



# Security & Risk Report

25th October 2023



# MAST Intelligence

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## The Security and Risk Report Series focuses on

- 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.

MAST has a global reach and presence, delivering first hand, accurate and exclusive intelligence. MAST is entrenched and committed in continuing to support and promote the awareness of the very real risks that seafarers and other stakeholders face.

This Intelligence Report Series is a brief snapshot of MAST's Intelligence capabilities. MAST Intelligence specialises in providing clients with a suite of products and services, including; political and economic risk analysis, detailed port and vessel security briefs, vessel passage plans, threat and risk mitigation and travel risk management.

Working closely in conjunction with a host of experts, MAST Intelligence offers a market leading service pertaining to all maritime affairs and land-based guarding and asset protection provision.

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### Issue 381

Issue 381 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

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The Old Bailey heard on October 14th that a man had admitted encouraging terrorist activity but denied making threats to kill. Harry Parris, 22, pleaded guilty to four counts of encouraging terrorism online on the basis he was “reckless”, BBC News said.

## **Ambulance service opens brand new centre to train staff in response to major incidents like terror attacks**

North East Ambulance Service (NEAS) has opened a new “resilience training centre” which is intended to prepare ambulance staff in order to help them deal with mass casualty events such as “marauding terrorist attacks” or nuclear incidents, Chronicle Live said on October 18th. The new centre in Washington will train personnel in “emergency preparedness, resilience and response” to what have been described as “more complex emergencies”. Donna Hay, who is deputy head of EPRR at NEAS, said: “The new resilience training centre provides specialist dedicated facilities to ensure we can deliver high quality and realistic training for our staff for major incidents such as terrorist attacks or chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) incidents.

## **Spy chief says MI5 ‘absolutely alert’ to risk of UK terror attack amid Israel-Hamas war**

Ken McCallum, the Director General of MI5, told Sky News on October 17th that his staff are “focused with particular intensity” on the potential for terror attacks in the UK in the wake of the Israel-Hamas conflict. “Sadly, over the course of my career, it has often been the case that events in the Middle East can then echo in Europe, in the UK, and so my teams are absolutely alert to the possibility that events in the Middle East cause some people in the United Kingdom to attempt some form of attack of whatever sort,” he told the broadcaster. Asked about the threat level in the UK, Mr McCallum said: “The threat level, set by the independent Joint Terrorism Analysis Centre (JTAC), sits at ‘substantial’, which translates as ‘an attack is likely’. So that is already the level at which we sit. Clearly there are other levels and the analysts within JTAC will be keeping under review whether that remains the appropriate level.”

## **Muslim convert alleged to have been part of IS cell admits terrorism charges**

The Press Association said on October 16th that Aine Leslie Davis, 39, suspected of being a member of the Islamic State ‘death squad’ nicknamed The Beatles by the UK media, had been arrested on his arrival at Luton Airport. Davis had spent seven and a half years in prison in Turkey for being a member of Islamic State. On arriving in the UK, he was detained by Counter Terror Police and charged with three offences. The PA said that Davis had admitted possession of a firearm contrary to Section 57 of the Terrorism Act 2000, and two charges of funding terrorism between 2013 and 2014.

## **Essex teen in court on terror and firearms charges**

A 19-year-old from Essex has appeared in court, charged with plotting right-wing terrorist activities and possessing a semi-automatic handgun. Alfie Coleman, 19, of Great Notley, Essex, appeared briefly at Westminster Magistrates’ Court. He was arrested in an east London supermarket car park as part of an investigation into suspected right-wing terrorism. When Mr Coleman was arrested on September 29th, he was allegedly in possession of a gun and ammunition, BBC News said on October 12th. Coleman was charged with 13 offences, including preparing acts of terrorism, possessing a prohibited firearm, namely a Makarov semi-automatic pistol and 200 rounds of ammunition and 10 counts of collecting information useful to a terrorist, including manuals on firearms, bomb-making, knife-fighting and “white resistance”.

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

# UK Security News

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West Yorkshire Police said on October 13th that two men who conducted a terrifying attempted robbery that caused the death of a woman at her home in Leeds have been jailed after being convicted of her manslaughter. Detailed forensic pathology showed a direct causal link between the stroke and the extreme anxiety and distress Mrs Wai had experienced during the attack on her home.

## Arrests after armed balaclava jewellery robbery in Broadway

Worcester News said on October 19th that a violent armed robbery on a jewellery shop in the town had been followed by a number of arrests. Three men wearing balaclavas and armed with an axe, sledgehammer and a crowbar attacked a member of staff and robbed the shop of tens of thousands of pounds worth of jewellery, the paper said. A large police response has now seen West Mercia Police make three arrests in connection with the robbery, which reportedly took place on September 20th. Chief Inspector Chris Percival added: "We will leave no stone unturned to try and recover the stolen property but also to identify and to bring to justice any further outstanding offenders. Tackling violent crime and robbery is one of our key priorities."

