



# Executive Protection Issues ~ December 2020

## Monthly Protective Intelligence Report

New Jersey Regional Operations & Intelligence Center (ROIC), Protective Intelligence ~ ROIC202011-20662C  
ROIC SIN: NJ-TER-0200 (Targets/Vulnerabilities)/ DHS SIN: HSEC 8 (Terrorist Operations)  
4 December 2020

### Risk Management

#### Increasing Threats to Members of Congress

Year to date, the US Capitol Police has opened more than 6,835 threat assessment investigations, on track to surpass its 2019 record of 6,955 cases, which exceeded 2018's 4,894.<sup>1</sup>

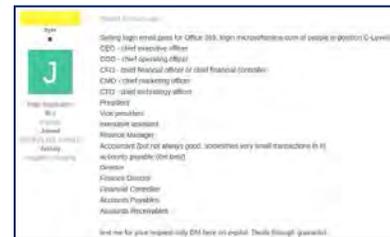
#### Inflammatory Rhetoric by Politicians

When political operatives use inflammatory rhetoric regarding rivals, less nuanced supporters may misinterpret such rhetoric and escalate the online anger toward the targets, increasing the likelihood of violent threats that could necessitate details.<sup>2</sup> Recent examples include:

- **11/30/20:** Joe diGenova, POTUS' campaign lawyer, said Chris Krebs, the recently fired Director of DHS' Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, should be drawn, quartered, and shot for saying the election was the most secure in US history.<sup>3</sup>
- **11/5/20:** Former POTUS advisor Steve Bannon said he would behead FBI Director Christopher Wray and Dr. Anthony Fauci, Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, and put their heads on pikes as a warning to federal bureaucrats.<sup>4</sup>
- **11/4/20:** Kansas state Representative-elect Aaron Coleman, 20, tweeted, "...when I call a hit out on you it's real," predicting Governor Laura Kelly would face an "extremely bloody" primary if she ran for reelection.<sup>5</sup>
- **11/4/20:** New Jersey political operative Chris Emrich tweeted, "need a John Wilkes Booth Project imo," a reference to then-POTUS Lincoln's 1865 assassination.<sup>6</sup>

#### C-Suite Email Accounts for Sale

A Russian hacker is selling valid email and password combinations for Office 365 and Microsoft accounts used by hundreds of C-suite executives from a variety of companies worldwide. The hacker is charging \$100 to \$1500 per email account, based on the company's size and the executive's role.<sup>7</sup>



The seller's ad on Exploit.in

#### Travel Threat - China

The People's Republic of China will likely continue detaining executives in retaliation for the US Justice Department's prosecution of Chinese scholars and executives. Previous incidents include:

- **2018:** Chinese officials charged two Canadian citizens with espionage after Canadian law enforcement arrested Huawei CFO Meng Wanzhou for the United States.
- **2014:** Chinese authorities arrested a Canadian couple for espionage in response to the Canadian arrest of Su Bin, a Chinese citizen, at the request of the United States. Su later admitted that he conspired to export US military information illegally.
- **Analytic Note:** Chinese officials previously warned their American counterparts of the potential threat to American businesspeople, who make up the largest proportion of travelers from the United States to the PRC. Detaining an American executive might pressure the US government to stop taking law enforcement action against PRC affiliates and force employers to exchange proprietary information for the executive's freedom.<sup>8</sup>

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## Threats and Incidents in the United States

### Internet Threats

- **11/18/20:** Two Twitter users posted a thread that included threats to kill POTUS and blow up the White House.<sup>9</sup>
- **11/2/20:** The neo-Nazi Telegram channel “EFC” posted video clips and statements urging followers to kill “scum politicians” and their “rival political constituents.”<sup>10</sup>
- **10/31/20:** On the neo-Nazi Telegram channel “NSA,” a user encouraged the killing of POTUS and then-FVPOTUS Biden, stating, “...I suggest you to kill Trump and Biden.”<sup>11</sup>
- **10/25/20:** An instant messaging channel posted a graphic image showing an individual holding the bleeding heads of POTUS and then-FVPOTUS Biden. The image background includes the phrase, “Death to system there is no political solution.”<sup>12</sup>

