

# TLP CLEAR – IN OBSCURA CAVEATS APPLY



IN OBSCURA LLC  
THREAT INTELLIGENCE – SECURITY COUNTERMEASURES- INVESTIGATIONS  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA  
<https://inobscura.org/>

*Judges 6:12 ESV And the angel of the Lord appeared to him and said to him, “The Lord is with you, O mighty man of valor.”*

## THREAT INTELLIGENCE ANALYSIS OF - WHY CHURCH LEADERS REJECT YOU EVEN WHEN YOU ARE RIGHT

24 NOV 2025

**CHURCH THREAT LEVEL: URGENT**

“... And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force...” Matthew 11:12 New King James Version

### INTRODUCTION<sup>1</sup>

The purpose of this analysis is to focus on the increased vulnerabilities presented by this “rejection and ignore culture” in many churches. I shared separately on my In Obscura website, Keith Graves’ article about this culture in his Christian Warrior Training Substack group, available direct here <https://inobscura.org/tlp-clear-why-church-leaders-reject-you-even-when-you-are-right-19-nov-2025/> His article was my first answer to prayer that I was not alone in this unexpected culture. This has and will continue to ensure Christians and our Churches remain deeply vulnerable. Please also attend to Sources and Resources sections below.

With over five years’ experience protecting Christians and Churches I thought I was alone. Bringing my intelligence craft as proactive rather than reactive, they accused me of pushing too hard, I was annoying and other adjectives. I tell you now, in writing none of this was then or now. Since then, note the marked escalation of reality of what I predicted and worked hard to prevent during these last five years. Also note I brought into this ministry of church protection almost five decades, retired from two careers.

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<sup>1</sup> *In Obscura recognizes Mr. Karl W., Director of Security, Synagogue for his Peer Review of this report, the topic of which we have discussed for years and one he has experienced.*

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I resigned as the church's first security director, armed state certified, with arrest powers I acquired to be professionally and legally present, at no cost to the church. The only security officer and usher. I reported suspected (probable) target surveillance to the police on two occasions. No follow-up, no interest in how I knew and recognized these and other police related referrals.

I also resigned from two faith-based security groups during that time. They became annoyed at what I brought to the fight. Both charged expensive membership fees but as a professional, and new at this, I wanted the interaction. As you can see by my website my memberships are key to professional ethos. Decades of skills and knowledge of the threats, attacks, threat groups I posted and discussed. Although these organizations claim to have "intelligence" talents, they simply do not. One of them is decidedly left bias.

Collectively some of the proactive and innovative moves I was rejected, ignored, prohibited from executing:

- DHS and CISA Houses of Worship security posters and handouts in the lobby.
- Showing the Houston Police released video (BWC and surveillance camera angles) of the attack on the Joel Osteen church.
- Training of two ushers on the DHS Power of Hello, Suspicious Activity Reporting.
- CISA ignored a request for active shooter and IED recognition.
- Requesting Pastor reporting the content counseling sessions where church safety and security concerns are disclosed or foreseen.
- Presentation of the Church Security Threat Briefing I built, 47 Power Point slides. Examples and analysis of attacks on and crimes in churches over the then past 3 years, to show reality. Train the pastors and the other two denominations renting our church building.

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- Denied presence at the table in church board and planning meetings. This included event planning. No input and no ability to plan my security support until event started.
- No response, feedback or discussion to fusion center (U//FOUO) threat intelligence (crime, anarchist activity) briefed verbally to clergy. uninterested.
- Reached out to a few churches' security teams, met with them with the goal of setting up a county wide Church Security Working Group. No interest, no follow-up.
- In the same working group effort, I included local police. I also provided on church security letterhead, a Talking Paper and a Read Ahead outline, anticipating a meeting with the police. One leader was interested but he was transferred to another division. Further efforts received no cooperation and suggested I join other community groups. In short, police not interested.

### **ANALYSIS**

In context and content, while conscious of the danger, especially what my intelligence skills exposed and the bloodletting road forward from when I first started church protection. Contemporaneous to this treatment, the frequency and ferocity if church attacks and crimes have escalated with shorter time elements between them.

The vulnerabilities to Christians and Churches that have and will continue to be exploited. This is a self-inflicted wound that creates gaps in protection by people who reject threats and will ignore indicators of danger present. No one has noted this yet, but I detected it long ago.

Pastors have been murdered in their offices, one in Phoenix, murdered by crucifixion in his bedroom as the first of fourteen other pastors targeted by the same man. To comprehend that clergy would allow this to exist or be the source of it unthinkable, malfeasant and sinful. In fact, there is civil case law of churches sued for failing to provide a secure environment.

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The church community MUST be engaged deeply, trained, and evaluated and ready to save lives and property. The escalation to violence and attack in the U.S. is fact. To quibble with, demean, reject, and ignore enhances enemy successes. Be assured and very confident the already active, operational, and relentless proven threat is not rejecting or ignoring you.

Congregations MUST be educated on the threats in a very raw delivery, exposed to reality. The MUST also know their crucial role in denying access to terminate the targets. They MUST be educated on what to detect and report, in their neighborhoods and at church. As scripture documents, the Watchman was rebuffed and refused, and some were incompetent and lazy. <sup>2</sup>

A great number of church security officers drawn to this ministry have very similar professional backgrounds and are quite familiar with the “rejection and ignoring” culture. While this culture is highly demoralizing it is not much different than old and New Testament experience of Christ, The Apostles, and the frequent sin of neglect and quibbling of the Israelites and the churches the Apostles scolded because of their departure from the faith. Most of us worked in locations that are current day Sodom and Gomorrah, and growing much worse. <sup>3</sup>

***Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. – 2 Timothy 3 KJV***

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<sup>2</sup> Isaiah 56:10

His watchmen are blind: they are all ignorant, they are all dumb dogs, they cannot bark; sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber.

