



Security & Risk Report

16th August 2023



MAST Intelligence

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- Operational risks in areas of instability which could affect the safety of commercial and private vessels and personnel ashore and at sea.
- In-country reporting on key countries where civil conflicts are directly impacting on maritime operations; and
- Reporting and analysis of incidents of terrorism, piracy and other related criminal activity.

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Issue 376

Issue 376 of the bimonthly series reviews, analyses and threat assesses security issues facing the UK, London and the wider security and risk picture.

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UK Security News

Counter Terrorism Policing South East said on August 5th that a 23-year-old man from Weston-Super-Mare has been charged with terrorism offences. Gabrielle Budasz was charged with collection of information containing information of a kind likely to be useful to a person committing or preparing an act of terrorism, contrary to Section 58 (1)(b) of the Terrorism Act 2000 among other charges.

Suffolk man admits to sending hoax packages

A 63-year-old man from Haverhill, Suffolk, has admitted 21 charges of sending hoax packages to schools, businesses and shopping centres across the UK, Suffolk News reported on August 11th. Gary Preston sent the packages to educational facilities, airports, shopping centres and local authorities. Each one contained an undisclosed white powder while some also held notes warning the recipient to run or hold their breath. Preston was charged with 21 counts of sending a substance and note with the intention of inducing a belief that it is likely to be noxious, contrary to section 114 of the Anti-Terrorism, Crime and Security Act (2000). He will be sentenced in November.

Man flagged as terror risk before e-scooter row murder - inquest

Lawangeen Abdulrahimzai, from Afghanistan, stabbed 21-year-old Tom Roberts in Bournemouth in March 2022, but an inquest was told that he had been flagged as a potential terrorist a year prior to that, BBC News said on August 11th. Dorset Coroner's Court heard the Home Office's Prevent anti-terrorism task group was told Abdulrahimzai was "susceptible to terrorism" in 2021. The Home Office said it had started a review into what had happened. Abdulrahimzai was given a life sentence in January with a minimum term of 29 years for murdering Mr Roberts in the Horseshoe Common area of Bournemouth.

UK Neo-Nazi Receives Three Year Jail Sentence

Derbyshire Police said on August 9th that a man who posted "extreme racist messages" on social media had been sentenced to three years in prison. Samuel Doyle was identified by counter terror police after being highlighted by Community Security Trust (CST), an English non-profit that provides counsel and security services to British Jews. Doyle pleaded guilty to five charges. "Freedom of speech is an important

part of our shared British values — and something that is enshrined in law," Detective Inspector of Counter Terrorism Policing East Midlands Chris Brett said in a statement. "However, those freedoms are not without limit and it is clear that the views Samuel Doyle expressed online stepped well over the line into criminality."

Derbyshire man who downloaded bomb making manuals jailed

Police in Derbyshire said on August 8th that a man originally arrested in 2020 but who fled to Bulgaria had finally been jailed. David Bodill was first arrested at his home in Buxton, in 2020 after intelligence relating to him buying materials that may be used in making explosives was sent to the police. A search of his laptop at the time revealed terrorist bomb making manuals. The 29-year-old was charged with an offence under section 4 of the Explosive Substances Act 1883 and was due to appear at Westminster Magistrates' Court on 22 October 2022, however, he failed to attend, Derbyshire Police said. He was finally arrested in Bulgaria in January 2023 and extradited to the UK, where he stood trial. On August 7th, he received a two-year and six month prison sentence.

Satanist Neo-Nazi sent to prison

A 21-year-old from London, Harry Vaughan, also known as Harry Blake, has been sent to prison after breaching a counter-terror order, the Jerusalem Post said on August 6th. The son of a House of Lords clerk, Vaughan was sentenced to a prison term of three years and two months after pleading guilty to breaching his counter-terror order. He was also charged with making an indecent image of a child. He had received a suspended sentence in 2020 after admitting 14 terror charges, the paper said.

For further information, [please click here.](#)

UK Security News

In 2022/23 there were approximately 75,265 robbery offences reported by the police in England and Wales, compared with 66,328 in the previous year. During the provided time period, the reporting year with the highest number of robberies was 2002/03, when there were 110,271, Statista said on August 10th.

County Durham shopkeeper battling shoplifting epidemic says food stolen from shelves as thefts soar

Chronicle Live said on August 12th said that a surge in shoplifting had led to retailers increasing security measures. Recent statistics for England and Wales from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) show that shoplifting rose by 22% in the year to last September and The British Retail Consortium (BRC) estimates that there were eight million “theft incidents” in British shops last year, costing £953m, the paper reported. One Co-op store in London had even resorted to using ‘display only’ coffee jars on its shelves in an attempt to deter shoplifting, while a branch of Marks & Spencer had been stocking just one beef steak in its fridges due to the risk of crime. A small convenience store in County Durham which recently changed hands has even asked former shoplifting customers to repay their debts, warning that they’ve been captured on CCTV.

Sussex Police work with Manor Royal to transform security

Sussex Express said on August 9th that Sussex Police had been working with the Manor Royal Business Improvement District to boost security for local retailers. Although not plagued by high crime levels, the effort has seen a new area-wide network of security cameras (CCTV and ANPR) in key locations, while vulnerable traders have been given security radios and a dedicated team of Business Ranger security personnel has been deployed.

