



Maureen Berzok



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FBI Warns of Broad Threat to New Jersey Synagogues, Says 'Stay Alert'

Reported antisemitic incidents in 2021 rose by 25% in New Jersey, reaching 370 total incidents – the highest number ever recorded by ADL in the state and the second-highest number recorded in any state across the country.



FBI.gov

By TAPINTO STAFF

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NEWARK, NJ — The FBI's Newark office is investigating a "broad threat" to synagogues in New Jersey and is asking people to be alert. New Jersey Attorney General Matthew Platkin says law enforcement will be increasing patrols, both marked and unmarked, in "sensitive areas."

"The FBI has received credible information of a broad threat to synagogues in NJ," the agency said in a statement posted on Twitter. "We ask at this time that you take all security precautions to protect your community and facility. We will share more information as soon as we can. Stay alert. In case of emergency call police."

Another tweet followed from the FBI's Newark office, saying, "We are taking a proactive measure with this warning while investigative processes are carried out."

The FBI did not describe the nature of the threat.

A statement was issued by the Jewish Federation this afternoon stating, "Jewish Federation in the Heart of New Jersey is aware of the FBI Newark Field Office community alert, and we are in touch with law enforcement authorities, including Monmouth and Middlesex County Prosecutors, New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness, State Police, U.S. Attorney's Office, the FBI, and local police. Jewish organizations are advised to take all security precautions to harden facilities and report suspicious activity to local authorities. Watch for updates at @FBINewark on Twitter."

The press release continues, "Jewish Federation in the Heart of New Jersey has activated our community-wide leaders' alert system to ensure organizations' security leads are informed and taking necessary steps. Additionally, Federation has posted on our consumer social media channels to increase awareness in the broader community of the need for enhanced vigilance at this time."

Gov. Phil Murphy said on Twitter he is in touch with Platkin, the state's Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness, and the FBI's office in Newark.

"We are closely monitoring the situation and are working with local law enforcement to ensure that all houses of worship are protected," Murphy said on Twitter.

In a statement, Platkin says he's been in contact with a number of agencies at the federal and state level, in addition to all 21 county prosecutors.

"We also call upon New Jersey residents to be extra vigilant and if you see suspicious activity please report it to your local authorities without delay," the statement said. "We continue to work together to keep New Jersey safe, and let those who would bring harm to the residents of this State know that New Jersey will not be home to hate, intolerance or violence."

In September, [TAPinto East Brunswick went to Temple B'Nai Shalom with Amy Keller, Director of Security Initiatives for the Jewish Federation in Central New Jersey](#). She works with many Houses of Worship through the [Non-Profit Security Grant Program](#).

Says the [New York/New Jersey Anti-Defamation League](#), "Reported antisemitic incidents in 2021 rose by 25% in New Jersey, reaching 370 total incidents – the

highest number ever recorded by ADL in the state and the second-highest number recorded in any state across the country. These 370 incidents in New Jersey constitute 14% of the total number of antisemitic incidents recorded across the United States last year." 31 acts of antisemitism were recorded in Middlesex County in 2021, the fourth-highest of the 21 counties in New Jersey to report incidents.

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