Ezekiel 33:6

But if the watchman see the sword come, and blow not the trumpet, and the people be not warned; if the sword come, and take any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at the watchman's hand.

<sup>3</sup> **Butler County sheriff calling for change after national sheriff conference**

**The Butler County Sheriff is making some changes in order to prepare the community for any terrorism threats. He announced the changes after getting back from a National Sheriff Association meeting in Washington D.C. where, he said they heard from the FBI director on terrorism threats.**

By: Anna Azallion, WCPO TV, Posted 5:40 PM, Feb 07, 2024

[https://www.wcpo.com/news/local-news/butler-county/butler-county-sheriff-calling-for-change-after-national-sheriff-conference#google\\_vignette](https://www.wcpo.com/news/local-news/butler-county/butler-county-sheriff-calling-for-change-after-national-sheriff-conference#google_vignette)

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**“...No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is of me, saith the Lord...” Isaiah 54:17 KJV**

### **THE AMBUSH GAMBIT**

Satan is as much in the church aggressively as he was ‘close-in’ to Jesus. His ministry was infiltrated, and intelligence was collected in Him actively, including location, time, and His arrest. Thirty pieces of silver. Despite what I have assessed as threats, and predicted, churches are under direct front attack.

Active and continuing target surveillance of churches, increasingly complex attacks this I just described lives on. So, the threat environment is packed with threats, kinetic attacks, fear, and anxieties that come, and as a church security guy, but the focus of distrust and suspicion is on me, not the Watchman who would take a bullet, and knows it.

Satan wants successful attacks, an oblivious congregation, and compromised leaders. In Obscura was established during a very depressing period of heavy rejection and ignoring for me. This includes two faith-based security organizations I joined with heavy membership fees. Even they rejected and ignored what God had given me. The intelligence talents alone fiercely annoyed them. I terminated memberships and church position, and God found us a new church home. Even there, this culture exists although smaller.

**“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.” Hosea 4:6, KJV**

The current church threat environment in the U.S. is escalating. This is why target intelligence collection by enemy<sup>i</sup> forces is increasing. This includes the combined mutual aid axis of Communist, Islamist (Red Green Alliance) anarchists’ strategic, operational, and tactical fronts across the U.S.

The rejection and ignoring of these threats of and the now successful attacks are blatant and willful neglect I assess now with HIGH confidence are at and exceeding the Crusades. I have collected intelligence and analysis on numerous significant activities targeting Christians, pastors, congregations, and its assets.

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This cycle is repeated in scripture, Exodus 16:1-3. The Pastor and security team lead are responsible for openly supporting and defending their Watchmen. Even when rescued from annihilation, and God's powerful message in drowning the enemy in the Red Sea, on dry, safe land. The Israelites quibbled and complained.

These enemy forces include the combined mutual aid axis of Communist, Islamist anarchist strategic, operational, and tactical fronts across the U.S. since the Summer of Love guerilla warfare tactics and forward including the same following the Roe v Wade reversal attacks. I have noted in reporting the specific targeting of Christian activities, revivals, and churches. The previously reported Red-Green Alliance, including the noted spike in the assassination of Charlie Kirk and the continuing threats to his organization that continue. *In Obscura* assessed these incidents with HIGH Confidence well before the Washington DC attack on the Soldiers by that same threat group. I also assessed within the last 72 hours, HIGH confidence, that more of these attacks are coming.

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***“But if the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet to warn the people and the sword comes and takes someone’s life, that person’s life will be taken because of their sin, but I will hold the watchman accountable for their blood.” Ezekiel 33:6***

***“...His watchmen are blind, all of them know nothing. All of them are mute dogs unable to bark, Dreamers lying down, who love to slumber...” Isaiah 56:10***

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The quietly accepted reactive posture of church security is nationwide. The large gap presented primarily by condoned rejection and dismissal of sound security practices. The tacit and explicit rejection by clergy and the inadequate focus of federal, state, and local agencies to train, enhance, communicate, liaison and inform church security elements. The dangerous reactive posture persist despite successful complex attacks, target surveillance deploying intelligence tradecraft, assassinations and murders of identified Christian personalities and pastors. In one case, the suspect had fourteen pastors he identified for murder.

### CONCLUSIONS

Lastly, I assure the In Obscura reader, and clients, escalating domestic and foreign threats and attacks including Christian Genocide have not and will not reject or ignore you. The recent neutralized assassination of the Israeli Ambassador to Mexico by the Iranian

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Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) Quds Force (Quds=Jerusalem). Jihad in inside the U.S. aligned with leftist, communist anarchist groups controlled by foreign intelligence services no different since the anti-war Vietnam era operations. Briefly just some of what we are facing, and some have rejected and ignored it:

- Since the end of October 2025, based on open media and agency news releases
- Five Muslims arrested, conspiracy to provide firearms (3 from Dearborn, 2 from NJ).
- Dawood Alokozay was arrested near Ft. Worth, building a bomb, threatening a suicide attack.
- Target surveillance and intelligence against churches pre-attack, rampant, most are not detected. One police force did not stay silent, report is here <https://inobscura.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/TLP-GREEN-THREAT-INTELLIGENCE-WARNING-CHURCHES-BEAVER-COUNTY-HOPEWELL-PA.pdf>
- St. Matthews Cathedral, Washington, DC, a thwarted IED attack. The report is here <https://inobscura.org/neutralized-ied-attack-analysis-final-st-matthews-cathedral/>
- Univ of Delaware student, Luqmann Khan, arrested with weapons, body armor, and a notebook planning to shoot up his school.
- Rahmanullah Lakanwal, (Tablighi Jamar Terror affiliated) drove across country to Washington DC to assassinate. KIA one National Guard Soldier (SPC Sarah Beckstrom) critically wounded another.

