

# FBI Analysis of Terrorist Incidents and Terrorist Related Activities in the United States 1985



Terrorist Research and Analytical Center  
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## PREFACE

The following definitions establish the minimum criteria used by the FBI to determine if criminal acts should be labeled terrorist.

### Terrorism:

Terrorism is the unlawful use of force or violence against persons or property to intimidate or coerce a government, the civilian population, or any segment thereof, in furtherance of political or social objectives.

### Terrorist Incident:

A terrorist incident is a violent act or an act dangerous to human life in violation of the criminal laws of the United States or of any state to intimidate or coerce a government, the civilian population, or any segment thereof, in furtherance of political or social objectives.

### Terrorist Incident Prevented:

A documented instance in which a violent act by a known or suspected terrorist group or individual with the means and a proven propensity for violence is successfully interdicted through investigative activity.

In order to give a clearer picture of trends and the dimensions of the terrorism problem in the United States, this report includes a section on terrorist related activities. These are criminal acts committed either in support of or as a result of terrorism, but which are not intended to intimidate or coerce in furtherance of political or social objectives. A bank robbery committed for the purpose of financing a terrorist group would be an example of terrorist related activity which falls short of meeting the incident criteria.

Also included is a section which deals with revising statistics from previous publications.

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# Terrorist Incidents in the United States by Terrorist Group

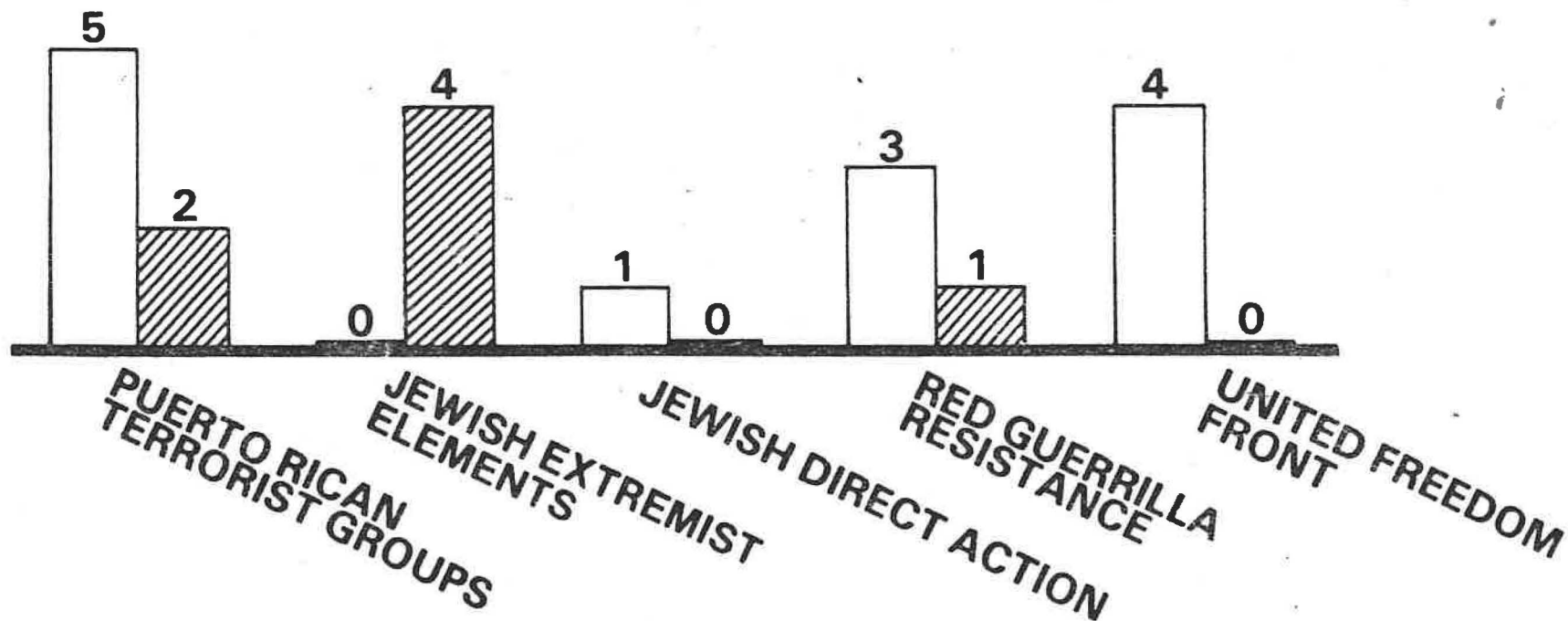
1984 - 1985

TOTAL INCIDENTS

13 (1984)



