INITIAL DRAFT: Offline Events in the US Related to Israel-Gaza Conflict, since October 7
Last updated on October 20, 2023

This is an initial list of offline events in the United States related to the Israel-Gaza conflict. The list focuses on attacks, vandalism, fights, or other offline violence or direct threats. US fatalities or particularly contentious events thus far include:

- the fatal stabbing of a Palestinian-American child, and serious injury of his mother, near Chicago, Illinois;
- a car ramming against a pro-Palestinian protest in Columbus, Ohio, resulting in at least one injury;
- bomb threats against synagogues, reported publicly in at least 5 states; and
- at least 12 of violence around demonstrations or counter-demonstrations on university campuses, which have become a flashpoint for such incidents.

All events are organized by 4 US regions (Northeast, South, Midwest, West), per US Census categorizations, and then by state. In addition to cases above, categories reported in public news media include: street assaults targeting Jewish, Muslim, Israeli, or Palestinian individuals; security incidents at non-profit offices; vandalism; threats to target specific populations or neighborhoods; bomb threats, especially of synagogues; harassment at local councils; harassment or attacks around protests; and hate-filled flyering.

The list purposefully does not include cases of increased security for religious institutions or schools, doxxing, verbal altercations, peaceful counter-protests, peaceful demonstrations more widely, or general online harassment that may be related to similar issues and have equally chilling effects. Multiple organizations are reporting Jews, Israelis, Muslims, and Palestinians are feeling less safe attending school or are changing their regular behavior in their community; this list does not cover those reports at this time:

- The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) has noted a spike in threats and hate against the Muslim community; and
- The Center on Extremism at the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) has tracked at least 141 antisemitic incidents (including vandalism, harassment or assaults) in the 10 days between October 7 and 17.

Publicly reported events clearly indicate overall heightened tensions and a spike in related incidents within communities, while specific groups (e.g., GDL) are engaged in similar types of activities as of before October 7. Given the ongoing conflict and US political/policy response, risk and violent events in the US are expected to continue at similar rates at minimum, with similar actors involved.

*This list is a live document and is not comprehensive, relying on news media and initial list of events from other monitors. Incidents reported solely to groups like CAIR, ADL, FBI, or other monitoring groups, and not reported publicly, are not included here. To note any omissions or partner on real-time data/analysis, please email bdi@princeton.edu*
**Northeast**

**New York**

- On October 13, police arrested Republican New York City Councilwoman Inna Vernikov after she was seen with a firearm at a pro-Palestinian rally at Brooklyn College.

- On October 13, hundreds of students held a pro-Palestinian march at Hunter College in Manhattan while pro-Israel counter demonstrators gathered nearby. One pro-Palestinian protester was taken into custody and charged with petit larceny, having crossed into a section reserved for pro-Israel protesters and snatched an Israeli flag. No injuries were reported.

- On October 13, the New York Police Department arrested hundreds of demonstrators for blocking the street of Senator Schumer's home during a protest.

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- On October 11, three men waving Israeli flags yelled anti-Palestinian remarks at three men walking in Brooklyn and attacked at least one of the men.

- On October 11, two Jewish men approached two men holding Palestinian flags, before grabbing a flag and hitting one of the men with it.

- On October 11, a group of boys fired fake firearms at B’Nai Yosef synagogue in Brooklyn. Law enforcement did not know the firearms contained gel pellets at the time of the threat.

- On October 11, a female suspect allegedly assaulted an Israeli Columbia student, who was putting up pro-Israel posters.

- On October 10, Oren Levy, a conservative journalist who often rallies against drag story hours, and his brother, Ronen Levy, threatened to physically assault and reportedly tripped an independent reporter at a pro-Israel rally in New York City. (BDI)

- On October 10, police closed the streets around a synagogue in the Hamptons after a backpack was found, triggering a bomb scare.

- On October 9, white nationalist flyers were distributed in a residential neighborhood in Johnston.

- On October 8, protesters were seen holding images of swastikas and making pro-Palestine statements; the location of the rally is unknown.
New Jersey

- On October 13, a fight reportedly broke out between students at Cherry Hill High School, allegedly as a result of the recent conflict. The school notified parents about the incident and announced that the altercation between students was immediately addressed by school officials.

- On October 13, the Council on American-Islamic Relations reported an incident involving the burning of a Quran in front of a South-Asian restaurant in South Jersey. Reports also included a phone call that threatened arson and the killing of a Palestinian business owner and his family.

- On October 12, pro-Palestine protesters in Rutgers - New Brunswick University met virtually after protesters pulled the event from its in-person setting, for fear of safety following the University President's response to the ongoing conflict.

- On October 12, students at a high school in south New Jersey allegedly fought in the cafeteria over the Israel-Gaza conflict.

