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Synagogue Shooting – Poway



A man is in custody in connection with a deadly shooting inside a synagogue in Poway. It happened just before 11:30 a.m. on April 27th at Chabad of Poway in the 16000 block of Chabad Way. Deputies from the Poway Sheriff's Station responded after receiving 9-1-1 calls about someone entering the synagogue and opening fire with an assault-type rifle. The lone shooter ran out and drove away from the scene. An off-duty Border Patrol Agent at the synagogue fired a weapon in the suspect's direction. The suspect was not hit; however, a bullet hit the vehicle. Officers from the San Diego Police Department arrested the shooter near Rancho Bernardo Road and Interstate 15 in Rancho Bernardo. He was taken into custody without incident.

Suspect Information

The suspect in this shooting has been identified as 19-year-old John T. Earnest of San Diego (DOB 6/8/99). At this time, the Sheriff's Department is serving search warrants at Earnest's home, car and the synagogue. Detectives are also looking into the authenticity of online claims he wrote a manifesto. Sheriff's Detectives are working with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco,



Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and Escondido Police Department to check Earnest's possible involvement in the arson and vandalism of a mosque in Escondido on March 24th.

Victim Information

Four people were wounded in the shooting. They were all rushed to Palomar Medical Center in Escondido. Trauma surgeons say a woman did not survive her injuries. A rabbi underwent surgery after suffering gunshot wounds to his hands. A 34-year-old man and a child were hit by shrapnel from bullets. Doctors say they are doing well. The child has since been transferred to Rady Children's Hospital.

The County Medical Examiner's Office will determine the cause and manner of death of the victim, as well as identification, pending notification of her family.

The Sheriff's Department expresses its sincerest condolences to those affected by today's incident. Our hearts go out to those going through this difficult time.

Resources

If you need to talk to someone or want assistance on how you can talk to your children about the synagogue shooting, don't hesitate to ask for help. Call the County Crisis Hotline at (888) 724-7240. Counselors are available 24 hours per day. You can also visit <https://up2sd.org/>.

Sheriff's Deputies will be providing extra patrols at places of worship this weekend. We encourage the public to remain vigilant and report suspicious activity. In case of emergencies, call 9-1-1. You can also call the Sheriff's non-emergency line at (858) 565-5200 or the Crime Stoppers anonymous tip line at (888) 580-8477.

We also want to remind the public about road closures in effect until further notice:

- Eastbound Espola Road at Summerfield Lane
- Westbound Espola Road at Avenida Florencia
- Espola Road at Rock Road
- Espola Road at Chabad Way
- Rancho Bernardo Road at Alondra Drive
- Westbound Rancho Bernardo Road between the southbound I-15 offramp and West Bernardo Drive

We are proud of the partnerships we have with local, state and federal agencies. We want to acknowledge them for assisting us with this incident:

- San Diego Police Department
- San Diego Fire-Rescue



- FBI San Diego
- California Highway Patrol
- Escondido Police Department
- ATF
- Cal OES
- U.S. Border Patrol
- City of Poway
- Poway Unified School District
- Anti-Defamation League San Diego

The Sheriff's Department is not aware of any additional threats to the community. We encourage the public to continue with scheduled events and other activities as normal. Sheriff Bill Gore says, *"We don't condone threats and acts of violence against places of worship. We are a county that is welcoming of all faiths."*

We are still in the early stages of investigating this incident. We understand there are a lot of questions surrounding the suspect, but they will be answered at the appropriate time. The crime scene remains active with many witnesses to talk to and evidence to gather. We caution against jumping to conclusions until we get all the facts.

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