

# Volume 6, Issue 2

February 2024

**TLP: CLEAR**

## FB-ISAO Current Threat Level

### FB-ISAO Physical Threat Level:

**Elevated**

FB-ISAO has assessed the general Physical Threat Level for US Faith-Based Organizations as “**ELEVATED**.” As per FB-ISAO’s definitions of the Physical Threat Levels, “**ELEVATED**” means FB-ISAO is unaware of any specific events, but there is a concern that an event is more likely than normal.

### FB-ISAO Cyber Threat Level:

**Elevated**

FB-ISAO has assessed the general Cyber Threat Level for US Faith-Based Organizations as “**ELEVATED**.” As per FB-ISAO’s definitions of the Cyber Threat Levels, “**ELEVATED**” means FB-ISAO is unaware of any specific events, but there is a concern that an event is more likely than normal.

## Stories

What Does the 2023 Threat Data Tell Us? Page 1

Artificial Intelligence and Mapping Tools, Page 2

Spotlight: What is the FBSAC Working on, Page 2

Upcoming Events, Page 2



# FB-ISAO Newsletter

## What Does the 2023 Threat Data Tell Us?

FB-ISAO provides members with regular reporting of incidents directed at Faith-Based Organizations (FBOs) throughout the year. Our incident reporting is derived from numerous sources including open-source reporting shared on the FB-ISAO Slack workspace as well as from our public and private partners at the federal, state, and local levels. This reporting can help organizations understand the various threats and risks that they may face and can help inform risk mitigation strategies. In 2023, the Co-Chair of the FB-ISAO ORG conducted events-data research based on incidents reported or tracked. In total the FB-ISAO ORG recorded a total of **1,027 attacks on Houses of Worship (HOW)** during 2023.

### Targeted FBO.

- 43% were against Protestant churches.
- 32% targeted Jewish synagogues.
- 14% were against Catholic churches.
- 5% targeted mosques.

	Protestant	Jewish	Catholic	Khan	LGATQ	Buddhist	LDS	Misc	Sikh	Orthodox	Sarabic	Messianic	Hindu	Appostolic	Total
Vandalism	160	27	85	10	10	2	3	2	2					1	302
Bomb Threat	12	194	2	3				1			2				214
Theft	75	3	22	7	2	9	3		1	1			1		124
Assault	58	6	7	9			3		2	2					87
Arson	65	1	8	4	2	3	1	1							85
Graffiti	36	21	7	7	2		1	1					1		76
Threat	14	18	9	3				1							45
Harassment	4	22	2	1	3										32
Assault Threat	7	13		2											22
Hate Speech	1	5		1											7
Leafletting	3	2												1	6
Cyber attack	2	1	3												6
Hoax		5													5
Bombing	1		1									2			4
Surveillance		4													4
Susp Package		2													2
Trespass			1	1											2
Death Threat	1														1
Kidnap		1													1
Attempt			1												1
Ramming	1														1
<b>Total</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>327</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1027</b>

This [blog post](#) provides more information on the yearly trend and the types of incidents.

Members participated in a briefing on the 2023 threat data. The briefing took a deep dive into the data. The recording is available on the FB-ISAO Slack workspace. Members can access the recording on demand. If you are not yet a member of FB-ISAO, consider [joining here](#).

In addition, the FB-ISAO issued a security advisory that provides greater detail regarding the threat data including information on causalities, types of weapons used, location of the incidents and some themes that can inform security considerations for organizations.

## FB-ISAO Advisory Board Get to Know the Board of Advisors

### Contact Us

Email

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Website

[www.faithbased-isao.org](http://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

Selected Upcoming FB-ISAO Events. Visit the [events page](#) for a complete listing.

Office Hours. <i>(Meeting Invitations sent to all members via email.)</i>	27 February 2024 at 1:00pm ET
<a href="#">FireArms in the House: Armed Considerations</a>	06 March at 12:00pm ET



## Artificial Intelligence and Mapping Tools

There may be no other couple of words that trigger negativity today more than artificial intelligence (AI). It could invoke science fiction movies from the past that now seem more like present day than the future, or fears of being replaced in the workforce. AI is becoming part of our day-to-day lives often without us even knowing it. AI technologies and open world mapping tools can be used to locate and map specific critical infrastructure, and these tools are free and readily available online. For Faith-Based Organizations (FBO), these AI platforms can be used as part of a Threat Actor's planning and preparedness for a hostile event. Because many of the AI platforms and mapping tools are open for all users, there is little mitigation that FBOs can deploy. As such, organizations are reminded to consider their security posture in light of this threat.

The FB-ISAO published a security advisory on the subject. The advisory is available to all members. To learn more about all the capabilities available to members, grab your virtual seat and become acquainted with FB-ISAO by [joining our FB-ISAO 101](#) on 20 February at 1pm ET.

- ✓ Learn about how we work together to improve the overall security posture of the community.
- ✓ What it means to be a part of an all-faiths and all-hazards information sharing community.
- ✓ Member benefits.



## Spotlight: What is the FBSAC Working on?

The DHS Faith-Based Security Advisory Council (FBSAC) received its new taskings. The first tasking is a **Multi-Council Tasking on Combatting Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse**. The other two taskings are as follows:

- ▶ **Countering Transnational Repression.** Develop a DHS strategy to protect faith-based community stakeholders from incidents of transnational repression (TNR), consistent with DHS authorities. This effort will focus on how faith-based leaders and security professionals can amplify DHS information on TNR threats, encourage reporting of incidents to appropriate authorities, and provide feedback on the effectiveness of existing safety and security resources.
- ▶ **Countering and Responding to Targeted Violence and Terrorism.** Survey existing multi-faith initiatives nationwide to establish a "best practices toolkit" on how faith-based organizations and institutions can build resiliency against threats of targeted violence and terrorism.

Members can learn more about the FBSAC [here](#).