Rhode Island

- On October 12, an individual made a threat via voicemail to a Providence synagogue. Police arrested that man the next day.

- On October 9, unknown individuals left dozens of white nationalist messages in Johnston.

Pennsylvania

- On October 17, the neo-Nazi group Storm 14 posted a picture on Telegram of at least five supporters holding a rally, featuring neo-Nazi flags and the flag of the far-right Ukrainian Azov Brigade, at a monument for a Ukrainian Waffen SS division at the St. Mary’s Ukrainian Catholic Cemetery in Elkins Park.
  - In September, following widespread criticism from the media and Jewish advocacy groups, the church temporarily covered the monument.

- On October 13, a South Lebanon Township man approached a peaceful pro-Palestinian demonstration in Harrisburg, before yelling racial slurs and pointing a gun at them. Police arrested the man — after a day of urging by Muslim civil rights organizations — and charged him with a felony count of ethnic intimidation and misdemeanor charges of making terroristic threats and simple assault by physical menace.

- On October 13, upwards of 100 people gathered near the University of Pittsburgh in support of Palestine. During the protest, a man shouted anti-Palestinian epithets and forced his way into the crowd; he was escorted away by campus police.
On October 11, residents of Warrington in Bucks County reported finding antisemitic flyers left outside of their homes overnight. The flyers contained antisemitic language and imagery associated with GoyimTV, a media platform operated by the antisemitic organization Goyim Defense League.

Massachusetts

- On October 15, a synagogue in Attleboro received a bomb threat by email. The building was evacuated; the police later deemed the threat a hoax.

- On October 12, protesters gathered outside of a Cambridge office of Elbit Systems, a defense contractor with a parent company in Israel. Some protesters chained themselves to the door. They also painted “Elbit Kills” in red paint on the building.

- On October 12, about two dozen people blocked the entrances to L3 Harris Technologies, a defense contractor, in North Hampton, with boat trailers and a boat as barriers. Although demonstrators said the protest was pre-planned before the developing Israel-Gaza conflict, the war’s outbreak “heightened the urgency.” Some demonstrators chained themselves to the barrier. After six hours, state police and North Hampton police began removing people and arrested seven protesters.

- Around October 10, the word “Nazis” was spray-painted on a sign for the Islamic Seminary of Boston and the Palestinian Cultural Center for Peace.

Maine

- On October 12, the Portland Police Department announced that anti-Israel and white supremacist graffiti by members of New England-based neo-Nazi group Nationalist Social Club (NSC-131) had been covered up. Residents discovered the graffiti on a walking trail near the city’s sewage treatment plant.

Connecticut

- On October 13, a synagogue in West Hartford received a bomb threat. Police responded and searched the building. They determined the threat was a hoax. This was reported as one of multiple “swatting” of Jewish institutions in the state.

Midwest

Illinois

- On October 14, police arrested and charged Joseph M. Czuba with a hate crime after fatally stabbing Wadea Al-Fayoume, a six-year-old Palestinian-American child, and critically injuring his mother. Czuba targeted the victims because of their faith and the ongoing Israel-Gaza conflict. According to Wadea’s mother, Czuba knocked on her door and proceeded to choke and attack her with a knife, shouting, “you Muslims must die!”
The Council of American-Islamic Relations left a statement calling on officials and broadcasters to “reconsider fanning an atmosphere of hate and dehumanization, not seen since the aftermath of 9/11 which puts communities at certain risk.”

- On October 12, a temple in Skokie received a bomb threat and was forced to evacuate.

- On October 11, thousands of demonstrators held a pro-Palestinian rally in Chicago. The demonstration was mostly peaceful, aside from several incidents where an unidentified man tried to steal a Palestinian flag from demonstrators and fled inside a building, and a small group nearby burned an Israeli flag away from the main march. The situation did not escalate further, and no arrests were made.

Michigan

- On October 14, the Ninth District Court in Dearborn charged Carl Mintz, a 41-year-old from Farmington Hills, with making a terrorism threat for allegedly threatening violence against Palestinian Americans in Dearborn on Facebook.

- On October 10, Wayne State University Students for Justice in Palestine reported being verbally and physically harassed after painting the flag of Palestine on the school's Spirit Rock.

- On October 9, law enforcement announced the effort to increase patrols in Jewish and Palestinian communities with higher populations, such as Bloomfield Hills, Dearborn, Oak Park, and Farmington Hills.

Indiana

- On October 9, students and members from Indiana University Hillel and Chabad and the Indiana Israel Public Affairs Committee held a pro-Israel demonstration in Bloomington. Over 100 students from the Palestinian Solidarity Committee held a pro-Palestinian counter-demonstration. While both demonstrations were mostly peaceful, heated verbal exchanges led police to separate the groups.