Note the recent attempt in Mexico, to assassinate the Israeli Ambassador to Mexico. This was by the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps, Quds Force (Quds in English is Jerusalem). The Red Green Alliance is a foreign intelligence-controlled axis of Communist-Jihad axis inside the U.S. and Europe. The targeting of which is and remains churches and Christians with many operational attack successes. The Axis is also known as Mutual Aid and is a combined effort.

Iran's Recent Assassination Attempts Abroad: The United Kingdom has foiled over 20 Iran-linked plots to kill or abduct individuals in the country since 2022, including British nationals. Iran was also reportedly behind a string of attempted assassinations and abductions in Europe and the United States. In early July, Germany arrested a man suspected of carrying out surveillance operations on "Jewish locations and people in Berlin" on behalf of Iranian intelligence. Australia revealed in August that Tehran had been

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involved in an increased number of antisemitic attacks in its country since Hamas's 2023 brutal attack on Israel, and Britain's MI5 intelligence service director Ken McCallum said in October that Iran was "frantically" trying to silence dissidents worldwide.

### **SOURCES**

**November 8, 2025 | Flash Brief - Iranian Plot to Assassinate Israeli Ambassador to Mexico Foiled**, Foundation for Defense of Democracies

<https://www.fdd.org/analysis/2025/11/08/iranian-plot-to-assassinate-israeli-ambassador-to-mexico-foiled/>

**The Global Jihadi War against Christians: Religious and Strategic Roots**

Hungarian Conservative HUNGARIAN CONSERVATIVE | VOL. 3, NO. 2, 2023

<https://www.researchgate.net/publication/372776617> The Global Jihadi War against Christians Religious and Strategic Roots

**Woke Army: The Red-Green Alliance That Is Destroying America's Freedom:**

by Asra Q. Nomani (ISBN-13: 9781637580042 and ISBN-10: 1637580045)

**Emmanuel Karagiannis & Clark McCauley (2013) The Emerging Red-Green**

**Alliance: Where Political Islam Meets the Radical Left, Terrorism and Political**

**Violence**, 25:2, 167-182, DOI: 10.1080/09546553.2012.755815

PDF COPY AVAILABLE FROM IN OBSCURA FOR FREE ON REQUEST.

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/09546553.2012.755815>

**Bloodstained Holidays: Why Does Terror Strike During Festive Seasons?**

Algemeiner, by Itamar Tzur, 3 Jan 2025

<https://www.algemeiner.com/2025/01/03/bloodstained-holidays-why-does-terror-strike-during-festive-seasons/>

**(TLP CLEAR, IN OBSCURA CAVEATS APPLY) Why Church Leaders Reject You Even When You are Right, 19 NOV 2025**

<https://inobscura.org/tlp-clear-in-obscura-caveats-apply-why-church-leaders-reject-you-even-when-you-are-right-19-nov-2025/>

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### **Why Church Leaders Reject Your Ideas, Even When You're Right**

Keith Graves, Christian Warrior Training Nov 19, 2025

This article explains why church leaders often overlook the experience of skilled security volunteers and shows how Scripture encourages you to stay faithful to your calling even when your ideas are (right)

<https://www.christianwarriortraining.com/p/why-church-leaders-reject-your-ideas>

### **(TLP CLEAR – IN OBSCURA CAVEATS APPLY) THREAT WARNING**

**ACTIONABLE - THREAT LEVEL ELEVATED (URGENT), U.S THREAT ENVIRONMENT**

**ESCALATION, NOTE SPECIFIC TARGETING OF CHURCHES AND RELATED EQUITIES, 28**

Nov 2025

<https://inobscura.org/tlp-threat-warning-actionable-level-elevated-urgent-specific-targeting-of-churches-and-related-equities/>

### **(TLP CLEAR) Threat Intelligence Warning: Target Surveillance//Churches/Multiple in Vicinity of Beaver County, Hopewell, PA, June-July 2025**

27 Sep 2025, Obscura, LLC

<https://inobscura.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/TLP-GREEN-THREAT-INTELLIGENCE-WARNING-CHURCHES-BEAVER-COUNTY-HOPEWELL-PA.pdf>

### **Survey: 48 Percent of Worshippers Feel Less Safe Attending In-Person Services**

Security Today, 17 Nov 2025

<https://securitytoday.com/articles/2025/11/17/survey--48-percent-of-worshippers-feel-less-safe-attending-inperson-services.aspx>

### **Church Liability Cases Highlighting Legal Challenges for Faith-Based Organizations**

Jeff Kearnan September 13, 2024 [Church Security](#)

<https://kearnanconsulting.com/church-liability-cases-highlighting-legal-challenges-for-faith-based-organizations/?srltid=AfmBOooXxrAR81MWFewY6gwChLX41yJscfqJc-uzKhadblodWpuTIPsQ>

**The latest news about emerging legislative and judicial developments affecting Christian ministries. Can ministries face liability for failing to protect guests from danger?**

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Brotherhood Mutual Insurance, Law & Ministry Update, Volume 4, November 2025

