



OFFICE of INTELLIGENCE and ANALYSIS

INTELLIGENCE IN BRIEF

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TERRORISM

~~(U//FOUO)~~ **Terrorists' Longstanding Grievances Very Likely Exacerbated by Israel's Normalization of Relations with Two Gulf States**

~~(U//FOUO)~~ *We assess that US-based foreign terrorist organization (FTO) supporters' pre-existing grievances about the US Government's Middle East foreign policy, such as viewing the United States as responsible for Israeli actions, will almost certainly be exacerbated by Israel's normalization of relations with Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). While we currently lack any specific and credible reporting of US-based FTO supporters mobilizing directly in response to these developments, we note that FTO supporters have conducted attacks – at times – years after incidents they might cite as drivers to action.*

- ~~(U//FOUO)~~ US-based FTO supporters have often cited US policies in the Middle East as a main grievance contributing to their radicalization before mobilizing to violence and probably will perceive the United States' mediator role in the September Abraham Accords as reinforcement of their view of US meddling in Middle East politics, judging from (b)(3)(A) (b)(3)(B) [REDACTED].
- (U) In December 2019, Saudi military officer Mohammed al-Shamrani attacked a classroom at the Naval Air Station in Pensacola and cited his frustrations with the May 2018 movement of the US Embassy to Jerusalem on Twitter prior to his attack, according to (b)(3)(A) (b)(3)(B) [REDACTED].

~~(U//FOUO)~~ We similarly judge that FTOs could leverage these anti-US grievances to fit their longstanding messaging themes, portraying the United States as a principal antagonist in the Middle East and calling for retaliatory violence on social media and in official media products.

- ~~(U//FOUO)~~ Following the announcement and signing of the Abraham Accords, (b)(3)(A) (b)(3)(B) [REDACTED] statement condemning the normalization of diplomatic relations and encouraging violence against Israeli and UAE officials and interests.
- ~~(U//FOUO)~~ In a (b)(3)(A) (b)(3)(B) [REDACTED] decried the establishment of diplomatic ties between Israel and the UAE, claimed the Palestinian people were betrayed, and accused the UAE of acquiescing to US and Israeli agendas.

~~(U//FOUO)~~ **Iran Likely to Couple Perception of Peace Agreement with US Civil Unrest**

~~(U//FOUO)~~ The Iranian Government is likely to continue coupling allegations that Bahrain and the UAE betrayed the Palestinian people with claims that the US Government engages in racism and colonialism. Such claims about the United States are probably an attempt to amplify violent extremist activity in the Homeland, including the targeting of US-based Jewish interests.

- (U) On ~~(b)(3)(A) (b)(3)(B)~~ perceived racial injustice against people of color in the United States. ~~(b)(3)(A) (b)(3)(B)~~ linked these alleged injustices with the alleged Israeli mistreatment of Palestinians, which Khamenei claimed was supported by US policy.
- (U) ~~(b)(3)(A) (b)(3)(B)~~ join a body of recent ~~(b)(3)(A) (b)(3)(B)~~ that have attempted to frame Iran, as well as Iranian support of Hamas and LH, as anti-racist and anti-colonial.

Source, Reference, and Dissemination Information

Source Summary Statement	<i>(U//FOUO)</i> We have (b)(3)(A) (b)(3)(B) in our assessment that FTO supporters' pre-existing grievances about US foreign policy regarding the Middle East, such as viewing the United States as responsible for Israeli actions, will be exacerbated by Israel's normalization of relations with Bahrain and the UAE. Our confidence is based on (b)(3)(A) (b)(3)(B)
Definitions	<i>(U//FOUO)</i> Radicalization: the process through which an individual changes from a nonviolent belief system to a belief system that includes the willingness to actively advocate, facilitate, or use unlawful violence as a method to affect societal or political change.
Reporting Suspicious Activity	<i>(U)</i> To report suspicious activity, law enforcement, Fire-EMS, private security personnel, and emergency managers should follow established protocols; all other personnel should call 911 or contact local law enforcement. Suspicious activity reports (SARs) will be forwarded to the appropriate fusion center and FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force for further action. For more information on the Nationwide SAR Initiative, visit http://nsi.ncirc.gov/resources.aspx .
Dissemination	<i>(U)</i> Federal, state, local, tribal, territorial, critical infrastructure, and private sector partners.
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