.”483 Klein nevertheless handed Haq the receiver to talk to the dispatcher. Haq declared, “This is a hostage situation and I want the Jews to get out.” Later on, Haq said, “These are Jews and I’m tired of getting pushed around and our people getting pushed around by the situation in the Middle East.”484 After he gave himself up to the police Haq stated, “I am making a statement, okay, that’s what this is all about.” He continued, “This is about the Jews and what they are doing. The Jews are running the country.”485

In total, Haq shot six people, killing Pamela Waechter. Of the five who were wounded, Cheryl Stumbo, Layla Bush, and Christina Rexroad were in serious condition.486

Approximately six months prior to the attack, Haq was baptized.475 At some time before the attack, Haq apparently had a change of heart and re-identified as a Muslim. Significantly, before he opened fire, Haq made a declaration identifying himself as a radicalized Muslim. Additionally, transcripts of telephone calls Haq made to his parents after his arrest indicated he viewed himself and his actions through the lens of radical Islamist ideology. In those calls Haq reportedly described himself as being a “martyr.”487 He further told his parents, “You should be proud of what I did,” “I did the right thing,” and “I did it for God.”488 He told his mother he was taking his medication at the time of the attack and knew what he was doing. He further told her, “I did it purposely, and insisted to her, “You be proud of me... Now I’m going to heaven.”489

Haq’s first trial ended in a mistrial in 2008. He was convicted in his second trial in December of 2009 and was sentenced to life in prison without parole in January 2010.491

490 State v Haq – Case Profile, King County TV, YouTube video, April 6, 2010, 3:03, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U8R_eOIP-Nc
June 2, 2007
NY: Queens
Jewish school and neighborhood targeted in JFK Airport Plot: Four Islamist extremists were arrested before they were able to carry out a plot to bomb fuel tanks and pipelines beneath JFK International Airport. Part of the plot included targeting a Jewish school and a Jewish neighborhood in the airport's vicinity.

A plot to bomb fuel tanks and pipelines under JFK International Airport in Queens was averted by the arrests of four radicalized Muslim men. The leader of the group, Russell Defreitas, also discussed with the others targeting a Jewish school or neighborhood near the airport. Defreitas, a retired airport worker, told a co-conspirator who was a government informant of his motivation for carrying out the attack. He claimed he saw military parts being shipped to Israel including missiles, which he believed would be used against Muslims. Defreitas declared he “wanted to do something to get those bastards.” He further told the informant, “Muslims always incur the wrath of the world while Jews get a pass.”

Defreitas and his co-conspirators sought to enlist the assistance of Iran and major terrorist organizations, such as Al-Qaida, for their plot. A second co-conspirator, Karim Ibrahim, was approached by Defreitas to join the plot because he had ties to the Iranian government. During his trial, Ibrahim admitted to passing sensitive information to the Iranian government. Ibrahim also directed a third co-conspirator, Abdul Kadir, to contact Muhsin Rabbani, the former Iranian cultural attaché to Argentina who was indicted as Al-Qaida, for their plot. A second co-conspirator, Abdul Kadir, was approached by Defreitas to join the plot because he had ties to the Iranian government. During his trial, Ibrahim admitted to passing sensitive information to the Iranian government. Ibrahim also directed a third co-conspirator, Abdul Kadir, to contact Muhsin Rabbani, the former Iranian cultural attaché to Argentina who was indicted for involvement in the bombing of the AMIA, the Buenos Aires Jewish cultural center of Argentina.

Ibrahim had training as an engineer and had ties to terrorist organizations in Iran and Venezuela. He also garnered a network of individuals who were knowledgeable in terrorist tradecraft, including providing advice on explosives and a bank account to finance the attack.

Defreitas and Kadir were both convicted in 2010 and sentenced in 2011 to life imprisonment. Ibrahim was convicted in May 2011 and sentenced to life in prison in 2012.

January 21, 2009
MA: Brockton
Keith Luke, a self-described neo-Nazi, was arrested before he could fulfill his plan to “kill as many Jews as possible” at Temple Beth Emunah on bingo night.

Keith Luke, a self-described neo-Nazi, was arrested after he raped and shot a Cape Verdean woman and shot two other Cape Verdians, a woman and a man, killing the latter two.

Luke declared to police he was only beginning a murderous killing spree, targeting African-Americans, Latinos, and Jews. He planned to kill Jews by going to Temple Beth Emunah, a synagogue close to where he lived, on bingo night and open fire to “kill as many Jews as possible.” At his trial, Luke appeared with a swastika carved into his forehead. He was convicted of first-degree murder in 2013 and sentenced to life in prison.

May 19, 2009
NY: Riverdale
Riverdale Synagogues Bomb Plot: Foiled plot of four men who were arrested for positioning explosive devices in cars outside of two synagogues, the Riverdale Temple and the Riverdale Jewish Center. They also planned to shoot down military planes with a Stinger surface-to-air missile system at the New York Air National Guard base.

Following an 11-month investigation, four men were arrested at approximately 9 p.m. outside of the Riverdale Jewish Center and Riverdale Temple. The arrests occurred after they positioned what they thought to be activated bombs in two cars outside of each house of worship. An informant supervised by the FBI provided the men with inert explosive materials for the synagogues plot. An inert Stinger surface-to-air-missile system was also provided to them by the informant for their planned simultaneous plot to shoot down U.S. military planes at the Air National Guard Base at Stewart Airport in Newburgh, New York.

Three of the four men – James Cromitie, Onta Williams, and Laguerre Payen - had converted to a form of extremist Islam while serving time in prison. David Williams IV was born to...
a Muslim father and Roman Catholic mother and considered himself Muslim. A family member who saw him a week before the attack observed a change from his previous behavior.506

Almost a year prior to the planned attack, James Cromitie, a.k.a. Abdul Rahman, met with the informant and claimed his parents lived in Afghanistan (In an interview after his arrest, Cromitie’s mother denied that the family had any ties to Afghanistan.)507 Cromitie expressed distress that, from his point of view, American military forces were killing Muslims in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Cromitie went on to discuss his interest in returning to Afghanistan, and that he would like to die “like a shahid, a martyr,” and thereafter “go to paradise.”508 Continuing the conversation, Cromitie declared he was interested in doing “something to America.”509

Cromitie again met with the informant in July 2008. The informant told Cromitie he was involved with Jaish-e-Muhammad (JEM), the “Army of Muhammad,” a Pakistani terrorist organization that was fighting against U.S. and coalition forces in Afghanistan. Cromitie was intrigued and discussed his interest in joining JEM and told the informant he wanted to join JEM to “do jihad.”510

