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NJOHSP

INTELLIGENCE NOTE

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ISIS: Supporters Using Fundraising Schemes

Fundraisers for the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) recently have employed fraudulent tactics to solicit college students and pension holders for donations. To date, there have been no Suspicious Activity Reports in New Jersey related to these activities.

- On 3 March, a man in his twenties or thirties pretending to be a student at Harvard University stood in front of the Kennedy School of Government asking for donations to a charity connected to ISIS. University officials notified Harvard Police Department, and the FBI is currently investigating the incident.
- On 4 March, British authorities arrested two men on suspicion they used a phone scam to fundraise for ISIS. The two men would pose as police officers, stating that the victim's pension account had been compromised. Victims would then be asked to transfer money into an account the criminals said was safe. According to Western press reports, investigators suspect the money was eventually funneled to British extremists fighting for ISIS.

We are working with local, state, and federal partners to investigate any leads associated with these fundraising scams. We ask New Jersey residents that if they are approached for charitable donations, research the charities and ensure they are in good standing. Moreover, if someone receives a suspicious call regarding personal finances, we ask that individual to hang up and call the number on his or her bank card.

- As a reminder, any suspicious activity with a possible nexus to terrorism in New Jersey should be reported immediately to local law enforcement. Activity can also be reported by calling (866) 4SAFENJ (866-472-3365) or 2-1-1 or tips@njohsp.gov.

Contact Information

Any agency with information or comments/questions on this or other analytical products, please contact the OHSP Analysis Bureau at analysis@njohsp.gov or 609-584-4000.