### Midwest

- **Illinois, 11/17/20:** Governor J.B. Pritzker said his teenage daughter received threatening messages after @deuxmoiworld, a parody Twitter account, falsely identified her in a viral image of people flouting COVID-19 restrictions at a Chicago restaurant.<sup>13</sup>
- **Michigan**
  - **11/23/20:** Multiple state, county, and local election officials received threats of violence regarding the presidential election during the certification process:
    - Aaron Van Langevelde, a state Board of Canvassers member, received actionable threats against him and his family shortly after his vote to certify the election. Norm Shinkle, a fellow Board member, also received threats.
    - **11/17/20:** Wayne County Board of Canvassers member Monica Palmer received threats to her and her family, including death threats, during and after a meeting to certify the election results.
      - At least one text included graphic photos of naked, dead women and then a photo of her daughter. Another text called her a terrorist and said her entire family should fear for their lives.
      - State Representative-elect Abraham Aiyash received social media threats, including graphic images, his address, and siblings' names.
      - Some Board members' personal information was posted online.
      - **11/11/20:** A subject interrupted a previous Board Zoom meeting threatening rape and violence against four members' mothers.
    - **11/6/20:** Tina Barton, the Rochester Hills Clerk, reported receiving threatening emails and calls.<sup>14</sup>

### Northeast

- **Delaware, 11/28/20:** PEOTUS Biden, 78, twisted his ankle while playing with his dog, incurring a hairline fractures in his foot that requires a walking boot for several weeks.<sup>15</sup>
- **Maine, 11/16/20:** Officials arrested Katrina F. Preble, 56, after she left threatening messages for US Senator Susan Collins (ME).

- **11/6/20:** Preble left two rambling voicemails at the Senator's Bangor office, saying she would kill the Senator three times.
  - Later, Preble claimed Senator Collins had threatened her life, and she had the right to tell the Senator she would defend herself with deadly force.
- **11/11/20:** Preble left six messages at Senator Collins' Washington, DC, office. In one message, Preble said, "We the people are going to put you in front of the firing squads, stretch you by the neck. Decapitate you."
- **Analytic Note:** In 2016, Preble, a married grandmother, pled guilty to violating a protection from abuse order and served 48 hours in jail.<sup>16</sup>
- **New Jersey**
  - **11/24/20:** A man, 45, said he wanted to harm POTUS, Governor Phil Murphy, and Jersey City Mayor Steven Fulop.<sup>17</sup>
  - **11/16/20:** When a business advised a caller that he would have to quarantine before his appointment due to the state's COVID-19 mitigation measures, the man said, "hopefully someone will kill the Governor."<sup>18</sup>
  - **11/15/20:** A Twitter user tweeted, "My Instagram comment got removed bc I said I want to punch Phil Murphy in his crooked teeth."
    - The tweet included an image of an Instagram violation warning based on a post stating, "I'd love to punch this man square in his crooked teeth."<sup>19</sup>
  - **11/15/20:** An anonymous man called a police department's non-emergency line and said he would go to Governor Murphy's home if "they" shut the state again" in an apparent reference to the State's COVID-19 mitigation measures.<sup>20</sup>
  - **11/14/20:** An identified man, 43, reportedly made threats of violence against the Democratic Party and Democratic-voting citizens and had been "training in the woods with weapons" with other "Trump militia Proud Boys members."
    - **Analytic Note:** Some domestic extremists have posted threatening online calls to action, encouraging followers to target Democratic politicians.<sup>21</sup>
  - **11/9/20:** An autistic male, 23, called a police department, recited the Governor's address, and said, "I'm going to kill Governor Murphy... I have a knife."<sup>22</sup>
  - **11/2/20:** A woman, 35, made a threatening statement during a conversation with US Representative Mikie Sherrill (NJ)'s staff at the district office.<sup>23</sup>
    - **Analytic Note:** The subject previously made harassing and threatening calls to US Representative Donald Payne (NJ) and his staff.
- **New York**
  - **11/23/20:** A federal grand jury indicted Samuel Mara, 24, for cyberstalking and threatening to kill Mayor Byron W. Brown via Facebook in June. In July, Mara continued threatening the Mayor, his family, and others.<sup>24</sup>
  - **11/10/20:** Officials arrested Brian Maiorana, 54, for posting multiple threats, beginning in September, to kill elected officials and others, encouraging readers to do the same.



