

Domestic Terrorism-Related Incidents in the United States: 12 February – 13 March 2026

Executive Summary

This briefing summarizes publicly reported violent incidents and plots in the United States between 12 February and 13 March 2026 that were confirmed or credibly treated by authorities and major media as terrorism or terrorism-related, with a focus on domestic implications.

Open-source reporting for this 30-day period identifies four principal incidents on U.S. soil that meet the criteria: a mass shooting at a bar district in Austin, Texas; an attempted Islamic State (ISIS)–inspired bombing outside Gracie Mansion in New York City; a combined vehicle-ramming and shooting at Temple Israel synagogue in West Bloomfield Township, Michigan; and a targeted classroom shooting at Old Dominion University (ODU) in Norfolk, Virginia.[1][2][3][4][5][6][7][8][9][10][11]

All four incidents occurred within less than two weeks, involved small cells or lone actors, and were investigated or charged under terrorism frameworks, with three explicitly tied to ISIS or jihadist inspiration and one probed as potentially linked to the concurrent Iran conflict. No additional large-scale plots or attacks with clearly documented domestic terrorism character in this period were located in open sources, though this may reflect reporting limitations rather than absence of threat.[12][13][14][3][4][6][7][9][11][1]

Methodology and Scope

The review draws on recent open-source materials from 12 February to 13 March 2026, including U.S. and international press reports, federal and state law enforcement press releases, and updated reference compilations of terrorist incidents. Incidents were included when:[15][16][13][1]

- Violence or planned violence occurred on U.S. territory (50 states or D.C.).
- Authorities or major outlets explicitly described the event as terrorism, an act of terror, or ISIS-/extremist-inspired, or opened formal terrorism investigations.
- The acts were ideologically motivated (political, religious, or social) rather than purely criminal.

The focus is on discrete attacks or plots, not broader policy changes or historical prosecutions. Because some investigations are ongoing, classifications noted here (e.g., motive and ideological alignment) reflect current public reporting and may evolve.[17][18][19]

Chronological Incident Overview

Summary Table of Key Incidents

Date (2026)	Location	Incident	Casualties (killed / injured, excl. perpetrators)	Status	Primary suspected motivation /ideology
1 March	Austin, Texas	Mass shooting at Buford's Backyard Beer Garden and along West Sixth Street	3 killed, 15 injured[1][20]	Shooter killed by police; FBI investigating as possible terrorism	Pro-Iran, Islamist, anti-Western rhetoric; possible linkage to Iran conflict[4][7][20][9]
7 March	New York City, New York	Attempted bombing outside Gracie Mansion during anti-Islam protest	0 killed, 0 injured; devices failed to detonate[1][10]	Two suspects arrested and federally charged	ISIS-inspired jihadist terrorism targeting political protest crowd[21][22][11][23][24]
12 March	West Bloomfield Township, Michigan	Vehicle-ramming and shooting at Temple Israel synagogue	0 killed (excluding attacker), at least 1 seriously injured; ~30 officers treated for smoke	Attacker killed by armed security; FBI investigating as	Likely antisemitic, jihadist-linked retaliation linked to Iran-Israel conflict in

Date (2026)	Location	Incident	Casualties (killed / injured, excl. perpetrators)	Status	Primary suspected motivation /ideology
			inhalation[1][3][8]	terrorism	Lebanon[3][6][12]
12 March	Norfolk, Virginia	Classroom shooting targeting ROTC class at Old Dominion University	1 killed, 2 injured[1][2][5][6][25]	Attacker killed by ROTC student s; FBI classifying as terrorism	ISIS-inspired attack by previously convicted ISIS supporter targeting U.S. military trainees[2][5][6][25]

Incident Details

1. Austin Bar District Shooting – Potential Terrorism Link

Date / time: Early hours of 1 March 2026, approximately 1:58 a.m. local time.[20][9]

Location: Buford’s Backyard Beer Garden and surrounding blocks of West Sixth Street, downtown Austin, Texas, a dense nightlife area near the University of Texas.[4][20]

Attack description:

- The perpetrator drove a black Cadillac SUV past the bar, activated hazard lights, and opened fire from the vehicle with a semi-automatic pistol at patrons on the patio and in front of the bar.[7][4][20]