<https://www.brotherhoodmutual.com/uploads/ikfk3u21a0beyloqdyw4vtb9/attachments/qbxbpljm9s5s09isvciefen8-lawandministryupdate-volume4-pages.pdf>

**On Christmas, Where Is The Outrage? As Jihadi Persecution Of African Christians Continues – From Torching Churches And Terrorizing Villagers To Beheading And Murdering Nuns And Priests – Not A Peep Is Heard From Those Who Should Be Leading Efforts To Protect Them – The Pope, The UN, The NAACP, And African American Activists And Organizations Such As Black Lives Matter And Ta-Nehisi Coates**, December 24, 2024

| By Steven Stalinsky, Ph.D., Middle East Media Research Institute

<https://www.memri.org/reports/christmas-where-outrage-jihadi-persecution-african-christians-continues-%E2%80%93-torching-churches>

**ISIS In Africa (Chad, Cameroon, Niger, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nigeria, Mozambique): Targeting Christians – Killing, Beheading, Murdering Priests And Nuns, Burning Churches, Health Clinics, And Homes – As The World Is Largely Silent – WARNING: GRAPHIC CONTENT**

June 16, 2023 By: Steven Stalinsky, Ph.D., R. Sosnow, A. Smith, K. Choukry, Matt Schierer, N. Mozes, Y. Kerman, G. Pacchiani, and Y. Kulka\*, Middle East Research Institute

<https://www.memri.org/jttm/isis-africa-chad-cameroon-niger-democratic-republic-congo-nigeria-mozambique-targeting>

**Intolerance and Discrimination Against Christians in Europe Report 2024**, Observatory on Intolerance and Discrimination Against Christians in Europe, Vienna, OIDAC Europe, 2024 <https://www.intoleranceagainstchristians.eu/?enable=Twitter>

**As attacks on Christians become more frequent, a crisis looms for Israel**

**Church leaders point to inhospitable political atmosphere as they lock compounds at night; government ministries insist they are actively combating ill-treatment**

Lazar Berman, Times of Israel, By Lazar Berman 30 March 2023, 5:45 am

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/as-attacks-on-christians-become-more-frequent-a-crisis-looms-for-israel/>

**Ignored and Forgotten: The Unspoken Genocide of Christians in Africa**

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### **The Deafening Silence: Christians Slaughtered by Jihadists in Africa and Beyond, and the World’s Inexcusable Indifference**

Global Disconnect, Feb 20, 2025, <https://globaldisconnect.substack.com/p/ignored-and-forgotten-the-unspoken>

**One Hundred Years of Bloodshed: The Extermination of Christians by Muslims in the Ottoman Empire, 1822–1922** by Eleni Tseligka, Aston Graduate School, Aston University, Birmingham B4 7ET, UK Religions 2025, 16(3), 366; <https://doi.org/10.3390/rel16030366>

### **Understanding the Threat of Islamism to Christians and Western Values**

John Stonestreet, BreakPoint, Updated Jan 07, 2025

<https://www.christianity.com/newsletters/breakpoint/understanding-the-threat-of-islamism-to-christians-and-western-values.html>

### **These Last Days News - November 25, 2025**

We encourage everyone to share this web page with others, especially bishops and clergy.

Escalating Violence Against Christian Communities Across Africa Point to a Coming Global Jihad...ON BRINK

<https://www.tldm.org/news62/escalating-violence-against-christian-communities-across-africa-point-to-a-coming-global-jihad.html>

### **Jihadi Campaign Against African Christians Escalates Amid Global Silence**

MT Staff By MT Staff December 26, 2024 Updated: December 26, 2024

<https://meccatimes.com/jihadi-campaign-against-african-christians-escalates-amid-global-silence/>

### **1,384 Attacks on U.S. Churches Exposed—Shocking Rise Since 2022**, American Faith

By American Faith, Sep 3, 2025

<https://americanfaith.com/1384-attacks-on-u-s-churches-exposed-shocking-rise-since-2022/>

### **Report: Christians in Europe Face Rising Discrimination and Hate Crimes**

**James Thompson**

Still, rates of faith-based harassment remain higher among the Jewish and Muslim communities.

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<https://www.christianitytoday.com/2025/01/christian-discrimination-in-europe-hate-crimes-oidac-report/>

### **Extremism's Target: Why Churches Are Under Attack**

Published: April 5, 2025, Written by Lerato Garcia

### **A Church's Nightmare Unfolds**

<https://www.factarrow.com/united-states/2025-04-05-extremisms-target-why-churches-are-under-attack/>

### **New Report: Record High Hostility and Violence Against Churches in America**

February 23, 2024, First Liberty

<https://firstliberty.org/news/high-hostility-against-churches/>

### **(VIDEO) Leaving the Church Defenseless?**

First Liberty Live, Premiered Feb 15, 2024

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zt-8ghltsy8>

### **Protests erupt across US after Supreme Court reverses Roe v. Wade**

**Restrictive abortion laws in several GOP-led states will now be, or soon will be, enacted following the court's decision**

Landon Mion By Landon Mion Fox News, Published June 25, 2022 5:45am EDT

<https://www.foxnews.com/politics/protests-us-supreme-court-reverses-roe-v-wade?msockid=1a41a966b9c56d8c190bbfebb8996ca3>

**MITIGATING ATTACKS ON HOUSES OF WORSHIP Security Guide, The best way to mitigate a potential attack is to take a holistic approach to security**

DECEMBER 2020, U.S. Department of Homeland Security Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency

<https://www.cisa.gov/resources-tools/resources/mitigating-attacks-houses-worship-security-guide>

## **RESOURCES**

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## MITIGATING ATTACKS ON HOUSES OF WORSHIP - SECURITY GUIDE



**OVERVIEW**

Acts of targeted violence against houses of worship are a real—and potentially growing—problem in the United States and a top priority for the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA). As the Nation’s risk advisor, CISA has prepared the *Mitigating Attacks on Houses of Worship – Security Guide* based on original analysis to help houses of worship **develop a comprehensive security strategy to mitigate future incidents.**

The guide is available with CISA’s suite of resources for [Faith Based Organizations and Houses of Worship](#).