- The posts included an anti-Semitic reference to US Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (NY).
- Maiorana had a gun, Taser, crossbow, baton, and ammunition at home, despite a 2007 sexual assault conviction.
- **Analytic Note:** One post referenced “The Turner Diaries,” a novel depicting an overthrow of the US government, nuclear war, and the extermination of Jews and non-whites. The book, influential among white nationalist and neo-Nazis, has inspired attacks such as the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing.<sup>25</sup>

- **Pennsylvania**

- **11/5/20:** An unidentified protester yelled that if POTUS was at the demonstration, he would shoot and kill him.
  - **Click the image for video of the incident.**<sup>26</sup>
- **11/8/20:** The Philadelphia Police Department investigated numerous threats, some referencing the Second Amendment, to City Commissioner Al Schmidt and other election officials since they began counting votes.
  - **11/5/20:** Police arrested two Virginia men with guns after they arrived at the Pennsylvania Convention Center, a vote-counting site, reportedly to “straighten out the vote.”
  - **Analytic Note:** In October, a subject referred to the Second Amendment in a 311-call threatening violence against politicians and election officials.<sup>27</sup>



## Pacific

- **Oregon, 11/5/20:** For the fourth night in a week, protesters targeted Portland City Commissioner Dan Ryan's home, breaking a window and potted plants as well as throwing lit flares and paint-filled balloons at the home.<sup>28</sup>

## South

- **Florida**

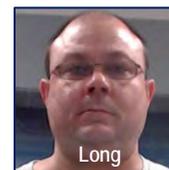
- **11/14/20:** The Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office arrested Karen Jones, 55, after she tweeted, “[Governor Ron DeSantis, and US Senators Marco Rubio (FL) and Rick Scott (FL)] are looting my state. Imma shoot them.”
  - Jones admitted posting the tweet, claiming it was a joke.<sup>29</sup>
- **11/13/20:** A court sentenced Matthew Alexander King, 23, to 20 years in prison for conspiring to kill the federal judge and prosecutor who handled King's 2018 case, in which King was found guilty of a prior murder-for-hire.<sup>30</sup>
- **11/5/20:** Police arrested Steven DiLauro, 31, for tweeting a threat to US Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (KY) in October. DiLauro told a Miami-Dade detective he posted two comments in anger:





White House and Trump Tower. Matthews conspired with Jaylyn Christopher Molina (aka Abdur Rahim), 22, to share bomb-making information since 2019.<sup>39</sup>

- **11/8/20:** Officials investigated a high school student who posted a 30-second video showing him threatening PEOTUS Biden while holding two guns. The student asked if other POTUS supporters wanted to “assassinate Joe Biden,” and ended the video saying, “Where you at Joe Biden? I’m coming for you.”
  - The Harris County District Attorney’s Office decided the student had not committed a crime, and his parents voluntarily turned over the guns.<sup>40</sup>
- **Washington DC**
  - **11/23/20:** Administrator Emily Murphy of the General Services Administration reported receiving threats to her, her staff, her family, and her pets by phone, mail, and online before the agency formally recognized PEOTUS Biden.<sup>41</sup>
  - **11/22/20:** The US Secret Service (USSS) arrested Eric Paul Mangold of Texas after he drove his moped through a White House vehicle gate as another vehicle left.
    - Mangold had a knife and bag of weed at the time.<sup>42</sup>
  - **11/22/20:** The USSS arrested Amina Washington-Bey for trying to enter the White House complex, violating multiple stay away orders. The previous day, officers arrested Washington-Bey for crawling under a temporary security barrier and into a restricted White House area.
    - **Analytic Note:** Since 2014, the USSS has repeatedly arrested Washington-Bey, reportedly diagnosed with schizophrenia and post-traumatic stress disorder, for numerous attempts to enter the White House grounds.<sup>43</sup>
  - **11/7/20:** The USSS arrested Niki Hummel, 52, after she stole a vehicle in Pennsylvania, drove to the White House, and asked to speak with POTUS. She believed assassins were trying to kill her. The USSS found a BB gun in the car.<sup>44</sup>
- **West Virginia, 11/19/20:** The West Virginia State Police arrested Steven Edward Long, 49, after he tweeted a threat to Governor Jim Justice and his staff.
  - Long told troopers he was expressing his belief, not a threat, that the pandemic policies of Governor Justice, State Medical Director Anye Amjad, and COVID-19 Czar Clay Marsh violate the Constitution and they should be executed publicly in retaliation. Wood added that the tweet was an attempt to influence future COVID-19 policies by intimidation and the threat of public execution.<sup>45</sup>