Three months later, Cromitie began to meet with the informant in a house in Newburgh, New York. Cromitie recruited the other members of the group who joined the plot - David Williams, Onta Williams, and Laguerre Payen. They initiated a discussion of the targets they intended to attack: a synagogue in the Bronx and military aircraft at the Air National Guard base. Cromitie asked the informant to procure surface-to-air missiles and explosives for them. The informant responded to Cromitie he would be able to supply them with C-4 plastic explosives.511

After the Mumbai attacks in November 2008, in a discussion with the informant regarding which targets he considered to be the best in New York, Cromitie asserted, “The best target [World Trade Center] was hit already.” Later on, after they saw footage of the funeral of one the Jewish victims of the Mumbai attack, Cromitie declared, “Look at the Jewish guy. You’re not smiling no more, you [expletive]. I hate those bastards. I hate those [expletives], those [expletive] Jewish bastards. I’d like to get one of those. I’d like to get [destroy] a synagogue. Me. Yeah, personally.”512

In preparation for their planned attack, in April 2009 Cromitie, David Williams, Onta Williams, and Payen chose a synagogue and Jewish community center located in the Bronx as their targets.513 On April 10 Cromitie, David Williams, and the informant drove to the Riverdale Jewish Center and the Riverdale Temple to conduct surveillance and take photographs. On April 28, the four perpetrators met with the informant to discuss the details of their attack. Each confirmed that he was willing to participate in the “jihad” operation and to support Jaish-e-Muhammad. As they discussed their plans, Onta Williams stated, “they [the U.S. military] are killing Muslim brothers and sisters in Muslim countries, so, if we kill them here [in the U.S.] with IEDs and Stingers, it is equal.”514

They performed surveillance and photographed the airfield and military aircraft, and also chose a spot near the airport from where they could shoot the Stinger surface-to-air missile.515 On May 6, the four men met the informant at a warehouse in Connecticut to pick up the inoperable missile system and three improvised explosive devices each composed of 30 pounds of inert C-4.516 They brought the devices to storage lockers in New Windsor, New York provided by the informant. Having procured the weapons for their plot, the men hugged each other and shouted in Arabic, “Allahu Akbar!” – “God is great!” On May 13, they conducted another round of surveillance focused on the Riverdale Jewish Center and a last round of surveillance at the airport.517

On May 20, the four perpetrators drove with the informant to the storage lockers to retrieve the three inert explosive devices. They drove to Riverdale and placed one device in the trunk of a Pontiac that had been positioned in front of the Riverdale Temple by the FBI. They placed the other two devices in the back seat of a Mazda similarly placed by the FBI in front of the Riverdale Jewish Center. They planned to drive away, pick up the surface-to-air missile system, drive to the airport, and shoot down one or more planes while simultaneously detonating the bombs in front of the synagogues. They were
all arrested as they began to drive away from the synagogues.518

James Cromitie, Onta Williams, David Williams, and Laguerre Payen were convicted of plotting to bomb the two synagogues and of plotting to shoot down military planes in October 2010.519 Cromitie, Onta Williams, and David Williams were each sentenced to 25 years in prison in June 2011.520 In September 2011, Laguerre Payen was also sentenced to 25 years in prison.521

May 30 - June 1, 2009
AK: Little Rock, and TN: Nashville
Shooting at the home of Rabbi Eugene Levy of Little Rock and an attempted arson at the former home of Rabbi Saul Strosberg in Nashville by Abdulhakim Mujahid Muhammad (a.k.a. Carlos Bledsoe), a self-described follower of AQAP.

Abdulhakim Mujahid Muhammad, a convert to extremist Islam and a self-declared follower of Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), embarked on a series of attacks. Over a two-day period, he initiated two attacks on the homes of two rabbis. His third attack resulted in the murder of two servicemen at the Arkansas military recruitment center.

May 30, 2009 - At an unknown hour, Muhammad fired 10 .22 caliber rounds at the home of Rabbi Eugene Levy in Little Rock. There were no injuries. Muhammad confessed to the attack after his arrest.

June 1, 2009 - Additionally, Muhammad confessed to carrying out a firebomb attack. At 2 a.m., Muhammad threw a firebomb at the Nashville home where he believed Rabbi Saul Strosberg of the Sherith Israel synagogue lived.522 The attack failed.523

Later that morning, at 10:19 a.m., Muhammad carried out a shooting attack at the Little Rock, Arkansas military recruitment center, killing Private William Long and wounding Private Quinton Ezeagwula. He admitted to the shooting to the arresting police officers and told them that that he intended to “kill as many people in the Army as he could.”524

Muhammad wrote a letter to the judge in his case and declared himself an affiliate of AQAP and a member of “Abu Bashir’s army.” He went on to call the recruitment center shooting a “jihadi attack.”525

Muhammad confessed to law enforcement officials that he originally planned a much larger scenario of plots that included a broader targeting of Jews. The first stage consisted of assassinating “three Zionist rabbis in Memphis, Little Rock, and Nashville.” Then he planned to follow up with attacks on military recruitment centers “from the South to the nation’s capital.” And he would conclude with targeting what he termed, “other Zionist organizations in the Northeast.”526

The Jewish sites he researched for targeting were located in Memphis, Philadelphia, Louisville, Atlanta, and New York.527 Muhammad pleaded guilty and received a life sentence without parole.528

June 10, 2009
Washington DC
Shooting and murder of a security officer at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum by white supremacist James Wenneker von Brunn.

At the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, James Wenneker von Brunn, an 88-year-old white supremacist, parked his car near the entrance at 12:44 p.m. and carried a .22 caliber rifle with him to the door. Stephen Tyrone Johns, a security officer at the museum, opened the door for him. Von Brunn aimed his rifle at Johns and fatally shot him. Two other security officers fired back at von Brunn. Von Brunn was shot in the face and fell backwards, outside the door.529

Police discovered a notebook in his car with a signed manifesto from von Brunn setting out his anti-Semitic justifications for the attack. It declared, “The Holocaust is a lie. Obama was created by Jews. Obama does what his Jew owners tell him to do. Jews captured America’s money. Jews control the mass media.” And, lastly, “Jews – Bolsheviks – Zionist [sic] are America’s enemies.”530

Von Brunn was indicted and charged with first-degree murder, killing in a federal building, and a bias crime on June 11, 2009. He died in prison from chronic medical issues as he awaited trial on January 6, 2010.531

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October 29, 2010
IL: Chicago
AQAP Cargo Bomb Plot: Foiled attempt by Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) to ship two bombs constructed from computer printer cartridges from Yemen to two synagogues in Chicago.

