



# Weekly Digest

## Advisory Services Newsletter

19<sup>th</sup> January 2022

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# Terrorism Update

The current threat level for the UK is 'SEVERE', meaning a terror attack is 'highly likely'. For further information see [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).

## Texas Synagogue Attack Suspect is UK Citizen known to MI5 (Independent 18<sup>th</sup> January)

The suspect in the Texas Synagogue hostage attack in the US has been identified as Malik Faisal Akram, a 44-year-old man from the UK. Akram, originally from Lancashire was shot dead by police after a ten-hour siege. The four hostages were released unharmed. Akram is believed to have travelled to the US almost three weeks ago. During the attack he demanded the release of Aafia Siddiqui who is currently in a Texas prison on charges of being an "al-Qaeda operative and facilitator". Two teenagers arrested in Manchester in connection to the attack have since been released without charge. They are believed to be the children of the suspect Akram, who was previously investigated by MI5 in 2020. Two more suspects have since been arrested. [1.](#) [2.](#)

## More Alerts to Come after Interference Alert issued for Chinese Lawyer (Guardian 17<sup>th</sup> January)

MI5 has warned more alerts are to be issued "to counter foreign interference" after the revelation last week that Chinese lawyer Christine Lee, influenced the UK government on behalf of the Chinese Communist Party in a deliberate and prolonged attempt at interference spanning years. The move by MI5 was made after "monitoring Lee for some time" and comes after three alleged Chinese spies, posing as journalists, were expelled from the UK in 2020. MI6 Chief Richard Moore stated in 2021 China has become the agency's "single greatest priority". In response to the accusations the Chinese embassy in London stated:

"China always adheres to the principle of non-interference in other countries' internal affairs. We have no need and never seek to 'buy influence' in any foreign parliament. We firmly oppose the trick of smearing and intimidation against the Chinese community in the UK."

## Train Passenger Claiming to be Bin Laden Jailed (Greater Manchester Police 11<sup>th</sup> January)

50-year-old Mohammed Khalil Khan, from Manchester, was jailed for 12 months last week for being in possession of a bladed article, having boarded a train at Manchester's Victoria Station and threatened passengers in August last year. Khan threatened to commit future acts of violence, made comments about the 9/11 attacks and the Taliban and threatened to 'cut people's heads off'. He also claimed he was Osama bin Laden.



# World news/COVID19

## Anders Breivik Appears at Parole Hearing (Independent 18<sup>th</sup> January)

**Anders Behring Breivik**, the right-wing extremist responsible for massacring 77 people on the island of **Utøya** and the **Oslo bombing** in **2011**, appeared in court on Tuesday for his first **parole hearing** after more than ten years in prison. Breivik is halfway through his sentence which has the option for an indefinite extension, he appeared in court with a sign stating: **“Stop your genocide against our white nations”** and gave a **Nazi salute** to the judge.

## UAE and Saudi Arabia Respond to Houthi Attack (Aljazeera 18<sup>th</sup> January)

The **UAE** and **Saudi Arabia** have **responded** in kind to the **Houthi rebel drone attacks** against the UAE on Monday which killed three people. The Saudi-led attack on Houthi strongholds in the Yemeni capital, Saana, killed 12-20 people - depending on reports. The Houthi rebels used ballistic missiles and drones on the UAE in the Abu Dhabi attack and comes less than two weeks after their seizing of a UAE registered boat off the coast of Yemen and taking its crew hostage. See our industry section for the impact the conflict could have on another vessel precariously moored off the Yemen coast.

## Afghanistan Facing Further Humanitarian Crisis After Earthquake (Aljazeera 18<sup>th</sup> January)

**Dozens** have been **killed** and **hundreds** of **homes destroyed** in Afghanistan on Monday after an **earthquake** measuring a **5.3** magnitude occurred in the mostly rural **Qadis district** of the country. The epicentre was close to the capital of Badghis, Qala-i-Naw and near to the border of Turkmenistan. The region is already suffering a devastating drought compounded by the humanitarian crisis affecting the country due to Western sanctions imposed against the Taliban.