## West

- **Arizona, 11/18/20:** Secretary of State Katie Hobbs reported ongoing and escalating threats of violence against her, her staff, her family, and her pets since the election.
  - At least one threat on Parler, a social media site, suggested burning Secretary Hobbs’ house down and killing her and her family to teach the “fraudsters a lesson.”
    - Someone posted her home address and other personal information as well as her son’s phone number on Parler.

- **11/17/20:** Demonstrators congregated outside the Secretary's home.
- **Analytic Note:** Some threats appeared to stem from public distrust of the voting system, but the social media attacks started after an anti-POTUS tweet Secretary Hobbs posted in 2017, while she was a state legislator, resurfaced.<sup>46</sup>
- **Nevada, 11/6/20:** The Secretary of State's office received two threatening voicemails, accusing them of lying and cheating to throw the election. One was a death threat.<sup>47</sup>
- **Utah, 11/11/20:** The Utah Highway Patrol arrested George William Stahl, 36, after he told troopers he was driving to Missouri to kill former US Senator Claire McCaskill (MO) "if she was not dead already," during a traffic stop for driving more than 130 mph in snowy conditions.
  - Stahl, appearing belligerent and heavily intoxicated, made several threats against the former Senator, who is currently a political analyst for NBC News and MSNBC.
    - He also said he had consumed Adderall, LSD, and beer.
  - **Analytic Note:** The former Senator has previously received threats.<sup>48</sup>

## International Incidents

- **Armenia, 11/14/20:** Authorities arrested multiple former officials and opposition leaders for plotting to kill Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan and oust the government.
  - A search of one suspect's home reportedly revealed a large, illegal cache of weapons, ammunition, and explosives.
  - **11/9/20:** Within hours of the Prime Minister announcing a truce with Azerbaijan that surrendered territory and acquiesced to other demands, protesters broke into the Parliament building, vandalized the Prime Minister's office, and assaulted Parliament Speaker Ararat Mirzanyan, who subsequently required surgery.<sup>49</sup>
- **Belgium, 11/20/20:** Police arrested a man for emailing a death threat to Prime Minister Alexander De Croo, stating, "I'm going to get the first page of the newspapers. I will not do it alone. I'm waiting for you, De Croo."
  - The man's grievance appears to be the COVID-19 mitigation measures' effect on his business and the public's lack of compliance. He apologized for sending the email, claiming it was a misunderstanding, not intended as a death threat.<sup>50</sup>
- **Canada**
  - **11/25/20:** The Royal Canadian Mounted Police arrested a man, 42, previously unknown to police, for sending death threats to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Surrey city Councillor Jack Hundial using Facebook Messenger.<sup>51</sup>
  - **11/12/20:** Police are investigating death threats to Longueuil Mayor Sylvie Parent after the city announced it would kill approximately 12 deer in a park.<sup>52</sup>
- **Germany**
  - **11/28/20:** District Administrator Thomas Müller received death threats via social media after criticizing the people protesting his COVID-19 lockdown measures for not wearing masks or social distancing.<sup>53</sup>

