



**Nonprofit Security Grant Program
Threat Compendium: 116th Congress
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Reports of National Significance

ADL Center on Extremism Report: A new ADL report has determined that at least 50 people were killed at the hands of domestic extremists in 2018, an increase of 35 percent from the previous year. The extremist-related murders in 2018 were overwhelmingly linked to right-wing extremists. Every one of the perpetrators had ties to at least one right-wing extremist movement. **At least 16 of the victims, representing one-third of the total, were Jewish** – 11 of them shot at a Pittsburgh synagogue in late October and five of them at a mass shooting at a Florida high school in February. Although extremist-related killings are few when compared to the total number of homicides in the U.S. each year, such killings, especially when they are conducted as hate crimes or terrorist attacks, can traumatize entire communities and beyond.

(Source: ADL Center on Extremism, January 2019; Link: <https://www.adl.org/media/12480/download>.)

The Secure Community Network (of The Jewish Federations of North America and Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations): As a year marked by the massacre at a synagogue in Pittsburgh and an uptick in anti-Semitic incidents came to a close, **many in the Jewish community are hoping that 2019 will be marked by increased security and safety education at synagogues and community organizations across the country.** “We don’t rely on miracles,” said Michael Masters, national director and CEO of Secure Community Network (SCN), one organization working to educate Jewish communities about security and coordinate security plans. Jewish communities across the country are increasingly facing safety threats. For groups like SCN, the spate of anti-Semitic incidents, and the increased awareness of it, has led to an increase in demand for its services. The organization has received **more than 500 formal requests for services in the last eight weeks**, according to Masters. (Source: The New York Jewish Week, January 2, 2019; Link: <https://jewishweek.timesofisrael.com/amid-hate-crimes-spike-a-focus-on-shul-security/>)

Chronology of Specific Threat Incidents Reported January 1, 2019 to Present

(Includes some international reports of significance)

Salinas, California, January 28, 2019 (JTA/KSBW local): A driver yelled obscenities and anti-Semitic remarks as about 100 members of the Church of Jesus Christ Temple Philadelphia walked to mark International Holocaust Remembrance Day. A man in a black SUV drove by and yelled obscenities and

insults against the Jewish people, and then circled back to yell at the marchers again, according to reports.

Worldwide, January 27, 2019 (Times of Israel): According to a newly released report from Israel's Diaspora Affairs Ministry, **2018 was deadliest year for anti-Semitic violence since 1994**. From the Pittsburgh massacre to killings of a French Holocaust survivor and a US student, last year saw highest rates of lethal violence against Jews since the AMIA bombing. In 1994, a terrorist attack (allegedly carried out by Hezbollah and sponsored by Iran) on the AMIA Jewish Community Center in Buenos Aires, Argentina killed 85 people and injured hundreds.

Philippines, January 27, 2019 (New York Times): **Two bombs exploded at a cathedral in the southern Philippines on Sunday, killing 20 people and wounding scores of others**, officials said. The blasts occurred in the morning as people were gathered for Mass at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Jolo, the capital of Sulu Province, said Col. Gerry Besana, a spokesman for the military. The bombs were believed to be homemade. In a series of bulletins shared in chat rooms on the app Telegram, **the Islamic State claimed responsibility for the attack**.

Garden City, Kansas, January 26, 2019 (New York Times/US Attorney's Office, District of Kansas): Three men who were convicted of **plotting to set off bombs in a Somali refugee community** were sentenced to at least 25 years in prison. According to a statement released from acting Attorney General Matthew Whitaker, "the defendants in this case acted with **clear premeditation in an attempt to kill innocent people on the basis of their religion** and national origin."

