



# NJOHSP *at a glance*

YOUR WEEK IN REVIEW | April 25, 2016

## **ISIS: Operative Instructed US Extremist to Kill Organizer of Muhammad Cartoon Contest**

In a case with evidence of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) providing direction for a terrorist attack in the United States, a Justice Department indictment last week stated that a prominent ISIS operative directly instructed a US extremist to kill the US person who organized a Muhammad cartoon contest in Texas. A superseding indictment said that beginning in February 2015, Junaid Hussain (now deceased), a British ISIS member located in Syria, was communicating with Usaamah Rahim, age 26, a resident of Roslindale, Massachusetts, until Rahim's death on June 2, 2015. Beginning in May 2015, Hussain directly communicated with Rahim, who in turn communicated Hussain's instructions regarding the murder of the intended victim to David Wright, age 26, of Everett, Massachusetts. However, on June 2, Rahim told Wright he could not wait until the July 4 holiday, when the conspirators planned to kill the intended victim, and decided to attack police officers instead. He was shot and killed in Roslindale that day, after he moved toward Boston police officers and FBI agents while brandishing a knife (see photo).

Separately, the Muhammad cartoon event was attacked on May 3, 2015, by Elton Simpson and Nadir Soofi, who wounded a security guard before law enforcement officers shot and killed both attackers. The FBI has stated previously that Simpson exchanged encrypted messages with an ISIS operative before the attack. The indictment states that by February 2015, Wright, Rahim, and co-conspirator Nicholas Rovinski, age 25, of Warwick, Rhode Island, had heeded the call of ISIS to attack nonbelievers in the United States and began plotting and recruiting members for their "martyrdom" operation. In April 2015, Wright drafted organizational documents for a "Martyrdom Operations Cell."



## **Israel: HAMAS Claims Responsibility for Bus Bombing in Jerusalem**

HAMAS said last week that one of its affiliates was responsible for detonating a bomb on a bus in Jerusalem on April 18. The bomber died as a result of his wounds, and 20 Israelis were wounded in the attack. Israeli police have arrested several Palestinians from the Bethlehem area on suspicion of helping to plan the attack. Investigators believe the suspects and the bomber belonged to a local cell that was not particularly skilled, judging from the modest casualty count.

## **Mass Shootings: Ohio and Georgia Shootings Target Family Members**

Mass shootings in Ohio and Georgia last week targeted members of specific families, and did not put members of the community at large in serious danger. On April 22, eight people were found dead after a shooting spree in Pike County, in southern Ohio. Also on April 22, five people were shot and killed in Columbia County, in eastern Georgia.

In Ohio, eight members of the Rhoden family were shot in the head "execution style," according to the Pike County Sheriff (see photo). The shootings took place in four separate houses. A search is under way for the killer or killers. The Ohio Attorney General said that surviving members of the family remain in danger. Law enforcement officials called the shootings a "pre-planned execution" and a "sophisticated operation." They have not identified a suspect or discussed a possible motive.

In Georgia, the suspected shooter of five people was found dead in his home from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. Wayne Hawes, age 50, is believed to have shot three men and two women at two separate houses. The Columbia County Sheriff said the shootings resulted from a domestic dispute and that Hawes knew the victims, some of whom were related to his wife.



## **Contact Information**

Any agency with information or comments/questions on this or other analytical products, please contact the NJOHSP Analysis Bureau at [analysis@njohsp.gov](mailto:analysis@njohsp.gov) or 609-584-4000.

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