Two Yemeni women shipped one cargo package each on different days in late October 2010 from San’a, Yemen to Chicago. Each package contained a Hewlett Packard computer printer with its ink cartridge altered to contain a powerful bomb. Neither device was detected using x-ray screening. The bombs were constructed using the explosive PETN (pentaerythritol trinitrate), and were shipped separately, using U.S. shipping companies UPS and FedEx. The intended delivery date of both packages was November 1.

Following an alert on October 28 from Saudi intelligence to Western intelligence agencies and Qatar, one of the bombs had already passed through Cologne-Bonn airport and was on its way to the U.K. It was intercepted at East Midlands Airport in the U.K. on October 29. The device first traveled on a passenger plane and then arrived on a UPS cargo flight. The second bomb traveled via two passenger flights on Qatar Airways, and was then intercepted in Dubai at a FedEx facility.

German federal police officials from the BKA described the printer cartridge bomb found on the UPS cargo flight in the U.K. as being filled with 400 grams (15.11 ounces) of PETN. The UPS shipped device was attached to a timing device that was composed of the card and battery of a cell phone, which were attached to a light emitting diode (LED). The LED was inserted inside a syringe containing lead azide, a material used for detonation, and the syringe was placed partially inside the PETN powder within the toner cartridge. The device was intended to detonate at a pre-set time using the cell phone card.

They described the FedEx shipped device intercepted in Dubai as being slightly smaller, with 300 grams (10.58 ounces) of PETN. That device included a detonator constructed out of a cell phone SIM card and an electrical circuit. Both devices were described as having a potentially “lethal impact” if they had exploded either in a plane or on the ground.

British investigators were reported to believe that the bombs were timed and intended to detonate somewhere over the U.S. But other counterterrorism specialists disagreed and pointed to the fact that the perpetrators would not have known what time the bombs were traveling over the U.S. because they were sent on cargo flights. Had the package passing through the U.K. traveled unimpeded through East Midlands Airport, U.K. investigators estimated that it could have detonated over the eastern seaboard of the U.S.

U.S. and U.K. officials believed the radical Islamcler and AQAP ideologue Anwar Al-Awlaki was involved in sending the two devices. The bombs were believed to be constructed by a skilled AQAP bomb maker named Ibrahim Hassan Tali’al Asiri. In an earlier AQAP attempted attack on the U.S., Al-Asiri reportedly used his capabilities to construct the 80 gram (2.82 ounces) PETN bomb hidden by Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab in his underwear. In the 2009 foiled Christmas Day plane bombing, Abdulmutallab sought to bring down the plane in which he was traveling over Detroit by unsuccessfully attempting to detonate that device. In an earlier attempted AQAP attack against Saudi Arabia, Ibrahim Al-Asiri constructed a similar device that was also concealed in the bomber’s underwear. It was used by another AQAP operative, Al-Asiri’s younger brother, Abdallah Hassan Tali’al Asiri. During Ramadan in August 2009, Abdallah Al-Asiri evaded Saudi security measures and carried out a suicide bombing in an attempt to assassinate the Saudi intelligence minister, Prince Muhammad Bin Nayef. Bin Nayef received relatively minor injuries in the attack.

AQAP previously performed three “dry runs” of the bomb plot in mid-September 2010. In one example, an individual with

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639 “Yemen cargo bomb plot may have been targeted at Britain,” Telegraph (UK), October 30, 2010, http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/terrorism-in-the-uk/8099345/Yemen-cargo-bomb-plot-may-have-been-targeted-at-Britain.html
654 "Yemen cargo bomb plot may have been targeted at Britain,” Telegraph (UK), October 30, 2010, http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/terrorism-in-the-uk/8099345/Yemen-cargo-bomb-plot-may-have-been-targeted-at-Britain.html
AQAP ties dispatched a package from Yemen containing a computer drive, religious literature, and books to an address in Chicago. The package was tracked and intercepted by U.S. intelligence agencies, searched for explosives, and then sealed and permitted to continue on its way to Chicago. It was believed that AQAP was monitoring the shipping company’s tracking system to determine a time to set a bomb’s timing device in order to have the most deadly effect.

In a symbolic action for AQAP, the final destinations of both bombs were Jewish targets. The addresses were of two synagogues in Chicago. One was to be sent to the previous address of Congregation Or Chadash, an LGBT synagogue. They chose Diego Deza, who served as the second Inquisitor General of the Spanish Inquisition, from 1499-1506. Deza, they believed they had the current locations and used them. Additionally, the scheduled day for the packages’ delivery to the synagogues was November 1, a Sabbath.

In consonance with Al-Qaeda’s long declared focus targeting “Crusaders” and Jews, AQAP’s English language magazine characterized U.S. actions against Al-Qaeda as a “new Crusade against Islam.” AQAP therefore did not use the names of the synagogues on the packages but instead chose historically symbolic names for the intended recipients to whom the packages were to be delivered. For one of the addressees they chose Diego Deza, who served as the second Inquisitor General of the Spanish Inquisition, from 1499-1506. Deza, the successor of Torquemada, was known for his persecution of Muslims.

For the second addressee, they chose Reynald Krak, also known as Renaud de Chatillon, a prominent military leader of the Crusades. In the Galilee at the Battle of Hattin in 1187, Salah Al-Din Al-Ayyubi (Saladin) and his Muslim forces defeated the Crusader Christian armies. Renaud was taken prisoner by the Muslim forces and beheaded by Salah Al-Din.

In a November 2, 2010 statement, AQAP claimed responsibility for the foiled attacks. They boasted that their bomb design provided them with the option of detonating the device either aboard a plane or at the packages’ destination.

In a vitriolic denunciation of the Saudis’ intelligence alert as “treason” and “collaboration with the Zionists,” AQAP further declared, “The packages were being sent to Jewish synagogues and yet you [Saudis] interfered to defend them. May Allah’s curse be upon the transgressors.”

Several weeks after the incident, AQAP disseminated the third issue of its English language propaganda magazine Inspire. It featured a cover photo of a UPS plane with the sum “$4,200” as its headline, indicating AQAP’s comparatively small claimed expenditure on the plot. In an article about the plot, AQAP further explained its motivations to focus on the synagogues, explaining, “Today we are facing a coalition of Crusaders and Zionists and we in Al-Qa’ida in the Arabian Peninsula will never forget Palestine. How can we forget when our motto is ‘Here we start and in Al-Aqsa [Jerusalem] we shall meet?’” The article went on to explain the choice of the two synagogues, and the choice of their location in Chicago, because “both synagogues are in Chicago, Obama’s city.”