- On October 6, the Department of Justice charged an Indiana man for sending antisemitic death threats via voicemail to Anti-Defamation League (ADL) offices in New York, Colorado, and Nevada.

Ohio

- Around October 13, an individual with a history of Islamophobic and anti-Palestinian harassment entered the Cleveland Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) - Ohio office and verbally harassed and filmed CAIR staff during an event. Police removed the person.
● On October 12, a man drove his car into a group of pro-Palestinian protesters in Columbus, hitting at least one protestor. The suspect was taken into custody; no charges have been filed as of October 13.

Missouri

● On October 9 and 10, residents in south St. Louis discovered several antisemitic markings at Christy Park in south St. Louis and similar markings plastered around the neighborhood.

Minnesota

● On October 9, nearly 500 people gathered outside of Amy Klobuchar’s office in downtown Minneapolis to demand an end to U.S. aid to Israel. One counter-protester rallied across the street. Several far-right Facebook groups and Telegram channels have reported and commented on the rally; at least one anonymous poster threatened to harm the group with a car ramming.

South

Florida

● On October 11, three people were arrested at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton during a "Protest for Palestine" march. Campus police intervened, separating pro-Israel counter-protesters from pro-Palestine demonstrators. Witnesses reported that a young woman was tackled to the ground by a campus police officer, and demonstrators were seen elbowing each other, resulting in several students being taken away in handcuffs.

● On October 11, the University of South Florida’s campus police investigated a bomb threat related to the USF Hillel building on its Tampa campus. Law enforcement found that there was no legitimate threat, and determined it was a misunderstanding between two people communicating on social media.

● On October 9, over 100 demonstrators marched in Fort Lauderdale in support of Palestine and were met by hundreds of counter-demonstrators supporting Israel. Confrontations between the demonstrators escalated, resulting in physical altercations with punches thrown. One individual from the pro-Palestine group reported being pepper-sprayed and having their shirt torn. Among the pro-Israel demonstrators, a Palestinian flag was set on fire. Law enforcement responded by using pepper spray on the demonstrators and arresting at least one individual from the pro-Israel group.

● On October 9, at the University of Florida in Gainesville, a loud noise disrupted a "United with Israel" vigil, leading to a panic among the crowd, and at least five people were injured during the ensuing rush; police indicated there was no malicious intent behind
the incident. The incident remains a stark example of offline injuries resulting from the current climate of tension and fear, absent direct threat.

- On October 8, opposing rallies were held by supporters of Israel and Palestine in Fort Lauderdale, with several protesters assaulted and a Palestinian flag burned. A pro-Israel protester was arrested for causing a disturbance during clashes between the two groups.

- On October 8, Andrew Johnson was caught vandalizing The Shul of Downtown synagogue in the Brickell neighborhood of Miami; Johnson had previously harassed congregants according to Rabbi Chaim Lipskar.

- On October 8, Palestinian supporters clashed with Israel supporters, resulting in the arrest of at least one pro-Palestinian and one pro-Israeli protester, along with multiple injuries during a rally of around 200 pro-Palestinian supporters at a Boston Market in Temple Terrace, Florida.

North Carolina

- On October 12, a rally in support of Palestine held at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill grew contentious as counter-demonstrators assembled, sparking heated debates and occasional confrontations between the two groups. In some instances, law enforcement had to intervene to address physical altercations, including an incident in which an Israeli professor, who waved an Israeli flag and yelled “Nazis!” in front of pro-Palestine demonstrators, was allegedly pushed down a flight of stairs by an unidentified individual and was escorted away by UNC police.

- On October 11, 44-year-old Michael Patrick Toone was charged with cyberstalking for sending threatening and antisemitic emails to a local synagogue in Asheville. The content of the emails and name of the synagogue have not been released.

South Carolina

- On October 11, antisemitic propaganda was discovered at homes in the Lake Carolina neighborhood of Columbia, South Carolina, prompting an investigation by the Richland County Sheriff's Department; specific details about the content and distributor of the propaganda remain unknown.

Georgia

- On October 14, an unknown actor vandalized the fraternity house for Alpha Epsilon Pi on the Georgia Tech campus, writing “Free Palestine” on the building. Alpha Epsilon Pi is a Jewish fraternity and is currently flying a banner reading “We Stand with Israel”.

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On October 13, Goyim Defense League flyered at multiple locations across the state — from flyers in Rome against ADL, where police confronted them after the community called in the activity, to flyers on a federal building in Atlanta, to a banner drop in downtown Atlanta over a highway.

Additional antisemitic flyers circulated in an unincorporated area of Douglasville.

Washington, D.C.