## Amazon Halts VISA Suspension on Website (Independent 17<sup>th</sup> January)

**Amazon** confirmed on Monday they have **cancelled** their **plans** to **suspend** the use of **VISA credit cards** on its site after working with VISA to find a "potential solution". Amazon had complained back in November of the "overly high processing fees" VISA charged the on-line retail giant and had intended on suspending its use on the site from mid-January. VISA has accused Amazon of "threatening to restrict consumer choice".



# Industry News

## TRANSPORTATION

### Defeat in House of Lords for Government (BBC 18<sup>th</sup> January)

The **UK Government** suffered a **defeat** in the House of Lords regarding the approval of the **Police Crime Sentencing and Courts bill**. Increased **police powers to arrest protestors** deemed too **noisy or disruptive** was **rejected** by 261 votes to 166. **Other rejections** by the House were: Creation of a **new offence for: obstructing the construction or maintenance of a major transport works, obstructing the operation of key national infrastructure** and increased protest stop and search powers.

## ENERGY

### Tanker off Yemen Coast in Danger of Causing Environmental Disaster (Energy Voice 17<sup>th</sup> January)

The **FSO Safer**, an **oil tanker** moored off the coast of **Yemen**, is in **jeopardy**. The "dead" ship has not been actively maintained since 2015 and is in danger of disintegrating whilst holding **one million barrels of crude oil**, four times more oil than on [Exxon Valdez](#). The tanker is in danger of reportedly being attacked by **Houthi rebels** who carried out drone attacks on the UAE on Monday, sparking further concerns for the fate of the Safer. [Polygreen](#) (Maritime division), a circular economy solutions company has stated an oil spill off the Yemen coast could cause severe delays accessing the Suez Canal with an environmental impact of 25 years at a cost of USD20 billion. Polygreen have offered to remove the oil and green-cycle the ship but as of yet the Yemeni authorities have refused UN inspectors access to the vessel. [3](#).

## AVIATION

### 5G Interfering with Aircraft Instruments says FAA (Independent 18<sup>th</sup> January)

**Aviation experts** warn of the use of **5G connections** at airports claiming it is too **close** to the **frequencies** used by **aircrafts**. The US Federal Aviation Authority has warned of the potential for **interference with aircraft instruments**. This industry warning comes as two major telecom companies plan to launch their 5G access across the US on 20th Jan and have been asked by the government's transportation committee to delay the roll out in some areas. This is the third delay in the 5G roll-out due to the aviation complications and both telecom giants argue the industry has had long enough to upgrade their technology.



# Activism Updates

## PROTESTS

### **Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> January – Worldwide Demonstration for Freedom 6.0**

Location: Global and Nationwide event: London @13:00 Outside Broadcasting House (BBC), Glasgow, Leeds, Aberdeen, Manchester Liverpool, Bristol, Newcastle, Hull, Oxford, Blackburn, Cardiff. Turo @Midday. Norwich @11:00

Cause: Unite for Freedom

Details: <https://t.me/WWDUnitedKingdomlocations>

### **Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> January – Ban Vivisection National Day of Action**

Location: University of Glasgow; Labcorp – Harrogate; Charles River – Kent; University of Liverpool; University of Leicester; The University of Manchester; Newcastle University; The Pirbright Institute @various times

Cause: Animal Rights

Details: <https://vivisectionexposedcouk.wpcomstaging.com/events/>

### **Monday 24<sup>th</sup> January – HS2 National Day of Action**

Location: Piccadilly Gardens, Manchester; Science Museum, Birmingham @Midday,

Cause: **Stop HS2**

Details: [Facebook Event](#)

### **Monday 24<sup>th</sup> January – No to Twickenham Arms Fair**

Location: Twickenham Stadium @11:00

Cause: Protest against Arms Fair event

Details: <https://caat.org.uk/events/no-to-twickenham-arms-fair-international-armoured-vehicles-2022-outreach-and-protest/>

### **Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> January – Drop Adani**

Location: **Outside the Science Museum**, London @17:00

Cause: Protest against Adani sponsorship of museum

Details: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/tell-the-science-museum-listen-to-indigenous-people-and-drop-adani-tickets-245638871477>



# Protest Guidance

## GENERAL ADVICE

- It is recommended you maintain a good awareness of your surroundings if in the vicinity of a demonstration or public gathering as some protests may escalate into violence.
- Anticipate localised travel disruption in the area of the demonstration.
- Allow additional time for journeys or arrange alternate routes to minimise potential delays.
- If in the area of a spontaneous protest, it is recommended to leave the area by the quickest means possible and seek a secure location.
- Continue to monitor media sources for updates and additions to the scheduled events.
- Consider the possibility of regular protests occurring throughout the summer as they are often not isolated events, with activists returning to the same locations time and again.