**ANALYTICAL FINDINGS**

To better understand the nature of the problem, CISA drew on open source research to compile 37 incidents of targeted violence covering the ten-year period from 2009 to 2019. The analysis drawn from these case studies directly informs the guidance presented here and reveals several noteworthy trends.

- CISA observed a **significant spike** in incidents of targeted violence in 2012 and a discernible increase in the number of incidents between 2015 and 2019.



**37 incidents**

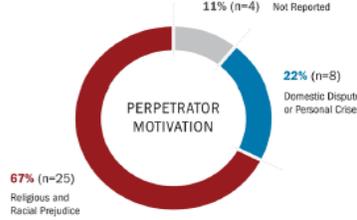
64 fatalities  
59 injured

**54% (n=20) were armed assaults, five qualified as mass shootings**

**Incident Types**

- Active Shooter
- Arson/Bombing
- Stabbing
- Vehicle Ramming
- Cyber Attack

- CISA determined that 67 percent (n=25) of the attacks were motivated by hatred of a racial or religious identity associated with the targeted house of worship, and that **22 percent (n=8) were connected to a domestic dispute or personal crisis.** The motivation for the remaining 11 percent (n=4) is unknown. Of the 36 known perpetrators in these incidents, 58 percent (n=21) engaged in some form of planning behavior indicating their intention to carry out an attack.



**36 identified perpetrators**

**58% (n=21) engaged in planning behavior**

Within this analysis, CISA also describes several commonly used tactics and methods demonstrated by the perpetrators. These tactics and methods point to specific areas of vulnerability that houses of worship can address through the security framework included within this guide. The bottom line is that *houses of worship can best protect themselves by adopting a comprehensive and multi-layered security strategy.*

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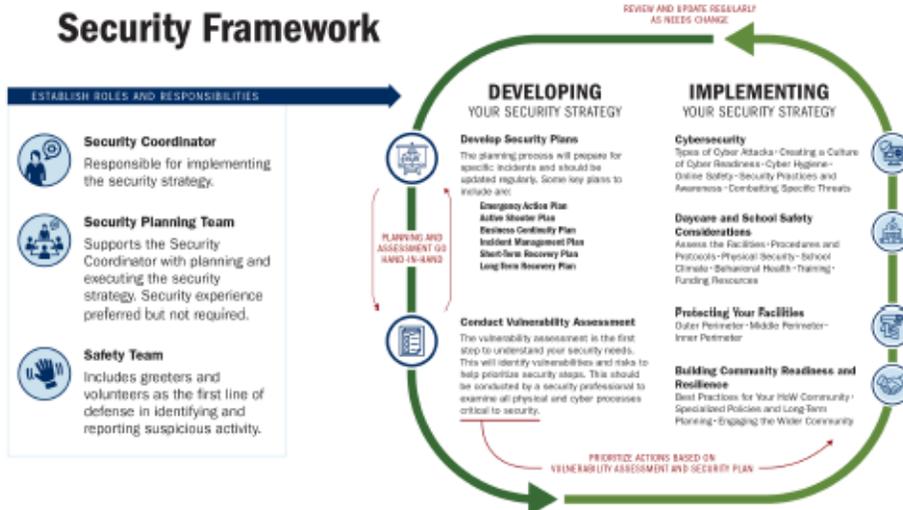
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DEFEND TODAY,  
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MITIGATING ATTACKS ON HOUSES OF WORSHIP - SECURITY GUIDE

## SAFEGUARDING HOUSES OF WORSHIP

CISA encourages all houses of worship to assess their current security policies and posture and offers the following framework as a guide to developing and implementing a robust strategy to safeguard life and property. This framework is designed to be adapted to the unique circumstances of every house of worship, and CISA encourages every organization and community to reevaluate their needs and revise their security practices on a regular basis.



These security options will not deter every threat to a house of worship, but a comprehensive approach offers the best solution to protect people, property, and data from an attack. Houses of worship should tailor this knowledge to the needs of their communities while maintaining the open and welcoming atmosphere that makes houses of worship a critical part of the social fabric of the United States.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Connect with CISA: [cisa.gov/publication/cisa-services-catalog](https://www.cisa.gov/publication/cisa-services-catalog)

Connect with a Protective Security Advisor: [cisa.gov/protective-security-advisors](https://www.cisa.gov/protective-security-advisors)

Connect with CISA's Resources for Faith Based Organizations: [cisa.gov/faith-based-organizations-houses-worship](https://www.cisa.gov/faith-based-organizations-houses-worship)

Apply CISA's Houses of Worship Security Self-Assessment: [cisa.gov/publication/houses-worship-security-self-assessment](https://www.cisa.gov/publication/houses-worship-security-self-assessment)

Utilize the Power of Hello: [cisa.gov/employee-vigilance-power-hello](https://www.cisa.gov/employee-vigilance-power-hello)

Watch CISA's Protecting Houses of Worship Video: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=iPhOH0C7cio](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iPhOH0C7cio)

For more information or to seek additional help, contact us at [Central@cisa.gov](mailto:Central@cisa.gov).