On October 18, over 10,000 protesters gathered for a pro-Palestinian demonstration calling for a ceasefire. The protest began at the National Mall before making its way to the Capitol. Around 500 protesters, organized by the Jewish Voice for Peace, were also inside the Cannon building. Police arrested at least 300 protesters; three of the arrested protesters were charged with assault on a police officer during processing.

NBC reported on new death threats leveled against Muslim members of Congress (Reps. Ilhan Omar and Rashida Tlaib). While the Representatives have long had security details due to persistent threats, “Omar’s office said the threats in the past 10 days have been worse than ever.” Several Jewish members contacted by NBC said they had not seen a noticeable spike.

Virginia

On October 19, the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) canceled their annual banquet, citing the specific nature of the violent anti-Palestinian and anti-Muslim threats they received (such as threats of a bomb planted in hotel parking, and threats to kill specific hotel managers by name) and the “inability to secure additional security from local law enforcement agencies.”

West

California

On October 14, a Veterans on Patrol (VOP) volunteer attended a pro-Palestine march in Sacramento, in order to find “radical Jihads” and record license plate numbers that participated in the rally in a show of intimidation. The volunteer’s attendance likely stems from conspiracy theories which have utilized the recent Middle East war to create further fear around migrants crossing the border.

On October 14, pro-Israel counter-protesters maced pro-Palestine protesters at a rally in Los Angeles; Los Angeles police protected the pro-Israel counter-protesters.

On October 13, San Diego news outlets reported that unknown actors had vandalized the Islamic Center of San Diego, attaching around 60 flyers to trees and tying rags on a
fence in the shape of Israel’s flag.

- On October 12, the San Diego Union Tribune reported that Torrey Pines High School had discovered antisemitic graffiti in a restroom.

- On October 11, counter-protesters at UC Berkeley disrupted a group of primarily Jewish students reading the names of Israelis killed and kidnapped by Hamas. The counter-protesters allegedly performed Nazi salutes and a physical altercation occurred, resulting in minor injuries to a campus Rabbi.

- On October 11, a group of men threatened UCLA students attending a “Palestine Emergency Panel,” smashing at least one laptop and threatening to tear the students’ “heads off.”

- On October 8 and 11, multiple antisemitic flyers were distributed in residential neighborhoods in Los Osos and Pismo Beach, respectively.

- On October 10, Vallejo City Council was bombarded with racist, antisemitic public comments in an apparently organized campaign. The City of Claremont reported receiving similar antisemitic remarks during an October 10 City Council meeting – following the event, the city will no longer accept public comments via remote devices.

- On October 10, damage from rocks thrown at a Fresno synagogue and a Mediterranean business were being investigated as antisemitic hate crimes; one suspect was arrested later that day.

- On October 10, antisemitic flyers were distributed in Orange County.

- On October 10, pro-Israel and pro-Palestine protesters clashed at a rally in Santa Clarita. One protester allegedly pointed pepper spray at another, but the sheriff reported that the clash mostly consisted of shouting.

- On October 10, unknown assailants broke a window at a Jewish temple and left an antisemitic note at a bakery in Fresno. One person was later arrested in relation to the bakery incident.

- On October 8, thousands of pro-Palestine demonstrators rallied outside the Israeli consulate in San Francisco. At one point, some lanes in the 405 Freeway were briefly shut down. The demonstration was mostly peaceful, although a small crowd of pro-Israeli counter-demonstrators physically confronted the demonstrators and one pro-Israeli individual fired pepper spray, injuring a Los Angeles Times photographer. Several other counter-demonstrators also pepper-sprayed demonstrators before fleeing. Police made no arrests. (ACLED)
Arizona

- On October 12, Ethan Schmidt-Crocket, a known anti-LGBTQ+ actor, counter-protested against a pro-Palestinian rally at the Phoenix state Capitol; at least one physical altercation occurred between a member associated with Schmidt and a pro-Palestinian protester.

Texas

- On October 12, multiple men reportedly harassed students at the University of Texas during a Palestine Solidarity Committee meeting, yelling profanities, calling the students terrorists, and throwing papers at attendees. The Texas chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-Texas) called for the arrest of the men.

- On October 8, approximately 250 antisemitic flyers were left on parked cars outside the Fort Worth Botanic Gardens.

Utah

- On October 8, several synagogues across the state received bomb threats and were forced to evacuate.

Oklahoma

- Around October 11, antisemitic flyers were distributed in a residential neighborhood in Ardmore.

Oregon

- On October 15, the Islamic Society of Greater Portland received a threatening email. The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) is calling on the act to be investigated as a hate crime.

Washington

- On October 8, several physical altercations were recorded at a protest in Kirkland; police allegedly used pepper balls to separate pro-Israel and pro-Palestine protesters.