Protecting Vulnerable Communities from Targeted Violence and Mass Casualty Attacks

By: Christopher Lugo
Dawn Park
Teresa Ngo

Background & Explanation

We are working for the Miller Center for Community Protection and Resilience (CPR), which is a part of the Rutgers Institute for Secure Communities (RISC).

The Miller Center for CPR was established as an outgrowth of Rutgers' work over the past several years on the Faith-Based Communities Security Program, which was launched in May 2014 in the wake of a lethal terrorist attack on the Jewish Museum in Brussels.

Due to the exponential increase in anti-semitism incidences (almost a 57% increase from 2017-2018 in the US alone), the Miller Center for CPR is working with partners to help in disseminating best practices, offering police-community training workshops, consulting with and assisting vulnerable populations on security and civil liberties issues, and engaging in research relevant to the protection of vulnerable populations.

Goals

The main goal of the Miller Center is to implement programs and projects that protect vulnerable populations from mass casualty attacks and targeted violence with best practices.

One current project is the development of an online guide of best practices for vulnerable communities, specifically for houses of worship of any faith. They plan to obtain information for the guide by:

- Interviewing various leaders of houses of worship as wells as law enforcement officials.
- Researching in depth about several cases of attacks and violence.

Our goal is to assist them in this development by researching these cases.

What we'll be doing

Our job is to assist in the development of the Best Practices online guide. Our responsibilities are:

- Coding transcripts of interviews from leaders of houses of worship as well as law enforcement officials.
- Provide a thorough visualization of global mass attacks, recommendations, and threats.
- Integrate case studies of previous attacks and analyze them by using the RESILIENCE model.

RESILIENCE Model

There are 10 pillars we need to code in interview transcripts and case studies

1. Resilience: Responsibilities, Roles and Readiness (R3)
2. Engage Partners
    - Citizens, Congregations and Communities (C3)
    - Members, Partners & Stakeholders, SLTT, Federal
    - Engage community partners, build trust, unify

3. Share Intelligence & Information (I2)

    - Increase Situational Awareness (see something say something)
    - Connections & Contacts
    - Build Trust

RESILIENCE Model

4. Integrate Intelligence, Plans, Training, Exercises and Responses with All Stakeholders

- Prevention and Preparation (P2)

5. Leverage Resources & Technology

- Public and Private
- Internal and External

6. Implement Best Practices & Lessons Learned

- Continuous Assessment & Implementation

RESILIENCE Model

7. Enlist Guardians

- Internal and External
- Internal: Citizen as First Responder
- External: First Responders, Funders and Planners

8. Neutralize Negative Mindsets

- Never Accept the Mindset that an Incident is Inevitable
- Never Accept the Mindset that an Incident is Completely Avertible
- Awareness & Preparedness

RESILIENCE Model

9. Constant Communications

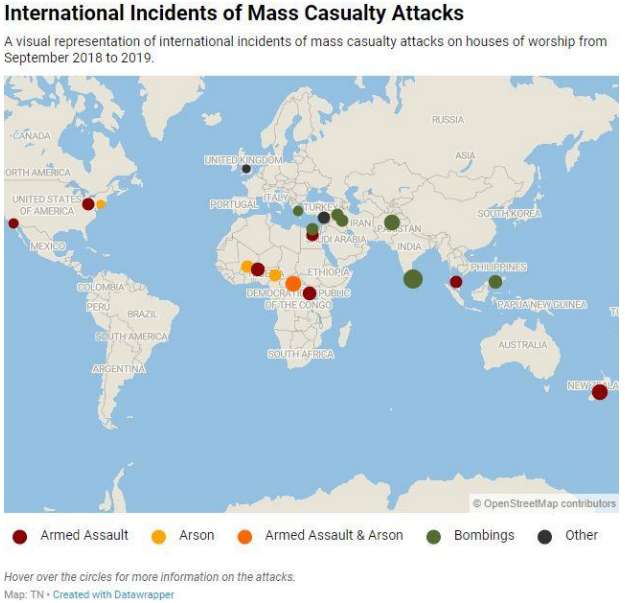
- Before, During and After
- All Source Approach (from traditional to social media)

10. Empowerment & Endurance through Lasting Organizational Reform

- Institutionalizing Organizations
- Steady State & Crisis Management Teams

Visual Representations of Data

- From the interviews, we will be tallying recommendations (using RESILIENCE) and visualizing them through charts.
- We will also represent incidences of mass casualty attacks through interactive maps.
- After coding the interviews and visually representing the data, a guide of Best Practices can be made online to be shared with vulnerable communities.



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