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OCTOBER 2025

## The State of Safety at U.S. Religious Institutions



### KEY FINDINGS

Safety concerns are prevalent among regular attendees of religious services

**48%** Agree they feel less safe attending religious services in-person due to recent incidents of violence at places of worship.

**47%** Of U.S. adults who attend a religious service at least once a month are concerned about their safety.

Younger generations are more concerned



**32%** Of those who attend larger services (500+ attendees) are VERY concerned about their safety—significantly more than those who attend smaller services (18%).

Many religious establishments are upgrading security, but gaps remain



Over half of attendees report their establishment upgraded security in the last year.

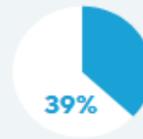


One-third rate the security at their place of worship as non-existent or minimal.

**62%** Agree that they would feel safer if there were more security measures in place.

Safety concerns are influencing behavior and attendance

Younger generations are more likely to change behavior due to safety concerns.



39% agree that concerns about safety have caused them to change attendance habits at religious services.

Visible security measures offer reassurance



75% indicate that security technology make them/would make them feel safer at their place of worship.

Measures seen as most reassuring include:



### Survey Methodology

This survey was conducted online within the United States by The Harris Poll on behalf of Verkada from October 14-16, 2025, among 1,123 adults ages 18 and older who attend a religious service or event at least once a month. The sampling precision of Harris online polls is measured by using a Bayesian credible interval. For this study, the sample data is accurate to within +/- 3.5 percentage points using a 95% confidence level. For complete survey methodology, including weighting variables and subgroup sample sizes, please contact [press@verkada.com](mailto:press@verkada.com).

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Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

ATF

Press Release



Boston Field Division

Contact: PIO Matthew O'Shaughnessy  
Matthew.OShaughnessy@ATF.gov  
[@ATFBoston](https://twitter.com/ATFBoston)

For Immediate Release  
November 8, 2024  
[www.atf.gov](http://www.atf.gov)

## ATF Boston Field Division Urges Increased Vigilance For Houses of Worship Amid Rising Arson Incidents

In light of a recent increase in arson incidents over the past six months targeting Houses of Worship, in Franklin, MA, Kingston, MA and Woonsocket, RI, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), in collaboration with local law enforcement, urges all religious institutions to take enhanced security measures to protect their congregations and facilities. While there are currently no specific threats, ATF and local authorities recommend vigilance and proactive steps to prevent potential incidents.

Recommended Security Measures for Houses of Worship:

1. Enhance Surveillance and Security Systems: Ensure security cameras are functional and positioned to monitor all entrances, exits, and parking areas. Consider upgrading lighting around the premises.
2. Engage with Local Law Enforcement and ATF: Maintain open communication with local police and ATF, report any suspicious activity immediately, and explore options for regular patrols in the area.
3. Restrict Facility Access: Limit access to certain areas, especially during off-hours or when unmonitored, to minimize potential risks.
4. Raise Awareness Among Congregation Members: Encourage congregants to stay alert, report unusual activity, and support one another in staying vigilant.
5. Review and Update Emergency Plans: Ensure that emergency procedures, including evacuation plans, are current and that key staff know how to contact emergency responders promptly.

ATF and local law enforcement agencies are committed to thoroughly investigating each incident and providing support to religious institutions to enhance their security. Community leaders, clergy, and facility managers are encouraged to reach out with any questions or concerns to help ensure the safety and well-being of their congregations.

Anyone with information about the arson is encouraged to call ATF's toll-free, 24-hour hotline at 1-888-ATF-FIRE (1-888-283-3473); or Arson Watch Reward Program at 800-682-9229.

ATF is the federal law enforcement agency with jurisdiction for investigating fires and explosions. More information about ATF and its programs can be found at [www.atf.gov](http://www.atf.gov) and by following ATF on Twitter at [@ATFBoston](https://twitter.com/ATFBoston) and [@ATFHQ](https://twitter.com/ATFHQ).

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## THE POWER OF HELLO GUIDE FOR HOUSES OF WORSHIP



### PROMOTING STAFF VIGILANCE THROUGH THE POWER OF HELLO

Freedom of religion and the right to peaceably assemble are guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution and recognized as fundamental parts of American society. Maintaining their integrity is vital to sustaining the American way of life.

As demonstrated by recent events across the country, terrorists and other violent extremist actors continue attempting to disrupt American society, instill fear, and/or cause harm. These adversaries sometimes identify houses of worship as targets of opportunity given their relative ease of access. Keeping these facilities secure while sustaining the open and welcoming environment necessary for peaceful congregation requires a holistic approach to security.

All support personnel at houses of worship can contribute greatly to enhancing security by understanding how to identify suspicious behavioral indicators and taking precautionary actions to safely mitigate the impacts of a potential attack.



WHEN USED EFFECTIVELY, THE *RIGHT WORDS* CAN BE A *POWERFUL TOOL*.

Simply saying "Hello" can prompt a casual conversation with an unknown person, providing an opportunity to observe and establish a connection. The **OHNO approach**—**Observe, Initiate a Hello, Navigate the Risk, and Obtain Help**—enables staff to observe and evaluate suspicious behaviors, empowering users to manage risk and obtain help when necessary.



The OHNO approach identifies activities and behaviors that may be suspicious or indicative of criminal activity. These activities may be constitutionally protected and should be reported only when there are articulable facts to support a rational conclusion that the behavior is suspicious.

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## OBSERVE

To improve overall security and detect potential threats, staff should be aware of their surroundings and consciously observe and assess others. While the considerations below are not necessarily indicators of malicious intent, within appropriate contexts, they can help identify suspicious behavior(s).

