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3 January 2020

(b)(3)  **Continued Interest in Targeting Jewish Communities in the Homeland by Domestic Violent Extremists**

(b)(3)  **Scope**

(b)(3)  This *Joint Intelligence Bulletin* (JIB) is intended to provide an overview of violent threats against Jewish communities in the Homeland in the aftermath of recent attacks and disrupted plots. The FBI, DHS, and NCTC advise federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial government counterterrorism and law enforcement officials and private sector security partners responsible for securing Jewish communities to remain vigilant in light of the enduring threat to Jewish communities posed by domestic violent extremists (DVEs) and perpetrators of hate crimes.<sup>a</sup> This JIB is provided to assist federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial counterterrorism and law enforcement officials and private sector security partners in effectively deterring, preventing, preempting, or responding to hate crime incidents and terrorist attacks in the United States.

(b)(3)  The FBI and DHS define a domestic violent extremist (DVE) as an individual based and operating entirely within the United States or its territories without direction or inspiration from a foreign terrorist group or other foreign power who seeks to further political or social goals wholly or in part through unlawful acts of force or violence.

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(b)(3)  **Warning:** All US person information has been minimized. Should you require the minimized US person information on weekends or after normal weekday working hours for exigent and time sensitive circumstances, contact the Current and Emerging Threat Watch Office at . For all other inquiries, please contact the Homeland Security Single Point of Service, Request for Information Office at .

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(b)(3) [Redacted] **Continued Attacks on Jewish Communities**

(b)(3) [Redacted] At least four incidents since October 2018 against Jewish communities underscore the increasingly lethal threat racially/ethnically motivated violent extremists (RMVEs) and perpetrators of hate crimes pose to faith-based communities in the United States, [Redacted]

[Redacted]

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[Redacted] We remain concerned that other US-based individuals, to include RMVEs, could become inspired by these attacks and carry out further violence against Jewish communities. [Redacted]

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(b)(3) » [Redacted] On 29 December 2019, a New York-based individual allegedly attacked the home of a Hasidic rabbi in Monsey, New York, during a Hanukkah celebration, wounding five with an edged weapon. On 30 December, the individual was charged by complaint with five federal hate crimes offenses.<sup>d</sup> The investigation is ongoing.

(b)(3) [Redacted] On 10 December 2019, two individuals fatally shot a local law enforcement officer at a cemetery in Jersey City, New Jersey, and traveled to a nearby kosher supermarket where the subjects fired into the storefront with long-guns. The subjects then entered the supermarket, killing three individuals before barricading themselves inside, and engaging with the responding officers. The subjects were fatally wounded during the encounter.

(b)(3)» [Redacted] On 27 April 2019, a California-based individual allegedly attacked a synagogue in Poway, California, killing one person and injuring three others. The individual stated that among other events, he was mobilized to commit an attack following the October 2018 Pittsburgh-based synagogue attack. On 21 May, the individual was indicted on numerous federal and state charges, including federal hate crime charges, and is currently awaiting trial.

(b)(3)» [Redacted] On 27 October 2018, a Pennsylvania-based individual—who has been indicted for multiple federal charges, including violations of civil rights—allegedly shot and killed 11 worshippers at a synagogue in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and wounded two other congregants and four responding law enforcement officers, according to an indictment and DOJ press release. While inside the synagogue, the individual allegedly made statements indicating his desire to “kill Jews.” He is currently awaiting trial on hate crimes and other federal charges.

(b)(3) [Redacted] Racially/Ethnically Motivated Violent Extremism (RMVE): This threat encompasses the potentially unlawful use or threat of force or violence in furtherance of political and/or social agendas which are deemed to derive from bias, often related to race, held by the actor against others, including a given population group. RMVEs use both political and religious justifications to support their racially- or ethnically-based ideological objectives and criminal activities.

(b)(3) [Redacted]

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(b)(3) [Redacted] The FBI defines a hate crime as a criminal offense against a person or property motivated in whole or in part by an offender’s bias against a race, religion, ethnicity/national origin, disability, gender, gender identity, or sexual orientation. For purposes of this JIB, domestic extremists and US persons who perpetrate hate crimes are referred to as domestic actors.

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(b)(3) [Redacted] **Vandalism and Arsons of Jewish Facilities**

(b)(3) [Redacted] In addition to violent attacks and plots, the FBI and law enforcement partners have investigated and arrested individuals who have vandalized or committed arson on property associated with Jewish institutions.

(b)(3) » [Redacted] Between 15 and 17 September 2019, a New Jersey-based member of an RMVE group allegedly directed members of the group to vandalize minority-owned properties and otherwise stated he considered conducting acts of violence against minorities, [Redacted]

[Redacted]

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[Redacted] The FBI arrested the individual for conspiracy against civil rights on 13 November 2019.

(b)(3) » [Redacted] On 28 July 2018, an Indiana-based individual and a minor associate painted large Nazi symbols on the property of a synagogue in Carmel, Indiana, and burned the ground with a flammable mixture. [Redacted]

[Redacted]

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[Redacted] The individual pleaded guilty to a federal hate crime and was sentenced to three years in prison.

