

Volume 7, Issue 2

February 2025

**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

## Free Tools to Aid in Combating Cyber Threats

*The below is an excerpt from a guest post by Matt Saglam, Executive Director, Security for Community. By publishing this post, FB-ISAO is aiding in raising awareness about the threats from, and potential defenses against, phishing and identity theft. Other than working together for collective defense, FB-ISAO is not directly involved with Security for Community.*

In today's hyper-connected world, the rise of cyber threats such as phishing attacks and identity theft poses serious risks to individuals and businesses alike. Every click and every online interaction can potentially expose sensitive personal information to malicious actors. However, with the right tools, such as DefendMe AI, you can protect your digital life effectively.



*ISarayut Thaneerat/Getty Images*

### Understanding the Risks

Phishing remains one of the most prevalent and insidious forms of cybercrime, with millions of fake websites launched annually to deceive users into divulging personal data. These websites mimic legitimate

businesses, stealing everything from credit card numbers to login credentials. Simultaneously, the threat of identity theft grows as cybercriminals harvest personal data from various sources to commit fraud, sell on the dark web, or gain unauthorized access to your accounts.

### How DefendMe AI Addresses These Threats

DefendMe AI is a free community browser extension compatible with Chrome, Edge, and Brave that offers a robust solution to these pervasive online dangers. Utilizing advanced AI technology and global cyber threat intelligence, DefendMe AI provides real-time detection and prevention of phishing attempts, effectively blocking malicious sites before they can do harm. Moreover, DefendMe AI's identity protection feature keeps a vigilant watch over your personal information by monitoring the dark web for any signs of your data being traded.

To access the post and to find out how to get started with DefendAI, please visit our [blog site](#).

## FB-ISAO Advisory Board

### Get to Know the Board of Advisors

### Contact Us

Email

[Info@faithbased-isao.org](mailto:Info@faithbased-isao.org)

Website

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

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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.



## Executive Actions and Protected Places

Upon assuming office, U.S. President Donald Trump issued a series of Executive Orders to undo previous policies in this regard and to begin to set the agenda for his term, and in the process fulfill several campaign promises. One of those promises was to secure the U.S. border and begin to deport any immigrants that are in the country illegally. This includes being able to make arrests at schools, healthcare facilities, and houses of worship.

In response, several organizations spoke out against this action to include the [Episcopal Church](#) and [Catholic Church](#), however these did not address specific actions to take should an incident occur at their respective location. This continues to be an evolving issue. Since this report was written, additional updates were reported by the media and other organizations.

- [Companies, Schools, Houses of Worship, and Hospitals Get Advice for Handling ICE Enforcement Actions](#)
- [What To Do if ICE Knocks on Your Door](#)
- [Quakers sue to keep US immigration agents out of houses of worship](#)

Below are some resources regarding this topic:

- [ACLU: Immigrants' Rights](#)
- [Know Your Rights: What to Do if You Are Arrested or Detained by Immigration](#)



## Spotlight: Members Contribute to Reporting

During the month of January 2025, members of FB-ISAO contributed to reports and to raising awareness about similar incidents.

- ▶ The report (see above) regarding lifting the status of houses of worship as “protected places” was largely informed by our members.
  - Members began to post about the topic and to have virtual conversations about the potential implications.
  - FB-ISAO drafted a report on the topic and asked for a member review.
  - The collaborative report was published on 29 January.
- ▶ Three different members posted information about suspicious activity in three different locations across the country.
  - The Co-Chair of the FB-ISAO Operational Resilience Working Group noted the trend and alerted the FB-ISAO team.
  - FB-ISAO shared the information (with or without attribution) with Law Enforcement.