- He then parked, exited with an AR-15–style rifle, and continued firing at people along West Sixth Street before being engaged and shot by Austin Police Department Counter Assault Strike Team (CAST) officers within roughly one minute of the first 911 calls. [4][7][20]

Casualties:

- Three victims killed: a 19-year-old former Texas Tech student, a 21-year-old University of Texas at Austin student, and a 30-year-old mixed martial arts fighter.[20]
- Fifteen additional victims injured, including several in critical condition; all casualties were civilians.[9][7][20]

Perpetrator:

- Identified as 53-year-old Ndiaga Diagne, a Senegal-born naturalized U.S. citizen residing in Pflugerville and Austin.[7][9][20]
- Diagne had a documented history of domestic violence, prior arrests, and online posts expressing pro-Iranian, antisemitic, anti-Christian, and misogynistic views, including praise for Iran and hostility toward U.S. and Israeli leaders.[20]

Indicators of terrorist motivation:

- Diagne reportedly wore clothing bearing an Iranian flag design and “Property of Allah” during the attack, and investigators found a Quran and Iranian flag imagery in his vehicle and residence.[9][4][7][20]
- The shooting occurred one day after U.S. and Israeli strikes on Iran, and the FBI publicly stated it was investigating the shooting as a possible act of terrorism linked to these events, citing “indicators” on the gunman and in his vehicle.[12][4][7]

Law-enforcement characterization:

- Austin Police and the FBI have described the incident as an apparent intentional mass-casualty attack and a “possible terrorist act,” but as of this briefing no specific operational ties to an organization have been confirmed in open sources.[4][7][9][20]

- The FBI San Antonio field office emphasized that determining motive, including any formal terrorist connections, remains an active line of inquiry.[7][20]

Assessment for this briefing:

- This incident is classified as a **suspected terrorism-related attack** based on timing, ideological indicators, and ongoing FBI counterterrorism investigation, while recognizing that formal terrorism charges have not yet been publicly reported.

2. Gracie Mansion Attempted Bombing – ISIS-Inspired Plot

Date / time: 7 March 2026, around midday (~12:15 p.m.).[10][22][11][23][24]

Location: Outside Gracie Mansion, the official residence of the New York City mayor, on East End Avenue in Manhattan, during concurrent protest and counter-protest events.[11][23][24]

Events and attack description:

- An anti-Islam protest branded “Stop the Islamic Takeover of New York City, Stop New York City Public Muslim Prayer,” organized by far-right activist and pardoned January 6 rioter Jake Lang, drew about 20 participants; approximately 100–125 counter-protesters attended a concurrent “Run Nazis Out of New York City” event.[21][22][24][11]
- During clashes between the groups, one suspect ignited and threw an improvised explosive device (IED) toward the protest crowd; it landed in a crosswalk and failed to detonate properly. [22][24][11]
- The same suspect then obtained a second device from an accomplice and dropped it near NYPD officers before both were tackled and arrested; bomb technicians later confirmed that at least one device was a live IED with shrapnel and high-explosive content.[23][24][22][11]

Casualties:

- No deaths or injuries were reported, primarily due to device malfunction and rapid police response.[22][11][23]

Suspects:

- Identified as 18-year-old Emir Balat of Langhorne, Pennsylvania, and 19-year-old Ibrahim Kayumi of Newtown, Pennsylvania, both residents of Bucks County.[26][27][24][11][23]
- DOJ and FBI filings describe both as avowed supporters of ISIS.[24][23]

Devices and capability:

- DOJ and FBI describe two mason-jar-sized IEDs with attached fuses and metal nuts and bolts taped to the exterior to act as fragmentation; at least one contained triacetone triperoxide (TATP), a volatile high explosive used in prior ISIS attacks.[28][26][11][23][24]
- A search of a vehicle and storage unit linked to Balat recovered additional fuse material, containers matching the device design, a notebook with attack planning notes, and explosive residue; multiple controlled detonations were conducted at the storage site.[29][21][26][23][24]

Motivation and ideology:

- According to DOJ and SDNY criminal complaints, both men stated after arrest that they were acting on behalf of ISIS; Kayumi told investigators his actions were “partly inspired by ISIS” and that he had watched ISIS propaganda on his phone.[27][30][26][11][23][24]
- Balat allegedly wrote a statement pledging allegiance to ISIS and told investigators he wanted an attack “bigger than the Boston Marathon bombing,” explicitly referencing prior jihadist mass-casualty attacks.[30][26][27][11][23][24]

Law-enforcement characterization and charges:

- The FBI, DOJ, and NYPD have uniformly characterized the incident as an “ISIS-inspired” terrorist attack attempt.[31][11][23][30][24]

- Federal charges filed in the Southern District of New York include attempted provision of material support to a designated foreign terrorist organization (ISIS), use of a weapon of mass destruction, transportation and receipt of explosives, and unlawful possession of destructive devices.[23][24]

Assessment for this briefing:

- This is a **confirmed ISIS-inspired domestic attack plot**, disrupted at the execution stage, with robust evidentiary support in federal charging documents.

3. Temple Israel Synagogue Attack – Terrorism Investigation

Date / time: 12 March 2026, shortly before 12:19 p.m. Eastern time.
[3][8]

Location: Temple Israel, a large Reform synagogue and community campus in West Bloomfield Township, suburban Detroit, Michigan; approximately 140 children and staff were present in an on-site school at the time.[6][8][3]

Attack description:

- The attacker drove a truck into the synagogue's front entrance, ramming through doors and down a hallway toward interior areas.[3]
- After the vehicle came to rest, witnesses and officials reported that the attacker opened fire with a rifle; armed security personnel engaged him, and he was killed in an exchange of gunfire inside the building.[8][6][3]
- The truck caught fire, producing heavy smoke that filled parts of the structure and required evacuation and respiratory protection; responders reported finding what appeared to be a large quantity of explosives in the vehicle.[8][3]

Casualties:

- One security guard, the congregation's security director, was struck and injured by the vehicle but is expected to survive.[3]

- Approximately 30 law-enforcement officers and first responders were treated for smoke inhalation; eight injured first responders were reported under care by Henry Ford Health.[3]
- No congregants or children were physically harmed, which officials and community leaders attributed to security measures and rapid response.[6][8][3]

Perpetrator:

- Identified in local and national reports as 41-year-old Ayman Mohamed Ghazali, a Lebanese-born U.S. citizen residing in Dearborn Heights, Michigan and employed at a local restaurant. [3]
- Open-source reporting indicates that several of Ghazali's relatives were killed in Israeli airstrikes in Lebanon during the early days of the concurrent Iran war, and that he shared images of the deceased relatives on messaging platforms shortly before the attack.[12][6][3]

Indicators of terrorist / antisemitic motivation:

- The target was a prominent Jewish synagogue with a day school in session, aligning with a pattern of antisemitic and politically motivated attacks on Jewish institutions in North America in recent years.[32][33][6][3]
- Law-enforcement officials have publicly referred to the attack as a targeted act of violence against the Jewish community and indicated that they are treating it as a likely terrorist incident, pending full investigation.[6][8][3]
- Reporting notes possible linkage to the broader Iran–Israel conflict and regional escalation, though no formal organizational affiliation has been publicly confirmed.[12][6][3]

Law-enforcement characterization:

- FBI Director Kash Patel stated that FBI personnel are working jointly with local authorities, and media briefings from Oakland County officials and national outlets describe the incident as being investigated as terrorism; some international coverage explicitly labels the attacker a “convicted ISIS supporter,” though this detail is still being clarified in U.S. reporting.[8][6][3]

Assessment for this briefing:

- Based on target selection, method, timing, and FBI engagement, this event is treated as a **probable terrorist attack with antisemitic and jihadist-linked elements**, though specific group ties remain under investigation.