May 12, 2011
NY: New York

As they were purchasing weapons and ammunition to carry out an attack on a Manhattan synagogue, Ahmed Ferhani and Mohamed Mammadouh were arrested in an undercover operation by the New York Police Department.

Following a seven-month investigation, Ahmed Ferhani was arrested after purchasing an inert hand grenade, weapons, and ammunition from a New York Police Department (NYPD) undercover detective. Ferhani and his accomplice, Mohamed Mammadouh, planned to attack a prominent synagogue in Manhattan and the Empire State Building, Mammadouh was arrested as he waited for Ferhani to complete his purchase of the weapons.

Ahmed Ferhani met an NYPD undercover officer in October 2010, and later introduced his friend, Mohamed Mammadouh, to him. Ferhani began to express his support for what he referred to as “Gaza.” He also spoke of the possibility of traveling to Gaza, the territory controlled by the Hamas terrorist organization, to support his “Muslim brothers and sisters to fight against Israel and to kill Israeli soldiers” there. Ferhani also asserted that if he were killed engaging in that endeavor, he would become a “martyr.” Similarly, Ferhani declared his intent to participate in “jihad.”

552 Salah Al-Din Al-Ayyubi is considered a great hero in Muslim history for his victory over the Crusaders.
On April 12, Ferhani, Mamdouh, and the undercover detective met at Ferhani’s apartment and had a discussion about how they were going to blow up a synagogue and avoid being detected. Ferhani asked the undercover detective if he would contact someone about how to build a bomb. Mamdouh instructed the undercover detective to only speak of their plans in person and not over the phone. Ferhani suggested that in order to carry out the attack, the three of them should dress as Jews and go into a synagogue, attend a service, and leave a bag with a bomb there before they left. Mamdouh stated that he had no problem killing Jews. During their conversation Mamdouh responded to the notion of blowing up a synagogue by declaring, “Hell yeah, I would love to blow that [expletive] up.”

Six days later, the three met again at Ferhani’s apartment and watched a documentary on Zionists together. Ferhani asserted he wanted to carry out a variation of the plan: he wanted to dress as a Jewish congregant, attend services at a synagogue, and leave a bomb inside the building after the worshippers left. Ferhani asserted that they would never be caught due to his plan of being dressed as a Jew for the attack. How would anyone “know that I’m not a Jew, coming in there, dressed like that? Shalom, Shalom.” Further in their conversation, as they discussed the subject of Zionists, Mamdouh declared that Zionists “look like little [expletive] rats.” To this Ferhani replied, “Shoot that nigga.”

Later in their conversation, Ferhani came up with an alternative plan: they would bring guns into the synagogue so that if their initial plan did not succeed, they would be able to shoot at people within the synagogue building.

On April 20, Ferhani and the undercover detective again met at Ferhani’s apartment. Ferhani told the detective he wanted to blow up the largest synagogue in Manhattan, and that he was selling drugs to finance the explosives and weapons they would use for their planned attack. The drugs he sold included crack cocaine, marijuana, and Percocet pills.

In another conversation with the undercover detective on May 3, Ferhani suggested they could throw grenades, two at the same time, into the synagogue. Ferhani also told him that he wanted to use the grenades to blow up churches.

Ferhani told the undercover detective continually that he wanted to acquire guns in order begin to train for the attack, and specified he wanted “clean” guns – new guns that were not used in a previous crime and therefore could not be traced.

The undercover detective offered to introduce Ferhani to a weapons dealer who could provide clean guns and Ferhani expressed interest in meeting him. The undercover officer also indicated that the dealer would be able to acquire grenades, and Ferhani also expressed interest in purchasing them and discussed how he would pull the pins on the grenades and throw them into synagogues.

On May 5, Ferhani and the undercover detective went to Manhattan to meet the weapons dealer, who was a second undercover detective. As they sat together in a car, Ferhani told the weapons dealer he wanted to purchase grenades and would pay $600 to acquire two guns.

Ferhani emphasized he needed the weapons for “the cause,” and told the weapons dealer, “that the Jews take care of their own kind, which is why they will never starve, but Muslims don’t work together, which is a shame.” Ferhani asserted, “We gonna be victorious. y’all can do whatever, we gonna win at the end.”

Four days after their meeting with the weapons dealer, Ferhani declared he wanted to blow up a synagogue. He intended it to be a warning to the Jewish people. He asserted further that he wanted to blow up ten synagogues at once.

Ferhani, Mamdouh, and the undercover detective drove to Manhattan on May 11 to again meet with the weapons dealer. They planned to purchase a grenade, and three pistols - two Brownings, and a Smith and Wesson. Ferhani instructed Mamdouh that following their acquisition of the weapons, he was to take the grenade and the Smith and Wesson and transport them to Brooklyn. Mamdouh agreed and he was dropped off first to wait in a location close to the place where Ferhani and the undercover detective were to meet the weapons dealer.

Ferhani and the undercover detective continued to 58th Street and 12th Avenue where they met the weapons dealer in a car. They were planning to buy a grenade, three guns, and ammunition. During the meeting, Ferhani told the weapons dealer he had $100 on him, but would bring the rest of the money that evening or the following day. The weapons dealer told Ferhani that he would do business with him because
Ferhani was “a brother” and because Ferhani told him that he was purchasing weapons “for the cause.”

Ferhani confirmed the weapons purchase was for that purpose, and responded to the weapons dealer, “that’s all that it is for.” Ferhani went on to state that he and the undercover detective “have some [expletive] plans” and that he had “one target in [his] eye.” Ferhani declared he would “never quit until he reached that [expletive].” He explained his motivation for carrying out the plans he had been discussing as due to “Muslims is [sic] getting abused all over the world.” He declared, “I ain’t gonna accept it.”

Believing he established a rapport with the weapons dealer, Ferhani asked him the cost of a box of grenades. He also asked if the dealer could get a bulletproof vest and a police radio for him. The weapons dealer agreed to provide weapons to Ferhani in advance of payment. He gave Ferhani a bag whose contents included: two functional Browning .380 caliber semi-automatic pistols, one operational Smith and Wesson .9 mm semi-automatic pistol, three boxes of ammunition (one for each firearm) containing 50 rounds each, and one inert grenade. Ferhani took the grenade, weapons, and ammunition, and placed them in a bag he brought for that purpose. As he was placing the bag in the trunk of his car, he was arrested. Mamdouh was arrested shortly thereafter.