7 (1985)





## JEWISH TERRORIST GROUPS

In FBI terrorism analyses published since 1981, responsibility for 18 terrorist incidents has been attributed to groups seeking to publicize past and present injustices suffered by the Jewish people. While claims for some of these acts have been made in the names of the "Jewish Defenders," "United Jewish Underground," and "Jewish Direct Action," 15 of the incidents were attributed to the Jewish Defense League, by far the most well known of these groups.

The JDL was founded on June 16, 1968, by Rabbi Meir Kahane in Brooklyn, New York, and was subsequently incorporated in the state of New York on September 30, 1968. "Never again" is the official slogan of the JDL. This slogan is in reference to the JDL's adherence to the principle that unless a constant vigilance is maintained to battle against anti-Semitism, the Holocaust will reoccur.

While headquartered in New York City, the JDL has chapters located in several of the larger metropolitan areas of the United States. The JDL is composed primarily of young Jewish-American extremists who consider themselves to be a front line of defense against anti-Semitism, as well as being supporters of the state of Israel. Responsibility for numerous acts of violence in recent years, to include arsons, bombings, and assaults, which have been directed against Soviet diplomatic establishments and personnel, individuals associated with the American-Arab community, and persons allegedly affiliated with the World War II Nazi Germany atrocities committed against the Jewish race has been claimed in the name of the JDL. These terrorist activities have been perpetrated in an attempt to focus international attention on the plight of Soviet Jews, as well as to retaliate against Nazi and Arab transgressions against the Jewish people.

In 1985 four incidents are being attributed to Jewish extremists. Although certain evidence leads to suspicion of elements of the JDL, final attribution to any one specific group must await further investigation.

KILLED: 2      INJURED: 9

On May 15, 1985, at approximately 2:30 a.m., a pipe bomb exploded at the front door of Dr. George Ashley's residence in Northridge, California. There were no injuries or deaths as a

result of this blast; however, there was approximately \$2,000 property damage. Ashley is a professor at the Institute for Historical Review, a private research organization in Torrance, California, which has claimed that the Holocaust, the atrocities incurred by the Jewish people during World War II, never occurred. A crime scene investigation determined that Ashley's sidewalk had been spray-painted with the letters "JDL" prior to the explosion.

KILLED: 0            INJURED: 0

On August 15, 1985, at approximately 4:25 a.m., a passerby noticed a vehicle on fire in front of 704 14th Avenue in Paterson, New Jersey. This individual alerted the resident at 702 14th Avenue, a Lidia Alonso, to the fire. Alonso, after seeing the car ablaze, ran next door to awaken its owner Tscherim Soobzokov. After Alonso rang his doorbell and pounded on his windows, Soobzokov appeared at his front door and noticed his car on fire. As he opened his screen door to step outside, an explosive device detonated, inflicting extensive and serious injuries to him. Alonso received abrasions of the face and legs. Soobzokov died on September 6, 1985, as a result of the injuries he incurred. Soobzokov was identified in 1977 as a Nazi war criminal in a book by the author Howard Blum entitled "Wanted: The Search for Nazis in America." This allegation resulted in Soobzokov becoming the target of various demonstrations and harassment tactics by anti-Nazi extremists.

KILLED: 1            INJURED: 1

On September 6, 1985, at approximately 4:30 a.m., Robert Seifried observed a fire at the residence of Elmars Sprogis in Brentwood, New York, and, while alerting Sprogis to the fire, triggered an explosive device that had been placed on Sprogis' front steps. Seifried was seriously injured; Sprogis received no injuries.