- **11/25/20:** Police arrested a middle-aged driver after he crashed a station wagon into the gate of Chancellor Angela Merkel's Berlin office, causing minor damage.
  - The car had "Stop Globalization Politics" on its right side and "You damn killers of children and old people" on the left.
  - **Analytic Note:** Authorities knew the driver from a similar 2014 incident.<sup>54</sup>
- **Guatemala, 11/21/20:** Protesters kicked in the Congress building windows and set a fire after legislators cut health care and education funding in favor of increasing their meal stipends.
  - **Analytic Note:** The country is still recovering from back-to-back hurricanes that destroyed homes and critical infrastructure, displacing thousands of people.<sup>55</sup>
- **India, 10/22/20:** Police are investigating a death threat letter sent to Anna University Vice-Chancellor M.K. Surappa. The sender, self-identified as Veerapan, reportedly indicated he would murder Surappa unless he withdrew the University's request for 'Institute of Eminence' status.<sup>56</sup>
- **Somalia, 11/5/20:** A landmine detonated as Labor Minister Durran Ahmed Farah's motorcade passed, injuring two members of his detail and destroying the vehicle.<sup>57</sup>
  - **Analytic Note:** No group has yet claimed responsibility, but al Shabaab, the al Qaida-affiliate, routinely targets protectees to topple the government.
- **South Africa, 11/24/20:** Member of Parliament (MP) Julius Malema received death threats since suggesting members of his party should target police officers in their homes after a recent altercation between the police and protesters.<sup>58</sup>
- **United Kingdom**
  - **11/26/20:** Aberdeenshire Council member and Scottish Parliament candidate Karen Adam received a death threat reply to her tweet about an upcoming Aberdeen independence event stating, "I want to shoot you in the head."<sup>59</sup>
  - **11/20/20:** A court sentenced Wajid Shah, 27, to two years in jail for emailing death threats to then-Prime Minister Theresa May, then-Immigration Minister Caroline Nokes, then-MPs Tan Dhesi, Boris Johnson, and Mark Lancaster, House of Lords members David Blunkett and Ruth Lister, and others.
    - **Analytic Note:** Shah, who was afraid his mother would fail her citizenship test in 2019, has a IQ of 58 and severe learning difficulties, but no mental health issues. The judge noted Shah was able to plan his abuses against lawmakers based on their connection to immigration and their proximity to him, sending some messages using false names.<sup>60</sup>



### Contact Information

Anyone with additional information or questions regarding threats to protectees, or who would like to receive this report directly, should email their name and agency/company information to [ROICProtectiveIntel@gw.njsp.org](mailto:ROICProtectiveIntel@gw.njsp.org).

- <sup>1</sup> Roll Call, "[Citing threats, Senate Republicans seek Capitol Police funding boost](#)," 11/10/20, and "[Threats against members increasing, Capitol Police chief says](#)," 7/16/19; Fox News, "[Capitol police meet with members of political 'squad' about safety concerns](#)," 7/18/19; The Atlantic, "[A Brief History of Violence Against Members of Congress](#)," 6/14/17
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- <sup>10</sup> NYPD, Counterterrorism and Intelligence Bureaus, "Weekly Terrorism Brief," Issue 47, 11/20/20
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- <sup>12</sup> DHS, Office of Intelligence and Analysis, Open Source Intelligence Report, OSIR-04001-0066-21, 11/2/20
- <sup>13</sup> Chicago Sun Times, "[Hate doesn't take a holiday: 'Hateful, threatening messages' led to 'hard decision' for Pritzker family Thanksgiving](#)," 11/17/20, and ","
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- <sup>18</sup> Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness, NJ Suspicious Activity Reporting System, CTLD10016466, 11/16/20
- <sup>19</sup> Twitter, @afats\_, 11/15/20
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- <sup>21</sup> NJ Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness, NJ Suspicious Activity Reporting System, CTLD10016457, 11/14/20, and "[Domestic Extremists Respond to Ongoing Electoral Process](#)," 11/13/20
- <sup>22</sup> NJ Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness, NJ Suspicious Activity Reporting System, CTLD10016444, 11/9/20
- <sup>23</sup> NJ Office of Homeland Security & Preparedness, NJ Suspicious Activity Reporting System, CTLD10016422, 11/2/20
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- <sup>27</sup> New York Post, "[Armed men busted after trying to 'straighten out' Philly vote count](#)," 11/6/20, and "[Philadelphia vote counting staff getting death threats, official says](#)," 11/8/20; The Hill, "[Republican Philadelphia official responsible for vote counting says office getting death threats](#)," 11/8/20; 8/21/20; CBS3, "[Feels All Very Deranged: Philly Election Officials Getting Death Threats As President Trump Questions Vote Integrity](#)," 11/9/20; Frontline, "[Threats to Election Officials Piled Up as President Trump Refused to Concede](#)," 11/17/20
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