



NJOHSP *at a glance*

YOUR WEEK IN REVIEW | May 16, 2016

Animal Rights Extremists/Union County: Protest Outside CEO's Residence

In Summit (Union County), about 16 members of an animal rights extremist group known as Their Turn staged a protest outside the residence of the CEO of a major insurance provider on May 10. The group was protesting the insurance firm's financial support for a blood collection and distribution center based in New York City, which allegedly has abandoned 66 chimpanzees that had previously been used for medical research in Liberia. Previous protests against the blood center resulted in no action, so Their Turn extended its demonstrations to the insurance provider, which is the blood center's largest corporate donor. (Photo shows an earlier protest at the blood center.)

Their Turn first conducted a demonstration against the insurance provider regarding this issue on April 26, when about 20 protesters occupied the lobby of the company's building in New York City for about a half-hour at the height of rush hour, carrying signs and shouting slogans.

NJOHSP recognizes and safeguards the constitutional rights of Americans to freely assemble, speak, and petition. This item is reported for situational awareness.



Homegrown Violent Extremists/New Jersey/New York: Alaa Saadeh Is First in the Cell to be Sentenced

On May 10, Alaa Saadeh, age 24, of West New York (Hudson County), became the first member of a small disrupted cell of supporters of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) in the New York/New Jersey metropolitan area to be sentenced, when he received 15 years for conspiracy to provide material support to a foreign terrorist organization (see photo). He pleaded guilty to the charge last October. He planned to join ISIS, and he assisted his brother, Nader Saadeh, by allowing him to use his credit card to purchase airline tickets and by removing the SIM card from Nader's smartphone and resetting the smartphone in an effort to avoid detection. The other two New Jersey-based members of the cell, Nader Saadeh and Samuel Topaz, have also pleaded guilty to material support charges and are awaiting sentencing.

Three New York-based members of the cell are also in custody. Munther Saleh of Queens was allegedly plotting to detonate a pressure-cooker bomb in the New York City metropolitan area. Fareed Mumuni of Staten Island allegedly attacked federal agents with a knife as they were attempting to arrest him. Imran Rabbani of New York City, who was a juvenile at the time of his arrest last year, has pleaded guilty to conspiracy to impede federal officers.



Homegrown Violent Extremists: FBI Director Says the Appeal of ISIS to Americans Is Diminishing

At a roundtable discussion with journalists last week, FBI Director James Comey said that the appeal of ISIS to Americans is declining, and that fewer Americans are traveling overseas to join the group. He also noted that the threat remains significant, with more than 800 open FBI investigations related to ISIS.

Director Comey stated that the number of Americans traveling or attempting to travel to join ISIS has dropped to about one a month. He said that previously, the rate was about a half-dozen or more a month. He said that the number of Americans attempting to leave the country to join ISIS has been declining for nine months, and it appears to be an overall downward trend.

Among the possible reasons that ISIS has become less attractive to Americans—in addition to battlefield losses—Director Comey cited the fading of the aura and fad that the “brand name” of the group originally had, a realization of how harsh conditions with ISIS really are, and stiff prison sentences for ISIS members and supporters.

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 or 609-584-4000.

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