In December 2012, Ferhani pleaded guilty to weapons charges as a crime of terrorism, and conspiracy as a hate crime. He was sentenced in March 2013 to 10 years in prison with five years of supervision after release.

In April 2013, Mamdouh pleaded guilty and was sentenced five years in prison with three years of supervision after release.

In April 2016, Ferhani attempted to commit suicide in prison. He was reported to have been placed in a medically induced coma.

September 29, 2011
Washington D.C.
Foiled plot of Manssor Arbabsiar, an Iranian-American directed by Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps’ Al-Quds Force, to assassinate the Saudi ambassador to the U.S., and subsequent plan to attack the Israeli Embassy in Washington.

On September 29, Manssor Arbabsiar was arrested at JFK Airport in New York after he attempted to set in motion a plot he initiated in the spring of 2011 to assassinate the Saudi ambassador to the U.S. and a subsequent plan to attack the Israeli Embassy. Arbabsiar admitted his involvement in the plot to investigators.

Following a failed series of business ventures, Arbabsiar, a naturalized citizen of the U.S. and a resident of Corpus Christi, Texas, had increasingly started to spend periods of time in Iran two years before his arrest. He told friends in the U.S. he was visiting Iran and was “making good money.”

A year prior to his arrest, Arbabsiar moved to Iran. During that time, he made contact with his cousin, Abdul Reza Shahlai, a general and the deputy commander of the Al-Quds Force External Special Operations Unit. Al-Quds Force (Al-Quds is Farsi for “Jerusalem”) is the elite foreign operations unit of Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. Shahlai became infamous to U.S. forces serving in Iraq in 2007 for combining his efforts with a senior Hizballah operative, Ali Musa Daqduq. They trained members of Moqtada Al-Sadr’s Iran-backed militia to carry out brazen attacks targeting U.S. servicemen in Iraq.

In the spring of 2011, Shahlai approached Arbabsiar and asked Arbabsiar to work together with him to carry out the assassination of Adel Al-Jubeir, the Saudi ambassador to the U.S. Arbabsiar told Shahlai he had contacts from his used car business in the U.S. and Mexico who could help
find narcotics traffickers. Shahsafi told Arbabsiar narcotics traffickers were preferable because they would be willing to carry out criminal activity for payment.587 Shahsafi provided him with funds for expenses, and also had his deputy, a colonel, Ali Gholam Shakuri, provide additional expense money for carrying out the plot.588

Arbabsiar came back to the U.S. and made contact with a man who he thought was a member of the Los Zetas Mexican drug cartel. The man was actually a U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency informant. Arbabsiar met the informant in a car in the town of Reynosa, Mexico, located close to the U.S. border. Arbabsiar explained he wanted to hire him and a team from the cartel to kill the Saudi ambassador. Subsequently, Arbabsiar told the informant they would follow up with an attack on the Israeli Embassy in Washington, and two additional attacks targeting the Saudi and Israeli embassies in Argentina.589

Arbabsiar told the informant that he would be paid $1.5 million590 for each attack that was to take place on U.S. territory.591

In a follow up meeting with the informant in July 2011 to discuss the progress of the first plot, Arbabsiar told him his Iranian handlers were only concerned about killing the Saudi ambassador. They did not particularly care how the Saudi ambassador would be killed or how many civilians would be killed along with him: “They want that guy [the ambassador] done [killed], if the hundred go with him, [expletive] ‘em,”592 Arbabsiar said. They agreed to the use of a bomb placed in a restaurant frequented by the ambassador.593

The informant gave Arbabsiar routing information to transfer $100,000 as a down payment to an undercover bank account for the attack. Arbabsiar told the informant he would be traveling to Iran later that month to meet Shahsafi, and left Mexico for Iran on July 20. When Arbabsiar returned to Iran and described the details of the plan to Shahsafi, including the likelihood that many people would be killed in addition to the ambassador, it was approved.594 The advance payment of $100,000 was also approved.595 Shahsafi informed Arbabsiar that the head of the Al-Quds Force, i.e., Major General Qassem Suleimani, was aware of what he, Arbabsiar, was doing. Shahsafi further told Arbabsiar he would be able to meet Suleimani at a future time.596 While he was still in Iran, on August 1, Arbabsiar arranged for $49,960 to be sent to the undercover bank account, and on August 9, the balance, another $49,960, was wired to the account.597

In late September, the informant told Arbabsiar he needed one more indication of Arbabsiar and his Iranian handlers’ good faith: they should pay half of the cost of the assassination in advance or send Arbabsiar to Mexico to serve as human collateral. Arbabsiar’s handler in Iran, Shakuri, refused to send any further funding and warned Arbabsiar against going to Mexico. He told Arbabsiar that if he chose to go to Mexico, he would be on his own. At the same time, Shakuri told Arbabsiar to call him from Mexico to confirm that he (Arbabsiar) was all right.598 Arbabsiar attempted to fly to Mexico and was refused entry. He flew to JFK Airport and was arrested as he exited the plane.599 Arbabsiar pleaded guilty to three charges in October 2012600 and was sentenced to 25 years in prison on May 30, 2013.601

October 5, 2011
WA: Seattle, OR: Portland, and CA: Sacramento
Foiled attempt by two white supremacists, David Pedersen and Holly Grigsby, to murder Jewish leaders and prominent members of Jewish communities in three communities. Pedersen and Grigsby murdered Pedersen’s father and stepmother to fund their activities, and then carried out the murder of a man who they assumed to be Jewish and an African-American man. They were arrested in California with a list of names and locations of Jewish leaders and prominent members of Jewish organizations in Washington, Oregon, and California.

David “Joey” Pedersen and Holly Ann Grigsby, both white supremacists, were arrested by the California Highway Patrol in Yuba City602 after they carried out a series of four murders. The two traveled to Everett, Washington, where they murdered Pedersen’s father and stepmother, David Jones “Red” Pedersen and Leslie “Dee Dee” Pedersen. David Pedersen shot his father in the back of the head as he was driving him and Grigsby to the bus station, leaving his body in the car. Grigsby took control of the steering wheel and they returned with the
Pedersen and Grigsby next drove to Oregon where they disposed of the car with the body of “Red” Pedersen inside of it in a remote area. They found Cody Faye Myers and asked him for a ride. Myers was on his way back from the Newport Jazz Festival. They assumed Myers was Jewish because of his name, and shot and killed him and stole his car. They disposed of his body in a wooded area.605 Before their arrest, Pedersen and Grigsby shot and killed a fourth victim, Reginald Alan Clark, in Eureka, California and stole his pickup truck. Grigsby considered Clark, an African-American man, to be “degenerate.”

