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Secure Community Network Logs Record High Antisemitic Incident Reports In October

772 Incident Reports Marks 109% Increase From September, Attributable To Heightened Threat Environment In The Wake Of Hamas Terror Attacks On Israel

CHICAGO, IL — In the wake of the 07 October Hamas terror attacks on Israel, the Secure Community Network (SCN), the official safety and security organization of the Jewish community in North America, is reporting an unprecedented uptick in incident reports. The 772 incident reports SCN logged in October marks the highest of any month in our nearly 20-year history of tracking data, a 109% increase from the 368 incident reports logged last month (September 2023) and a 192% increase from October 2022. Of particular concern is that a jarring 19% of these October incidents have originated from campus settings, with 149 documented instances of incidents like harassment, violence, and death threats among others. SCN is on pace to refer over 800 individuals to law enforcement, outpacing last year's total of 770, with 148 referrals in October alone.

Additionally, in the one month since the Hamas terror attacks on Israel, SCN's 24/7 Jewish Security Operations Command Center (JSOCC) monitored — and continues to monitor — 860 events nationwide for escalation and violence, including more than 375 events on campus, two-thirds of which were anti-Israel. In total SCN has surpassed the gross number of incidents of all of 2022 (2,551) logging more than 3,500 incidents so far in 2023.

“This historic number of incident reports concerning Jewish safety and security is a sign of the heightened threat risk North American Jews face, and underscores the need for vigilance and preparation within our communities,” said **SCN National Director and CEO Michael Masters**. “SCN is actively collaborating with federal, state, and local security partners, and providing Jewish institutions with up-to-date guidance, tools, and intelligence to help address the security challenges of this fluid and dynamic threat environment. While there are no active credible threats, we will continue to provide support, resources, and guidance to ensure that all can continue to practice Jewish lives safely and freely.”

In response to the Hamas attack, SCN promptly took action to ensure the safety and continuous operation of the community. This involved, among other efforts, daily updates and situation reports from our Duty Desk, constant communication and collaboration with local, state, and federal law enforcement, information sharing with our international partners, and a national security update held on 12 October to share guidance and information, featuring remarks by FBI Director Christopher Wray and attended by more than 4,700 community members.

Importantly, there are currently no known, direct credible threats facing the community. SCN continues to advise organizations to remain open and operational, absent information provided directly by law enforcement. SCN urges every community to remain vigilant, recommit to preparation, review and enforce existing security protocols, maintain coordination and communication with law enforcement, and report suspicious activity to local law enforcement and to SCN's 24/7 Duty Desk at dutydesk@securecommunitynetwork.org or by calling 844-SCN-DESK.

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