

Volume 6, Issue 7

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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

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FB-ISAO Newsletter

The FB-ISAO FireArms in the House Series: What Did We Learn?

Starting in January of 2024, and ending in June of 2024, the Faith-Based Information Sharing and Analysis Organizations hosted a series of discussions on FireArms in the House. The FB-ISAO takes no position on this topic, other than to promote best practices in pursuit of the house of worship’s objectives and implementation of any appropriate model. The entire series of discussions is available to all members via the FB-ISAO recordings library. The library is accessible on the FB-ISAO Slack workspace.

The series was broken up into the following sessions:

- ✓ Introduction and Overview
- ✓ Armed Considerations
- ✓ Unarmed Considerations
- ✓ Legal Considerations
- ✓ Insurance Considerations
- ✓ Roundtable and Parting Thoughts

Below are just a few of the best practices shared by panelists. In addition to the best practices below, on 20 June, FB-ISAO published a FireArms in the House Series Digest. The digest captured the talking points made by panelists and is intended to assist houses of worship with making decisions that are appropriate to their unique circumstances. Additionally, on 26 June FB-ISAO published an advisory which provided considerations for navigating this complex topic. Both products, as well as the recordings, are available to [members of the FB-ISAO](#).

- ▶ There are no cookie-cutter solutions. Identifying the right solution for your community and crafting the solution to your unique configuration of threats, risks, culture, environmental factors, and limitations is the recommended path.
- ▶ A holistic vulnerability assessment should precede any discussion. That assessment will help you determine your risk profile. Houses of Worship with schools on premises would do well in reviewing, and adhering to the federal, state, and local laws governing school sites.
- ▶ A security program encompasses many facets - firearms is just one of those facets. A robust security program could include the 5 Ds - [Deter, Detect, Deny, Delay, and Defend](#) (plus [De-escalate](#)).
- ▶ Firearms by themselves should not be considered a security program - they should be *considered* a tool for response.
- ▶ There are no “non-lethal” or “non-deadly” weapons. Rather, weapons exist on a continuum between more lethal and less lethal.

[Read the entire post.](#)

For a limited time, FB-ISAO is making access to the recording library available to non-members. Non-members can [complete this form](#) which stipulates the terms and conditions for access. Access will be provided for one year.

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

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Not Yet a Member of FB-ISAO?

How to join...

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

Write to membership

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



Is Cybersecurity Part of Your Travel Checklist?

Cyber scammers are creatures of habit. Year after year they are observed using the same ploys to scam potential victims. Check Point Research (CPR) found 1 in every 33 new summer [vacation related domains](#) registered in the month of May was malicious or suspicious. Well-known and trusted websites like Kayak, Booking.com, hotels.com, and other hospitality-related brands are being impersonated to trick users into entering their login credentials, potentially leading to personal information theft. That makes this time of year particularly ripe with travel-related scams. On 03 July 2024, the Federal Trade Commission [warned](#) of scammy websites that offer to help you get or renew your passport, “Some of these websites are private companies that charge you for services that are free on the U.S. Department of State website...while others are scammers trying to take your money and personal information.”

Here are some quick tips to keep yourself safe:

✓ Verify. Research before purchasing travel accommodations. Look up travel companies, hotels, rentals, and agents with the words “scam,” “review,” or “complaint.”

✓ If it’s too good to be true... Only use legitimate travel platforms to search for accommodations, flights, and tours.

✓ Be vigilant. Exercise caution with emails, even those seemingly from reputable sources or ones “verifying” reservation details. Contact the company directly using contact information from its official website.

If you believe you have been a victim of a travel-related scam, report the fraud to the Federal Trade Commission at <https://reportfraud.ftc.gov/>. [Safe travels!](#)



Spotlight: Transnational Repression

The [Faith-Based Security Advisory Council](#) (FBSAC) met on 24 June to deliver reports on the [three taskings](#) issued by Secretary Mayorkas back in January. Mayya Saab, Executive Director of the FB-ISAO, serves on the FBSAC and was a member of the subcommittee making recommendations on Countering Transnational Repression (TNR.) Human Rights Watch says TNR “is increasingly used to refer to state actors reaching beyond their borders to suppress or stifle dissent by targeting human rights defenders, journalists, government critics and opposition activists, academics and others, in violation of their human rights.”

If you are in the U.S., including a U.S. territory, your freedom of speech is protected, regardless of your citizenship. View the [FBI Threat Intimidation Guide](#), which provides additional information about types of threats and what to do if you’ve been threatened. You can also report to the FBI [on-line](#) or by calling 1-800-CALL-FBI.