### BEHAVIOR; IS THE PERSON...

- ... appearing to study security measures in the house of worship? Do they seem to be trying to avoid a camera?
- ... letting their vehicle idle without an apparent reason?
- ... seeming to linger a long time in their vehicle?
- ... trying to go unnoticed?
- ... asking about other members or leadership?
- ... demanding to speak with clergy or house of worship leadership?
- ... repeatedly walking in and out of the service or sanctuary?
- ... attempting to get an usher or someone else to leave the sanctuary with them?
- ... behaving as a 'lookout,' nervously glancing out of doors and windows?
- ... standing alone or facing the congregation when others are seated?

### CONTEXT; IS THIS...

- ... an appropriate time for a new guest to be at the house of worship? Is the congregation meeting for a private or public event? Is this event advertised?
- ... person loitering (and not entering the house of worship) without reasonable explanation?
- ... person alone or part of a group?
- ... person familiar with the house of worship? Do they seem to know where they are going?
- ... person familiar to anyone in the community?
- ... person asking questions about house of worship functions, event schedules, or attendance?
- ... person behaving in a way that is very inconsistent with the norms of the site?

### ATTIRE; IS THIS PERSON...

- ... wearing unusually inappropriate clothing for the house of worship environment?
- ... wearing military style gear such as tactical gear?
- ... appearing to conceal something under their clothing?
- ... carrying anything that may seem unusual for the surroundings?



## SECURITY TIPS

Encourage each staff member to be observant of people and situations in the parking lot, in areas adjacent to the house of worship, and in rooms and hallways inside before, during, and after services and activities. Are there unaccompanied bags? Are other doors locked that should be open? Are doors/windows propped open that should be closed and/or locked?

- **If concerning or suspicious activity has been observed outside the house of worship, follow organizational procedures to prohibit access to the facility.** Be sure to report the activity in accordance with your organization's and community's reporting mechanisms to share information and maximize awareness.
- **During services, unless there is a legitimate reason for people to congregate in halls, rooms, and offices, or to stand outside, courteously remind them that the service has started or will be starting shortly.** If there is a reason for concern, calmly remind the person that the services have started. If there is still a clear safety or security concern inside the house of worship, remain with the individual until additional assistance arrives or until the person of concern leaves the facility.



Approaching a suspicious individual has potential risks. In some situations, it may be more advisable to report the activity to those with the authority and training to intervene.

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## RESOURCES

Houses of worship staff should be well informed of emergency action plans in place to assist congregants during an active shooter incident. Some helpful resources include:

### **Protecting Faith Based Organizations and Houses of Worship (FBO-HoW) Security Resources**

[cisa.gov/protecting-houses-worship](https://cisa.gov/protecting-houses-worship)

Provides resources that inform FBO-HoW security-based decisions. Includes an FBO-HoW Security Self-Assessment Tool and Physical Security Performance Goals for Faith Communities.

### **Employee Vigilance through the Power of Hello**

[cisa.gov/power-hello](https://cisa.gov/power-hello)

Provides resources regarding the Power of Hello approach to help employees and patrons observe and evaluate suspicious behavior and report when necessary.

### **Violence Prevention through De-escalation**

[cisa.gov/violence-prevention-through-de-escalation](https://cisa.gov/violence-prevention-through-de-escalation)

Provides a 13-minute video that merges the concepts within the Power of Hello and De-escalation Series by offering techniques to augment security beyond traditional protocols and help reduce the risk from a potentially volatile situation.

### **Active Assailant Emergency Action Planning (EAP) Template and Instructional Guide**

[cisa.gov/active-shooter-emergency-action-planning](https://cisa.gov/active-shooter-emergency-action-planning)

Provides organizations and venue operators with tangible guidance to assist users with developing a comprehensive and implementable EAP.



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**TLP CLEAR – IN OBSCURA CAVEATS APPLY**

# TLP CLEAR – IN OBSCURA CAVEATS APPLY

## Incident Response Best Practices

Houses of worship should develop plans and procedures for responding to emergencies. Part of incident planning means developing an easy way for all to report suspicious activity. This includes non-threatening suspicious activity or persons.

### Notification Chain Considerations



What should the first greeter who becomes aware of a problem do?



Who will help the greeter, and who will inform/warn the clergy, leadership, congregation?



Who will summon law enforcement?



Who will lock the doors to keep an assailant out, if that is even possible?



Who will guide congregants to safety? How will they do it?

### INCIDENT RESPONSE PLAN CONSIDERATIONS

Crisis situations are uncomfortable to talk about—a communication plan can reduce the chaos of an emergency.

- Create a planning team whose key function is to plan for potential crises.
- Develop the plan in partnership with other community groups, including law enforcement, fire department, and emergency medical services.
- Create visuals to display prominently in the building so that members routinely see points of egress and exit, lock-down procedures, and shelter-in-place locations.
- Rehearse emergency plans on a regular basis so that everyone knows what to do in the event of the real thing.
- Shelter-in-place requires everyone immediately find a room with no or few windows and take refuge. All windows, exterior doors, and other openings should be closed and locked.

Consult local law enforcement or the local Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) Protective Security Advisor if help is required to develop an emergency action plan.<sup>1</sup>

## Active Shooter Response Best Practices

Houses of worship staff should be well informed of emergency action plans in place to assist congregants during an active shooter incident.

### RUN



Encourage congregants to evacuate and leave belongings behind. Call 9-1-1 when it's safe to do so. Follow police instructions.