## Police chief defends officers over Greenpeace protest at PM's home

A police commissioner has defended officers over their response to a protest on the prime minister's roof, the BBC said on October 14th. A group of Greenpeace protesters scaled Rishi Sunak's unoccupied constituency home in Kirby Sigston, North Yorkshire, on August 3rd, leading many to question what the police were doing to prevent such incidents. North Yorkshire Police, Fire and Crime commissioner Zoe Metcalfe said security was "nothing to do" with the force, the BBC heard. Mrs Metcalfe issued her defence of North Yorkshire Police to the county's police, fire and crime panel - a watchdog of councillors and experts who scrutinise her performance - after concluding a review into the incident. Mrs Metcalfe told the panel that security arrangements for an MP's home had "nothing to do with North Yorkshire Police" and were the remit of the Homeland Security Group, which sits at the heart of the UK's national security system. She added the force's responsibility was limited to "a response to any incidents that might happen". Responding to the incident, officers arrived at the scene within eight minutes, she said.

## Two Binbrook men prosecuted for working illegally

On 13 October 2023 two men from Binbrook were prosecuted at Humber Magistrates' Court. They worked as illegal security in 2020 for G4 Fuels Ltd in Market Rasen. These cases are the culmination of a series of prosecutions brought by the Security Industry Authority (SIA). They follow the prosecution of Louth company director, Trevor Frater at Grimsby Crown Court in November 2021, in which Frater was ordered to pay £33,979.51 in Proceeds of Crime Act reparations, within eight weeks or face a prison sentence. The case began when three unlicensed men were supplied from Frater's business, Elite Security, to provide round the clock illegal security to G4 Fuels Ltd between 17 July 2020 and 26 August 2020. They were supplied under the auspices of the site being a 'COVID-19' test and trace operation. SIA's investigators found no links between an official test and trace operation and the supply of the staff to Brookenby Business Park, the UK government said in a media release.

## Antisemitic incidents 'quadruple in UK' since Hamas attack in Israel

BBC News said on October 12th that antisemitic incidents in the UK have more than quadrupled since Hamas's attack on Israel, says a charity which helps Jewish people in the UK. The Community Security Trust (CST) recorded 89 "anti-Jewish hate" incidents from 7 to 10 October. That marked a more than four-fold rise on the 21 antisemitic incidents recorded in the same period last year. The CST said: "Make no mistake: these are anti-Jewish racist incidents and hate crimes in which Jewish people, property and institutions are singled out for hate, including death threats and abuse. In many cases, the perpetrators of these disgraceful incidents are using the symbols and language of pro-Palestinian politics as rhetorical weapons with which to threaten and abuse Jewish people."

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



# London Security News

Two men pleaded guilty to robbery charges on October 13th, the Evening Standard reported, after a Canadian tourist had his watch stolen in London's West End on September 15th. The pair accosted their victim in Shaftesbury Avenue and barged into him stealing his watch and running off.

## Met Police to keep using facial recognition on prolific shoplifters

The Metropolitan Police plans to use facial recognition technology going forward to try to identify and arrest London's most prolific shoplifters, BBC News said on October 20th. So far, 149 suspects have been identified from 302 CCTV stills with some wanted for multiple offences. The Met wrote to 12 leading London retailers asking for CCTV images of their top 30 unidentified offenders. Commissioner Sir Mark Rowley said: "The results we've seen so far are game-changing. The use of facial recognition in this way could revolutionise how we investigate and solve crime. What's most powerful is what we've learned about those involved in this offending so far." He added: "The scale of business crime in London is huge. To be successful, we have to be precise in our approach and this is a really promising step forward."

## Knife crime in London surges by over 20% in a year

Knife-point robberies have increased by more than a third in London in the last 12 months, data from the Office for National Statistics showed. The Evening Standard said on October 20th that there had been 13,503 knife-enabled crimes in London in the year to June 2023, with knife-point robberies up by 36% to 7,996 incidents reported.

## Jedward star Edward Grimes 'shaken' after attempted mugging by 'masked men' in London

Edward Grimes, one of the "Jedward" twins has told Sunday World on October 16th that he was mugged by masked men in London. He wrote on social media: "Be careful everyone, two masked guys tried to mug me on bikes as I was talking on the phone! Obviously shaken but was not expecting it! Seems like it's happening all over London." He added: "Felt my wrist and arm being grabbed from behind. It all happened so fast and didn't have [my twin brother] John next to me! Just would hate this to happen to anyone else

and being made feel vulnerable".

## Prolific shoplifters caught as part of City operation

City of London Police said on October 20th that two prolific shoplifters have been caught as part of a City of London Police operation during Safer Business Action Week (SaBA). Derrick Hudson, 52, of High Road, Tottenham, pleaded guilty at Westminster Magistrates' Court to two counts of theft from a shop in the City, common assault and breach of his Criminal Behaviour Order. Hudson has been sentenced to six months in jail. Tony Cecil, 40, of Old Montague Street, Whitechapel, pleaded guilty at Westminster Magistrates' Court to three counts of theft from a shop in the City, threatening behaviour and failing to surrender to police. Cecil was given a £1,200 fine and ordered to pay a victim surcharge of £48 and £85 of court costs. These arrests were part of targeted work carried out to help prevent and deter shoplifting in the City.

## Met Police take more than two hours to respond to 'significant' 999 calls, figures show

The Daily Mail said on October 17th that Scotland Yard was taking as long as two hours to respond to 'significant' 999 calls, according to data found by LBC. Figures show it reaches such calls in two hours and 15 minutes – more than twice as long as the target and up 52 minutes on 2017, the Mail reported. Rob Blackie, Liberal Democrat candidate for mayor of London, told LBC: 'The police response to significant 999 calls is far too slow. It is completely unacceptable, and the public have a right to expect better.'

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



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