

MAIL SECURITY ALERT

BY WILL PLUMMER

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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.

Threats from the mail, including letters and parcels, take many forms and are categorized by ten main substances.



BIOLOGICAL



THREAT LETTER



LIQUID



DRUGS



MONEY



WEAPON



IED/IID



POWDER



SUBOXONE STRIPS



OTHER

July, 2023

Threats Likely to Pick Up During Election Cycle and Everyday Citizens Become Victims of Mail-based Narcotics Smuggling

In July 2023, threats toward Lawmakers, State Representatives, and other Public Officials continued, including threatening letters sent to a Republican representative, and the French President received a body part. This shows that Geo-politics have worldwide effects and can drive threats based solely on allegiances or stances. As the race for the United States Presidency continues, these are likely only the initial wave of mail-based threats toward officials across all party lines.

There was also an uptick in mail threats targeting residences, with parcels containing narcotics and other white-powder substances. In some cases these are unintended threats, as a common smuggling tactic is to ship narcotics to individuals or locations not associated with the criminal organization. The criminal aims to retrieve the package before it is reported to law enforcement. However, with Fentanyl becoming more prevalent, this tactic causes a greater threat to residents who unwittingly open the packages before the intended recipient can pick them up.



United States

Man receives unexpected delivery of marijuana: Mayfield Heights Police Blotter

July 3, 2023 – Mayfield Heights, Ohio

Unnamed man in Mayfield Heights, Ohio received an unexpected package at his home. The resident opened a package addressed to his home, but he was not expecting the contents. The package contained an amount of marijuana and led to a call to the Mayfield Heights Police Department.



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Wife of Florida GOP Chairman Sent Suspicious Letter from 'Mar-a-Lago'

July 19, 2023 – Sarasota, FL

Florida GOP Chair Christian Ziegler posted an image of a suspicious letter sent to his wife Bridgette with a return address of "MAR-A-LAGO". "I am leaning towards this NOT being a letter from Mar-a-Lago," posted Ziegler. "Nasty-gram or Anthrax- What was sent to us today by a Lunatic Leftist?" Ziegler has overseen an unprecedented shift from Democrat to Republican during his tenure as GOP Vice Chairman and Chairman. Florida Republicans now lead Democrats in registrations by over 541,000 voters. "Last month alone, Florida Republicans gained 45,648 new registrants. Democrats shed 93,744 voters," posted Ziegler yesterday. The next day, Ziegler says the suspicious letter arrived.



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Man admits mailing meth to SW Missouri for distribution

July 23, 2023 – Kansas City, MO

A Sacramento, California, man was sentenced in federal court last week for mailing packages of methamphetamine to southwest Missouri as part of a conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine in Jasper and Newton counties, according to the United State's Attorney. John Gabriel Martinez, 39, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Stephen R. Bough to 152 months in federal prison without parole. On April 21, 2022, Martinez pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine from Aug. 15, 2016, to March 18, 2017, and one count of conspiracy to commit money laundering.



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International

French President Emmanuel Macron Receives Mysterious Package Containing Human Finger

July 14, 2023 – Paris

A shocking and grotesque incident has taken place at the official residence of French President Emmanuel Macron, as reports suggest he has received a suspicious package containing a human finger. The package, sent via first class mail, was delivered to the highly secured Elysee Palace in Paris. An official at the President's Home confirmed the arrival of the parcel, which has sparked an ongoing investigation to determine the motive behind this disturbing act. The identity of the suspect remains unknown at this stage, heightening concerns surrounding the incident. It is crucial to highlight that this incident also carries the elements of a threatening message. While President Macron has encountered numerous forms of alarming correspondence in the past, including the receipt of bullets, this marks the first time an amputated body part has been part of such delivery.

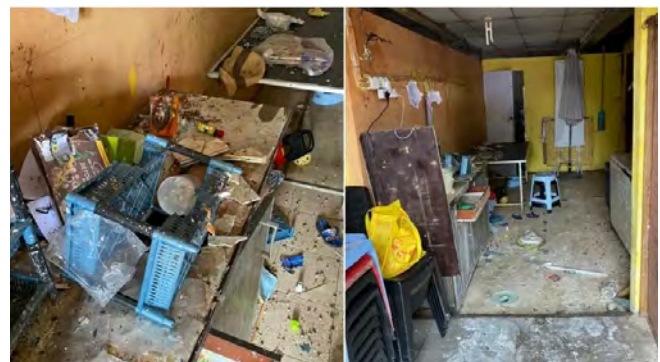


 [Read this article online](#)

Foreign Woman Gets Injured After Opening up a Parcel Bomb Which Exploded in Her Face

July 22, 2023 – Myanmar

Langkawi district police chief Assistant Commissioner Shariman Ashari said police received a call at 10:27 am about the victim being injured after a parcel she found exploded. He added that the 26-year-old victim, who is a United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) card holder and runs a stall at a space she rented behind the restaurant, suffered injuries to her hands and face due to the explosion. "We are still working to identify the suspect and determine the motive behind the parcel bomb and the case is now being probed under Section 307 of the Penal Code for attempted murder," he explained.



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Final Thoughts

As we saw in the month of June, it is still of the utmost importance to know and understand what you are opening in the mail. Multiple threats were generated by packages that arrived at unintended targets at their residence or place of business. Political beliefs are still a strong motivator for attacks on public figures across the globe. Again, we want to reiterate to follow SOPs and be vigilant in the opening of mail from unknown senders.



Will Plummer is the Chief Security Officer of RaySecur.

Will's 25-year career with the US Army and Department of Defense spans service as a Master Explosives Ordnance Disposal Technician, to managing EOD operations as a commanding officer for all of Southeast Asia. He holds a Masters Degree in National Security and Irregular Warfare from the Naval War College.

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