4. Old Dominion University ROTC Classroom Shooting – ISIS-Linked Terrorism

Date / time: 12 March 2026, just before approximately 10:50 a.m. Eastern time.[2][5][25]

Location: A College of Business classroom in Constant Hall on the campus of Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia; the class was part of the Army ROTC program.[5][25][2][6]

Attack description:

- A gunman entered the classroom, asked whether it was an ROTC class, shouted “Allahu Akbar,” and opened fire on students and the instructor.[25][2][5]
- ROTC students in the room rapidly confronted and physically subdued the attacker; at least one student disarmed and fatally wounded the shooter using a knife before police arrived.[34][2][5]
- University police and local law enforcement declared the shooter dead within roughly ten minutes of the first emergency call, and the campus was locked down with classes suspended.[5][25]

Casualties:

- One person killed: Lt. Col. Brandon Shah, an Army officer and leader of the ROTC program at ODU; he had previously served multiple deployments and returned in 2022 to head the battalion.[25][5]
- Two additional individuals injured by gunfire; one remained in critical condition while the second was treated and released.[2][5][25]

Perpetrator:

- Identified as 36-year-old Mohamed Bailor Jalloh, a former Virginia Army National Guard member with a prior federal conviction for attempting to provide material support to ISIS.[2][5][25]
- Court records from the earlier case indicated that Jalloh previously discussed replicating the 2009 Fort Hood shooting and had contacts with ISIS members in Africa before his initial arrest and eight-year prison sentence; he was released around 2024.[5][25][2]

Motivation and ideology:

- FBI officials stated that the shooter yelled a religious slogan associated with jihadist attacks and that they are investigating the incident as an act of terrorism; they noted that Jalloh remained interested in ISIS and violent jihad following his release.[25][2][5][6]
- Officials emphasized that the target—a U.S. Army ROTC class—suggests a deliberate focus on U.S. military personnel or trainees, consistent with prior stated interests in attacking military targets.[2][5][6][25]

Law-enforcement characterization:

- The FBI's Norfolk field office, ODU officials, and multiple national outlets report that the shooting is being formally treated as a terrorist attack, with FBI leadership describing it as terrorism in public briefings.[34][5][6][25][2]

Assessment for this briefing:

- This incident is assessed as a **confirmed ISIS-linked domestic terrorist attack**, carried out by a previously convicted ISIS supporter against a clearly military-affiliated target.

Thematic and Ideological Patterns

Islamist / ISIS-Inspired Violence

Three of the four incidents show explicit Islamist or ISIS-related elements: the Gracie Mansion IED attempt, the ODU ROTC shooting, and to a lesser extent the Temple Israel attack, which may involve jihadist and anti-Israel motivations. In the New York and ODU cases, direct statements of allegiance to ISIS or prior ISIS convictions provide strong evidence of jihadist ideology driving target selection and attack planning.[27][11][30][24][23][5][6][25][2][3]

The Austin shooting exhibits Islamist symbolism and pro-Iran rhetoric but, as of open reporting, lacks clear organizational links; nonetheless, federal and state authorities are treating it as potentially connected to the Iran conflict and broader extremist narratives.[9][4][7][20][12]

Targeting of Symbolic and Political Sites

The incidents collectively target:

- **Government and political symbols:** Gracie Mansion (mayor's residence) during a protest over Islam and public prayer.[10][11][24][23]
- **Religious institutions:** Temple Israel, identified as the nation's largest Reform synagogue, during school hours.[6][8][3]
- **Military-associated personnel:** An Army ROTC program at a major state university, mirroring prior plots against U.S. military targets.[5][25][2][6]
- **Civilian nightlife hubs:** A crowded bar district frequented by students and young adults, potentially to maximize casualties and media impact, with timing linked to international conflict.[4][7][20][9]

These patterns align with broader analyses showing that domestic terrorist plots in recent years often focus on government, law enforcement, religious sites, and densely populated public venues.[16][15][32]

Lone Actors and Micro-Cells

All four incidents were carried out by individuals or very small cells (two-person group in the Gracie Mansion plot), consistent with global trends toward low-resource, self-directed attacks.

- The Gracie Mansion case illustrates two young supporters of ISIS leveraging simple but lethal IED designs without apparent direction from an overseas command structure, while drawing heavily on online propaganda.[26][11][24][27][23]
- The ODU shooter and Temple Israel attacker both appear to be lone actors with personal or familial ties to conflict zones and prior radicalization indicators;

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