At the time of their arrest, Pedersen and Grigsby were on their way to Sacramento, California, where they were planning to “kill more Jews.”606 They were carrying a kill list of names and locations of Jewish leaders and members of prominent Jewish organizations. Pedersen conducted research on the names and addresses of Jewish organizations in three communities: Seattle, Washington; Portland, Oregon; and Sacramento, California. He already decided on their first target and procured a weapon to be used in the planned attack.607

Additionally, Pedersen was carrying a draft press release to explain the purpose of the planned murders of Jews to the media. The statement announced, “May this act serve notice, to all Zionist agents, here in America and abroad . . . that there exists yet a stout hearted resistance to those forces seeking to destroy our race.”608 Pedersen and Grigsby also intended to target Jews in a continuation of a larger plan in the hope that their actions would ignite a white supremacist war against non-whites to “preserve” the white race.

Pedersen previously spent nearly 17 years in prison where he adopted white supremacist ideology after he was arrested for armed robbery. While there he joined an extremely violent prison gang called the Aryan Soldiers.609 During his time in prison, he had the initials “SWP” for “Supreme White Power” tattooed on his neck, a Nazi swastika above his heart, and a picture of Adolf Hitler on his abdomen. After Pedersen sent a death threat to the Idaho judge who presided over the trial of Randy Weaver, a follower of Christian Identity ideology and a hero of white supremacists, he was punished with time at the Supermax prison in Florence, Colorado.610

Pedersen and Grigsby drove to Oregon from Eureka, California and stole his pickup truck. Grigsby bound Leslie Pedersen with duct tape and slashed her throat with two knives, in conformance with Grigsby’s white supremacist belief that a man should not kill a woman.603 They took both of the Pedersen’s credit and debit cards in order to fund the continuation of their murderous activities.604

In a Seattle court in March 2012, Pedersen entered a plea agreement admitting guilt for the aggravated murder of his father and stepmother and avoided the death penalty.611 He also admitted he was traveling to Sacramento to murder an unnamed Jewish leader. Pedersen declared, “I’ve given up my freedom and potentially my life to protect “white European culture.” He further asserted, “I have no remorse for anything.”612

At Pedersen’s sentencing hearing for carrying out the carjacking and murders of Cody Faye Myers and Reginald Alan Clark, he expressed pride in what he did. He ranted that he could not sit idly by while “Western identity is being destroyed by other cultures,” and only expressed regret that he was arrested before he could do more. “I offer no excuses because none are needed,” he declared.613 In August 2014, Pedersen was sentenced to two life terms for their murders.614

In an interview from jail following their arrests, Grigsby explained she was attracted to white supremacy from the age of 13 when she first met white supremacist skinheads.615 She later served time in jail and gave birth to a boy during her incarceration. After her release from prison, Grigsby was trying to meet requirements placed upon her by the Oregon Department of Human Services to keep her son. At the same time, on her Facebook page, she was still clearly an adherent of white supremacy, and wrote in those terms of her devotion to her family: “My son Danny, he’s my little aryan [sic] warrior, and my husband and my best friend Dan.” She continued, “I plan to spend the rest of my life living out the 14 words and following the path of the Gods [sic] to the best of my ability.”616

The “14 words” refers to the most popular slogan among white supremacist groups: “We must secure the existence of our people and a future for white children.” The late David Lane,
a member of the neo-Nazi terrorist group The Order, was the originator of the slogan.617 Despite these expressions of white supremacist devotion, Grigsby left her husband and son to join with Pedersen on their murderous rampage through three states.

Following her arrest, Grigsby reportedly told police she and Pedersen killed Myers because his last name sounded Jewish. She later claimed in an interview given to the media that their murder of Myers was “collateral damage” in their white supremacist war. “It's unfortunate that he was a white man, but [the murder] was to facilitate further action. In every war, there are going to be civilian casualties, and he was one of them.”618

In the same interview, Grigsby reportedly told police she and Pedersen killed Myers because his last name sounded Jewish. She later claimed in an interview given to the media that their murder of Myers was “collateral damage” in their white supremacist war. “It's unfortunate that he was a white man, but [the murder] was to facilitate further action. In every war, there are going to be civilian casualties, and he was one of them.”618

In March 2014, Grigsby pleaded guilty to one count of racketeering.620 In July 2014, she was sentenced to life in prison without parole.621

January 3 and 11, 2012

NJ: Paramus and Rutherford

Anthony Graziano and Aakash Dalal, two young men who grew up together in Lodi, were arrested for carrying out a series of synagogue arsons in Bergen County, New Jersey.

In March 2012, Aakash Dalal, then 19, was arrested for his involvement in tutoring and goading Anthony Graziano, his childhood friend, into constructing firebombs and committing a series of arson attacks against synagogues.622 Both defaced two synagogues in December 2011623 prior to escalating their violence to arson. Dalal was charged with 30 counts, including aggravated arson, conspiracy to commit aggravated arson, bias intimidation and two counts of criminal mischief. In June 2012 he was also charged with conspiracy to commit murder after he was discovered to be allegedly plotting to kill the Bergen County assistant prosecutor assigned to his case.624

Graziano, then also 19, was arrested in January 2012. Graziano was described by prosecutors as a “virulent anti-Semite.”625 At the encouragement of Dalal, he searched for wooden synagogues on the Internet close to their hometown of Lodi. Dalal reportedly told Graziano, “I don’t trust you until you kill a Jew.”626 Their first arson attempt was in Paramus.

January 3, 2012 - Shortly before 8 a.m. at K’hal Adath Jeshurun in Paramus, members of the synagogue smelled gas.627 They discovered charring on the back of the synagogue building. An accelerant was determined to be used to start the fire, but it quickly burned out. There were no injuries.628

In a text message exchange following the attempt, Graziano told Dalal, “The fire burned but I’m guessing the cold weather took it out.” Dalal responded, “Basically no damage. It did nothing. You haven’t proven yourself.” Graziano asked him, “So how much damage would be acceptable?”