Bloomington, Minnesota, January 24, 2019 (US Attorney's Office, District of Minnesota): Michael McWhorter, 29, and Joe Morris, 23, both of Clarence, Illinois, pleaded guilty to charges stemming from a violent multi-state crime spree that terrorized communities, **including members of the Dar al-Farooq Islamic Center** in Minnesota. McWhorter, Morris, and co-defendant Michael Hari, 47, were federally indicted on **possession of a machine gun; conspiracy to interfere with commerce by threats and violence (the Hobbs Act); and attempted arson**. "Every individual has the fundamental right to live life free from the threat of violence and discrimination, no matter who they are, what they believe, or where they worship," said United States Attorney Erica H. MacDonald.

Nationwide, January 23, 2019 (US Attorney's Office, Central District of California): Three men are charged with making false reports of explosives and armed individuals to generate a law enforcement response that was intended to harass and intimidate their targets and to evacuate public buildings. **False bomb threats were made at a high school in Gurnee, Illinois and a high school in Lee's Summit, Missouri.**

Islamberg, New York, January 23, 2019 (ABC News): **Four suspects are under arrest in upstate New York and charged with an alleged conspiracy to use improvised explosive devices and guns to attack an Islamic community**. Authorities said that the suspects were engaged in a plot to attack Islamberg, New York — a Muslim enclave 50 miles northwest of Binghamton. The tiny town of about 200 people has long been the subject of unsupported claims of terrorist activity by right-wing media outlets and commentators.

Europe, January 22, 2019 (Times of Israel): European states must ensure Jewish people have a future on the continent, a senior EU official warned at the site of a notorious anti-Semitic attack. Justice Commissioner Vera Jourova appeared at the Jewish Museum in Brussels, where four people were shot

dead in May 2014, to demand a bloc-wide action plan. In support of her argument, she cited figures showing that **90 percent of European Jews feel that anti-Semitism is rising**. As she was speaking, across the city in Brussels' main criminal court, alleged French jihadist Mehdi Nemmouche was on trial accused of the museum murders, which is **considered to be Europe's first attack carried out by an ISIS associated terrorist returning from the war in Syria**

Charleston, South Carolina, January 22, 2019 (JTA): Ten members of a Pittsburgh congregation who survived the October attack on their building, along with their rabbi, traveled to Charleston, South Carolina, to worship with the members of a church that suffered a similar shooting in June 2015. Eleven worshippers were killed in October in the Pittsburgh attack on the Tree of Life synagogue building, the deadliest on Jews in the United States. The New Light Congregation congregants came to Charleston to meet members of the Emanuel AME Church, where nine African-American worshippers were killed in an attack by a white supremacist gunman. The Rev. Eric S.C. Manning of the Emanuel Church -- the oldest African Methodist Episcopal church in the Southern United States -- had flown to Pittsburgh shortly after the shooting there to comfort synagogue members and the Jewish community. On Monday, the synagogue members walked in the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Parade in downtown Charleston.

Washington, DC, January 18, 2019 (ABC7): DC Police are investigating multiple anti-Semitic messages found spray painted at locations around the city as possible hate crimes. The messages read **"I Want Jexit" which Jewish organizations say is an anti-Semitic term** that is a play on "Brexit" to mean Jews must leave. Brexit is the abbreviation for Britain exiting the European Union. A police officer at the scene of the incident told ABC7 the message is "hateful."

Minnetonka, Minnesota, January 18, 2019 (NBC News): School administrators in a town outside Minneapolis are condemning as "anti-Semitic" and "outrageous" a social media post showing **two students giving a Nazi salute in front of a poster that appears to make light of Hitler and Nazis**. The two students from Minnetonka High School are pictured giving the Nazi salute while in front of an invitation to a dance that reads: "Sweethearts would be a Hit(ler) w/ you, and I could Nazi myself going w/ anyone else. Be Mein? Yes or Nein?." **It was widely reposted on Facebook**. The high school principal, Jeff Erickson, wrote in a statement to the school community that the "anti-Semitic media post...in no way aligns with our school's core values." **The Jewish Community Relations Council of Minnesota and the Dakotas released a statement saying they are "deeply disturbed by the egregious anti-Semitic image circulating on social media."** The post by the Minnesota teens comes only **two months after a group of students in Wisconsin appeared to give a Nazi salute in a viral prom photo**.

