



Commonwealth Fusion Center (CFC) Massachusetts (508) 820-2233



(U//FOUO) - Commonwealth Fusion Center Homeland Security Bulletin – Improvised Explosive Device Attack at NYC Protest March 9, 2026

(U) OVERVIEW

(U//FOUO) On Saturday, March 7, 2026, one improvised explosive device (IED) was thrown and another dropped during countering protests outside the home of New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani. While the IEDs did not explode, authorities indicated the devices contained explosive materials and fragmentation capable of causing serious injury or death. The suspect who threw the IED attempted to hurl a second device but dropped it while running away as police approached. The third device was later found inside a vehicle and is being investigated in connection with Saturday's event. Two suspects were arrested and admitted to being inspired by ISIS according to authorities, indicating they are potential homegrown violent extremists (HVE). The Commonwealth Fusion Center is providing this information for situational awareness purposes due to the heightened threat environment and the potential for violent extremists to view first amendment protected events, government officials, and law enforcement officials as viable targets for terrorist or criminal activity.



(U//FOUO) INCIDENT DETAILS

(U) Around mid-day on Saturday, around 20 participants gathered in an “anti-Islam” protest outside of New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani’s Manhattan residence. Another 125 people also arrived to engage in a counterprotest called “Drive the Nazis Out of New York.” While the two groups were in two separate designated areas, the event was contentious with reports of one of the “anti-Islam” protesters pepper-spraying the counter protesters. Approximately twenty minutes later, a counter protester ignited and threw a device toward the protest area. NYC Police Commissioner stated that “witnesses reported seeing flames and smoke as it traveled through the air before it struck a barrier and extinguished itself a few feet from police officers.” The suspect retrieved a second device from another suspect but dropped it while fleeing from police. The two suspects and potential homegrown violent extremists (HVEs), 18-year-old Emir BALAT and 19-year-old Ibrahim KAYUMI from Pennsylvania, were taken into custody. Four other people were arrested on suspicion of disorderly conduct and obstructing traffic. There were no injuries following the incident.



(U//FOUO) TACTICS AND TARGETING

(U//FOUO) The NYPD Bomb Squad determined that the two confirmed IEDs contained Triacetone Triperoxide (TATP), a highly volatile and unstable homemade explosive. The devices were reportedly the size of footballs and appeared to be jars wrapped in black tape containing bolts, screws, and hobby fuse. Law enforcement is investigating BALAT and KAYUMI’s travel history and potential ISIS inspiration.

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(U//FOUO) IEDs remain a desirable tactic for violent extremists due to the readily available materials and instructions. The instructions for TATP in particular have been shared numerous times by multiple foreign terrorist organizations. Notably, ISIS released a step-by-step video tutorial in 2016 on how to manufacture TATP in your home. The video is likely easier to follow than some previously published technical instructional manuals, which carried with it the potential to make bomb-making skills more accessible. This video has been recirculated and reposted online often since its original release. TATP has been used in many deadly terrorist attacks including the 2017 Manchester Arena Attack, the 2015 Paris attacks, and the London mass transit attacks in 2005 to name a few.

(U//FOUO) The targeting of First Amendment protected events has been discussed by violent extremists online, particularly against protesters who are ideologically opposed. Protests may be seen as a target of opportunity due to large crowds out in open, accessible areas. These events may be

targeted with IEDs as they were in this case, but are also vulnerable to vehicle attacks, firearms attacks, and edged weapons attacks. Some First Amendment protected events have the potential to turn criminal and potentially violent in some circumstances, particularly when fueled by violent and inciteful rhetoric and propaganda being circulated online or the presence of opposing groups in close proximity.

(U) OUTLOOK

(U//FOUO) The CFC is providing this information for situational awareness purposes only. At this time, the CFC has no intelligence indicating a specific or credible threat to special events within the Commonwealth; however, we will continue to assess the threat posed by foreign terrorist organizations (FTOs), homegrown violent extremists (HVEs), domestic violent extremists (DVEs), and other violent extremists that are active both domestically and abroad. The threat environment remains heightened. Lone attackers, whether motivated by a variety of ideologies, social, economic or political factors, currently present the most significant terrorist threat in the United States. These lone attackers may incite potential violence against targets, such as perceived ideological opponents, houses of worship, religious and educational institutions, private industry, elected officials, US Government facilities, and large public gatherings. Plots by lone attackers, whether inspired by domestic or foreign ideologies, are difficult to detect due to individualized radicalization and mobilization to violence, easy access to weapons, readily available tactical instructions, and a wealth of potential targets. The CFC will continue to monitor the situation and provide updates as warranted. Law enforcement officers, public safety officials, and security partners should remain cognizant of the current threat environment relative to criminal and/or terrorist actors.

(U//FOUO) Due to the current heightened threat environment, recent successful attacks, as well as disrupted plots, and the potential for copy-cat and/or retaliatory attacks, law enforcement agencies are encouraged to remain vigilant and promptly report any suspicious activity to your police department of jurisdiction and the Commonwealth Fusion Center at 508-820-2233.

This report addresses CFC SINS: 2.A.iii

MSPC1989 | MSPC1977



ISIS Instructional Bomb-Making Video



TATP synthesized



TATP in powder or granular form



TATP in putty or plasticized form

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HSEC SINS: 8.3, 8.5, 8.8, 8.10

Source:

(U) "An IED thrown near NYC mayor's home and 2 other devices are being investigated as ISIS-inspired terrorism, NYPD commish says," CNN, 9 March 2026

(U) "FBI launches terrorism investigation after homemade explosive device ignited outside of NYC Mayor Mamdani's residence," CBS News, 8 march 2026

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