## KEEPING STAFF INFORMED AND PREPARED

- Inform staff that routes to work may be impacted by protest groups.
- Keep staff updated and provide guidance on how to approach the site (e.g. consider dressing down, no identification on display on approach to site, organised travel from transport hubs).
- Morning Briefs to include lockdown measures and scenario discussion to aid confidence in SOPs.
- Escalation and Incident procedures to be brief. Allocated Team Leads to be communicated.
- Named First Aiders on site to be communicated to the rest of the team daily.

## ACCESS CONTROL

- Secondary access points to be used, in order to keep main access areas clear.
- Perimeter Surveillance to be proactively undertaken.
- Reinforce security on approach to site.

## PATROLS

- To identify suspicious activity in the area.
- Vary patrols by changing routes and frequency.
- Check all exterior perimeter fencing.

## STAFF

- Consider increasing the number of staff on duty.
- Consider patrolling in pairs if appropriate.
- Staff access to the building may be prevented. Consideration should be given to working from another location.

## SOCIAL MEDIA AND CYBER SECURITY

- Monitor social media platforms for chatter regarding protests in your vicinity.
- Further guidance to staff could be given regarding their personal cyber security to ensure no cyber-attacks via home working Wi-Fi.

# Counter-Terrorism Guidance

## **THE FOLLOWING ADVICE IS FROM THE [NATIONAL COUNTER TERRORIST SECURITY OFFICE](#)**

### **GENERAL ADVICE ACT (Action Counters Terrorism)**

On identifying suspicious activity, individual, vehicle or suspect object, move away and call 999.

Or use the confidential hotline - **0800 789 321**

- **Provide updated and regular threat briefings**
- Maintain an effective **risk assessment**.
- Maintain training and engagement with **ACT app**.
- [Easing Lockdown Vigilance Campaign Toolkit](#)

### **SUSPICIOUS ITEMS**

#### **CONFIRM**

- Has it been deliberately hidden
- Is it obviously suspicious
- Is it typical for this location

#### **CLEAR**

- Do not touch the item, stay away from the hazard
- Be out of sight of the item or behind hard cover
- Cordon off the area in advance of police arrival.

#### **COMMUNICATE**

- Inform your control room/supervisor
- **DO NOT USE MOBILE PHONES/RADIOS** within 15m

### **CONTROL**

- Public should be stopped from entering the area
- Try to keep eyewitnesses on scene.

### **MARAUDING TERRORIST ATTACK**

#### **RUN**

- Escape if you can
- Is there a safe route? Run, if not Hide
- Insist others leave with you,
- Leave belongings behind.
- Do not attempt to film the incident. Run.

#### **HIDE**

- If you can see the attacker, they may be able to see you. Bullets go through glass, brick, wood and metal. You must still hide, even if you are behind a locked door.
- Be aware of your exits
- Be quiet, silence your phone
- Lock/barricade yourself in
- Move away from the door

#### **TELL**

- Call the police
- Nature of the Incident - What is happening?
- Location - Suspects –Direction –Descriptions

### **BOMB THREAT**

- Remain calm and talk to the caller
- Note the caller's number and record the call
- Write down the exact wording and time of call
  1. Where exactly is the bomb right now?
  2. When is it going to explode?
  3. What does it look like?
  4. What does the bomb contain?
  5. How will it be detonated?
  6. Who put the device in place?
  7. What is your name?
  8. What is your address?
  9. Do you represent a group or acting alone?
  10. Why have you placed the bomb?

Note the following

#### **The caller's**

Sex / Nationality / Age

#### **What threat language was used**

Well spoken / Irrational / Incoherent

#### **Caller's voice**

Calm / Excited / Accent – note if possible

#### **Background sounds**

Street noises/House noises





**Contact**  
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