



# JOINT INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



11 October 2014

## (U//FOUO) Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant and Its Supporters Encouraging Attacks Against Law Enforcement and Government Personnel

### (U) Scope

(U//FOUO) This Joint Intelligence Bulletin (JIB) is intended to provide information on the potential for Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) US-based sympathizers to carry out attacks on law enforcement and government personnel. This JIB is intended to support the activities of FBI and DHS to assist federal, state, and local government counterterrorism and law enforcement officials, first responders, and private sector security partners in effectively deterring, preventing, preempting, or responding to terrorist attacks against the United States.

Coordinated with NCTC.

IA-0017-15

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**(U) Overview**

(U//FOUO) FBI and DHS are issuing this bulletin to remind all law enforcement personnel to remain vigilant in matters of personal safety given an increase in recent attacks and plots targeting law enforcement personnel overseas. In response to ISIL's recent actions, the FBI initiated a tip line on 8 October 2014 resulting in a significant number of tips from the public regarding the ongoing threat from ISIL and its supporters. While we have no information indicating any ongoing attack plotting within the Homeland, FBI and DHS would like to ensure law enforcement and government personnel are aware that ISIL and its supporters continue to issue threats online.

**(U//FOUO) Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant and Online Supporters Call for Attacks against Law Enforcement and Government Personnel**

(U//FOUO) We assess many of the recent calls by ISIL and its supporters on violent extremist web forums and social media for violence in the Homeland are being made in retaliation for ongoing US airstrikes in Iraq and Syria. These calls could motivate homegrown violent extremists (HVEs)\* to conduct Homeland attacks, particularly against law enforcement personnel.

- » (U//FOUO) On 21 September 2014, a forum participant posted a message containing links to download an English-language translation of an audio message attributed to Abu-Muhammad al-Adnani, the ISIL spokesman, titled "Indeed Your Lord Is Ever Watchful [Koranic verse, al-Fajr, 89:14]." Al-Adnani in the message advocated for lone offenders† in the West to attack "soldiers, patrons, and troops...their police, security, and intelligence members." He claimed lone offenders should kill such government personnel "in any manner" and that potential attackers should "not ask for anyone's advice" prior to striking because such attacks are legitimate.
- » (U//FOUO) Additionally, on 16 September 2014, an ISIL supporter posted to an ISIL-dominated forum an Arabic-language document—also readily available via an English translation—titled "A Message to 2.6 Million Muslims in the United States: This Is How To Respond to Obama's War on Islam." In the 11-page document, the author advocates "open source jihad, or lone wolf operations," and offers a list of potential targets, including military, law enforcement, FBI personnel, government officials, and media figures.
- » (U//FOUO) Online supporters of ISIL have called on various social media sites for retaliation against the US in the Homeland and abroad, especially since US-led airstrikes in Iraq and Syria began.

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\* (U//FOUO) The FBI and DHS define an HVE as a person of any citizenship who has lived and/or operated primarily in the United States or its territories who advocates, is engaged in, or is preparing to engage in ideologically motivated terrorist activities (including providing support to terrorism) in furtherance of political or social objectives promoted by a foreign terrorist organization, but is acting independently of direction by a foreign terrorist organization. HVEs are distinct from traditional domestic terrorists who engage in unlawful acts of violence or to intimidate civilian populations or attempt to influence domestic policy without direction from or influence from a foreign actor.

† (U//FOUO) The FBI and DHS define a lone offender as an individual motivated by one or more violent extremist ideologies who, operating alone, supports or engages in acts of violence in furtherance of that ideology or ideologies that may involve influence from a larger terrorist organization or a foreign actor.

**(U//FOUO) Overseas Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant-Linked Attacks and Plotting against Law Enforcement Personnel and Government Personnel**

(U//FOUO) Western countries such as the UK and Australia have recently disrupted plotting or had security officers attacked by individuals linked to ISIL. These events overseas further our concern that calls to violence by ISIL and its supporters could motivate HVEs to attempt attacks in the Homeland.