At approximately 4:55 a.m., Newsday newspaper received a telephone call from an unknown male stating, "Listen carefully, Jewish Defense League, Nazi war criminal. Bomb-Never again." The caller immediately hung up.

At approximately 5:05 a.m., a second call was received at Newsday, and the same message was given with the exclusion of the statement, "Never again."

Sprogis is an alleged former Latvian police official who was purportedly responsible for guarding Jews incarcerated in

Nazi concentration camps during World War II. Sprogis was a defendant in a highly publicized deportation proceeding in Uniondale, New York, wherein all charges against Sprogis were dismissed. Members of the JDL and related militant Jewish organizations were highly critical of the decision.

KILLED: 0      INJURED: 1

On October 11, 1985, at approximately 9 a.m. (PDT), a bomb exploded at the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (AAADC) office in Santa Ana, California, killing the AAADC Western Regional Director, Alexander Odeh. Odeh unlocked the door to the AAADC office and upon opening it, triggered a bomb which had been rigged to detonate upon such action. At least seven other individuals were injured by flying debris from the explosion.

KILLED: 1      INJURED: 7

SECTION IV  
SUMMARIES OF  
SUSPECTED TERRORIST  
INCIDENTS  
1985



SUSPECTED TERRORIST INCIDENTS - 1985

On February 18, 1985, at approximately 6:30 a.m., an improvised explosive device (IED) was found in the gas tank of a vehicle bearing diplomatic plates and assigned to a Senior Advisor of the Soviet Mission to the United Nations in New York. The IED functioned as designed but failed to ignite the gasoline in the vehicle's tank resulting in minimal damage to the vehicle. The next day, an unknown male telephoned the Associated Press and advised that similar attacks would continue until Soviet prisoners Anatoly Shcharansky and Andrei Sakharov are released. The modus operandi utilized and the target of this device strongly indicate the probable involvement of Jewish extremists.

KILLED: 0          INJURED: 0

On April 22, 1985, at approximately 9:30 a.m., an explosive device was discovered in the foyer near the ticket window at the Fox Theater, Venice, California. The device was rendered safe at the scene. No credit was claimed for the placement of the device. The theater was featuring Russian-made films at the time of the incident. The modus operandi utilized, as well as the target selected, indicates possible involvement of Jewish extremists.

KILLED: 0          INJURED: 0

On June 26, 1985, at approximately 2:40 a.m., a fire bomb detonated at the Ahmaddiya Movement in Islam (AMI) Mosque in Baltimore, Maryland. The fire was caused by an unknown liquid thrown through windows at two separate areas of the building. While no group claimed credit for this incident, a group known as FUQRA is suspected. In 1983, FUQRA was responsible for three terrorist incidents targeted against AMI using similar modus operandi. (The goal of FUQRA is to eliminate and/or intimidate members of AMI through assassination, fire bombing, and arson.)

KILLED: 0          INJURED: 0

On July 3, 1985, at approximately 8:30 a.m., an explosive device was found at the entrance to the Army-Navy Recruiting Station in Fajardo, Puerto Rico. The device was rendered safe at the scene. Based on modus operandi, the OVRP and/or its supporters are suspected in the incident.

KILLED: 0          INJURED: 0

On August 16, 1985, at approximately 8:30 a.m., a bomb was discovered outside a commercial building which houses the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee office in West Roxbury, Massachusetts. The bomb was removed from this property, but during the render safe process, the device detonated injuring three police officers, one seriously.

Later that day, anonymous calls were received at the Boston Globe and Boston Herald newspapers from an individual who claimed to be a JDL spokesman. The caller implied that the JDL was responsible for the placing of the bomb. Based on the above, the JDL and/or its supporters are suspected in this incident.

KILLED: 0      INJURED: 3

On August 29, 1985, at approximately 11:50 a.m., an official of the Iranian Mission to the United Nations, New York, New York, reported receipt of a suspicious package addressed to the Iranian Ambassador and marked "personal." The package was examined and determined to be an explosive device. No group claimed credit for this incident.

KILLED: 0      INJURED: 0