



NJOHSP

INTELLIGENCE NOTE

April 21, 2021

FTOs Direct HVEs to Target Law Enforcement at Protests

Foreign terrorist organizations, such as al-Qa'ida and ISIS, continue encouraging their followers to target law enforcement during protests when officers are engaged in crowd control and anti-looting patrols. While protests can attract homegrown violent extremists (HVEs) to conduct opportunistic attacks, their previous attempts to target law enforcement have also included luring plots and sporadic attacks using easily obtainable weapons.

- On April 14, the second issue of a pro-al-Qa'ida online extremist magazine, *Wolves of Manhattan*, was released encouraging supporters to attend large unruly protests and attack law enforcement. Rather than conduct a knife attack, which previous publications suggested, the author recommends followers use a Molotov cocktail while officers are confronting rioters. Followers are also encouraged to attend large demonstrations at night to elude capture, conceal their identity, and possibly vandalize property.
- Al-Qa'ida's flag*
- During a protest on June 3, 20-year-old Brooklyn, New York, resident Dzenan Camovic attacked three New York City police officers conducting anti-looting patrols. Camovic stabbed one officer in the neck and used that officer's firearm to shoot at two deputies. The officer's body camera recorded Camovic screaming, "Allahu Akbar," Arabic for "God is great." Investigators discovered he possessed media and propaganda related to Salafi-jihadism and ISIS at his residence and on his phone.
 - While al-Qa'ida and ISIS propaganda has manipulated US social tensions to encourage attacks against the United States, past incidents demonstrate a history of threats targeting law enforcement. On May 29, Heba Momtaz Al-Azhari, 21, lured a Temple Terrace, Florida, officer outside his police department's headquarters with the intention of stabbing him. Azhari was fatally struck after charging at the officer and failing to listen to commands to drop the weapon.

Additional Resources

[New Jersey Predictive Threat Analysis](#)
[HVEs to Continue Targeting Uniformed Officers](#)