

# MAIL SECURITY ALERT:

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## THE RAYSECUR® MONTHLY MAIL THREAT

reports catalog global open-source incidents reported to the media. Due to the lack of reporting to authorities, security leaders face sizable challenges in gaining a clear view of the types and volume of mail threats occurring worldwide. These reports serve to close that gap and provide timely information.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has designated the following CBRNE substances as critical mail threats. MailSecur is the only screening solution that can detect all nine.



BIOLOGICAL



CHEMICAL



LIQUID



ILLICIT ITEMS



RADIOLOGICAL



CONTRABAND



EXPLOSIVE



POWDER



NUCLEAR

October, 2023

## Special Report: Conflict Between Israel and Gaza Raises Threat Levels for Religious Organizations, Political and Government Agencies

The rise in violence between Israel and Gaza has placed security leaders on high alert in anticipation of threats against religious organizations, especially those of Jewish faith and entities aligned with Israel or Palestine. Even before the attacks, there already were increased hostilities as Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had received several mail threats.

Expect mail-based threats to increase over the duration of the conflict and continue through its closure. It is common to send devices, threats, and propaganda to people and organizations representing conflict actors or their supporters outside of the combat zone. Bad actors who cannot physically enter conflict, or are unwilling to do so, will use mail threats as a means to “speak out” for, or against, the event. Historically, upon the cessation of military operations, politics begins, and this period is especially targeted because rhetoric often incites bad actors who now have time and soft targets at their disposal.

RaySecur's Threat Data Center and our most recent Annual Mail Security report demonstrate that the likelihood of mail-based threats increases significantly after contentious geopolitical and social events. For example, the ongoing war between Ukraine and Russia has resulted in over fifty mail-based incidents. Spain alone received six threats targeting the US Embassy, the Spanish defense ministry, an air force base, and a weapons manufacturer. A package delivered to the Ukrainian embassy resulted in a security guard suffering injuries when a package containing an explosive device detonated.

Another socially charged issue, the reversal of Roe vs. Wade has increased security ramifications for government, women's health clinics, and corporations alike. It also led to the Department of Homeland Security issuing a memo warning about expected threats from abortion rights activists on both sides of the issue, and detailed social media threats already received. And a report published by the National Abortion Federation notes increased violence across the board, including an uptick in suspicious packages.

In 2021, during the COVID pandemic, there were increased threats against religious locations and leaders with a rash of racist letters sent to churches across the south. Racially motivated mail threats rose across all minority groups, particularly against the Asian American community, individuals, churches, and small businesses, due to perceptions that the pandemic originated in China. Other race targets included the DuSable Museum of African American History, which continues to receive hate mail and is used as an outlet for either personal or political beliefs.

The reality is that mail-based threats are often overlooked relative to other security priorities. However, the risk is real, and the recent aggressions due to geo-political, social, and racial issues demonstrate that they can be sent at any time and easily evade detection until it is too late. Remaining vigilant, understanding that a mailroom is a relatively soft target, and developing standard operating processes (SOP) are all excellent first steps in closing mail security gaps and keeping people safe.

# Threat Reviews

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## Church Seeks to Find a Man Dropping Off Suspicious Package

FOX56

On Saturday, January 29th, the pastor of the First United Methodist Church reported that a suspicious male had dropped off an unknown package at the church. This package was addressed to the pastor and said “warning” on it.

## Local Officials Evaluating Unknown Substance Left at Spring Valley Jewish Private School

WROR

An unknown substance from a suspicious package that was delivered to a private Spring Valley Jewish school on Monday is being tested with the hope of finding out what it exactly is. No word on how long it'll take to identify the substance or how it got to the school.

## Spain Boosts Security as Prime Minister and US Embassy Targeted Amid Series of Letter Bombs

CNN

Spain said Thursday it was boosting security measures after a series of letter bombs was discovered in the country, including one that was sent to Spain's prime minister last week and another to the US embassy. The sixth and latest bomb was detected Thursday afternoon and sent to the US embassy in Madrid. The envelope was detonated in a controlled environment, according to two US officials. No one was injured in the process, the officials said.

## The Embassy of Ukraine in Romania Received Two Suspicious Packages

FRONT NEWS

The Embassy of Ukraine in Bucharest, Romania, received two suspicious envelopes. Police were on the scene to secure the area. Pyrotechnic teams were also on-site to conduct specific inspections. Bomb disposal teams went to the Embassy of Ukraine today following a call to 112 that several suspicious envelopes had been received. Pyrotechnics have begun the standard procedure of investigating them.

# Threat Reviews

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## **Suspicious Package Sent to Netanyahu's Office, Cleared by Bomb Squad**

JPOST

Suspicious package sent to Netanyahu's office, cleared by bomb squad

A suspicious envelope was sent to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office and is being transferred to defense establishment officials for testing, the PMO said Sunday night. The package was stained with an oily substance, fueling suspicions that it might contain hazardous materials.

## **Israel PM's Family Receives Death Threat and Bullet in Mail**

INDEPENDENT

Israeli police said Thursday the family of Prime Minister Naftali Bennet has received a death threat and bullet in the mail for the second time this week. Israeli media say the target of the threats was Bennett's 17-year-old son. In a nationwide speech marking Israel's Holocaust memorial day, Bennett lamented the deep polarization in Israeli society as he warned his citizens against letting internal divisions tear society apart.

## **Package with White Powder Arrives at Kettering Women's Med Center; HAZMAT Called**

DAYTON DAILY NEWS

A suspicious package containing white powder arrived Wednesday at the Women's Medical Center in Kettering, prompting police and hazmat crews to respond. The building was evacuated by Kettering Fire Department first responders "But no injuries were reported. The location has been a target of threats in the past. The identity of the sender, the package's origin and motive remain under investigation." said Officer Tyler Johnson, Kettering Police Department.

# Threat Reviews

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## Minority Museum Receives Threat Letters

WGNTV

The president and CEO of the DuSable Museum of African American History went public Tuesday with news of a series of threatening letters that began after the Capitol insurrection and shortly before the Biden/ Harris administration took office. “They were targeting us as a conduit to other Black leaders, threats against President Biden, Vice President Kamala Harris, even Nancy Pelosi,” said president and CEO Perri Irmer. “The minute I saw the content of this mail, I reached out to the U.S. Secret Service.” In all, the museum, which is the nation’s oldest independent Black museum, has received six letters espousing hate and vitriol since January 22. The latest one received was last Friday, April 23. The museum has also encountered threatening letters in the past, during former President Barack Obama’s tenure.



## Will Plummer, CSO, RaySecur

Will is a 25-year veteran of the U.S. Army, where he earned a Bronze Star with Valor as a Master Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Technician. He managed thousands of full-spectrum EOD operations and directed VIP security support for eight U.S. Presidents over the course of his military career. As RaySecur's Chief Security Officer, he consults with customers to evaluate and strengthen their mail security strategies through risk assessments and implementation of standard operating procedures. He also leads RaySecur's EODSecur team comprised of former military threat experts providing 24/365 threat identification and mitigation support to customers worldwide.

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