Gang wearing Covid masks unleashed ‘terror’ on shops during crime spree

Birmingham Live said on August 8th that a team of armed robbers who wore surgical masks to hide their identities while they conducted robberies in the region had been sent to prison. The paper said that James Smith and Justin Turner brandished weapons when they “charged” into shops in the Black Country area during a two-week crime spree. Thousands of pounds worth of cash, alcohol and cigarettes

were stolen during their crimes. One of the men brandished a meat cleaver and the other a hammer, Birmingham Live said. The pair seemed to target convenience stores, betting shops and other small retail outlets. In total, the pair were sent to prison for 11 years.

Law graduate jailed over terrifying armed robberies

A law graduate has been sentenced to 15 years in prison for carrying out a string of terrifying armed robberies at supermarkets, petrol stations and a bank. Kudakwashe Chowa, 30, of High Street Erdington was sentenced yesterday (Monday 7 August 2023) at Birmingham Crown Court after he admitted 18 armed robberies at various locations across the West Midlands. The court heard that Chowa threatened shop workers at knifepoint between February and October 2022. His offending came to light after he left his DNA at the scene of a robbery at Lloyds Bank where he was armed with a BB gun and escaped with £3639.15 in cash. He was arrested following an extensive investigation by the police who trawled through hours of CCTV to match Chowa to the various offences and locations, the Crown Prosecution Service said on August 8th.

Nottingham traders increase security over shoplifting spike

Traders have invested in extra security measures to deter thieves following a rise in shoplifting in Nottingham. Police said there has been a 25% increase in one year in the city, with the England average being 24%, BBC News said on August 6th. As an example, the BBC cited Mobile Lab in Bulwell, which has been targeted by thieves, and said measures were in place to deter theft. The shop’s phones are tied to the display stands and an alarm is triggered if a shopper tries to steal one. Traders have also set up a group chat to share intelligence and alert each other of repeat offenders in the area.

For further information, please [click here](#).

London Security News

Police have reportedly “shelved” an investigation into a break-in at the home of football star, Raheem Sterling. Jewellery and watches worth £300,000 were reportedly stolen from the property in Oxshott, Surrey, while he was in Qatar on World Cup duty with England last year, the BBC said on August 11th.

Shoppers locked inside stores after TikTok ‘looting’ crowds swarm Oxford Street

Shoppers in London’s Oxford Street witnessed “chaos” according to the Mirror on August 8th, when a social media craze from TikTok led to scenes of looting from stores and scuffles between youths and police officers. Witnesses saw shops closing shutters at 3pm that day as mounted police and officers on foot attempted to disperse crowds and clamp down on lawlessness. Underground stations at Warren and Goodge Street were temporarily closed at the request of police patrolling the West End of London. Nine people were arrested and a dispersal order put in place, as police tried to prevent further crimes. Met Police said: “Four people were arrested on suspicion of breaching the dispersal order, one person was arrested on suspicion of going equipped to steal, one person arrested on suspicion of assaulting a police officer and one person was arrested on suspicion of public order offence.” It added that in the afternoon two people in Essex were “arrested for conspiracy to commit robbery following online social media posts”.

Clapham stabbing: Two men injured in homophobic attack

Two men were taken to hospital after being stabbed in a homophobic attack outside a south London nightclub. The men, in their 20s and 30s, were attacked outside the Two Brewers in Clapham High Street on Sunday night. The Met Police said it was treating the stabbings as homophobic. The men have since been sent home from hospital, BBC News said on August 14th. The Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, said there was “no place for hate in London”, adding that he stood with LGBTQI+ Londoners. No arrests have been made in connection to the incident. A Two Brewers spokesperson said the venue was “fully supporting” the police with their investigation “regarding this unprovoked attack”, adding, “our thoughts are with the victims and their families”. Staff at the venue were praised for their response

to the incident. One of the drag performers at the venue said: “The team at The Two Brewers were incredible in dealing with this and keeping us inside the venue safe. It’s shocking and disgusting that in 2023 this is becoming frighteningly more frequent.”

Two mobile phone thieves jailed for stabbing members of the public who thwarted Bishopsgate stealing spree

Two men who stabbed four people who were trying to prevent their mobile phone robbery spree in London have been sent to prison, the Evening Standard said on August 10th. Louis Parkinson and Tyrone Dean were armed with a knife as they used bicycles to travel around London identifying victims. They stabbed a man in the arm in Fitzrovia when he tried to recover his stolen phone, but were confronted by members of the public in Bishopsgate as they tried to conduct another robbery. A courier was stabbed in the chest three times and a woman lost the use of her hand after being stabbed in the arm. A City broker was reportedly scarred for life after being stabbed in the face as he attempted to stop the robbers. Both men were sentenced to 12 years in prison.

Stoke Newington: Man injured in street shooting

BBC News said on August 12th that a man had been injured in a street shooting in Stoke Newington High Street. Police and paramedics were called to Stoke Newington High Street just after 15:00 BST. The victim was treated at the scene then taken to hospital “as a priority”, the ambulance service said. No arrests have been made and a crime scene is in place. A spokesperson for the Met Police said officers were working hard to establish who was responsible for this “hugely concerning incident”, the BBC reported.

For further information, please [click here](#).



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