

Volume 4, Issue 6

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[FB-ISAO Current Threat Level](#)

FB-ISAO Physical Threat Level:

Guarded

FB-ISAO has assessed the general Physical Threat Level for US Faith-Based Organizations as “SEVERE.” As per FB-ISAO’s definitions of the Physical Threat Levels, “SEVERE” means that an event is highly likely.

Please note that the Pandemic Threat Level has been lowered to [Guarded](#).

FB-ISAO Cyber Threat Level:

Guarded

FB-ISAO has assessed the general Cyber Threat Level for US Faith-Based Organizations as “GUARDED.” As per FB-ISAO’s definitions of the Cyber Threat Levels, “GUARDED” means FB-ISAO is unaware of any specific events, but a general risk of incidents exists.

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FB-ISAO Newsletter

First Amendment Auditors

First Amendment Auditors (FAA) are individuals who record interaction with law enforcement, security officers, and public officials and then subsequently post these interactions online for the purpose of spreading awareness of alleged infringements of first amendment rights. These individuals are not necessarily tied to a centralized organization but take it upon themselves to act when they feel government, or an organization, has infringed upon individual rights. In some instances, these individuals or groups appear more interested in documenting interactions in the hope that they will capture violations of the first amendment to publicly share. This activity has been observed across the nation, to include at Places of Worship.

In many respects, FAAs are similar to protestors and demonstrators and have appeared at a number of locations around the United States. Another challenge for organizations is that their activities, while legal, could also be a possible surveillance or hostile event planning as noted in FB-ISAO reporting on the [Hostile Events Attack Cycle](#). One primary distinction is that the FAA may want to provoke a response and make no attempt to hide their action, while a threat actor will generally attempt to conceal their activity and would seek to avoid any engagement which could highlight their attack. However, the potential of an FAA encounter to escalate into a future hostile event should always be considered possible.

The May 2022 Monthly Threat Brief focused on this topic. The Co-Chairs of the [Operational Resilience Group](#) prepared a document that includes key takeaways from the discussion. The document was shared with all members of the Faith-Based Information Sharing and Analysis Organization as well as the community at large. To obtain a copy of the document, please write to membership@faithbased-isao.org.

While the actions of First Amendment Auditors are to provoke a response (outrage!) without crossing the line to criminal activity, there are some things organizations can do:

- Stay in close communication with law enforcement – optimally before such incidents occur, to let them know your concerns, learn your mutual limitations, and learn how and what to report if you witness or are the target of an event
- Study the perpetrator’s methods of operation and goals in order to respond to their (possible) hate messaging
- Be aware of what actions by the perpetrator are legal (e.g., audio and video recording from public spaces, such as a sidewalk) versus those that are illegal (e.g., property damage, threats, trespassing)
- Learn, practice, and train others in de-escalation tactics to avoid overreaction and defuse encounters veering toward violence
- Preferably, do not engage the perpetrators, rather call your local law enforcement. “Don’t be your own lawyer”
- If confronted with an FAA, consider moving activities to areas more difficult to observe and record (indoors, behind screens or walls)
- If offered, collect materials from perpetrators, such as fliers. These may be useful to law enforcement
- Establish alternate means of ingress and egress to your facility in the event your primary routes are disrupted by free-speech incidents
- Train your congregation on what to look for, what to report, and how to respond to such actions

FB-ISAO Advisory Board

Get to Know the Board of Advisors

Contact Us

Company Name

FB-ISAO

Email

Info@faithbased-isao.org

Website

www.faithbased-isao.org

Not Yet a Member of FB-ISAO?

[How to join...](#)

Not Yet on FB-ISAO Slack - You Need to Be!

[Write to membership](#)

Upcoming FB-ISAO Events

Monthly Threat Brief	26 July 2022
Cyber Road Show	Registration is Now Open!



The Priority Intelligence Requirements

One critical but often overlooked component of intelligence work is the establishment of intelligence requirements, often called “Priority Intelligence Requirements” (PIRs). Intelligence requirements are high level – an agreement across the team, in this case the FB-ISAO analysts and members - to prioritize certain information collected and processed over other information because of the relevance to the organization’s assessed needs.

The PIR was developed by FB-ISAO’s [Communications Working Group](#) to inform both FB-ISAO staff efforts and to partners who may provide intelligence and information to FB-ISAO. The PIR are reviewed annually, updated, and redistributed as needed. The most recent updated was completed in May.

Starting in May 2022, our reporting has started to reference the updated PIR to help members understand why we’re choosing to include the information being shared and also to allow our team to review the content, and to adjust our collection and reporting processes if we’re including information outside the scope of our mission. To that end, member feedback is always welcome.



Spotlight: The HACCEN

What is the HACCEN?

HACCEN is the HAtE Crimes Community ENgagement Working Group -- an initiative to support vulnerable communities and individuals who may experience hate crimes. HACCEN's mission is to develop, foster, and facilitate a private-public partnership to help raise awareness of hate crimes or incidents in our communities and to share real-time information about threats, incidents, indicators, trends, and best practices to mitigate risks associated with hate crimes. The HACCEN was co-initiated by the InfraGard chapters in the National Capital Region and New York Metro chapter along with the FB-ISAO. HACCEN is governed by a Steering Committee made up of community / advocacy groups, including the All Dulles Area Muslim Society, the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington, and the Office of Access and Functional Needs at the California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services.

Why Should I Join?

If you are concerned about the rising cases of hate incidents and crimes, this forum will provide you an opportunity to join others who feel the same way. We won’t have all the answers on how to combat hate crimes but by talking about hate crimes, perhaps we can find a way to bring down the level of incidents and to support one another as we navigate through these incidents that affect so many in some many ways!

How do I Join?

Visit the [HACCEN site](#) for membership information and an application.

Questions?

You can email the InfraGardNCR board of directors at infragardncr@gmail.com. For membership questions, email the InfraGardNCR coordinators at infragardncr@fbi.gov.