Arnold, Maryland, January 17, 2019 (Capital Gazette): Severn River Middle School officials are investigating anti-Semitic and violent statements that were found written inside a boys' bathroom, according to a letter the school's principal sent families. School officials are reviewing hallway video camera footage in an attempt to identify potential suspects. This is the second bias-related incident at the Arnold school in just two months.

Cleveland, Ohio, January 17, 2019 (ABC-5 Cleveland/DoJ/U.S. Attorney's Office Northern District of Ohio): A man who was arrested last July for allegedly planning a terrorist attack in Cleveland has been indicted on federal charges. Demetrius Nathaniel Pitts, 49, has been indicted on one count of attempting to provide material support to al-Qaida. Pitts is a U.S. citizen with the alias Abdur Raheem Rafeeq. Authorities said they learned about Pitts in January 2017 following comments he posted on photographs of a possible jihad training camp, according to court documents. He was arrested on July 2,

2018, after several meetings with an undercover FBI agent who he discussed his plans for an attack on Cleveland. According to the Department of Justice, Pitts to reconnaissance photos of potential targets, such as the federal building, the Coast Guard station **and St. John's Cathedral, which he said could be taken "off the map."**

Washington, DC, January 16, 2019 (JTA/SCN/; USAO Georgia, Northern District): The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Atlanta Joint Terrorism Task Force (working closely with the US Secret Service) arrested Hasher Jallal Taheb for **attempting to destroy the White House with an explosive and for targeting other Washington sites, including blowing up a specific (unnamed) synagogue.** According to the complaint, Taheb planned to use semi-automatic rifles, explosives, and an AT-4 — a shoulder-fired anti-armor weapon, to carry out his attack/s. The investigation was initiated after law enforcement receives a tip from the community. The alleged activities of Taheb underscore the continued interest and willingness of U.S.-based violent extremists to conduct attacks in the Homeland on U.S. Government facilities as well as faith-based community targets.

Workington, England, January 16, 2019 (BBC News): A white supremacist who **blamed Jews and non-white people for his failure to get a job planned a "murderous mass attack" in his home town,** according to prosecutors. Prosecutors told the court that Shane Fletcher, 21, wanted to emulate the Columbine School shooting and "take revenge on those he blamed for his unhappy life." He wanted to achieve notoriety by going on a killing spree before killing himself," according to prosecutors.

Canada, January 16, 2019 (The Globe and Mail): Canada's minister for public safety says right-wing, white supremacists and neo-Nazi groups are an increasing concern and threat to Canadians. **Ralph Goodale said the groups promote hate, which manifests itself in violent anti-Semitism or in other crimes.**

Newton, Massachusetts, January 13, 2019 (7 News Boston): **Newton police are investigating after messages of hate were found across the city. The flyers, which included racist caricatures and connected Jewish people to pedophilia,** were found at 4 locations around the city. The flyers left neighbors shocked and disgusted. In a statement, Anti-Defamation League New England Director Robert Trestan said, "It's a pretty vile image and description of the most classic anti-Semitic stereotypes, demonizing Jews and the Jewish religion."

France, January 10, 2019 (JTA): **Anti-Semitic incidents during protests by Yellow Vests — named for the reflective safety vests they wear — have included signs and slogans describing French President Emmanuel Macron as a "whore of the Jews" and their "puppet."** The Yellow Vests protests began in reaction to a proposed green tax on fuel. There have been many cases of protesters performing the quasi-Nazi quenelle salute, which was created by the French comic Dieudonne M'bala M'bala. Dieudonne, a Holocaust denier who has been convicted of hate speech against Jews and others, now delivers his weekly hate sermons online on video platforms while wearing a yellow vest. These cases, as well as anti-Semitic graffiti and chants have been a feature of this movement since its inception, according to the National Bureau for Vigilance Against Anti-Semitism.