- » (U) On 8 October, UK officials, according to (b) (3), (b) (7)(E) arrested five British individuals believed to be in the early stages of planning a significant attack in the UK that allegedly had links to ISIL. Following the disruption, the UK placed its officers on alert because of the heightened risk that homegrown terrorists could target UK law enforcement in the near future.
- » (U) On 24 September 2014, according to (b) (3), (b) (7) Australian police shot and killed an 18-year old Australian male who had attacked them after being summoned for a routine interview. The individual's passport had previously been revoked due to his intent to travel to Syria and suspected ties to ISIL.
- » (U) On 18 September 2014, Australian officials detained 15 ISIL-linked individuals suspected of plotting a terrorist attack on Australian citizens. According to (b) (3), (b) (7)(E) the suspects intended to publicly behead random Australians similar to recently released ISIL beheading videos.

**(U) Outlook**

(U//FOUO) Law enforcement and FBI personnel should consider additional precautions when conducting source and non-source interviews, be aware of their surroundings, and review personal and family members' social media activities to avoid revealing FBI or law enforcement affiliation.

(U//FOUO) The FBI and DHS are unaware of any specific, credible threats against the Homeland from HVEs, ISIL, or other violent extremist groups overseas in response to US military action in Iraq and Syria and pro-ISIL messaging. Nevertheless, violent extremists who support ISIL could probably attempt to conduct attacks on US targets overseas with little-to-no warning. We assess that—because of the individualized nature of the radicalization\* to violence process—it is difficult to assess triggers that will contribute to HVEs attempting acts of violence. Moreover, HVE lone offenders present law enforcement with limited opportunities to detect and disrupt plots, which frequently involve simple plotting against targets of opportunity.

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\* (U//FOUO) DHS defines radicalization as the process through which an individual changes from a nonviolent belief system to a belief system that includes the willingness to actively advocate, facilitate, or use violence as a method to effect societal or political change.

**(U) Past Behaviors Associated with Radicalization and Mobilization to Violence**

(U//FOUO) A body of (b) (3), (b) (7)(E) reveals several observable behaviors that may indicate radicalization and mobilization to violence by HVEs. Some of these activities may be constitutionally protected, and any determination of possible illicit intent should be supported by additional facts that justify reasonable suspicion. These activities are general in nature and any one may be insignificant on its own, but when observed in combination with other suspicious behaviors—particularly advocacy of violence—they may constitute a basis for reporting.

- » (b) (3), (b) (7)(E)
- | [Redacted]
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**(U) Report Suspicious Activity**

**(U) 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>.

**(U) Administrative Note: Law Enforcement Response**

(U//FOUO) 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.

(U) For comments or questions related to the content or dissemination of this document, please contact the Syria Task Force by e-mail at (b) (6) or the I&A Production Branch by e-mail at (b) (6).

(U) Tracked by: (b) (3) (A)

CLASSIFICATION:



Homeland Security

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6. (U//FOUO) How strongly do you agree with the following statements?

(U//FOUO) I rely on intelligence products like this one to perform my homeland security function.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	N/A
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(U//FOUO) I would like to continue receiving products on topics like this from I&A.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	N/A
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**From:** (b)(6), (b)(7)c  
**Subject:** (U//FOUO) JIB: ISIL and Its Supporters Encouraging Attacks Against Law Enforcement and Government Personnel, dated 11 October 2014  
**Date:** Sunday, October 12, 2014 3:56:01 PM  
**Attachments:** (U--FOUO) JIB - ISIL and Its Supporters Encouraging Attacks Against LE a....pdf

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**From:** I&A\_PB  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 11, 2014 1:37 PM  
**Cc:** I&A\_PB  
**Subject:** (U//FOUO) JIB: ISIL and Its Supporters Encouraging Attacks Against Law Enforcement and Government Personnel, dated 11 October 2014

(U//FOUO) This e-mail is a notification that the Joint Intelligence Bulletin: ISIL and Its Supporters Encouraging Attacks Against Law Enforcement and Government Personnel, dated 11 October 2014, has been posted to HSIN-Intel (Federal Intel Analysis folder), CI, CVE, EM, ES, CM, CF, FEDOPS, and LE at <https://hsin.dhs.gov> and will also be available via NCTC Current; the I&A websites on HSDN and HTSN (JWICS); and CapNet.

(U) **Intended Audience:** Federal, state, and local government counterterrorism and law enforcement officials; first responders; and the private sector

(U//FOUO) For more information regarding HSIN please visit [http://www.dhs.gov/files/programs/gc\\_1156888108137.shtm](http://www.dhs.gov/files/programs/gc_1156888108137.shtm) or contact (b) (6) for access.

Very Respectfully,  
I&A Intelligence Publications Division  
Department of Homeland Security

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