Dalal asserted, “Serious damage. Or total burnage [sic].”629

Graziano was reportedly enraged that the attack failed, and told Dalal he was going to carry out a second attack to “raise some eyebrows.” 630

Prior to the second attack, Graziano allegedly texted to Dalal, “I finally found an all-wood synagogue. Congregation Beth-El in Rutherford.”631

January 11, 2012 – In the early morning hours, Graziano rode his bicycle to Congregation Beth El in Rutherford. At 4:30 a.m., he threw five firebombs632 at the bedroom at the second area of the rabbi’s residence, smashing a window and starting a fire inside. Rabbi Nosson Schuman, his wife, their five children, and his parents were sleeping there at the time. The rabbi received minor burns but was able to extinguish the fire.633 Following the attack, Graziano reportedly sent Dalal the text message, “I wish I could’ve killed him.”634

Graziano was charged with 30 counts, including terrorism and nine counts of attempted murder, bias intimidation, arson, and...
aggravated arson. He was arrested before he was able to complete the process of purchasing a gun. 636

Graziano was convicted of terrorism and 19 other counts in May 2016. Dalal is still awaiting trial.

December 21, 2012

**MI: Detroit**

White supremacist Richard Schmidt amassed an arsenal of weapons and compiled a list of information on Detroit Jewish leaders. A copyright fraud investigation of Schmidt’s sporting goods business led police to discover his extensive weapons arsenal and prevented an attack.

After an investigation of counterfeit merchandise being sold at his sporting goods store in Toledo, Ohio revealed an arsenal of weapons, Richard Schmidt was arrested on December 21. Police also discovered a notebook Schmidt kept with a “Jewish 500” business list, and a potential hit list of names and addresses of prominent Detroit Jewish leaders and African-American leaders of the Detroit NAACP.

Schmidt, a follower of the neo-Nazi National Alliance, was a convicted felon. He previously served 13 years in prison for killing a Latino man and wounding two others in 1989 after he got into an argument with them at a bar. 640

Following his release from prison in 2003, Schmidt returned to Toledo and established a non-profit organization, the Vinland Preservation League. He also created an internet identity for himself known as “Vinlander101.” The Vinlanders are a white supremacist skinhead gang located in the Midwest whose adherents believe in a neo-pagan racist form of Odinism. 643

Schmidt also occasionally attended neo-Nazi National Socialist Movement meetings, and a video of an NSM national convention was found in his home. As an additional indication of his admiration for Nazism, Schmidt amassed a collection of Nazi Waffen SS paraphernalia from the armed wing of the World War II era Nazi party.

Schmidt’s conviction made it illegal for him to purchase weapons or body armor, but he purchased both privately, circumventing the law. 646

Included in his extensive weapons arsenal were: 40,188 rounds of ammunition, a Stag Arms AR-15 rifle, an Armalite AR-10 rifle, a Mossberg 500 12-gauge shotgun, a Remington 870 Express 12-gauge shotgun, a Winchester M94 30/30 rifle, a Winchester M190 .22-caliber rifle, a Remington M700 rifle, a Mossberg M535 12-gauge shotgun, a Russian American Armory SAIGA 12-gauge shotgun, a Federal Arms Corporation FA 91 .308-caliber rifle, an Eagle Arms S5.56-caliber rifle, a Rock River Arms AR-15 rifle, a Ruger Mark II pistol, a Sturm-Ruger .375 magnum pistol, two Ruger P95 9mm pistols, a SIG Sauer P250 9mm pistol, and a Taurus PT145 pistol and 300 rounds of ammunition. 647

Schmidt pleaded guilty in July 2013. At his trial he claimed he was preparing for a doomsday scenario and that he should never have written a list of names and addresses of Jewish and African-American leaders. He was found guilty of possession of weapons and body armor. Schmidt was sentenced to six years in prison. 649

April 13, 2014

**KS: Overland Park**

Neo-Nazi Frazier Glenn Miller drove to the parking lots of a JCC and Jewish retirement facility and opened fire, killing three people.

On the day before Passover, Frazier Glenn Miller (also known as Frazier Glenn Cross), carried out a series of shooting attacks outside of two Jewish facilities. Believing his victims to be Jewish, Miller, a 73-year-old neo-Nazi, first opened fire in the Jewish Community Center of Greater Kansas City parking lot, killing 69-year-old Dr. William Lewis Corporon and his grandson, 12-year-old Reat Griffin Underwood. Corporon and Underwood were at the JCC for a singing competition.

Miller then fired into the JCC doors until he ran out of ammunition. He picked up his rifle to continue to shoot at the...
doors until it jammed. Miller also aimed fire at three other people but missed them. He subsequently drove to the second facility, the Village Shalom Retirement Community, where he attempted to shoot 53-year-old Terri LaManno. His gun failed, so he pulled out a third gun and killed her.650 None of the three victims were Jewish. After he surrendered to police, Miller shouted, “Heil Hitler!”651

Prior to the attack, Miller surveilled the two locations, and armed himself with four guns and a significant amount of ammunition. He testified that he chose April 13 for the attack on the JCC because a singing competition was scheduled. He believed he would be able to target many “young Jews” and their families there.652

During the 1980s, Miller was a founder of, and the “grand dragon” of the Carolina White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan. He also founded another KKK related group, the White Patriot Party. Miller was also a member of the neo-Nazi terrorist group, The Order.653 Throughout his life he expressed vitriolic anti-Semitic views.

During his trial, he pleaded not guilty to the murders, but admitted responsibility for them. Describing his responsibility for the shootings he declared, “It’s premeditated. No doubt about it. I’m proud of myself. I feel good about it,” he said.654 Then Miller asserted, “I wanted to kill Jews, not people.”655

Miller was convicted of capital murder on August 31, 2015. During the reading of the verdict, Miller responded by standing and performing the Nazi salute and pronouncing, “Sieg heil!” (German for “Hail victory!”).656 Miller was sentenced to death on November 10, 2015.657

September 25, 2014

MD: Baltimore

Drive-by shooting at Beis HaMedrash and Mesivta of Baltimore on Rosh Hashanah.

As three men passed Beis HaMedrash and Mesivta on the first day of Rosh Hashanah, a man in a car shot at them with a BB or air gun. He screamed at them, “Jews, Jews, Jews!”658 The shooter was described as possibly being of “Middle Eastern descent.”659 A synagogue window was damaged, but there were no injuries. The Baltimore police were investigating the incident as a bias crime.660

April 29, 2016

FL: Aventura

Foiled attempt to bomb the Aventura Turnberry Jewish Center during services on the seventh day of Passover.