### HIDE



If congregants are unable to get away safely, encourage them to hide, get out of the assailant's view, and stay quiet. Silence all electronic devices. Lock and block doors, close blinds, and turn off the lights. Encourage congregants to spread out or hide separately, and stay in place.

### FIGHT



As last resort, congregants will need to be prepared to defend themselves. Commit aggressive actions for ambushing the assailant together with others, using makeshift weapons such as chairs, fire extinguishers, scissors, and books which may distract and disarm the assailant.

<sup>1</sup> [cisa.gov/protective-security-advisors](https://www.cisa.gov/protective-security-advisors) or email [central@cisa.dhs.gov](mailto:central@cisa.dhs.gov)

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POWER OF HELLO GUIDE FOR HOUSES OF WORSHIP

## Resources

### Faith Based Organizations - Houses of Worship (FBO-HoW)

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Provides resources that inform FBO-HOW security-based decisions. Includes an FBO-HOW Security Self-Assessment.

### Employee Vigilance – Power of Hello

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### CISA Active Shooter Preparedness Resources

[cisa.gov/active-shooter-preparedness](https://cisa.gov/active-shooter-preparedness)

Provides a variety of resources, including information on classroom training, workshops throughout the U.S., and online training available through FEMA.

### Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Active Shooter Preparedness Resources

[fbi.gov/survive](https://fbi.gov/survive)

Provides operational, behaviorally-based threat assessment and threat management services to help detect and prevent acts of targeted violence, helping academic, mental health, business, community, law enforcement, and government entities recognize and disrupt potential active shooters who may be on a trajectory toward violence.

### Emergency Action Planning Guide

[cisa.gov/publication/active-shooter-emergency-action-plan-guide](https://cisa.gov/publication/active-shooter-emergency-action-plan-guide)

Provides a comprehensive video on active shooter preparedness, response, and recovery.

### Federal Emergency Management Agency's Guide for Developing High-Quality Emergency Operations Plans for Houses of Worship

[hssl.org/?abstract&did=739220](https://hssl.org/?abstract&did=739220)

Provides guidance on developing high-quality emergency operations plans for Houses of Worship.

### Department of Homeland Security's If You See Something, Say Something®

[dhs.gov/see-something-say-something](https://dhs.gov/see-something-say-something)

Provides additional information on how to recognize and report the indicators of terrorism-related suspicious activity.



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## THE POWER OF HELLO GUIDE FOR HOUSES OF WORSHIP



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///END OF REPORT///

=====DISSEMINATION=====

IN OBSCURA HAS ADOPTED THE OSINT CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM OF DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY CLASSIFICATIONS ‘TRAFFIC LIGHT PROTOCOL’ RELEASE CAVEATS. THESE REGULATE IN OBSCURA REQUIREMENTS FOR PUBLIC RELEASE TO PROTECT CLIENTS AND IN OBSCURA SOURCES, METHODS, AND TECHNIQUES. IN OBSCURA RELEASE PROHIBITION MARKINGS ALSO APPLY. NONE ARE RELEASABLE TO NEWS MEDIA OR JOURNALISTS WITHOUT WRITTEN REQUEST AND PERMISSION.

=====

REQUEST WRITTEN PERMISSION, EMAIL, PRIOR TO DISSEMINATING ANY IN OBSCURA PRODUCTS OR INFORMATION. TRAFFIC LIGHT PROTOCOL REQUIREMENTS FOR DISSEMINATION FOLLOW...

## TRAFFIC LIGHT PROTOCOL REQUIREMENTS FOR DISSEMINATION

### Traffic Light Protocol (TLP) Definitions

Color	When should it be used?	How may it be shared?
 <p><b>TLP:RED</b></p> <p>For the eyes and ears of individual recipients only, no further disclosure.</p>	Sources may use TLP:RED when information cannot be effectively acted upon without significant risk for the privacy, reputation, or operations of the organizations involved.	Recipients may therefore not share TLP:RED information with anyone else. In the context of a meeting, for example, TLP:RED information is limited to those present at the meeting.
 <p><b>TLP:AMBER</b></p> <p>Limited disclosure, recipients can only spread this on a need-to-know basis within their organization and its clients. Note that <b>TLP:AMBER+STRICT</b> restricts sharing to the organization only.</p>	Sources may use TLP:AMBER when information requires support to be effectively acted upon, yet carries risk to privacy, reputation, or operations if shared outside of the organizations involved.	Recipients may share TLP:AMBER information with members of their own organization and its clients, but only on a need-to-know basis to protect their organization and its clients and prevent further harm. Note: if the source wants to restrict sharing to the organization only, they must specify TLP:AMBER+STRICT.
 <p><b>TLP:GREEN</b></p> <p>Limited disclosure, recipients can spread this within their community.</p>	Sources may use TLP:GREEN when information is useful to increase awareness within their wider community.	Recipients may share TLP:GREEN information with peers and partner organizations within their community, but not via publicly accessible channels. TLP:GREEN information may not be shared outside of the community. Note: when “community” is not defined, assume the cybersecurity/defense community.
 <p><b>TLP: CLEAR</b></p> <p>Recipients can spread this to the world, there is no limit on disclosure.</p>	Sources may use TLP:CLEAR when information carries minimal or no foreseeable risk of misuse, in accordance with applicable rules and procedures for public release.	Subject to standard copyright rules, TLP:CLEAR information may be shared without restriction.

///END OF REPORT///

“enemy” term use refers to the forces that have committed Christian genocide. Domestically, attacked churches, murdered pastors, bombed and committed arson at churches and Christian pro-life facilities and organizations. The Red Green Alliance (Islam and Communist) anarchist groups and much more.

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