(b)(3) [Redacted] **Recent Disrupted Plots Targeting Jewish Communities**

(b)(3) [Redacted] In addition to the previous attacks, the FBI has arrested several individuals at various stages of plotting future attacks on Jewish communities.

(b)(3) » [Redacted] On 2 November 2019, a Colorado-based individual was charged with three federal counts—including hate crimes— [Redacted]

[Redacted]

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(b)(3) [Redacted] On 8 August 2019, a Nevada-based individual was charged with a federal firearms violation after a search of his residence revealed firearms and components of explosive devices. [Redacted]

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(b)(3) [Redacted] **Outlook**

(b)(3) [Redacted] The FBI, DHS, and NCTC assess DVEs will continue to pose a lethal threat to faith-based communities, particularly the Jewish community, in the Homeland and remain concerned about the difficulty of detecting lone offenders due to the individualized nature of the radicalization process.<sup>4,f</sup> Since 2018, DVEs have conducted at least three lethal attacks targeting faith-based communities—all three of which targeted Jewish persons—underscoring the

(b)(3) [Redacted] The FBI, DHS, and NCTC define a lone offender as an individual acting alone or without the willing support of others to further social or political goals, wholly or in part, through activities that involve unlawful acts of force or violence. Lone offenders may act within the context of recognized domestic extremist ideologies, their own interpretation of those ideologies, or personal beliefs. [Redacted]

[Redacted]

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[Redacted] The FBI, DHS, and NCTC define radicalization as the process through which an individual changes from a non-violent belief system to a belief system that includes the willingness to actively advocate, facilitate, or use unlawful violence as a method to effect societal or political change.

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persistent threat of lethal violence and hate crimes against the Jewish community in the United States. The FBI, DHS, and NCTC urge state and local authorities, as well as private sector partners to promptly report suspicious activities related to potential DVE attacks.

(b)(3) [Redacted] **Related Products**

(b)(3) [Redacted] For additional information regarding threats to US-based law enforcement and religious entities by DVEs, please refer to the below JIBs:

(b)(3) » [Redacted] "Racially Motivated Violent Extremist Attack in New Jersey Highlights Continued Threat to Law Enforcement and Faith-Based Communities," dated 20 December 2019

(b)(3) » [Redacted] "Racially Motivated Attack on Synagogue in Halle, Germany, Continues Trend of Attacks against Religious Institutions," dated 18 October 2019

(b)(3) » [Redacted] "Continued Interest in Targeting Faith-Based Communities in the Homeland," dated 22 February 2019

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**[Redacted] Report Suspicious Activity**

(b)(3) [Redacted] **To report suspicious activity, law enforcement, Fire-EMS, private security personnel, and emergency managers should follow established protocols; all other personnel should call 911 or contact local law enforcement.** Suspicious activity reports (SARs) will be forwarded to the appropriate fusion center and FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force for further action. For more information on the Nationwide SAR Initiative, visit <http://nsi.ncirc.gov/resources.aspx>.

(b)(3) **[Redacted] Administrative Note: Law Enforcement Response**

(b)(3) [Redacted] Information contained in this intelligence bulletin is for official use only. No portion of this bulletin should be released to the media, the general public, or over nonsecure Internet servers. Release of this material could adversely affect or jeopardize investigative activities.

(b)(3) [Redacted] For comments or questions related to the content or dissemination of this document, please contact the [Redacted]

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(U) Tracked by: HSEC-8.1, HSEC-8.2, HSEC-8.3, HSEC-8.5, HSEC-8.8

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Homeland Security

Office of Intelligence and Analysis

# Customer Feedback Form

Product Title:  Continued Interest in Targeting Jewish Communities in the Homeland by Domestic Violent Extre (b)(3)

1. Please select partner type:  Select One and function:  Select One

2. What is the highest level of intelligence information that you receive?  Select One

3. Please complete the following sentence: "I focus most of my time on:"  Select One

4. Please rate your satisfaction with each of the following:

	Very Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Neither Satisfied nor Dissatisfied	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	N/A
Product's overall usefulness	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Product's relevance to your mission	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Product's timeliness	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Product's responsiveness to your intelligence needs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

5. How do you plan to use this product in support of your mission? (Check all that apply.)

- Drive planning and preparedness efforts, training, and/or emergency response operations
- Observe, identify, and/or disrupt threats
- Share with partners
- Allocate resources (e.g. equipment and personnel)
- Reprioritize organizational focus
- Author or adjust policies and guidelines
- Initiate a law enforcement investigation
- Initiate your own regional-specific analysis
- Initiate your own topic-specific analysis
- Develop long-term homeland security strategies
- Do not plan to use
- Other:

6. To further understand your response to question #5, please provide specific details about situations in which you might use this product.

7. What did this product *not* address that you anticipated it would?

8. To what extent do you agree with the following two statements?

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	N/A
This product will enable me to make better decisions regarding this topic.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
This product provided me with intelligence information I did not find elsewhere.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

9. How did you obtain this product?  Select One

10. Would you be willing to participate in a follow-up conversation about your feedback?  Yes

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