On the eve of the last days of Passover, James Gonzalo Medina was arrested by the FBI on the charge of attempting to use a weapon of mass destruction against worshippers at the Aventura Turnberry Jewish Center. An undercover government informant foiled Medina’s bombing attempt before he was able to carry out the attack. He planned for the attack to take place during Passover services.661

Medina appears to be an extremist convert to Islam, and referred to himself during court proceedings as “James Mohammed.”662 Anti-Semitism reportedly fueled his motivation for the attack 663

Initially Medina wanted to carry out a shooting attack at the synagogue, telling the informant he wanted to “strike back to the Jews [sic], by going to a synagogue and just spraying everybody . . . ’cause we’re Muslims, you know what I mean? It’s a war, man, and it’s like it’s time to strike back here in America.”664

Ultimately, Medina settled on the idea of placing an explosive device under a car at the synagogue, or throwing the device over the wall into the synagogue courtyard665 and claiming responsibility in the name of the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham, known as ISIS. Prior to embarking on the attack, he prepared three videos of himself, one of which was his justification for his actions: “I am a Muslim and I don’t like what is going on in this world. I’m going to handle business here in America. Aventura, watch your back. ISIS is in the house,” he declared.666


667 "Baltimore community security service \textsuperscript{72}"
May 8, 2016

NY: Brooklyn
Arson of a school bus at the Beth Rivkah School for Girls in Crown Heights.

At 6 p.m. in front of the Lubavitch Beth Rivkah School for Girls, five boys ranging in age from 10-15-years-old entered an unlocked parked school bus. The bus was parked for an hour in front of the school. Some of the boys carried empty cardboard boxes onto the bus, which were used to start fires.

The four boys watched as the bus became engulfed in flames, and captured the event on their cell phones. A 10-year-old Beth Rivkah student saw the fire and called her father, who called emergency services. There were no injuries.

The arson of the bus was captured on security camera footage, leading to the arrest of one of the boys, an 11-year-old. He was charged with arson as a hate crime and criminal mischief as a hate crime. The New York Police Department is still seeking the other four boys.

July 1, 2016

AZ: Tucson
Foiled plot of Mahin Khan, a self-described “American jihadist,” who was arrested before he could carry out an attack on a motor vehicles office. He also discussed targeting the Tucson JCC.

Following a report of his being involved in alleged suspicious activity, Mahin Khan, an 18-year-old, was reported to law enforcement in 2015. An investigation was initiated in April that included the use of an FBI undercover employee. Khan was arrested in July 2016 after he contacted an individual he believed to be an ISIS fighter. Khan was allegedly seeking to build pipe bombs and pressure cooker bombs to attack a motor vehicles office.

Khan explored a number of possible venues for a terrorist attack, including the JCC of Tucson. In an October 2015 discussion with the FBI undercover employee, Khan reportedly spoke of his wish to carry out an attack on the Tucson JCC. He also discussed the 2015 shooting at the military recruitment center in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Khan reportedly wanted to make pressure cooker bombs similar to those used in the Boston Marathon bombings for use in an attack. Earlier in 2016, he reportedly described himself as an “American jihadist,” and that he needed the weapons to “take out marines and jews.”

In preparation for the attack, Khan, identifying himself as an ISIS supporter, contacted an alleged member of the TTP, Tehreek-e Taliban Pakistan, or the Pakistani Taliban, seeking information on how to acquire assault rifles and bomb making information. Khan ultimately settled on carrying out an attack on a motor vehicles office in Mesa, Arizona, a location he considered to be a “soft target” with a larger amount of people and relatively low security.

Khan was arrested on July 1, 2016 and charged with terrorism and conspiracy to commit terrorism.

July 15, 2016

CT: Stamford
Kendall Sullivan was arrested and charged after he posted violent threats against Jews on an internet forum for heavy metal music. Police discovered a cache of weapons and ammunition at his home.

After he posted three violent threats against Jews and synagogues on a heavy metal internet music forum, Kendall Sullivan was arrested. On May 29, 2016, Sullivan declared, “Israel, God and Synagogues. I will kill them. I have a few ‘Houses of Satan’ in my Town. If these Jews truly believe in their god Satan, I will upset their world. I will slaughter them and burn their Synagogue to the ground . . . kids, goldfish, old folks . . . Shove money down their throats. These Jews of 2016. They think they are safe.”

Several weeks later, on June 10, Sullivan reportedly threatened another user of the forum. He asserted, “I am going after YOU. Your Family, Wife, kids, Grandkids, Gold Fish . . . I am warning YOU, I will go after YOU. As I get older, I just don’t give damn . . . I will meet you at Westport at the Carvel! And then I will shoot or run over you . . . it is not just you but your fellow Satanists I want to track down and kill . . . I will use YOU to find others . . . And Kill them . . . You are a [expletive] JEW! . . . I want to kill you . . . If only that . . . Name a place . . . You are
Satanic and must be destroyed. Wifes [sic] kids, Dogs, Cats, Goldfish . . . All destroyed.679

Almost a month later, on July 5, Sullivan reportedly escalated his threats further, declaring, “[I] am prepared to shoot YOU on sight! And shove Money down your dead [expletives] . . . Hole. Humans who define their entire existence thru that price tag - they are not human beings but Demons and must be destroyed . . . I am looking forward to my death thru Jesus Christ. I will be Free. I will be understood. Afterall [sic], I am a Warrior of Jesus Christ and want to be his Soldier.”680

Ten days later, the FBI and Stamford Police Department searched Sullivan’s residence and discovered over two dozen firearms, hundreds of rounds of ammunition, and components for firearms. Sullivan was arrested and charged on July 15 for illegally possessing high capacity magazines that were unregistered. On July 27, he was indicted for making three online threatening communications.681

August 9, 2016
NY: New City
Fireworks attack at the homes of two Chabad rabbis in New City.

At 10:15 p.m. fireworks were thrown in between three cars682 by unknown assailants outside the house of Rabbi Simcha Morgenstern, the outreach director of the synagogue Chabad Lubavitch of Rockland. A group of 15 adults and children from the synagogue were assembled at the rabbi’s home for a traditional Chasidic birthday celebration.683

At 10:45 p.m., a block away from the first incident, fireworks were thrown outside of the home of Rabbi Avremel Kotlarsky, the co-director of the synagogue. His wife and the synagogue’s co-director, Chani Kotlarsky, heard a loud boom and went to the window to see what was transpiring. She observed four white males, one wearing a pink shirt, running west outside of her house. One of them threw a firework against the side of her home. The explosion of the fireworks set a bush near the house on fire. The assailants fled, and the New City Fire Department extinguished the fire.684 The incident is still under investigation.

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680 Ibid.
681 Ibid.