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CASIS Hot Brief 0018-2021

2021/04/26

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INDIANOPOLIS FEDEX FACILITY SHOOTING

1. Incident Background:
   On April 16, 2021, at 11pm local time, a mass shooting occurred at a FedEx warehouse in Indianapolis, Indiana, resulting in possibly at least 8 deaths and 5 wounded (Victor & Taylor, 2021). Brandon Scott Hole, a 19-year-old former employee of FedEx who last worked at the facility in the fall of 2020, has been alledgied as the primary suspect (Helsel et al., 2021). Presumably, Hole attacked the facility with two assault rifles during a shift change and dinner break (Robertson et al, 2021).

2. About the Victims:
   Police Chief Randal Taylor noted that a significant number of employees at the FedEx facility are members of the Sikh community, but there has not been an official statement commenting on whether Sikhs were targeted (Smith & Callahan, 2021). Of the 8 victims, 4 were confirmed as members of the Sikh community (Smith & Callahan, 2021). All of the 8 dead victims have been identified by the police as between the ages of 19 and 74 (Smith & Callahan, 2021).

3. Operating Ideology - Target selections:
   Hole can potentially be considered as a white supremacist with the shooting as arguably racially motivated against Asians, specifically the Sikh community, as four of the eight victims were identified as members of the Sikh community by police and the Sikh Coalition (Andrea & Contreras, 2021; De Mar, 2021; Helsel et al., 2021; Smith & Callahan, 2021). During a police wellness check on Hole, the police had discovered that Hole had seemingly consulted white supremacist websites and content and was likely to be anxious of his own privacy when officers searched his belongings, particularly his computer (Andrea & Contreras, 2021; Taylor, 2021). Hole had also allegedly told a white female to “get out of the way” after shooting a Sikh man at the FedEx facility (Taylor, 2021, para. 13). Observations by authorities on Hole’s extremist ideations, reduced mental

inhibitions, and the shooting at the FedEx facility indicates this may be a Violent Transnational Social Movement (VTSM) incident. The shooting may possibly be the result of failing to identify Hole's violent extremist (white supremacy) tendencies, as he had not been subjected to the full red flag competency hearing by authorities (Smith, 2021).

4. About the suspect:
   Brandon Scott Hole, a 19-year-old Gen Z (born between 1993-2013) allegedly attacked his former workplace, the Indianapolis Airport FedEx facility, with two rifles before committing suicide on the evening of April 16, 2021 (Helsel et al., 2021). Reportedly, in 2020, Hole's mother had contacted authorities explaining that her son could attempt suicide-by-cop after she was allegedly physically attacked by Hole (Helsel et al., 2021, para. 5; Taylor, 2021, para. 3). Consequently, the FBI was notified. Purportedly, the FBI discovered and seized a shotgun owned by Hole which prompted an interview and investigation (Helsel et al., 2021). However, Investigators possibly determined that Hole did not harbour racial animus and did not press charges nor return the shotgun (Connor & Rohrlich, 2021, para. 3). Supposably, Hole had purchased both assault rifles legally after his shotgun was seized despite his family's concerns and worries (Connor & Rohrlich, 2021).

Security Implications:

5. Arguably, the proliferation of small arms and ammunition is of growing concern, especially when combined with the rise of far-right extremist mentality (such as racial supremacism and nationalism) and mental health issues. For example, there have been several incidents of mass shootings in the U.S. recently, likely including 10 deaths in Boulder, Colorado on March 22, 2021; 8 deaths in Atlanta, Georgia on March 16, 2021; 6 deaths in York County, South Carolina on April 9, 2021; 6 deaths in Rock Hill, South Carolina on April 7, 2021; 4 deaths in Essex, Maryland on March 28, 2021; and 4 deaths in Southern California on April 1, 2021 (Victor & Taylor, 2021). The commonalities between these incidents are likely to include firearms, suspects' mental health status and possibly violent extremist ideologies. This deadly episode in Indianapolis was the seventh deadly mass shooting in the past five weeks. Thus, the increase in mass shooting is potentially the most destabilizing factor threatening public safety.

CASIS Vancouver specializes in examining Violent Transnational Social Movements (VTSM) *and the different ideologies that overlap an array of ideological segments. VTSM theory suggests that violent extremists are socially radicalized self-actualized individuals who arguably are radicalized through a societal normalization of extremist language and sentiments (Kelshall, 2021). Whereby self actualised actors want to impose legitimacy, dominance, authority, and supremacy over other identity groups using soft and kinetic violence as their main tools (Kelshall, 2021).*

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